

so that the masses realize what danger threatens them.

It calls for a progressive form of coordination and cooperation between media of the individual components of the resistance.

If such tasks face us on worldwide and national levels, then how does the overall structure of the communication media measure up to it?

Institutions and Their Unification

The successes attained by Palestinian information workers could have been even greater if Palestinian information institutions had been united.

The unity of such institutions would ensure an ability to concentrate and a suitable deployment of forces. It would ensure also the development of personnel, raising their qualifications and professional abilities. Information institutions must plan the training of cadres and their improved qualifications on a Palestinian-wide level and for the individual organizations: Fatah - the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine - El-Sa'iqa - the Arab Liberation Front - the Front for Popular Struggle - the General Command - and the Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Each of these organizations has its own information apparatus whose size varies, just as does its area of impact.

This fragmentation of the apparatus has resulted, naturally, in a fragmentation of resources, abilities, energies and personnel. We might give some graphic examples. We know that the question of our national unity is very complicated and this is not the right place to deal with it. But when we guarantee every organization the right to express its own ideas and political views, there is no reason to set up fragmented information institutions.

We shall not mention here newspapers and magazines because they are instruments for expressing the political and ideological positions of each individual organization (this, of course, does not mean that we do not have criticisms of these instruments).

Below we shall deal with general information areas about which, in my opinion, there should not be any arguments as to the importance of unifying efforts expended on them.

Reviving the Palestinian Folk Cultural Heritage

Can there be any difference of opinion on the need to revive the Palestinian folk cultural legacy? And can there be any argument that the shortest and healthiest path to this goal would be the unification of forces into a single entity? Why not form such a unified whole that we could call the Institute of Palestinian Folk Cultural Heritage?

Folk Art

Can there be any quarrel on the need to develop Palestinian folk art, song and dance? And can there be any differences on the need to create a unified institution concentrating

all the talents and ability able to do something in this field, instead of the fragmentation and squandering going on in many places? Instead of corrupted cadres we could create a central ensemble of Palestinian folk dances containing the best talents.

In this way we will ensure a better presentation of our art. We can guarantee the continuity of work through a training institute that belongs to the ensemble and looks after the education and development of its artistic personnel.

Cinematography

Despite the fact that in this field until now we have had quasi-individual efforts, important successes were achieved in short documentary films. Otherwise, Palestinian film art is growing only slowly, despite the fact that the armed struggle our youth is waging and the battles it is fighting offer great opportunities for creative talents and abilities. There is no doubt that the fragmentation of talents and the non-existence of a unified institution in charge of artists and that would set out the policy of training personnel is responsible for the fact that this art is advancing so slowly.

It should also be said that quite a few documentary films have been made. Some are extremely good and have won prizes and recognition at world festivals, while others merely repeat what has already been said in earlier productions. On the whole, however, the documentary film on the Palestinian scene has now reached the phase of quantitative saturation, and if the qualitative level does not rise this will have a negative effect on the role it is to play.

In this stage it is necessary to take a more far-reaching, important step - to begin production of feature films.

The Palestinian revolution, Palestinian history, battles and heroism offer many opportunities to creative directors and writers to join together in the production of feature films which can substantially contribute to national mobilization and to clarifying the cause of our people to the world public.

This is one of the most significant information sectors of strategic importance. A large part of the disorientation of world public opinion can be laid at the door of feature films produced by big world firms financed by Zionists for the purpose of distorting the facts and falsifying the picture of the Arabs as a whole and the Palestinian fighters in particular. There is no doubt that the creation of an institution able to mobilize the artistic potential and with the resources to produce feature films, so that they are able commercially to compete with disinformation films, would have a great effect in the fight against falsification and in spreading healthy ideas.

The question arises: what prevents the creation of such an institution?

The truth is that there is no objective obstacle. Therefore the task of setting up a unified film enterprise is a basic duty that Palestinian information workers must cope with. Such an establishment would guarantee the production of mature documentaries and feature films and through an associated