

# POLITICAL REVIEW

QUARTERLY

NO. 41 SPRING 1992

THE POLITICAL REVIEW JAPAN COMMITTEE

We have received the following statement from the JRA:

## INTERNATIONALISM AND SELF-SACRIFICE



On the Occasion of 20th Anniversary of Lydda Airport Operation

Comrade OKAMOTO OKUDAIRA AND YASUDA

May 30, 1992  
The Japanese Red Army

Dear Comrades, Friends and people who are fighting for freedom and liberation!

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Lydda Airport Operation which marked the birth of the JRA, we would like to express our determination to continue our struggle with moral and spirits of our Comrades Basem Okudaira and Salah Yasuda who sacrificed themselves for the Palestinian national liberation struggle, and to rebuild the internationalism for the oppressed peoples and nations with comrades and friends over the world.

### 1. What is the Lydda Airport Operation

On May 30, 1972, our three comrades launched the attack against the Zionist border guards at Lydda Airport (Zionists called it Bengorion Airport), with machine guns and handgrenades. They continued to fight with the border guards until their last bullet was shot, then two of the comrades blasted themselves with handgrenades as planned. While, one comrade was unfortunately arrested on his way to rush to an airplane he should have attacked.

The Operation was accomplished by our comrades' bravery and moral

values of self-sacrifice for internationalism. Even after his arrest, Comrade Okamoto has resisted the physical and psychological tortures and inhuman treatments by the Zionists for 15 years until his liberation. He kept his morals and bravery throughout his captivity.

The Operation, executed in cooperation with the PFLP, and the plan to attack the heart of the Zionist entity, had succeeded; it enhanced the Palestinian and Arab liberation struggle as they were encouraged by the fact that the revolutionaries have come to fight against the common enemy beyond the distance of tens of thousands of miles.

It was real internationalism based on self-sacrifice and solidarity. at that time, many revolutionaries were talking about proletarian internationalism but what was necessary was to express it by deed.

The Operation has given an impact on the Palestinian Revolution. It was not only encouraging the people but created the new way of struggle called "suicide operation", which Palestinian revolutionaries themselves started to launch. Internationalist spirit asserted by The Operation enhanced the internationalism in the Palestinian Revolution. In 1973, the JRA and the SOLO (the Sons of the Occupied Land Organization) cooperated the struggle against Japanese imperialism by hijacking the Japanese Airline. In 1974, the JRA and PFLP cooperated

in the operation supporting the Vietnamese revolutionary war by attacking the Shell oil refinery in Singapore.

Another impact of The Operation was to strengthen the solidarity between the Japanese and Palestinian peoples. The Japanese people, who had known nothing about the Palestinian cause before the operation, started to talk about the Palestinian Revolution.

The Operation aimed also to send our message to Japanese revolutionaries who had suffered from the defeat of the United Red Army, founded by Maoist JCP-Revolutionary Left Communist League-Red Army Faction from which we are formed. The United Red Army started to carry out the armed struggle inside Japan but destroyed itself by executing the "suspected" comrades in the very beginning stage, thus damaged the revolutionary movement as a whole.

Under such circumstances, The Operation delivered a strong message to Japanese revolutionaries that it is vital for the revolutionaries to fight against the enemy with revolutionary self-sacrifice, which can stem only from their comradeship and love for people.

Thus, we consider the day of The Operation as our birthday, for it marked a new stage of our struggle. We have annually been commemorating The Operation to confirm our readiness of self-sacrifice and determi-

nation to develop internationalism.

Our beloved comrades who are martyrs in The Operation are our example of revolutionary moral and bravery, which were developed to be our ideals.

They were student revolutionaries in Japan, who had been supporting, and fighting for the oppressed people. In Japan, they are respected not only by comrades and people but even by political opponents because of their revolutionary spirit. They sacrificed their whole lives for the oppressed people, giving up their promising future.

As members of the Red Army Faction, they came to the Palestinian Revolution in order to create the international solidarity among the anti-imperialist forces and study the Palestinian national struggle. But, when the tragedy happened to our comrades of the United Red Army, they immediately decided by themselves to sacrifice themselves to internationalism in order to show Japanese revolutionary how to overcome the setback.

In the military training, they are respected by Palestinian fighters not only for their military capabilities but also for their moral virtues and personality. The deeper they got to know the Palestinian people, the more confident they became in the significance of their sacrifice. They believed people and comrades would succeed in their struggle until final victory.

For the Japanese revolutionary movement, The Operation created a new stage for internationalism and direction towards the breakthrough of the negative situation, after the defeat of the United Red Army, where the idealistic tendency prevailed due to increased importance on the theoretical reassessments to overcome the situation. The operation gave an impact on those revolutionaries and created the new stream in Japanese revolutionary movement, gathering many individuals and revolutionary groups.

### 2. 20 Years of Our Struggle

We have been fighting for our revolutionary goal in and outside Japan for 20 years. Outside Japan, we have waged anti-imperialist armed struggles and endeavored for forming an international anti-imperialist front through joint struggles in various fields. While, we have been fighting for people's liberation based on autonomy and living together inside Japan and have been waging the struggle for establishing the anti-monopoly and anti-U.S. popular front and creating our own subjective conditions ideologically, organizationally and militarily.

What have we achieved after 20 years of struggle?

First, we have gained our ideologi-

cal standing points through our struggle. After the Lydda Operation, we found our ideological weakness through our comrades' confession to the enemy after arrest in Stockholm despite our confidence in them. Then we have launched serious reassessments of our ideological standing points. Through this process of the reassessments, we realized that it was vital for revolutionary organization to revolutionize itself through ideological assessment in daily life, and self-criticism is its essential method.

And also, we reassessed on our political line which was based on the idealism of the Red Army Faction who believed in the "World Simultaneous Revolution" which would be materialized by the coming world party and its red army. Besides, we made serious assessments of Japanese class struggle, which led us to the following points:

1) Our conception and practice on the relation between the revolutionary party and people were not correct. We had thought that the party's role was to lead and to guide "backward" people. In other words, Japanese revolutionary movement had turned upside down the positions of people, the master and party and this wrong conception caused the repeated failure of Japanese revolution even when the objective situations were in favor of the revolution.

When we consider the people as the master of our revolution, the party's role is to assist and support the people's struggle to gain the victory.

2) The assumption that the party is a sole nucleus of class unity and an embodiment of the highest degree of the unity, created a myth that the party can make no mistake or at least the dogmatic thinking that it is a system of self-completion which corrects itself without help from outside if any. Stalinism was a typical example which excluded all criticism and doubt against the omnipotency of the party, made the party dictatorship substitute the proletarian dictatorship and justified purges of many critics and opponents from the party.

We conclude from this assessment, that the standing point of the party is a revolutionization of the party i.e. unifying the viewpoint and method of the revolutionization. By doing so, we will be able to unify ourselves through the assessment and practice in the struggle, solving differences in view among ourselves. Key method of the revolutionization must be self-criticism or self-revolutionizing aiming to change subjective factors in the light of negative result of the practice.

Second, we defined internationalism as being based on anti-imperialism and self-reliance. Negative aspects of our internationalism came from idealistic theory of "World Simultaneous Revolution". Through the international activities, we reassessed this idea and rebuild our internationalism. There, the most important thing is to homogenize revolutionary struggles and socialist structures through waging the common struggle based on self-reliance for each revolution. It will prepare the conditions for the world socialism. Because there is a difference in character and quality of revolution and society in which any party or revolution can not lead or guide others but achieve the victory in its own country. Only joint struggle among the parties against the imperialism will play significant role in the process to the world liberation, where the parties should and can learn from other revolutionary experiences and revolutionize each other continuously.

Anti-imperialism is a common interest among the liberation struggles over the world and a main principle for a united front among the revolutionary parties and revolutionary movements. We do carry out our duty to develop Japanese revolution as a part of this front.

Third, the role of the party for the Japanese revolution is to unify various popular struggles under a united front. In Japan, there are many mass movements and organizations but no party to play the role to unify them. On the contrary, many revolutionary parties have created splits and contradictions among the movement under many pretexts. The JCP's dogmatic and sectarian stand on the united front brought the antagonism and contradictions into mass movements. And many radical leftists were killed in the internal struggle.

Thus, what should be done by the party is to assist the people's struggle in its role to unify the struggle against common enemy.

Fourth, another role of the party is to provide a relatively independent preparation to ensure the final victory of the people's struggle, which people's spontaneous struggle cannot prepare aim-consciously in advance. The party should play the role to assist people's struggle through the independent preparation of military and political power to ensure the final victory through the armed struggle for political propaganda in one hand and for building the people's army on the other.

Through our own struggle and lessons from the experiences of other revolutions, we have gained new strategic points of view which are vital for victory.

The first is that the active position to take initiative is essential for the revolutionary strategy. The objective condition of the contemporary world allows us to take initiative in the class struggle, waiting for the crisis or war to come. Moreover, the significance of such an initiative must be formed in a constructive struggle to create the new social relationship inside the monopoly-dominant society and against that from now on in advance to the final overthrowing of the enemy.

Second, the viewpoint of the ideological unity is essential for the revolutionary strategy. We should organize ideological unity and pay attention for its development. What we called ideological unity is not theoretical but people's consciousness in practice. The process of the unity of the people and people's struggle should be process of revolutionizing the human relations which will be the foundation for a new society of autonomy and coexistence. It will be a barometer of the quality of the revolution.

Third, the viewpoint of encamping struggle is essential for the revolutionary strategy. We should create encampments of the new society in the local community through practice of autonomy and coexistence and it would be people's power which will encircle the enemy power. Through this process, we can construct the foundation of a new society.

Fourth, the viewpoint of the guerrilla warfare is essential for the revolutionary strategy. We should concentrate to attack the enemy's vulnerable points and develop our capacity through the struggle. Only this way enables us to take initiative against regular armies. Our enemy's power is very strong. So, we should avoid to fight against enemy's concentration but concentrate our potential on enemy's weak points.

Fifth, the viewpoint of international-

ism is an essential for the revolutionary strategy. We should not isolate the revolution from the international anti-imperialist force and it is vital for our revolution to unite with other anti-imperialist struggles of the Asia-Pacific region in particular and over the world in general. It should be materialized not only in the political fields but other fields as well.

With this ideological and political stand, we have started to build the new party and to create the subjective conditions of the revolution.

As a result of our efforts, we are ready to advance our stage of struggle from constructing subjective conditions to the next stage. Throughout the 90s, we will be waging the struggle for the strategic development against the enemy, politically, organizationally and militarily.

### 3. NWO and the anti-imperialist front

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, U.S. imperialism imposed the New World Order on the world and it created a totally new situation for the anti-imperialist struggles.

First, U.S. imperialism drives all countries to accept the political and economic systems for multi-national capitals and deny their political independence and economic self-reliance. It tries to make each country's system uniform under the name of "market economy and free trade" and "multi-parties system", exploiting the collapse of Stalin's model of the socialism.

As the only super power, it forces the third world accept U.S. demands by military and economic power. The Gulf War was a "lesson" which the U.S. gave to the third world. Now, U.S. imperialism is trying to repeat the same things against Libya, leaving no room of self-determination for the third world.

Second, U.S. imperialism is attempting to liquidate anti-imperialist national liberation struggles and peoples' liberation struggles by "anti-terrorism" campaign. Especially, it is terrorizing the anti-imperialist countries which support national liberation struggles, militarily, politically and economically.

Third, U.S. imperialism is trying to keep its dominant position over other imperialist countries by reserving the military alliances against the third world and to struggle against other imperialism in economic fields, by using the political and military superiority over others.

Fourth, inside the imperialist homes, U.S. imperialism and other imperialists are trying to weaken democratic and progressive forces and to liquidate revolutionary forces.

Those four points are the main elements of the NWO and give difficult conditions to the anti-imperialist forces.

First, isolation and division of the anti-imperialist forces weaken the peoples' struggles against imperialism. U.S. imperialism is pressing the countries which support the struggles and is waging "anti-terrorism" campaign in order to portray the anti-imperialist forces as criminals.

Second, ideological fragmentation among the anti-imperialist forces weakens the peoples' struggles against imperialism. By impact of the collapse of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Marxism-Leninism have lost their influence on peoples' struggles. Instead, the religious fundamentalism and chauvinistic nationalism prevails in the national libera-

tion struggles. It creates the difficulty of unity in the anti-imperialist forces.

Third, chauvinistic nationalism prevailing over the world weakens peoples' struggle against imperialism. Chauvinist nationalism has created the contradictions among oppressed nations. And it has increased hatred among the nations and ethnics and brought tragedies to peoples. It blinds peoples against imperialist dominations and exploitations.

However the present conditions of the world will not stay the same. The contradictions among the imperialists have already increased and there are tendencies to create their own blocs against the others. Last year, EC defined its program of unified Europe and U.S. imperialism is on the way to create the unified market throughout the American continents. Japan is isolated by the U.S. and Europe and facing the intense pressure against Japanese domination over some economic fields. But Japanese imperialism still hesitates to make its own bloc in Asia-Pacific region because of U.S. pressure and Asian fear of the Japanese domination. Moreover, the contradiction between U.S. and Germany emerged clearly.

Those contradictions will weaken the imperialist powers, especially U.S. imperialism. It will help to rebuild an anti-imperialist front.

Moreover the people's struggle inside imperialist home countries will be enhanced under the situation, especially in Japan, the struggle will advance because of the position of the Japanese imperialism as a weak ring among imperialists. And peoples' struggles in the third world will be intensified under the imperialist domination.

We should rebuild anti-imperialist front through the solidarity between the peoples' struggles in the third world and in the imperialist home countries.

Concerning the Japanese situation, the contradiction between Japanese and U.S. imperialism will be intensified and Japan will start to establish its politico-military role in Asia-Pacific region in order to avoid the contradiction with U.S. But U.S. imperialism is opposing any Japanese politico-military role in the region. And Japanese imperialism still depends on the U.S. market heavily and military power is not enough to compete with U.S.. So Japanese ruling class is facing political crisis and trying to transfer its contradictions onto Japanese and Asian-Pacific peoples.

Japanese ruling class are selling out Japanese agriculture to U.S. in order to keep monopoly's interest in U.S. and attempting to introduce a new tax for helping U.S. global strategy named "international contribution tax".

On the other hand, Japanese imperialism is preparing to rebuild its domination over the region in the pretext of "international contribution". Repeatedly, LDP government has introduced the PKO bill to the Diet (parliament) despite Japanese people's opposition. This bill authorizes the dispatching of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces (SDF) overseas under the name of the U.N. peace keeping operation. The government has already reserved the seats for SDF in UNTAC in Cambodia, and is creating the new image of Tennoism as a symbol of unity of Japanese people against the outside world. Through Tenno's historical Asian tour last year, Japanese imperialism attempted to liquidate its criminal past as an introductory step of cultivating the

ground for establishing its politico-military role.

Already the word "the Great East-Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere" has revived to describe some designs of Japanese future. It was the main slogan and aim of the last Japanese invasion in the region.

Therefore our most urgent task is to stop Japanese new invasion in the region. This struggle is not only for Japanese people but for peoples in the region. And it will become the basis for the joint struggle of anti-imperialist forces.

Japanese people's struggle against the PKO bill and Tennoism is vital at the present stage.

And our task as internationalists is to establish the anti-imperialist front in the region which will be a part of the international anti-imperialist front.

### 4. Let us rebuild international anti-imperialist front!

We believe the internationalism, which was expressed in our Lydda Airport Operation, is vital for rebuilding the anti-imperialist front.

Chauvinistic nationalism has increased in the world after the collapse of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. And it has created antagonism among the nations and ethnics. Its tendency to refuse sacrifice for the other nations and ethnics has generated only hatred among the peoples.

Imperialism benefits this situation to hide its domination and exploitation.

The narrow nationalism can not solve the national questions and antagonism but helps imperialism to exploit the situation. And also, religious fundamentalism increases its influence over the people as an anti-imperialist due to its refusal of the western values and culture. It is better than narrow nationalism but can not unify all the peoples and nations against imperialism. Those are spontaneous expressions of the anti-imperialist and anti-hegemonism.

In the imperialist countries, chauvinism and racism are increasing. Neo-Nazi and other forms of fascist tendencies have gained their ground. Those fascists are attacking the foreign workers and their families with cold-blooded terrorism just as Tennoist rightists who are colored deeply by racism and terrorism in Japan.

Under those situations, we should stand firmly on internationalism against any form of chauvinism. Especially, internationalist spirit of self-sacrifice for other oppressed nations and people, should be revived. Without internationalism, we can not achieve world peace and freedom of mankind.

The current task should be rebuilding the anti-imperialist front by organizing joint struggle and supporting the struggle among the anti-imperialist forces. In this way, we shall break through the isolation and separation of the anti-imperialist forces.

### Let us rebuild the anti-imperialist front!

Long live internationalism based on self-sacrifice!

Long live anti-imperialist forces over the world!

Long live the moral and spirit of internationalism of our martyred comrades of the Lydda Airport Operation!

Glorify all martyrs of the revolution!

★★★★★★

CONTACT ADDRESS: C/O UNITA 1-52 JINBO-CHO, KANDA, CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO, JAPAN

price 1 u.s. Dollar