

Report of the Support Committee for the Liberation Movement in the Gulf and Liberation Support Movement (USA) to the 3rd Conference of Support Committees for PFLQ; Paris; France February 1977

The Support Committee (SCLMG) was formed at the initiative of the Organization of Arab Students (OAS) in late 1972. Later members of Liberation Support Movement (LSM); Iranian Students Association (ISA) and a few unaffiliated individuals joined. For security reasons at that time we operated in secret and only published the Gulf Solidarity. Later we openly announced our existence and held a few forums; film programs and attracted a few individuals for a time. A major weakness of the committee was its lack of an efficient and wide-ranging distribution apparatus. We put much work into preparation of Gulf Solidarity but little into recovering costs or reaching people. We also were quite isolated from both our potential and actual audience. The Committee's last work was the final issue of Gulf Solidarity which came out in Spring of 1975 and was printed in Eugene. The unifying principles for the committee were simple: willingness to work in support of PFLQ and the movement in the Gulf area and respect for the line of PFLQ.

The reasons for the collapse of the SCLMG are complex. First of all, it was always the intention that Americans should be recruited to do most of the work. However, these Americans never materialized. Certain comrades from ISA and OAS were shifted to other work and their replacements were not capable or able to assist much in the work. As a result the burden of this work fell on LSM. At that time we were not capable of putting so much effort into SCLMG because LSM's main focus was around southern Africa and our work with Oman was secondary. A second reason for the collapse of the SCLMG was that relations between the groups working in it were poisoned by questions of principle which arose in our joint work in other groups, mainly coalitions around Palestine. Thus it should be clear why we were not able to respond positively to the request to publish 9th of June which we could have accepted only a year earlier.

Each of the groups in SCLMG has continued to work around Oman: LSM's work has included articles in our journal; LSM NEWS, on Oman, film showings and forums in Vancouver, Canada and New York, a medical shipment to the Omani Red Crescent and international distribution of 5 pamphlets printed in Eugene.

With the visit of Comrade Hussein Musa and of PFLQ and the move of the bulk of LSM to California from Canada, a new channel has developed for PFLQ support work. LSM and OAS have met and discussed the problems of the past and outlined work for the future. We have decided to begin with informational work as the basis for other kinds of work as we are capable of expanding. This is also a strength for both organizations which each have full printing facilities and distribution networks. We are contacting each of the ISA's about working with us. The plan is to publish a 12 to 16 page bulletin 6 times a year with short articles on Oman and the Gulf region aimed at a broad audience and periodic, once or twice a year, pamphlets for the Left with analysis from the Front and the Committee which does not yet have a new name. We want to restrict membership to the above groups so that our time is spent producing a publication and not only discussing it. For other activities such as demonstrations forums, when these become feasible, we will form a separate and wider committee.

We feel that the needs of the PFLQ during the upcoming period will mainly require limited informational work which corresponds to our present limited capacity for support work. This work should help to build the capacity for work as the course of the struggle later shifts in Oman. Accordingly LSM has made a definite but limited commitment.

The basis of unity of the new committee will be similar to that of the Oman Coalition of New York. The main points are:

1. Oppose the Iranian invasion of Oman
2. Oppose US imperialism in Oman (arms sales and bases in particular)
3. Unconditional support for PFLO
4. Respect for the political line of PFLO

We also believe that participation should be only by individuals who must work in the committee and not only attend meetings. We have much experience with sectarianism and splitting and hope to maintain principled comradely critical relations. Once we have a name and address, we will send it to all committees along with our publications. Until that time we can be reached through LSM.