

THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE:

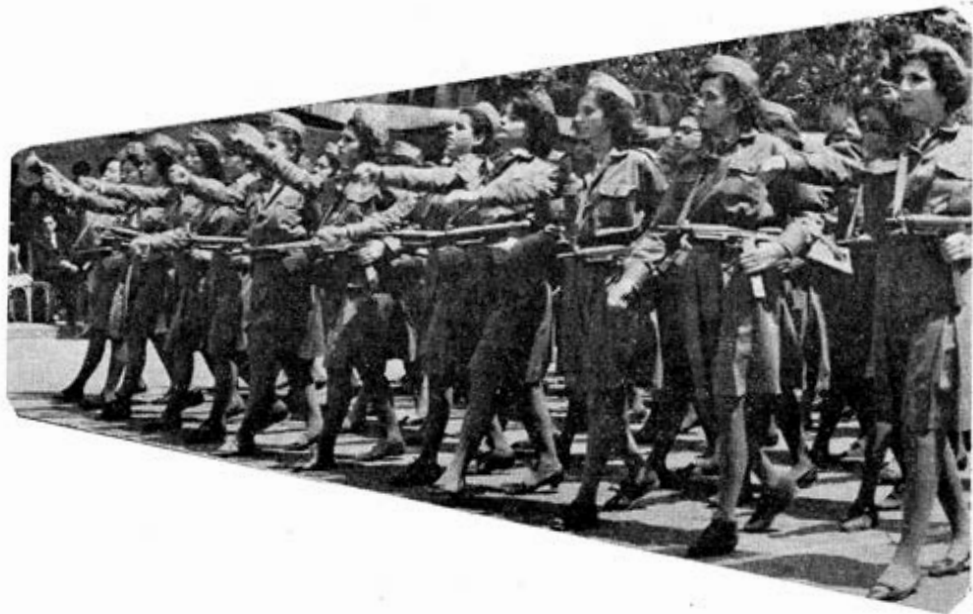
crux of the Arab
struggle

**Interview with Comrade Mohammad Massoun,
Republic of Syria representative
to the OSPAAAL Executive Secretariat.**

*During recent years, what events have contributed
to the consolidation of the Syrian revolution and why?*

The steps that have contributed to the consolidation and strengthening of the revolution in Syria can be synthesized in three important points:

- Establishment of the Progressive National Front, which embraces all sectors of the people that support the revolution and are aware of its objectives of unity, liberty and socialism. This is how the national unity, indispensable to the country under present circumstances and in the next battle with the enemy, was reaffirmed.



● Establishment of the People's Council, which took over many of the responsibilities of the leadership of the party, such as attention to and handling of the problems of production and the supervision of government policy. In this way the leadership could devote more time to such vital questions as delineating the main lines of State policy, party organization and the deepening of the revolutionary process.

● Realization of party commitment in the founding of the Federation of Arab Republics (Libya, Egypt and Syria) which meant not only the reaffirmation of the objectives of the BAAS party in terms of Arab unity (just as the Federation is a step along the road toward the establishment of a unified socialist Arab society), but also the unification of the revolutionary fronts that fight for unity, liberty and socialism.

This is how both national and regional unity were achieved.

All these actions led to the consolidation of Syria's revolutionary bases because a true cohesion between the masses and the revolution has taken place, with the most absolute confidence in the party. Thus, once the lack of confidence that had previously existed was dispelled, the revolution was fortified.

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Moreover, the party followed a more objective policy, based on the main factors in the Arab region of Syria. And, at its fifth congress, the party objectively rejected improvisation in the application of socialism, demanding application of the most effective measures for the greater success of the process of socialist conversion and the profundization of socialism's democratic aspects.

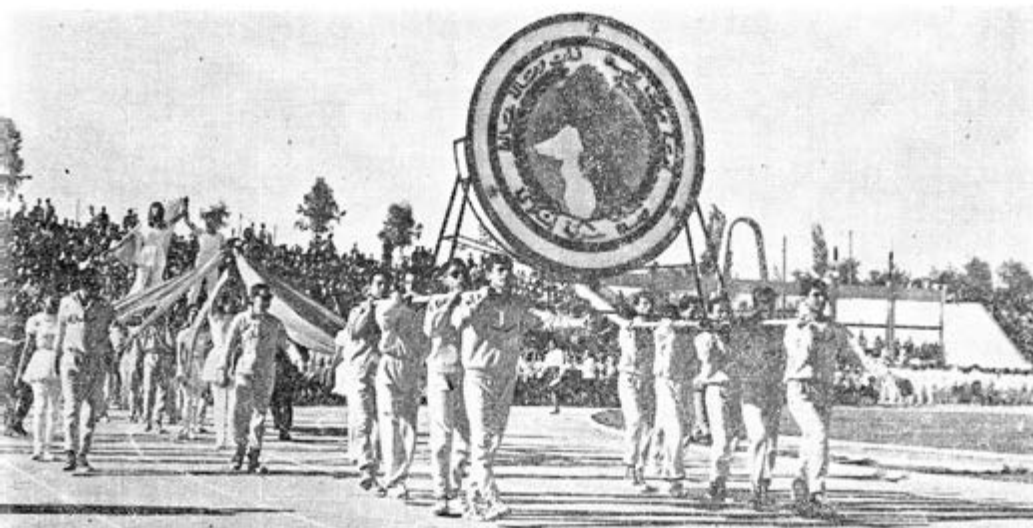
Two congresses were held in the country in which economic experts and those responsible for the execution of economic policy participated and discussed problems of the economy and of economic development within the socialist system, and reached conclusions for solving these problems. These two congresses took place under the slogan, "Congress of mobilization for development and defense."

*How does Syria view the development of the Palestine struggle
and the success of its objectives and principles
during the course of this year?*

It can be said that, despite the crisis that afflicted the Palestine resistance movement and all the blockades and liquidation aggressions which the Jordanian regime carried out against the Palestine resistance, that resistance succeeded in proving its legitimacy and in overcoming these odds to remain firm and invulnerable until the last inch of Palestinian earth shall be liberated and until the last Palestinian shall return to his home in the usurped fatherland.

Despite all the obstacles it faces, this resistance carries out its operations against the Zionist enemy, and events in Jordan have not forced it to retreat one step from its objective. As proof of this, the press agencies continue to provide reports of the successful operations the fedayeen carry out throughout the territory occupied in 1948 and that occupied in 1967.

The Syrian government and people regard the resistance as the crux of the Arab struggle against imperialism and Zionism and the only hope of the Palestinian Arab people for recuperating their land and their legitimate rights. In our opinion the resistance is an



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indivisible part of the Arab liberation movement which is also an indivisible part of the world liberation movement.

The North American plan to liquidate the resistance has suffered a tremendous defeat; therefore, despite the death of numerous martyrs in Jordan, the resistance maintains its very deep roots, stronger than before, and draws from its bitter experiences a potent revival.

The western press agencies are currently commenting on the possibility of a solution to the consequence of the June war. What opinion does your country's revolutionary leadership hold concerning a negotiated solution?

The peaceful solutions proposed to resolve the crises of Israeli aggression have been on the board since 1967, and from the beginning they have been rejected by the Arab

Republic of Syria, which is conscious of the fact that armed struggle is the only road to the liberation of the occupied territories and to victory.

The Arab Republic of Egypt accepted these proposals in order to reveal to the entire world the falseness of Zionist propaganda, which has presented the Arabs as warmongers and Israel as a peaceful country. Now it is clear to everyone that Israel lies and deceives and does not want peace but rather expansion, aggression and continued occupation of Arab territories.

The Arabs are not going to accept a peaceful solution that does not include the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, because the problem cannot be reduced to the Arab territories occupied after Palestine. For 20 years the Arab countries have rejected peace with Israel, because Israel was occupying Palestinian land, after abusively throwing out the people, and at that time it had no other occupied Arab territory.

Therefore, the problem has two indivisible points:

- recuperation by the Arab countries of their territories occupied in 1967; and
- recuperation by the Palestine Arab people of their legitimate rights in their homeland and the return to their homes and lands of all Palestinians expelled and evicted.

Recently President El Sadat made a speech at the front, in the presence of the troops stationed there, in which he told them that the peace attempts have failed and that there is no road other than that of struggle, and said that his next meeting with them would be in the occupied Sinai.

How do you evaluate investments in the economic and military areas taking into account the tension the Arab-Israeli conflict is causing in the country?

The Arab Republic of Syria has made many economic and military investments. The most important of these have been the military investments in the third five-year economic plan. Economic mobilization meetings for development and defense have also been held in the country, where the need for development as well as preparations for the next combat were taken into account, because economic development is of no less importance than the preparations for a hard long battle, and requires a very solid economy that permits the country to remain firm during the course of the war and to count on the necessary forces both in men and in economic power.