

Editorial

Fighting Deviation To Return the PLO to the National Line

The formation of the Palestine National Salvation Front was premised on conviction that the PLO must return to its anti-imperialist course if the Palestinian people are to regain their rights. Equally, it was based on conviction that the leadership grouped around Yasir Arafat had chosen the opposite: involvement with US imperialism's plans via alignment with Arab reaction. The principles of the Palestinian revolution are not abstractions, but forged from the experience of decades of struggle against Zionism and imperialism. By violating these principles, the rightists have exposed their own bankruptcy: They cannot unite and mobilize the masses to struggle for their rights; nor can their diplomacy wrest these rights from the iron grip of the enemy.

Cancelling the Amman accord

Arafat's signing the accord with King Hussein made the Palestinian right's deviation from the national line official, qualitative and irreversible. By agreeing to a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to negotiate an exchange of «land for peace» with 'Israel', the rightist leadership in effect recognized the Zionist occupation of Palestine; it relinquished the struggle for Palestinian national rights and the PLO's exclusive representation. Thus, in the wake of holding an illegal, divisive PNC session in Amman, the Palestinian right slammed the door on attempts to reunify the PLO. For Palestinian forces determined to continue the revolution, cancelling the Amman accord and removing its proponents became the top priority, as the only way to return the PLO to its national line. To this purpose the PNSF was formed.

The Palestinian people rallied around the PLO because it represented their path to liberation. Now the right wing is using the legitimacy gained by the PLO from this mass support, to its own narrow class ends, to enter a US-sponsored solution which will consolidate the Zionist occupation and reactionary control in the area. This has left many of our people without an organizational framework to channel their will for self-determination. The PNSF works to sustain our people's mobilization as the ultimate guarantee that the PLO can be returned to the national line and regain the functions for which it exists. Closely related to this is escalating the armed struggle which stands as an obstacle to the renewed attempts to bury the Palestinian cause.

The PNSF is playing a role to save the Palestinian revolution's alliances from the chasm into which they were thrust by the right wing. In the face of the right's alliance with Arab reaction, the PNSF serves as a center for strengthening alliances with the forces of the Arab national liberation movement. Combatting the Amman accord is not only a Palestinian task; this accord sets the stage for expanding Camp David, a matter of crucial concern for all progressive forces and nationalist regimes.

Our international allies have been deeply disturbed by the right wing's opting for US-sponsored solutions. Anti-imperialist

forces all over the world are confronting US imperialism's increasing aggressiveness. None have interests in a Reagan victory in the Middle East, which would be the case if Camp David is expanded. In the PNSF, the forces of peace and progress, especially the socialist community headed by the Soviet Union, find an active partner in the anti-imperialist struggle.

Kissinger's legacy

Ensuing political developments have only emphasized the depth of the Palestinian right's commitment to the Amman accord and all its dangerous consequences. Schultz's visit to 'Israel', Egypt and Jordan, May 9-13th, confirmed the contents of the «solution» under discussion. Just before Schultz's arrival, the Jordanian government declared that the PLO had responded «positively» to the US condition earlier conveyed by Murphy, that Palestinians in the joint delegation should have no relation to the PLO. Thus, Schultz's visit revolved on the details of forming a list of «acceptable» Palestinians. The Israeli government declared that the delegation must not include «persons belonging to an organization committed to the Palestinian National Charter.» On leaving Jordan, Schultz declared: «There will be a Palestinian-Jordan delegation or group. It may be different people will be needed for different purposes.» In its attempts to have the PLO acquiesce in liquidating the Palestinian cause, US policy has developed Kissinger's divide-and-rule style of negotiations to new heights: Some Palestinians to talk to the US, others to 'Israel', with the Jordanian regime being the ultimate negotiating partner to bury all Palestinian independence. The enemy's plan for resolving the details is for Jordan to declare a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, the government of which will appoint the delegation to negotiate, forever ending the concept of an independent Palestinian state.

Having compromised on principles, the right-wing leadership is now enmeshed in compromising on the details. Arafat was closely, though indirectly, involved in the Jordanian discussions with Schultz, consulting with King Hussein before and after, while Hussein coordinated with Saudi King Fahd and Egyptian ruler Mubarak. King Hussein's upcoming Washington visit reflects the seriousness of the current political moves. It becomes ever clearer that the clause about an international conference in the Amman accord, is but a camouflage for capitulation to Kissinger-style, step-by-step, bilateral negotiations. Statements by members of Fatah's Central Committee, disclaiming various points of the Amman accord and its consequences, only contribute to this attempt to confuse the masses. If these persons are to be taken seriously, they must make a clean break with Arafat's leadership. The right wing's commitment to the Amman accord has been amply proven. All Palestinian revolutionary forces are called upon to support the PNSF so that its ranks and activities be expanded to confront this most serious effort to liquidate the Palestinian cause.