



*Celebrating the destruction of Israeli trucks after a successful Lebanese National Resistance operation in Nabatiyah.*

ourselves and our Palestinian allies. However, we are confident that by working to consolidate the anti-imperialist alliance, by exposing the maneuvers of the United States, and by readying ourselves to repulse armed aggression, we can foil these designs. We, as Lebanese progressives, will be ready for this next confrontation. We trust that our allies in Syria and the Palestinian movement will be ready also.

*The Lebanese Communist Party's Politbureau issued a statement warning against the current Lebanese-Israeli military talks leading to a new May 17th-style treaty. Could you elaborate on your position?*

There is no doubt that Israel, the US and the regime in Lebanon would like to see these talks deviate from their stated objectives and eventually evolve into direct negotiations towards a new treaty similar to the May 17th treaty, though perhaps less offensive in form. For this reason, our Politbureau not only cautioned against such a possibility but actually expressed its rejection of these talks, standing in solidarity with other nationalist and religious forces that also rejected them and expressed similar concerns.

Israel was forced to make substantial concessions in agreeing to talks that are strictly military in nature and conducted under UN rather than US auspices. The truth of the matter is that Israel will go ahead with the talks to show goodwill, while maintaining positions that can only lead to a deadlock. The ultimate Israeli objective is not to withdraw from southern Lebanon, but rather to redeploy its forces in such a way as to maintain its occupation at a reduced cost in terms of casualties inflicted by the Lebanese Resistance. The enemy is hoping that the combined pressures by the US, Israel and the Lebanese regime will succeed in channeling the talks towards committing Lebanon to guaranteeing Israel's security, and forcing Lebanon to seek Arab guarantees, particularly Syrian, for Israel's security along its northern borders. This, of course is designed to prevent the Palestinians as well as the Lebanese nationalist forces from waging their struggle.

However, our rejection of these talks does not stem from the same considerations as those expressed by other parties

which question the integrity of the nationalist wing of the government, represented by Nabih Berri of the Amal Movement and Walid Jumblatt of the PSP as well as Prime Minister Karami. We consider as legitimate the position of calling for going ahead with the talks, insisting on total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal according to the relevant Security Council resolutions and rejecting any compromise on this matter. Our own position as a communist party is designed to reinforce this position of the nationalist elements in the cabinet, to encourage them to end the talks if their conditions are not met, and to join in calling for popular armed action to force the withdrawal of the occupation forces.

*Recently it was announced that a preparatory committee had been formed to found a national democratic front. What has the committee been able to achieve to date?*

The formation of the preparatory committee followed consultations among various nationalist and progressive parties, including the Communist Party. It is well known that since the Lausanne talks, our party has called for a more advanced form of coalition as compared with the National Salvation Front. We estimated that the National Salvation Front had fulfilled its objectives, which amounted to the following: defeating the May 17th accords, preventing the Phalangist Party from controlling Mount Lebanon (and eventually all of Lebanon), preventing the Phalangists from controlling state institutions (political, military and security-related) and finally beginning a national dialogue to build a new Lebanon. These objectives were fulfilled to a great degree, although not in their totality.

We in the Communist Party believe that a national front represents at any given time a class coalition uniting representatives of the various social classes that have an interest in such unity. The pursuit of total liberation (from Israeli occupation), the unification of Lebanon and reforming its political system are objectives that require a new class coalition that is united on such advanced tasks and not limited by the political program of the National Salvation Front. Rather there could exist other forms of cooperation with these allies that agree with us on, say, the need to rid Lebanon of Israeli occupation,