

at world festivals and were able to spread the truth through this medium, which until then had not been utilized.

The Palestinian revolution began to be interested also in other cultural fields. Political and folk songs developed on a high level and far more attention was paid to the cultural legacy. We have only to mention the folk dance which the revolution used as a cultural information medium on an Arab and world scale.

This development came about thanks to the attention paid by the revolutionary forces to communication media. The development of various sectors of information and the opening of new ones contributed substantially to a fairly crystallized picture of the Palestinian revolution among world public opinion and to strengthening awareness regarding the legality of Palestinian rights to self-determination.

As for the national scene, Palestinian information helped to crystallize two basic problems. These were, in particular, strengthening the democratic character of the Palestinian revolution. The period we are speaking about saw the highest level of political competition among the individual elements of the revolution. Had not «established norms» been set up, there would have been the threat of a split in the Palestinian ranks. After the October war (1973), projects were submitted for a settlement to which two approaches developed on the Palestinian scene: One said that a settlement is necessary, while the second assessed the balance of forces differently and felt that any settlement under the existing conditions would inevitably serve the interests of the enemy.

The various Palestinian information media had the task of standing up against the intrigues and plans of the enemy to foment quarrels and a struggle in this regard. These media demonstrated that they were able to uphold the required degree of responsibility in expressing themselves.

The political information battle of that time reinforced the democratic content and democratic awareness in the ranks of the Palestinian revolution.

In second place was the question of the ability to develop the means for a national mobilization in an atmosphere of reactionary pressure from within and imperialist-Zionist pressure from without, of improving the quality of mass activities and the revolutionary forces and information for these masses. These, in most cases, were joint Lebanese-Palestinian activities.

In this period the revolution proved able to build new information institutions such as a news agency and an independent radio, which thus increased and expanded its opportunities of reaching the masses.

What to say about the future?

The first stage of development reinforced the name of Palestine on a world scale and raised the spirit of patriotism to a national level. The second stage definitively raised to an irreversible level on a worldwide scale the question of Palestine as the cause of a people and their just rights. It proved on the national and Arab scale that the PLO is the only legal representative of the Arab people of Palestine. In the future the

obligations placed on Palestinian information workers will be even more demanding. The tasks can be summarized as follows:

- 1) A clear crystallization of the aims of the Palestinian revolution to a phased level means the crystallization of the phased aim of the PLO which is the establishment of an independent state on the soil of Palestine without any conditions.
- 2) To counter information intrigues and liquidationist plans, plans to disorient Arab and Palestinian public opinion, to spread a spirit of despair and hopelessness among the ranks of the people and to stir up irresponsible groups against the revolution.

After the Camp David agreement made full use of the possibilities given by the Egyptian front, the endeavours of the liquidators inevitably came up against the core of the Middle East problem, namely, the Palestinian cause. It is necessary to work out plans able to thwart these intrigues.

The efforts of the enemy camp are concentrated on imposing a project for autonomy according to the stipulations of the Camp David accords, which Begin and Sadat each interpreted differently. One wanted autonomy only for residents but not the territory; the other wanted autonomy for the residents and the territory.

These are, simultaneously, a demonstration by the USA and Israel to prevent the PLO from continuing the struggle for the right of the Arab Palestinian people to self-determination, and to besiege the PLO by a worldwide blockade.

Contradictions on a worldwide scale, the growth of the camp supporting the revolution, and the increased strength of the democratic forces offer a chance to define more clearly the phased aims of our revolution, and also enable us to concentrate support on the most important.

The task, in brief, is to formulate the ideas of the revolution, on the right to self-determination and on establishing a state, into a clear political project which will be circulated through information media on all levels.

Our task in the forthcoming period will be to explain to all how we understand the right to self-determination and what are the goals at this stage.

This new, third stage of our struggle means improving the management and direction of information activities. We are also very careful to see to it that the support of the world democratic forces is concentrated on the main idea, which is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. From information workers we demand that they orient Palestinian efforts in this direction, so as to unite the Palestinian forces to achieve this clearly stated goal.

Various Palestinian information institutions must realize more urgently their responsibility towards this task and go further in mutual coordination.

On the national scale, the enemy spares no efforts to use all means to divert the Palestinian public opinion from its course and to weaken its attitude. Concerning such endeavours requires expending maximum information efforts,