

center of efforts to integrate the various Arab socialist parties into the Second Socialist International, is only one key figure in a Europe-wide battle, raging on an intense level between those forces eager to formulate a common development strategy with the Arab states and those forces who insist on buckling under to the Carter Administration.

## **PLO: Need A Clear Voice From Europe For Peace**

*The following are excerpts from the PLO Document published in Austria's Arbeiter Zeitung newspaper. The following summary follows the account of the document in France's Le Monde Feb. 15:*

The document stresses that "the commitment of the Palestinians to achieve peace is very serious, rests on reciprocity, and is part of a veritable desire to attack the problems that must lead toward peace." That implies that "all the questions whose solution is absolutely necessary" must also be discussed among them "in any case the restitution by Israel of the West Bank, of the Gaza Strip, and the enclaves of Hamma and Auja," as well as the elaboration of an accord of non-belligerency between "the future sovereign State of Palestine" and the State of Israel.

The PLO stresses that the Palestinians are engaged in an "interesting process of maturity and of political evolution favorable to the guarantee of peace in the Middle East." This evolution must be considered as an "historic progression," which must be "put to advantage with eagerness by all the parties interested that the dream of peace be translated into reality."

But in a "surprising enough" manner, the Palestinian leaders note that "instead of being supported in their constructive attitude, they have been repulsed by the United States, attacked by the Israeli leaders, and barred by certain Arab states. The political myopia that these reactions convey is dangerous for it could convince the Palestinian leaders of the vanity of any moderate attitude, and force them to adopt a hard position which, without any doubt, could lead to a new military confrontation." This is why, "specifically, the role of Western Europe is largely necessary... The Palestinian position is still positive and it will remain so at least during the next month. But it is difficult to predict for how long the Palestinian leaders will continue to adopt this constructive attitude."

The PLO estimates that an assumption of a "clear" position on the part of Western Europe "could truly consolidate the moderation of the Palestinians, and contribute towards exercising a positive pressure on the negative attitude of the Americans, the Israelis, and of certain Arab countries."

## **El Moudjahid:**

### **When Will Europe Take International Responsibility?**

*Algeria's government newspaper El Moudjahid Feb. 13-14 criticizes European policy toward the Arab sector and the Third World for continued stalling and postponing decisions until later in the year. Moudjahid then continued:*

Relations between the United States and Europe are the key to the problem, and we can ask ourselves if the European Economic Community (EEC) has decided to take any international responsibility, when certain European countries have said they will not take any action that could indispose or upset the U.S. Both the North-South talks and the Euro-Arab dialogue have not escaped this contradiction....

We have just learned that the Group of 19 have decided that the final round of North-South talks should be held no later than the end of May. A special United Nations session is already being planned. Now it's only necessary to wait for a positive answer from the West.

While we are waiting, it's not useless to remember that the economic development of the state has become...the cornerstone of international economic relations and also the nerves of war. What is at stake in the North-South talks, aiming to prepare a new international economic order and mutually advantageous cooperation, is a source of development and progress indispensable to security and international peace.

## **Financial Times:**

### **PLO Document Opens Way For Negotiations**

*In a Feb. 15 editorial entitled "The Palestinians Point the Way," the Financial Times of London finds the PLO document to be a solid basis for moving the Middle East towards peace.*

The document handed to Dr. Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, by a member of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) is by no means a first sign, but it is one of the strongest so far, of a new readiness among Palestinians and among key Arab leaders to negotiate a Middle East settlement that goes to the heart of the Middle East problem, namely the lack of a home for the Palestinian people. As such, it potentially transforms the whole Middle East situation.

What the document says is that the PLO would be prepared to establish a state on a basis of non-belligerency in territory evacuated by Israel as part of a Middle East settlement....What it does not say outright, but which is at least as important, is that such a statement constitutes an implicit recognition of the State of Israel. It is this recognition which fundamentally changes the situation.

The Israeli refusal to negotiate with the PLO, and even to let the PLO sit at the negotiating table as a separate entity, has been based on the belief that the Organization