

to regain parts of the occupied West Bank along the broad lines of the Reagan plan. All talk of continued commitment to a comprehensive settlement amounts to little more than a signal to the US administration that Jordan can ill afford the perpetuation of the status quo and that a fresh US initiative is imperative. At most the regime's tactics are designed to keep open the long-shot option of an international peace conference, though this option is most probably not viable given the current regional balance of forces.

It follows that Jordan's move must be confronted in the context of the broader struggle against the US-sponsored Camp David accords. Jordan will now seek a new Arab consensus that will represent a serious departure from previous Arab League resolutions pertaining to efforts to recover the occupied territories. The proliferation of the Camp David accords is underway.

Counterstrategy

The collapse of the US policy in Lebanon, the abrogation of the May 17th treaty between Lebanon and 'Israel', the emergence of Syria as a major regional power with massive Soviet assistance and the Soviet's own recent diplomatic advance in the Middle East, have all contributed to a relative change in the balance of forces in favor of the anti-imperialist forces in the region, since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It is significant that under such circumstances Jordan would risk provoking Syria, which is strongly opposed to a separate Jordanian-Israeli deal. The reason Jordan dares take this risk, in addition to anticipating a fresh US initiative, lies in the current fragmentation of the Arab anti-Camp David front. The Steadfastness and Confrontation Front has for all practical purposes ceased to function. Recent differences between Algeria and Libya, the differences between Syria and Fatah, the major organization of the PLO, have converged with the serious differences that exist within the PLO itself to cause obvious disarray in the anti-imperialist camp.

The task of reestablishing the PLO's unity on an anti-imperialist platform continues to be of paramount importance. This view has been relayed to the Palestinian organizations by all the friends of the Palestinian people, including the socialist countries. The Aden-Algiers accord between the Central Committee of Fatah and the Democratic Alliance continues to represent the

correct basis for restoring the unity of the PLO on a sound political platform and convening the 17th session of the Palestinian National Council. All obstacles to implementing this accord need to be removed as soon as possible. Outstanding disputed issues, including that of Yasir Arafat, can only be resolved at the PNC, the supreme Palestinian institution. The democratic forces are preparing for a sharp struggle at the PNC against right-wing elements, the most extreme of whom have no genuine interest in national unity. In this struggle, the democratic forces deserve the support of all who have a stake in a unified PLO, including the national and progressive Arab states. In this context, strict adherence to the principle of the PLO's independence is requisite. Only a strong independent PLO can be an effective partner in a regional anti-imperialist alliance, of which Syria, the Lebanese progressive movement and the PLO are the core.

By continuing to reject the principle of a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue with the participation of Fatah's Central Committee, the National Alliance bears a major responsibility for preventing the resolution of the current crisis. By insisting on a fundamentally adventurist line, the National Alliance not only delays the process of reconciliation in the PLO, but also opens the way for the right-wing tendency to pursue its strategy of accommodating US policies without any constraints. All illusions about an alternative 'revolutionary' PLO only serve to accentuate the current

crisis and increase the vulnerability of the Palestinian national movement. In contrast, joining with the Democratic Alliance in the struggle to adopt a genuinely anti-imperialist platform at the next PNC session is the only viable alternative to the current state of affairs that threatens to marginalize the PLO, opening the way for a US-sponsored settlement that circumvents Palestinian self-determination.

The dual task of restoring the unity of the PLO and insuring Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation lies at the heart of current efforts to develop an anti-imperialist counterstrategy. In the short run, there is every reason to believe that a firm Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese alliance is fully capable of foiling King Hussein's plan to strike a separate deal with 'Israel'. In addition, this will assist the Lebanese people in their struggle to force an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. On the other hand, Syrian-Palestinian cooperation will greatly facilitate the consolidation of a broad Arab anti-imperialist front capable of holding off the emergence of a US-sponsored regional pact. With the firm backing of the Soviet Union, which is making headway in breaking US hegemony in the region, the balance of forces will eventually be redressed in such a manner as to make possible the convening of an international conference and achieving genuine peace based on Palestinian rights to self-determination and establishing an independent state under the leadership of the PLO. ●



Newspaper headline: International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.
Comment: 365 minus 1 equals 364 days to conspire against the Palestinians.