

Palestine National Council

Fifth Session

Political Statement

Cairo, 4 February 1969

Our Valiant Palestinian People,

This session of the Palestine National Council was convened at a crucial moment. The Palestinian armed resistance movement and popular resistance throughout Palestine have succeeded in bringing the Palestinian people back into the limelight of world events and history and in forcing recognition for the existence of a Palestinian people with a right to the entirety of its homeland. Now that the Palestinian resistance movement and Palestinian popular resistance have succeeded in defeating the Zionist-imperialist conspiracy to eradicate the Palestinian identity and do away with the Palestinian people, the Palestinian cause is once again menaced with the threat of liquidation (which would be to the interest of Zionism and imperialism) by means of the 22 November, 1967 Security Council resolution as well as all the other peaceful solutions or liquidation schemes, including the Soviet proposal for drawing up an agenda for the implementation of the Security Council resolution.

On behalf of the Palestinian revolution and what it stands for and on behalf of the aspirations of the Palestinian people and with the full force of its determination to hold fast to its sacred right to the entirety of its homeland, Palestine, the Palestine National Council hereby affirms its categorical rejection of any of the policies of the Western powers or of the United Nations or any intervention on their part which would impair the right of the Palestinian people to its homeland and its right to direct its own affairs. It rejects tutelage or subservience in any shape or form as it rejects Arab intervention in Palestinian affairs or in the rising Palestinian resistance movement, whether at the official level or through the United Nations.

In accordance with these principles, the Palestinian Arab people vehemently rejects all projects or resolutions which would entail the liquidation of the Palestinian cause, including the 22 November, 1967 Security Council resolution, the Soviet proposal or any other such projects. The objective of the Palestinian people behind the bitter struggle in which it is engaged for the liberation of and the return to its land is to set up a free and democratic society in Palestine for all Palestinians, including Muslims, Christians and Jews, and to liberate Palestine and its people from the domination of international Zionism in so far as the latter is a reactionary and racist religious movement with a fascistic basis that is integrally affiliated with

and serves the interests of world imperialism. Furthermore, Zionism mars interhuman relationships and gains enmity and hatred for the Jews in as much as it provokes anti-Semitism wherever the Jews may be found throughout the world for it encourages dual national loyalties and stands in the way of the integration of the Jews into the societies in which they live and prevents the development of true ties of loyalty to their countries of origin.

The Palestine National Council salutes all the fighters in the rank and file of the resistance movement, it salutes all the steadfast and struggling Arab masses throughout occupied Palestine, it salutes all Arab armies that are stationed along the front which are in accord with commando action and it salutes the Arab masses throughout the Arab homeland for the splendid fashion in which they have rallied around the resistance movement, particularly the Jordanian and Lebanese Arab masses which are putting up with constant Zionist raids patiently and in the spirit of self-sacrifice. The National Council wishes to stress the fact that the road of resistance and liberation is long and arduous, it demands blood and tears and the highest examples of self-sacrifice.

We have been forced to follow that road thanks to the Zionist movement which is a form of settling colonialism and which is in collusion with the imperialist nations, particularly the United States, for there is no other way to repel the Zionist-imperialist invasion of the Arab homeland, which has established a bridgehead in Palestine. Moreover, in order for the Arab nation to develop, progress and flourish, in order for it to awaken from its slumbers and develop its resources, it follows that the Zionist-imperialist

invasion must be repulsed and the whole of Palestine liberated, for the two are fundamentally interdependent. If this is not done, then both the lands and the people of the Arab nation will remain divided and the Arab countries will be transformed into a permanent sphere of influence for Zionism and imperialism. The National Council therefore calls on the Arab masses and the Palestinian masses in particular to mobilize all their resources and to back the Palestinian armed resistance with all their strength in view of the fact that the Palestine liberation movement is an integral part of the overall Arab revolution.

As a basic step toward national unity, the Palestine National Council calls on all Palestinians and the working force among the Palestinian people to consolidate national unity, for this will increase and boost the potential of the resistance movement. The National Council feels that it must stress the following unconditional truth: that arms in the hands of our fighters are meant to be used against one and only one target, i.e., the Zionist enemy, seeing as the fundamental conflict at this stage is with the Zionist enemy and with imperialism; all other

conflicts of a domestic nature must cease, for these are no more than secondary in importance.

In keeping with the Palestinian National Charter, as amended during the July, 1968 session of the Palestine National Council, and in keeping with its new, revolutionary formulation, the Palestine Liberation Organization calls on the Palestinian masses to rally around it in an organized fashion and in full force and to ostracize that deviationist and defeatist group of people who advocate the liquidation of our cause and the establishment of a counterfeit Palestinian entity that would be the stooge of Zionism and imperialism. During its current session, the Councils passed the necessary resolutions and formulated an appropriate plan for escalating the activities of the resistance. The priority goes to the unification of commando action, setting up a single organ for the collection of contributions, strengthening the Palestine Liberation Army, increasing its combat potential and further coordinating its activities with the revolution and developing that revolution into a popular war of liberation.

In view of the fact that the implementation of this revolutionary plan will require adequate financing, the Palestine National Council calls on the Arab and particularly the Palestinian masses to step up their financial contributions and it calls on the Arab countries to live up to their full financial commitments to the Palestine Liberation Organization. The National Council furthermore calls on the Arab countries to facilitate work opportunities, visas and the ability of their Palestinian residents to move about freely, with a view to the furtherance of their potential to support the Palestinian revolution in all respects, as mentioned above.

The Palestine National Council, which views the Palestine Liberation movement as part and parcel of the world liberation movement, sends its best wishes to all liberated and honourable individuals in the world who support the right of the Palestinian people to their homeland and calls on all the forces of goodness and progress in the world to increase their support for the Palestinian people.

Source: *International Documents on Palestine, 1969*. Beirut: Institute for Palestine Studies, 1972, pp. 589-590.

Palestine National Council

Sixth Session

Political Statement

Cairo, 6 September 1969

The Sixth Palestine National Council was held in Cairo from September 1-6, 1969. It was attended by representatives of the following Palestinian movements and organisations:

1. The Independents.
2. The Palestine Liberation Army and the Popular Liberation Forces.
3. The Movement for Palestinian National Liberation (*Fateh*).
4. The Organisation of the Vanguard of the Popular War of Liberation.
5. The Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.
6. The Front for Popular Struggle.
7. The Arab Organisation for Palestine.
8. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (General Command).
9. Students', Workers', Writers' and Women's Associations.

The stage in which this meeting was held was an important and critical one in view of the circumstances now attending on armed struggle. The first stage of the development of the struggle into a full-scale popular war inside the occupied territories was overshadowed by the conspiracies of the various enemy and counter-revolutionary forces.

In view of this, the forces represented this session at the National Council were more representative of the Palestinian people. Care was taken to ensure the representation of Palestinian forces active in the field of armed struggle as well as of federations, trades unions and experts who are working in the national field.

In its resolutions and recommendations the Council reaffirmed the determination of the people of Palestine to reject all solutions leading to surrender, especially the United Nations Security Council resolution of November 22, 1967. It affirmed that the goal of the Palestine revolution is the achievement of the total and complete liberation of all the territory of Palestine from Zionist occupation, which is based on Israel and which has the forces of world imperialism supporting it. It declared the determination of the people of Palestine to go forward with their revolution until

victory is achieved and a Palestinian democratic state is created, free of all forms of religious and social discrimination.

The Council asserted that the method followed by the revolution is armed struggle, supported by other forms of struggle, to recover the usurped homeland. The instruments of revolution are the Arab masses inside and outside the occupied territory, supported by the increasing participation of the struggling Arab masses and various other forces of liberation and progress in the world.

The Council affirmed, in all its deliberations and recommendations, the complete independence of Palestinian action and its rejection of all attempts to impose influence, domination, repression or tutelage from any quarter. The Council, however, preferred not to stress the national and human dimensions of the Palestine revolution which it regarded as part of the Arab revolution and of the international liberation movement ..

The action of the United States, the leader of world imperialism, in delivering Phantom aircraft to Israel, is one more indication of the extent to which world imperialism and Zionism are acting in collusion in threatening the entire Arab world through their base, Israel.

To confront the imperialist-Zionist challenge, it is essential that the Arab masses should form a solid front to protect the Palestinian revolution and to support the steadfastness of our people in occupied Palestine. They must call upon the Arab governments to fulfil their obligations to the Palestinian revolution, especially their commitments to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The National Council reaffirmed its policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of Arab states, provided these states undertake not to impede the progress of the revolution, the liberty of Palestinian action and the right of our people to determine their destiny and safeguard their cause.

Bearing these principles in mind, the Council debated the crisis that has been fabricated in Lebanon; it emphasised the right of the Palestinian masses to freedom of action and movement in any Arab territory and condemned all attempts to use force against our unarmed masses in their camps.

While condemning these suspect expedients which can be of service only to the designs of imperialism and Zionism, the National Council wishes to express to the Arab people of Lebanon its appreciation for their support of the Palestinian revolution.

The Council paid special attention to the problem of national unity, affirming its determination to continue its efforts to achieve it in the most complete form so that it may help to escalate and develop the armed struggle. The Council recommended

that the measures undertaken to unify the collection of financial contributions be finalised, especially in Jordan. It recommended that the Palestine Liberation Army be strengthened and developed to meet the needs of the future. It delegated the task of providing medical services to all combatants to the Palestine Red Crescent, and called on the Executive Committee to increase its welfare services for the families of killed, wounded and prisoners.

The Council discussed ways and means of placing the revolution on a more scientific basis so that revolutionary action may be, both in theory and in practice, based upon planning programming and statistics. It therefore resolved to strengthen the Palestine Planning Centre by supplying it with the necessary staff and equipment.

One of the most important resolutions adopted by the Council during this session was the decision to establish a revolutionary tribunal to be the only legal body empowered to pass judgements ensuring justice, safeguarding the security of the revolution and frustrating attempts to destroy it inspired by the enemy or his agents.

The Council sanctioned full interaction between the Palestine liberation movement and liberation movements in the Arab homeland and the world at large. It also expressed its appreciation to all friendly nations and states and to all forces of liberation in the world for their support of the struggle of the people of Palestine.

The Council resolved to salute the struggling masses in the occupied territories and to express its appreciation and admiration for their firm resistance to Israeli occupation, affirming that these struggling masses are the greatest guarantee of success for our revolution.

Revolutionary masses,

The Council is aware of the attempts that are being made to contain and conspire against our cause and our revolution. But basing ourselves upon the resolve of the Palestinian and Arab masses to continue the armed struggle until the total liberation of our usurped homeland is achieved, whatever the cost in sacrifice, we pledge ourselves to be faithful to the cause of revolution and to lead it forward to victory and liberation.

Source: *International Documents on Palestine, 1969*. Beirut: Institute for Palestine Studies, 1972, p. 778-780.