

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF
THE PEOPLE'S FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF OMAN ON THE IRANIAN
MILITARY CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE LIBERATED AREA

Ever since the beginning of December last the liberated area of Oman (Dhofar) is witnessing intensive military battles between the forces of the People's Liberation Army, the People's Militia and the masses of our people on one hand and the invading Iranian army and the mercenary army of Qaboos under the leadership and command of British officers on the other.

This new military campaign comes after more than one month of military concentration and reinforcement of the positions of the Iranian army and escalation of the British military raids on the liberated areas and the Iranian naval pieces and the long-range artillery.

The People's Front for the Liberation of Oman had already issued in the beginning of November a statement on the preparations now taking place for this campaign and warned against its serious results.

The battles that took place near the Iranian naval base in Raysout and the battles of the liberated eastern region during the month of December were regarded by the Iranian army and the mercenary army as a test paving the way for the current military campaign and a bid to divert the attention of the liberation army to remote positions far away from the place of the current campaign.

But the command of the liberation army realised the aim of the plan and did not fall in the trap which was set for it and remained to watch the situation during the months of November and December. This expressed itself in the following movements by the Iranian army:-

1) Additional forces were sent from Iran to its bases in the Southern area of Oman (Dhofar). Part of these forces estimated at two-brigade strength was re airborned to the western region where the area witnessed the biggest air-lift operation since the beginning of revolution and was stationed all over the northern confrontation line in positions in (Gudairt, Sarfeet, Qaitant, Kuznit, Kudbeet, Saber, and Shaaboot in the Western region and Kuffat which overlooks Raysout base in the Central Region.)

2) The enemy preceded his military campaign with heavy shelling operations by air which amounted to an average of seven raids daily in addition to the use of the long-range artillery to bomb the liberated area. The Iranian naval pieces shelled the liberated area. These operations basically aimed at destroying the means of living of the inhabitants and at terrorising them. For this purpose these raids were basically directed against the gatherings of the inhabitants and particularly in areas aimed at by the campaign with aim of evacuating

the area from the inhabitants in accordance with the plan to empty the water from around the fish.

3) The military preparations were coupled by a distortion campaign by the enemy which was opened by (Qais Azzawawi) when he recalled the members of the diplomatic Corps and the pressmen to Muscat to meet him and surprised them with an official statement in which he claimed (that at the present time the Iranian forces which performed their tasks are now being withdraw and their positions are being handed over to the Omani army).

The strange is that Mr. (Hassan Salem, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, immediately hastened to praise this step and hailed the words of the Minister and described them as natural without giving himself the trouble of investigating facts).

On this tune a distortive informations campaign was launched which was reproduced on the pages of the mercenary newspapers and magazines. But at the same time (Qais Azzawawi) revealed in his press conference the aim of this campaign when he said: "We are awaiting the reply of the Arab countries to our request for sending Arab forces to replace the Iranian forces). He is by that making an open blackmail operation before the convention of the Arab Summit conference in Rabat where the Sultanate is being intimidated to involve the Arab countries in an aggressive war against the Arab people of Oman.

In this way the military preparations took place at a time in which the distortion campaign for it started on 2nd December and the military campaign then started. The progress of battles in the liberated appears as follows:-

1) The Iranian forces flown by helicopter were stationed in centres in (Sarfoot, Aqaitant, Gudairt, Kazmin, Kudbeet and Sabr) in the north of the Western Region and in the highlands of Kufat in the north of the Raysout base in the centre.

2) During the operations for the stationing of the forces and the bids for advancing to the rural areas, furious battles ensued in which the enemy used huge potentialities which covered the use of helicopters armed in an extensive manner and squadrons of aircraft and armoured mechanisms for the first time.

The People's Liberation Army used the methods of crushing fighting tactis with the enemy because the battles were raging in very close distances and sometime reach the extent of using the white weapons a matter which deprives the enemy forces from using the air force and heavy weapons.

The successful tactic of the People's Liberation Army and the rare heroism of our masses and their armed vanguard managed to inflict heavy losses within the ranks of the enemy and forced him for the first time to admit and recognise the death of tens of soldiers from the Iranian forces and the mercenaries and the loss of many of them.

During the hand-to-hand fighting which took place with the abnnet the enemy was obliged to abandon some of the positions and to leave behind tens of Iranian British and mercenary bodies and huge quantities of weapons.

At the same time the forces of the liberation army managed to shoot down two Iranian helicopters. The heavy losses inflicted upon the Iranian forces will not make the tyrant Shah change his position and withdraw his forces since a regime based on escalation of chauvenism against the Arabs and blazing of the expansionist spirit and control over the peoples neighbouring Iran and the despise showed by the Shah of Iran openly towards the Arab people and the human characters (democracy and freedom) and the to regard everyone claiming his right among people as a Communist deserving death, all this will make the involvement of further Iranian forces in the aggressive war in Oman a logical thing.

The military campaign in Dhfar was coupled with an extensive terroristic and repressive campaign in inner Oman following the armed clash which took place on (29th October between elements of the front and forces of the authority). The puppet authority launched the biggest arrest campaign which covered hundreds of members of the Omani people from different classes and social groups. The Savak took advantage of this opportunity to liquidate some of the elements inside the authority which oppose the Iranian interference.

Torture and mal-treatment operations are now taking place against the political prisoners and detainees under the supervision of the Savak and Jordanian and British intelligence.

Oman is now living a state of state of seige as search posts were erected on roads and posters were distributed in the main towns carrying tens of those wanted and earmarked prizes in thousands of riyals for whoever leads to the 'wanted'.

The Iranian military campaign and the campaign of repression and liquidating of the national elements and re-drawing of the map of beneficiaries from the new ministerial structure of the Sultanate and the extensive distortion campaign are only chains of one plan which aims at liquidating the revolution and isolating it and at defacing what is now taking place in Oman.

We see that the No. 1 responsible for the Iranian military campaign is imperialism and its puppet the Shah of Iran who is now undertaking an extensive activity to buy the silence of the Arab countries over the Iranian invasion of Oman and to silence any Arab national voice raised against the Iranian aggressive war and its expansionist greeds either through enticement or by threats.

The Iranian regime is a clear enemy of the Arab nation and stands in one trench with their other American imperialist enemies and their allies plus Israel and the organic link between these parties is clear without confusion and Iran only represents counterpart of Israel in the Arabian Gulf area.

The huge financial loans and aids extended by Iran to some Arab regimes do not stem from Iran's love for the Arabs but express a comprehensive Iranian plan for keeping the Arabs silent over what is taking place in Oman as a first step and then to control the area as part of the dreams of the Shah to build the Persian Empire so that Iranian becomes the first power in the area.

The Arab nation is planned to be placed in the jaws of a clipper - the Zionist Israel on one hand and the Muslim Israel on the other.

We are surprised by the brainwash operation for erase Shah's dark past and for forging facts and history by bringing to the masses a man who revealed his papers and appeared in fact as an executionist of the Iranian and Arab peoples alike. The Arabs are not in need to the money of the Shah who is smeared with the blood of the Iranian and Arab peoples and the Arab peoples will punish whoever sold and betrayed honest and abandoned his national tasks and responsibilities in return for illegal money.

At the same time, Qaboos is performing the role drawn up for him by his masters. Within a month's time Qaboos visited London first to lay down the final touches for the ministerial reshuffle. He then returned to Muscat and the new Cabinet which is more in harmony with the status of subordination to the foreign forces was announced. Within less than one month he returned to London and particularly after the start of the military campaign by weeks, to have consultations with his masters on the progress of the campaign and the participation of British forces and his supply with arms. At the same time he sent his special envoy Thuweini bin Shihab, the second man in the Sultanate, to Teheran for coordinating the steps.

Since America became a basic party in the aggressive war in Oman, Qaboos then went to Washington where he met with Ford, Rockefeller, and Kissinger and announced by himself (that America stands on top of the list of our friends) and (that the horizons of cooperation are extensive.) It became known that he asks for experts and arms from America.

Iran is holding the absolute authority in the Sultanate in Oman and the puppets in Muscat cannot decide their affairs and their talk about the withdrawal of the Iranian forces (under the request) is only a day dream as only after days they were forced to deny their statements and recognise anew the participation of the Iranian forces in the fighting.

Iran has a declared policy and this is to ensure the oil interests in the area and to ensure what is called by the Shah (as peace and security). This calls for the repression of any nationalist movement which aims at casting the influence of the people over their wealth and destiny. The Shah gave himself the freedom of action: (I will move with the cooperation of others on the other side of the Gulf or without them).

We appeal to all progressive and democratic forces to shoulder their responsibilities and to move for the support of the Omani people and mobilisation of the public opinion and to bear pressure on their governments for a decisive stand against the Iranian invasion and to halt the daily fighting of the steadfast masses in Oman.

We call for work to be made to expel the Qaboos regime from the Arab League and all its agencies.

ADEN: Monday 13.1.75

PEOPLE'S FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF OMAN

MILITARY COMMUNIQUE ON THE MILITARY OPERATIONS

AGAINST THE LATEST ANGLO-IRANIAN OFFENSIVE FROM 1.12.74 - 9.1.75

Since 1st December, the Iranian forces and the British-led mercenary army carried out the biggest campaign against the Western Region of the liberated zone ever witnessed since the eruption of the armed struggle on 9th June, 1965.

The Iranian paratroopers and regulars airborne by American licenced helicopters, armed with NATO hardware (as shown on the photos of the captured arms) established several military enforcement along the northern periphery of the Western Region of which (Sarfeet, Gudairt, Aqitan, Kazmin, Kudbeet, Saber, Shabout).

The enemy pushed to the countryside in order to:-

- 1) Cut the lines of P.F.L.O. supplies
- 2) Establish military presence and then establish influence on population
- 3) Destroy the armed and political structure of P.F.L.O.

The People Liberation Army (P.L.A.) and People's Militia (P.M.) first set ambush for the landing helicopters and then set ambushes for the advancing forces in a fierce battle which took the form of hand to hand fighting.

The enemy suffered a lot of military hardware, inflicted high casualty and left tens of corpses in an unorganised withdrawal.

The several results of the offensive which included 99 battles till 9.1.75 are as follows:

-Anglo-Iranian and mercenary losses: 1) 662 casualties including tens of officers ranking to Iranian Lieutenant Colonels and British Majors; 2) capture of a) 53 bodies of which several high ranking Iranian and British officers (Lt. Colonels and Majors) of which Iranian Lt. Colonel Jawad Hafedi and British J. Bradwell Smith commander of the Sultanate mountain battalion; b) 42 automatic guns, c) 18 wireless sets of different sizes, d) two heavy machine guns and 3 medium machine-guns; e) U.S.-made bazooka; f) three-knot mortar; g) big quantity of ammunition; h) big quantities of foodstuffs; 3) Destruction of the following:-
a) two bazooka positions; b) 81-mm mortar position; c) two wireless sets
d) eight machine-guns (heavy and medium) positions; e) three M-16 guns;
f) 222 reinforcement posts.

P.F.L.O. losses were: 1) martyrdom of 17 comrades from P.L.A. and the People's Militia, 2) twelve wounded; 3) burning of wide areas of pasture and farms and 4) destruction of some water resources.

17th January, 1975

PEOPLE'S FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF OMAN