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# Iraq Today

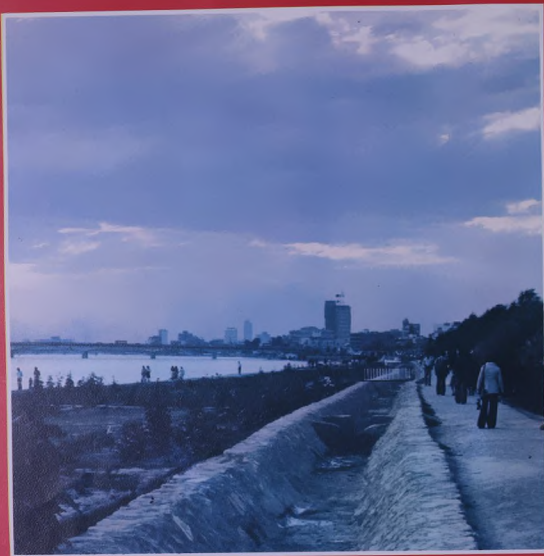
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## Oil for Progress

15 JUN 1977





**Abu Nawas Park  
in Baghdad on the Tigris bank**



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Scene from the north

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**EDITORIAL**

**Nationalisation of Oil :  
Humane, Not Only Just**

Let us imagine the world to come as being still exploited by imperialist corporations and companies. Natural resources are diverted to the enrichment of the already rich, with the Third World increasing in population and without assets or funds to make life possible for millions. It is a very dark picture indeed. Not only as far as the inhabitants of the underdeveloped countries are concerned, but their aggravated poverty will shake the foundations of the whole world, which will be at a loss to right the situation. It will also be too late for any sensible action.

This dark picture has been made a little more illumined by such actions as the mastery over the resources where such resources exist.

Nationalisation is not only ethical in terms of giving back to the owners what is due to them, but it is also necessary in that it alleviates the problem of poverty in the whole world.

In the long run, the eradication of backwardness in one part of the Third World will remove the spectre of a holocaust where death will indiscriminately devour human beings. Some for sheer want of food, others because want can stop at nothing, not even war, when desperation gets out of hand.

When Iraq nationalised its oil, it made a breakthrough in an otherwise traditional relationship in the community of nations. Iraq is developing mainly through the funds made available by nationalisation. This development is to be put in the service of the Arabs who form a good segment of the Third World. The latter will benefit, along with the application of the nationalisation principle, from this adjustment of economic relationship between the developed and developing parts of the world.

Apart from being an urge to catch up with the advanced and consequently prosperous humanity, nationalisation regulates the wealth of the earth in such a way as to remove the disastrous prospects of economic imbalance. A civilising step for the needy, it, in more than one way, safeguards the civilisation of others. Short-sighted people, greedy companies and governments living by obsolete standards in the West, have never stopped denigrating the control of the rightful owners of their wealth. They put forward the theory of interdependence only in a reversed form. The world is undoubtedly heading for interdependence if it is to avoid heading for chaos, but the countries should primarily be independent, and economically independent at that, to follow interdependence as a feasible way of life; otherwise this really humanitarian principle will be completely devoid of meaning should the stronger parties be the sole judges and interpreters of what interdependence is. That it is a two-way traffic, a give-and-take state of things, is a pre-condition for its success.

To keep up with the quick steps of a changing world, the wealth of nations should be more evenly distributed, beginning by the places where the wealth is. The hackneyed saying that charity begins at home assumes here significantly fresh connotations.

June 1, 1972: President Bakr declaring, on Baghdad TV, the nationalisation of IPC



**N**ation can claim to be fully independent and sovereign without achieving economic independence as well. In Iraq's contemporary history, the July 14, 1958, revolution put an end to the military and political presence of imperialism and thus restored a very vital part of national independence and sovereignty of the country. But this independence remained incomplete so long as foreign imperialist domination continued over the main national resource of the country, namely, oil. This national wealth was in practice plundered by the foreign oil monopolies for about half a century. In fact these oil monopolies were a veritable state by themselves within the Iraqi state.

For long years, those monopolies exploited our oil, paying most cheaply for it, while gobbling fabulous profits from its sale on the world markets. This state of affairs kept Iraq short of money and backward in all aspects of life, because the monopolies' subversive activities were not only confined to economic blackmail through forced reduction of production and manipulations of oil prices, but also extended to full political subversion and the engineering of plots for disrupting the whole life of the country.

by Kamal Butti

## The Significance of Oil Nationalisation

True, the July 14, 1958 Revolution, in an attempt to liberate our oil from the clutches of monopolies, enacted Law No. 80 of 1961 and initiated the direct national exploitation of oil; but this Law fell short of expectations due to the autocratic nature of the then regime whose aversion to the people and lack of revolutionary vision resulted in its complete isolation and total disarmament in confronting the vicious imperialist schemings. Consequently, the monopolies retaliated by reducing the production of oil, which meant less income for the country, the escalation of subversive activities and the instability of the regime to survive.

On the other hand, the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) which led the July 17, 1968, revolution, always maintained, even before its assumption of power, that economic independence was a central aim of the Arab revolutionary movement; this independence was parallel in importance to political independence and complementary to it. Without real economic independence, political independence lost its most important pillar and content and remained constantly threatened.

It is no more a secret that the neo-imperialists are still exploiting the emerging nations, both in respect of the latter's raw material and ever increasing need for industrialised commodities. It has become evident that imperialist control of basic national resources of emerging nations still constitute one of the most dangerous forms of economic exploi-

tation. The revenues of the underdeveloped nations from their national resources remain ridiculously little. These nominal revenues delay the development of newly independent nations or direct such a development towards permanent economic dependence, thus keeping the world divided into rich and poor nations.

The July 17 Revolution was fully equipped and prepared for a showdown with the oil monopolies operating in Iraq when the confrontation took place in 1970. That confrontation concerning

production and royalties assumed both political and economic nature. On the domestic political level, the ABSP was broadening the base of the regime through the formation of the National Front thus ensuring the support of the masses. Economically, the government had already made a decisive start along the path of direct national exploitation of oil through the completion of the first stage of the rich Rumaila oilfield in the southern part of the country which started actual production in April 1972. Thus, the country had already full technical expertise in oil industry. On the international level, the regime had already established a militant alliance with the world revolutionary forces and the socialist community. When Iraq nationalised the operations of the foreign Iraq Petroleum Company on the First

of June, 1972, the whole country was already mobilised and equipped to face the challenge of the monopolies.

The oil nationalisation in Iraq was considered equal in importance to that of the Suez Canal in 1956. And despite the foreign monopolies' machinations to strike at the nationalisation, the solid unity of the people and the solidarity of the Arab, socialist and Afro-Asian countries which helped in expounding the righteous cause of Iraq to world public opinion and exposing the arbitrary stand and ill schemings of the oil monopolies, turned the nationalisation into success. The nationalisation act came to signify the struggle of the poor and exploited peoples against the rapacious international monopolies. All the forecasts of the "imminent collapse" of Iraq were soon

to explode like soap bubbles; and nine months later, on the First of March 1973, the oil monopolies had to submit to the will of the Iraqi people and recognise the legitimacy of the nationalisation act.

Oil nationalisation ushered in a new international era that necessitated tangible changes in world politics and economic order; it encouraged other raw-material producing countries to press for a fair and just price of their commodities.

We are not going to elaborate on the impact of oil on the present energy crisis, the plunder and manipulation of this resource by the monopolist oil companies which is contributing to this crisis, or the U.S. threats to forcibly occupying the oilfields and "ensure" the flow of oil to the West's machinery, but to confine ourselves to the right of nations to control their resources and make use of such resources in their development and progress. No sane person can deny these nations their inalienable right. Besides, it is unfair that the West, which was receiving our oil so cheap, embarks on developing and enhancing its "civilisation" and depriving the developing countries, the owners of this wealth, of the bliss of progress.

Iraq needs every penny from its national wealth to undertake industrial and agricultural projects with the aim of uplifting the standard of living of its people who are in dire need for a better life. The oil nationalisation has enabled the government to implement a plethora of projects towards this end. Our nationalisation was not against the progress of the world but a demand necessitated by our modern age of equality among nations and peoples. The oil revenues are now put in the service of the whole people, not a bunch of oil monopolists and interested quarters.

Kirkuk nationalised oilfield



## Carter's M.E. Plan and the role of Defeatist Arab Regimes

The following are excerpts from the recently serialised commentary of the daily Ath-Thawra, the organ of the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP), Baghdad, on Carter's Middle East Plan and the role of defeatist Arab regimes:

**W**elcoming the outgoing Zionist Premier Yitzhak Rabin in the White House on the 7th of last March, U.S. President Jimmy Carter declared that his administration's policy towards the Middle East was to endeavour to reach a peaceful settlement ensuring "defensible borders" to "Israel". This meant a new American approach to the Arab-Zionist conflict, because, since the aggressive Zionist war of June 5, 1967, the U.S. kept calling, though ostensibly, for a comprehensive peaceful settlement involving "minor adjustment" to the pre-war borders. None of the successive administrations of Johnson, Nixon or Ford adopted the formula of "defensible borders" — which represents the enemy's basic condition for the conclusion of a settlement.

Understandably, Mr. Carter's statement made political observers wonder if it were a deliberate transgression of Security Council Resolution No. 242 (which spoke only of the right of all the states in the region to exist independently within "secure and recognised borders") and a discarding of the traditional U.S. policy calling for "minor adjustments to the borders".

But two days later President Carter ended all queries and speculations by presenting a complete plan for the settlement of the Arab-Zionist conflict. Here are the essential elements of the plan as announced by President Carter in a press conference on 9.3.1977:

I. The U.S. deems it very necessary that a distinction should be drawn between "defensible borders" and "secure borders".

II. The secure borders must be mutually recognised. But their geographical demarcation is still remote.

III. Until the demarcation of the secure borders, "Israel" will need to have "defensible lines" — which might occur with or differ from the future "secured and recognised borders". These "defensible lines" should include internationalised and

demilitarised zones or zones containing outposts (manned by Zionist soldiers) and electronic monitoring stations.

IV. These "defensible lines" may cover an area not less than 20 km wide (such an area will be big enough to contain the occupied strategic parts of the Golan Heights; southern Lebanon up to the Litani river, which has virtually become a military, political and economic sphere of Zionist infiltration in accordance with the Riyadh Agreement 18.10.76, most of the West Bank (according to the Ailon Plan) and a strip extending from port Elat, parallel to the Gulf of Akaba, to the Tiran Straits, which is the most important territorial concession the enemy is demanding in Sinai).

V. Agreement on the defensible lines should be phased into two, four or perhaps eight years. During the transitional period mutual friendship should be demonstrated. This entails the recognition of "Israel's" right to exist, ending Arab economic boycott against "Israel" and the maintenance of commercial, cultural, touristic, communications and other relations.

VI. In the phased agreement, "Israel" should undertake to make, at the expiry of the agreement, essential withdrawals into lines resulting from "secondary adjustments" to the borders existing on the eve of the June War. It is for the parties concerned to agree on the adjustments at the end of the interim agreement that is after 2, 4, or 8 years.

VII. Even after the conclusion of a final peaceful settlement, "Israel" must be capable of defending its new borders. This entails new "defence lines" extending beyond the recognised borders. "Israel's" defence capabilities should extend to the defensible borders. This means that the enemy will retain zones of military influences outside its secure and recognized borders. In these zones, which might be more than 20 km wide, there shall be stationed Zionist soldiers and the American military presence thereon shall take the form of observations systems. It also means that the final settlement shall not involve enemy withdrawals in the Golan, the West Bank and southern Lebanon. Any probable withdrawals shall be confined to Sinai alone.

It is noticeable that The Carter Plan did not refer to the Palestinian issue or to Jerusalem. Worse

still, the Plan indicates that the annexation of the Gaza Strip to "Israel" is a foregone conclusion.

### ZIONIST EXPANSION SANCTIFIED

In the final analysis, the Carter Plan is a political map of the Zionist expansion in the Arab land and of the American military presence in the heart of the Arab homeland. The aim of the Plan is to realise American strategic control over the Eastern Mediterranean, to contain the rich Arab oil fields.

In the first phase (which might extend to eight years) there shall be created military areas — not less than 20 km broad — where Zionist and American forces shall control military bases on the Arab side of the zones. President Carter referred to the second Sinai agreement as a model for such zones.

This will absolve the enemy from withdrawing to the 1967 borders. It will also absolve it from spelling out the borders it demands. And the enemy shall enjoy both privileges for a period of eight years. The dangerous point here is that the Plan responses to the enemy's strategy of having the door open for further expansion in Arab lands.

Furthermore, the Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian regimes (and perhaps the other Arab regimes siding with them) should officially recognise the enemy's right to exist and maintain normal trade, political, touristic and other relations that perpetuate the legality of the Zionist aggression and expansion and throw the door wide open for Zionist infiltration into the Arab nation.

In return for all those humiliating concessions, the said regimes will gain nothing but a vague and unspecified pledge for insignificant "Israeli" withdrawal.

The previous American traditional policy calling for "minor adjustments to the borders" (unlike Carter's adoption of the Zionist view demanding "defensible borders") was a tactical step. It was a bait to trap the Egyptian and Syrian regimes, in particular, into the framework of American influence. The bait was to dangle a settlement involving nothing more than "minor adjustment" in the borders.

### IN THE AMERICAN TRAP

Now that the two regimes are well in the American trap, American imperialism revealed its true intentions in the recent Carter Plan.

Setting aside the Jordanian regime, which served as an obedient tool of imperialism and Saudi reaction since its creation, a glance at the state of the present Egyptian and Syrian regimes shows why President Carter was so assured that this Plan would be accepted.

The Egyptian regime is now paralysed by its

own conviction that the key to the problem is entirely in the hands of the U.S.

The Syrian regime, also due to the open-door economic policy and the reliance for aid on Saudi Arabia and Arab Gulf countries, now stands on a military and civilian base which is almost entirely rented to the Saudi regime through bribes, gifts and invisible salaries. The Saudi grip on Syria became more tight because the Syrian regime relied on Saudi Arabia for financing its military operations against the Palestinian Resistance Movement and the progressive forces of Lebanon. The bloody record of the Syrian regime in Lebanon — the massacre of the Palestinian fedayeen and the Lebanese patriotic and progressive forces as well as deliberately abandoning southern Lebanon at the mercy of the enemy — has exposed that regime as a partner in the American-Saudi plan for liquidating the patriotic and progressive Arab forces. Nor will the false concern reached between the Syrian regime and some part of the Palestinian Resistance help wash the blood staining the hands of this reactionary regime. Hence President Carter's confidence that the Syrian regime will not dare oppose him.

Perhaps it is reasonable to think that President Carter would not have ventured to announce his Plan before ascertaining that it was generally accepted by the parties concerned. Nevertheless the US backed the Plan with outright blackmail. Reports were leaked to leading American papers about the connections between the C.I.A. and prominent figures in the regimes seeking a settlement with the enemy. One of them continued for 20 years to receive millions of dollars from the head of the C.I.A. in America; another was dealing with Kamal Adham, the advisor of the Saudi monarch, who is considered to be the C.I.A.'s No. 2 in the Middle East and a third one was reported to be receiving large sums from the CIA through his brother.

President Carter's plan made no reference at all to the Geneva Conference. This implies that the US wants the coming negotiations to be under its sole guidance. All previous and succeeding indications and activities lead us to believe that the Geneva Conference has been ruled out. What really matters is that the American Plan and formula for negotiations are designed to serve the ultimate ends of the Zionist enemy. And it seems that the Arab regimes advocating a settlement with the enemy, at any cost, are happy with the new stand assumed by the US.

President Carter has adopted the Zionist attitude in full regarding "the defensible borders" and "the recognition of "Israel" and maintaining normal relations with it". He is also taking steps to adopt the "Israeli" demand for "separate negotiations" with every concerned Arab government

— directly and without a third person, other than the US.

#### FINAL SETTLEMENT REMOTE

A scrutiny of the Carter Plan reveals that final settlement of the Arab-Zionist conflict is quite remote. What looms in the horizon is a return to the "step by step" policy bearing the new name of "phase by phase". The pre-requisite for a final settlement, as said by Mr. Carter himself, is the official recognition of "Israel" and the demonstration of this recognition in the form of legal institutions and normal relations.

The Carter Plan shows how false the moral policy he pledged to follow. For the first time in history, we hear that a state is entitled to readjust its borders by annexing others' lands. More wondrous is to hear that a state has the right to have a military existence outside its own borders in other states' lands. How moral for Mr. Carter to invent two borders for a state — political and military borders! More worse is to know that the privileged state is itself a product of aggression and the usurpation of others' lands! And how moral it is when Mr. Carter demands from the Arabs to extend diplomatic recognition and build economic, cultural and other relations with an enemy occupying their lands!

#### HOMELAND FOR REFUGEES

To finalise his plan, Mr. Carter announced on 17.3.1977 that it is necessary to find a "home for the Palestinian refugees who suffered for many years". In the beginning, it is perhaps important to clarify the confusion created by the information media of the refugees seeking any settlement with the enemy. Mr. Carter did not speak of "home for the Palestinians". He simply referred to a "homeland for the Palestinian refugees". He did not mean the Palestinian land occupied in 1967 — in the West Bank or Gaza. Nor did he mean the Palestinians suffering under Zionist occupation in Galilee, Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. Nor did he speak of a "Palestinian State" in the West Bank and Gaza. For the third time we repeat that he spoke only of a homeland for the Palestinian refugees.

Now the question is: What homeland and where? There is a great difference between a "homeland for the Palestinian refugees" and a "homeland for the Palestinians". The first, from the point of view of the regimes advocating a settlement, might mean the solution of the question of the occupied land and the Palestinians living under occupation through a Palestinian state that can absorb the Palestinian refugees. The second means solving the problem of the dispersed Palestinian people (mainly in Lebanon now) through a place

where they can gather together again — not necessarily in the land of Palestine.

It is common knowledge that the Zionist enemy insists that "there is no place for a Palestinian state between Jordan and 'Israel'". And any meticulous tracing of the attitude of the US towards the Palestinian question shows that it fully concurs with that of "Israel". President Carter said last June that he favoured the settlement of the Palestinians in autonomous areas in Jordan.

#### NOTHING BUT GUNS

The Palestinian refugees involved are those living in tents in Lebanon and forming the base of the Resistance Movement. After so many years of humiliation, suppression and genocide, they rely on nothing but their guns for self-defence. Should they hold to their ground, they shall continue to generate more armed resistance. American imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction (who tremble at the thought of armed popular resistance) want to clear the area from these revolutionary tent dwellers.

But most of these refugees are from the inhabitants of Galilee. Whatever settlement is attained will not benefit them. Their presence within sight of their occupied homes shall always remain a nightmare for the enemy. And their alliance with the inhabitants of southern Lebanon will constitute an obstacle in the face of Zionist covets in southern Lebanon. Hence the alliance between Zionism and the Lebanese reaction.

The Zionists, who will not agree to a Palestinian state in the West Bank, have a clear interest in removing the Palestinians from southern Lebanon. That is why Golda Meir wants the Palestinians quarantined in the desert part of eastern Jordan.

The Lebanese isolationist reaction also have an interest in expelling the Palestinians outside Lebanon. That is why they fought a dirty war against the Palestinians and the Lebanese patriots who presented a real danger to their aristocratic privileges.

American imperialism sees in ridding Lebanon of the Palestinians a chance for the domination of Lebanon by Zionism and local reaction, which will consolidate their domination of the Eastern Mediterranean and offer it a base for exporting conspiracies to the oil fields.

The Syrian regime will be happy to see the Palestinians quit Lebanon, because it does not want to have a revolutionary movement along its borders. Furthermore, it might seize the opportunity and get rid of 100,000 Palestinians now living in Syria. To control and suppress this large number of persons will cost dearly.

by Waleeduddin Ismail

Careful analysis of the energy crisis in the capitalist industrialised countries can only reveal the weakness and defects of the capitalist system.

Since 1973, after the October War, the Nixon and Ford administrations tried for the US to become self-sufficient in energy in response to the Arab embargo. Despite their attempts to implement the project of independence, it seems that little, or nothing, could be done to prevent further deterioration. The US trade balance deficits climbed to soaring amounts, while oil-US imports are still pushing up to new records.

When Carter came to office, there had been achievements regarding the American goals of oil independence or the capacity to gain energy self-sufficiency. Hence, Carter started to identify a wide range of problems and objectives to set new principles that may facilitate the economic objectives with the demands of American policy-making.

It should be remembered also in any analysis of the capitalist initiatives in this context that there are deep contradictions, disagreements and discord between the US and the American allies of the West. As a result of the different economic interests, the way of handling the energy crisis is different for the US and for the West, because the alternative sources of energy are different. This fact was clearly obvious in the London Summit whose meetings produced nothing resembling a collective approach to the problems of capitalist economic order. Despite all the attempts of Carter to gain a reputation as a fan of "fortright views" on a range of policy issues, it was clear, through the Summit meetings, that economic and political cooperation among the capitalist countries, as it developed during the last few years, is not adequate to tackle the cycling and recycling crises facing the West. It is fitting also to note that the policy-makers of the West could not examine properly the concrete problems within the capitalist structure, because no one can solve this problem by merely using them — he can only perpetuate them! Furthermore, the key

## The Right to Do Right

economic problems with all their ramifications are being loomed by the nature of the capitalist system itself, and any attempt to pin the blame on the developing oil producing countries for those problems is nothing but a lame justification of the capitalist political economy's failure. The growing pressure of this failure in all its forms and types on the policy-making in the capitalist countries is not confined to justifications and whitewashing only, but it takes the form of an aggressive attitude towards the emerging countries of the Third World which are taking their onward marches toward building their free and liberated societies by the genuine free will of their peoples. But, capitalism, through its dead dogmas, could not assimilate the spirit of the age, nor could it distinguish between "what is" and "what to be".

When Iraq enacted the revolutionary law of nationalisation, "with malice towards none and charity for all", the policy-makers of the capitalist countries announced this act had sent a shock wave throughout the world. Not only this, but the majority of those countries announced, on various occasions, that this action would inflict harm to the industrialised countries. Needless to say that this act was extremely burdensome, but the political leadership of July 17, 1968 Revolution, represented, by this historic decision, the spirit of the age, and fulfilled the specific tasks of the revolutionary will of the people.

Iraq by dint of this stupendous historic achievement has coped with the revolutionary tasks: speed up developments, eradicate social sufferings and promote rehabilitation and socio-economic transformations. And above all it determined the course of history. But since the Iraqi oil had been a source of "constant" huge profits for the monopolies and the Western capitalists, so they were reluctant to accept that they would not plunder the Iraqi natural resources any more. They were, therefore, persisting in their subversive activities, spinning their webs against the historic decision and against the free will of the Iraqi people, ignoring the lasting fact that everyone has the right to do right!



Carter: gloomy after reading CIA report on energy



## U.S. Energy Policy

### Time for Cautious Steps

by Dr. Abdul-Rahman Munif  
Editor-in-chief of "Oil and Development"  
Magazine, Baghdad

**N**ews agencies have indicated that the new American Administration is studying, with the appropriate authorities within the United States, a more effective and rapid policy in the sphere of energy.

This policy shall depend on accomplishing a number of steps. The US intends to be in a strong position which enables her to face the burdens of the coming stage, particularly as her dependence on Middle East oil is steadily increasing, and that this "unstable" source of supply may lead to a variety of surprises, if the US is not in a state of permanent preparedness!

The American Administration was not content with such general expressions, but actually decided to ration the consumption of energy and reduce the time set for the programme of the underground hoarding of oil. The old plan stipulated the lay up of 150 million barrels by the end of 1978 with a view to have in stock the amount of 500 million barrels at the end of 1982. However, the new plan requires the increase of the quantities stored and the curtailment of the time element in such a way as to ensure that the storage will by far exceed 500 million barrels, before 1980.

If US imports of crude oil and finished products have lately recorded a sharp rise, Saudi sources also announced that their oil sales to America during the current year would reach 55% of the total American oil needs. So, if we add to the Saudi sales those from other countries, the figure will again go up, highlighting the features and significance of the picture.

In the footsteps of former ones, the new American Administration considers oil as the basic source of energy. It also regards foreign oil as the least expensive kind of energy at hand, and that the Middle East is the greatest potential to satisfy American needs. Under this perception, the successive American Administrations resorted to policies which would give them control over these enormous and cheap resources and create the political, economic and psychological climate to warrant the continuity of this control.

Much was written and published by the Western governments about the sunset of the oil age. Some commentators were so bold as to tell the Arabs "to drink their oil, because they wouldn't find anyone to buy it". Furthermore, these governments gave vent to their broadcasts in anticipation of a transformation which will be brought about in the sources of energy. This is just an example of what the western governments were transmitting and circulating. By adopting this attitude, they try to keep the prices of oil just as they were in the late 50's and early 60's. If they had been able to do that during that period, the state of affairs did not remain uniform, as the rise of OPEC, the increase in the producer peoples' consciousness and the general soaring of prices have initially led to a slight change in the prices of oil. They did not recede or decrease from a specific level, although they diminished in their actual purchasing power. In a later phase, after the OPEC countries resorted to adjusting the prices so as to correspond to, or approximately approach, the actual value of oil; and after the producing countries began to gradually control their natural wealth... The picture began to be more lucid: **There is no alternative for oil, and in particular, the Middle East oil, as from now till at least the end of the current century.**

This new portrayal, established by facts and asserted by the nature of the market and practical realities day after day, faced a stiff and intense attack from the US in particular. This attack took manifold shapes and forms such as the setting up of the International Energy Agency, the rejection of linking the prices of oil to those of the industrialized commodities, and the attempt to undermine OPEC from within. If the Doha conference, held at the end of 1976 had been a new and wide stride in the American design to destroy OPEC, the actual fact has clearly affirmed the capacity enjoyed by OPEC and its capability to surmount difficulties, just as the actual reality has established that the

laws of the market, despite the extensive monopoly and hegemony brought to bear on it, still play a major role. Even the states that did not approve raising the prices of their oil by more than 5%, the companies which purchase their oil were obliged to sell this oil in the world market at a price higher than that anticipated by these states and, needless to say, the balance went to the companies themselves.

Now that OPEC has passed through the first stage of the difficulties, arising from the Doha Conference, after the clarification of the political situation which led certain states, or more definitely, a certain state, to assume an exclusive and different attitude from all the other members, the lights and shades of the old-new American policy are still in progress. It is now taking a variety of forms and operating on many fronts. On the one hand, America wants to capitalize on the time factor and exploit it to her own credit. When she holds the stick in the middle, in some political cases, she does that, not on the impulse of a sense of justice or of responsibility, but to utilize time and postpone taking decisions. The Middle East crisis, the misnomer of the Palestinian Problem in the current political terminology, was, and still is standing for 30 years. During this whole period the American position was clear, even crystal-clear. It never changed during all that period... And now, with the arrival of the new figure at the White House, Carter, most indications confirm that nothing practical and serious will ever change... despite the many statements, and the more promises. **What the new American Administration aims at is just to gain time, depending on specific developments that she is working for, and wants to attain, in the area. Then, she will impose her will and attitude.**

From now and until the U.S. attains what she wants and wishes, she will not stand indifferent. She is taking long and vigorous strides in the field of energy, whether by augmenting the rate of storage, so that her underground depots would be filled earlier than estimated, by banning the exportation of American oil, limiting internal production, obstructing and delaying the attainment of other substitutes, especially with regard to other countries.

Facing this policy, should we stand inactive? Should we let time pass and the plan be carried out?

The OPEC countries which passed through many a severe test in the previous stages are still capable of taking the stands and steps which will help them to draw a counter plan and subsequently impose on the United States a different course of policy.

Like any other states, the U.S. is subject to its own interests, and acts accordingly. Its stand regarding a certain problem or another springs not from the conscience, sense of justice or desire to eliminate injustice inflicted on others, but primarily and basically from its own interests. In so far as the U.S. reckons that these interests are exposed to loss or jeopardy, then and there she may assume positions and take steps. **Therefore, it is possible for OPEC Arab countries to take a series of economic and political stands which would protect their wealth and fence their future.** If the call directed by Iraq and other oil countries in the United Nations, and in international as well as oil conferences, more than two years ago, did not yet meet with listening ears in the U.S., the present circumstances require more than ever before new and decisive initiatives which may be summed up as follows:

1. Time is a double-edged factor. If we do not fully utilize it, the adversary will reverse it to his own account. Therefore, time is not a neglected quantity and is not an unbounded interval, but a gauge for determining everything in its light. If oil is involved in the field of politics and economy in respect to the Arabs at present, it may not be so in the future, just as it was not so in the past. Hence the present period must be exploited to its extreme bounds.

2. Oil production is not a mechanical process connected with the productivity of the oil fields, but primarily and basically an economic process. Therefore, every state should only produce up to the necessary amount that it needs; it being understood that the value of subterranean oil is increasing day after day.

The programming of production, which Iraq called for, shared by a number of OPEC members, must find its way to real, urgent implementation. Adequate and equitable controls on the programming procedure may be drawn up.

But, for the U.S., to divert the deposits of the Arab oil fields to its dry wells and keep them there, not for actual use, but only for possessing power and for being outside the range of the direct influence of oil and the oil states... the economic and political consequences of such a type of action shall have repercussions shortly. Some oil countries might subsequently resort to repurchasing their oil from the U.S.

3. Oil pricing is not a political, but a first rate economic operation. That's why it should be subject to other than the standards prevailing at present, so much so that price equations between manufactured goods and raw materials, based on the actual value and on the relations of reciprocity would arise.

The observations we are emphasising here and to which we intensively referred on previous occasions, require an earnest stand in the present stage, especially as the problem of energy today is on the table for consideration in the US more than ever before. The new American Administration puts the problem of energy on the priorities schedule. In the light of the stands that she will assume in this scope, many consequences shall be reflected on the producing states and other states... **If Carter had lavishly smiled during his electoral campaign, the gloom betrayed by his face these days, after he had read the intelligence reports and listened to his advisers in the field of energy, did not only impel him to decide the introduction of a ministry of energy and assign it to the former minister of defence, but he will take a number of important decisions. We have to closely and carefully watch every step in this respect before we are overtaken by events and before we become the victim once more.**

The present stage shall, and for not a short time be the stage of energy... We have to be very cautious and well-prepared for this stage...

## Fertilizers Win Market Abroad

### IRAQI PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES FORGE AHEAD



**A**s an oil producing country, Iraq has to utilize its natural gas in its expanding industry. Thus, a factory manufacturing chemical fertilizers seems to be the obvious answer and as early as 1953, the establishment of such a factory was under study. Then the plan finally bore fruit in 1968 when construction got underway. By 1971 the new factory was ready for production and a year later Iraqi technicians took over. With an overall starting capital of 12 million Iraqi dinars, the company has now a work force of 1119 men and women, 314 of them being office staff.

Situated in Abulifloos area around 21 kilometers south of Basrah, Iraq's southernmost city, the factory overlooks Shatt-al-Arab river and it has its own wharf for goods to be loaded and unloaded. As modern fertilizers are a petrochemical industry, 95 per cent of the raw materials used in this industry are of Iraqi origin. The gas is pumped from the nearby Rumaila oil wells, while the sulphur is shipped by railway from Kirkuk in the north.

Work in the factory goes on non-stop in three work shifts, with 35 days a year devoted to general maintenance; this is in addition to emergency and programmed maintenance. There is an office in the factory in which the lifespan of every machine and instrument in the works is recorded in detail. Soon, a computer will take over this task from the office staff so that the work becomes more streamlined.



PRODUCTION TABLE

Items Produced	Actual Daily Production in Tons	Average Annual Production in Tons
Ammonium Sulphate	420	138000
Urea	160	52000
Sulphuric Acid	325	108000
Ammonia Gas	200	68000

As Iraq consumes around 70000 tons of Ammonium sulphate a year as well as 2000 tons of Urea fertilizers and 150 tons of Ammonia gas in the same period, there is left an ample surplus for export, and indeed the factory has exported this surplus to Kuwait, People's Republic of China, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Malawi, Indonesia, Jordan, Sri Lanka and Sudan.

But the company's importance does not stop at this; it has trained a technical cadre of first rate skill; it has also created hundreds of jobs for the villagers of the area.

In the field of services, the company has built 67 houses for its engineers and technicians, 30 houses for its office staff, and 230 houses for its workers.

In addition, the company has established a co-operative supermarket as well as a club that is complete with a swimming pool. It has also provided its workers and office staff with a free bus service. Last but not least, it has established a training centre for its workers in order to improve their technical know-how.

Finally, a look into the future: there are now plans underway to expand the factory so that production becomes eight times what it is at present. And even more important, there is under construction at present a new chemical fertilizer factory in nearby Khor-al-Zubeir. The production capacity of this giant factory will be around one million tons of Urea fertilizer a year.

## Organised peasant masses enjoy meaningful life

by Abdul Razzak Fahmi

The development of countryside and its transformation from a neglected environment into modern socialist society matching many rural societies in the advanced countries has been one of the major tasks that the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) and the 17 July Revolution fulfilled to realize.

Promulgating a number of agrarian reform laws including the latest Law No. 90 of 1975 regulating land ownership in the Autonomous Area was but part of the extensive programme laid down by the Revolution for the development of the agricultural sector in the country and for improving the working and living conditions of the peasant masses.

The agricultural renaissance in Iraq has greatly developed in the recent years. The farmers, who in the past, were groaning under the yoke of exploitation and feudalism, are also enjoying a meaningful life.

The revolutionary government is devoting increasing attention to the agricultural movement from all aspects. It has initiated a comprehensive plan, termed as "the

green revolution", which seeks to attain the following tasks:

Land reclamation, construction of huge drainage and irrigation systems, introduction of modern machinery, setting up of fertilizer plants, extension of subsidies and advisory services to farmers, construction of modern villages supplied with electricity and pure-water systems as well as with schools and up-to-date medical facilities and frequent enlightenment campaigns.

These are only a few examples for the profound care this sector is receiving from the government.

Being emancipated from the fetters of feudalism and exploitation, the Iraqi peasant at the moment is the master of his land. In addition to the aid he receives from government, he practises his profession in a free democratic manner and expresses his views and needs through the societies and councils in which he is an active member.

This month witnessed the end of several election campaigns waged by peasants for electing executive bureaus and central councils of their associations at village, district and governorate levels.

In Baghdad there was another significant agricultural event. It was the convocation of the 5th general conference of the General Federation of Peasants Cooperative Associations (9-13 May).

Held under the patronage of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr



and under the theme of "With peasant organisation, we realize the party's and revolution's aspirations in stepping up production and building the socialist countryside", the conference held at al-Mustansiriyah University conference hall, elected their executive bureau and central council and drew up their plan of action for the forthcoming phase.

The 5th conference was of special significance in view of the fact that it represented the largest sector of the vocational organizations in Iraq; and it was

held in the wake of intensification of the imperialist-Zionist reactionary onslaught on the Arab nation on the one hand, and the vigorous resistance of progressive revolutionary forces, with the Iraqis in the forefront, on the other. Hence great importance was attached to the conference to come out with fruitful results serving the interests of the huge peasant masses and safeguarding the revolution's objectives and aspirations in achieving welfare and progress for the whole people.

"The peasant masses are putting before you colossal tasks and are looking forward to your conference to achieve their aspirations in developing the political, economic and social work in the countryside and establishing a revolutionary peasant organization capable of fulfilling the assignments it shouldered in the existing stage", said Mr. Abdul Fattah Mohammad Amin, ABSP regional Leadership member and Minister of State, who was deputed by President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr to open the conference on his behalf.

In his opening address Mr. Amin also said, "The theme of your conference expresses in a precise and concentrated way the basic errands you ought to fulfill in the next stage as these errands are closely connected with the aspirations of the party and the 17 July Revolution. The imperialists and their co-partners in feudalism and reaction had for many years attempted to crush and oppress the peasants and deny them the simplest social rights.

The President's representative, while expounding the party's objectives, said, "The political and economic emancipation of the peasant masses, final liquidation of feudalism, regeneration of human energies in the countryside, creation of favourable conditions for building a political and economic peasant organisation capable of actively contributing to laying down the foundations of socialist transformation in the countryside, have all been the prime objectives of the ABSP".

### Results of the Conference

At the conclusion of its sessions the conference elected 121-member central council and 21-member executive bureau. It also decided to:

- publicise and deepen the revolutionary concepts among peasants and cement socialist relationships,
- increase the educational campaigns so that farmers may grasp and comply with the rules and regulations issued on the development of agriculture and countryside,
- expand administration of scientific techniques in agriculture and rely on mechanisation as much as possible,
- adopt collective farming, on the grounds that they are modernised means of agriculture,
- pay further care to livestock and expand veterinary services,



- Improve the facilities for marketing of crops.

- promote the relations with other Arab and international organizations dealing with agriculture, establish an Arab fund for extending financial and material assistance to peasant organizations in the countries whose financial and material capabilities are limited.

- try to establish an Arab training centre for preparing peasant cadres.

- establish joint Arab agricultural cooperative associations, and

- promote and encourage socialist competitions in the fields of production, performance and fulfilment of assignments.

The conference was attended by a great many number of peasant cadres and more than 35 Arab and friendly delegations.

The conference also addressed a cable of thanks to President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr and Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC).

## Diego Garcia

Since 1973 the world has been watching, with deep concern and alarm, the serious military and political developments which were stirred by the United States declaration that it had completed the expansion works in Diego Garcia Base in the Indian Ocean. Three years after that declaration, Diego Garcia now represents a major link in the American strategy in the Indian Ocean. What is this base? and what are its military and political functions?

### Small Island

Diego Garcia is a relatively small island but it is the biggest island in the Jachus Archipelago in the south west of Sri Lanka. It is 1200 miles offshore the Cape of India. Cacao is the predominant plant in the island. Before being evicted, the total number of the island population was 1500-2500. They were poor and made their living by growing cacao and fishing.

Jachus Archipelago, within which is Diego Garcia, was originally a part of Mauritius which is in turn a part of the Maskarin islands in the western part of the Indian Ocean. The Portuguese discovered Jachus in the 16th century, which was then colonised by the Dutch and later by the French and finally by Britain which handed Diego Garcia over to the United States in 1967.

Since 1967 the United States has been evicting the natives by force to Mauritius. The natives of Diego Garcia staged several demonstrations in front of the American Embassy in Mauritius demanding return to their native island which has been converted into the most sophisticated American base in the world.

### Expansion Works

The United States carried out immediate operations to expand the port and the runway of the airport. The port is a lake of 140 feet in depth and protected by a coral coast sufficient to harbour a complete fleet. The airport runway has been extended to 8-12 thousand feet. A communication centre has been constructed to maintain a link with Polaris submarines which are provided with atomic heads, as well as ammunition depots, shelters, command headquarters and electronic warning systems.

The American expansion works come in the wake of the arrival of more than 3000 experts and soldiers and in cooperation with the British officers in the initial stage. These operations were carried out in complete secrecy, for the equipment were supplied from the American bases on the coasts of

the Ocean (in Australia, South Africa etc...) The island is 25 kilometres long and 10 km. wide. This area has been completely reclaimed to take full advantage of its air space, land and sea.

### Nuclear Armament

After the expansion works, the modern airport can receive now the biggest planes such as B52 and the giant transport planes T.5. Reconnaissance planes are permanently operating from the airport.

The sea shelter is now ready for berthing 12 ships, and particularly the SLBM submarines with nuclear heads. There are also bases for launching Polaris and Poseidon rockets. Diego Garcia is connected to the Omega system which guides the atomic heads carried by the nuclear submarines. There is a great lot of other conventional arms.

### Great Expenses

The Anglo-American accord in the island dates back to 1965; it was declared in the House of Commons that joint American and British expansion operations would be carried out in the island. A year later, Britain and US signed the accord which places the island at the US disposal for 50 years, that is up to the year 2016. The US spent 857 million French francs in the fortifications and expansion works, as revealed by the Pacific News in its issue dated 3 April 1974.

An American journalist who visited Mauritius quoted an evicted Diego Garcia native as saying, "An American officer said to me, if you don't leave at once, you will find nothing to eat at all!" This confirms the falsehood of the American claims that they never sought to evict the natives of the island. However, the natives declared in a statement issued in Port Louis in 1973, "We were happy in our island in spite of the poverty. But after being evicted, we are regarded as animals by the invaders..."

### Why the Base?

Why did the United States build such a giant base in Diego Garcia?

The answer takes us back to 1967 when the US adopted an aggressive political and military programme in the Indian Ocean. Within the context

of this programme the US constructed scores of bases in the eastern and western coasts of the Ocean; the most important of which are those in Australia, Philippines, South Africa and Asmara. The US intention was to build a central base to serve as a link to more than 12 bases spread in the Indian Ocean. This central base should be in the most important location. Diego Garcia was selected, as it controls the Arab Sea and Red Sea. This is the essential point: The main object of building this base is to control the eastern inlets of the Arab homeland with its oil riches.

All trade and oil convoys coming from the Arab Gulf and the Red Sea are under the surveillance of the American espionage systems in the base. The heavy armament of the base makes it very easy for the US to stage aggressive acts against the Arab countries. It should be recalled in this connection that the expansion works in Diego Garcia coincided with the threats made by the former American President Ford and his Secretary of State Henry Kissinger against the Arab oil countries after October 1973 War.

Through the US bases in the Arab Gulf and Eilat in occupied Palestine in the north of the Red Sea, and taking into account the important strategic position of Diego Garcia, the eastern Arab Homeland or what is termed by the West as "The Arab oil neighbourhood" seems almost besieged from the east and north, for the reopening of the Suez Canal has re-established the link between the American naval activity in the Indian Ocean and the naval activity in the Mediterranean.

The Diego Garcia base poses a real hazard to the future of the Arab area as well as to the African and Asian countries along the Indian Ocean. The reinforcement of the American forces stationed in this ocean after Carter has taken over as President, is an act leading to more tension in this area which the non-aligned countries and international organisations are repeatedly demanding to maintain as a zone of peace.

M. Salama



A U.S. carrier at Diego Garcia



## NEWS IN PICTURES

1. President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr received on May 15 former Portuguese President General Francisco Da Costa Gomez who paid a 5-day visit to Iraq as leader of a delegation representing the Portuguese political forces.
2. Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), visited the Ministries of Works and Planning on May 25. Picture shows the RCC Vice-Chairman shaking hands with the officials of Planning Ministry.
3. Vice-President Taha Mohyeddin Maarouf saw off the Vice-President of Mali, Mr. Amada Baba Diarra, May 16.
4. Foreign Secretary of British Conservative Party Shadow Cabinet, Mr. John Davis, was received by Mr. Tayeh Abdul Karim, Iraqi Minister of Oil, in Baghdad on May 22.



## Gone are the days of McCarthy and Dulles

**M**r. Jacob Javits, member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the US Senate, has accused four Arab countries including Iraq of "harbouring international terrorists" and "supporting the Palestinian rejectionists". In his report to the committee which he made public on May 8, Mr. Javits called upon the "civilised world" to consider what actions they could take against these countries.

By making these accusations the US Senator has only betrayed the mentality of a conservative imperialist who refuses to see the changes taking place around him. He has utterly failed to read the message of the time. The world today no longer accepts the contention that the fight against world imperialism is an act of international terrorism. Rather, the organised terrorism that is frequently being resorted to by imperialists with a view to retaining their privileged position in the world, is being denounced today by the overwhelming majority of people as counter-revolution violence which is generally accompanied with genocide, mass mur-

by Our Political Analyst



A young Palestinian handcuffed by Zionist soldiers

der and total extermination campaign. The highest form of international terrorism was, in recent years, manifested in Palestine, Indo-China, Africa and Latin America and the perpetrator was the United States or her proxies.

The pages of contemporary history have been blackened by instances when state-organs of the imperialists have indulged in terrorism both against nations and individuals. While the CIA has established itself as a past master in such institutionalised terrorism, "Israeli" state-machinery has been geared to similar acts. Instances are too many to be quoted here, "Israeli" raid on Beirut and Entebbe airports are but two glaring recent examples. And as for CIA, very recent reports of Congress investigation committees are enough to thoroughly unmask its ugly face.

International terrorism is being resorted to by the imperialists and their multinational companies in Africa and elsewhere even today. They are recruiting professional killers and mercenaries and sending them out on overt as well as covert missions against the leaders of national liberation movements. Mr. Javits is very much in the know of such operations as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the US Senate. In spite of all his knowledge, Mr. Javits is silent on such issues as he does not consider these operations as "international terrorism", because, these actions are part of the game of protecting the imperialists' vested interest. What Mr. Javits considers as "international terrorism" is precisely what others consider as fight against imperialism. As a matter of fact the fight against imperialism is no action but a reaction — a reaction to centuries of subjugation, oppression, and exploitation. Once the world succeeds in ridding itself of such subjugation, oppression and exploitation, the reaction to them will also cease to exist. And that is what has been happening in the world since the outbreak of World War I, and more vigorously, since World War II. This is an inevitable historical process, and it will continue to happen in spite of the will of men like Jacob Javits who failed in the past and will fail in the future to reverse the course of this process. They can only make the process more painful. But then the march of history has never been as smooth as a dinner party in the Court of St. James.

The same is true in respect of Palestine revolution which is an integral part of anti-imperialist world revolution. It does not require to write volumes to establish that the Palestine resistance movement developed as a reaction to imperialist conspiracies. Anti-imperialist forces throughout the world, therefore, became its natural allies. The Arab

revolutionary movement has a particular stake in the success of the Palestinian resistance movement in that the failure of one will defeat the other. So, all the Arab countries committed to Arab revolution will render total support to the resistance movement of the Palestinian Arabs. In doing so, the Arab countries are only, to quote the Atlantic Charter, "respecting the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live" and "to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them". Mr. Jacob Javits certainly does not have the effrontery to call the authors of this declaration (Roosevelt and Churchill, August 14, 1941), "international terrorists".

Mr. Javits has cleverly tried to drive a wedge into the ranks of the Palestinian resistance movement. To his utter disappointment he will soon discover that, as is the case with many other resistance movements, all the Palestinian partisan fighters agree on their strategic objectives, notwithstanding differences in tactical approach. Any effort to single out one group with a view to isolating it from the mainstream of the movement and then crushing it will miserably fail, because, the Arabs in general, and the Palestinians in particular, will protect each one of their fighters like their eye-ball.

The "civilised world" whose attention Mr. Javits has drawn to enquire him, is no longer the same old world; a McCarthy or a Dulles is a misfit in today's civilised world. The sooner Mr. Javits realises this hard fact, the better for himself, for the American people and for the world at large.

## Support to Palestinians no act of terrorism

A spokesman of the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a statement on May 10, asserted that the support and backing Iraq had been rendering to the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine, could, under no circumstances, be regarded as international terrorism. The spokesman was commenting on a report presented by Mr. Jacob Javits, member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the US Senate, in which Mr. Javits accused Iraq and some other Arab countries of helping what he described as "terrorists".

The spokesman said: Iraq refuses to accept that the backing it has been rendering to the struggle of Arab people of Palestine who have been thrown into homelessness by the Zionist movement with US support, can be counted as a kind of terrorism, and regrets this piece of effrontery shown against it this way.



## Why Oil Nationalisation?

**T**he nationalisation of Iraqi oil crowned a dauntless unremitting struggle that lasted for over half a century against foreign domination and alien exploitation. That persistent struggle which developed into an armed uprising in the early days of foreign occupation in 1920, kept alive in various courageous forms punctuated by several popular uprisings, culminated in the July 14 (1958) Revolution and the July 17 (1968) Revolution.

One can safely say that oil was the fuel of the glorious struggle of the Iraqi people for economic independence and social progress.

Britain occupied Iraq by military force in 1917-1918; and in 1924, West European cartels gained oil concessions, detrimental to Iraqi sovereignty and interests.

The American monopolies forced their way in 1928 and became partners with the West European oil cartels. Since then, the foreign company exploiting the Iraqi oil carried the name of Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC), incorporating all the famous "Big Eight".

TO OUR ESTEEMED READERS

**Iraq Today**

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KINDLY GIVE US YOUR VALUABLE  
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AND ANY OTHER ASPECTS YOU  
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



The IPC, taking control over the Mosul Oil Company (founded in 1932) and establishing the Basrah Oil Company in 1938, managed, in the latter year, to become the sole monopoliser of oil fields in the entire country.

Thus Iraq lost control over the main source of its national wealth by virtue of tyrannic concessions usurped by foreign monopolies aided by reactionary puppet Iraqi governments.

The core of I.P.C.'s policy was to reduce production and lower prices, despite the fact that Iraq oil excels the other oil of the area. Their ultimate goal was to keep Iraq as a reserve area, heedless of the abyss of misery in which the Iraqi people lived. Their malpractices included: denial of the right of Iraq to partnership; failure to comply with their financial obligations, fraudulent accounts, failure to process oil, ... etc.

On the other hand, those monopolies were actually a state within a state — not subject to domestic laws. Their presence was a real danger to Iraqi independence and progress.

All endeavours to reach a satisfactory settlement with them were in vain.

Economic independence is one of the main aims of the July 17 Revolution. This meant nothing less than the liberation of the country's oil resources, being the basic source of income.

Another more important aim is the consolidation of the country's independence. The presence of the oil companies did not only arrest the economic progress of the country. It also menaced the country's independence and threatened any revolutionary tendency and conflicted with the Revolution's ultimate aim of Unity, Freedom and Socialism.

Despite the hostile attitudes of the foreign oil monopolies that became open, particularly after the "Israeli" aggression against the Arab nation in 1967, the July 17 Revolution still looked for a new relationship, ensuring the Iraqi interests and the development of oil production.

With that spirit, the Revolution entered into negotiations with the oil companies hoping, in the words of the Iraqi negotiator, "to start a new page of positive relations — relations which do not lead to harming others' interests".

Though the Iraqi demands were not only legitimate but also reasonable, the companies pursued their usual policy of procrastination and intransigence and used their conventional weapon of reducing production.

Therefore, the Revolution took the initiative to exercise national sovereignty and nationalise the IPC on June 1, 1972, thus restoring to the people of Iraq their long lost legitimate rights.

The decision of nationalisation conforms to United Nations resolutions on the subject, the rulings of the International Court of Justice and other international judicial bodies, and the undisputed acknowledgement of the principle of nationalisation by the imperialist states themselves.

Iraqi government, though exercising sovereignty, forgave past injustice and plundering and decided to pay a fair compensation to the IPC.

The oil monopolies, lest the Iraqi decision constitute a precedent in the most oil-rich area of the world, at a time of a menacing shortage of increasingly needed energy, did all they could to foil the Iraqi nationalisation decision.

But, mainly depending upon the people, who firmly stood behind the decision with spontaneous sacrifice, and thanks to friends in the entire world, particularly the Socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union, the decision of nationalisation was successfully implemented.

This led to the triumph of Iraq on March 1, 1973, when the oil companies surrendered and the dispute was finally settled in the interest of the Iraqi people.

We had principally proceeded from the Party's and Revolution's programme of emancipating the national economy from the grip of foreign monopolies. We had relied on the creative energies of our masses and their capabilities to stand and sacrifice. We were greatly confident that our Arab nation, despite the passive conditions surrounding it, will strongly stand beside us in any national and patriotic step we take in safeguarding the Arab will and interests. We also had the confidence that all progressive people will support us in our just struggle against monopolies. On this genuine basis we had issued the historic decision of June 1, 1972.

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr

The Party and Revolution did not ignore even the slightest calculations at all. We had carefully reckoned our financial and economic position and oriented it in a very precise and accurate manner.

Saddam Hussein

President Jimmy Carter, on April 18, called upon the American people to conserve energy, stop wastage and make sacrifices in order to avoid what he called "a national catastrophe". He sounded as if he was in the grip of hydrophobia (or petrophobia as one may conveniently term it). Apparently, he was influenced by a CIA report which predicted that the world would

## Carter's Fuel War



Carter and Schlesinger discussing fuel policy

run out of the cheapest source of energy — petroleum — by the end of the century, and before that doomsday came, the US would face serious energy crisis by 1985. The situation was worse confounded by another prophet of doom, Mr. James Schlesinger, the chief energy adviser to the President. It may be recalled that it was James Schlesinger who in 1973, as US Defence Secretary, advocated the forcible occupation of Arab oil fields to avenge Arab oil embargo.

However, Carter is not the first US President to warn the Americans against what they termed as impending fuel crisis. Back in 1939 President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent an energy message to

by Awad Birair

## Towards Equitable Economic Relations

One of the characteristics of the present historical phase is perhaps the struggle waged by the developing countries for economic liberation. Though seemingly less violent

the Congress. In his February 16 message Roosevelt warned the nation that "our energy resources are not inexhaustible".

In recent years both Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford asked the American people to make sacrifices to meet the "energy crisis". Both of them, however, held out assurances that their "sacrifice" would be short-lived because, alternate sources of energy would be tapped and "energy independence" or self-sufficiency would be achieved. With a view to attaining "energy independence", energy agencies were set up in US and some other developed petroleum importing countries with much ado. Mr. Carter joined the chorus and raised his voice to the highest pitch to proclaim a fuel war.

In his address to the nation President Carter traced the changes in energy use in the past centuries. He said that the first change was the shift from wood to coal about 200 years ago. The second, in this century, was the shift from coal to oil and natural gas which were now running out, he warned. And hence his crusade.

That petroleum and natural gas are exhaustible commodities is not a subject of dispute. But how soon will these two cheapest of fuels run out is a debatable question. Even experts differ on their assessments. As for example, in 1951 during the oil nationalisation crisis of Iran, most experts thought that Iranian fields would dry up in 25 years' time. Since then exactly 26 years have elapsed and thank goodness, those experts have proved to be false prophets. Besides, potential reserves of oil deposits are yet to be fully assessed on world-wide scale.

However, it goes without saying that every nation has a right to plan its own future on the basis of existing realities, and, therefore, Mr. Carter's energy goals (see below) for 1985 are his and his countrymen's domestic affair to the extent these do not encroach upon the internal affairs of other countries. But the US President has prefaced his energy programme with statements that transcend the limits of domestic boundaries in their purpose and consequence. He said that "our nation's independence of economic and political action is becoming increasingly constrained", because, "domestic production has been dropping steadily at about six per cent a year and imports have doubled in the

than the victorious fight waged by these countries for political independence in the wake of the last World War, the present struggle is indeed no less fierce or painful. All current imperialist actions and intrigues are concentrated to contain it and abort it. Moreover, it is more complicated than its predecessor, because of its peculiar domestic factors and because of its global dimensions. It is a struggle that is destined to reshape human relations.

past five years". He warned the Americans: "One choice is to continue as we have been doing before. We can drift along for a few years... But if we wait, we will live in fear of embargoes. We could endanger our freedom as a sovereign nation to act in foreign affairs, within 10 years we would not be able to import enough oil from any country at any acceptable price".

In fine, Mr. Carter by his energy plan intends to exercise:

- (a) freedom of action in foreign affairs,
  - (b) freedom to bust future oil embargo, and
  - (c) freedom to dictate price acceptable to US.
- Evidently, all these three freedoms interfere with the freedom of oil exporting countries who want to exercise their inalienable sovereign right to:

- (a) establish their own ownership, control and management on their oil wealth so that every drop of it may serve the cause of their people.
- (b) programme production and pricing in the interest of their nation, without let or hindrance by outside powers including multi-national corporations, and

(c) draw up marketing plans in accordance with the dictates of their own national compulsions, both internal and external, and in keeping with the aspirations of their people.

The principles of sovereign equality of nations, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter, dictate that the oil exporting nations exercise the same freedom of action as Mr. Carter wants for his own country. As a matter of fact, "the independence of economic and political action" of the raw material exporting countries was severely "constrained" by the manipulations of multinational companies and the foreign policy considerations of imperialist powers. The world is witnessing an upsurge today among the raw material producing nations to rid their countries of this constraint and ensure their "independence of economic and political action" and zealously guard their "freedom of action in foreign affairs".

Iraq's June 1, 1972, decision to nationalise the IPC to a great extent, stemmed from similar considerations. When OPEC decided to adjust the price of

The Third World countries' struggle for economic liberation is to serve a dual purpose; the control of national resources and the creation of equitable international economic relations. The success scored so far in both arenas calls for optimism. Nationalisation gained international legality as an act of sovereignty and the realization of internal social justice is already a popular slogan. Likewise, the need to create a new just economic order has been internationally recognised.

oil with the rising price of importable manufactured goods, it only exercised its member-nations' economic independence of action necessitated by conditions created by industrialised countries. But the US reaction to such actions of the oil exporting countries was so hostile that its policy planners threatened to physically occupy the oil fields of OPEC countries.

Time has come when US better learn to live with other countries on the basis of sovereign equality. The oil exporting countries also can hardly afford to "endanger" their freedom as sovereign nations to act, not only in foreign affairs, but also in the interest of developing their countries economically, raising the standard of living of their teeming millions and ensuring themselves a dignified life. As their oil is "exhaustible", they can neither "wait" for a day, nor waste a single drop of their precious commodity.

### CARTER'S FUEL GOALS

Following is a summary of President Carter's energy goals by 1985:

- Reducing the annual growth in energy consumption from 4.6 to 2 per cent.
- Reducing gasoline consumption by 10 per cent below current levels by encouraging production of smaller, more efficient cars.
- Reducing oil imports from the current 8 million barrels a day to 6 million.
- Creating a strategic petroleum reserve of 1 billion barrels, more than a six-month supply.
- Increasing coal production by two-thirds to 1 billion tons annually, and shifting industrial consumers to coal instead of gas and oil.
- Requiring insulation of all new buildings and 90 per cent of all homes.
- Installing solar energy devices in 2.5 million homes.

The achievement of these goals, Mr. Carter said, would be accompanied by:

- Continued economic growth and maintenance of current living standards.
- Protection of the environment.
- Higher prices for all kinds of fuels.
- Penalty taxes on gas-guzzling cars.
- Protection against "profiteering" by oil companies.

A wave of nationalisation is now sweeping the Third World. The force of this wave can be judged from the fact that certain pro-imperialist governments have been compelled to enforce "partial" nationalisation. Meanwhile the United Nations adopted the idea of creating a new equitable international economic order. And to realise this, several international conferences have been convened. These included the UNCTAD and the Paris Conference for Economic Cooperation.



In plain man's words, the developing countries of the Third World want fair prices for their raw materials. They want such prices as match the prices of the industrialised commodities and services exported to them by the advanced capitalist countries. They want new international economic relations based on equality and mutual benefit. Isn't that fair enough? Isn't it in the interest of mankind as a whole? Imagine a human family enjoying all the fully utilised resources of the world on equal footing!

Unfortunately, the capitalist countries, whose economy depends on the raw materials of the Third World, do not grasp the wisdom of the creation of new just relations. While paying lip service to the ideas, they actually work to hinder it — by blackmail, open opposition, procrastination, sowing discord and division etc. etc. The US is clearly against any radical changes in the present international economic relations that ensure the capitalist world the lion's share of the international trade and income.

Imperialism tried hard to blame the oil-producing countries for the present economic crisis. Here it is worth mentioning that the representatives of the developing countries in the Paris Conference have declared that the responsibility lies with the capitalist countries — and that the oil-producing countries are not to blame.

The developing countries can no longer tolerate the present international economic relations. All the more so because their alarming political instability and their slow tempo of socio-economic transformation are due to this fact. The memories of colonial oppression and exploitation are still alive in the minds of the developing countries (one-third of mankind) who are still deep in the clutches of poverty, ignorance and disease.

Doing away with economic dependence is, therefore, a pre-requisite for the eradication of backwardness. This is now the most pressing and essential task of the liberation movements of the Third World countries. Here OPEC shines as a guiding star. This organisation has long ago inflamed the defiance to international economic injustice. It has snatched the decision in one of the most vital spheres from the hands of imperialist governments. It has actually led the current attempts for the creation of a new and equitable economic order.

Iraq, which managed to restore full control over all its national resources, is a co-founder of OPEC, and an active member in all the international conferences held in quest of new international economic relations. To sum up this country's stand, as officially declared: The solution of the problems of economic development and the realisation of an equitable international economic order require effecting essential changes in many aspects of international relations. This calls for the militant cohesion of all progressive forces in the face of imperialism. This country, which had suffered from colonial domination and the plundering of its wealth by foreign monopolies, firmly believes in the need for a common struggle against imperialism, neo-economic development and the realisation of an equitable new international economic order based on respect, equality and mutual benefit.

Cheap raw materials from backward countries still feed the capitalist economy. Still, it is perhaps no exaggeration if we assume that we are on the threshold of a new era in international relations. There appears to be quite favourable international conditions for the countries of the Third World to restore their national wealth from foreign hands. Raw materials have been proved to be an effective weapon when the Arabs used them in the fight against Zionism in the October War of 1973. OPEC has managed to raise oil prices in the face of fierce opposition. And countries producing other raw materials are now concentrating their efforts — in the pattern of OPEC — so that they might defend their legitimate rights.

Yet, in the face of imperialist resistance, the strengthening of solidarity and economic cooperation among the developing countries will remain to be an important factor in their struggle for creating new economic relations on the basis of justice, equality and mutual benefit — to the best interest of all human beings.

## CONCERTS

by Hamdi Kadouri

Two different musical events stood out in last month's rich artistic activities, which coincide or rather close our venerated April. These events were of great interest, presented by fine artists. First the Iraqi School of Music and Ballet. Soviet Professors and the well-known British pianist, Antony Peebles, who was paying his first visit to Iraq, while touring the Arab World giving concerts or individual recitals.

This year's concert of the Soviet resident musicians (mostly professors at the School of Music and Ballet and members of the Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra) was short but gratifying, thanks to their arrangement of the programme to include some Iraqi and Soviet folksongs. They had arranged these to suit all the fine technique they possessed, whether for the instrumentalists or the lady vocalists, in addition to that, appropriately accompanied by the picturesque accordion.

Every major musical instrument has its virtuoso in the Soviet musical evening in Baghdad, starting with Igor Blagodatov, the gifted young Soviet pianist, who impressed his audience, once more, with interpretive style of great class. His little concert consisted of music by Chopin and Scriabin, the powerful Polonaise "Militaire" in A major showed Igor Blagodatov's confident and masterly style, and his fluent piano playing served him well in the mysterious music of A. Scriabin in his unique Prelude in D flat for the left hand and the stormy Etude in D sharp minor, as was shown by the audience's reaction: their burst of applause was certainly well deserved.

The other instrumentalists were: Cellist Olg Podgorsky, who



## Baghdad's Musical Life

shared with his pianist-wife a vivid interpretation of the well-known Georgian contemporary composer, Tsintsadze's Sachi-dao, a small piece of linear interest, textures and lively rhythms. Violinist, Hellar Taamal's choice was Tchaikovsky's Melody in F and the popular Hungarian Dance No. 5 by J. Brahms to the delight of his audience. Both were persuasive and provided more signs of his remarkable technique. Once more, our public enjoyed Valeri Boretsky's masterly showing as fine and imposing oboist, with his improvisations on an Arabic folk tune with his customary skill and style. Finally, the sympatric Vladimir Zinoviev, the accordionist gave a solo of real charm, a much elaborated Russian tune. He brought enough great beauty to the accordion to be applauded warmly by his Baghdad audience.

To the enjoyment of the Sha'ab Hall audience, the Soviet evening, last April, had a lighter aspect, more passionate, thanks to the talents of two female young Soviet singers Evdokia Nemesh and Nina Zinovieva both contralto and reflective artists of the rich folk tunes of their immense homeland. They offered some smiling Russian songs, mostly popular as the lovely "Kalinka" recognised in the hall and wholeheartedly welcomed by the closely involved audience, who appreciated every item of these remarkable artists.

The second musical event was a one man show: a recital by the

young English pianist, Antony Peebles, who with some analyses before each item, captured the admiration of his youthful audience at the concert hall of the Fine Arts Institute with a rare programme, mostly devoted to music written in the twentieth century by those giants of the piano, who happened to be great composers, such as: Ravel, Debussy, Rachmaninov and Scriabin. He nevertheless inserted some significant music of the beloved Chopin and Liszt, especially in the world of the piano.

An innovation was set by Antony Peebles by choosing Ravel's music to open his recital. He had much to say in his interpretation of "Gaspar de la nuit", which seemed to obsess Peebles to the extreme. His approach to Debussy, yet another impressionist, if we dare say, was objectively assessed in the light of structural demands. His demonstration of values, light, colour, weight and so forth, was a lesson to remember. Later, he presented works, musically considered virtuosic. That included two Rachmaninov's Preludes, a taxing left hand Nocturne by Scriabin, a group of Chopin's (two powerful études) and the inevitable show-piece; Liszt's most popular "La campanella" a regal in outstanding pianistic display, providing last minute opportunity for his newly met Baghdad audience to agree with the validity of the music argument he was passionately advocating.

## Sumerian Gaming Boards

Archaeological excavations reveal many new facts and enrich our knowledge. The most exciting of these facts are those which shed light on the origin of inventions, ed the royal cemetery of Ur with an unexpected date for their beginnings. The use of gaming boards is a case in point. It is interesting to find that ancient nations also used gaming boards.

In 1928, Sir Leonard Woolley, the British archaeologist unearthed the royal cemetery of Ur with its hundreds of tombs. The cemetery dates back to 4500 B.C., to the Third Early Dynasties period. Many objects of a great value were entombed with the dead in this royal cemetery. Gaming boards were among such precious objects as pieces of furniture, chariots, musical instruments, precious stones and lamps, which were found in the cemetery.

Before the excavations in Ur cemetery, Falkner said: "We have not, as yet, found them in Nineveh or Babylon, though we are convinced they were played there".

In the Iraqi Museum there are three gaming boards. However, one of the three is incomplete. The fourth gaming board kept in the British Museum in London is similar to the complete ones as far as general form is concerned. The front face of all gaming boards discovered in the royal cemetery at Ur was divided into twenty square fields arranged in a big block of four rams of three squares joined by a bridge of two single squares to a smaller block of two rams of three squares. All the fields were filled in with

designs inlaid in materials of contrasting colours.

The first three figures published with this article are those kept in the Iraqi Museum. The length of the object in figure (1) is 28.5 cm; and 15.5 cm the length of the largest part; 5 cm the length of the second part (bridge); 8 cm the length of the third part. The broadest part is of a width of 12.5 cm. Only two squares in this board are missing, whereas, each of the other squares, except three, is covered with five small



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

circles four of which are red and the one in the middle is of blue colour and vice-versa; but not two squares of a similar arrangement in colour are placed side by side. Each of the other three squares is decorated with a rosette of eight leaves and coloured in red and blue. The edges of the board were encrusted with vertical strips of shell and red limestone.

The second gaming board is similar to the first in general outlines and dimensions, but the squares are different. It is 28 cm long and 11.5 cm wide. Each square covers an area of 3x3 cm, but some sides measure 3.3 cm. In the largest part there are twelve squares, while two in the bridge and six in the third. In the first row of the latter, there are two squares designed with sixteen-eyes in each, and those squares are spaced with one divided into four squares, each contains sixteen dots lined by four sides frame. The second row is of two rosettes separated by a square designed with small crosses each set in a larger one. The bridge contains two squares; one with crosses and the other with a scene of two ibexes facing each other; The first row of the largest part is of three squares, two oxen facing each other as seen in the second rosette and in the third a lion attacking an ox. Also seen in the second row in the first square are two lions facing each other and in the second, two oxen facing each other, whereas in the third square a lion attacking an ox is noticed. In the third row a lion attacking an ibex, and in the second, two oxen facing each other. The third square of this row is not clear and all the squares of the fourth row are damaged. All the squares in this board are framed by lapis-lazuli strips.

The third board of the Iraqi Museum collection is of twelve squares framed by lapis-lazuli

strips fixed in bitumen. No similar or exactly similar scenes were put beside each other in the patterns of this board; for instance, in the first row two scenes of a lion attacking a gazelle are shown side by side but the lion is to the right, and the gazelle to the left while an opposite arrangement is made in the second.

The board kept in the British Museum is similar to the first two of the Iraqi Museum in general outline, but different in details for the patterns carved are more geometric. It was a part of a wooden game which had perished completely, encrusted with a mosaic of shell, bone, lapis-lazuli, and red paste and red limestone, set in bitumen. Its length is 27 cm and width is 12 cm.

Not all the gaming boards are encased in wood for there were some, like the third of the Iraqi Museum, encased in silver.

"The board itself was hollow and in the form of a box, on the lid of which the squares were inlaid; in the box were kept the pieces for playing games" (Ur Excavations, Vol. 1, pp. 274-5).

In the course of excavations some gaming pieces of lapis-lazuli and other stones were found. Some of these pieces are square provided with five circles or they are of a pyramidal shape of bent surface, and some are spherical. Some of these pieces were found lying in a row arranged in alternate columns probably they had been in a wooden box which had perished.

One may ask, by necessity, how these gaming boards were used and what were the rules of the game. But because we did not find any text explaining how they were played, what we construct remains guess work. Professor Unger has made the very interesting suggestion that the board was a lucky sign, but the eyes decorating the side of the board and some of the fields symbolised the "Evil-Eye", and are consequently "unlucky".

## POETRY

By Muhammad Jamil Shalash

### A Letter from Someone

With neither introduction nor soft whispers  
nor luminously perfumed papers,  
and without sentimental phrases,  
I write you hurriedly, my friend:  
They say — and let my heart surge  
and from our melancholy pillow a thousand  
dreams emerge.  
They say that you, my friend,  
are still afire,  
singing of dawns, birds and tortured love  
from your shattered heart...

You are still afire and singing to the spring,  
O love's procession, drenched in blood and  
tears

I remain behind the iron bars,  
thirsty, afire and singing for the struggle,  
for our new bright dawn  
the Arabian dawn to sweep away the bars.  
Let the flower of captive love wither,  
its growing melody drowned in to-morrow's  
battle.

They say — and in my home  
and in my heart a fire erupts  
and between my eyelids a thousand dreams,  
a thousand songs... slumber and awaken.  
They say you are reproachful and angry,  
O my friend

With neither introduction nor soft whispers  
nor luminously perfumed papers,  
for us, for our belief... for you,  
for the passion wells in your eyes,  
this letter:

Whatever they say to you, however they lie  
to you  
I still have faith, O distant neighbor  
I still have faith, O beloved  
in dawn, in tortured love and in to-morrow...  
Deep passion will find our eyes...  
I still believe, O friend  
in the spring of a song  
sung by a free bird  
beyond the night.

Translated from Arabic by  
Ferial Jabouri Ghazoul

## Fa'ik at Sixty



**ARTS**



**T**he Ministry of Information recently celebrated the 60th birthday of the Iraqi painter Fa'ik Hassan. An exhibition displaying a representative collection of this artist's works during half a century was held in Baghdad. This celebration, which is the first of its kind in Iraq, reflects the recognition of the Revolution and the Arab Baath Socialist Party of art as a great spiritual value and a dynamic force in effecting revolutionary changes leading to the building of a socialist society.

The exhibition attracted many visitors who came to felicitate this artist and enjoy his wonderful work. Fa'ik Hassan is one of the avant-garde artists who kept enriching art since 1936, when he was studying art in Paris. The contemporary artistic movement of Iraq is greatly indebted to him. He played a great role in the creation of a new trend in Iraqi art and in the founding of academic institute that helped graduate the second generation of artists as well as the youth artists of today.



Faik Hassan sees his objects with his mind and paints them with his heart. Hence his instinctive beautiful colours and his superior technique. While in Paris (at the age of 21), his skill in anatomy and sketching elevated him to the rank of David, one of the stars of the neo-classical school. Fa'ik's sketching during that period reflected an understanding of the form and block reminiscent of sculptor Rodin. My visit to Rodin's Museum in Paris gave me the impression that Rodin was more a painter than a sculptor. This common characteristic of Rodin and Fa'ik shows how deep the artistic vision of the latter is. Fa'ik Hassan's later production included abstract and figurative works in sensitive, tender, fascinating colours. Thus he turned into a symphony that never ceases.

In one combined tune and spirit, Fa'ik incarnated many artists, such as David, De Lacroix, Bonnard, Georges Rouault, Daumier, Matisse, Henry Moore.

This is, of course, no easy task. But to accomplish, it stands witness to Fa'ik's early great talents and high standard of technique.

This doyen of Iraqi artists won the admiration of all despite their different concepts and culture.

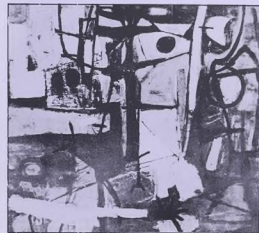
In early 50s., we notice his great interest in the Iraqi environment, the sun and Baghdad which he dearly loved. We also notice the simplicity of surfaces in attempts towards cubism and therefore towards impressionist realism and the warm colours of his folklore subjects. His great attachment to

nature is also clear. Following attempts at abstract and collages he returns to mother nature every now and then.

The night before the opening of his exhibition Fa'ik painted a portrait of himself. Though hastily done, the portrait was his true image. While Picasso's eyes are strong and sharp, Fa'ik's narrow laughing eyes are always pondering.

He is sixty, but is still evergreen.

**Walid Sheet**







Interior of the Iraqi Cultural Centre

## Art Exhibition at Iraqi Cultural Centre in London

by Marion Woolfson

**O**n the occasion of the opening of the new Iraqi Cultural Centre in London an art exhibition was held in the Centre. A representative selection of Iraqi art was on display.

The month-long exhibition attracted many visitors including journalists.

Many paintings and pieces of sculpture were highly appreciated by the visitors who wrote down their comments in the visitors' book. British journalist Marion Woolfson has contributed a special article to "Iraq Today" on this occasion. She writes:

The visitors' book at the new Iraqi Cultural Centre in London contains some interesting comments written by members of the British public who have inspected the current exhibition of Iraqi contemporary art which is on display at the Centre. These visitors have made such observations as:



The End, by Faik Hassan

"Magnificent! I had no idea that such spectacularly beautiful work was being produced in Iraq today"; "I have been inspired by this exhibition and hope we can look forward to displays of traditional, as well as modern, Iraqi art in the future". A third visitor wrote: "It was a revelation to see that such splendid work is coming out of Iraq today and to learn of Iraq's rich cultural heritage".

Among the artists whose work is on display at the Centre is Faraj Abdou, a lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad whose "Baghdadi Abstraction", a large oil-painting which seems to have been inspired by Islamic art forms and Arabic calligraphy, has been greatly admired.

Another lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts whose work is shown at the exhibition is Baghdad-born Faik Hassan, founder of the Department of Painting at the Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad. He was also winner of the gold medal of the Gulbenkian Foundation, awarded to the best Iraqi artist in 1964 and creator of several frescoes in official buildings in Baghdad.

The exhibit of Faik Hassan, who is President of the National Committee of the International Association of Plastic Arts, is an oil-painting entitled "The End" which depicts, with great sensitivity, a scene of desolation and despair.

One of the most impressive paintings is "The Fair" by Hafidh al-Droubi, who was born in Baghdad and is a graduate of Goldsmith's College, University



The Fair, by Hafidh al-Droubi



Baghdadi Abstraction, by Faraj Abdou

of London. He is a professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad and some of his paintings are on display in official buildings in Iraq. "The Fair" which was executed in oils, is a superb example of draughtsman-like impressionism with contours and colours which are distinctively Middle Eastern.

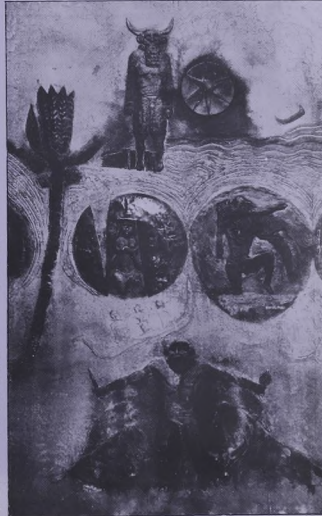
The work of Hamid al-Attar, a graduate of the Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad, who was born in Karbala, has been singled out for praise because of the forceful detail of his "Epic of Gilgamesh".

Among the sculptures on display is a fine piece in wood entitled "Three Girls" by Mohammed Ghani, a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome and a lecturer in sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad. Several of his sculptural works are in public squares in Baghdad.

### MUSICAL EVENTS

In addition to the exhibition of painting and sculpture, in order to celebrate the inauguration of the Centre, a series of cultural events — which have received wide acclaim in artistic circles in London — have taken place. For example, a concert was held at London's Wigmore Hall which featured Munir Bashir, the well-known Oud player, in a programme of classical Iraqi music and songs.

Another concert, held at the Commonwealth Institute in London, at which Munir Bashir, the Baghdadhi Chalghi players and the Kurdish Musical Group performed, presented traditional Iraqi songs and music.



Epic of Gilgamesh, by Hamid al-Attar

A talk, given in the lecture hall of the Centre by Palestinian-born Mr. Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, the well-known Arab novelist, poet and critic, who lives in Baghdad, was very well attended. Mr. Jabra, whose written and spoken English is as perfect as his Arabic, spoke on the subject of "Art, dream and action" and the role of the poet as motivator of change. He quoted from the works of outstanding Western and Arab poets and assessed and examined their impact on society.

#### THE CULTURAL CENTRE

The Centre, which was declared open by its director, in the presence of Lord Donaldson, Britain's Minister for the Arts, before a large and distinguished gathering, has, in addition to an exhibition hall and a lecture theatre, with a projection room, a large and well-equipped library containing books in Arabic and English. There is space for several thousand books and the subjects dealt with include religion, economics, politics, language, the arts, geography and history.

The design of the Centre was carried out by Dr. Dinkha Latchin, a brilliant young Iraqi architect who, while giving the interior a predominantly Iraqi theme, has taken pains to ensure that the background should be subdued so that it will not detract from the artistic works on display. Thus, plaster relief work, with a palm-tree motif, on walls and ceilings, has no colour on it. The ceramic tiles, on the floor of the exhibition hall, which were specially designed for the Centre, are turquoise and blue and bear, in Arabic, the name of the Centre. A beautifully-designed central dome and curved archways give the hall a uniquely Iraqi atmosphere while a mirrored wall facing the entrance enhances the impression of space and brightness.

The Cultural Centre is a fitting tribute to all those who have worked hard and untrintingly to achieve the realisation of a worth-while and commendable idea which should do much to enhance Iraq's prestige in the West.



Three Girls: Wood sculpture by Mohammed Ghani

#### IRAQ REGRETS PORTUGUESE DECISION

Iraq has regretted the Portuguese Government decision to upgrade its diplomatic representation with "Israel" to embassy level.

An Iraqi Foreign Ministry official spokesman, commenting on the decision on May 22, said:

"The Republic of Iraq deeply regrets the decision of the Government of Portugal to raise diplomatic representation with the Zionist entity to the rank of embassy at a time when the Zionist entity represents a base of aggression against the Arab nation and constitutes a clear racist settler-colonialism. This constitutes an injury to Arab-Portuguese relations. In addition it comes at a time when the UN and many of its bodies have condemned the Zionist entity for its unabated policy of aggression against the Arab nation, its violation of simplest human principles and its continued co-operation with the racist regimes in the African continent.

#### IRAQ AND MALI CONDEMN ZIONIST AGGRESSION

Iraq and Mali maintained that peace and security in the region could not be established without full liberation of all occupied Arab territories and regaining by the Palestinians of their national legitimate rights.

In a joint communique released on May 17 on the outcome of the four-day visit to Iraq paid by the Vice President of Mali, Mr. Amada Baba Diarra, the two sides stressed adherence to non-aligned movement and considered its success as contribution of strengthening of world peace and as a stimulation to Third World efforts for achieving just and balanced economic order and international relations.

During his visit to Iraq Mr. Diarra handed a message to President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr from President Moussa Traore.

#### HUGE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN BAGHDAD

The April 7 ID 15 million water supply project is expected to be put into operation early next year.

Built on the West Bank of the Tigris, the project has a designed capacity of 100 million gallons subject to increase to 115 million gallons. It has

been constructed on an area measuring 186,000 square metres.

#### INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN STUDIES AND RESEARCHES

The Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has decided to create an institute for African studies and researches at the Baghdad-based "al-Mustansiriyah" University.

The institute, opening as from the next academic year, will grant high diploma and M. A. degree in African studies and researches.

#### JOHN DAVIS VISITS IRAQ

British Foreign Secretary of Conservative Party shadow Cabinet arrived in Baghdad on May 20 on a few days visit to Iraq in the course of a tour of the Arab region.

While in Baghdad, Mr. Davis held a series of talks with Iraqi officials on economic and banking relations between Iraq and the United Kingdom as well as international issues of common interest.

#### IRAQI-YUGOSLAV COOPERATION

Yugoslav Minister of Information, Mr. Mohamed Berberovic, flew home on May 15 winding up a four-day visit to Iraq during which he signed with Iraqi Minister of Planning, Mr. Adnan Hussain, the minutes of meetings of the Joint Iraqi-Yugoslav Commission. The minutes provided for stepping up economic and technical cooperation in the fields of agriculture, irrigation, industry and civil engineering works between the two friendly countries.

Mr. Berberovic described the Iraqi-Yugoslav cooperation as "a good example for developing relations among Non-aligned countries".

#### IRAQ TO FINANCE FIVE LEBANESE PROJECTS

The Iraqi competent quarters are considering a plan to finance five Lebanese construction projects costing more than 20 million dollars.

The step is within Iraq's contribution to the rebuilding of Lebanese economy shattered by the 19th-month civil war.

These projects will include construction of vocational centres, a building for trade unions complex and a premises for workers cultural institute.

