

DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR THE COMMITTEES IN SUPPORT OF
THE REVOLUTION IN OMAN AND THE ARABIAN GULF

At this era the importance occupied by information increased and any political force find itself required to create for itself an information machinery which can serve the objectives which it endeavours to realise. For this, information becomes like the mirror which reflects the attitudes of this political group or that and becomes the channel through which those groups can reach those they want to talk with. Inasmuch as that information machinery is developed any of those groups can transform its political programmes into discussions and debates taken by people in their daily talks and ordinary meetings.

Emanating from this understanding any information programme must be based on thorough knowledge of the political conditions about which it wants to talk and possesses a clear vision for the size and nature of confrontation waged against its enemies and rival politicians. It must also be linked in a good manner with projects entrusted to it as this forms the cornerstone for any information activity and the basic factor for its success or failure.

As to the solidarity activity, it is one of the chains of the information activity, as its objectives are not confined to notifying the world public opinion of what is taking place in the arena with whose people it observes solidarity, but it is possible to move through it the battle to the fortresses of the enemy. In other words to complete one of the stages of the offensive plan particularly during the periods of the steadfastness of the revolutionary tide and expansion of its frame in the major arena. Therefore, the combative responsibility entrusted to the Support Committees gains its importance from this vision. The supporters of the Vietnamese revolution in the United States played an important role in transforming the American street into a place in favour of the Vietnamese masses. Moreover the supporters of the Palestinian revolution also shared in breaking the information embargo imposed around it by the Zionist information machineries. The Committees in support of the revolution of 9th June managed to move the revolution from its unknown position and to make it become an issue discussed in the British Parliament and to have important newspapers such as the Le Mond write about it. This is beside the numerous booklets and periodicals which were published in different languages and which speak about the struggle of the people of Oman and the Arabian Gulf and give a clear picture for the events which were witnessed by this arena.

Such thing constitutes an accomplishment particularly in the shade of the huge efforts mobilised by the reactionary regimes in Oman and the Arabian Gulf in general and in Oman in particular for distorting the local, Arab and world public opinions. In connection with the latter it is clear to see the importance given towards its information movement during the past year. This had its reasons and motives.

At the end of 1973, the conflict in Oman entered a new stage. In addition to the British colonialist presence which took new forms in confronting the revolution since the appearance of Qaboos at the head of the political authority, the backing which is extending by Jordanian reaction to Qaboos, has increased and so was the size of its direct interference in confronting the massive movement in general and the armed revolution in particular. Iran also escalated its direct military presence in Oman and it is no more confined to its forces present on the islands which it occupied in 1971, but it sent its forces to take part in the annihilation war which is being launched by Qaboos and Britain against the Omani people in the liberated rurals of "Dhofar".

The aim behind the increase of the size of Jordanian contribution and the Iranian military invasion is to realise a decisive victory in favour of the Muscat Government as a prelude for arranging conditions and re-drawing the political map for this area in a way conforming with the interests of the forces of imperialism and reaction and serving their plans in it.

That military offensive was coupled with an extensive political movement by the Muscat Government which sought the help of reaction in the Arabian Gulf and Saudi reaction taking advantage of the circumstances which prevailed after the October war in the Arab arena. This political movement aimed at establishing bilateral relations with the national and progressive regimes, coupled with movements at international level, as part of the political confrontation with the Omani revolution and curtilment of the size and number of its friends at Arab and international levels.

We must say that the offensive at both military and political levels was huge and this is due to the nature and number of the forces which planned for it and undertake its implementation. The situation in Oman and in particular in Dhofar became delicate and decisive and the Omani revolution became passing one of the most dangerous and critical stage of its stages as, although the enemies did not realise any glittering victories, yet we can say that they realised certain victories because they did not hesitate to increase their conspiracies and intensify their military interferences in a desperate bid to end the situation in their favour.

At the military level the battles became more fierce and the size of the forces which are being faced by the revolution has increased and the weapons of these forces developed. Moreover, the authorities in Muscat have launched an extensive arrest campaign as part of the operations for detecting any act that might be carried out by the front.

The revolution has realised victories which we must give admiration and attention as it managed to confront the invasion in its first stages and to stand against transformation by it of the balance of power in a decisive manner in favour of the enemy. It also escalated the nature of its confrontation against the enemy. The Muscat Government and the government of Teheran confessed the losses sustained by them. Moreover, the years of 1973 and 1974 witnessed an extensive movement by the front at political level and the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman managed to develop its relations at both Arab and international levels. It became a represented member in international organisations such as the Afro-Asian Solidarity, and the International Democratic Women Federation and also in Arab organisations such as the Federation of Arab Youth. It also strengthened its relations with national and progressive Arab regimes such as Yemen, Libya and Iraq. This coupled the growth of the revolution at internal level and perhaps the Rustaq events on 29th November, 1974, confirm in a clear manner the expansion of the revolution in other parts of Oman and discard the claims of the enemy of being able to restrict it to Dhofar and of being able to curtail the circle of its activity in the Omani arena. The revolution also gave increasing attention to massive activity whether in the liberated territories or in the occupied areas of Oman.

The information confrontation occupied a prominent place in the clashing arena. As to the government of Muscat the increasing attention and importance given by it to the information sphere appears through the formation of a Ministry, a special Ministry for information and tourism, and the effect of a lot of developments in the information offensive important of which was:-

- 1) Radio and Television: In a backward society such as that in Oman where illiteracy reigns over the vast majority of the people, the radio and television play an important role. For this reason the Muscat Government established three transmitting stations at Matroh, al-Qarn, al-Sib and Sallalah and increased the power of transmission from ten kilowatts to 120 kilowatts, and likely to reach 150 kilowatts on 15th November, 1974 when the coloured television starts beaming.

2) Press and Publications: The newspapers "Oman" weekly, "al-Wattan", 'al-Aqidah', 'al-Nahdhah', 'Jund Oman', 'al-Usrah' and 'al Muzaray' are being published at present. This is beside the publications issued by the numerous embassies of the Sultanate abroad. Recently 'Oman' magazine was supplied with modern Offset and Linotype presses and the Ministry of Information has earmarked the sum of 6,000 Omani riyals for backing up every local newspaper or magazine beside supplying it with vehicles for distribution. The Muscat government is taking advantage of Arab and Iranian expertise in this field as there are information agreements concluded between it and those countries and there are delegations for exchanging visits and expertise. The Sultanate also took part in numerous Arab and international information conferences.

At the level of the front, a typical jump has taken place in its information activity. We can say that this was due to the growing feeling of the revolution of 9th June over the importance of information and the role that it can play in the life of the struggle of the Omani masses. It regularised the publication of Saut al-Thawra in its latest form in both languages. A remarkable change also took place in the shape and form of the central magazine 9th June. Numerous studies and researches also came out which dealt with the political conditions and the political developments which were witnessed by this arena and which were translated into a number of languages.

This introduction constitutes the base upon which depends the solidarity activity which, on starting to exercise its activity, must take into consideration the following matters:-

- a) It is possible to compare the arena of Oman and the Arabian Gulf with the arena of Indo-China since Oman is like Vietnam and the most hot arena and accordingly must receive extensive backing and to have the propaganda activity concentrated on it and at the same time on other areas in which the national movement wages other forms of struggle such as the Bahraini arena.
- b) The Omani revolution is no more that unknown revolution. In other words the stage is not of an identification nature, but it is important to develop the informations formed up by the public opinion. This cannot be achieved except through more studies and researches and the daily inciting activity for the sake of expanding the solidarity activity.

THE SUPPORT COMMITTEES: No doubt, the first congress of the Support Committees constituted a typical jump in the life of the activity of solidarity with the struggle of the people of Oman and the Arabian Gulf as beside being the first direct link between the revolution of 9th June the resolutions and recommendations with which it came also gain their importance in this field. Therefore, any solidarity start must stand in front of the previous experiment and to enrich it with search for knowing the negative aspects in order to evade them and to touch the positive aspects and develop them and push them forward. This is a question which will be dealt with by the second congress by going through the report of every committee.

GENERAL BROADLINES FOR THE ACTIVITY OF THE SUPPORT COMMITTEES:

1) To hold National Occasion and to make use of the important events which were witnessed by the arena of Oman and the Arabian Gulf

It is important to transform the national occasions and prominent events which were witnessed by the arena of Oman and the Arabian Gulf into conferences and political demonstrations. Of the most important events in this field are the following:-

a) The first week of March: The Week for Oman and the Arabian Gulf as resolved by the Conference of Arab Journalists which was held in Kuwait in 1965.

b) 9th June: resolved by the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organisation to be a world day for solidarity with the people of Oman. This was the day on which the armed revolution was ignited in Oman.

c) 19th December: the Iranian invasion of Oman

d) 30th November: Iranian occupation of the Omani islands.

2) The Political Detainees: This is an issue in which the Support Committees can play an important role due to their closeness from the International Jurist Organisations and their direct link with them which qualify these committees to make these organisations defend the political detainees. Under this clause also come the elements who fell in captivity as they must be treated as war prisoners.

3) Tracing of the external movements of the enemy: Many of the governments against whom the support committees fight, are linked by relations with the Muscat government which differ in size and nature in view of the size of the prevailing interests of this government in this arena. Therefore, it is possible to trace many of the movements of the enemy and particularly at external level and it is important to

wathh the embassies of the enemy, his information offices and his delegations which exchange visits with those governments.

4) To follow up the military and political developments in the arena of the Arabian Gulf in general and in Oman in particular and to reflect the current events and developments to the world public opinion.

5) Translation and Information Material: It is very important to translate the material issued by the revolution into the live world languages. This is an important point especially if we take into consideration the shortage suffered by the revolution in this respect.

6) Token materials (medical, clothings and financial donations): It is important to undertake campaigns for the collection of such materials provided there is preparation for it in advance. It is also necessary to discuss the practical aspects in this field: the place of collection, transport etc.

DECEMBER, 1974

PEOPLE'S FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF OMAN