

Arab countries turned a blind eye to Egypt's return, despite their realization of the threats this return will bring along, one can be assured that what ruled the results of the summit was a game of balance which necessitated that each party in the summit give concessions on one issue in return for the summit to adopt their position in another. Therefore, in return for Egypt's comeback to the Arab League, there were positive resolutions concerning the Lebanese crisis.

## THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION

Almost 90% of the work paper introduced by the Palestinian delegation was approved by the summit. The content of this paper included the urging of the summit to support the resolutions of the last PNC session and the Palestinian peace initiative. The paper called on the summit to support the Palestinian position in rejecting the Shamir plan, and forming a coordinating five-state committee (Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine) to prepare for the convening of the international conference. The paper urged the Arab states to provide all forms of political, moral and financial support to the uprising, in addition to urging the international community to shoulder its responsibilities towards Israel's crimes in the occupied territories.

The summit adopted the majority of the Palestinian paper and decided the following: the continuation in providing all forms of support to the Palestinian uprising and called on the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities towards Israel's crimes committed in the occupied territories. The summit also confirmed its support to the Palestinian peace plan which is based on the Arab peace plan (approved in Fez in 1982) and on international legitimacy. The summit supported the convening of an international peace conference, and the formation of a higher committee headed by King Hasan II for the purpose of establishing the needed international contacts on behalf of the Arab League in order to activate the peace process and to participate in preparing for the international conference.

Concerning the Shamir plan, US President Bush had sent a message to the Arab summit asking them to respond positively to the plan and if not, at least not to take a position against it. Nonetheless, the summit decided to «... support the Palestinian position in regards to the elections issue which should take place after the Israeli withdrawal, in the presence of international supervision, and within the framework of a comprehensive peace process.»

What is needed now is the actual implementation of these resolutions in order to avoid the fate of the Algeria summit resolutions.

## LEBANESE CRISIS

Although Lebanon's seat remained vacant, the Lebanese crisis was an issue of heated discussions in this summit.

The foreign ministerial meeting that

convened a day before the summit however, did not discuss any solutions but merely prepared a report concerning the efforts of the six-state committee in order to be presented to the summit. After the closed session, a decision was taken to «form a committee composed of King Hasan II, King Fahed of Saudi Arabia, and President Shadli Ben Jadid of Algeria. The committee will have full authority to achieve the goals approved by the summit... the committee will make contacts and take the necessary measures in order to create the proper atmosphere for calling MP's to discuss the political reforms document, to hold presidential elections and to form the national reconciliation government. This process should be completed within six months maximum.»

In the final statement the summit stressed the necessity of the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from

