

**EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
IN SOLIDARITY WITH
THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE
AND THE NATIONAL LEBANESE FORCES**



Athens, 12-13 December 1976

Afro-Asian Publications
No. 88

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1957 - 1977

The 20th Anniversary of AAPSO

20 years of Solidarity Against Imperialism, Colonialism and Racism

20 years of Solidarity for Independence, Democracy and

Social Progress

Published in English French and Arabic

The Permanent Secretariat of AAPSO

89 Abdel Aziz Al Seoud St., Manial, Cairo, Egypt

April 1977

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INTRODUCTION

AAPSO has granted particular importance to the Palestinian problem and the continuation of Zionist-Israeli occupation of Arab territories since the 1967 war, bearing in mind the special position characterizing the Middle East and the dangerous situation prevailing there posing it as a threat to international peace.

Special mention should be made of world public opinion demanding insistently that serious and urgent action should be taken to put pressure on Israel for complete withdrawal from Arab occupied territories, recognition of the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to return to their homeland, self-determination in their country and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, in order that peace would be reinstated to that vital spot of the world which has remained a hotbed of war during a long period of time.

Within this context and as a result of the bloody events which took place in Lebanon, AAPSO has taken the initiative of several activities and achievements to clarify the real situation in the Middle East and the role played

by imperialism, colonialism and Zionism in the events of Lebanon. Foremost amongst these was the holding of an International Emergency Conference in solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian People and the National Progressive Lebanese Forces, in December 12-13, 1976 in Athens, capital of Greece.

World concern for the Middle East problem was highlighted by the great number of prominent personalities who participated to the works of this important international emergency conference. Amongst them were most of the Greek parties representatives, several members of the Greek parliament to whom Permanent Secretariat extends deep thanks and gratitude for their active contribution in the preparation of this conference and the success achieved by its work.

Permanent Secretariat

of AAPSO

THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

- To support the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Forces and consolidate their alliance and foil the imperialist reactionary Zionist conspiracy against them.
- The total and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab occupied territories.
- To establish the national rights of the Palestinian people, particularly its right to return to its homeland and establish its independent Palestinian state on any liberated part of it.
- To support the Palestinian people's struggle in the occupied land, to release all political detainees, and to put an end to all forms of racial discrimination and the attempts at modifying their demographic character and land seizure in the occupied Arab areas.
- To guarantee the cease-fire and consolidate stability and peace, as well as democratic reform in Lebanon.

TIME-TABLE

Sunday 12 December 1976

9h. 30 *Inaugural Session of the Palestine and Lebanon Conference (Pandios Hall)*

- a) Opening address by the Chairman of the Conference.
- b) Messages of greetings from Heads of State and government.
- c) Summary report by the Secretary-General of AAPSO .
- d) Report of the General Secretary of the Arab Popular Conference,
- e) Reports by representatives of the P.L.O. and the Lebanon National Forces.
- f) Speeches of representatives of the Greek parties.
- g) Announcement of messages.

(Break)

10h. 30 *First Plenary Session of the Palestine and Lebanon Conference*

Speeches of Delegates.

10h. 30 *Meeting of Women's delegates and Public Rally (Theatre Alcyonis).*

13h. 00 (Lunch Break)

- 15h.00 *Second Plenary Session*
Speeches of delegates (continued)
- 20h.00 (Dinner Break)
- 22h.00 a) *Third Plenary Session*
Speeches of Delegates (Continued)
- 22h.00 b) *Meeting of the Drafting Committee*

Monday 13 December 1976

- 9h.00 a) *Fourth Plenary Session*
Speeches of Delegates (Continued)
- 11h.00 b) *Meeting of the Drafting Committee*
Finalisation of Texts
- 13h.00 (Lunch Break)
- 15h.00 *Fifth Plenary Session*
Speeches of Delegates (Continued)
- 18h.00 *Sixth Closing Session*
Adoption of Conference of final documents
- 20h.00. *Mass Rally (Sporting Club)*
(END OF THE PALESTINE AND LEBANON
CONFERENCE).

PRESIDIUM OF THE CONFERENCE

President :

1. Greece

Vice-Presidents :

2. Greece
3. Greece
4. Palestine
5. Lebanon

Secretary-General :

6. Youssef El Sebai
Secretary-General of the Afro-Asian Peoples'
Solidarity Organization

Members :

7. Naiem Haddad
Secretary-General of the General Secretariat of the
Arab Popular Conference
8. Aziz Sherif
Vice-President of the Afro-Asian Peoples'
Solidarity Organization
9. Dr. Vassos Lyssarides
Vice-President of the AAPSO
10. Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak
Deputy Secretary-General of AAPSO
11. President of the Guinean Delegation.
12. President of the Vietnamese Delegation.

PRESIDIUM OF THE SESSIONS

First Session :

President : Guinea
Vice-President : Iraq
Vice-President : Greece

Members :

Mali
Benin
Egypt
Algeria
G.D.R.
Bulgaria
Italy (Movimento Liberazione e Sviluppo)
Portugal
U.K. (Communist Party)
Belgium
Finland

Second Session :

President : Palestine
Vice-President : South Africa
Vice-President : Greece

Members :

Zimbabwe
Oman
Syria
India
Sri Lanka
Czechoslovakia
Romania

Spain
U.K. (Liberation)
U.S.A. (National Alliance against Racist and
Political Repression)
Denmark

Third Session :

President : Lebanon
Vice-President : USSR
Vice-President : Greece

Members :

Pan African Women's Organization
Morocco
Sudan
Malta
Socialist Vietnam
Mongolia
International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions
Christian Peace Conference
U.S.A. (Communist Party)
Hungary
Poland
Ireland (Irish Arab Society)
Mexico

Fourth Session :

President : People's Democratic Republic
of Yemen
Vice-President : Chile
Vice-President : Greece

Members :

Bahrain

Libya

Arab Republic of Yemen

Norway

Switzerland

International Union of Students

International Organization of Journalists

World Marxists Review

U.S.A. (National Conference of Black Lawyers)

Italy (Communist Party)

Guyana

DECLARATION OF GREEK PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE
CONFERENCES OF A.A.P.S.O.

Athens, 25-11-76

Next month an important event is to take place here in Greece. Representatives of Afro-Asian countries and of national-liberation movements will be meeting in Athens to announce their direct and active support to the struggles of the People of Cyprus, of the Palestinian People and of the People of Lebanon. Each of these struggles aims at ensuring that its people live independently, freely and democratically on their land, without ethnic, racial or religious restrictions or discrimination.

This great meeting in Athens will be held within the framework of two international conferences convoked by the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (A.A.P.S.O.).

The subject of the first conference, (10-11 Dec.), is Solidarity with the Cypriot people and the aim is the immediate implementation of the U.N. resolutions.

The subject of the second conference, (12-13 Dec.), is the struggles of the Palestinian people and of the progressive Forces of Lebanon.

We salute the decision of AAPSO to organize their first international event — outside the Afro-Asian area — in our country.

We express our solidarity with the struggle of the Afro-Asian Peoples to attain self-determination and independence, to end racial and other discrimination, and to respect human rights and social progress, in order to safeguard international peace.

We particularly wish to express our solidarity with the people of Cyprus and to re-affirm the need for immediate implementation of the U.N. decisions to ensure an integral, sovereign and free Cyprus.

We offer all our support to both conferences in Athens and wish them complete and substantial success.

We, Greeks, belonging to a nation which owes its national integrity and every piece of its land to hard and long struggles and sacrifices, express our solidarity to the fighting brother-peoples of Cyprus, Palestine and Lebanon — with whom we are bound together by very old ties, which define our common destinies.

We offer all our help in their struggle to enable this region to become a place of peace and fraternity for all peoples.

We believe that, by signing this declaration, we express the feelings of all Greeks.

Greek Preparatory Committee

GREEK PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT : Delaportas Pavlos, Honorary District Attorney of the Court of Appeal.

VICE-PRESIDENT : Pouliopoulos Nick., President of the Anti-Colonialist League.

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Tritsis An., Ph.D.
Architect — City Planner.

Akrita Sylva — Member of Parliament.

Benas Takis — Private Employee.

Bournias Leon. — Member of Parliament, Former Minister.

Diakopoulos George — Member of Parliament.

Diamandopoulos Angelos — Civil Engineer.

Amalia Flemming — Doctor, President of the Hellenic Women Scientists' Association.

Fotiou Christos — Mayor of Keratsini (Piraeus).

Glezos Manolis — Journalist.

Gregoriadis George — Mayor of Neon Heraklion (Athens), Vice-President of the Medical Association.

Hatzivassiliou Orestis — Member of the Secretariat of GSEE (General Federation of Greek Workers).

Iordanidis George — Ret. Lieutenant General, Member of Parliament.

Karagiorgas Dion. — Professor of Economics, Panteios School of Political Science and Economics.

Kouloumbis Evangelos — President of the Technical Chamber of Greece.

Koumanakos George — Ret. Lieutenant General.

Kranidiotis Yannis — Lawyer, President of the Cypriot Scientists' Association in Athens.

Kyrkos Leon. — Member of Parliament.

Lazos Christos — Lawyer.

Leloudas Yannis — Archaeologist.

Magakis G.A. — Member of Parliament.

Manjoulinou Aleka — Lawyer.

Markozanis Spyros — Politician.

Merkouris Melina — Actress.

Messinezis Philip — Former Diplomat.

Minis Tassos — Member of Parliament.

Michalopoulos Yannis — Educator.

Panayotopoulos Aris — Lawyer.

Pagoropoulos Dimitri — Lawyer, President of the Center for Mediterranean Studies.

Papamatheou Thanassis — President of ESEE (National Union of Technical School's Students),

Papandreou Margareta — Writer.

Papaspyrou Yannis — Member of Parliament.

Pattas George — Ret. Deputy Wing Commander, President of the Association of Friends of the Arab Countries.

Peloponnisios Xenophon — President, Union of Members of Resistance Movements during the Dictatorship.

Peristerakis Michael — Lawyer, Founder of the "Bertrand Russell" Movement in Greece.

Peponis Anast. — Lawyer.

Psaroudakis Nickos — Journalist.

Romoes George — Journalist,
Roumeliotakis Christos — Lawyer, Municipal Counsellor
of Nea Ionia (Athens).
Servas Ploutis — Journalist.
Skaltsas Orestis — Lawyer.
Stangos Asteris — Journalist.
Tenekidis George — Rector, Pantios School for Political
Science and Economics.
Theodorakis Mikis — Composer.
Trikoukis Makis — Lawyer, Municipal Counsellor of
Kalamaria (Thessaloniki).
Tsirkas Stratis — Writer.
Tsouderou Virginia — Member of Parliament.
Tzoumakas Stephanos — President of EFEE (National
Union of Greek Students).
Yannopoulos Evang. — President of the Lawyers' As-
sociation of Athens.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Secretary-General :— Tritsis Antonis — Ph.D.
Architect, City Planner.
Christodoulidis Andreas — Journalist.
Konstantineas Vassilis — Educator.
Leloudas Yannis — Archaeologist.
Marakas Dimitri — Journalist.
Messinezis Philip — Former Diplomat.
Pagoropoulos Dimitri — Lawyer/President of the Center
for Mediterranean Studies.
Panayotopoulos Aris — Lawyer.
Tsalakos George — Journalist.

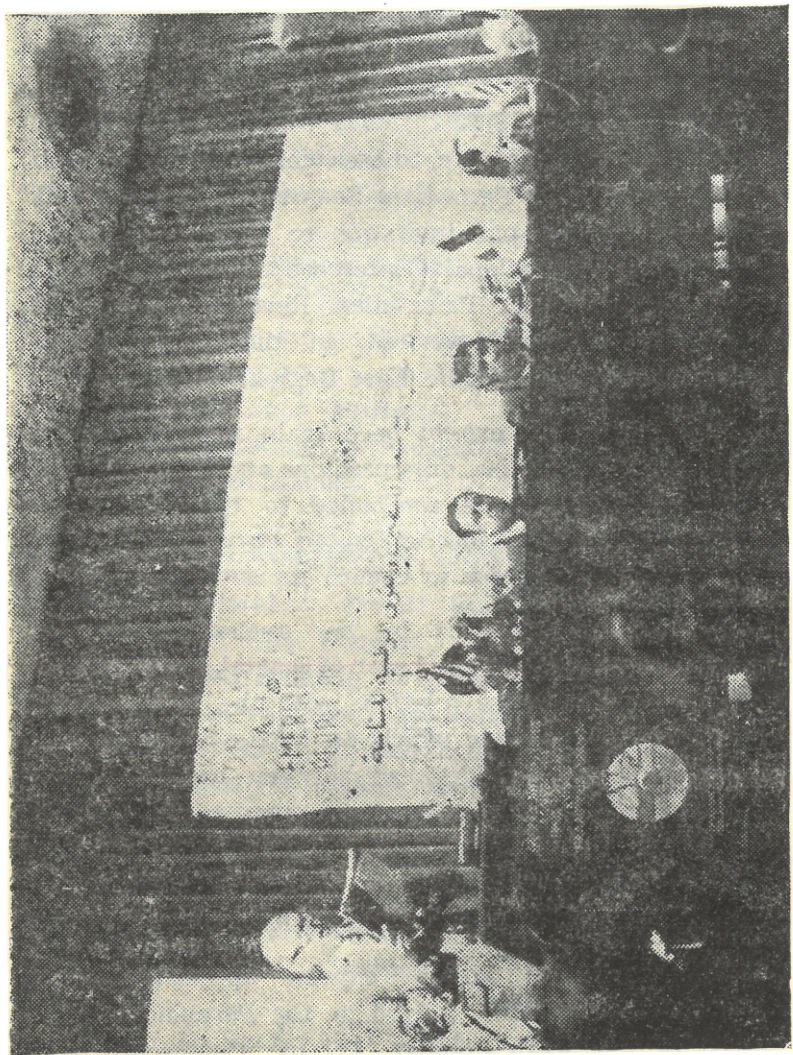
REPORT OF MR. YOUSSEF EL SEBAI
AAPSO SECRETARY GENERAL

It gives me pleasure to welcome you heartily, on behalf of AAPSO's Permanent Secretariat, and to thank you for accepting our invitation to participate in the work of an International Conference of Solidarity with and support for the Palestinian Revolution and the National Lebanese Movement, in those decisive circumstances for the Middle East Region.

I should like to extend, once again, my most sincere thanks to those parties, organisations and eminent Greek personalities who have responded to our request for convening this Conference in Greece, exerting their most sincere efforts in order to ensure its success.

Greece, characterised by her ancient civilisation, her unique position in the heart of a vital strategic area, her friendly and close relations with the Arab peoples, and the prominent role which we hope she will play as the most suitable bridgehead between the Afro-Asian Peoples' family and the European countries as a whole, is, in fact, the best possible location for this historical meeting in the development of the work of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation.

I should also like to express appreciation and gratitude for the role played by the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces' Conference who,



Mr. Youssef El Sebai Secretary General of AAPSO delivering his speech seen on left Mr. Abdel Meguid El Rafei and Mr. Nouri Abdel Razzak.

through its valuable assistance, has made the convening of this Conference a concrete fact.

The Middle East problem is not new to AAPSO. It has been familiar to our Organisation for a long time, and we have stood, from the very start, with all our weight and assistance, by the side of the peoples of this region during their long and heroic struggle. The Middle East issue is still included as a permanent item on this organisation's agenda, and is the subject of conferences and meetings, remaining one of its fundamental tasks. However, this problem, which international public opinion is preoccupied with, since it embodies the just cause of peoples struggling for their inalienable rights, and since, at the same time, it represents a danger and a threat to world peace, has taken new dimensions following the bloody events in Lebanon. Consequently, one of the important initiatives of our organisation was to arrange a meeting of all the Arab Solidarity and Peace Committees in Beirut, in March 1975, during which important decisions were taken and a warning sounded with regard to the danger of the Middle East situation, more particularly the explosive situation in Lebanon.

We, today, in this Conference, reaffirm that the core of the conflict in the Middle East lies between the Arab Liberation Movement with its different groups, and colonialism, Zionism and internal local reaction. We take into account that the Arab Liberation Movement is a fundamental part of the world national liberation movement, and we confirm that the essence of the struggle lies in the usurpation by Zionism, supported by

imperialism, of Palestine, rendering the Palestinian people homeless and preventing them from pursuing on their land, their national legitimate rights; it also lies in the occupation by Israel of other Arab territories on the Golan and in Sinai during the 1967 war, including the occupation of the whole of Palestine. The Lebanese crisis is but a part of this struggle, which imperialism imposes on this region.

Imperialism has intensified its savage attacks and increased its aggressive conspiracies in the Middle East, more particularly against the Arab National liberation movement of which the Palestinian Revolution and the National Lebanese movement form an integral part, after the balance was tipped in favour of the World Liberation Movement. Imperialism thus aims at compensating its successive defects in Indochina, thanks to the struggle of the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, in Africa since the independence of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Sao-Tomé and Principe, and in the Arab nation after the victorious October War of 1973, which has proved that the Arab peoples were capable of waging a modern war with all its complex technical requirements and political, material and military mobilisation. We must also mention the successes achieved by the PLO on both the local and international levels, such as its recognition by most countries of the world and international organisations as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, splendidly merging with the Lebanese national movement which has, in its turn, achieved great progress on the road to democratic reform in Lebanon, against a feudal and communal entrenched system.

It is important to note that imperialism, under the leadership of the USA and reaction, has during this period, — in addition to the direct and blatant military aggression — waged an ideological and political campaign against the positions of the Arab National Liberation forces, with the aim of preventing cooperation and saving the seeds of dissension between the Arab and the socialist countries, more particularly the Soviet Union. Such an attack may impede the socio-economic progressive development of the masses in the Arab countries, and, consequently, the Arab National Movement.

Thus, imperialism chose some of the parties and fascist groups as the Phalangists, Camille Shamoun's gangs and other bourgeois and reactionary elements in Lebanon to play the cat's paw in this Zionist and imperialist conspiracy. They were trained and armed with the most up-to date weapons and showered with funds to transform the Middle East conflict into one where Arab blood would be drained.

These fascist groups, supported by some elements in the former reactionary communal government who contributed to Lebanon's ruin, resorted to violence and terrorism as an answer to the demands of the well-known tobacco planters to teachers strikes and fishermen's demonstrations who endeavoured to protect their rights from the exploiting monopolies. As a result, a former notable militant representative Maarouf Saad was killed, and casualties numbered high amongst many innocent citizens.

These events were the starting point that led to the explosion of the dangerous situation in Lebanon. Eventually, these fascist and reactionary forces with the

collusion of direct conspiracy on the part of Israel and American imperialism provoked intentionally and openly the Palestinian Revolution and the Palestinians with a massacre in Ain Roumana on 18th April 1975 where 26 people, including children, were murdered in a bus. It was an attempt to drag the Palestinian Revolution to combat in Lebanon but the latter were in complete self-control and refrained from retaliation. Nevertheless, the fascist reactionary forces in Lebanon in collusion with foreign mercenaries launched massacres against Palestinian refugee camps, bombed civilian quarters and thus battle was imposed upon the Palestinian Revolution which had to defend itself and its people by supporting the national and progressive Lebanese forces against the horrible crimes the Arab world had never witnessed before, whose first and last aim was to promote policy and objectives of Israel in the area.

Events took a dangerous turn. The involvement of some Arab regimes in these events seriously impaired the Lebanese national movement and the Palestinian Revolution. World imperialism exploited this situation to split the ranks of the Arab Liberation Movement and diverted the conflict — for some time — to one where Arab blood would be drained. In accordance with our responsibilities in the world liberation movement, we are obliged, with the Arab masses, to be alert and cautious to prevent this tragedy from recurrence which would only benefit imperialism and Israel.

In the midst of these blood-stained events that befell Lebanon, holding the Arab Summit Conference was absolutely inevitable to prevent the situation from fur-

ther deteriorating. The Summit convened in Riyad and Cairo and succeeded in implementing a ceasefire in Lebanon, except in the South where co-ordination and planning were achieved between th reactionary rightist forces and the Zionist enemy to blow up the situation again by repeated attacks upon the positions of the Palestinian Revolution and the National Lebanese Forces.

We assert that there are explosive obstacles still hindering the solution of the Lebanese crisis. These obstacles should be carefully removed for preserving peace in Lebanon. It can be brought about by the Arab peace-keeping forces whose mission must be carried out positively, so that the Palestinian revolution and its arms be safeguarded to enable it to confront the Zionist enemy who still wages attacks upon its positions, massing troops heavily on the front. The enemy's previous and repeated attacks upon the Palestinian refugees' camps and Lebanese villages are still fresh in our minds, for many homes and establishments were destroyed and innocent people lost their lives,

It was even more dangerous that these events should be linked to the expansionist, Zionist and aggressive attempts in Southern Lebanon, and the criminal endeavours for liquidating the Palestinian resistance in this region and to strike at the sovereignty and interests of the Lebanese people. Consequently, while warning against this aggravating situation, we urge world public opinion and all progressive forces to be vigilant and alert and to prevent Zionist expansion in Southern Lebanon. Moreover, to protect the National Lebanese Movement, to respect the democratic integrity of the Lebanese people,

allowing them to make their own decisions freely, guaranteeing genuine peace and security in their country.

The primary task facing the Arab peace-keeping forces is to return the dispersed, the missing and the immigrants to their own camps which the isolationist forces had assaulted by terrorism, oppression and violence such as Theby, Jesr El Basha, Karantina, and Tel Zaatar. They must also preserve Lebanon's territorial integrity, to prevent any kind of partition and to resist the Israeli enemy in the south.

We consider that many problems that must be solved confront the Arab Summit Conference namely reinforcing Arab solidarity, and extending material aid to consolidate the Palestinian revolution that was exhausted in the battles in Lebanon; allowing the Palestinians free access to all the Arab territories surrounding Israel and non-interference in its internal affairs. Lebanon should be reconstructed and its economy consolidated. The Lebanese parties should promptly hold a round table to unriddle their problems on their own, to reinforce to the cease-fire and to proclaim a united, independent and democratic Lebanon far from sectarian policy and tribal feudalism.

The threat of explosion in the Middle East is aggravated by Israel's fascist and racist policy against the Palestinian citizens in the occupied regions. Israel still continues to detain thousands of citizens for no reason, and to pile them in jail without being held for trial, subjecting them to the worst kind of physical and mental torture, in addition to thousands who are overcrowding the Israeli prisons and serving long sentences. They have

not been granted the right for self-defence or given a just trial. Most of their confessions were extorted through pressure and terrorism as exposed by several honest lawyers in Israel itself.

The Israeli authorities continue to expel Palestinian citizens, destroying their homes, seizing their lands on which they are establishing new Israeli settlements.

Israel continues to purpose fully change the demographic and geographical characteristics of Palestine, and of the Arab occupied territories. It stole its heritage and distorted educational programs in spite of the condemnations of the UN and its specialized agencies. It is well-known that Israel carries out a collective punishment policy towards the Palestinians just as the Nazis have previously done in the regions that they had occupied during World War II. It exceeded all limits by its desecration of most of the holy places that were in peace for a long time.

Facing these terrorist measures the Palestinian masses rose to defend themselves, their lands and their rights against the authorities of the occupant, the Israeli enemy. Demonstrations and strikes are as well as aspects of heroic resistance still staged over the occupied Arab territories in spite of Israel's terrorist and repressive measures when many women, children and elderly people were victimized. The Palestinian peoples' repressive brave uprisings and their cohesion with their sole legitimate representative, the P.L.O., constitute a blow directed against Israel and a defeat of all Israel's foolhardy attempts to create an Arab subordinate administration in the occupied territories that would co-

operate with it in spite of nearly ten years of occupation, and in spite of all terrorist means of peaceful persuasion used by Israel.

The Palestinian masses' brave stance expressed by a memorandum sent by all town municipal councils in the occupied territories to the Arab Summit Conference held in Cairo to support the P.L.O.

Undoubtedly, world public opinion has long been aware that had it not been for the U.S.A.'s aid to Israel the latter would never have been capable of holding the occupied territories all this time. It would not have persisted arrogantly and conceitedly to disregard the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. At times the USA uses the right of veto to prevent Israel's condemnation by the Security Council and at other times it accords it 2 to 4 million dollars to use its sophisticated weapons, such as up to date planes, missiles and electronic equipment not yet obtained by N.A.T.O., according to some American officials.

AAPSO is fully confident that peace in the Middle East will not be fulfilled unless Israel totally and unconditionally withdraws from Arab occupied territories in accordance with the Charter, the Resolutions and objectives of the U.N. and recognizes the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, specially their right to return to their land and to establish their independent national state. The most effective measure would be to convene rapidly the Geneva Conference, which the USA and Israel continuously attempt to hinder, asking the P.L.O. to attend as an essential and independent party on an equal footing with the other participants.

AAPSO observes with great concern the expansion and development of relations between the two racist regimes in South Africa and Israel, following Vorster's visit to the latter. The true facts with regard to Israel's arms sales to South Africa such as fighter-planes, electronic equipment and "Gabriel" long range missile boats produced in Israel were exposed. More than 50 soldiers from South Africa are being trained in Israel on these boats. All this is in exchange for raw and radio-active material used for joint atomic research by the two countries, with the aim of threatening both African and Arab states. Moreover, there is cooperation and exchange of technical skills between Israeli and South African police as well as that of Zimbabwe and Namibia, concerning torture, and the repression of national uprisings in these countries.

Trade relations between the two regimes have enormously increased. The report submitted to the U.N. anti-apartheid Committee revealed that Israel's exports to South Africa have increased from 12 million dollars in 1973 to more than 28.7 million dollars per year, whereas its imports from Pretoria increased from 34.4 million dollars in 1973 to 43.1 million dollars per year. All this highlights the organic links between the two regimes placing them both in the dock.

Thence the importance of the U.N. resolution 3379 adopted in its 30th session condemning Zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination. This resolution undoubtedly reflects mounting world consciousness with regards to the true nature of Zionism and its danger for the creation of a purely racist state based on one race,

disregarding the rights of the Palestinian people who were dispersed through terrorism and wars.

The "Koenig memorandum", a secret document published in Israel and prepared by order of the Israeli Ministry of Interior, urges the Israeli government to lay down several economic measures in order to decrease the Arab birth rate. One of these recommendations of a definitely racist character is tax increases imposed on the Arabs.

The dangerous situation prevailing in the Arab Gulf area cannot, by any means, be separated from the conspiracies woven against the Arab Liberation Movement or from the recent events that took place in the Middle East. The open plot concocted by imperialism and reaction, in collusion with the Iranian regime, aims at a continued military presence as well as these forces' military domination — exemplified in American and British military bases and Iranian forces of invasion in Oman — in this strategic area because of its immense oil wealth. The plot also aims at the continued domination of imperialist monopolies, guaranteeing at the same time the interests of imperialist forces, and at establishing an aggressive military alliance under the guile of the Gulf security project.

Are included in this plot attempts to establish an aggressive oil bloc under the domination of oil monopolies, to which would participate oil-producing countries allied to imperialist forces against other oil-producing countries.

The Arab forces of national liberation in the Peninsula and the Gulf — with the Popular Front for the

Liberation of Oman at its vanguard — who are waging a stubborn struggle against those plots and against any foreign presence or monopolies or reactionary regimes, remnants of the colonial era, are still exposed to forms of repression, torture and incarceration.

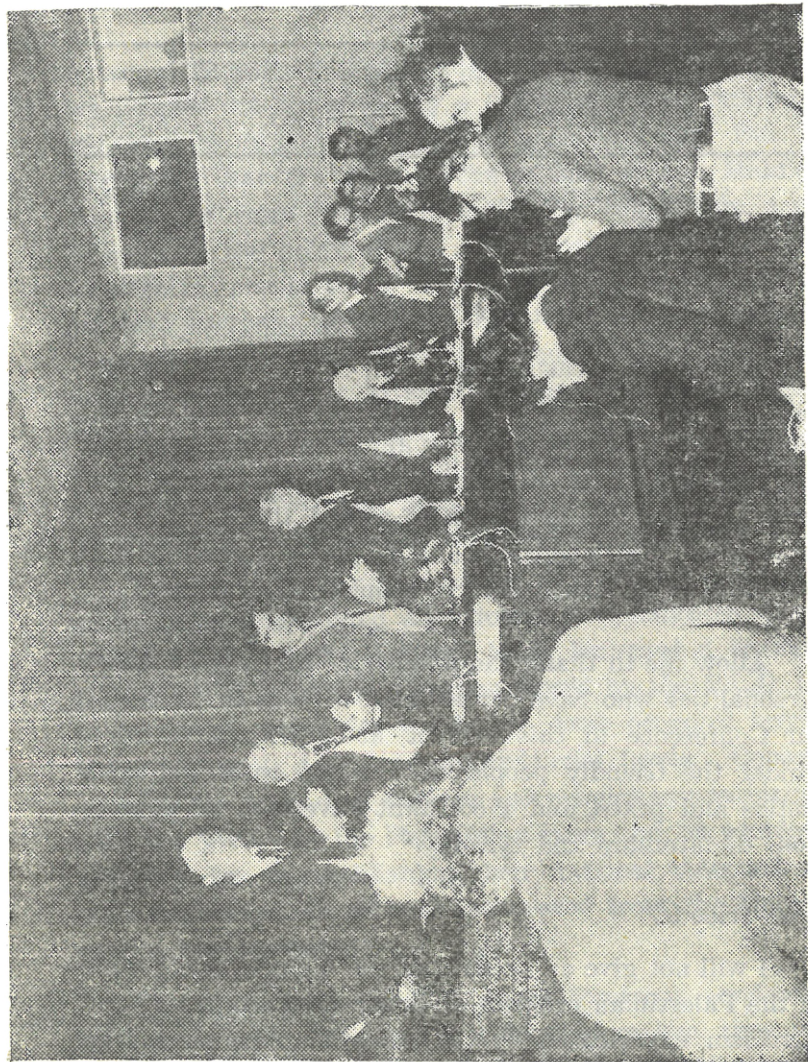
AAPSO affirms that one of the fundamental tasks of all Arab forces of liberation, progress, democracy and peace, is to struggle to defend those forces and to achieve solidarity, so that these imperialist and reactionary plots will fail, and so that the repeated aggression perpetrated by the Iranian forces and by reaction against the progressive regime in Democratic Yemen and against the progressive forces of the region will be checked.

No doubt the unity of the Arab progressive forces constitutes a fundamental and decisive factor in the face of imperialist, Zionist and reactionary designs for further proceeding on the path of liberation, progress and democracy. Therefore, we call for the mobilization and unity of these forces in a massive front on the basis of a progressive, militant programme in the struggle against imperialism.

Dear friends,

We are certain that the victory of the Arab national movement will fulfil its objectives for free and honorable life, the return of the Palestinians to their homes and the establishment of a free and independent state in every inch liberated in Palestine, the return of peace and tranquillity and socio-democratic reconstruction in Lebanon. We are also confident that colonialism and Zionism will be defeated. It is history's destiny that peoples will score

victories through their national struggle supported by all friends and honest men, the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union, the Afro-Asian countries and all progressive forces in America and Europe. We hope that this Conference will be a new contribution in consolidating a just and true peace in the Middle East.



Members of the presidium of the Conference greetings the participants

ADDRESS BY MR. MOHAMED SOBEIH

Representative of the P.L.O.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen participating
in the works of the Conference,

It gives me pleasure, on behalf of the PLO the sole, authentic representative of the people of Palestine and the spearhead of its daily struggle, to extend gratitude and appreciation to all our brothers and friends who have accepted the invitation to attend this Conference, to manifest their solidarity and support for our Palestinian peoples and the brotherly people of Lebanon.

Allow me to thank the number of parties and Greek personalities who have participated with us in convening our Conference in this ancient and civilized country, amidst the friendly people of Greece, enamored with justice and peace, and a constant adversary of aggression, dictatorship and tyranny.

Dear friends,

I will not give an account of the historic background of the Palestinian problem or reiterate the injustice and terrorism experienced by the Palestinian people in the past, for I believe that all the participants in this Con-

ference are aware of this subject and how our Palestinian peoples are experiencing a series of events subjecting them to all sorts of injustice and terrorism. But, I emphasize that the core of the conflict in the Middle East stems from Israel's inception by colonialism and Zionism in the heart of the Arab world, banishing the Palestinian people from their homes, eradicating their national heritage, preventing them by the use of armed force from exercising their inalienable rights on their soil, in a colonialist attempt to dominate the Arab world; in view of its strategic importance particularly as an international communications route, an important source and deposit for energy and a wide market for commodities manufactured in colonialist countries.

This stage, in which we hold our meeting, is marked by these complicated and violent circumstances when American and world Zionism have launched a savage offensive following the victories scored by the P.L.O. in their various struggles inside the Arab occupied territories, on both Arab and international levels. Consequently, the number of nations and peoples sympathizing with the justice of the Palestinian issue and its peoples' integrity for re-establishing their national independent state on every inch of land recaptured from the Zionist enemy, has increased.

The world, with the U.N. at the forefront, condemned Zionism and considered it a form of racism, thus intensifying Israel's isolation in the international arena.

All these achievements fulfilled by the people of Palestine during their armed struggle and the support of the progressive forces in the world, have terrified

colonialism and Zionism, inciting them to undertake feverish activities to strike at the National Arab Movement prevailing over this part of the Arab nation. In this context, we may comprehend that the events in Lebanon are a direct conspiracy hatched by American and Israeli colonialism.

Mr. Chairman,

The Palestinian Revolution did not initiate war in Lebanon; but was an ultimate cause. Its main objective was and still is, to fight against the Zionist enemy. Nevertheless, battle was imposed upon it, to defend itself and its people, following numerous provocations and aggressions launched against Palestinian settlements inflicting heinous suppression and terrorism. Thousands of innocent lives lost were perpetrated by fascist groups in the Phalangist and Liberal Parties, consolidated with arms and schemes by American imperialism and Israeli intelligence under the false pretext that it was a battle between Moslems and Christians, or between the Lebanese and the Palestinians, as revealed in the events that followed.

In reality, it is a conspiracy and a dirty war launched by this client, reactionary force to serve the aims of their masters, in order to liquidate the Palestinian Revolution and the National and Progressive Lebanese Movement.

Therefore, the P.L.O. extended and accepted numerous peace initiatives pertaining to the cease-fire and the restoration of peace to Lebanon,

But it cannot accept or allow itself to be disarmed, to have its will confiscated and tutelage imposed, and abandoned under the mercy of the Zionist enemy who is still perpetrating aggression against our settlements, and Lebanese villages in the South still fresh in our minds. We will fight till death for preserving our arms and free will.

Our people are aware that without an armed struggle, the Palestinian problem will become a problem of refugees enveloped in neglect and oblivion, followed by the establishment of the client plan, namely the United Arab Kingdom.

In this connexion, it is the duty of the Arab peace-keeping forces in Lebanon to disarm the isolationist forces that ignited the situation, because it is the arm of treachery, colonialism and murder.

Moreover, it is our task to confront the Zionist enemy that has joined forces against us with the isolationists in the south of Lebanon, violating villages and Lebanese territories in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent the Palestinian presence there, in accordance with the well-known Cairo Agreement.

History will not forgive these forces for obstructing the Palestinian Revolution, its militants, and those of the National Lebanese Movement.

In this connexion, the P.L.O. declares before you, its deep appreciation, and bows reverently before the brotherly people of Lebanon and their national forces who have sincerely and firmly supported us in face of this savage imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plot,

sacrificing dearly in defence of its glorious principles, noble objectives, thus recording a magnificent picture in the struggle with the people and revolution of Palestine.

All attempts and plots aimed at disrupting this alliance consolidated by blood will be foiled.

Israel has to a large extent profited from the events in Lebanon, for the Lebanese war helped tighten its grip over the Arab occupied territories.

Israel resorted to establishing new settlements in Golan, Sinai, the West Bank and Gaza escalating its repressive and arbitrary measures against the Palestinians, throwing thousands of nationals in prisons without trial and continuing its usurpation of the Arab territories with lies and obsolete pretexts.

The people of Palestine in the occupied territories stand bravely in face of this scheme and the fascist Israeli measures that recall nazism. They stage demonstrations and strikes in all towns in the West Bank, Gaza and the occupied territories since 1948 specially El Jalil and carry out daring guerilla operations to expel the usurpers and support the P.L.O.

We urge all countries and progressive and honourable forces to intensify their support for our struggle, and to exert unprecedented efforts to free thousands of detainees in the prisons of Israel who are being subjected to heinous moral and physical torture and to expose Israel's barbarous methods.

Dear friends,

Our belief in victory has no limits. The peoples' struggles are always crowned with success. This is history's course and its lessons, because our bleeding and courageous people sacrifice and are sacrificing endlessly for the benefit of their sons, and because the peoples of the world and their peace-loving and valiant forces back our struggle with the socialist countries at the forefront, headed by the friendly Soviet Union and Afro-Asian countries.

While we strive bitterly in our struggle, we extend support and consolidation to our militant friends in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, with whom we rally against the same common enemy in Tel Aviv and Pretoria and we consider their struggle a complement to ours.

We also support the heroic people of Cyprus and belief in their inevitable victory over the invaders, to live in a united country, independent and non-aligned under the legitimate President, Archbishop Makarios.

We hail and support the struggle of the people of Democratic Yemen and its government, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and all national forces in the Arab Gulf in their steadfast strife against the imperialist and reactionary conspiracy in the Arab Gulf.

We firmly stand by the struggles of the heroic peoples in Chile and South America against the fascist and military oppressors.

Finally, allow me to thank AAPSO and the Perman-

ent Secretariat of the Arab Popular Movement for the extensive efforts exerted for the success of this Conference.

Long live Palestine, free and Arabs !

Down with colonialism and Zionism !

Revolution until victory is scored !

ADDRESS BY MR. NAIM HADDAD

President of the Permanent Secretariat of
the Popular Arab Conference

Mr. Chairman,

Participants to the Conference in Solidarity with
the people of Palestine and the National
Lebanese Forces,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you a message of greeting on behalf of the Permanent Secretariat of the Popular Arab Conference for the victory of the Palestinian cause and the National Lebanese Movement and its appreciation for your initiative to convene this Conference of Solidarity with the Palestinian Revolution and the National Lebanese Movement which, at this stage, will gain invaluable importance in view of the intensification of the reactionary Zionist imperialist attack on the revolutionary and liberation forces. This situation requires the lining up of all the struggling forces of the world in order to confront the heinous attack and enforce the struggle against the enemies and counter the conspiracies woven against the freedom of people and the sovereignty and independence of their countries.

Honourable Militants,

The Arab region is witnessing, at this stage in particular, a dangerous and cunning scheme aiming at striking a blow to the Arab National Liberation Movement and the liquidation of the Palestinian armed Resistance Movement preventing it to fulfil its missions in their fight for the just and inalienable rights of the Arab Palestinian people and the recovery of its homeland and self-determination.

There is no doubt that you, Sirs, have followed the bloody events which took place in Lebanon and its evil consequences aiming at the partition of Lebanon into communal statelets established by the isolationist reactionary rightist forces in coordination with the Syrian regime sympathizing with American imperialism and Zionism.

This regime of aggression is pursuing under different slogans the execution of the imperialist Zionist conspiracy to strike at the Palestinian Resistance and the National Lebanese Movement with the aim of silencing the noble and freedom loving voices struggling for the usurped Arab rights in Arab Palestine and the rest of the occupied Arab territories.

These events represent one part of a sequence of the hostile conspiracies waged against the liberation movements and people and the Syrian regime is performing the main role in its execution together with the reactionary Arab forces, foremost amongst which are the reactionary regimes of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan. To face up to this reactionary camp financed

by Zionist imperialist quarters there is an urgent necessity to strengthen the Arab progressive forces and consolidate them for a firm confrontation and joint action with all the revolutionary forces of the world and the socialist countries foremost amongst them is the Soviet Union.

Sirs, the part of the sequence which is being presently executed in Lebanon in the name of the Arab deterrent forces is in reality a pretext for the continuation of the invasion of Lebanon by the Syrian regime with the objective of striking more blows at the Resistance and at the National Lebanese Movement enabling the racialist Zionists to dominate southern Lebanon and impose an imperialist American solution.

What is more dangerous is that this situation will be associated with a hostile Zionist expansion in southern Lebanon and the criminal attempt to liquidate the Palestinian action in that region and strike at the sovereignty of Lebanon and the interests of its struggling people. That is why we are warning against the seriousness of this dangerous situation and appeal to world public opinion and all the progressive forces to be alert and cautious and to prevent Zionist expansionism in Southern Lebanon, safeguard the Lebanese National Movement, respect the democratic freedom of the Lebanese people and enable it to determine its affairs with complete freedom, and guarantee real peace and security in Lebanese territory.

In the Arab occupied territories, Zionists proceed in their racist and fascist methods against the Arab inhabitants, using manifold terrorist measures such as

imprisonment, arrests, torture and persecution of the Arab and Palestinian militants. Moreover, the Zionist authorities resorted to establish settlements on the Palestinian citizens' lands that they most unjustly seized. They modified the historical and demographic character of Palestine and of other Arab occupied territories, among which are religious and sacred sites dating back to thousands of years.

Confronting the fascist and racist campaign of terrorism, the Palestinian masses are continuing their heroic struggle against the Zionist authorities of occupation, in a rising wave of courageous demonstrations, strikes and sit-ins. Despite the fierceness of terrorism and the great number of victims, the valiant Palestinian people is escalating its heroic upsurge, that erupted several months before, by intensifying the struggle, the steadfastness and resistance to the projects of the Zionist occupation and aggression, among which is the establishment of an Arab administration, dependent to the Zionist occupants in the occupied Arab territories.

The aggravating situation in our area, and the intensification of the imperialist aggressive attacks and attempts against the Arab liberation movement, are threatening the security, peace and interests of the peoples, not only in this region, but also in the world. In all this, American imperialism is playing a major role, by providing the Zionist authorities with the means of survival and of aggression, particularly by modern arms and equipment as well as economic aid. Furthermore American imperialism abet the acts of aggression against

the Arab countries, and the continuing usurpation of the national rights of the Palestinian People.

Imperialism also proceeds in its aggressive schemes, in cooperation with the reactionary regimes in the area to abort the national liberation movement and to secure its exploitative interests particularly its strategic and oil interests in this important region of the world.

Friends,

Support to the Palestinian Resistance Movement and to the Lebanese National movement, the objective of our Conference, is the task of all the progressive peoples and men of honour the world over. The momentum it has acquired makes it imperative, on all forces of liberation and progress in the world to redouble their militant solidarity with the Resistance movement, so that it may continue its decisive mission to fulfil its destiny through the revolutionary struggle in order to recover its inalienable and legitimate rights. We should stand by the side of the Arab progressive forces in their struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction and expose the arbitrary measures practised by the reactionary regimes in view of aborting the movement of the masses in their aspirations for liberation and independence. No doubt, the reactionary regimes' endeavours to establish a military alliance, the so-called Gulf security, aim at striking at the liberation movements and at carrying out the USA strategy in the area.

Gentlemen,

In other parts of the world, many peoples are sub-

ject to colonialist aggression and to methods of racial discrimination as well as to various kinds of terrorism and persecution.

This Conference clearly voices our support and consolidation for the struggle of the heroic people of Chile against the junta that is sold to American imperialism, for the struggle of the African masses in Zimbabwe and South Africa, as well as for all militant peoples who struggle for their freedom, the sovereignty of their countries and their right to a free and dignified life,

The cause of freedom in the world is indivisible. The struggle for this cause is a sacred duty incumbent upon all the militant and noble forces in the world. Let us have more militant solidarity among the forces of revolution and progress the world over, on the path of the struggle against imperialism, Zionism, reaction and exploitation, and for the unrelenting fight for building a better future for the whole of humanity.

SPEECH OF
Mr. ABDEL MEGUID AL RAFEI
Vice-president of the Central Political Council
of the Lebanese Patriotic Movement

Mr. Chairman,

Friends Conference Members,

On behalf of the Lebanese Patriotic Movement, we would like to express our deep thanks to the Permanent Secretariat of AAPSO and the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab Popular Conference, for the invitation to hold this important Emergency Conference. We also express our appreciation for their efforts they have exerted to ensure success for this conference on the Greek land, that have an ancient history of civilisation.

We come from a small country that suffered the terrors of a destructive war as a result of a conspiracy planned by imperialism, Zionism and reaction, aiming at eliminating two movements that are integral part of the national liberation movement for the peoples of Africa and Asia, i.e. the Palestinian Revolution Movement on the Lebanese territory, awaiting its march to the land of reality for liberation preparing to establish the true democratic entity, and the Lebanese Patriotic Movement aiming at creating a new Lebanon, that takes part in formulating the Arab destiny, and working for getting

rid of many diseases infiltrating its entity, the least of which are not those of confessionalism, tribalism, exploitation and discrimination.

The struggle of the Lebanese people for independence, liberation and progress really, enters within the framework of the liberation struggle waged by the Afro-Asian peoples against imperialist domination that aims at keeping the Third World backward so as to continue to be a main resource for raw materials and a market of consumption unable to produce and develop.

Although the bloodshed has now stopped relatively and Lebanon began to dress its wounds, Imperialism and Zionism still strive to foment conspiracies aiming at stifling the Arab peoples' struggle, including the Lebanese people whose patriotic forces have united with the Palestinian Resistance Movement thus threatening the imperialist interests in the Arab world and causing anxiety to Zionism which wants security and stability in the usurped territory.

It is regrettable that imperialism and Zionism found ready tools in some Arab reactionary countries and some pseudo-progressive ones. So it used these tools to try to dwarf the Palestinian Resistance, strike the Lebanese Patriotic Movement, and eliminate democratic liberties. All this was destined to pass an American solution that puts an end to the ambition of the Arab nation to cut for itself a road in accord with its capacities and riches and enable it to have a place under the sun in conformity with its ancient past in civilisation and development.

Though the October War was destined to put

the Arab Nation on the beginning of this uprising road, the machinations of the reactionary Arab regimes aborted this victory thus paving road before the American solution whose banner was carried by Kissinger and which made of Lebanon a fertile soil for explosions of which the communal militias, the class privileges, the regime's disintegrated army and the money of Arab reaction headed by Saudi Arabia, took advantage.

We would be falsifying history and reality if ignored or forgot the role of the Syrian regime in carrying out the imperialist plan. We must not let ourselves be deceived by the pretext offered for intervention saying that it took place to protect the Palestinian Resistance while it took the side of the isolationist fighters and helped them to strike the bastions of the Nationalists by every means so as to do away by the victories achieved by the Patriotic Movement and the Palestinian Revolution in a war in which they were obliged to take part.

While the militant peoples and liberation forces in the world denounced the role of imperialism and Zionism in the tragedy of Lebanon, they also denounced the will intervention of the Syrian regime which accepted to be an obedient tool in the hands of the foreign plan.

Moreover, AAPSO in particular has frankly condemned the role of the Syrian regime, in Congo-Brazzaville meeting held from 27 to 30 July and adopted a resolution saying that "the Syrian intervention, taking place in a period during which the Lebanese patriotic and Progressive forces and the Palestinian Revolution have achieved great positive victories on their enemies, taking the side of the isolationist forces, and directing its belows

against the Palestinian Revolution and Lebanese patriotic forces, constitutes a part of the plan serving the interests of the imperialo-Zionist conspiracy aiming at annihilating the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese Patriotic Movement and the Arab Liberation Movement in general”.

The conspiracy against Lebanon has not stopped, and it will not stop soon. The Syrian regime, taking from some Arab countries a cover to complete his incursion in the Lebanese territory, still commits, in the name of the Arab Dissuasion Force, actions that uncover falsity of his claims that he has come to preserve Lebanon. Acts of terrorism, qualitative arrests, occupying and bombarding the offices of parties and trials to assassinate patriotic leaders, which are almost daily, all this confirms the continuation of the conspiracy to do away with the democratic gains and to try to arrange security matters in Lebanon on the model of the Syrian that strives to apply the American solution.

What Southern Lebanon witnesses of the acts of the Zionist enemy and the collaboration of the isolationist right militia with its plans to annihilate the Palestinian Resistance and the continuation of the trials of partition, indicate that imperialism is resorting to new methods and time bombs to be exploded at the suitable time to realize its aggressive plans against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Within the framework of this conspiracy comes the Arab reactionary measures in the form of repressive acts and stifling democracy in Bahrein and Kuwait where unions and trade unions are dissolved, newspapers closed and parliaments paralysed as well as the work for es-

tablishing a military alliance between the Gulf Countries under the pretext of protecting its security.

All this works to safeguard the imperialist interests, especially the economic ones and the petroleum interests in the forefront. This enables Saudi Arabia to play its retarding role in the region in contradiction with the progressive role played by the Arab liberated countries that tighten their relations with the Socialist countries and their peoples in a strategic alliance bound to achieve victory against the policy of "step by step"...etc.

Members of the Conference,

It is certain that you are asking, with us, about the way out of this conspiracy, the American, Zionist, reactionary conspiracy of the century. We answer that first and foremost, the cause of the Lebanese people closely linked to the cause of the Palestinian people is in need to day to more support from the friendly countries and their peoples and from the militant working classes in the exploiting capitalist world and from all freedom loving people the world over.

The Lebanese Patriotic Movement hopes to have complete support for the demands of free people in Lebanon and Palestine who are waging a tripple struggle against American imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction.

The Lebanese Patriotic Movement demands that hands should be taken off the Palestinian Resistance which should be enabled to continue struggle for the return of the Arab Palestinian People to their land, for

his right to set up a democratic society in which all nationalities and religions can coexist within the unified democratic Arab society. This duty to support the Palestinian Revolution is a main one, for putting an end to this revolutionary bastion will pave the road to attack the other factions of the world liberation movement.

The Lebanese Patriotic Movement also demands the withdrawal of Syrian forces from the Lebanese territory so that the representatives of the Lebanese people would be able, without pressure or terror, to conduct democratic dialogue aiming at setting up a patriotic, democratic and developed Lebanese society that conforms with the aspirations of its people who sacrificed thousands of martyrs on the road of change and development. It also demands that the Arab Force of Dissuasion should not be used as a tool to suppress the Lebanese Patriotic Movement and the Palestinian Resistance. It demands that friendly countries should exert pressure on the Syrian regime for the liberation of the militants of the patriotic movement detained by the authorities.

Dear friends, members of the Conference,

Demands will remain to be mere wishes if their owners do not continue to struggle persistently for their realisation. Therefore, the Lebanese Patriotic Movement has committed itself before the masses of the Lebanese people to continue its struggle to achieve the programme of reforms formulated by the movement to safeguard Lebanon's freedom, sovereignty and unity and to reconstruct it and introduce democratic reform and solve its problems through constructive dialogue so that Lebanon

becomes the vanguard of countries fighting for liberation, progress and peace.

We extend our hands to you to have support and from you and from the peoples you represent to go on the road of common struggle for a better human world.

Thank you for your solidarity and support and for more of them.

Greeting to the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory who are challenging repression and terrorism by the occupying Zionist entity.

Greetings to our Arab people in Lebanon who is still resisting patiently the imperialo-Zionist-reactionary conspiracy.

Greeting to the struggle of the people of Chile against its fascist rulers, lackies of the American imperialism.

Greeting to the struggle of the people of Cyprus for his liberation and territorial integrity. Greeting to the struggle of African masses in Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Greeting to the struggle of the people in South Africa against the Rhodesian regime, twin to the Zionist regime.

Thank you for listening.

MESSAGE OF MR. YASSER ARAFAT

*President of the Executive Committee of
the Palestinian Liberation Organisation
and Commander in chief of the Revolution.*

In the name of the Palestinian people, who are struggling for their freedom, the determination of their destiny, their independence and their right to regain their homeland, and on behalf of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people within and outside the occupied land, I hail your Conference of Solidarity with our people, with the people of Cyprus and with the Lebanese nationalist forces.

In the name of all militants and martyrs, we appreciate your militant solidarity which strengthens our will and consolidates our belief in the inevitability of victory for the national liberation forces throughout the world against all the forces of darkness, racism, Zionism and imperialism.

We are fully aware that any victory achieved by our Palestinian people affects the general current of the activities of peoples fighting for their freedom, whether this be in Cyprus, Zimbabwe, Namibia or South Africa.

By the same degree, any success achieved by these peoples and the liberation movement in general further pushes the Palestinian people ahead on their difficult way towards assured victory.

Greetings for all who took part in your Conference, and a Revolution until victory.

MESSAGE ADDRESSED BY
H.E. PRESIDENT MOHAMED ANWAR EL-SADAT
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

I find very special pleasure in conveying to your Conference my sincerest greetings, in my name and on behalf of Egypt, its people, government and institutions and to express our stand in unison, by the side of the struggle waged by the brotherly Palestinian people and the whole Arab Nation for the recognition of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, particularly its right to self-determination, its return to its homeland and the establishment of its independent Palestinian state or any liberated part of this dear fatherland, as well as for the unconditional and total withdrawal of the aggressive Israeli forces, from every inch of occupied Arab territories.

It has always been, and it will always be Egypt's destiny and honour to stand at the vanguard of this struggle, willingly offering valuable sacrifices in defence of the Palestinian people's rights and of the Arab homeland against the colonialist Zionist aggression.

Our unwavering stand vis-à-vis the Lebanese crisis in all its bloody events, was that the Lebanese should solve their own problem themselves within the framework of brotherly solidarity as well as the alliance between the Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese National Forces in conformity with the 1968 Cairo Agree-

ment, for the safeguard of the unity and sovereignty of Lebanon.

Now the precursor signs of the restoration of security and peace in Lebanon, after the successful initiative of holding the two Arab Summit Conferences in Riyadh and Cairo, are conspicuous.

We hail the Palestinian Revolution Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the valiant Palestinian people, and leader of its glorious struggle, and pay tribute to the United Nations' resolutions and international forums which reaffirmed their recognition of PLO and otherwise condemned Zionism as a form of racism and of racial discrimination.

Egypt, in waging through all means an unrelenting campaign in defence of the Palestinian people's rights, and in exerting all efforts for bringing about true peace, based on justice, reaffirms that the Palestinian question is the core of the Middle East problem which solution will never be reached except through the recuperation of the Palestinian people and acknowledgement of its legitimate rights in all spheres.

We will always be standing in vigilant readiness, armed with faith, confidence and capability at the same time, to ensure these rights and liberate the occupied Arab territories completely.

We are confident that Arab solidarity and solidarity among all the forces who stand for justice and peace the world over have an effective role in the victory over the forces of aggression and dissension, and for the realization of freedom, justice and peace.

GENERAL DECLARATION

Faced with the critical situation in Lebanon, the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) held an Extraordinary International Solidarity Conference in Athens, capital of the Republic of Greece, on December 12th and 13th in support of the struggle of the Palestinian people and the Lebanese National Movement.

180 delegates came from 68 Afro-Asian Solidarity Committees, political parties and national, regional and international organizations from many parts of the world, representing a wide sector of world public opinion.

Throughout its sittings and discussions the Conference made an objective study of the current situation and dangers resulting from the imperialist reactionary Zionist plot against the Palestinian people. The Conference has expressed its deep appreciation to the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization and the Permanent Secretariat of the Popular Arab Conference for taking the initiative to organize the Conference at this decisive moment.

The Conference reaffirms all the positions of AAPSO in support of the Palestinian resistance and the national Lebanese movement and reaffirms all the previous resolutions of AAPSO on all levels and at all times in regard with the Palestinian cause and Lebanese issue.

The Conference unanimously stresses that the Palestinian people are in need, more than any other time in the past, of the utmost solidarity and support in its struggle for the preservation of its very existence, the recognition of its national and legitimate rights to return to its country, its self-determination and the establishment of an independent national state on any part it can liberate.

The Conference has decided unanimously that imperialism and Zionism have both used State of Israel in the heart of the Arab World to serve as an imperialist and hostile base serving the aspirations of imperialism in Asia and Africa. As a result, the whole people of Palestine have been confronted by operations of terrorism suffering and continuous attempts at destroying its national identity and denial of its national existence.

It expresses its deep appreciation of the staunch struggle waged by the Palestinians against the Zionist invaders, supported by the potential of imperialism which has provided this Zionist racist regime with all the means of aggression in all sectors, whether economic, political, military as well as in manpower.

The Conference expressed the view that the reactionary and imperialist forces have always tried to prevent the Palestinian people to realize its national aspirations, realizing that this will necessarily lead to the strengthening of the Arab liberation movement, and to the weakening of the imperialist influence in the region.

The Conference considers the Palestinian Revolution as an important part of the Arab national liberation

movement and a factor for Arab unity and social progress. It is an integral part of the liberation movement in the Eastern Mediterranean region. It is for this reason, that the Palestinian revolution is the target of imperialist and Zionist aggressions.

The Conference realizes that the Arab Liberation Movement forms a major part of the world liberation movement. It reasserts that the essence of the Middle East conflict is the struggle waged by the Arab liberation movement and its various contingents against the forces of imperialism, Zionism and reaction. The core of this conflict is the occupation of Palestine by Zionist forces which is supported by imperialism, the dispersion of its people and denial of its legitimate national rights on its own soil; the occupation of other Arab territories in Golan and Sinai during the 1967 war as well as the occupation of the whole of Palestine. The Lebanese crisis is the consequence of the conflict imposed by imperialism in this region.

The Conference asserts that the bloody events in Lebanon arise from the reactionary imperialist Zionist plan which is being executed by American imperialism, aiming at the continuance of the Zionist invasion of Palestine and the rest of the occupied territories as well as the continuance of the hostile Zionist role. It also aims at the continuance of its domination over the wealth resources of the Arab countries and to destroy the progressive achievements of Arab liberation.

After failing during the past years to destroy the centres of the Palestinian liberation movement in Lebanon, wide-scale actions of bloody terrorism in 1975

were put into operation, with the support of finance and weapons from American imperialism, Israel and Arab local reaction.

The Conference asserts that this conflict, provoked by the reactionary isolationist forces in Lebanon, is not a communal conflict between Christians and Moslems in Lebanon. Neither was it a conflict between Palestinians and Lebanese, but a reactionary imperialistic Zionist plot.

The Conference records that after the cease-fire in Lebanon, after the Arab Summit Conference in Cairo, the coordination and cooperation between the reactionary right-wing forces in collusion with imperialism and the Zionist enemy still try to provoke a new explosion of the situation, through repeated aggressions on the positions of the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement.

The main objective of all national and liberation forces in the Arab world, in the coming stage, is to provide the necessary guarantees to safeguard the Palestinian Revolution, assist it, enable it to act freely from all the Arab territories surrounding Israel and not to intervene in its internal affairs. It should also step up the necessary conditions for safeguarding the freedom of Lebanon, its sovereignty, its unity, its reconstruction and the establishment of democratic measures in it and the convening of a round table discussion for the Lebanese parties in order that they should solve their problems by themselves by enforcing the cease-fire and creating an independent, unified and democratic Lebanon.

The Conference deems that one of the first duties of the Arab Security Forces, is the preservation of the unity and integrity of the Lebanese territory and the confrontation of the Israeli movements in the South of Lebanon, the restoration of the refugees to their areas in the Palestinian camps which were occupied by the isolationist forces through violence and terror, and to guarantee the right of the Arab Resistance to its political and military presence in Lebanon, in accordance with the Cairo Agreement of 1969, and not to be involved in a confrontation with the National Lebanese movement, as well as the respect of the democratic freedoms in Lebanon, in a manner to help achieve a democratic solution of the Lebanese issue without any foreign interference.

The Conference supports the aspirations of the Lebanese people in the restoration of its complete sovereignty and supports all efforts aiming at creating the appropriate conditions for the withdrawal of all foreign troops as soon as possible, from Lebanon.

The Conference asserts that the Palestinian Liberation Organization is the legitimate and only representative of the Palestinian people and its right to take decisions in its own homeland, whether its people are inside the occupied territories or outside it, in all sectors of representation. The Conference hails the wide-scale recognition with which the organization was met internationally.

In so far as it concerns the action on the international level any conference for peace in the Middle East must be convened on the basis of serving the objectives of the Arab struggle for the unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories,

and of securing the national rights of the Palestinian people, and its right to return to its homeland, and on the participation of the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Arab people of Palestine and a major independent party with rights equal to the others.

The Conference asserts the right of the Palestinian people to return to its homeland, its self-determination, and its establishment of a national, independent Palestinian state or any part it liberates.

The Conference demands that the safety and freedom of the Palestinian Revolution and its continuing presence in Lebanon or any other Arab State should be guaranteed, as well as, the opening up of all directions in front of the Palestinian Resistance to struggle for the return of all its usurped rights.

The Conference hails the United Nations resolution which considers Zionism as a form of racialism and condemns the racist practices used by the forces of Zionist occupation against the Arab patriots in Palestine and the Arab occupied territories.

The Conference demands the release of Palestinian political prisoners detained in the occupied land, to put an end to their torture, to put an end to the destruction of Palestinian homes and occupation of their lands and to put an end to the modifications of the demographic structure of Palestine and the other Arab occupied territories, and the preservation of the holy places.

The Conference calls for the immediate release of all Palestinian and Lebanese political prisoners arrested, till now, as a consequence of the events in Lebanon.

The Conference calls upon all the forces of liberation and democracy, upon peace and justice forces the world over, to offer all kinds of material and moral support to both the peoples of Palestine and Lebanon, to consolidate their staunch resistance and to enable them to continue their struggle in order that all the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary schemes should be foiled.

The Conference hails the consolidation and expansion of the Palestinian alliance with all the national progressive forces in all the Arab countries.

The Conference calls for the implementation of all the United Nations' Resolutions ensuring the rights of the Palestinian people and mainly, Resolution 3236 of the United Nations General Assembly in 1974 which asserts the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and establish their sovereignty on their soil, as well as the other resolutions which assert the right of the PLO to represent the Palestinian people.

The Conference hails the upsurge of the Arab nation, its armed forces and its people during the 1973 October War. It hails its martyrs fallen on the battlefield fighting for its rights: this upsurge which has destroyed the myth of racial Zionist superiority and proved the ability of the Arab people to wage the modern liberation war capably and valiantly.

All the Organizations and personalities participating in this Conference assert their firm determination to continue to act jointly in order to realize the victory of the Palestinian Resistance and the national Lebanese movement. It also unanimously hails with pride and appreciation the valiant struggle waged by the people

of Lebanon under the leadership of its national progressive movement. It also hails the sacrifices endured by the people of Lebanon fighting for the right of the Palestinian people in their struggle to obtain their legitimate objectives.

The Conference equally hails the struggle of the people of Palestine against Zionist terrorism and praises the growing armed struggle and the valiant resistance of the Palestinian people in Israel and the occupied territories and calls for its assistance and the assistance of all forms of struggle waged by the Palestinian people.

The Conference declares that it is clear that no just peace will be achieved in the Middle East unless there is a complete withdrawal from all the Arab occupied territories, following the Zionist aggression, and the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people, as the Palestinian issue is the core of the conflict in that explosive part of the world,

The Conference pays tribute to the struggle of the Arab national and progressive forces for the mobilization of all the potentials of the Arab nation and the consolidating of the Arab solidarity against imperialism, colonialism and Zionism in order to liberate all the occupied territories and the establishment of the rights of the Palestinian people.

In addition to the Palestinian problem and the explosive situation in Lebanon, the Conference takes into consideration the importance of the Gulf area in view of its deep involvement in the cause of peace and security in the region.

The Conference denounces the open conspiracy exercised by Arab reaction in complete coordination with Iran and imperialist schemes with a view to continue its reactionary imperialistic military domination on this strategic region and on its immense wealth in oil.

The Conference warns against the conspiracies which confront the forces of liberation in the Gulf region and condemns the methods of terrorism, torture and exile to which honest patriots are subjected as well as the national and progressive movements in the region.

The Conference calls for solidarity with the Arab forces of liberation, particularly the Popular Front for the liberation of Oman, against a foreign Iranian presence in this region and against monopolies and reactionary regimes inherited from colonial domination, and against the establishment of an aggressive military alliance under the guile of the Gulf Security Project, as well as the attempts at creating an aggressive oil bloc formed by the oil producing countries, accomplices of the imperialist states to oppose other oil producing states.

The Conference appeals to all the forces of liberation and progress in the world to denounce the schemes of the reactionary and imperialist forces and extend their solidarity to the movements of liberation by offering it all moral and material support.

The Conference calls for solidarity with the struggle of the forces of Arab liberation to foil these conspiracies and to put an end to the repeated Iranian aggressions against the progressive regime of the Democratic Republic of Yemen and the progressive forces in the region,

especially the struggle of the Omani people, under the leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman, against the military presence in Oman,

The Conference asserts that the unity of the Arab progressive forces is a fundamental and decisive factor for confronting the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary schemes, and for further proceeding on the path of liberation, progress and democracy.

Hence, the Conference pays tribute to the efforts exerted for mobilizing and unifying these forces in a wide front, on the basis of a progressive militant and anti-imperialist programme, and for consolidating the alliance with all the forces of liberation and progress in different regions of the world, particularly in the Socialist countries, foremost among which are the Soviet Union and the Afro-Asian countries as well as the world democratic organizations.

GREETING FROM ANDONIS TRITSIS
Secretary General of
the Greek Preparatory Committee, to the Mass
Rally at the "Sporting" Stadium
13 December, 1976

Friends

Representatives of organizations and national liberation movements from Africa and Asia,

Participants in the AAPSO Conferences,

Ladies and Gentlemen :

Tonight's rally closes the events which have made history in Athens these past four days : two international conferences, organized by the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization. The conferences' objective was to express active and direct support for a just outcome of the struggles of the peoples of Cyprus, Lebanon and Palestine, so that each people can live in its own land, in freedom, independence, and democracy, without restriction and without religious, racial or ethnic discrimination.

The conferences were organized by the ad hoc Greek Preparatory Committee of Solidarity. Almost the entire spectrum of Greek political life took part in the committee, together with major personalities from the country's cultural and intellectual life.

This is the first time that so many representatives

of the Afro-Asian world have met in Athens to discuss problems which directly affect both our people and the people of Cyprus. We are happy to welcome the presence of the AAPSO in our country.

The AAPSO was created as a result of the decision of the oppressed peoples of Africa and Asia to take their fate into their own hands. It was formed at the end of the 1950's at a time when the European scene was shadowed by the horror of the cold war.

At the roots of the Afro-Asian movement are the great figures of Nehru, Nasser and Nkrumah. Out of it have come people who were destined to change the face of two continents, the martyred Patrice Lumumba and Amilcar Cabral, and today's leaders : Augustino Neto, Samora Machel and Marcelino dos Santos.

From the start, the targets of the AAPSO's fight have been imperialism, racism, colonialism, and settler regimes and, today, neocolonialism, which is a less blatant but still harsher form of exploitation and oppression.

When the AAPSO was formed, all of Africa was ruled by colonialist regimes. The first conference met in Cairo in 1957 : the participants had to cross jungles and rivers in occupied territory to reach it. Today the movements which make up the AAPSO are influential in the political life of many lands. It is no exaggeration to say that the countries represented form a majority in the United Nations.

Today Cyprus and Greece need friends as never before : this is one place where many friends are to be found.

People here have spoken of their love for our country and of their admiration for the struggles of our people, which they see as a symbol of resistance and of free will. They reminded us of our common roots, which we sometimes forget. They asked us to join with them in playing an active role in the making of a just and free world.

We thank them again for the great lesson they have taught us : that, for both large and small peoples, both progress and justice are attained through the hard path to national independence.

On behalf of the Greek preparatory committee, I would like to thank all those, named and unnamed, whose contributions have made this historic meeting in Athens possible.

Friends, finally I repeat the vow we made at the end of the conferences : to work hard together to make possible a conference in free Kyrenia, a conference in free Beirut, and a conference in free Jerusalem.

AN ADDRESS OF THANKS FROM THE
AAPSO SECRETARY GENERAL

I have the pleasure and honour to present in the name of AAPSO, and of the Emergency International Conference in Solidarity with the great militant people of Cyprus, my sincerest thanks and gratitude to sisterly Greece with all its parties, institutions and personalities who participated in the preparation and the works of this Conference.

From this rostrum, I would like to address, to the great Greek people and to all the national and democratic militant forces my thanks and deep appreciation. I am certain that I am expressing the feelings of all of us, in presenting our thanks and appreciation particularly to the Greek Preparatory Committee and to its Chairman, Secretary and his colleagues and assistants, as well as to all the friends and brothers who assumed all tasks in a militant spirit and a sincere sentiment of solidarity with nations, in order to ensure all success to this Conference. We wish to express our profound gratitude for their generous hospitality, the warmth of their welcome, and their readiness to offer and to help in many ways.

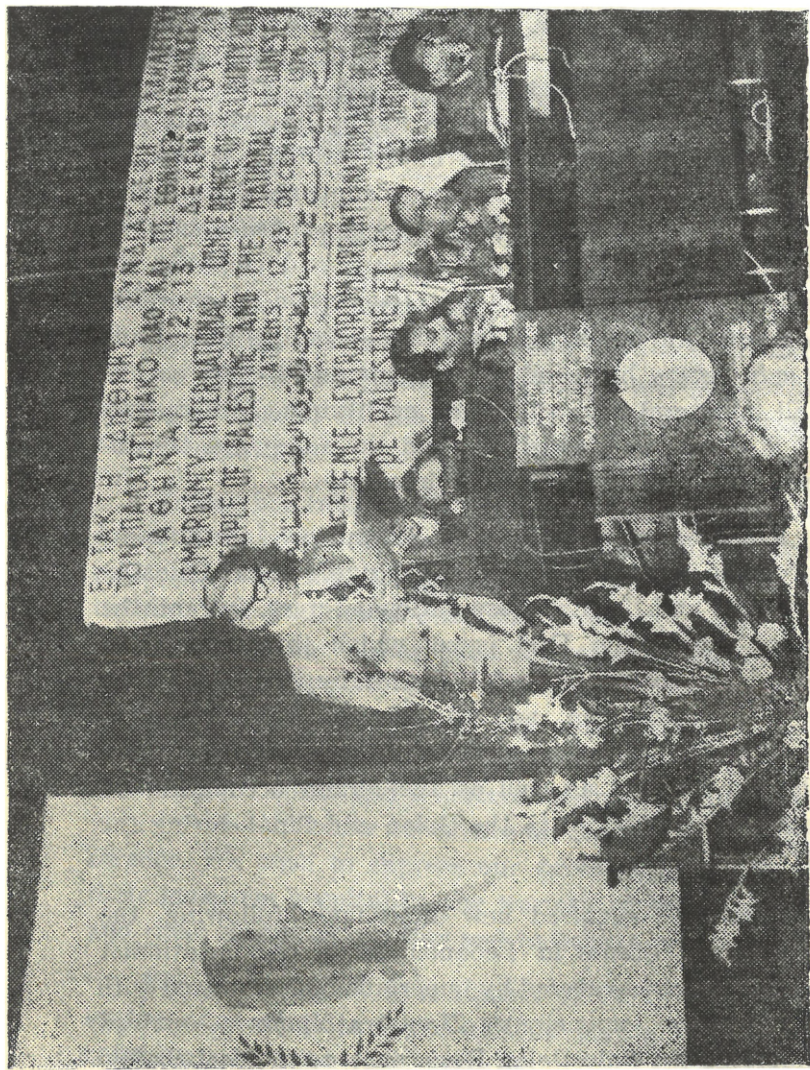
The gathering of this number of Party leaders and leaders of revolutionary and national forces, of solidarity committees and democratic and progressive organisations in Africa, Asia, Western Europe and Latin America, is

a strong and decisive evidence of wide-scale international solidarity with the struggle of the people of Cyprus, and indicates the determination of these forces to work for the consolidation of this just struggle.

Our Conference asserted that the Cyprus issue is the result of the conspiracies woven by imperialists and their agents to draw Cyprus in its strategic sphere of influence. Therefore, the Conference supports the struggle of the Cypriot people for an independent, unified, demilitarized and non-aligned Cyprus, and calls for the necessity of hastening the implementation of the U.N. resolutions for the withdrawal of all foreign forces and the safe return home of all refugees and to put an end to all unilateral acts aiming at modifying the demographic structure of the island, and to safeguard the independence of Cyprus and its integrity.

Athens also witnessed the Emergency International Conference in solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian People and the Lebanese national forces. In fact, the core of the Middle East issue, which threatens world peace, is the usurpation of Palestine by Zionists backed by world imperialism, and the dispersion of its people and hindering it from exerting its national legitimate rights on its land as well as the Israeli occupation of other Arab territories in the Golan and Sinai during the 1967 war.

This issue acquired new dimensions following the blood-stained events in Lebanon, when the isolationist sectarian forces — abetted by imperialism, and related with the aggressive expansionist Zionist attempts — strived to liquidate the Palestinian Resistance, to divide Lebanon



An address of Thanks from Mr. Youssef El-Sebai the AAPSO Secretary General.

and to strike at its national progressive movement, and to separate it from the Arab Nation.

The Conference asserted in its resolutions, that the fundamental task today facing the national liberation forces in the Arab nation, is to guarantee the safeguard of the Palestinian Revolution and to consolidate it, to avail it of the freedom of action in all Arab territories bordering Israel, and to refrain from interfering in its internal affairs. They should also support its struggle for the safeguard of its entity, and for the recognition of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to repatriation and to self-determination and for the establishment of its national independent state on any liberated part of its homeland, as well as assert that the Palestinian Liberation Organisation is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It is incumbent on these forces to strive for creating the necessary conditions for the safeguard of the freedom, sovereignty, unity of Lebanon and the reconstruction of its democratic structure, as well as creating a unified, independent, democratic Lebanon which is committed to its Arabism, free of sectarianism and feudal tribalism, and to leave the Lebanese to solve their own problems without external intervention.

All this necessitates the unity of the Arab progressive forces as a basic and decisive prerequisite to confront the imperialist and Zionist schemes and conspiracies, and to further proceed on the path of liberation, progress and democracy.

We have passed political resolutions and endorsed the programmes of action for the coming period and

this is a valuable achievement. But the most important thing now is to start the work a well-defined, serious, unrelenting and strenuous work — for work as simple as it may appear, work in all fields and with all capacity, and with all possible efforts, this work when compiled and continued in successive acts is bound to be a powerful rising wave that would prevail over the whole of the international arena.

Shaking the conscience of the world is not enough. The individual collective and international will should act, for the actual realisation of the just objectives which are of concern not only to the people of Cyprus and Palestine, but to the whole world. They concern every one of us in his country and in his field, because these two questions as we always say, and as they are in fact, are the cause of the whole of progressive mankind. Mankind that rejects usurpation, occupation, persecution and discrimination. Mankind that claims justice, freedom, dignity and real peace.

The struggle of our people is organically interrelated, therefore work, and work alone, on the basis of precise and objective analysis in facing reality, will enrich our struggle and intensify it and will make us reinforce one another's will in confronting our common enemy: namely the forces of imperialism, aggression, disunity, reaction, Zionism and racism, as well as the forces of exploitation, monopolies and humiliation of man.

Allow me then to reiterate my thanks and appreciation to Greece and its great people who waded through a bitter experience and triumphed in its obstinate struggle

against dictatorship, fascism and persecution for equity and democracy.

We are confident that our Emergency Conference will be yet another step, and an important one, on the path of international struggle for the victory of the just cause of Cyprus and Palestine, therefore it is a new step and an important one on the path of the struggle of all our peoples, for freedom, justice and peace.

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

A. AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES' SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION (AAPSO)

Youssef El Sebai — Secretary General
Nouri Abdel Razzak — Deputy Secretary General
Mohamed Sobeih — Rep of Palestine
Miss Bahiar Karam — Head of Women's Section
Miss Evangeline Ranaweera — Rep. of Sri Lanka
Mrs. Inji Rùshdi — Membar of Women's Section
Joseph Nhlanhla — Rep. of South Africa
Dr. Samandar Kalandarov — Rep. of USSR
Osman Benani — Rep. of Morocco
Edward El Kharrat — Ass. Secretary General

B. PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE ARAB POPULAR CONFERENCE

Naïm Haddad
Mahdi El Hafez
Fadel Ali Hussein
Nasser Fahod
Abdul Fattah Zalt
Mahmoud Agha
Dr. Souheil Idriss

Salah Rabii
Mahmoud Abou Ismail
Mohamed Aish

C. AFRICAN ORGANIZATIONS :

BENIN

Deguenon Cosme
(Parti de la Révolution Populaire)

GUINEA

Fofana Kalil
(Parti Démocratique de la Guinée)

GUINEA BISSAU

Luis Oliveira Sanca (PAIGC)

MADAGASCAR

Ramaroson Evariste
(Comité de la Solidarité AfroAsiatique)

MALI

Boubacar Almany Sow
(Comité Malien de Solidarité Afro-Asiatique)

SOMALI COAST

Mohamed Nour (F.L.C.S.)

ZIMBABWE

Arthur Chadzingwa (A.N.C.)

D. ARAB ORGANIZATIONS :

ALGERIA

Zoubeir Seif el Islam
(Front de Libération Nationale Algérien)

BAHRAIN

Saad Salem
(National Liberation Front of Bahrain)

EGYPT

Naguib Abou Elleil
(Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee)
Kamal Bahaa El Din
(Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee)
El Sayed El Mahgoub
(Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee)

IRAQ

Aziz Sharif
(National Council for Peace and Solidarity)
Mahdi El Jawaheri
(National Council for Peace and Solidarity)
Abdul Razzak Zobeir
(National Council for Peace and Solidarity)
Turkan Namek (Secretary)

LEBANON

Abdel Meguid El Rafei
(National Lebanese Forces)
Farouk Maasarani
(National Lebanese Forces)
Nabil Farag Alam
(National Lebanese Forces)
Barrage Sinane
(National Lebanese Forces)
Talat A'try
(National Lebanese Forces)
Ahmed Mohamed El Haj
(National Lebanese Forces)

Fadra Barrage
(National Lebanese Forces)
Albert Farahat
(National Lebanese Forces)
Rashid Hassan
(National Lebanese Forces)

LIBYA

Ibrahim M. El Kharraz
(Arab Socialist Union of Libya)

MOROCCO

Mohamed Lakhcassi
(Union Socialiste des Forces Populaires)
Abdel Salam Ben Abdeljalil
(Moroccan Independence Party)

OMAN

Khaid Salem Abdalla
(Popular Front for Liberation of Oman)

PALESTINE

Rebhi Awad
(Palestine Liberation Organization)
Mohamed Sobeih
(Palestine Liberation Organization)
Molhem Masoud
(Palestine Liberation Organization)
Salah El Moussa
(Palestine Liberation Organization)
Salah Eddin Al Dabagh
(Palestine Liberation Organization)
Abou Ismail Salah
(Palestine Liberation Organization)

Samy Sarhan
(Palestine Liberation Organization)
Ghanem Zorikat
(Palestine Liberation Organization)

SOMALIA

Aden Moussa Gibril
(Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party)

SUDAN

Ahmed Abdulla El Maghrabi
(National Council for Solidarity,
Friendship and Peace)
El Fatih Moh. El Tigani
(National Council for Solidarity,
Friendship and Peace)

SYRIA

Dr. Moustafa Haddad
(Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of Syria)
Ahmed El Assaad

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Abdul Rahim Salem
(Yemen Peace and Solidarity Council)

YEMEN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Nageeb Mohamed Ibrahim
(Yemen Peace and Solidarity Council)

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CYPRUS

Dr. Vassos Lyssarides
(Cyprus AAPSO Committee — EDEK M.P.)

Alecos Michailidis
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Georgios Savvides
(AKEL — M.P.)
Barbara Lyssarides
(AAPSO Committee — EDEK)
Andreas Sophocleous
(Foreign Press Officers, Public Information
Office)
N. Michail (EDEK)

INDIA

Baren Ray
(All India Peace and Solidarity
Organization)

JAPAN

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DENMARK

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EGYPT

Lotfi El Kholi
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FRANCE

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Asteris Stangos (**Journalist**)

George Tenekidis
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Society with the Arab People)

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(Guyana Peace Council
Guyana Council for International
Friendship and Solidarity).



Mr. Aziz Sherif vice-president of the AAPSO Presidium and Mr. Nouri Abdel Razzak deputy Sec. Gen. of AAPSO during the Conference.

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