

# CORRESPONDENCE WITH A PALESTINIAN REVOLUTIONARY

My Comrades on the International Committee:

I am an Arab from Palestine. I am sorry that I couldn't come to the convention (PLP) which was held in N. Y. City last month. It was only personal illness, otherwise I would have come. I am sure that you discussed every thing in the program and the international situation in specific. I am a member of the "Revolutionary" Popular Front for the liberation of Palestine. I am sending their stand on the international situation -- the way that they see things going, which I agree with them on what they have said. Although it is very important to have a new international. But we should notice two things:

- 1) That new international shouldn't be on the shoulders of the Progressive Labor Party alone. Because it is more valuable for the P. L. P. to strengthen their position here in the United States. Build up their Party more, add more working people and break between the working class and the capitalists, the ruling class.
- 2) We should see the difference between building a party in the United States and the western hemisphere and in the backward countries where there are all kinds of revolutionaries, working people, peasants, and students. In the advanced industrial countries there are two recognized classes: the working class majority and the small minority capitalist class. There are many things, many ideas, I would like to discuss with you but first I ask you to send me the results of the conference. Second I am sending you the Revolutionary P. F. L. P. stands on the International situation to read and publish in our "magazine" or "paper" the committee "has" or will have.

Thank you very much ...

FROM THE POLITICAL PROGRAM OF THE REVOLUTIONARY POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE

The International Situation:

Our stand towards the international situation emerges from our revolutionary ideology -- the ideology of the working classes, which by necessity should reflect our people's will to defend their national interests and their right to a better life on their land, to support the freedom of all peoples and to struggle for real solidarity between the peoples of the world on the principle of proletarian internationalism and against selfish, narrow nationalism.

The Palestinian and Arab national liberation movements have a basic and continuous contradiction with imperialism. This contradiction cannot be resolved without the defeat of the political, economic, and military interests of imperialism, through protracted armed struggle of the broad masses who alone have an interest in the total defeat of imperialism in our homeland. In the same way the Palestinian and Arab liberation movements are in basic contradiction with Zionism, which represents a racist colonial and occupation movement, an ally of imperialism, and an enemy of the Arab masses' aspirations for liberation, independence, and freedom. In the same way the Palestinian and Arab liberation movements have a basic contradiction with Israel, which constitutes a haven for capitalism and imperialism, and which is used as a tool to hamper and delay the progress of the Arab revolution. We should resist this enemy whose existence depends on the misery and

scattering of our Palestinian people ( and their large scale conversion into refugees). Thus any call to separate the struggle against Zionism and Israel from the struggle against imperialism and colonialism, old and new, in all the Arab countries, is nothing but a dubious slogan which serves no one but the enemies of the Arab people.

The contradiction which exists between the interests of the toiling masses, the workers, peasants, and revolutionary intelligentsia, and all the forces of the Arab revolutionary camp, and the exploiting classes, the Kings, Princes, Sheikhs, feudal lords, reactionaries, and all the forces of counter-revolution is a basic and fundamental contradiction in the Arab world and cannot accept any procrastination or coexistence. That is why an armed struggle against this oligarchy, which is organically connected with imperialism and capitalism, is a necessary condition to achieve liberation from exploitation and tyranny.

Therefore the Palestinian and Arab liberation movements are an integral part of the world revolutionary movement against imperialism and colonialism, and against exploitation and oppression. The three component forces of this revolution, the national liberation movements in backward areas, the communist parties in the capitalist countries, and the world socialist camp, constitute a world wide revolutionary national front. No matter where the forces of counter-revolution triumph, they are followed by defeats in other parts of the world, as is going on in Vietnam now, (and which means the twilight of imperialism) where the U. S. and its allies the Vietnamese reactionaries are facing immeasurable defeats. In the same way, the revolutionary anti-imperialist struggles the people of Asia, Africa and Latin America are carrying out, would inevitably lead to a sharpening of the general crisis of capitalism and create a favorable condition for the strengthening of the position of the socialist countries on the world stage, and a transformation of the proletarian struggle. It would thus confirm this era as

the era of the triumph of the people and the defeat of imperialism. The triumph of the October Revolution in Russia elevated the struggle for the liberation of oppressed people to a new height by linking it with the struggle of the international proletariat. In the same way the triumph of the Chinese Revolution was a great international even, second in importance only to the Great October Revolution. There is no doubt that the destruction by the Chinese people, who constitute a large part of the population of the globe, of the shackles of imperialism and their march on the socialist path, opened up a wide and terrifying breach in the world imperialist system and changed significantly the balance of power in favor of the socialist camp. Contemporary history, which is laced with revolutionary events and the increase in the number of socialist countries and the triumph of socialist revolutions, confirms truly the statement that this is the era of the triumph of socialism and the people, and the defeat of imperialism.

The links between the forces of world revolution and the national liberation movements in the backward countries, the communist parties in the capitalist countries, and socialist countries, should be forged on the basis of proletarian internationalism and national independence and on the principles of anti-imperialism, anti-colonialism, and anti-reaction.

Our faith in the alliance with these forces must not deter us from criticising fundamentally and in principle certain tendencies towards revisionism within the communist movements, such as the Soviet interpretation of "peaceful coexistence" and the "peaceful transformation to socialism." Also the theory of evolution of capitalism as formulated by revisionism which is shown to be the stage of the backward countries on the way towards socialism, but which is in essence a capitalist evolution in a new form. In reality it is nothing but an evolution towards state capitalism which would lead towards a capitalist system covered with socialist slogans.

At the same time that they strengthen their solidarity on these principles, the Arab revolutionary movements should strengthen their friendships with the socialist countries within the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist front. The internationalist role that the Arab national democratic movement can play depends on the amount of the cumulative struggle which it wages and the defeats which the imperialists and the Zionists suffer as a result of this struggle. The example of Vietnam is a real revolutionary example that should be followed.

The liquidation of the commando action was the main line in the condition of surrender put forward by the U. S. This was followed quickly with other steps by the forces who took up on their shoulders the task of executing this surrender and to remove the obstacles from the way of this surrender from the Arab lords. The September massacres were an expression of the inevitability of the struggle in this region.

The stage following the September massacre was characterized by further consolidation of aggression by U. S. imperialism against the Palestinian liberation movements. It further strengthened the position of the Arab reactionary groups and attempted to isolate the Arab national movement from its friends and allies. In the same way the U. S. put forward the Roger's Plan, the Gunnar Jarring mission in 1971 and the bilateral political settlement plan for the opening of the Suez Canal, it attempted to bring about a political settlement within the American perspective of the Arab-Israeli conflict. All this to create a U. S. sphere of interest in the Arab region to serve the wave of imperialist-reactionary domination.

The contradiction between the imperialist camp--the contradiction between Western Imperialism, France and Britain, with the U. S. -- toward the Middle East question is limited. It emerges from the partial contradiction between the interests of these imperialist powers. Therefore any attempt to ex-

aggerate this contradiction and the creation of doubts among the masses by giving them more importance than is due would lead to nothing but a basically distorted view.

The question of the ability of the Jordanian regime to face the economic consequences of the fight against the resistance movement was given equal importance in Jordan as was given in the U. S. The amount of aid given by the U. S. and Britain exceeded any help given by the two powers to any of its agents in the Arab countries. In the same way the interests of France are the ones which bring into prominence this apparent contradiction.

The effectiveness of the exploitation of this contradiction would depend on the moving of the balance of power in favor of the resistance movement and that by subjecting them to confiscation and liquidation and the transformation of the struggle against their interests. On the other hand we would also see the conflict between the Soviet policy and the right tendencies in the policies of the bourgeoisie groups -- e. g., the strike against the Ali Sabri group, the failure of the Hashem Al-Atta coup in the Sudan and its consequences, and the expulsion of the Soviet advisors, and the stand against the unilateral American moves towards the peaceful settlement of the 'Arab-Israeli conflict.'

This partial change would lead to the strengthening of the bonds between the Soviet Union and the Arab liberation movements. The Soviet Union has in fact begun to establish its relations with the Palestinian liberation movement after it had been opposing it and in the same way towards the Popular Front for the Liberation of Amen and the Gulf. It has also extended assistance to the Yemen People's Democratic Republic. But this new change does not mean that there is a basic shift in the Soviet policy in the region. The Soviet policy, although it is resisting a U. S. imposed settlement and tactically opposing the imperialists' offense, is still based on the recognition of Israel and the Security Council resolution 242.

In the same way it opposes the solution of the contradictions with Israel through revolutionary armed struggle. But at the same time when it strives to establish relations with the progressive movements in the Arab countries and opposes the right wing tendencies in the Arab governments, it still maintains its basic relations with these regimes. Although this tendency of support for the progressive movement stems from its need to maintain its position in the region and has nothing to do with any change in its open support of Palestinian armed struggle.

But this does not mean that we should not be aware of some mistakes which were committed by the Chinese in foreign policy which contradict the principles of proletarian internationalism, such as its stand toward the Bangladesh question and the events in the Sudan, and the need for it to change its stand with regard to these questions.

THE REVOLUTIONARY P. F. L. P.  
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September 7, 1973

Comrade,

Thank you for your letter and the document you enclosed. We are greatly pleased by your interest in discussing with us the building of international revolutionary ties. We certainly agree that the building of internationalism does not rest mainly on PLP. We only hope that we along with countless others can make a sincere commitment and contribution to the development of an international movement with the aim of destroying capitalism and imperialism everywhere.

The other question you raise with regard to differences between work in the U. S. and the "backward countries" are points which deserve and will get more attention than this letter permits. We do feel, however, that questions like this must receive the fullest and most open debate and struggle for inter-

national ties to have real meaning.

I am sending you also a copy of the P. L. P. convention report which includes the report of the International Workshop, as well as some other documents of the P. L. P. As I'm sure you will see, in many instances our analysis of events is similar to your political program, and in some instances we have differences. The overriding point I think is our agreement on the question of proletarian internationalism and the need for working class revolution to smash capitalism and imperialism. Resting on this agreement, we should be able to carry on constructive criticism and self-criticism of our respective policies and help each other to develop stronger in our common battles.

Thank you again for your letter.

Comradely,

the International Club, P. L. P.

**BUILD INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES  
OF CORRESPONDENCE**

The Canadian Party of Labour, the Puerto Rican Socialist League, the Progressive Labor Party and others have organized Committees of Correspondence. These C.C.'s serve as centers for exchange of information, documents, articles and polemics between friends and representatives of revolutionary communist organizations who share the aim of building a new international communist movement.

The C.C.'s are organized on a geographic-interest basis. If you would like to become an active correspondent on one of the committees contact W.I.N. We will forward your request to the responsible secretary in charge of the committee in your area of interest.