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December 1961

NEW IRAQ

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A MONTHLY PICTORIAL MAGAZINE ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF GUIDANCE





Bab Ishtar in Babylon after it had been reconstructed by the present Government.

NEW IRAQ

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IRAQ PLANS A BRIGHT FUTURE

One of the vital schemes being carried out in Iraq is the Five Year Economic Plan. It aims at developing agriculture and industry in the country.

The Economic Plan Bill No. 70 for 1961 allotted the sum of ID. 556,340,000 for the execution of the planned projects, with ID. 10,000,000 to cover the interests, installments and incidental expenses of loans.

This amount has been distributed for different constructive purposes as follows: ID. 166,786,000 for industry; ID. 112, 990,000 for agriculture; ID. 136,450,000 for transportation and ID. 140,114,000 for work and housing.

It was decided that the plan should be for a period of five years, because a shorter period would not give a fair opportunity for the execution of long range projects, and a longer one would require technical,

economic and sound statistic studies which are difficult to attain at present.

A provisional plan was considered to step up the execution of the economic plan, and work is already under way.

The Government is using part of its share of the oil revenues to finance the plan. The share for the next five years is surmised to be as follows: 98 million dinars for 1961; 105 million for 1962; 115 million for 1963; 124 million for 1964 and 139 million for 1965. Of this, the sum of ID. 315,815,000 is appropriated for the Economic Plan, which is more than what is usually allotted for this kind of plan. It is designed for the following purposes on the basis of prior necessity:

(a) Projects of direct effect upon the country's productive capacity and upon the rest of the projects.

They include projects which promote production of goods, especially agricultural and industrial, and projects which facilitate production like transportation and communication, and projects that have a direct effect such as technical schools.

(b) Investments in housing projects and public constructions, education, health and social welfare work, etc.

Over 70% of the sums allocated for the Economic Plan is invested in production. This policy will ensure high productivity and at the same time realise high economic progress. In constructing this Plan great care was taken to keep a relationship between the development in production of consumers' goods and the development in social welfare work and living conditions. This Plan is a well-directed step in raising the economic standard of living in Iraq.

The emancipation of the Iraqi farmer was an inevitable outcome of the Revolution. As a preliminary step in that direction the Government sanctioned the Agrarian Reform Law which aimed to requisition from land owners agricultural lands exceeding the maximum limit fixed by the law, and then distributing out these lands to farmers in order to give them a means of respectable living. A period of five years was set for accomplishing this essential plan.

According to Article (15) of the Law a committee was set up called "The High Committee for Agrarian Reform". The Committee has as members the Ministers of Agrarian Reform, Agriculture, Interior, Finance, Social Affairs, Development, Economics, Communication, Work and Housing. It is under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister and is attached to the Council of Ministers. This Committee undertakes the operation, dispossession, distribution and administration of the acquired lands. The High Committee has a juristic personality; it is independent in financial and administrative affairs, and has a budget of its own. The Minister of Agrarian Reform is authorised to act on behalf of the Committee and to execute its decisions.

Agrarian reform in Iraq

DISPOSSESSION STAGE

The Agrarian Reform System is made up of the Ministry and the Directorate of Agrarian Reform. The Ministry includes the Agricultural Bank, the Private Bureau and the Confidential Office. The Directorate includes the following:—

1. The Directorate General of Agrarian Reform.
2. The Directorate General of Dispossession and Assessment.
3. The Directorate General of Distribution.
4. The Directorate General of Finance and Compensation.
5. The Directorate General of Survey.
6. The Directorate General of Agricultural Machinery.

Dispossession:

Article (4) of the Law decrees that, (The area of agricultural land owned by a person or alienated to him by 'Tapu' or granted to him by Lazma shall not exceed (1000) one thousand donoms of land irrigated by flow or by lift, or (2000) two thousand donoms of land irrigated by rainfall. When owning both kinds of land, one single donum of the first kind would be equal to two donoms of the second kind). Therefore, areas that exceed the maximum limits are dispossessed and become state pro-

perty when the dispossession order for such areas is announced.

A number of Dispossession Committees were set up to execute the operation. Each included an official from the Ministry of Agrarian Reform, a surveyor and an administrative official appointed by the Mayor of the Liwa (county). So far there are twenty-seven such Committees in different parts of the country.

Owners of lands to which article (1) applies must submit detailed statements on their lands and farming machinery to the High Committee.

Procedures of Dispossession:

1. Investigation of Statements: The Statements Section in the Directorate General of Dispossession and Assessment studies the statements submitted by the owners, and prepares tables showing the serial number of the land, the size, type, description, irrigation system used, Tapu number, etc. These tables are sent to the Tapu to be certified or corrected. Other tables are also prepared, giving detailed information of machinery, engines and buildings on the stated lands. After the papers are returned from the Tapu, the Statements Section decides the dispossession of such areas that come under the provision of the law.

*Tapu: Land Registration office.



The farmer before the Agrarian Reform.



The old methods of farming, exhausting and wearisome.



Modern machinery shall succeed the old methods of threshing.

The Directorate General of Disposition and Assessment requests the Secretariate General of the High Committee to have the names of the land owners published in the Government Gazette. The procedures for disposition begin with the largest areas, according to article (4) of the Law.

2. Promulgation:

The decisions issued by the High Committee are published. Then the necessary material is sent from the Statements Section to the Committee concerned.

3. Duties of the Disposition Committee before dispossession:

The Disposition Committee must first make sure that all required information is available before dispossession begins. In case of any doubt the Committee must refer to the Tapu for verification.

Survey:

The Committee appoints the date for survey and notifies the owners and administrative authority of the specific district.

The Committee then surveys the areas to be dispossessed, and after survey, marks on a map the newly divided portions.

All the activities and accomplishments of the Committee are kept in a record showing detailed information of the procedures carried out.

Decisions:

The Committee issues its decisions based upon the collected information. The decisions are sent to the Directorate General of Disposition and Assessment for checking.

Decisions after Publication:

The decisions are published in the Government Gazette. A landowner's objection may be made to the Agrarian Reform Courts of Appeal within thirty days of publication and a new decision may be made.

Appeals:

The Appellate Courts settle the disputes arising from such objections as might be submitted by the owners against the decisions of the Disposition Committee. The decisions of the Courts must be published in the Government Gazette, and sent to the High Committee through the Secretariate within seven days. The Directorate General of Disposition and Assessment must be notified, and it in turn notifies the Secretariate explaining its point of view. The Directorate of Agrarian Reform of the Liwa provides the High Committee and Directorate of Disposition with its point of view also.

Duties of the Secretariate General:

The decisions of the Disposition Committees as well as the decisions of the Courts of Appeal are not final until they have been sent by the Secretariate General to the High Committee to be sanctioned.

The High Committee may sanction, amend, or cancel them and decide on their subject matter.

When the decisions are sanctioned, the Directorate General of Disposition and Assessment asks that the dispossessed lands be legalised and registered as property of the Ministry of Finance for the Agrarian Reform's purposes; and the* Mahloola lands Amiria (government) lands.

*Every agricultural land alienated by Laama, and subject to dispossession whose owner is proved to have left it uncultivated during a period of three years prior to the enforcement of this Law or remains without cultivation for a period of one year or more after the enforcement of this Law without a reasonable excuse, shall be considered as Mahloola and will become fully owned by the Government. The Disposition Committee shall investigate whether these lands have been cultivated or not, and decide whether they are Mahloola or not.

Legalisation and Registration:

1. The Disposition Section registers all dispossession decisions, Court decisions and High Committee decisions.

2. The Registration Section provides the Tapu with copies of the final decisions of the High Committee, and asks that dispossessed and Mahloola lands be registered as property of the Ministry of Finance.

3. The Registration Section sends the maps of the dispossessed areas to the Directorate General of Survey for checking and printing.

4. After the deeds are issued by the Tapu they are sent to the Directorate General of Disposition and Assessment. After registering them they are sent to the Directorate General of Accounting at the Ministry of Finance to be kept there.

5. Machinery, pumps, engines, etc., are registered in a separate book.





The Requisition Committee.

A table showing the number of landowners who submitted statements, those whose properties are included in the dispossession, lands dispossessed, Mahloola lands, sanctioned lands, and lands belonging to the Agricultural Bank submitted to the High Committee before September 30, 1961.

Number of those who submitted statements	Number of those who declared as dispossessed	Total lands dispossessed			Total lands dispossessed and sanctioned up to 30.9.1961			Total land handed over to the High Committee		
		Donum	Olk	Metre	Donum	Olk	Metre	Donum	Olk	Metre
3,200	1,452	5,028,063	19	01	1,722,483	7	25	16,599	21	4

From this brief outline of the procedures necessary before dispossession of agricultural lands can be accomplished, one can guess the great responsibility of the Agrarian Reform System. However, with the cooperation of various Government offices, it has accomplished a great deal. The ARS is determined to complete its mission in the appointed period and bring to realization one of the most important gains of the Revolution.

ming minority in Algeria was in possession of 320 hectares per person, with some farming-land estates ranging between 10,000 to 15,000,000 hectares."

The French industry tried to sell products to the settlers, but it was necessary to give them a purchasing power. A way was easily conceived — Arab land was bestowed upon the settlers, and the Arab owner had to buy products which his land once yielded him. The Arab farmers turned into farmhands, working on the land they had owned before 1920. Then came the process of industrialisation which slowly forced labourers out of work leaving them to starve on their stolen land.

The inevitable result of such a situation was emigration. Algerians emigrated to France itself, seeking what it denied them in their own country. The majority, who stayed in Algeria, were offered unproductive lands, or cheap labour. Laws were passed which aimed at weakening the Arab social unity, and the brunt of these discriminating laws fell upon the villagers and farmers who gradually became a wandering working class — the worst and most miserable working class in the world.

Between 1820 and 1871 wars were waged by the Algerians led by Prince Abdul Kader al-Gazairy. In the years that followed and until 1920 the nation succumbed under a cruel fate; a foreign minority ruling despotically, supported by a strong, military power in Europe. The occupied Algerian areas were now considered as French land. The Algerians retreated. Their retreat was accompanied by the extinction of tribal order, tribal customs and traditions, and national culture.

The French expressed surprise at finding the Algerians well-educated, "All the Arabs can read and write, and in every village there are at least two schools". Historian Gillet, in *The Colonisation of North Africa*, said, "These Arabs are keen on studying their language now that they find the French beginning to obliterate all traces of the Arabic culture". General Sanguet felt he was before a nation that was solid, old, and strong in morals. He declared with despair, "If there were no Arabs in Algeria, I would not seek to establish a community here beside the military forces. But the existence of such a people, who possess determination and readiness to fight, forces us to settle French all around, who should be extremely strong and powerful".

To conquer a people like the Algerians, the French needed all their forces. When Marshal Clauzel became Governor in 1830 he advised his countrymen to be "firm, and execute (their) plans freely in the occupied lands". He promised to provide the necessary forces for their protection, and said that with resolution and perseverance the French would form a new nation in Algeria, that would grow quicker than that of America.

This original drive to plunder the land brought about fierce resistance. It varied in strength; sometimes it flared up, and then it was suppressed. In 1923, al-Amir Khalid formed the "North African Star", a movement born in the cities, with reform as its aim. After a period of silent resistance a fight began in 1945, when crowds of Algerians marched in the streets carrying the national flag and shouting for liberty, freedom and the right for self-determination. The French

forces met them with guns, and killed 48,000 women, children and men, in a five-day massacre.

The inhuman cruelty of the French in attaining their goal (which was to get rid of the Arabs, whether by killing or frightening them away, and then taking over their property) is confirmed in the many reports of French generals and officers who were responsible for such actions.

Yusuf, in his *Journey to Algeria*, wrote that the interests of the French government in land and forests "justifies the seizure of all the tribe-owned areas. Most of these areas have already been taken and their owners driven away. The other Arabs worry silently for fear of finding themselves homeless." Then he suggested that the French should make a place for themselves in this country, which could be done only by oppression of the Arabs and acquisition of more land.

Successive invasions were the answer to this call. Captain Fiquemont, described one of the massacres, "We wandered for sixty-two days around Guelma. The rebellious tribes are now either defeated or have yielded. From what I have seen so far we have been able to get is forced obedience...". After burning farms and killing Arabs they were attacked by the natives, who were in turn wiped out. "I returned later to the villages we had burned, and I saw no sign of any effort made to reconstruct what we had destroyed".

Colonel de Mauny wondered what future such a community hoped for that had to hold a position such as this with repeated invasions every three years.



The brave Algerians at the training centre.

An Algerian nurse at work. The Algerian woman bravely performs her part in the fight.

A picture of Algerian heroism, a harrowing nightmare to the French.



These invasions were distasteful even to some of the French themselves. Colonel Canrozier confessed that the monographs he witnessed "increased (his) knowledge of the unusual enormity committed by such savagery. (His) underwent some shameful, mortifying moments at the sight of the immorality that lets a soldier kill and steal and violate the freedom of Arab women, and fight for personal gain, unhindered by his officers."

Another officer, who had, in 1850, praised horrors similar to what is being done now in Algeria, said:

"I never expected to see heavily populated centres as I saw in the Ben Bu Ayesh and Beni Bu Malek mountains. There was a large number of ... beautiful villages sur-

rounded by fields and farms and olive moun-
tains. We were startled at the incredible
beauty of the scenery. But ... orders are
orders ... I thought I was doing my duty
when I left no village standing, no tree or
field planted. The evils my soldiers did were
innumerable. But after all, was it an evil?
Personally, I believe that it was the only
way to force the people to surrender and to
emigrate."

Slugs and starvation were the weapons
the colonialists relied upon to overcome the
Algerians. Those villagers who were not
armed, and could move about freely, were
determined to continue the struggle in spite
of misery and want. For, as Bojole said,
whether friend or foe, the Algerian property
was always exposed to loss. But no terror

could subdue the resolution of the tribes to
fight to the end.

It was not easy for the French to destroy a
whole nation or to extinguish their resistance.
To do that they had to exterminate a whole
nation, to destroy every living Algerian and
uproot a long and glorious history.

The only thing to do was to import
Europeans — farmers in particular. Le Masr
suggested that since the natives could not
be trusted to remain peaceful, the only hope
to settle in Algeria and control it was to
encourage European emigration and distribute
lands among the immigrants.

This is plain colonialism. Accordingly,
the French came. Lands were taken from
Algerians and given to the fortifiers. The
Algerians lost everything worth holding —

French Colonialism fires destr- roying peaceful towns.



land liberty and national institutions, and
even their language and economic unity.
Hospitals, dams and roads were built with
their own money, not for their benefit, but
for that of the new settlers, who believed
they would live forever on this good earth.
Ports were built to facilitate transportation
of products from the robbed lands to France.
Roads were built to connect the European
communities with big cities and with military
headquarters. Hospitals were built for the
French and not for those cursed with disease
and undernourishment. Some schools were
opened in the cities to prevent the use of the
Arabic language which, since 1830, was con-
sidered a foreign language. The French
smuggled everything valuable; they turned
the farms that had fed the Algerians into
vineyards for their own use. They made no
effort to improve anything for the native
Algerians. The changes were all in their own
interest.

The Arab Liberation Movement in Algeria
is one of the many surges in Africa, a mo-
vement that is singing a tune unfamiliar to
the colonialists' ears.

Algeria cannot stand colonial rule any
longer, and the French cannot remain there
any longer. For the Algerian question is
deeply connected with the Algerian land that
is soaked with the blood of her people. When
the Algerians rebel against the French ex-
ecutions, the retaliation comes in the form
of weapons that spell death and destruction; or
in the form of hideous, fabricated reforms
that De Gaulle and the ruling clique
announces.

Immacent smiles shall shine on the lips
of the Algerian children, now homeless in
the desert sands or across barren frontiers;
and when the Algerian soldiers return to their
villages, they will plant for every bomb shell,
for every tortuous device used to tear human
bodies like that of Jamila Bu Herad, and
wombs like that of Jamila Bu Basha, for

every barbaric foot print ... they will plant
a flower bedewed with the scent of freedom,
and a tall tree weighed down with fruit,
and a well to water the farms, a home to
shelter the young ...

A thousand greeting to brave Algeria.

A thousand greeting to the fighting nation.



THE MORTGAGE BANK AND THE CONSTRUCTION MOVEMENT IN IRAQ

The Mortgage Bank is a necessity dictated by the present construction movement. Its services have become indispensable in financing real estate business and helping out citizens with loans. It accounts for the expansion evident in every part of our country in the last years.

The Tapu* Register illustrates the great part played by the Bank. Between 1949-1960, 48,492 transactions were recorded of which 26,940 were carried through by the Bank (i.e. a percentage of 55.6% of the

total number). Of the 39,830 building licences issued by Amanat al-Asima (the Baghdad City Council) between 1958-1961 (some of which do not fall within the Bank's scope), 14,877 received help in the form of loans. Naturally, these loans greatly affect, not only the construction movement, but also the markets of building materials as well.

In addition to its capital, which is ID. 15,000,000, the Bank gets loans and accepts permanent trusts from different concerns to conduct its

transactions. Since its establishment in 1949 until 1961 the total number of deals settled by the Bank through all its eighteen branches was 46,530 worth ID. 38,308,545, while the loan balance in 1961 was ID. 22,082,689.

The Bank also takes an active part in the construction movement in the country. It built 620 houses which were distributed among Government employees in Baghdad, Kirkuk and Sulaimaniyah. It cut down the interest rate from 5% to 4% on loans to customers; the pre-

miums on housing projects were cut down from 3% to 2%. Among other facilities offered, the period of payment was stretched over fifteen years for personal loans, and 20-25 for housing projects. The bank also distributed lands in different areas through housing cooperative societies.

The following statistics show the range of the assistance offered by the Bank after the Revolution to expand constructive projects:

	ID.
The total number of deals concluded between 1958-1961	20,259
was	20,259
The value of these loans was.	16,712,248

Whereas during the eight years that preceded the Revolution:

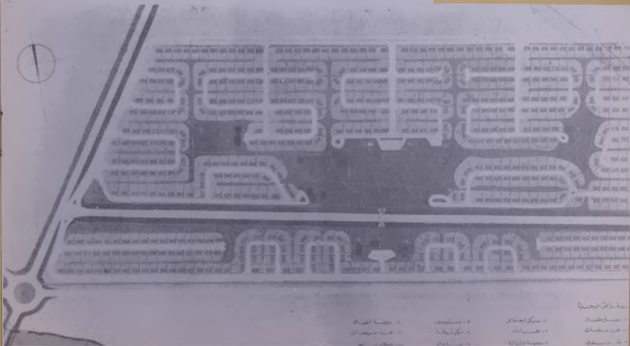
	ID.
The total number of deals concluded was	26,261
The value of these loans was.	21,556,297
A proportion of	1:77%

*Tapu: Land Registration Office.

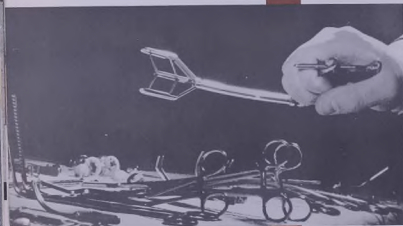


Al-Thaqafa Neighbourhood in Mosul. The Mortgage Bank is assisting the construction of houses for members of the teaching profession.

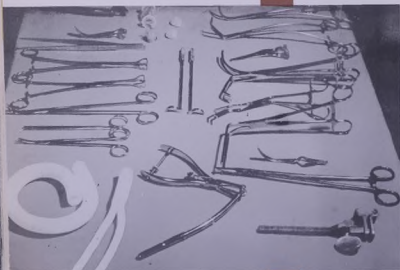
A sketch of a modern housing unit.



HEART SURGERY IN IRAQ



The mitral valvotomy instrument in its position inside the heart.



Modern instruments used in heart surgery: artificial vessels that substitute when the real ones are damaged.

Until recently the heart had remained a challenge to surgeons. Modern science has made great progress, and the increasing efforts of scientists have finally subjected the heart to the will of man.

In Iraq the first successful attempt at heart surgery was made in 1961. There had been however, instances where operations such as mitral valvotomy, were performed by Iraqi doctors in Iraqi hospitals, without the advantage of refined equipment. But a revolution took place when two Iraqi doctors returned from abroad after specialising in heart surgery. They are Dr. Yousef al-Numan and Dr. Ali Moksud. They came equipped with a complete unit for heart and blood vessels surgery, instruments which are not yet available in some western countries.

The Ministry of Health welcomed the two young surgeons, and established a Heart-and-Chest Unit in Dar el-Salam Hospital. Shortly the two were applying their specialized knowledge, and by October they had performed forty-two operations, all of them successful.

The cases that call for a heart operation are many. Some of these cases are congenital, such as inter-ventricular and interauricular septal defects, pulmonary stenosis, and dextroposition of the pulmonary vein. Some are acquired, such as mitral stenosis. Surgical treatment is also applied when the heart has been overworked, by shunting some of the blood to an artificial heart-lung for a number of hours to relieve the heart.

During an operation the heart is at the will of the surgeon, who can increase or decrease its action.

The maximum period doctors can stop the heart is one hour and a half, and then the artificial heart-lung becomes the centre of circulation. However, doctors prefer not to stop the heart during an operation in order to avoid damages resulting from the drugs necessary in such cases. They either stop it every five minutes, or lessen its action by cooling.

The usual method of reaching the heart is to cut the surrounding

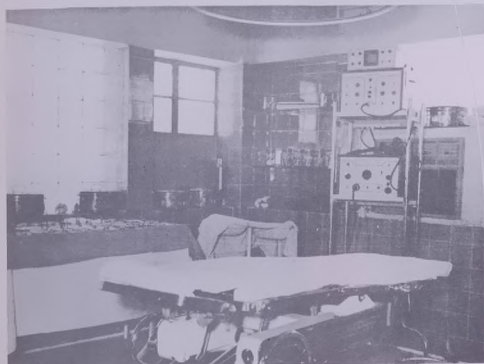
ribs. But our doctors use the intercostal spaces, leaving the ribs intact.

Besides the surgical operations he performs at Dar el-Salam and other hospitals, Dr. Yousef al-Numan experiments on animal hearts to gain knowledge for application in human cardiology.

The Heart Surgery Unit is another achievement of our New Government which has opened wide possibilities for scientific progress.



The founder of heart surgery in Iraq.



The theatre: for an operation.

CO-OPERATIVE ACTIVITIES IN MODERN IRAQ THE CONSUMPTIVE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY FOR MEMBERS OF THE TEACHERS' UNION IN BAGHDAD

The Co-operative Society was established in Baghdad in August 1960. Its aim is to secure consumers' goods such as clothes, household necessities and other people's needs, by buying local or imported goods and selling them to members on a non-profit basis.

To realise this aim the Society has been empowered to open stores in areas where they are most needed. The stores were first opened in October 1960 shortly after the Society was formed.

The Central Committee of this Society consists of shareholders who are members of the Teaching Profession. The Teachers' Union participates in the Society, and has the same rights as any other shareholder.

The Society's Regulations:

The regulations stipulate that each member is entitled to one vote only, regardless of the number of

shares he holds. Each share costs one dinar; each member must have at least one share, but may not have shares exceeding 10% of the subscribed capital. The Society has the right to withhold any shares, profit or rewards due to a holder against any debts he might have.

There are 5680 shareholders.

Administrative Organisation:

The Administrative Board of the Society consists of fifteen members elected from the general committee. They are elected for a period of three years. Every year, one third of the members are removed by ballot and new members are elected. A committee of five supervises and inspects, its membership is subject to similar regulations.

The Administrative Board authorises a second board called the "Board of Proxy" to administer financial and business transactions, sign agreements, employ, supervise

and report on the work of the Society. Membership on this Board is honorary.

Future Plans:

The Society has laid out extensive plans for the future. These plans include opening stores in Adhamiyah, Kadhimiyah, Kerrada and Kerkh, and in the new community centres where housing projects for members of the Teachers' Union are being established in Dawoodi, Waziriyah and Za'afaraniyah. The Society also plans to have a pharmacy, and factories for hosiery, flannel underwear and blouses, and a centre for the maintenance of refrigerators, television sets and radios.

Fruitful Results:

This co-operative project has yielded satisfactory results in its sales and profits. Up to August 1961 the sales brought in ID. 377,484/162. Net profit was ID. 32,849/155.



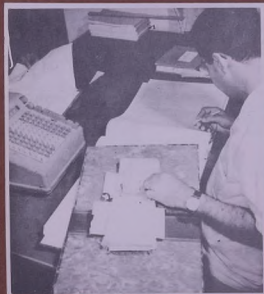
An array of clothing material.



Ready-made men's clothes.



Aluminate, artificial jewelry.



Working employees of the Ministry.



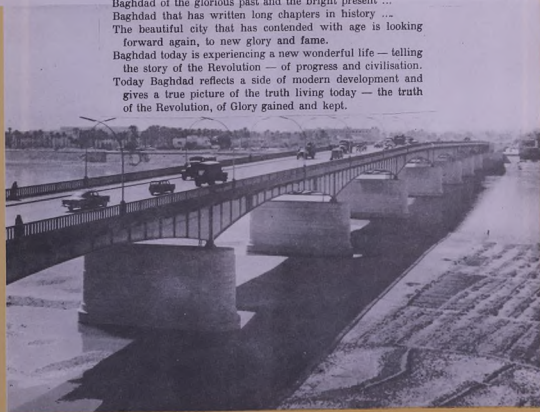
Children's department.



Baghdad In Pictures



Baghdad of the glorious past and the bright present ...
Baghdad that has written long chapters in history ...
The beautiful city that has contended with age is looking
forward again, to new glory and fame.
Baghdad today is experiencing a new wonderful life — telling
the story of the Revolution — of progress and civilisation.
Today Baghdad reflects a side of modern development and
gives a true picture of the truth living today — the truth
of the Revolution, of Glory gained and kept.





MOTHER AND CHILD

Until recently, maternity and childbirth were regarded with considerable alarm and fear in our country. The reason lay in the fact that the midwife played the main part in the life of the expectant mother; she advised, delivered and took care of the baby afterwards. The Iraqi midwife, though very skilful, lacked knowledge in modern medicine.

This was in the past. Today the midwife no longer holds as important a position. Maternity Homes now play the main role in the life of mother and child. Their number has increased in Baghdad as well as in other cities of Iraq.

"New Iraq" paid a visit to one of these Homes one autumn day to bring to its readers a true picture of what the maternity homes in Iraq are doing in serving the Republic.

The Maternity Hospital in Kerrada:

The Kerrada Home was founded in 1952, beset with limitations. The number of childbirths did not exceed nine monthly. In 1957 it was moved to its present attractive site in Kerrada al-Sharqiya. After the Revolution the Home was equipped to handle all cases. Accordingly, the number of births rose to three hundred a month and the number of deaths became almost non-existent.

The services of this hospital have been extended to include the treatment of all obstetrical and gynaecologic diseases. The wards are of two classes: the second class, where a moderate fee is charged, with spe-

cial concessions for government officials, employees and workers, and the third class, where treatment is free. The hospital also has an out-patient clinic and a dispensary.

Lately, another hospital has been attached to the Kerrada Hospital — the Perdos Maternity Hospital — which was originally private, but has been taken over by the Government. It is an up-to-date hospital, equipped with the best modern therapeutic devices. A new building is under construction to house the maternity hospital; it will have seven floors and a bed capacity of 400.



Little Angel.

A doctor making her tour in the Maternity Hospital.



Al-Ferdes Hospital. Now a government owned hospital attached to the Maternity Hospital.



The pleasant gardens of al-Ferdes Hospital.



The new Maternity Hospital under construction: 7 floors, 400 beds.



SAMERRA TODAY

Samerra is a small town near Baghdad, built by the Eighth Abbasside Caliph "Al-Mu'tassam Billah" to be the capital of his Caliphate instead of Baghdad, in the beginning of the third century Hijri (9th A.D.). It expanded during the rule of its third Caliph "Al-Mutawakkel" and became a large city of world renown.

Short-lived Clory:

The fact that Baghdad was no longer the capital did not detract from its charm nor its leading position among the Abbasside countries. Before Samerra had reached its 50th year, Baghdad regained its power and political influence, and again became the capital of the Empire. Samerra's decline followed gradually. No efforts were made to maintain or renew its short-lived glory, and, in time, nothing of its prominence was extant. It remained neglected until recently, when the greatness of its hidden and almost for-

gotten heritage was brought to light. The Iraqi people rescued the last remnant of the city's Abbasside glory, and set to work to restore and preserve what was left — the famous "Milwiyah".

The Milwiyah was the minaret of the Mutawakkel's Mosque, of which only the massive outside walls still stand. It is 171 feet high, and rises on a square 1024 sq. m. base, but it narrows gradually to end in a 25 sq. m. top. This unusual minaret is built of bricks, and resembles, to a great extent, the ancient Babylonian temples, known as the Ziggurats.

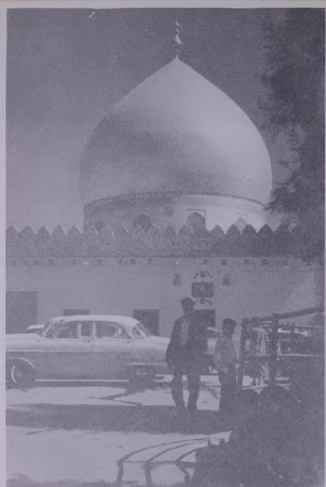
Samerra's Milwiyah attracts streams of visitors. There is a legend attached to the area: a belief that a visit to the minaret will bring good fortune, a belief generally accepted, especially by young maidens. One might see a young girl ascend the Milwiyah, make a wish, and spread her Aba (cloak) in the air letting it fall to the ground. If the cloak

spreads out on the ground, it is a good omen, — the wish comes true. One could find himself assailed by such a gliding Aba while contemplating the construction of the minaret — but perhaps that may also be regarded as a good omen!

Samerra's Charms:

Samerra is rich in scenery. Close by the Mutawakkel Mosque, a golden dome faces the sun. Under the dome are the tombs of two well known men in Samerra's history: "Al-Imam Ali Mohammed Al-Hadi" and his son "Al-Hassan", known as the "Soldier". The graves are adorned with illustrations and decorations in gold, silver, glass and crystal, so that in addition to being a holy Mausoleum, it is also considered one of the many fine artistic relics that Iraq prides herself of possessing.

Another of Samerra's attractions is the great "Tharthar Dam". Together with its 60 km. long canal



Sun and gold in Samarra.

and the lake attached to it, it forms the Tharthar Project. It is a magnificent piece of work, and is the first view that meets visitors to Samarra.

Thus the scenes vary in Samarra, the city that was originally named "Surra Man Ra'a" meaning "pleased he is who beholds." Today it has regained its beauty and is once again a pleasure to the heart.



Illustrations and decorations
in the Samarra Mosque.



Work on the Tharthar Dam necessitated changing the course of the Dijla River. The original course is seen here with the old bridge still standing as a monument from the past.



The first view a visitor to Samerra beholds is this side of the Tharthar Dam.



"Swan Lake" in South Gate — from Kamal Nasrallah Abdul Rahman.

READERS' ALBUM

Swaratuka Summer Resort — from Mohammed Amin Kaka.



The Steel Bridge in Altun Kupri — from Kader Nader.

Kerrada, Baghdad — from Walid Khalid.





Baghdad's "Wall Street", the New Bank Street where all banks and business offices are situated.



IRAQI ARTISTS

ABDUL REHMAN AL-GAILANI

- Born in 1928 in Baghdad.
- Attended evening courses at the Fine Arts Institute — Department of Sculpture — and graduated in 1952.
- Received his Law Degree the same year.
- Was granted a Ministry of Education scholarship to study sculpture in England at Camberwell College and afterwards at Chelsea College for Fine Arts, where he received his N.D.D. Degree.
- Returned home, and has been instructor of sculpture at the Fine Arts Institute in Baghdad since then ... He is also Acting Head of his department.
- Instructs students of architecture at the Engineering College in sculpture and history of art.
- Has taken part in several national and international exhibitions. One of his artistic achievements is the ceramic front of the entrance to the Central Bank of Iraq, and the sculptured pieces decorating the eastern side which present old and modern coins and various Iraqi symbols.
- In his style he prefers the modern school in sculpture, but is rather inclined to combine between abstract and realism.

