

2 January 1977.

PEOPLE'S FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE OCCUPIED ARABIAN GULF

Statement by Representative of People's Front for the Liberation
of the Occupied Arabian Gulf on the Disturbed Atmosphere
Now Being Lived by the Puppet Government

News agencies relayed reports on the deterioration of the political situation in Muscat and the confusion which hit the puppet government of Qaboos after the failure of the huge campaign of October-November, 1971.

This campaign started with a statement by Major Graham, commander of the Sultanate's army, at the start of last year's rainfall season that he is preparing for the formation of two divisions of those falling remnants to launch a huge campaign against the liberated area and the revolutionaries. The aim behind this is to cause morale effects and to hide the casualties suffered by the British and Sultanate forces since the arrival of Qaboos in the authority.

The last campaign started in the month of last October with huge joint forces of mercenaries and British commandoes in a bid to ransack the eastern region, separate it and suppress the spread of the revolution in the area. Qaboos came secretly to the southern area of Oman to supervise directly the campaign.

The imperialist and reactionary authorities landed British commando and mercenary forces in several centres at the edges of the Eastern Region using helicopters and ordinary planes. The British began to operate from these centres with harshness and vanity to launch terroristic operations against the citizens and the forces of the People's Liberation Army and People's Militia.

But the balance of power quickly changed only a few days later and our forces operating in the Eastern Region changed from the defensive position to the offensive position since the end of last October until the beginning of December and managed to inflict upon the British forces in particular and the invading forces in general the heaviest casualties and forced them evacuate the following three centres upto now:-

- 1) Yur centre which fell at the beginning of the month of November;
- 2) Gubgat centre;
- 3) Dhibdout centre.

The last two centres fell in the month of December. Our forces found at Gubgat centre thirty bodies from the retreating army. Dhibdout centre also fell after the revolutionaries launched more than 100 attacks on it in one and a half months. Our forces also found huge quantities of provisions in those centres. These casualties compelled the British government to admit the sinking of her forces, officers and soldiers in this war as it announced several times the death of several British officers. Only recently Britain admitted the death of private Christopher Lloyd and John Morse during the recent battle. A British commando officer announced in Sallalh after the defeat that Britain is to admit its direct interference in the war against the revolutionaries. Another commando officer also announced that this area might become a permanent cemetery for the British commandos.

Following the utter failure of this campaign Qaboos left Sallalah secretly for Saudi Arabia to obtain assistance and to solve the Buraini problem as well as to unite the ranks of all reactionaries in the area. He might perhaps agree to hand over Buraini Oasis to Saudi Arabia as did the rulers of the Federation of Amirates to hand over the Arab islands to Iran.

And in an atmosphere of political confusion Qaboos was forced to relieve and extrude many of the frankly puppet elements in the government topped by Tareq, who is known by the people as the butcher of Jebel al-Akhdhar, and the stooge of the British Intelligence Abdullah Attai who was extruded to the United Nations. The wrathful masses in Muscat demanded in September the drop of these two puppets from the Cabinet. By this Qaboos is now the Sultan, Prime Minister, Finance Minister, Interior Minister and Justice and Social Welfare Minister, in addition to holding the Defence portfolio in shape only because the real Minister is the British Hugh Oldnan. This is the ebb of the political confusion. Qaboos carried out this thinking that he is less exposed to the masses as a puppet of the British and more oppressive against the people than Tareq and Attai.

It is surprising that London Radio and the puppet government announced a few days ago that it realised victories over the revolution. But recent events came to reveal the falsehood of such allegations and failure of their methods.

The ministerial changes in Muscat and admission of the British Defence Office as well as the meeting of Qaboos with Feisal were only consequences of the hard blows received by the British and mercenary forces and the failure which befell the campaign as a result of the blows rendered by the People's Liberation Army, People's Militia and the masses.

We, while commending our forces operating in the Eastern Region and other forces of the People's Liberation Army and People's Militia as well as the steadfastness of our masses all over the arena of Oman and the Gulf, call upon all masses of our people to stick to these victories and work for exposing the objectives and aims of Qaboos and Britain and launch all types of struggles for ending this puppet regime throughout the homeland.

Long live the forces of the People's Liberation Army and People's Militia and long live the steadfastness of our patriotic people.

Defeat be for the British and their stooges.

Aden: 2nd January, 1971.

