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SYMPOSIUM ON ZIONISM

BAGHDAD 8-12 NOV. 1976



**Date-palm Plantations  
in Southern Iraq**

**Iraq Today**



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The Intellectual Symposium on Zionism, Baghdad 8-13 November.

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Poster on the Intellectual Symposium on Zionism.

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**EDITORIAL**

**The  
Partition of Palestine**

The tragedy of our people in Palestine was enacted in a sequence of events complete with scenes, acts, on-stage and off-stage action. The prologue was the emergence of the Zionist movement sometime in late nineteenth century. The Arabs then were hardly thought of as a nation and if they were considered as one, this nation belonged to a past constituting studies for scholars and orientalists. The Zionist movement did not, however, specify the land in which the Jews of the world were to be settled. This pernicious movement that was to play havoc with the world was marching with tiny and imperceptible steps towards its goal. It gained momentum with the notorious Balfour Declaration. The Jewish emigration to Palestine was given legality by the power which gave the declaration. The Arabs in Palestine did not remain silent in the face of the menace and revolted many times against the occupying forces and against their policy of letting the Zionists entrench themselves in Palestine. But the Arabs were too weak and too divided to win their freedom from the then strong British imperialists. When the Second World War was won, many nations were aspiring to get their independence because that war was waged in the name of liberation. Again the Arabs were deceived as they were in the aftermath of the first one.

While self-determination was one of the most important principles on which the emerging world set its hopes, it turned out that liberation cannot be conducted by the force of principles alone. Liberation had to be fought for.

With the Zionist lobby in both Britain and America along with most of the West being very active and scheming, and as the Arabs were considered a negligible quantity, they were offered a proposal that no nation could accept at that moment of victory over the Nazi ages of darkness that threatened the world.

This was the partition plan. It was meant to be formulated for the purpose of being rejected so that the Zionists could go on with their designs not only against Palestine but against the Arabs as a whole.

There are now some defeatists who say that it would have been better for the Arab governments to have accepted the partition plan at the time. They little know the workings of history. A foreign body inside the Arab nation would have been as harmful as the enlarged body of "Israel" just now, for both stand in the way of Arab unification.

That the Arab masses even in 1947 rejected partition is a sign of their political awareness. It also revealed that their approach to Arab issues was based on the concept of unity. Palestine has always been the symbol of Arab unified efforts towards eventual unity and any surrender on that score would be an irrevocable act committing the whole Arab nation to perpetual fragmentation and abandoning the struggle for the integrity of their identity and their wholeness once and for all.





## The Two Revolutions

The liberation movement in the Arab homeland, which developed to be a militant progressive anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist revolution, is the distinctive form of the national progressive struggle at the present stage.

The 17 July Revolution of 1968 greatly stimulated the fierce struggle for national liberation which is now under way all over the Arab homeland. The Arab struggle after this triumphant revolution has intensified the battle for unity, freedom and socialism. This glorious revolution in scoring the brilliant success, laid the solid basis for the victory of the Arab nation against all its enemies. So imperialism and Zionism resorted to a variety of methods and tricks to weaken the Arab revolutionary movement.

Imperialism and Zionism are well aware that the scales began to be weighed against them, and their strategy received serious painful blows, so they attempted, for the strategic value of this area, to contain the liberation movements at first. But the triumphant march of the 17 July Revolution which accomplished many tasks on the level and corrected many shortcomings in the method of the Arab struggle has infuriated imperialism and Zionism who escalated their aggression to suppress the liberation movement in the Arab homeland in an attempt to reverse the tide. But the time in which world imperialism could twist the peoples round its finger has gone.

Imperialist schemings are being defeated, the uncompromising struggle for progress and liberation are scoring victories every day, and the role

of the 17 July Revolution has expanded in world politics, so it is natural that all these constituted a decisive factor to confirm solidarity and promote cordial links between the 17 July Revolution and the October Revolution.

It is noteworthy that the Iraqi-Soviet treaty of April 9, 1972, has been a firm basis for cooperation of Iraq with the U.S.S.R. and the socialist countries as a whole.

Cooperation between Iraq and the progressive countries holds a paramount importance in all fields to confront the imperialist schemings on the internal level. This cooperation has been possible because the two Revolutions are based on permanent principles...

The Arab nation is well aware of the historical role of the October Revolution in the world liberation movements, and the full support of the USSR to the national and patriotic forces in their struggle for freedom and progress.

It is obvious that there is an interdependence between the struggle for freedom and independence and the historical role of the progressive powers. So cooperation between the U.S.S.R. and the Arab nation will continue in the future in order to achieve strategic objective: the unconditional and inevitable end of imperialism, Zionism and all forms of suppression and aggression against humanity.

This is the forte of the popular struggle. It is the source of strength and the component of the popular historical victory.

(M. I.)



## International Symposium on Ideological Aspects of Zionism

The UN General Assembly adopted at its 30th session of 1975 resolution No. 3379, "Zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination". This resolution received world-wide acclamation as it exposed the nature of Zionism and the main structure of "Israel". To further acquaint public opinion with the ill-intentions of Zionism and its collaboration with world imperialism and racist movements an international symposium was held in Baghdad on November 8, 1976.

The symposium was held upon the initiative of the University of Baghdad in cooperation with the Arab Baath Socialist Party, the Centre of Palestinian Studies, and the Arab League.

The symposium was opened on behalf of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr by Mr. Saddam Hussein, Revolution Command Council Vice-Chairman, who delivered an impressive opening address in which he reaffirmed that United Nations resolution determining that Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination, came as a reflection of a significant evolution in the world's consciousness regarding the truth about Zionism and as an awakening of the conscience of mankind which constitutes a new springboard towards yet a higher level of facing up to the racist-Zionist hegemony and to all forms of racism in the world today.

Some 300 Arab and foreign researchers and academicians from 46 countries as well as representatives from many Arab and foreign news agencies, newspapers and magazines attended the conference.

40 research papers were introduced to the symposium.

According to Dr. Zaid Haider, ABSP National Leadership member, chairman of the symposium's preparatory committee, the aim of the symposium is "to deepen objective and scientific awareness of the Zionist movement based on fundamental studies and its dangers not only in relation to Arabs, but also for humanity and the Jews themselves.

The symposium had on its agenda several topics among which THE RACISM OF ZIONISM IN PRACTICE AND THEORY, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RACISM AND ZIONISM, THE HUMANISTIC NATURE OF ARAB NATIONALISM and others.

Commenting on the symposium and its effect in combatting Zionist racism, Professor N. K. Maian of Madras University, India, said "the symposium was undoubtedly a great ideological demonstration against one of the most serious problems currently facing mankind".

Mr. Valbrega, Professor of Near Eastern History at Polana University, Italy, described the symposium as "not only a political convention but also a historic and analytical gathering".

As for Mr. Ken Wittingham, member of the Commission to Defend the Liberation Movements in the Arab Gulf and the Commission to Support Palestinian Artists in the Occupied Land (both based in London) said, "the scientific and academic significance of the symposium lies in the fact that the true understanding of Zionism and racism has not yet taken a genuine shape and nature".

"Iraq Today" will carry in its next issue full coverage of the Symposium.



## Arab boycott movement intensified in the face of U.S. official challenge

The Zionist entity or what is called "Israel" is a foreign body transplanted by world imperialism and zionism into the heart of the Arab homeland against the will of Arab nation.

It is very natural that a safe and sound body like the Arab nation will tend to reject the transplantation of any body alien to its original structure. It will entirely refuse a surgical operation that is intended to make basic changes in its genuine shape.

The creation of the Zionist entity in Palestine by world imperialism at the aftermath of a foreign mandatory rule was an odd operation intended to enfeeble the whole Arab nation. But notwithstanding this imperialist scheming, the Arab people, highly dignified, hard-willed with glorious past and promising future, did not yield to the behest of the imperialists and Zionists nor did they recognize or peacefully co-exist with this foreign-planted, aggressive-expansionist entity of "Israel". They resisted all attempts aimed at perpetuating on this land this pro-imperialist, racist and puppet entity of "Israel". And one of the effective weapons used by the Arabs to fight the Zionist enemy is BOYCOTT.

Following the usurpation and partitioning of Palestine in 1948, the Arab League established an "Israel" boycott bureau as a legitimate means used by Arab countries to tighten the rope against the Zionist entity with view to weakening its economies and paralyzing its ability to expand

its relations with the external world.

In May, 1951, the Arab League Council adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of a bureau for the boycott of "Israel" in every Arab country under the supervision of a central bureau to be stationed in Damascus, Syria. The bureau began its activities late in 1951 and up to date it has held 40 conferences.

Since its establishment the "Israel Boycott Bureau" has been a source of severe headache to "Israel" and a target of intense campaigns by American press. It also engendered an abnormal reaction inside the American political circles. The campaign against the Arab Boycott reached its peak when President Gerald Ford made a statement describing the resolutions of the Arab boycott as "a discrimination paradoxical to the principles" of the United States and the Zionist entity. This enabled the US Congress to legislate an act providing for imposing heavy financial penalties on the companies adhering to the rules of boycott.

The boycott however was stronger than any hostile campaign. It achieved remarkable successes in its functions despite certain passivities. Best evidence to this is that 91 per cent of the American exporters have left dealing with the Zionist entity and have abided by the rules of the Boycott Bureau.

Throughout their 25 years of life the "Israel" Boycott Bureaus held a series of meetings and



Mr. Saddam Hussein, RCC Vice Chairman, receiving on October 28 Mr. Mohammed Mahjoub, Commissioner General of the Arab Boycott of "Israel" Bureau and Arab participants in the 40th meeting of liaison officers of the bureau.

conferences to consider and evaluate their previous activities and redraw or reorganize new procedures and measures which might make the boycott operation more effective. Up to date the Boycott Bureau held 40 conferences.

### "ISRAEL" BOYCOTT CONVENES IN BAGHDAD

The 40th conference of the Liaison Officers of Arab Bureaus of Boycott of "Israel" was opened in Baghdad on October 18 to 28 to discuss as part of its agenda the counter measures which the Zionist entity takes to meeting the Arab boycott, influence the activity of the Zionists in the United States, the requests made by a number of international firms for removing their names from the blacklists after their abstinence by boycott rules and other topics.

Held under the chairmanship of Arab Boycott Commissioner General Mr. Mohammed Mahjoub, the conference was opened by Iraqi Minister of Foreign Trade Mr. Hikmat Ibrahim who delivered a comprehensive speech on the occasion.

In his speech Mr. Ibrahim reaffirmed that Iraq had always backed the initiatives leading to effective economic boycott against the Zionist entity and serving the supreme objectives of our Arab nation to liberate the usurped land of Palestine. He emphasized that the boycott was very effective and kept the Zionist entity in isolation from the world except a number of imperialist countries. "The best clue is the recent United States legislations" taken in a desperate attempt to weaken the Arab boycott against the Zionists.

According to a report submitted by the Commissioner General to the conference 4000 out of 6000 companies have severed economic relations

with the Zionist entity and started commercial and economic activities with Arab countries. He declared, "This positive result reflects the efficacy of Arab boycott against the Zionist entity and its effect on foreign corporations and companies".

Most US big companies have abided by the rules of the boycott and stopped making any commercial transactions with "Israel", the Commissioner General added.

The conference, which concluded on October 23, adopted the following resolutions and recommendations:

1. Arab states are required to adhere to and respect rules of the boycott.
2. The Arab states unanimously insist not to deal with American institutions or companies which do not adhere to Arab boycott under the pretext that their domestic laws prevent them. "The boycott will resolutely reject any foreign acts aiming at curbing its activity".
3. The boycott announced that the natural and logical reply to any American institution or company which do not adhere to the rules of boycott under the pretext that it cannot violate the domestic laws is to deprive it of any economic activity in the Arab countries. It will also be prevented from importing raw materials from Arab countries or markets.
4. The conference also adopted a number of counter measures aimed at putting an end to any Zionist blackmailing backed by influential Zionist personalities. It also adopted a series of actions giving further impetus to the Arab boycott movement.



## Dr. Hammadi analyses aspects of Lebanese crisis in Cairo Summit

Dr. Saadoun Hammadi, the Foreign Minister and head of the Iraqi delegation, while addressing the Arab Summit Conference held in Cairo, explained on October 25 last the reasons that led Iraq to reject the resolutions of the recently concluded six-sided Riyadh Summit Conference.

Dr. Hammadi pointed out that the Riyadh resolutions did not go to the core of the Lebanese problem — the problem of the Syrian military pre-



## Syrian Armed Intervention is the Real Problem

sence in Lebanon — nor did they provide for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanese territory. These were, he said, a fundamental issue without which the problem could not be properly approached.

The formulation of the Riyadh resolutions did not follow the conventional pattern in use by the Arab League. Furthermore, he said, the provisions of the agreement were inconsistent with one another and in a state of imbalance.

Dr. Hammadi in his address also reiterated Iraq's belief in the role of the Arab League in handling the Lebanese issue, and pointed to the resolutions which the Arab Foreign Ministers had adopted on June 10 this year, providing for a ceasefire and the establishment of an Arab force to replace the Syrian forces in Lebanon. He said that all Arab states had approved those resolutions.

Dr. Hammadi pointed out that the main cause of the Lebanese crisis was the Syrian intervention. He strongly expressed the necessity that the principle of non-acceptance of occupation of any Arab country by another Arab country should prevail, and that this principle should form the basis for

inter-Arab relations, to be safeguarded by all without any compromise.

The Foreign Minister explained that the Syrian intervention would not solve the Lebanese crisis; it, on the contrary, increased the complexity of the situation, resulting in bloodshed and overall destruction in Lebanon which had repercussions throughout the Arab homeland and the world at large. He pointed out that this military intervention was not a neutral one to disengage fighting parties or effecting a ceasefire; it rather was against a party and in favour of another.

Dr. Hammadi went on to say there were two aspects of the Lebanese issue; the first was the socio-political struggle in Lebanon which was an internal Lebanese affair, and the second was the Lebanese-Palestinian aspect, from which certain forces had moved, backed by their leaderships and foreign connection, towards pushing the Resistance out of Lebanon, driving it away from its basic tasks.

Concluding, Dr. Hammadi said that the key to solving this issue was the pulling out of Syrian forces, to be replaced by Arab forces.

## The United Nations: A Qualified Success

The United Nations came into being on 24 October, 1945, in the wake of the Second World War "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war... to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women, and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of economic and social advancement of all peoples".

How many of those aims have been realised during the past thirty-one years of the life of the United Nations? Iraq being one of the fifty-one states which founded the United Nations, upholds the essence of the United Nations' Charter though it has many reservations on the attitude taken by the UN toward the Arab cause of Palestine and other causes of national liberation. Iraq has the strong conviction that if the Charter is put into practice without the interference of imperialism led by the United States, peace, justice and cooperation will prevail in this world.

In the first two decades or so of the life of the UN the imperialist countries had their upper hand in every question debated by the various committees of the UN. According to the imperialist wishes all recommendations and resolutions were adopted. But now, the UN is no longer the "preserve" of the United States. Even some outspoken American officials called for reconsidering the U.S. attitude toward the United Nations and even its financing. This is because the UN no

longer listens to the dictates of U.S., and because the majority of 145 UN member-states are the newly independent African countries, backed by the other developing nations in Asia and Latin America. The Third World presence in the UN has been remarkably felt in the recent years because the Third World countries are in the majority and the UN should naturally care for their interest if it truly lives up to its Charter.

That the UN General Assembly and other committees pass resolutions totally contrary to the attitude of the U.S. and its imperialistic interests and its stooges, is something unprecedented and very hard for the U.S. to swallow. The American threats every now and then to reconsider financing the UN does not appear strange against this background.

No doubt the UN Charter and set-up do not provide for a certain power or instrument to implement its resolutions. It is not a supra-national organisation which can act as a policeman in maintaining peace among nations. No wonder that "Israel" or South Africa acts in such a way that not only violates the UN Charter and human rights, but poses as a permanent menace to world peace and security. With the exception of some UN forces policing the so-called buffer zones in the Middle East, Korea and Cyprus, the UN is armless and perhaps powerless. Still it has an effective weapon of economic sanctions, but it also needs a body to see to its full implementation against the states not abiding by the UN resolutions.

Politically ineffective as the UN looks, it remains as one of the greatest forums for nations, large or small, to express their views, make their legal demands and speak up their justified complaints. Still more the UN is playing an important role in advancing cooperation in such wide range of fields as, health, agriculture, education, culture, science and even outer space. The UN positive presence is felt even in the remotest corner of the world in the form of food aid or other specialized services rendered by the respective UN agencies.

Whatever its shortcomings the UN proved more useful, successful and fortunate than the League of Nations. Thus the 31st anniversary of the United Nations which was observed throughout the world on 24 October last, is worth celebrating.



Jimmy Carter

## Two Sides of a Coin

by M. Sadeq Ali

The last presidential polls in the United States was fought primarily on domestic issues. The post-Watergate morality contributed substantially to help the average American voter decide which party to vote for. The Republicans had to bow out in the contest. As for the candidates, the ordinary citizen had little to choose between the two medocres.

In recent years the average American has witnessed corrosion of his values. He has been shocked to see that base human instincts are being played up on the level of the state — the highest form of social organisation of man. He has revolted against the assault on his privacy. He has felt aghast at the institutionalization of crime as a mode of governance. His head has hung in shame to see murders, assassinations and bribery being practised as methods of international intercourse. He has been grieved at the spilling of the blood of his dear children in far away places without any cause.



Gerald Ford

The results of the elections of the first Tuesday of November, 1976, are the manifestations of the average American's reaction to all these malaise in US Administration. It is an accident of history that the Republican Party was at the helm of affairs at the particular period and that was why it had to go. It will be naive to think that the



Henry Kissinger

voters have reposed confidence in the Democratic Party; they have only expressed their aversion to the rot that has plagued the Administration. This is essentially a negative verdict of the average voter.

Mr. Jimmy Carter, the President-elect, who enters upon office on January 20 next, will have to take his policy initiatives keeping in mind this negative aspect of his election victory. If he can rise to the expectations of his ordinary voters, he may turn these negative aspects into positive features giving the American people a sense of direction. Or else, he will only add his name to the long list of US Presidents, Democrat or Republican, barring one or two honourable exceptions, who debased their mighty prerogatives at the behest of a handful of persons in US society who control big money causing concern both at home and abroad.

### Past records recalled

To the people outside the United States of America, the change of party nomenclature of the incumbent of the White House does not make much of a difference. A Democrat Truman was primarily responsible for threatening the world with cold war politics; for subverting the sovereignty of post-war West European nations by imposing on them the North Atlantic military alliance, for cajoling the majority members of the United Nations into partitioning Palestine and giving the green signal to the racist Zionism to launch a war of aggression against the Arab nation as a whole, and for unleashing a war on Korea which had already been devastated by the Axis Powers' savagery. His

successor, a Republican Eisenhower, enchained a large number of nations by military pacts and alliances under the pretext of containing communism, encouraged from behind the scenes the Zionists and Anglo-French colonialists to mount the Suez aggression, sought to subjugate the people of Indo-China who had just overthrown the French colonial power and physically intervened in Lebanon against the will of its people. The record of the two subsequent Democratic Party Presidents is no brighter either. While Kennedy brought the world on the brink of an atomic war by his Cuban adventure, Johnson pursued his predecessor's Indo-China policy more vigorously to subdue the Vietnamese people. The savage bombing of the Gulf of Tonkin betrayed the mafia mentality of a President. During Johnson's Administration a number of popular leaders of Asia, Africa and Latin America were violently overthrown with the direct or indirect connivance of this or that organ of the US Government only because these leaders did not agree to serve the US global interest at the cost of their own national interest. To crown all these crimes came the treacherous aggression on Arab land in June, 1967, by the Zionists who were armed to the teeth by the Johnson Administration. Vast areas of Arab territories including the remaining half of Palestine were occupied by the Zionists with the economic, political and military assistance of a Democratic Administration. The miseries of the Palestinian people further increased and the racist nature of the Zionists was exposed to the world when the lands of the forcibly displaced Arabs were grabbed by the Zionists to make room for the exclusive settlements of the Zionists.

Again entered the Republican into the White House. During Nixon's one and a half terms of office the balance of forces in the international arena tilted against imperialist hegemony. The national liberation movements gained unprecedented momentum. The Non-aligned nations asserted themselves much more vigorously against the politics of blackmail resorted to by aggressive military alliances. The newly independent countries refused to be brow-beaten at the United Nations and other international forums. The anti-imperialist alliance of the socialist and non-socialist countries was strengthened. The struggle of the most acutely suffered people of the present era, that of the Palestinians, grew from strength to strength. Most African people threw off their colonial yoke. The much publicized Vietnamization experiment failed. The Arabs regained their self-confidence in the latest war with the Zionists and in their battle against oil monopolies. Even the Americans them-



selves dared speak out, protest and parade streets against the Administration's certain policies.

#### New Situation, New Tactics

Nixon was intelligent enough to be able to read the writings on the wall. The US interest in the international field called for a change in tactics. Therefore, a master tactician, Henry Kissinger, was allowed to play all his tricks. In order to steal the limelight from the Vietnam peace marches at home, he rushed to Paris to earn for himself Nobel peace prize. He successfully hid the fingers that triggered the assassin gun in different parts of the globe to silence the voices of national dignity. He was instrumental in changing the course of the October war in favour of the Zionists; and at the same time, donning the Arabian outfit in a Lawrence of Arabia fashion, he was able to attract kisses from his Arab "friends".

But, in spite of his intellectual accomplishments he failed to learn the lesson from the Vietnamization fiasco. He tried, late in the day, the same tactics again: let the Arabs fight the Arabs. He picked up a few Thieus of Nol Lons in the Arab world and set them to liquidate the Palestinian resistance and its allies so that he found a safe atmosphere for implementing his grand design of destroying Arab revolutionary spirit so as to enable "Israel" live in eternal peace. The tactical area became Lebanon because of its strategic location and importance. The Nixon tactician got full support from the President's handpicked successor, Ford.

But time was against Kissinger as it was against Nixon. And poor Ford could not even assume the stature of a White House incumbent. The ghosts of Watergate, Palestine, Vietnam, Cambodia, inflation, unemployment, oil price, Arab boycott of "Israel", European non-conformism, the threat of end to white racist and economic supremacy in Africa, Third World audacity, — all were lurking in every nook and corner. And above all, the average American citizen who cannot be made to believe in the fairy tale that his security is dependent on the liquidation of the Palestinians or the survival of an anti-people Park Chung Hee or the physical liquidation of an Allende or on the annihilation of patriotic forces in Lebanon, Thailand and elsewhere, is now growingly realizing the absurdity of the policies being pursued by the people at the helm of his country's affairs.

#### Watchful Eye on Jimmy Carter

Under these conditions and in the background of these events Mr. Jimmy Carter enters upon the

US Presidency with the flag of the Democratic Party in his hand and the legacy of the post-Second World War Presidents behind him. He can create or miscreate conditions for the good or the bad of the American people in particular and the people of the world in general. Every step of his is being watched by the people of the world outside. His pre-election speeches could not be dismissed as sheer electioneering. And his post-November 2 speech has already come under the scrutiny of the world public opinion.

Mr. Carter has already made it known that he is not the kind of leader who will dare break from the past. He has given "Israel" the assurance that it can expect all the arms and money it needs to "live in peace". But he has not warned the Zionist entity against disturbing other's peace. The continued occupation of Arab territories, the usurpation of Palestine, practising aggressive racism in the occupied land — these factors that are likely to disturb the peace have not been taken into account by the President-elect. He has held out another assurance that his Administration will strengthen the bonds of friendship with the "traditional allies" of US. It is a clear indication that he will try to revive the relationship of the cold war period or the Eisenhower Doctrine: if you are not with me, you are against me. If that be the case, he will try in vain to reverse the verdict of contemporary history. In the changing world of today his dependence on the so-called "traditional allies" will only polarize international forces and hasten the eventual victory of the traditional enemies of imperialism.

#### Other Burning Issues:

The world will eagerly look forward to see what course of action Mr. Carter charts out for his administration on some of the other burning international issues like (a) disarmament, (b) energy and general economic crisis, (c) the lasting solution of the Middle East problem and (d) the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity.

Mr. Carter did not try to hide his intentions behind the smokescreen of diplomatic nonsense. He has bluntly said that he thinks the Soviet Union "respects America's strength". He sounds like an Eisenhower who harped on the theme of talking to the Soviets from a "position of strength". This attitude of Mr. Carter will not lead him any further than where his predecessors were marking time in respect of disarmament and strategic arms

limitation talks. If Mr. Carter goes on increasing the U.S. strength in order to gain Soviet respect, the consequent arms race will logically proceed on two parallel lines. Mr. Carter certainly does not expect the Soviets cry a halt unilaterally and stare at the awful majesty of the US military might with a word of admiration in their eyes.

The same attitude is likely to influence Mr. Carter's approach towards the US military bases. On this issue also Mr. Carter does not seem to be willing to revise the policy of his predecessors in spite of the universal demand of the forces of peace for the dismantling of these bases, particularly those in the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean. If Mr. Carter has already decided upon his course, then the other forces — those of the peace-loving world — will have to decide theirs in order to mobilize international public opinion so as to make the demand of dismantling the bases irresistible.

The new US President will have to tackle the problem of the world economic imbalance and the pleadings of the United Nations and Non-aligned countries to introduce a New International Economic Order. To put the blame at the door of the oil producing countries for the present world economic imbalance is an attempt at oversimplifying the issue. The present economic system based on the theory and practice of plunder and exploitation of primary-producer countries, is incompatible with the imperative task of bringing about economic emancipation of the overwhelming majority of peoples of the world. The UNCTAD-IV sessions held last May in Nairobi and the Fifth Non-aligned Nations Summit Conference held in Colombo in August this year came out with a number of concrete recommendations in this respect. The Paris Conference on International Economic Cooperation will also resume its sessions shortly. It is time the United States adopt a more realistic and objective policy towards this issue. Otherwise, the Third World countries, in cooperation with their friends among the developed ones, will have to carry forward their own battle for their economic survival through to the end.

On the question of the Middle East Arab-Zionist conflict Mr. Carter has already made his views known which are not different from those who have taken one or two steps towards another spell of "no war, no peace" stalemate. However, it is a welcome sign that the issue formed part of

the issues of national debate in the US and the ordinary man there, for the first time, heard his leaders discuss the question. However one-sided the debate might be, it will certainly leave some impact on the common men who are not incorrigibly against the just cause of the Arabs in the conflict. The persistent struggle of the Arabs has brought about a change in the situation. So long as the Arabs will continue to persevere in struggle, their cause will be better understood and appreciated.

The Arab boycott of the Zionists in commercial dealings has also found place in the US national debate. To the Arabs, boycott is a legitimate form of struggle against their belligerent enemy. Mr. Carter could have kept from the fighting arena had he been a bonafide third party. But he did not; he has taken up his position against the Arabs and threatened to take legal measures to bar any American company that is willing to abide by the rules of the Arab boycott. He has also declared that any future oil embargo will be deemed to be an economic war. The oil producers, however, have lived through the threat of physical occupation of oil fields in the wake of the imposition of oil embargo. Mr. Carter has only rephrased what Dr. Kissinger had already declared. The Arabs will choose their own weapon at the appropriate time against their enemy. And while using their weapon they will take only one factor into consideration: its effectiveness in the war. Mr. Carter's frantic reaction to a hypothetical embargo speaks highly of the effectiveness of oil weapon. Whether it will be used or not, only the given situation can tell.

Whatever may be the intentions of a US President, be he a Democrat or a Republican, be he a Ford or a Carter, the basic contradiction between imperialism and the forces of peace, progress and national independence remains unchanged. And this contradiction can be resolved only through intensifying the struggle and clinching final victory against imperialism. So long as the US will continue to follow imperialist designs, change of face will not initiate any change in policy. Priorities may be redefined, emphasis may be shifted, but the fundamental direction of the state will remain the same. Those who are on the other side of the fence, are well aware of this basic equation. They will not be duped only by a new face.

By Moheyeddin Ismail

## People's Aspirations Fulfilled

It goes without saying that one of the prominent features of our epoch is the emergence of the newly liberated countries. But this fact is being accompanied by some deep qualitative changes which are taking place in the world historical process. Among these qualitative changes the new drastic shift in the historical process has made the world balance, in many aspects, tilt in favour of developing countries. In the past few years some important changes have also taken place in the development of the national liberation movements which accelerated changes in the socio-political structure in many parts of the world especially the Third World, according to the requirements of the age.

The fruitful cooperation among those newly liberated countries is playing an increasing role in the efforts to build their new society and solve the problems of development and dynamic progress. Some of these countries are doing better than some of the developed capitalist countries as regards many characteristics or prospects of their economics. These countries began to have a high rate of growth and planned national tasks which can better place the material natural resources at the service of their peoples, while the Western countries are suffering from economic crises and convulsions.

This is one of the central issues in the modern age.

Faced with the awful and gloomy prospects, the West has viewed the future with natural alarm. The present rate of economic growth in the West, which was supposed to give more and more outcomes, disappointed all optimistic estimates in solving the problems of production. Mass unemployment, squalor, instability, failure of price-controls and failure in breaking bottlenecks, social and political instability, and even the possibility of the collapse of the major economic plans in the West are now the imminent and most severe and urgent character.

But what are the factors which have the primary role behind all these acute convulsions in the West?

Some Western analysts and writers try to impose their own views ignoring the substance of the problem. Those advocates of the socio-economic order of the West are trying hard to camouflage the essence of the Western crisis, by accusing the Third World, especially those countries which slashed the oil weapon against the West.

But it was quite evident from the very beginning of this crisis that it is not an ordinary phenom-

enon, because it is inextricably and organically interconnected with the general crisis of the economic order of the West. It is not an ordinary phenomenon, since it is the outcome of the historical stage of the contradictions suffered by the Western imperialist countries which are spending billions and billions of dollars on maintaining their military installations of various kinds, besides the internal crisis of the Western economic order which gripped the whole systems of the West. Ignoring the real substantial facts, the advocates and the policy-makers of the West began their move to soften the impact of the energy crisis as a step towards solving the fatal general crisis in the Western imperialist countries. They have been well aware that the reaction of the public opinion of the West is shocked and concerned. So, they tried to explain to the public that the resources of the energy will not be exhausted in the near future, but they only need a proper organisation and new capital investment to bring them again to plentiful use. They attempted to explain that the ups and downs of energy should serve to strengthen the Western stand in general against those new movements in the Third World which are behind all these crises in the West. But what is more important is that all their explanations and examinations of their present crisis could not conduct new initiatives to solve the present difficulties of the socio-economic order of the West. They could not identify the options for the future either.

However, a careful analysis of the whole crisis of the West leads to the conclusion that the West is not likely to get even close to self-sufficiency, rather it will become increasingly dependent on Arab oil imports. Even the shift to coal, nuclear power, synthetic fuels and other unconventional energy sources will not serve to solve the problem of the energy crisis in the West.

All these premises explain the spasmodic reaction in the imperialist quarters towards the historical decision of the Iraqi political leadership in nationalizing the natural resources of the country.

This decision has been the outcome of the historical battle the political leadership encountered with success and paved the way for enhancing the well-being of the people and achieving the rapid planned rehabilitation and development of the economy of the country.

The task is arduous and complex, but the future is with the struggling people...

The aspirations of the people shall be realised to the full, and the age shall witness the eclipse of imperialism and monopolies.



## A CASE FOR READJUSTMENT



## Economic Imbalance and Price of Oil

by Kamal Butti

Strangely enough the Western economists and specialised press circles are making every effort to lay the blame for the energy "crisis" on the oil producing countries for adopting a policy of limitation and regulation of extraction and for raising oil prices.

In their accusations, Western oil quarters try to forget the fact that over a prolonged period of time international oil monopolies employed the concession system with the object of plundering the oil-producing countries. In 1970, multi-national oil monopolies secured 90 per cent of the oil output in Venezuela, 83 per cent in Iran, 100 per cent in Nigeria and 80 per cent in Indonesia. In the Arab countries, they controlled 77 per cent of the total oil output.

The international monopolies have pocketed fantastic profits from Arab and non-Arab oil. According to the U.S. "Foreign Affairs Journal", in the recent past the oil producing countries received 18 per cent of the profits while the concessionaries retained 82 per cent. The journal added that the economic miracle in the West was possible thanks to the actual subsidies from the oil producing countries which in most cases are poor countries. And now, the western press are calculating how much the oil producing countries, and especially some Arab countries, will gain after the success-

ful rises in the prices of oil. They are inclined to forget that these countries have for many decades been financially backing the industrially advanced capitalist states. Suffice it to mention that the rate of profit from Middle Eastern oil reached 500 per cent at times, knowing that the cost of oil extracted in the Arabian Gulf is only five per cent of that of American oil. In recent years, the multinational oil monopolies have been netting an average profit of 3,000 million U.S. dollars a year from Middle East oil.

For many years the West compelled the oil producing countries to sell oil at very low prices. This is the reason of their impoverishment and backwardness. It is a well known fact that the economic boom in the West was largely achieved through the exploitation of these countries.

Time and again the developing countries have said that the oil problem is only a part of the general problem confronting the whole of the Third World, namely, that of the relation of prices of raw materials to those of manufactured goods. They stress that this problem should be solved through the coordinated efforts of all the countries. The justice of this demand is evident from the data of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. It was stated that in the last decade alone the African countries suffered a loss of about 6,000 million dollars as a result of non-equivalent exchange in trade with the West. It follows that the



higher price of oil will compensate only to a certain degree for the losses the developing countries suffer as a result of buying manufactured goods from the advanced industrialised countries at arbitrary prices.

It is quite obvious then that the struggle of the developing countries for the right to dispose of their oil and other raw material resources as they see it fit, is actually a fight for economic independence and political sovereignty. The escalating national liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America and the emergence of young national



states naturally affect the raw material market, and the oil market above all.

In 1960, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was established, thus marking a turning point in the long struggle of the oil-producing countries for their just right to control their natural wealth. OPEC member-states were able to increase their share in the profits of their oil considerably. Higher oil prices meant higher incomes for the OPEC members. This paved the way for the solution of the problem of accumulation. In the past it was the monopolies that appropriated the larger part of the national incomes of these countries. Now the income derived from the exploitation of the oil resources is being used in the interest of the oil producing countries themselves. This marks an important step towards consolidating their socio-economic build up.

It goes without saying that owing to the ever-increasing depreciation of the U.S. dollar, the posted price of oil nearly trebled in late 1973 as compared to the 1970 level, leading to a rise in the market price by 17 per cent.

It is not a secret any more that following every price increase, the oil monopolies not only manage to keep their profits at the same level, but also increase them. At the same time, to divert

the attention of the world public from their sordid speculations, the oil companies shift the blame for the energy difficulties and high prices onto the shoulders of the oil producing countries.

Oil price increases are the lawful right of the oil producing countries because they are designed to establish a normal relation between the raw material and manufactured product prices and to compensate for the losses suffered by the developing countries as a result of the inflation gripping the capitalist world at present.

#### POLITICAL WEAPON

Western political and press circles raised a hullabaloo during the October War of 1973 when the Arabs used oil as a political weapon in the Arab-Zionist conflict with a view to eliminating the consequences of the Zionist aggression. These circles blamed the Arabs for the economic difficulties which had arisen in the industrially advanced capitalist countries. The American "Newsweek" magazine went to the extent of sounding an alarm claiming that the Arabs were threatening to explode "the economic temple" of the industrial countries. The Belgian paper "La Dernière Heure" called on the Western powers to lose no time in launching direct armed intervention against the oil producing regions. The argument that using oil to achieve political ends is "unlawful" and even "immoral" is but a hypocritical charge!

It is universally acknowledged that the conflict in the Middle East is largely conditioned by the interests of the multi-national oil monopolies that sought to preserve the "status quo" in the oil situation there and to ensure maximum profits from the exploitation of Arab oil. It is also a well known fact that in an effort to retain their imperialist privileges the colonialists repeatedly resorted to methods of economic blockade and to military coups in the oil producing countries and in particular the Arab countries. The imperialists did not spare any method to establish and strengthen their rule in the Arab homeland. Why, then, do they claim that it is "immoral" of the Arab people to use oil as an instrument for strengthening their national independence and for exerting pressure on the West to eliminate the consequences of "Israeli" aggression? What the imperialists and monopolies do not like is that some Arab states, with Iraq in the forefront, have realised the slogan "Arab oil for the Arabs" in their laws on the nationalisation of the natural wealth and on the establishment of national oil companies.

The collective measures taken by the Arab states on October 17, 1973, to exert pressure on the Western countries to put an end to the Zionist aggression and the overtly pro-Israeli stand have

caused certain countries to make important political reappraisals. Several West European countries displayed a realistic approach to the situation; they said they were prepared to recognise the lawful rights of the Arab countries. The West European business quarters are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that they have to find a common language for dealing with the Arab countries. This approach was reflected in the position adopted by the heads of states and governments of the Common Market countries at a meeting held in Copenhagen in December, 1973.

The enforcement of the oil embargo and adoption of other measures including military and political levers for exerting pressure on the aggressor and his patrons produced a definite effect. It should be borne in mind that such measures as complete or partial oil nationalisation, particularly in Iraq, have seriously undermined the position of the multi-national oil monopolies in the Middle East. The oil weapon is only one of the means to further strengthen Arab's independence.

#### KEY TO PROSPERITY

Oil is still the decisive factor in the socio-economic development process taking place in Iraq. It is still the major factor financing the said process. Oil will continue to play this role for a considerable period of time to come, that is, until the solid foundations and props of the national economy are firmly laid and built guaranteeing the diversity of resources and realising comprehensive prosperity for the people. Accordingly, the main task of the government is to utilise oil income in the all-inclusive socio-economic development operation.

The oil monopolies, during their domination of Iraq oil, endeavoured very hard to keep Iraq's oil industry backward in all its branches. The people of Iraq therefore waged a relentless struggle against this discriminatory policy and succeeded in achieving the liberation of oil resources through nationalisation on June 1, 1972. The underlying purpose of all these efforts was to bring the oil resources under national sovereignty and putting them at the service of economic development for the welfare of the people.

Oil revenue forms the largest proportion of the state's ordinary investment programmes budgets. And because oil is a temporary source of income and is apt to stop flowing one day, Iraq is trying to exploit it most efficiently and judiciously in order to see to it that it goes on gushing for the longest possible time.

The so-called claim that Iraq is accumulating thousands of millions of petrodollars as a result of higher oil prices, i.e. an idle surplus, is a fallacy. The current comprehensive development plans,

all aiming at accelerating the pace of socio-economic progress of the country to cope with the advanced countries in the shortest possible time, require the utilisation of every dollar obtained from oil revenue. The profits obtained from higher oil prices are exaggerated as far as Iraq is concerned. True, the country's income from the sale of oil is on the increase; but due to the inflationary trend currently sweeping the advanced industrialised countries, this "surplus" is being re-pumped into these countries through the mere fact of the ever-increasing prices of industrial goods which Iraq is importing for its development projects. It is an established fact that the present curve on the graph of Western exported industrial goods has risen by 20-50 points compared to last year's pointers. Ultimately, this will "force" the oil producing countries on their part to raise the oil price to ensure a fair balance of payment and to make up for the differences in import prices.

The oil producing countries, and the developing countries in general, should not be allowed to fall victim to the economic instability and social unrest experienced by the capitalist system. It can hardly be maintained that the crisis phenomena as the monetary chaos, curtailment of production in several capitalist countries, soaring unemployment, declining purchasing power, mounting cost of living, etc., are solely due to the rise in oil prices, or the "energy crisis" as the Western media put it. This crisis has objectively confirmed that the capitalist system is in sharp contradiction with technological progress. The contradiction stems from the fact that production relations are too narrow to support developing technology. This results in the sharpening rivalry for markets, the widening gap between demand and supply (particularly as regards oil products), inflation and general monetary upheavals.

To avoid an aggravated "energy crisis" and economic recessions throughout the world, it is high time to seriously work on the reconstruction of the present international economic relations on the principles of equal and mutually advantageous cooperation. The developing countries, voicing their grievances in the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in April, 1974, upheld their legitimate rights and interests in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

The solution of the most urgent problem of raw materials and economic development facing mankind is possible only on the basis of equal and mutually advantageous cooperation. In this way the vital problems of economic development and national independence of the Third World countries can be resolved and world peace can be maintained.

## NEWS IN PICTURES



Comrade Shibly al-Aysami, Assistant Secretary General of the ABSP, receiving on October 30, comrade Abdul Aziz Sally, President of the Mauritanian National Assembly and member of the Political Bureau of the Mauritanian People's Party.



At Baghdad International Airport:  
Mr. Saddam Hussein, RCC Vice Chairman, welcoming on November 6, Mr. Manca Manescu, Prime Minister of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania. Mr. Manescu arrived in Baghdad on a few days official visit to Iraq.



President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr visiting the Holy Shrines in Kerbala on October 2. President Bakr also visited the Holy Shrines in Najaf and Babylon.



Comrade Zaid Haider, member of the National Leadership of ABSP, receiving on November 3, Mrs. Fanny Adelman, Secretary General of the World Federation of Democratic Women.



## IMPERIALIST SCHEMINGS IN INDIAN OCEAN

World imperialism headed by American imperialism has been trying by all means at its disposal including military threat to impose its domination over the strategic zones in the world and bring their peoples under its sphere of influence.

The United States recently has been focussing its aggressive strategy on the Indian Ocean and threatening the security and stability of the littoral and hinterland countries. To the United States, the Indian Ocean region has a special significance which lies in its economic and military importance, its rich fields of oil and other raw materials.

These unique factors have prompted the United States to expand its military bases and reinforce its fleets in the ocean. The build-up of strong military force and heavily reinforced air and marine bases coupled with the storage of nuclear weapons in Diego Garcia Island in the centre of the Indian Ocean testify to the designs of US in the region.

The Indian Ocean is a vast lake of 75 million sq. kms in area with three continents, namely, Africa, Asia and Australia overlooking it. It is a link for Anglo-American military activity, between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean on the one hand and the Pacific on the other. In 1966 the US and Britain concluded a bilateral agreement whereby Ameri-

ca was granted the right to use the Diego Garcia island for 50 years.

### Economic Importance of Indian Ocean

From the economic view point the countries overlooking the Indian Ocean are very rich in natural resources. Therefore, the Western monopoly companies endeavour to perpetuate their exploitation of the riches of these countries. In addition to the fabulous oil reserves the region is very rich in rubber, jute, tea, gold, diamond, copper, manganese and other numerous raw materials from which the monopoly companies are reaping huge profits.

### Struggle of the Region's People

Notwithstanding the imperialist attempts to perpetuate their presence in the region the peoples of the littoral and hinterland countries are intensifying their struggle for turning the Ocean region into a zone of lasting peace. In the 1955 Bandung Summit Conference, the participants called for the Indian Ocean to be a zone of peace on the grounds that it formed a direct link between the African and Asian continents. A similar resolution was adopted in the 1964 Cairo Non-alignment Summit. The Cairo Conference denounced all acts by imperialist states to build up military bases in the region which "will consequently lead to upset the secu-

rity and stability here". As for the 5th Non-alignment Summit recently held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, it again urged the United Nations to ensure that the region in made a zone of peace.

In 1971 the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution No. 3832 declaring that the Indian Ocean be a zone of peace and that the Big Powers desist from establishing military bases on its shores or islands. In 1972 the General assembly adopted another resolution setting up an 18-nation commission entrusted with task of "studying practical arrangements for rendering Indian Ocean a zone of peace".

This proves that peoples of the region have been intensifying their struggle to secure peace and stability in the region with view to warding off the ghost of war which might turn into nuclear holocaust destroying the whole zone. It also proves that the future of imperialist schemings is doomed to failure specially after the rise of the Third World countries as an effective power in the world.

Nevertheless the peace-loving forces in the world are required to concert their efforts and to stand firm against any attempts by imperialist circles that threaten the stability of the Indian Ocean region and seek to impose foreign imperialist domination.

## THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY

# The Iraqi Armed Forces in the October War

by F. el-Manssoury

On the strength of resolutions reached by the Joint Arab Defence Council meeting in Cairo in January, 1973, Iraq dispatched to Egypt two squadrons of Hawker Hunter ground assault aircraft. Egypt received this wing complete with its



## Part III the Air Force in the Battle: The Sinai Front

pilots and ground control personnel and it was attached to Egyptian air force bases. The agreement reached by the two governments within the framework of the Joint Arab Defence Council provided the Egyptian command with permission to use the two squadrons whenever it saw fit to do so, without first having to refer to Baghdad. Iraq placed all its war potential at the service of the Arab nation, although it was not consulted about the timing of the zero hour.

In the air attacks preceding and accompanying the crossing of the Suez Canal by the Egyptian land forces, the Iraqi wing took active part in the assaults on enemy bases and communications. One squadron was assigned to the Egyptian Second Army as its air arm, while the other served in the same capacity with the Egyptian Third Army. The Iraqi wing was entrusted with a particularly important task; it was to destroy the vital radar station at Gedi and the HAWK missile bases in el-Tassa as well as silencing the 175 mm bat-

teries in their emplacements along the eastern bank of the canal.

Guided by clear aerial photos that had been taken by reconnaissance planes, each pilot was sent on three sorties. But following the first

sorties and after a study of the aerial photos registering the results of the raids, the pilots were told that they need not go on the two other sorties; they had fully accomplished their task in the first one.

On the second day of the war — the 7th of October — the wing had two missions to accomplish: the destruction of a base in el-Tassa as well as the HAWK batteries east of this base. Then on the next day, an Iraqi formation active on the Second Army front was ordered to bomb and strafe the headquarters of the enemy command in the middle sector. Two other formations were dispatched to attack the columns of retreating enemy armour. The first formation achieved its task, but ack-ack and surface-to-air missiles inflicted losses on its planes as they had been flying at a low altitude to avoid the danger of long-range SAM missiles.

The next couple of days witnessed a lull in Arab air activity as the skies were intentionally left free for enemy aircraft to roam and thereby become target for the SAM missiles.

Then on the 10th, eight enemy aircraft (four phantoms and four Mirages) raided the air base where Iraqi planes were stationed and damaged the air strip, but they failed to hit any Arab plane. Engineer units were able, with the assistance of



passants from the nearby village volunteering to help, to repair the damage as well as defuse the time bombs dropped by the enemy aircraft to hamper repair work on the strip. (In the June War, the enemy had used this device with greater success, but in the October War, the Arabs were ready for it).

As soon as the airstrip was repaired, the Iraqi wing resumed its activity. Then on the 17th, the enemy again attacked the air base, but this time too, the base was soon back in working order, with the Iraqi wing once again carrying out its missions in support of the two Egyptian armies. Enemy bases, columns, headquarters and concentrations were the targets of the Iraqi wing as it flew all over Sinai. In the June War, the Zionists had enjoyed absolute air supremacy, but in this war the enemy air force no longer had a monopoly of the skies. Their losses in aircraft were heavy and raids on Arab positions were no longer the picnics they had been back in 1967. The enemy also learned to reckon with the Iraqi air force which showed its mettle in dog fights and ground assault. Until the very last day of combat, the Iraqi wing retained its exemplary efficiency and its pilots their daring.

#### THE GOLAN FRONT

The first Iraqi squadron to arrive on the Syrian front was a MIG-21 fighter aircraft squadron. By the 7th of October, this squadron was in its Syrian base in full fighting trim.

The task entrusted to this squadron was the support of the Syrian air defences alongside Syrian MIG-21 planes. It had to carry out reconnaissance and patrol missions. It also had to intercept enemy Mirage III fighters which usually formed a protective umbrella over the Phantoms and the Skyhawks as they dived to bomb and

strafe. Often, the Iraqi MIGs intercepted the Phantoms themselves and shot them down.

The Iraqi pilots were agreed that the MIG-21 was fully capable of tackling the Phantom-F4 and besting it in dog fights. The MIGs superiority was evident at both subsonic and supersonic speeds. The pilots were also of the opinion that the Mirage-IIIc was more manoeuvrable in dog fights than the Phantom.

The Iraqi MIG-21 squadron, in addition to interception, patrol and reconnaissance mission, also stage-managed successful traps for enemy planes. Ground radar would guide the Iraqis flying at medium altitude into enemy territory in order to lock hostile aircraft. Then this radar would guide the Iraqis back to safety, away from the range of the dreaded SAM missiles which would then be fired at the enemy planes.

Surface-to-air missiles do not distinguish between friend and foe and both sides suffered losses caused by missiles fired by one's own side, but the Iraqi squadron was fortunate in having very skilled ground control personnel, with the result that it did not lose a single machine in this manner.

The Iraqi command took care that more than one pilot was assigned to any single plane, and pilots took turns in flying sorties as no one wanted to be left out in this war. Many carried out more than three sorties a day. They were not hampered by enemy attacks on their bases as these were quickly repaired and put into action again.

On the 22nd — the day of the ceasefire — the Iraqi squadron clashed four times with enemy planes over Mount Hermon. The enemy was flying protective missions for his helicopter-borne troops assigned to recapturing the strategic summit.

(To be concluded in the next issue).

## INTERVIEW

Invariably, and without your choice, if you were a Palestinian, you are simply condemned! Your land has been stolen and occupied and you are being exposed to all sorts of terrorism: You are deprived of all rights to own, build, work or

Q. I take it from your last article that, after being seized by the Zionists, you were not to stay at a specific place all the time. Could you tell us why so and how many camps were you taken to?

# The 1000-Day Journey of Pain

to say your opinion; you are put under constant terror of having your house blown up in the air or your children killed; of being at any moment and without any given reason dismissed and deported

A. Well, at the beginning of my internment the reason for having me taken from one concentration camp to another was due for the most part to the question of speed. They wanted to get out of me as much information as they could in the shortest possible period of time. They were afraid lest anything should happen had I stayed at a specific place all the time. So I was first taken to Nablus prison where they failed to even make me say one word, hence they took me to the "Khowara" internment camp. Later on, it was the turn of Sarfand (military jail) which is considered to be the major and most sophisticated torture centre in the whole of Palestine. I came to discover during my first "journeys" that they were merely putting me to the test like an animal in a laboratory in order to experiment their methods. However, after having my left hand paralysed and a good many part of my body mutilated, they began the long and "swift" journeys. I remember that during 24 hours only I have been taken to the following places (prisons): Rammalla, al-Dammon, Kfar Yuna, Tol Karrem and Mascubia. We had, during that day the Red Cross in our tracks after the news of how I have been rendered and disabled leaked out through some of my prison comrades.



Mo'ayad al-Bahsh: prisoner 320

abroad. In short, you are, if you were a Palestinian, deprived of all your legal rights to remain a human being.

Of course all this goes without saying. The point is, however, that being a Palestinian you can simply find yourself like Mo'ayad al-Bahsh, a Palestinian journalist, going on a 1000-day journey of pain through much of the "Israeli" torture factories, to come out at the end, reduced to a physical, nervous and psychological wreck. Mo'ayad, a 17-year-old boy at the time, surprisingly enough, survived that hideous journey and escaped for Iraq.

Q. Suppose that a foreign freedom-fighter has been captured in occupied Palestine, could the type of torture applied to him be any different?

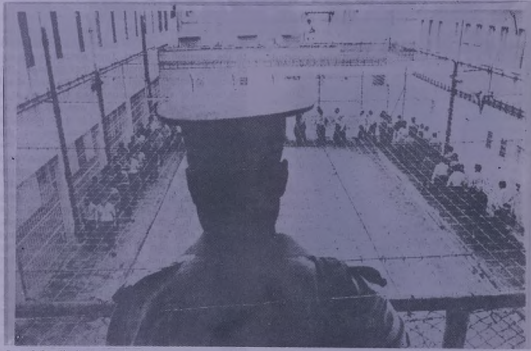
A. I do not think so. The Zionist enemy does not discriminate between freedom-fighters. Foreigners who are captured are being put to the same methods of torture simply because it is a question of "principles" with Zionism. Countless evidences are available to prove what I say. For example, there is Kosomoto (Japanese) and the two French girls who were in Nablus prison at that time. They were being tortured in the same barbarian way.

Q. To me all methods of torture are the same. But I am quite aware that race-oriented torture



is more vicious for reasons well known to everybody. Tell us briefly where have you been subjected to that kind of torture and whether that was an individual tendency or a government policy.

A. Most certainly (it is) a government policy. The policy of the government based on the racist principles of Zionist thought. But I do not think that the government specifies certain methods for the interrogator to follow... he is entitled and given the green light to invent and even "create" (new) methods; of course in addition to the "academic" studies he receives at the "Israeli" army.



One of the Zionist torture factories

I felt then that my torturer was enjoying his work. He used to react with a smile to every scream. I remember once the interrogator had told me "you are innocent and being wronged" but "I want to torture you". He is called Abu Moshe, an officer with the rank of captain at Sarfand (military jail).

Q. Do you have any information about fellow Palestinians who could not physically survive the ingenious "Israeli" methods?

A. It is only a miracle that I am still alive. And being a witness to what happened to my comrades who met their martyrdom before my own eyes and within the range of my hearing I cite the

following names: Mohamed Abdullah al-Ayash, 21; Nasser al-Shakhshira (relative to Mary al-Shakhshira who has been brutally tortured and is suffering a life sentence, (IRAQ TODAY, September 16-30, 1976); Shakker al-Kharraz; Farrid al-Tar-toosh, Joseph al-Jebbali, 45; Nimer Jacob Shakkour; Abdullah Hella Tomah and finally my own father Osman al-Bahsh who was liquidated before my own eyes. Professor Israel Shahak issued a communique condemning torture in "Israel" after the murder of my father. Also, I would like to mention here that very few corpses are delivered to the families concerned in order to wipe out any evidence of practising torture...

Q. In which prisons did these crimes take place?

A. Mohammed Abu Ayash was murdered in Sarfand jail; Nasser al-Shakhshira in Bair Sabbe'e; Shakker al-Kharraz, Nimer Jacob, Abdullah Hella and Joseph Jebbali in Nablus; Farrid al-Tar-toosh in Sarfand also, while my father was done to death in Nablus prison.

Q. I gather from what you said that in the places where you have been detained, a specially vulgar and crude kind of torture, the fruit of a

sick mentality no doubt, is being resorted to. I would be interested if you cite few examples of this kind? Do their methods range from the primitive to the sophisticated?

A. I think that all the "Israeli" torture methods are primitive though sometimes highly sophisticated machinery are employed. I remember reading about the primitive age when I was young. When I grew up, I lived my readings not in fantasy but in Sarfand military jail. For instance, what do you call putting a human being in a "compression cell" where one's is squeezed to near death? Do you call this primitive or modern? Is stuffing the mouth with salt and shutting it for long days sophisticated? In fact, the only thing I have not read about is setting fire to the genitals as has happened to me and to Farrid al-Tar-toosh who instantly died in Sarfand. My body still carries 56 burns, the left half of my head was replaced by plastic substance and my left hand is still partly paralysed as a result of electric shocks and al-Shabb (stringing the victim from his wrists with heavy weights hanging from his ankles) in addition to the beating. Yet all this is very light compared to the following: setting trained dogs to savage your genitals and the other sensitive parts of your body; the "wet submarine" (method in which I have my head immersed in urine and stinking water until I suffocate); the "electric door" (method in which my wrist and ankle are tied together with a wire attached to the door, my opposite hand is tied to the wall and the door opens automatically, so, I stand on one foot and every pull goes farther to the point where my armpit and thigh were lacerated.

Q. Are these all that you got there?

A. Well, I cannot mention all that happened to me; besides, it would take too long. But the most eminent methods I remember are putting on the head a special helmet which regularly provides electric shocks simultaneously with forcing the victim into a cloak through which, with every inhale, you get an electric shock. So, you just have two alternatives: either to suffocate or to be electrified; or, for example, when you are blindfolded, naked, barefoot, hand-cuffed and leg-tied while two soldiers are following you with specially made plastic canes, you are compelled to "run" around on a ground full of diggings, broken pieces of glass and nails etc., when your body becomes covered with cuts they just carry you over and stuff your wounds with salt, they also make some

new cuts in case one part of your body has not been injured.

Q. Did you manage to get acquainted with some of the names of your torturers?

A. And I think I can never forget them. The names I know I am certain are nicknames. Anyway, they are very famous in the occupied land. There is major Baroch, the chief torturer of the west occupied territories, who is a top expert. There is also captain Freddi and his assistant al-Bazz at Muscuba jail in Jerusalem. Al-Bazz also works in Khall (jail) and Freddi often visits Nab-lus (jail) to learn new things. As for Sarfand, I can just call them "insane professors".

Q. What do you think of your torturers? were they for example... psychopaths, sadists, or just pure believers in zionism?

A. All of these qualities. Could you tell me what is the meaning of having your torturer flirt with and kiss a woman soldier in the interval (of a session)? Or, when the interrogator tells you "do not confess please because I want to torture you"? As for being a Zionist it is obvious that his (their) duty is to get rid of all that is not Zionist either by means of torture or total liquidation. I personally used to see my torturer as a sadist so pleased of what he was doing. Sometimes (I saw him) as a man who is desperate for getting information which I honestly do not know. At other times he was simply torturing me because I am an Arab and not a Jew!

Q. Mr. Bahsh, do you have any evidence to prove that you were actually subjected to torture?

A. First, there is my body as I have mentioned. Second, (there is) the Amnesty International report, the report of London Clinic where I was receiving treatment and which explained that 62% of my body was "damaged"; the Red Cross report and the unanimous condemnation of the Zionist enemy (except by US as usual, and Guatemala), the report of U.N. Committee on Human Rights after interviewing me and which has been published by many Arab and Western media. Finally there is a (confession) issued by the "Israeli" Embassy in London which admitted that my left arm was paralysed "by mistake" and that the interrogator was "punished"; I just do not understand what is the meaning of "by mistake"!!

(M. M.)



Palestinian woman and her children: displaced and terrified by Zionist racists

## DO YOU KNOW



● THAT, when the Palestine Problem was created by British in 1917, more than 90% of the population of Palestine were Arabs!... And that there were at that time no more than 56,000 Jews in Palestine...?

● THAT more than half of the Jews living in Palestine at that time were recent immigrants, who

had come to Palestine in the preceding decades in order to escape persecution in Europe? And less than 5% of the population of Palestine were native Palestinian Jews...?

● THAT the Arabs of Palestine, that time, owned 97% of the land, while Jews (native Palestinians and recent immigrants together) owned only 2½% of the land...?

● THAT, during thirty years of British occupation and rule, the Zionists were able to purchase only 3½% of the land of Palestine, in spite of the encouragement of the British Government?... And that much of this land was transferred to Zionist bodies by the British Government directly, and was not sold by Arab owners...?

● THAT, therefore, when British passed the Palestine Problem to the United Nations in 1947, Zionists owned no more than 6% of the total land area of Palestine...?

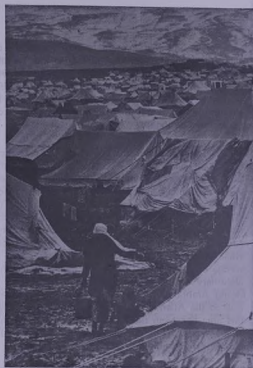
● THAT, notwithstanding these facts, the General Assembly of the U.N. recommended that a "Jewish State" be established in Palestine...? ... And that the assembly granted that "State" about 54% of the total area of the country...?

● THAT, "Israel" immediately occupied 80.48% of the total land area of Palestine? (It now occupies an area 3 times more than that approved by U.N.)

● THAT, this territorial expansion took place, for the most part, before 15th May 1948; i.e. before the formal end of British mandate and the withdrawal of British forces from Palestine, and before the Arab-Israeli War?

● THAT, the 1947 recommendation of the General Assembly in favour of the creation of a "JEWISH STATE" was outside the competence of the Assembly under the Charter of the United Nation...?

● THAT all attempts by the Arab States and other Asian countries to have the Assembly submit the question of "constitutionality" of its recommendation to the International Court of Justice for an "advisory opinion" by the court were rejected or ignored by the Assembly?



What did the world conscience do for a people displaced to live in ragged tents for decades?

● THAT, when the Assembly began to experience "second special session in 1948 it failed to reaffirm the 1947 recommendation for the Palestine, thus destroyed whatever dubious legality that recommendation for the establishment of a "Jewish State" had had...?

● THAT, that original recommendation to create a "Jewish State" in Palestine was approved at the first vote, only by European, American and Australian States... for every Asian State, and every African State (with the exception of the Union of South Africa) voted against it?... And that, when the vote was cast in plenary session on 29 November 1947, urgent American pressures (which a member of the Truman cabinet described as "bordering onto scandal") had succeeded in prevailing only upon one Asian country (the Philippines) and one African country (Liberia), both of which have special vulnerability to American pressures, to abandon their declared opposition? And that, planted at the point-of-intersection of Asia and Africa without the free approval of any Middle Eastern, Asian or African country except the Union of South Africa, itself ruled by an alien minority...?

● THAT "Israel" remained, ever since its inception, a total stranger in the emerging world of Afro-Asia; and that "Israel" has been refused admission to any inter-state conferences of Asian, American, Afro-Asian or Non-Aligned States ever held?

● THAT, since the General Armistice Agreement was signed in 1949, "Israel" has maintained an aggressive policy of waging military attacks across the Armistice Demarcation Lines, repeatedly invading the territories of the neighbouring Arab States... And that "Israel" has been duly rebuked, censured, or condemned for these military attacks by the Security Council or the General Assembly of the U.N. on eleven occasions — five times by the Security Council and six times by the General Assembly...?

● THAT, no other country in the world, whether member of the U.N. or non-member, has been so frequently condemned by the United Nations...?

● THAT, no Arab State has ever been condemned by any organ of the U.N. for military attacks upon "Israel" or any other State...?

● THAT, besides expelling the bulk of the Arab inhabitants of Palestine, and besides constantly attacking the neighbouring Arab States, "Israel" has also consistently harassed the U.N. observers and other personnel stationed along the Armistice Demarcation Lines: It has assassinated the first U.N. Mediator and his military aide; it has detained some truce observers; it has militarily occupied and illegally searched the Headquarters of U.N. personnel; and it boycotted meetings of the Mixed Armistice Commissions...?

● THAT, "Israel" has additionally imposed a system of apartheid upon the Arabs who stayed in their homeland? More than 90% of these Arabs are "security zones", they alone live under martial law, restricting their freedom to travel from village to village or from town to town, their children are denied equal opportunities for education; and they are denied decent opportunities for work, and the right to receive "equal pay for equal work"...?

● THAT, notwithstanding the foregoing facts, "Israel" has always been, still is, widely portrayed in the Western press as the "bastion of democracy" and the "champion of peace" in the Middle East...?



Jacques Couland

Israël  
et le  
Proche-Orient arabe

For non-Middle Easterners any revelation of the truth lying behind the conflict in the Middle East is an eye-opener. For us, however, many writings, however objective and perhaps because of being objective, come to emphasise what is already known rather than discover new facts or make breakthroughs.

The author traces the causes of the existence of "Israel" back to the First World War. The imperialist powers coveted the Middle East. They know the danger to their interests if the link binding the Arab nation would be so strong as to make of them one state. In the secret Sykes-Picot treaty the West plotted the fragmentation of the Arabs and the dismemberment of their lands, while with the Balfour Declaration they drove a wedge in the heart of the Arab nation. Indeed the nightmare of the imperialists has always been a strong Arab nation stretching from the Arabian Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean. From time immemorial this area has been the most important area in the whole world. With the discovery of oil its value increased hundredfold.

Vague promises were given to the Arabs during World War I in exchange for their participation in the fight against the Ottomans. Those promises evaporated as soon as victory was won.

As that war was justly described as a conflict between imperialist powers for imperialist ends, moral considerations are scarcely relevant in judg-

ing the treachery of the allies towards the Arabs. It was for the Arabs themselves to wrest their freedom from their new oppressors.

The author stresses the economic motivations of the powers which dominated the area since the turn of the century and succeeds in exposing their utter disregard of the rights of its peoples and especially the Arab people.

When dealing with the Zionist settlements before and after the creation of "Israel" he makes

it clear that the Zionists have given the outside world a false picture of themselves which was intended to attract the Jews and convince others that they are progressive and socialists:

"The Kibbutz did not cease to be given as a model. They were used to conceal from the eyes of world progressive opinion, and from the progressives of Jewish origin in particular, the real nature of "Israeli" way of development. Moreover, the "Israeli" experts used it in Africa in order to deviate the peoples, whom they advised, from directions which really go towards socialism. In this field, as in others the "Israeli" credits followed. Not that there were surplus of funds in "Israel" but because credits obtained by "Israel" mostly contained clauses authorising the re-exploitation of capital. Thus "Israel" participates in the exploitation of peoples newly independent for the sake of its international monopolist protectors".

When dealing with zionism and its indissoluble link with imperialism, the author says: "The Palestinian crisis of 1947-1949 was contemporaneous with the global offensive of the USA for mobilising reactionary forces in order to obstruct the progress of socialism, the national liberation movement and of democracy in the world. There are two significant dates (in that period) — March, 1947, the proclamation of the Truman Doctrine and January, 1949, the offer of Point Four to the Middle East — which just preceded the formation of the Atlantic Pact".

Some pages later he goes on to say: "There is, therefore, a permanent collusion between the government of "Israel" and the imperialists, the American imperialists first and foremost. This collusion is against the U.N. and against the rights of Palestinian Arabs. The "Israeli" government justifies this by the Arab menace... but the real objective is to take advantage of this for the Judaisation of the land while at the same time permitting the imperialists, behind the veil of arbitration, to follow up their own objectives. It was inevitable that this should lead to military collusion".

When coming to deal with the wars of the Arabs with the Zionists the author follows the

same historical analysis that has become familiar with all objective writers about the subject. The retardation of the progress of the area has always been the target of imperialist powers and there was no better way to serve this end than encouraging and protecting the Zionist entity.

In a chapter entitled "Israel, sick with its victory" the author rightly dissects the machinery of war which the Zionists have built to further the interests of world capitalists.

"In "Israel" the policy of aggression and occupation carries with it an increasing dependence of the economy on foreign monopolists".

Because the book was written before the 1973 war it does not, of course, deal with the following points which came to the foreground as a result of it.

1. The capability of the Arab fighter.
2. The narrowing of the technological gap between the Zionist entity and the Arabs.
3. The impact of oil together with the emergence of the Arabs as an economic power to be reckoned with.
4. The efforts of defeatists and capitulationists to transform the new fighting spirit into accommodation with "Israel".
5. The efforts of the West, particularly the USA, to liquidate the Palestinian issue by sowing the seeds of discord everywhere among the Arabs themselves, which culminated in the savage civil war in Lebanon.

The book was also written before the black September in Jordan in 1970, so the link between that massacre and the massacre of Palestinians in Lebanon was naturally not dealt with.

## "Israel" and the Arab Near East

by Jacques Couland

A book written in May, 1969, about the Middle East (sometimes called by the French as the Near East) is not sufficiently up-to-date to give a comprehensive picture of an area where history is changing extremely rapidly as if to make up for its imperceptible pace some centuries before the twentieth. Very few areas in the present world match this one in the acceleration of events and the transformation of the structure of its societies, not to mention the sudden reversals, upheavals, wars and civil wars.



Restoration of the damaged facades

## AL-MUSTANSIRIYAH : A LIVING MONUMENT OF A GREAT PAST

Al-Mustansiriyyah school is one of the few surviving monuments of Arabic civilization in Iraq. Most of the other important historical monuments were either intentionally destroyed by foreign invaders or came to ruins due to the climatic conditions of Iraq. The surviving Mustansiriyyah School building is on the eastern bank of the Tigris. It stands today between two mosques near the Shuhada bridge. Its main gate opens into a small lane to Harraj vaulted bazaar.

Al-Mustansiriyyah remained obscured for a long time because of the presence of the vaulted Harraj bazaar where shoemakers, cloth vendors, carpet sellers and women veiled in their abbas vie with one another in making summary deals. The hubbub in the market completely dies down

when one enters into this magnificent building which withstood not only the noise but also foreign occupation and the many base functions it was put to. Karsten Niebuhr, the well-known Danish scholar and adventurer saw Al-Mustansiriyyah as a customs house in the second half of the 17th century. Not only that, earlier it was used as a barrack, a store house and again a customs house. The misfortune of this school came to an end in 1945 when the Directorate General of Antiquities managed to take it over as a historical site to be maintained and restored as a living evidence of the great Arabic civilization.

This edifice stood once as the greatest centre of scholarship, academic study and learning not

in the Islamic world only but in the entire world. Like Al-Azhar, Al-Mustansiriyyah was intended to give free education to any Moslem having the desire to learn, whether he was black, yellow, brown or white. However, Al-Azhar fared better although its beginnings were modest. Al-Mustansiriyyah was intended to be a bigger school than Al-Azhar; it was intended to be a university. According to historical evidence Al-Mustansiriyyah used to give lessons in Islamic jurisprudence in accordance with the laws upheld by the main four Moslem sects. In addition, medicine, mathematics and astronomy were also taught.

Al-Mustansiriyyah was named after the 37th Abbasid Caliph Al-Mustansir Billah who ruled from A.D. 1226 to 1242. He was keen on preserving a great name by securing such an important centre of education to the Moslems. Construction of this school commenced in 1227 and work was completed in 1234. It was inaugurated by the cabinet under-secretary in an official celebration which was attended by notables, important personages and renowned scholars. The cabinet under-secretary first kissed its threshold, and followed by a big host of scholars and religious men toured its premises. He wished the Caliph prosperity and well-being and gave presents to the professors, masons and craftsmen as well as the attendants. A banquet was given in the courtyard of the school and delicious food was served to hundreds of peoples on this important cultural event. 700,000 gold dinars were spent on bringing this edifice into being.

The southern facade of Al-Mustansiriyyah overlooks the Tigris river. The school is rectangular in shape, 104.80 m in length and 48.20 m in width on the

The bays, 36 in the ground floor and 36 in the first floor with their beautiful arches and decorations are a living feature of Moslem architecture. The geometric pat-

terns, floral designs and arabesque present in the arches, lintels, jack-arching and corridors of the building provide a serene atmosphere usually present in places of worship. No doubt the Moslem architect who designed this edifice and who is unfortunately unknown, just like other Moslem architects who designed, for instance, the Ukhdair and Atshan palaces, had intentionally made such provisions, to impress students and professors alike to create an atmosphere, which is completely suitable for study and religious devotion. Every doorway is decorated with engraved bricks which are set on the flat, convex and concave faces of the walls. The outer walls are provided with eight bands of Arabic inscriptions against a decorated back-ground.

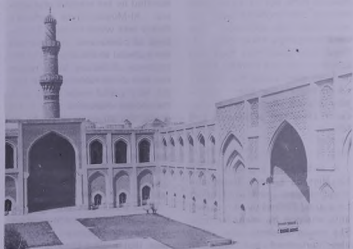
The most surprising thing about such magnificent historical buildings, is the fact that they are tolerable in the terrible heat of Baghdad's Summer and the bitter



Section of al-Mustansiriyyah: Arabic style of arches and decoration

northern side, and 48.80 m in width on the southern side. The total area of the building is 4836 square metres. The various premises of the school are surrounded by spacious courtyard (Sahn) of 1710 square metres. In the centre of the sahn there stood a water pool, which no longer exists. The pool took its fresh water from the Tigris River by means of a water wheel and underground ditches. No doubt this pool was provided with beautiful cisterns which provided the young students and professors with facilities for ablutions prior to regular prayers.

About 100 small and big rooms plus 12 large halls stand on the four sides of the sahn. The four iwans (vaulted halls) in the centre of each side, which were allocated to each Moslem sect, add to the elegance of the building.



terns, floral designs and arabesque present in the arches, lintels, jack-arching and corridors of the

cold of its winter without artificial cooling or heating. This is due to the thick walls of burnt bricks



which proved better than the bricks used in earlier Arabic buildings. For this reason al-Mustansiriyyah has survived the weathering which caused the collapse of the most important monuments in Iraq, not to say the least about flood, foreign invasion and raids.

Al-Mustansiriyyah is provided with every utility and facility. It has its own mosque, bath, dispensary, stores, garden and big library. The school carried on giving lessons until 1533 when Baghdad ceased to be the seat of government and centre of culture and learning, i.e., when this great city was vanquished.

Large sums of money were annually allocated for Al-Mustansiriyyah to carry out its educational mission. Its students were not only given free education, but were completely taken care of. They were given free food and board as well as a monthly salary to help them cover the outlays which might have been necessary in a city offering beside education every sort of pleasure and fun.

A turbaned professor with his Hinnaed (Diyar) beard and dignified black robe used to sit on a stool flanked by two assistants, and give his useful lectures. The young students who were also turbaned but with no beards, sat opposite the profes-

sor attentively to grasp what he was saying; the Koran classes might have been very interesting, for the majority of students were selected from the blind. They might have caused distraction to the medical students, as the blind were supposed to repeat many times what verses of the Koran the professor had said before these were committed to their young and sharp memories. Every professor had 30 students to teach Koranic sciences whereas other disciplines had a smaller number of students.

A special bath was reserved for the canonists while the staff and students used the school's public bath. The medical professor was supposed to be a Moslem and highly qualified. He was assisted by ten medical researchers. Al-Mustansiriyyah school's library was world famous. Thousands of books and manuscripts were placed at the disposal of the students. A history book points out that once robbers broke into the library and made away with the money deposited with it. No doubt this suggests that books were lent to non-member readers against a deposit. It is also said that the library was staffed by three men.

Other buildings were annexed to this school to provide additional room for lectures. Tradition says that a time-keeping device or a clock of some sort was in-

stalled in a prominent part of the school to announce accurate times of lessons and rest and prayer hours.

At present the small mosque of Al-Mustansiriyyah is converted into a small museum displaying some relics of its time. Reproductions of similar Baghdad buildings help the visitor to make a full idea about the artistic skill of the Moslem Arab artist who contributed in some way or another to this monument. Maps of Baghdad and the world as imagined by Arab geographers together with reproductions showing the school before its restoration are also displayed. A small set of coins minted in the era of Al-Mustansir Billah, together with an astrolabe give some idea about the role of this cultured Caliph. On display also are the tree of the Arabic inscriptions as well as reproductions of letters from Prophet Mohammed to the Negus, Kufic writings, and samples of tombstones which are beautifully engraved.

However, the continuous work currently being carried out by the Directorate General of Antiquities, in this important site, will provide further useful information and details on the architecture of this school.

Adnan Ali al-Himairi



## Medical Profession Originated in Iraq

By S. Kasso

In the fertile valley between the Tigris and the Euphrates medical texts written on cuneiform tablets, comprising collections of prescriptions, have been discovered at the Library of Ashurbanipal at Nineveh. These cuneiform texts first describe the symptom, then a list of these cuneiform texts first describe the symptom, then a list of pharmaceutical material and end with instructions for the preparation and application of the remedy. Hammurabi's Code unearthed in Babylon regulates surgery and medical profession by strict laws.

Medicine in ancient Iraq is of two sorts — one kind based on magical acts and the other on pure medical prescription. The magic priest-physician is not covered by Hammurabi's Code

because of his sacred character but if he practises surgery he submits to the Codification. According to our ancestors disease is a punishment inflicted by the gods upon men for their sins. They believe if a man sins his god abandons him, paving the way for bad demons to penetrate his body. To discover the key to health, it is imperative to put the question to the gods, who are considered the absolute masters of all destinies. The sick man, in sinning, offends his god who protects him. The priest-physician, who is called Ashpa, sees the disease from this magical standpoint. Therefore, he prescribes only one remedy: placate god to recover his protection to drive out the demons. The priest-physician asks his patient: What

is your sin? Have you ever incited son against father, father against son, friend against friend? Have you committed aggression against your neighbour? Have you stolen, or caused others to steal? Is your mouth true but your heart false? Then, according to the patient's answers to these or other questions, magic rites are performed.

But a practitioner-physician has to spend years at school learning the basic sciences and many more years with a senior professional master physician. These types of physicians practise their medicine solely without the help of a magician. They seek botanical and mineralogical sources for their prescriptions. Most of their drugs come from plants such as palm tree, mustard, thyme, figs and pears. They also make use of processed products, such as wine and vegetable oils.

Exchange of doctors and physicians from one country to another is a common practice. Doctors from ancient Iraq are sent to the Hittite king in Turkey and to the Egyptian pharaohs. The Persians invoke the help of the Assyrians, who establish the school of medicine and hospital called "Jindisabar". All the surrounding peoples depend on this medical school and hospital for completing their studies and learning the methods of treatment practised by other people. One of its talented Arab students is Al-Harsh bin Kelda, a pre-Islamic medical man.

Annual shows on latest medical techniques are held in Babylon and Nineveh. These exhibitions are supervised by court physician-surgeon. Prizes are awarded for outstanding exhibits. At one of such shows in the city of Babylon a model liver given to medical students to teach them the secrets of diagnosis by which the disease has been exhibited.

**ATH-THAWRA (Iraq)**

The Baghdad daily Ath-Thawra sternly castigated the US-led capitalist campaign against the oil producing countries to bar them from readjusting the prices of their oil or "more specifically speaking to make a very partial re-adjustment would not exceed the lowest limits".

The daily organ of the Arab Baath Socialist Party noted that the campaign was being escalated as the ministerial meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) scheduled for mid-December next in Doha, Qatar, drew nearer.

"The campaign", the paper stressed, "has been taking different forms, the most dangerous among them being instigating the non-oil-producing developing countries against the OPEC-member states bringing forth false pretexts that the deficits in the balance of payments of these countries were chiefly caused by oil price hikes".

The paper recalled that OPEC countries have always provided large amounts of money to the developing nations emphasizing that "all the anti-OPEC campaigns by the capitalist countries are definitely doomed to failure".

**AL-JUMHURIYAH (Iraq)**

The Iraqi daily al-Jumhuriyah in a comment under its regular column "Behind the Events", said that the 40th conference for the boycott of "Israel" held in Baghdad to encounter the US measures aimed at undermining the boycott and to draw up means and methods conducive to emptying these measures from their aggressive efficacy was a highly important event.

The paper pointed out that holding of the conference in Baghdad "provides it with further impetus" in view of the fact that Iraq is well known in its unwavering stands against the Zionist enemy and its imperialist masters.

**DIE WELT (FRG)**

The West German newspaper Die Welt said Iraq has just ended its five-year Plan with tremendous economic achievements on top of which was the nationalization of oil companies operating in Iraq. The increase in oil production and revenues coupled with complete untangling of national economies from foreign monopolistic ties, enabled Iraq to build the broad base of an advanced, liberated national economy. Its appropriations in 1976 investment programmes totalled 1,493.5 million Iraqi dinars. The allocation percentage is as follows: 17.9 per cent for agriculture, 47.5 p.c. for industry, energy and oil, 16.2 p.c. for communications, 14.3 p.c. for

construction and public services and 4.1 p.c. for other development projects.

**OCTOBER STAR (Somalia)**

The Somali daily 'October Star' strongly denounced the imperialist plans aiming at establishing military bases in the Indian Ocean.

"These plans" the paper emphasized, "stir the indignation and opposition of the progressive forces, because, they constitute direct threat to the international peace and security".

The US from its military bases in Diego Garcia island in the Indian Ocean aims at having a means for direct interference in the international affairs of the littoral and hinterland countries, specially the producing countries.

**NEW NIGERIAN (Nigeria)**

The New Nigerian, one of the leading Lagos dailies, said, "No solution can be arrived at in the Arab region without taking into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people".

The Nigerian daily which reflects the views of the government denounced all American initiatives put forth on the Arab arena for solving the problem describing them as "serving the American and Zionist interests and ignoring the aspirations of the Arab people of Palestine".

**NEUS DEUTSCHLAND (GDR)**

Extolling the great efforts made and funds spent to bring into existence a giant irrigation project like the Thirithar-Euphrates canal, the Neus Deutschland of German Democratic Republic said: "After four and a half years of arduous work done by Iraqi and foreign technicians and workers, Mr. Saddam Hussein, the Vice-Chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, pressed the button allowing the big flow of waters to pass through the 6 iron-40 metres high gates of the Thirithar project".

**ZAMAN (Turkey)**

The Turkish daily "Zaman" paid tribute to ABSP National Leadership statement on Riyadh six-sided conference (Iraq Today Oct. 16-31, 1976) emphasizing that Syrian regime's insistence on not to withdraw its forces from Lebanon is "but a part of a chapter from the plot worked out by imperialist circles in connivance with the Zionist entity".

The paper highly appreciated Iraq's stand towards the conflict in Lebanon and its determination to continue defending the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Movement and its warning against "the consequence of the imperialist plot".

**STATISTICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS**

The Revolution Command Council has ratified an agreement of scientific and technical cooperation between Iraqi Central Body of Statistics and Hungarian Central Bureau of Statistics initiated in Baghdad on March 7 last year.

The RCC also ratified a similar agreement concluded with GDR Central Administration of Statistics initiated in Berlin some time ago.

**PRESIDENT BAKR CABLES SHAHANSHAH OF IRAN**

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr sent a cable of congratulations to the Shahanshah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, on the occasion of his Majesty's birthday anniversary.

In his cable President Bakr expressed on behalf of the Iraqi people and government and on his own behalf the "warmest felicitations and best greetings wishing your Majesty continuous health and happiness and the friendly people of Iran progress and prosperity".

**IRAQ ADHERES TO UN CHARTER**

Iraq has reaffirmed its adherence to the United Nations Charter and expressed the hope that the world organization would continue to perform its constructive role in building an international community of peace, justice and welfare.

In a statement issued on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the founding of the world body, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry expressed the hope that efforts should be combined to make the world organization "ever-stronger" and enable it "play its role for achieving a world peace based on justice and economic welfare".

**IRAQI — NEW ZEALAND JOINT COMMUNIQUE**

Iraq and New Zealand have decided to maintain continued contacts and to work towards the consolidation of the ties between them as well as to strengthen their bilateral relations in the fields of trade and agriculture in a manner serving the mutual interests of the two friendly countries.

This was stated in a joint communique issued following the 4-day visit to Iraq of Mr. Brian Talboys, the New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Overseas Trade, in response to an invitation of Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr. Saadoun Hammadi.

During the visit the RCC Vice-Chairman Mr. Saadoun Hussein received Mr. Talboys in a special audience. He also had meetings with Foreign Minister Dr. Saadoun Hammadi, Foreign Trade Minister Hikmat Ibrahim and other Iraqi officials.

**ARAB SYMPOSIUM ON REINSURANCE**

Representatives of 36 insurance and reinsurance companies including the Iraqi company met in Baghdad late last month in a 4-day Arab symposium on reinsurance held under the theme of "Closer Arab Cooperation for the Attainment of an International Arab Market of Reinsurance".

The symposium was also attended by representatives from UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It discussed 18 research papers including 12 papers submitted by Iraq which dealt with topics on economic development in the Arab region, world inflation and its effect on the reinsurance activity and pan-Arab cooperation in the reinsurance field as viewed from the economic, financial, technical, legal and organizational aspects.

**RECORD CEMENT AND BRICK PRODUCTION**

Iraq's cement production in 1978 will rise to 7.2 million tons per annum compared with only 1.2 million tons produced in 1968, the year of the glorious 17 July Revolution. Iraq's consumption of cement in 1980, according to Ministry of Industry and Minerals estimates, stands at 5 million tons. That means Iraq, in that year, will have a big surplus of cement ready for export.

The brick production will also jump from 45 million pieces in 1968 to over 960 million pieces in 1978, the MIM sources confirmed.

**ARAB WOMEN COMMITTEE SESSION IN IRAQ**

The Arab Women Committee late last month held its 5th session in Basrah, southern Iraq, which was attended by representatives from Arab women organizations, Arab League and development of women throughout the Arab nation.

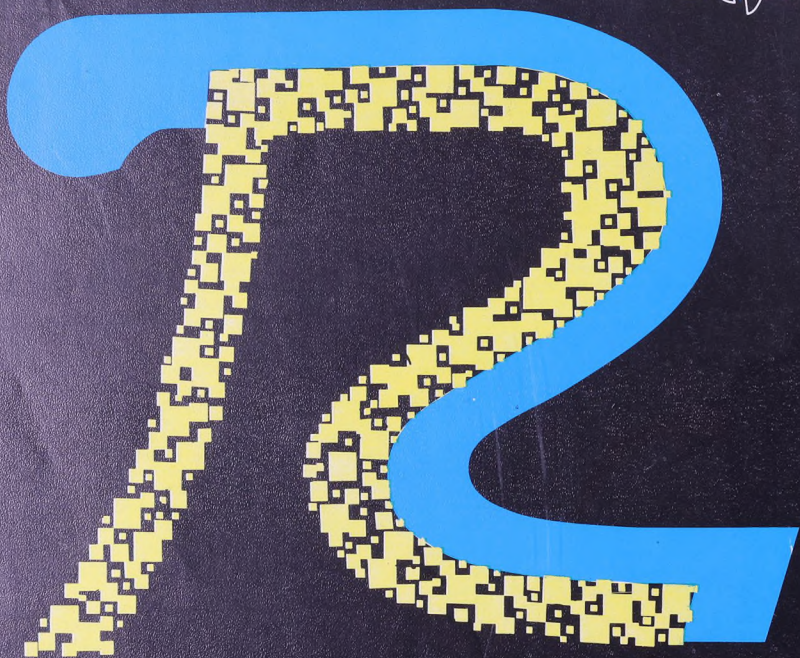
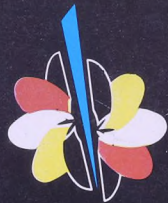
The session resulted in a number of recommendations such as establishment of a pan-Arab child centre, setting up of work groups to follow up implementation of committee's decisions and investigating the feasibility for enabling women play their part in the building of a developed society.

**GIANT POWER STATION IN BASRAH**

The competent authorities at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals are taking necessary steps for the execution of the project of building the steam power station in Basrah city, southern Iraq, at a cost of 110 million Iraqi dinars (372 million US dollars).

The station's capacity will be 800,000 kilowatts and will consist of 8 steam turbine units with a capacity of 200,000 kilowatts each. The first unit is expected to be completed by 1979.





**المؤتمر الفكري حول الصهيونية**

**بغداد ١٢.١١.١٩٧٦ - تشرين الثاني ١٩٧٦**

**SYMPOSIUM ON ZIONISM**

**BAGHDAD 8.12 NOV. 1976**