
CONFERENCE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF JORDAN, SYRIA, IRAQ AND LEBANON

The Communist parties of Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon held a conference in mid-January to exchange views on crucial problems of the Arab countries before the termination of the ceasefire (on February 5).

Below we publish excerpts from the documents of the conference published by the Lebanese newspaper *Al-Akhbar* on January 17 and 24, 1971.

FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ARAB NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND THE PALESTINE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT! FOR VICTORY OVER OUR COMMON ENEMY— IMPERIALISM, ZIONISM AND REACTION!

The conference heard and discussed reports by its participants and drew a number of conclusions. The most important of them is that the Arab national liberation movement is successfully resisting the offensive of imperialism and its frantic attacks to undermine progressive regimes in the Arab countries, create differences and cause a split in the national liberation movement as a whole and in its individual contingents, liquidate the Palestine resistance movement, undermine Arab-Soviet friendship and hamper the economic development of the progressive countries and social changes in them.

The participants in the conference noted that, though Right-wing trends have emerged in some progressive Arab countries and though the latter have to cope with internal differences and obstacles in their development, the Arab national liberation movement has successfully resisted the imperialist offensive and achieved certain successes, the main points of which are the following:

1) preservation of the progressive regimes in the UAR and Syria and the protection of their economic and social gains; new achievements, above all the completion of the Aswan High Dam project in the UAR and the building of the Euphrates dam;

2) strengthening and expansion of the positions of progressive regimes in the Arab countries as a result of the victory of the revolution in Sudan, the liquidation of the monarchy in Libya and the progressive development in South Yemen;

3) considerable strengthening of the UAR army, its greater combat preparedness and defense might, and enhanced combat ability of the Syrian army thanks to effective Soviet aid;

4) expansion of cooperation between the progressive Arab regimes in various spheres and, in particular, growing military cooperation between the UAR and Syria; the decision to set up a federation of four Arab states—the UAR, Sudan, Libya and Syria, which is a positive step towards their unity. This decision may play an important role in the confrontation with the aggressor and in strengthening the positions of the progressive regimes, though the Federation is still in its initial stage;

5) strengthening of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the progressive Arab countries and the Soviet Union, which is giving to the Arab peoples decisive assistance in their fight against imperialism and Zionism, for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories. The relations of friendship and cooperation are the political basis of the economic successes, achieved in particular by the UAR and Syria;

6) the entry into the struggle of the Palestine resistance movement, that important contingent of the Arab national liberation movement, a part of the world revolutionary movement and champion of the interests of the Palestine people and their legitimate right to return to their land and settle their own affairs themselves.

The successes of the Arab national liberation movement evoke rancor on the part of imperialism and Zionism, prompting them to redouble their conspiratorial machinations against the progressive Arab countries, the Palestine resistance movement and other contingents of the liberation movement. Imperialism and Zionism are seeking to exploit the contradictions in the relations between different national forces, to deepen these contradictions, cause a split in their ranks and then strike at these forces.

Imperialism is exploiting and trying to aggravate differences between the different contingents of the national liberation movement, irrespective of whether these differences are the result of its activity or reflect internal class contradictions. Imperialism and reaction would also benefit from a split in the Arab Communist movement, a weakening of its unity and a split in each Communist Party.

The bloody campaign launched by Jordan's reaction against the Palestine resistance movement, the Palestinians and the patriotic forces in Jordan, the events of last September and of the more recent period are a continuation of the criminal activity in line with the plans of imperialism and Zionism, directed at liquidating the resistance movement and the Palestinian problem as a whole.

The Communists regard the problem of the Arab people of Palestine as their own problem and are fighting for its solution jointly with the Palestinian people. In this fight against imperialism, Zionism and reaction they have the support of all the forces of freedom and socialism, headed by the Soviet Union.

The statement then points to the intensified flow of U.S. arms into Israel and the Tel-Aviv government's obstruction of the Jarring mission. It emphasizes that by its aggressive expansionist policy Israel continues to create a threat to peace in the Middle East and throughout the world. It is imperative, therefore, to force the Israeli government to withdraw its troops from the occupied territories.

Towards this end, it is essential:

- 1) to enhance the combat capacity of the Arab armies;
- 2) to establish an Eastern Front in order to force Israel to withdraw its troops from the occupied territories and to oppose its policy of expansion;
- 3) to intensify the activity of the Palestine resistance movement on the occupied territories and unite its organizations within the framework of a single front on the basis of a joint-action program;
- 4) to enhance the economic might of the progressive Arab countries, extend and deepen the progressive social changes in these countries;
- 5) to strengthen cooperation by progressive forces in the Arab countries, overcome the differences with a view to mobilizing broad masses, consolidate the home front in each Arab country and cut short any manifestation of anti-democratism and anti-communism.

The present complex conditions demand of the Communist parties of Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon ever closer cooperation and joint decisions on various important problems.

The conference participants note the successes achieved by the international Communist movement after the Moscow 1969 Meeting in cementing its unity and promoting cooperation with other anti-imperialist forces. These successes are evidence of the movement's heightened role and possibilities. They tilt the balance of world forces more and more in favor of the forces of freedom and socialism, fighting against imperialism and aggression, and are an immense gain for the entire international revolutionary movement, including the Arab national liberation movement.

The conference participants hail the progress made by the Soviet peoples under the leadership of the Party of the great Lenin in building the material and technical base of communism and, in particular, the fresh successes of the Soviet working people on the eve of the 24th Congress of the CPSU, which will be an important landmark in the life of the entire Communist movement.

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The Conference sent the following message to the CC CPSU:

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION

Dear Comrades,

In connection with the completion of the Aswan High Dam project in the UAR, we, representatives of the Communist parties of Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon convey to you our gratitude.

This important achievement has been made possible by the effective aid of the Soviet Union. Our parties and all Arab peoples highly appreciate this assistance in their struggle with chronic backwardness and against the imperialist economic blockade, which is designed to re-impose imperialist domination on our countries.

The heroic efforts of the Soviet people to harness nature for the good of the population of an Arab country are the embodiment of Soviet-Arab friendship, of which the Aswan High Dam will be an everlasting symbol.

The Arab peoples, supported by the Soviet Union at all stages of the struggle against imperialism and Zionist aggression, have daily evidence of the magnitude and effectiveness of this assistance in the fight against the imperialist, Zionist conspiracy. They especially appreciate this assistance today, when Israel, supported by U.S. imperialism, persists in its attempts to thwart all efforts to liquidate the consequences of the aggression and flouts the resolution of the UN and Security Council on the withdrawal of the aggressor troops from the occupied Arab territories.

The Aswan Dam is a legendary feat performed by the Egyptian people with the help of the Soviet Union, a symbol of Arab-Soviet friendship, manifested in the economic and cultural assistance and in the strengthening of the defense capability of the Arab countries threatened by aggression.

We take this occasion to convey on behalf of millions of our fellow countrymen our deep gratitude to the CC CPSU, Soviet workers and engineers, who took part in the building of the Aswan Dam, to the entire friendly Soviet people. Long live Arab-Soviet friendship! Long live the Party of the great Lenin!

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The conference adopted "The Statement in connection with the destruction by Jordan's reactionary regime of the Palestine resistance contingents," which reads in part:

Jordanian reaction is continuing its criminal campaign against the Palestine resistance movement with the aim of crushing it. The war of destruction against the Palestine resistance movement waged by Jordan's reaction is part of the struggle of imperialism and Zionism against all contingents of the Arab anti-imperialist

national liberation movement. This attempt at liquidating one of the contingents of the Arab national liberation movement pursues the aim of creating the most favorable conditions for imposing imperialist and Zionist terms on the Arab national liberation movement, for supporting Israel's aggressive and expansionist position and liquidating the gains of the progressive regimes in the Arab countries.

The massacre unleashed by Jordanian reaction should also be seen as part of the imperialist attempts to split the national progressive forces in the Arab countries and to plunge them into internal strife. Imperialism and Zionism are seeking to prevent them from accomplishing their main objective—to liquidate the consequences of Israel's aggression—and to impede the formation of the Eastern Front, weaken the positions of the United Arab Republic and block its struggle for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied territories.

The Communist parties call on all resistance contingents to unite their ranks, coordinate efforts, overcome differences the better to resist the reactionary imperialist offensive, to cement the unity of the fraternal Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and foil the plans of reaction and imperialism to split their ranks.

The Communist parties urge all progressive forces of the world to extend solidarity to the Palestine resistance movement.

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The Statement of the Arab Communist parties on repressions against Communists and democrats in Iraq says in part:

The representatives of the fraternal parties of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon took note of the detailed information supplied by the Central Committee of the Iraqi Communist Party on some aspects of present developments in Iraq.

With reference to the persecution of Iraqi democrats and the arrests, torture and murder of Communists, the participants stated:

These methods employed by the regime reveal a flagrant contradiction between the deeds of some Iraqi leaders and their assurances that they are ready to cooperate with all national progressive parties and organizations and wish to form a national front with them.

We demand complete and final discontinuation of such anti-democratic methods and strict punishment for those who employ them. We demand democratic liberties for the Iraqi Communist Party and for all national and democratic parties and forces in Iraq. We call on all national and progressive forces in the Arab countries to show solidarity with the people of Iraq in their fight for their great goals.

Iraq must embark on the path of democracy. Only in this way will it be possible to mobilize the energy of the Iraqi people for solving internal tasks. The most important of these is to carry into practice the agreement on the peaceful settlement of the Kurdish question, to settle the problem of Iraq's participation in the struggle of the Arab peoples to eliminate the consequences of Israel's aggression, to give the Palestinian Arabs the right to return to their land and settle their affairs themselves, to strengthen independence, establish democracy and assure social progress.
