



COMITE DE SOUTIEN A LA REVOLUTION EN OMAN

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REPORT OF CSRO, FRANCE.

In France today, solidarity activities with the struggle of the Omani people are initiated by the Comité de Soutien

à la révolution en Oman, and taken up by a number of Committees and associations.

It is necessary to take into consideration the role of the

Paris CSRO whose tasks are both NATIONAL

- The Committee writes and distributes Oman en lutte (5000 copies, 3 times a year).

- It distributes internal bulletins aimed at local committees (6 times a year)

- It produces and distributes support information as well as propaganda: photos, records, films;

- It initiates national campaigns: petitions, appeals...

- It distributes PFLO's press to the committees, associations and supplies subscriptions.

and REGIONAL (Paris)

- Public meeting in March 76 in Paris which assembled over 2000 people.

- Participation in anti-imperialist activities.

In the provinces, different types of local structures organise support work for the revolution in Oman.

- There are CSRO who work on the same political platform as the Paris CSRO.

- There are Palestine, Yemen, Arab Gulf committees.

- There are anti-imperialist committees.

- There are sections of the National Union of Moroccan Students.

- There are sections of the Union of Iranian Students in France.
- There are groups of persons who are not formed in committees.

Altogether there are about 20 groups, whose level of activity varies:

The people participating in support work for Oman in Paris and the provinces are French, Arab or Iranian. The different committees or groups attempt to adapt their forms of action to the groups towards which they direct their activities: Arab students, Iranian students, immigrant workers (2 million in France) French workers; and democratic circles in general.

The national Commitment of the Paris committee presents problems of definition of its objectives and the adaptation of its material, but also problems of operation.

On 22 and 23 January a conference of the different French Committees was held, and an overall positive survey was drawn.

The discussion centred around the following agenda:

- 1) The situation in the Gulf and report of the PFLO representative:
- 2) The situation in France concerning support to PFLO
- 3) the role of the Paris CSRB.
- 4) Perspectives for future work and expansion of support.

First Point: the situation in the Gulf

A situation of rapid development in the Gulf. Although the conditions of imperialist exploitation of the natural resources are fundamentally unchanged, their forms of action have developed. One of the results of this has been the financial and political increase in power for reactionary regimes of the Saudi type, the ability^{to} and daily increased will of the imperialist^{ist} reactionary coalition to subject the Arab and Iranian people directly threatens the liberation.

of the people and the revolution.

In Oman, far from withdrawing, the British and Iranian forces are daily increasing their repressive arsenal.

As well as the incessant attacks of Iranian forces against the people of Dhofar, the Shah's control tends to cover all the activities of the Sultanate.

The appearance in the Middle East of new markets brings about new forms of inter-imperialist competition. In this field French imperialism is constantly seeking to increase its presence in the region (Chirac's trips to Iraq and Iran; Segard in Oman; Giscard in Egypt and Saudi Arabia). In particular, the strengthening of links between the reactionary regimes in Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Oman on the one hand and French imperialism on the other, imposes on French anti-imperialists the necessity of denouncing the imperialism of their own country.

There is also a new situation as a result of the set backs of the progressive forces in the region, as in Lebanon and the Gulf where joint offensives of imperialism and reaction have caused losses to the struggling people and their organisations (arrests and torture of ~~xxxxxxx~~ progressive militants in Bahrain, in Oman, military offensive in Lebanon and Dhofar).

A new situation also exists because the contradictions between Iran and the Arab reactionary regimes have taken a back seat in the face of the necessity for the reactionaries to attempt to liquidate the progressive forces. Arab reaction tends to accept Iran as gendarme of the region, in fact.

Second point: a less favourable situation in France for the development of support;

In France there is at the moment a polarisation of the progressive forces around the development of the class struggle in France and in Europe.

After the orchestration of a systematic racist campaign aimed at loading responsibility for the current crisis of capitalism on the Arabs, the authorities ^{are} ~~is~~ extending and organising ^{their} ~~its~~ control of all ~~immigrants~~ and foreigners and their organisations. Despite these unfavourable conditions to the extension of support it has been noticed on each of the committee's public initiatives that sympathy towards the struggle of the people of the Gulf has not diminished.

Given these facts, the national conference discussed the role and the place of the Paris committee and certain organisational problems. In the course of these discussions the need for a committee which centralises and distributes information and propaganda material was emphasised. But greater participation from the provinces' committees was called for in this respect.

The need for a national committee specifically concerned with Oman and the Gulf Emirates was confirmed. But the CSRO should participate in research on imperialist activities in the entire region in conjunction with other anti-imperialist committees.

The internal bulletin of information for committees will be regularly produced. It will inform of the activities of the Paris CSRO and the local ones.

In the course of discussion emphasis was put on the fact that propaganda and information material should be designed to cater for the needs of workers and in particular of immigrant workers.

It was also confirmed that the committee should maintain its links with all the foreign committees, as support for the Omani revolution is one and has an international existence.

But in order to achieve these tasks, a certain number of problems remain to be solved:

The committee did not succeed in retaining among its members

a certain number of forces or militants who traditionally supported the Omani revolution; this was due in part to the absence of democratic debate and a too great division of labour. These errors have weakened the militant abilities of the committee and put it now in a difficult situation. It is important at this stage to strengthen democracy within the committee and to allow a maximum of progressive and revolutionary forces to participate in the committee's activities: a motion to this effect was adopted at the national conference it must allow the opening of the debate with these forces in view of making them participate in the committee.

It is also necessary to specify that all these problems have been aggravated by material problems due to the change of address and the militant work which needed to be done to install the Centre Anti-Imperialiste, of which the committee is part.