

Editorial

The most dangerous attack on the Palestinian revolution is the political attack made possible by the right-wing's adherence to the Amman accord.

We go to press on the eve of the third anniversary of the Sabra-Shatila massacre. From September 16th to 18th, 1982, an estimated 3,000 Palestinian and Lebanese men, women and children were slaughtered by fascist militiamen commanded by Elias Hobeika, in an operation engineered by the Israeli occupation forces with US complicity. Hobeika has been rewarded for his service to the Zionist-fascist alliance, having been promoted to overall chief of the Lebanese Forces fascist militias. On the Israeli scene, officials directly responsible for the massacre remain in power, in concert with Peres' Labor Party. The Reagan Administration continues to escalate its aggressive policy against the people of the world. Most recently, the US awarded 'Israel' with extra aid to the tune of \$ 1.5 billion.

Since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the resulting massacre, the Palestinian people and revolution have faced a new series of aggressive attacks: more Zionist-fascist terror in Lebanon, including this spring's attack on Ain al Hilweh camp; successive waves of Zionist repression in occupied Palestine, recently culminating in official reimposition of the iron fist policy; the war on the Beirut camps in May and June this year, and its threatened reoccurrence with the Amal movement's new attack on Bourj al Barajneh camp this month.

Yet none of these military attacks have achieved their goals: The Palestinian masses remain steadfast, and Palestinian militants consistently rally to defend the revolution. The military attacks did however have a lasting effect on the vacillating Palestinian bourgeoisie. Under the impact of the 1982 invasion, the Palestinian rightist leadership moved to surrender the national goals and opted for involvement in the US schemes to resolve the Middle East conflict. The right wing's deviation from the national program, especially Arafat's signing the Amman accord with King Hussein, gave space for the enemy alliance's political offensive to reap the fruits of its military aggression. This political attack on the Palestinian revolution is the most dangerous of all, for it threatens the revolution from within, eroding Palestinian unity, stealing forces from the main struggle, and impeding alliances with the Arab national liberation movement and progressive forces worldwide.

The right persists in deviation

Despite a multitude of concrete indications that the Palestinian people and cause stand to gain nothing from a US-sponsored settlement, the Palestinian right persists in endeavors to accommodate Arab reaction and imperialism.

When US Assistant Secretary of State Murphy was in the area, a scant week after the Casablanca Summit, to check the pulse of the parties involved, the Palestinian right banked on his meeting with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Two Palestinians, deemed acceptable to 'Israel', were summoned from the occupied territories to Amman to coincide with Murphy's meeting with King Hussein on August 14th. However, the day before, the US State Department had issued a statement that Murphy would not engage in «indirect negotiations or prenegotiations» with Palestinian leaders. Rather the Reagan Administration sent Murphy to reinforce the US conditions aimed against the PLO: The US will not start discussions

with the joint delegation unless this leads to direct negotiations with 'Israel' according to a specified timetable. Moreover, meeting with the joint delegation does not mean US recognition of the PLO, and the PLO must concede this publicly. Thus, Murphy's meetings were with those the US considers pivotal for expanding the Camp David process: 'Israel', Egypt and Jordan. His meetings with Mubarak and King Hussein were aimed at assessing whether Arab reaction is ready to drop the PLO altogether if Arafat will not announce his recognition of 'Israel' clear enough for Zionist ears.

It should not, however, be construed that the US is disinterested in the Amman accord. On the contrary, as recently as September 4th, the State Department issued a statement that it is very possible to hold discussions with a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation despite Arafat's statement that the US did not fulfill its promises about holding such a meeting. The US sees the Amman accord as the venue for having the official PLO leadership surrender Palestinian rights, hoping to thus dissolve the Palestinian cause as the main obstacle to expanding Camp David. The coming visits of Mubarak and Hussein to Washington are the latest proof of imperialism and Arab reaction's interest in hastening a settlement that leaves nothing for the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian right is now so deeply involved in its chosen deviating course that it cannot turn back. In recent interviews, Arafat stated that there is progress towards a US-joint delegation meeting, and challenged the Zionists to meet him in the «peace» process. He even went so far as to disclaim responsibility for our people's heroic resistance in occupied Palestine, which he usually likes to flaunt as all of his own making. This shows the extent to which the Palestinian rightists are bowing to the imperialist conditions as they were most recently articulated by US Secretary of State Schultz on September 6th: «Those who perpetuate violence deal themselves out of the peace process.» In line with imperialist doubletalk, he was referring to the PLO, not the Israelis, as logic would dictate.

Countering the right

The extreme danger posed by the political attack means that defeating the Amman accord, its proponents and the trend it represents, remains to be central task of the Palestinian revolution. This means all revolutionaries pooling their efforts to mobilize the broadest sectors of our masses against the threat of political liquidation. One of the main conditions for thwarting the right-wing line is strengthening the Palestinian revolution's role in Lebanon, in joint struggle with the Lebanese nationalist forces. For this reason, this summer's attacks on Palestinian presence in Lebanon, spearheaded by the Amal movement, are especially disturbing. Their political consequences can only be used by Arafat to convince the masses that they are threatened even by erstwhile allies, and so have no hope save in US solutions. Those who pride themselves on their struggle against imperialism, Zionism and fascism, must follow this up by correct relations with other nationalist forces engaged in the same struggle. Only thus can the struggle against the main enemy be strengthened.