

Editorial

For A Unifying PNC

The meeting in Amman, which was termed the 17th session of the PNC, started on November 22nd and ended its work on the 29th. It was boycotted by the majority of the Palestinian organizations and by a good number of national personalities.

The reasons for this boycott were clearly and openly stated by the Democratic Alliance (PFLP, DFLP, PCP, PLF). The Democratic Alliance refused to attend for two main reasons: The timing of the meeting and the place. The Democratic Alliance asked the Central Committee of Fatah to postpone the meeting in order to have more time for further efforts to bring all the Palestinian organizations into a comprehensive national dialogue. This dialogue was supposed to result in an agreement concerning the political and organizational programs to be presented at a later PNC. This, of course, did not take place.

As for the place, the Democratic Alliance considered Amman a dangerous choice because of the political connotations involved. The Jordanian regime has done its best over the past years to obtain a mandate from the PLO and Arab summits to negotiate the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the USA and 'Israel'. The Jordanian regime has made it plain that it considers UN Security Council resolution 242 and the Reagan plan as a suitable basis for such negotiations. The PLO, for its part, had previously rejected both.

The Democratic Alliance expressed its concern about holding the meeting in Amman for these political reasons.

In any case, the meeting which took place in Amman lost its political and organizational legality in the moment it was boycotted by the majority of the organizations, for this violated the basic principle upon which the PLO was established, i.e. the principle of a broad coalition of all the political representatives of the various social strata of the Palestinian people.

Moreover, the process whereby a quorum was achieved in Amman further underlined the illegality of the meeting. As of the 16th session, the PNC had 384 members, of whom six had died since the last session, leaving 378. The two-thirds majority required as a quorum was thus 252 members in attendance, with less than 127 absent. However, 168 members of the PNC did not attend the meeting in Amman. For the purpose of mustering a quorum in Amman, 47 members were changed in mathematical juggling contrary to the rules and regulations of the PNC.

Dangerous results

The results announced in Amman showed how very justified the concern and fears of the Democratic Alliance were. In

fact, the results ring the bell of danger that the PLO might be led astray by the new Egyptian-Jordanian alliance.

The meeting, although rejecting the Camp David agreements, opened the door wide for contacts and relations with the Egyptian regime. At the same time, the meeting of Amman decided to have «special» relations with the Jordanian regime. The proposals of King Hussein, presented in the speech he delivered at the opening session, were neither rejected nor accepted, but referred to the Executive Committee for study.

These three issues indicate that the Fatah leadership has in mind to go ahead with a new political move together with the Jordanian and Egyptian regimes, aimed at paving the way for negotiations on the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

What next?

The meeting in Amman is not «the end of the world». This is what Dr. George Habash, General Secretary of the PFLP, said in his recorded message to the Palestinian people. The *de facto* which the Central Committee of Fatah is trying to force on the rest of the Palestinian organizations will not last long. The PFLP has already announced the outline of its plan of action for the near future:

The first point in this plan is quite important because it stresses the determination of the PFLP, and its allies in the Democratic Alliance, not to support, facilitate or participate in any effort to create parallel institutions to those of the PLO.

The second point is that the PFLP will put all its efforts into strengthening the alliance between the organizations of the Democratic Alliance, and will work to broaden the Democratic Alliance by inviting nationalist figures to join.

The third point is that the Democratic Alliance will work to pave the way for a comprehensive Palestinian national dialogue that will lead to a unifying PNC as soon as possible.

In summary, the democratic forces that boycotted the meeting in Amman will not accept the results of that meeting, but at the same time will not create a parallel PLO in any form. Rather, the democratic forces will continue the dialogue with the Central Committee of Fatah and with the National Alliance (Fatah opposition, Saiqa, PFLP-General Command, Popular Struggle Front) to prepare for a unifying PNC.

How things will go in the immediate future is very difficult to foresee, because the efforts of the Democratic Alliance will not be exerted in a static situation. Yet we can be sure of one thing: The coming months will be quite decisive for the future of the PLO.

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