

MEETINGS

JOINT STATEMENT OF CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF CP OF JORDAN, IRAQ, LEBANON AND SYRIA

Representatives of the Communist Parties of Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria met in the middle of November to discuss the situation in the Middle East resulting from the latest Arab-Israeli war, and also the tasks of Arab Communists and other progressive forces and organizations at the present stage. The communique released in Beirut on November 17, says further: "During the exchange of opinions and appraisal of the situation the unanimity of the four Parties was registered concerning the existing situation and the tasks facing Communists in the Arab countries. The four Parties agreed to maintain permanent contacts in order to follow political developments."

The conference adopted a political statement and expressed its solidarity with the Iraqi Communist Party in view of the complications in Kurdistan.

The following is a summary of the joint statement which was published in the *An-Nida* on November 18.

"The war that started on October 6, 1973," the statement says, "was a just war of national liberation." The statement notes the "important, positive results" of the war but points out that the "positive results could have been greater if the energy of the masses were put to better use, if there were closer coordination between the progressive Arab countries and a more decisive course towards cooperation and cohesion with the USSR."

The document particularly stresses the significance of Arab-Soviet friendship and the Soviet Union's role in supporting the Arab countries.

"It has been forcefully and clearly confirmed that Soviet-Arab friendship is the mainstay of the Arab national-liberation movement in the face of imperialist and Zionist threats, the mainstay in countering aggression and in the struggle to restore the lawful rights of the Arab peoples. The great Soviet Union has come forward as a reliable and true ally in our peoples' struggle. It supplies all the required military aid to ensure the success of the struggle and uses all its political possibilities to support our just cause.

"All this disproves the insinuations concerning the principled

policy of the USSR, a policy of peaceful coexistence and international détente and confirms that this policy furthers the liberation cause and that the USSR considers it its prime duty to support the struggle of the peoples for freedom and sovereignty. One result of this policy has been further growth of the Soviet Union's prestige in the eyes of the Arab peoples and the failure of the campaign launched by the reactionaries, Rightist forces and Maoist propaganda to throw doubt on Soviet-Arab friendship."

The statement pays high tribute to the fighting capacity of Arab soldiers in the recent battles and notes that "the soldiers' and officers' faith in their strength and weaponry has grown. Soviet armaments proved to be powerful and effective."

The Communist Parties of Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria believe that a political solution of the conflict on the basis of UN and Security Council resolutions, in the interests of the national-liberation movement, is possible.

"The Arab peoples hope," the statement continues, "that the coming Arab conference of heads of state will conform with the will and struggle of the peoples for the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied territories, will not permit the annexation of any part of Arab territory, will reaffirm the lawful rights of the Palestinian people and will not yield to imperialist and Zionist pressure."

The statement stresses that in working for a peaceful solution and political settlement, the four Communist parties are motivated by the interests of the revolutionary struggle and its further development.

"Our Communist parties hold," the statement concludes, "that realization of the main task—liberation of all Arab lands and restoration of the lawful rights of the Arab people of Palestine — requires:

—urgent measures to strengthen cooperation and joint action, close coordination of the efforts of all the national and progressive forces, particularly by Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Democratic Yemen, the Palestine Liberation Movement (PLM) and the Communist parties of the Arab countries in the struggle against imperialism and Zionism;

—raising to top preparedness the fighting capacity of the Arab armies in Egypt, Syria, Iraq and the other countries in order to be able to counter every possible aggression;

—solidarity with the PLM, more effective efforts to fortify the unity and coordination of its detachments so that they should be able to fulfil their role in battles; support for the Palestinian National Front in the occupied areas and confirmation of the fact that

the organization for the Liberation of Palestine is the sole lawful representative of the Arab people of Palestine;

—mobilizing the energy of the masses to preserve and strengthen the friendship with the Soviet Union, ally and main supporter of the Arab national liberation movement and of its victories in the present battle for the liberation of occupied territories and the restoration of the rights of the people of Palestine;

—strong action to counter any attempts to capitulate or reach a separatist solution or to accept an imperialist, particularly U.S. imperialist, solution;

—broadening the people's campaign to abolish U.S. interests in Arab countries, particularly the U.S. oil interests, withdrawing Arab deposits from U.S. banks, breaking off diplomatic and economic relations with the United States and using the Arab economy and finances to strengthen the combat capacity of the Arab countries;

—consolidating national progressive organizations and speeding up economic and social progressive measures, and broadening the state sector—all of which are a reliable basis for further struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction;

—forming and fortifying national fronts and winning support for them in the Arab countries, granting democratic rights to the people and national progressive forces, especially the right of political and organizational activities.”
