

ARAB OBSERVER

No. 285 — December 6, 1965

Price in U.A.R.: P.T. 5

THE HARAD CONFERENCE

YEMENI GAINS CONFIRMED

and The Scribe

CENTRE FOR ARAB GULF STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

~~YEMENI GAINS~~





INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC NEWS, RESEARCHES, EVENTS, FEATURES, AND VIEWS, AS WELL AS EFFICIENT COMTEL SERVICE ARE NOW PRESENTED TO YOU BY «MEN» IN ARABIC AND ENGLISH ON TICKER OR IN BULLETIN.

UP-TO-MINUTE BRIEFING ON ECONOMIC ISSUES AND EVENTS IS RENDERED BY MEN'S INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND OFFICES, AND BY EFFICIENT GROUP OF RESEARCHERS AND ECONOMISTS.



From the Editor

The turbulent situation in the world should not be allowed to overshadow an important event, to the UAR at least: the meeting of the Family Planning Council under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. It was the first meeting of the Council and coming as it did in the wake of the Production Conference, one cannot but link the two together. The population explosion is closely related to production, and in his address to the Production Conference the Prime Minister made this very clear. The large increase in population constituted, without a doubt, a serious obstacle to the success of the five year plan which aimed at increasing production and raising the standard of living for the people. The rate of development, though greater in the UAR than other developing countries, is undermined by this explosion. Any increase in production is lapped up as quickly as it comes and the UAR Government has been trying hard to close the gap. As the President showed in his speech to the National Assembly, it has been possible to keep production ahead of population increase, but not enough to transform all the national hopes and ambitions into reality.

In his opening address to the Family Planning Council meeting, the Prime Minister gave a detailed survey of the situation and explained fully the impact of the population explosion on the country's economy. The problem is not the UAR's alone. Nor is it confined to developing countries. It threatens the world, and can, if left unsolved, end in disaster. International organisations have been looking into this question for years, many proposals have been submitted, but the problem still lingers and news of food shortages in different parts of the world is proof of its existence. Long and specialised treaties have been written, books have been published and great efforts made, but the situation continues to be precarious.

The Council examined reports submitted to it by experts and it was decided that the time had now come to translate these reports into action. An executive machinery is being established, and special committees will be set up in the provinces. In fact the formation of the Family Planning Council on a ministerial level will act as a reminder of the gravity of the problem to all organs and departments concerned. But, of course, family planning cannot be effected simply by the promulgation of laws or the imposition of restrictions. The press and mass media should play an important part in the education of the people and in the eradication of a number of anachronisms and misconceptions which still linger in their minds.

	Page
Arab World	4
Africa	3
Asian	38
Tourism	44
Short story	48

published

by

THE NATIONAL
PUBLICATIONS HOUSE

Editorial Offices :

Advertising Office :

11, Sh. Sahafa, Cairo

Tel. : 70345 - 46 - 4

Price P.T. 5.

Arab World

United Arab Republic

SAVINGS — BIRTH CONTROL MORE PRODUCTION

The UAR continues to wage the economic war to raise living standards. It started as early as 1952 with large survey operations, culminating in the industrial plan which began in 1957 and was concluded in three years instead of five.

In 1960 the UAR launched on its 10-year development plan which has the aim of doubling the national income. The ten-year plan was subdivided into two equal periods so that the experience gained through the first period could help in the execution of the second. There has been no period of rest between the two plans, for any interval in between would have been deleterious in allowing too free a hand to haphazard enterprise. Therefore, the UAR launched on the second five-year plan before giving itself really enough time to sit back and make a full account of the first.

The second five-year plan began last July. In the National Assembly President Nasser last week gave a full account of the first five-year plan in figures. He also pointed out that results could have been better.



Prime Minister Mohieuddin :
thoughtfully considering vital issues

In talking of the future, President Nasser stated that national work is threatened internally by two factors : the increasing consumption rate, and the population explosion. These two should be curbed in accordance with well-designed plans so that the development can eventually win the race against population and consumption.

Dimensions of the problem

The rise in consumption is directly connected with wage tariffs and prices.

Taking the wage policy, one of the immediate results of the first five-year plan is that workers earn wages which amount to almost half the national income : in other words, about 45 per cent of the national income goes to the manpower necess-

ary for putting the development projects into effect. In the fiscal year 1964/65, the national income was a little over L.E. 1,762 million, while the sum total of wages paid amounted to L.E. 883 million. If we go back to the outset of the plan in 1960, we will find that the national income was L.E. 1,265 million, while the sum total of the wages aggregated L.E. 594 million. When the Revolution took place, the national income totalled L.E. 806 million, while wages amounted to L.E. 349 million.

The number of workers at present is 7,333,000. At the outset of the plan, there were 6,006,000 workers and when the Revolution took place in 1952, there were only four and half million workers.

Workers in the UAR may be classified into three main categories : First, designers, inventors or researchers. This includes all the experts and technicians on whom the state spends large sums whether during the various phases of education at home or specialisation abroad. This it does so that they may develop the efficiency which enables them to take over the orientation of the new generation, and also the planning of a successful production policy. The second category of workers comprises the administration, including those employed in the higher state machinery, or occupying leading executive positions. The third category of workers consists of those who undertake the actual execution of all projects, through their manual effort.

Why the rise in wages ?

The rise in wages may be attributed to eight principal causes. New working opportunities have accorded millions of people. This in turn has led to expansion in public services.

Second, the level of minimum wages has been raised for both industrial and agricultural workers. (For example, the daily wage of the worker on the land which formerly did not exceed 10 piastres has now reached over 30 piastres. The wage of the technical industrial workers currently amounts to an average 80 piastres per day).

Third, the High Dam has brought about a revolution in earnings, wages there being higher than elsewhere.



National Assembly holds its third ordinary session

Fourth, is the socialist move against unemployment which makes it necessary to find jobs for all graduates of faculties of science and arts.

Fifth, the new labour statute has raised the minimum wage for manual workers to seven pounds a month, and the monthly salaries for newly-appointed university graduates to L.E. 20 instead of L.E. 14. It has also established an annual instead of a biennial bonus. This statute alone cost the state an additional L.E. 23 million.

Sixth, there has been a parallel rise in the wages of workers in the public sector companies.

Seventh, the government has withdrawn its own contribution to the retirement pensions which amounted to about 30 per cent of the total volume of pensions paid annually.

Eighth, allowances and additional wages are granted to those working in remote industrial and agricultural areas; these, and other workers, also get a share of profits from public sector companies.

The rise in wages has been directed mainly towards the purchase of consumer commodities. Before the Revolution the greater majority of people had for a long time suffered deprivation as a result of class distinction. On the other hand, they have not as yet developed full awareness of the importance of savings. It was against the rise in consumption that the President directed his principal warning to the people, because without saving this ran engulf with it the best results that may be reaped from all of our development projects.

Second problem

The problem of which consumption is the direct result is the perpetual human hatching process. The annual increase in population has been estimated at 700,000. In other words, it has been predicted that the Egyptian people will be 34 million by the year 1970, which marks the end of the second five-year plan.

In his evaluation of the first five-year plan, President Nasser stated that the rise in income has outpaced the rise in population, amounting almost to threefold; yet he warned against the dangerous outcome of any further population outburst. Population, and consumption he pointed out, represent the two horns of the dilemma.

New Government Policy

The new Cabinet which came into power last October, gave these two issues primary importance on its programme. It formed a Ministerial Committee for wages and prices under the Chairmanship of Abdul Moneim el Kaissouni, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs. This committee is currently making a study in depth of the various factors and phenomena controlling consumption, production, export and employment.

Production Conference and others

The Production Conference laid down the broad lines of a new policy for increasing production and controlling consumption. The Public Administration Conference investigated all the ailments of the present administrative set-up so as to be able to make reforms and cater for the requirements of the coming stage of production. The Labour Conference was attended by all the workers occupying leading positions in the trade unions. At the opening session, Prime Minister Zakaria Mohieddin enunciated all the problems at stake, suggesting positive solutions.

Besides these attempts to tackle the main issues, other subsidiary measures have been taken. Among these is a proposal for Time and Motion departments in every factory, to realise the highest output at the lowest cost. Larger amounts of

foreign currency can be earned by increasing UAR exports of industrialised agricultural crops. The turning of Port Said into a free zone is also another project through which more foreign currency will accrue.

As for prices, the new Cabinet has stabilised the prices of basic commodities. It has established the Consumers' Cooperative Societies to maintain this stability. Only the prices of luxury goods will be given free range.

In his National Assembly speech, President Nasser expressed his whole-hearted admiration of the Production, Administration and Labour Conferences. President Nasser also paid tribute to the new Cabinet. «It fills me with high hopes of success: I know all the men who have come forth to bear the responsibility, I have tested their abilities in different circumstances.»

To tackle the population issue, the new Cabinet set up a Higher Council for Family Planning headed by the Prime Minister himself, and having a Permanent Executive Council. L.E. one million has been allocated to the projects of the council, which include the establishment of birth control centres supplied with necessary drugs and pharmaceuticals.

These various measures are expected to raise production, control consumption, raise savings, and preserve the economic balance, but they require a tremendous effort before they can be carried out. This the people must learn by example and education.



Members of the new Cabinet attending Assembly session.

HELWAN-LES-BAINS

On discussing the industrialisation programme now on foot in the UAR, President Nasser stated that the annual investment in industry today is 80 times the amount invested in the years before 1952. He added that one single industrial spot today, namely Helwan, has an industrial capacity equal to that of all Egyptian territory in pre-revolutionary years.

However, Helwan is not just an industrial centre for producing iron and steel, textiles, cement, motor-cars, and other Egyptian products, including equipment and weapons made at the Military Factories in the area. The town has a number of geographical and natural assets, not to mention its outstanding climate, all of which have since antiquity endowed the area with unparalleled therapeutic attractions.

The town of Helwan is an ancient one: it was built at the time of the Ptolomies, and was maintained by the Romans. It flowered once more in the Seventh Century when it was rebuilt by Abdul Aziz ben Marwan the Governor of Egypt, in 684 A.D. He gave it its present name, raised royal palaces and mosques, built public baths around its natural springs, planted gardens and parks, and himself ruled from that delectable spot.

Ben Marwan had his son Omar in Helwan: Omar, who succeeded his father, came to be known as the « Just Khalif » a famous example of mysticism, justice, and decision in Egyptian history.

Helwan was neglected in times to follow, and at the time of the Mamelukes, was almost unknown. It continued to be just another Egyptian small town, until in the past decade, Helwan once more achieved importance.

At the end of the tree-hemmed, shady Nile Corniche, where factories stand in an almost continual row, stretching far into the desert land east of the river, with the Mokkattam Hills in the background, and the silver-plated Nile surface winding round the numerous isles where lie some of Egypt's best green plantations, Helwan rests in an exceptionally bright desert spot, with a history-old fame for being one of the world's best winter resorts. Helwan, area 64 square kilometres, is nearly 25 kilometres from Cairo, and is in fact one of the

Cairo Governorate districts. Tourists from every part of the world come to spend part of winter there, as it is, famed for its sulphur springs, mineral waters, and dry desert climate (humidity 58%) except for the western side which overlooks the Nile. The air at Helwan is also free from germs and organic matter.

Helwan is also known for its altitude; it rests on the slopes of the Mokkattam Hills, almost 40 metres above the Cairo level.

Sulphuric baths

At the town entrance, one is im-

mediately attracted by a big arabesque building containing the Helwan Sulphur baths. Many people believe that these can easily compete with Aix-Les-Bains and other therapeutic spas. The Baths are equipped with the latest comforts for patients and visitors. Helwan has two other sulphur baths, but these are offered free.

Helwan's Sulphur Baths date back 65 years; they were first opened in 1899, and despite their comparatively smaller possibilities, remained popular among foreign guests.



Buddha statues overlooking a panorama of green



Mineral spring: might taste a little sour, but many do like it

Sulphurous waters flow out of the spring at the rate of 5,000 square metres per hour. The water contains 39.2 milligrams of sulphur in every 100 square centimetres. This is a high percentage even among some of the most famous European spas. The sulphur percentage at Baden Baden, for example, is only 15.9 milligrams per 100 square centimetres.

The kurhaus contains 40 bath rooms, with adjoining rest rooms, and rooms equipped with up-to-date scientific appliances for natural therapy, including X-ray for diagno-

sis, a bacteriological and chemical laboratory, an electrocardiogram, electric bath, vapour bath, ultraviolet rays, short wave, galvanic, faradic and ultrasonic currents, underwater message and douches, underwater movement and gymnastics, apparatus for inhalation treatment carbon dioxide bath, automatic colonic enema, mud therapy, tub for sulphur water immersion, and a large gymnasium and facilities for dry and wet massage.

The kurhaus has been enlarged to take 200 patients every day. Since the beginning of July 1965, until today, almost 1400 patients

have registered for treatment. Temperature at Helwan, particularly during Winter, is especially suited for the treatment of rheumatic patients. The 58° of humidity in winter time, the rare rainfall, occurring almost twice in the whole winter season, and suitable atmospheric pressure all make Helwan an ideal place also for the treatment of respiratory conditions. The kurhaus also excels in treating cases of chronic lumbago, skin diseases, nerve diseases, hepatic malfunction, chronic gout, circulatory disturbances, neurosis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and many of other common diseases.

Baths are prepared to suit every type of disease, however the most common and characteristic is the sulphur bath where patients are immersed for a term of 10-30 minutes, during which they receive underwater massage.

The easiest kind of treatment for patients who cannot put up with more difficult processes is to drink the sulphur water; it is highly useful in cases of chronic bronchitis and diabetes, skin diseases and kidney trouble; however its contra-indications are cases of chronic stomach inflammation, active T.B., and malignancy.

The kurhaus is sub-divided into nine sections, each specialised in certain diseases. In the large garden surrounding the House, there is a modern swimming pool, whose water is mixed with sulphur at a ratio of one-third of sulphur to two-thirds of fresh water. On the other side is a covered swimming pool for underwater treatment, equipped with central heating.

At the Helwan kurhaus there is a large number of specialised physicians and nurses who have received part of their education abroad. Many foreign experts have been to the Helwan Baths, some Denmark, and some from Italy. These have submitted reports upon the chemical and physical properties of the waters and the suitability of the climate, stating that the Helwan springs are the best possible for purposes of winter treatment, as they contain the largest percentage of sulphur.

Winter resort

Apart from patients, Helwan is frequented by tourists who come



Sulphur pool, with the Arabesque domed cure-house in the background



Section at the Japanese Garden, with straw-covered gazebos



Cement factory

from very cold places in order to enjoy the Helwan warmth at its various small hotels and cosy boarding-houses, which are nearly 300 in number. Most visitors sleep at night with windows wide open without fear of catching cold.

Healthy people can benefit too by the Helwan waters. At the mineral water springs, many go every day to drink a glass or two: it is recommended for the respiratory and circulatory systems, due to the effect of the gases upon the lungs and nerves.

Specialists have pointed out something more: the Helwan waters are useful to those interested in rejuvenation and achieving general well-being. These are mostly women who regard wrinkles and signs of age with alarm. The Helwan waters without doubt give the skin a younger look. Physicians emphasize the fact that after the bath, almost every part of the body sheds off its outer skin layer, and a new one appears. Helwan water banishes pimples and freckles too.

People with only one kidney in proper function are recommended to go to Helwan in order to receive natural treatment: the artificial method of perspiration in which warm air is used by means of electricity can be best replaced by the natural Helwan climate.

The mineral spring, about 3 kilometres from the sulphur spring,

north of Helwan, has 23 different constituent minerals, chief among which are sodium fluoride, potassium chloride, sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, magnesium sulphate, magnesium carbonate, calcium sulphate, strontium sulphate and silica.

This spring, according to the report made by a special committee branching from the Cairo Governorate, after a study term of one-year, proves useful in several treatments, chief among which are cases of chronic colitis, chronic cholecystitis,

indigestion, heart burn and renal calculi. A project has been carried out for bottling this water to be used for treatment and as table water. On the hill opposite the spring, a cure house of 150 rooms is now under construction and will be soon in operation.

Growth of Helwan

Helwan town itself did not receive enough attention as a remedial centre and a winter resort of the first class until local government was established in the area. Projects were planned for the whole town, touristic centres were mapped, housing spots selected, and roads and services were constructed. Special attention was given to the Helwan gardens; the green area grew in size, trees multiplied in number, to cover 150 feddans against only 46 in the past. Almost 1500 fruit trees were planted there for the first time. Great care was given to the well-known Japanese Garden at Helwan; it has now been furnished with electric lighting, and a cafeteria was opened. Among the Helwan gardens, the largest occupies an area of 70 feddans, full of trees, tea corners, and diffusing stereo-music.

Helwan today has its own harbour; a new town cafeteria has been opened, as well as a new swimming pool provided with a certain percentage of sulphur spa water, and a large artificial lake. The automobile museum is one of Helwan's greatest attractions today, containing a large number of rare



Inside a factory for military and civil production

motorcars which were used by Egyptian rulers in past times. It is the second largest museum of its kind in the world.

The town of Helwan has four movie houses, two of them in the open air. Among other landmarks is the famous Helwan planetarium opened in 1904.

Helwan has also 20 schools and institutes; a secondary school for girls with the largest boarder section in the UAR.

Among other projects carried out in Helwan is the small new suburb with 3,000 housing units, an ideal youth welfare centre, with large swimming pool, nursery, a centre for organising the family, and a child welfare centre.

In the second planning programme for Helwan the popular

economic housing units will be increased to 12,000 to house 50,000 persons, with all modern utilities. Already, as part of the great housing project which forms the urgent programme of Greater Cairo, a large number of flats have been built.

New touristic utilities are planned to surround the new mineral spring with a large hotel equipped with therapeutic accommodation, a reaction centre, and a casino. A special place for museums and exhibitions has been outlined as well as a lake of mineral waters. All these projects are now under way.

One can get to Helwan by various means: either by a bus or car-ride along the bright Nile Corniche, by the motor ferry-boat, by the old country high-way, or by the quick electric train, all starting from the heart of Cairo.

About the modern approach to art, Ayyad says there is a want of serious study and examination, even when we refer to the works of the best artists. Everything attributed to modern art is considered a priori acceptable, some pictures consist of colour areas only, and these are accepted too. However, we would have done better to surrender to more local influences, to acquire a sort of genuinity in art; we have a history-long tradition of Ancient Egyptian art, Islamic Art and Coptic art.

Ayyad mentions those of his works which are dearest to him, namely those which deal with studies of environment and the people. He further remarks that when he has to sell any of his productions, it is one of the saddest moments for him, the reason being that all his productions are like sons to him.

Ayyad adds that a good number of artistic projects are still in his head, and should he live long enough, he wants to carry them out; these are mostly connected again with environment and the people.

Ayyad's reaction to the news of his being the award winner was candid.

« I have expected it since 1963, » he says. « It sounded great to me, the simple fact that the State appreciates my work. I thank Dr. Hatem and all others responsible for encouraging the arts. I believe today is the golden age of Egypt, especially in the field of art. We artists are enjoying many privileges of which we were in great need before. In fact, the way is open now for all genuine talents. »

TRIBUTE TO A GREAT EGYPTIAN ARTIST

Ragheb Ayyad, winner of the State Appreciative Award for Art will in a few days receive his accolade and shake hands with President Gamal Abdul Nasser on Science and Arts Day.

Ragheb Ayyad had just completed his secondary education at the Frères, when he decided to join the first newly opened institute for Beaux Arts in 1908. The Institute was run by a French professor named Galio Laplan, who could not speak Arabic. Ragheb Ayyad worked as a translator at the same time as he received his education at the Institute. Some of his most distinguished colleagues at the time became equally distinguished artists, to mention sculptor Mahmoud Moukhtar and primary Egyptian painters such as Yousef Kamel.

Studies abroad were at that time both a necessity and an impediment. Ragheb (born 1892) worked as a teacher at the Higher Coptic School immediately after his graduation, and when his colleague Yousef Kamel left for abroad for higher studies in 1921, he had to take over his classes.

In one year Yousef Kamel returned and Ragheb Ayyad left. The departure of both artists one after another attracted the attention of the Parliamentary Council of Deputies,

and immediately a sum of L.E. 20,000 was allocated to missions for artists abroad.

Ayyad's specialisation abroad brought about a good effect, in as much as it came just after the 1919 Revolution, when art manifestations and exhibitions had the object of increasing national awareness.

Ragheb's early productions show no sign of any particular influence, only because he had established no contact with any of the distinguished artists then living; however, some critics have found a connection between his works and those of Toulouse Lautrec. Later, he began to show a certain sympathy with artists like Gauguin, Daumier and Corot.

Ayyad describes the approach to painting, when he first began his studies as serious and devoted. These qualities might be missing today, replaced by a kind of unscrupulousness. The reason, he says, is that artists used to observe certain rules; there is nothing of the sort today; there might be development, but not true dedication.

Ayyad refers this to a thirst for art which has disappeared; today there is a lack of concentration, a lack of zeal. Art is practised as a matter of course, in fact students who are not admitted into other branches of specialisation, for academic considerations, resort to the Beaux Arts; the result is a lack of zeal.



Ragheb Ayyad



Mostafa Amin



The Akhbar el-Yom building



Ali . . . in London

Mostafa Amin established the Akhbar el-Yom Weekly, with the help of his brother Ali Amin, in 1944. In 1952, both founded together the Daily al-Akhbar and worked as its editors-in-chief.

Mostafa Amin's case will be pursued by the Supreme Court of State Security formed over a week ago under the chairmanship of General Mohammed Fouad el-Digwi also to try members of the Moslem Brothers Clan charged with conspiracy and terrorist activities.

The Court is to hold its sessions in the building previously occupied by the Headquarters of the Revolutionary Council, situated on Gezira Island in Cairo. The main hall has been already accommodated for that purpose. The State Security Prosecution last week installed itself there.

ARRAIGNMENT OF MOSTAFA AMIN

Last Tuesday, the accusation sheet in the case of Mostafa Amin was completed, the accused was informed as to its contents, and the case was immediately transferred to the Supreme Court of State Security.

The Prosecution announced the following in connection with Mostafa Amin's activities in the period from October 1964 until the day of his arrest, July 21, 1965 :

1 — The accused has exchanged information with persons working for a foreign country with the purpose of damaging Egypt's military, diplomatic, political, and economic position. He has agreed with persons working for a foreign country to provide them with information

and news about the armed forces in the UAR and the diplomatic, political, and economic situation of the State in connection with both internal and foreign affairs and the State's political attitude and relations with different countries and what it plans to do. He has provided them with information and news available to him and he has falsely attributed some of these items to President Gamal Abdul Nasser.

2 — He has handed over to a person working in the interest of a foreign country secrets about the State's defense plans; this was done by delivering to the fore-mentioned person information concerning the State's diplomacy, politics, and military affairs, considered to be classified defense information, that should be known only to authorized persons; he has also done the same with military inform-

ation without obtaining any permit from the Military Public Affairs Department. The crime was committed at a time of war.

3 — The accused has carried out a foreign currency operation, with a clandestine agreement to transfer foreign currency abroad. He has paid a sum of L.E. 20,000 in Egyptian currency to a foreigner to cash its equivalent in foreign currency abroad, which runs contrary to the law. The operation was meant to be carried out away from licenced banks.

4 — The accused has been an accomplice by agreement and assistance in a financial enterprise with a foreigner not living in the UAR to deal in Egyptian currency as part of the above-mentioned accusation, against all rules and regulations.

The Persecution has decided to

apply to the case six articles in the Penal and Smuggling Code.

A solicitor will be called upon to defend the accused and meanwhile the accused will remain in confinement.

The accusations directed against Mostafa Amin might incur one of several penalties. The first accusation is punished by imprisonment should it be committed in time of peace and by hard labour in time of war. The law stipulates that any abuse of official documents connected with state security and national welfare, with the purpose of damaging national interests at time of peace is subject to hard labour, and in time of war to perpetual hard labour. Any of these crimes committed by a public employee or any man in charge of public service is not subject of any sort of mitigated verdict.

In connection with imparting defense secrets to foreign countries, the punishment is death. Defense secrets are defined as military, political, diplomatic, economic and industrial information that by its nature remain classified and known only by those authorised to learn it. Under this article is also mentioned military movements, formations, equipment, supply, and personnel. In general, all information connected with military or strategic affairs is not allowed to be divulged without a special permit to be obtained at the Military Public Affairs Department.

The state of war is equal to political rupture; it is also the time in which any war threat is present.

The law states also that any individual dealing in foreign currency, or transferring currency out of or into the U.A.R., or even the presence of any kind of promise to do so, without dealing by way of licenced banks, is liable to penalty ranging from 5 months to 5 years plus a fine equal to twice the sum mentioned in the accusation, with a minimum of L.E. 100.

Between October 1964 and July 21, 1965, during which, according to the statement of the Prosecution, Mostafa Amin committed all the crimes and charges against him, close observation was maintained by the Intelligence Department concerning the activities of the U.S. political attaché in Cairo, Ross Taylor. The Intelligence Depart-

ment began its observations after becoming aware of the fact that Ross Taylor was an intelligence officer himself and that he was responsible for the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency in Cairo. When Amin was arrested the General Prosecutor announced this news, and Ross Taylor was immediately declared *persona non grata* and left on July 25. Mostafa Amin was then interrogated under the supervision of the General Prosecutor himself.

IN FOCUS

Espionage Verdict approved

The verdict pronounced in the case of the German spies was last week approved by President Gamal Abdul Nasser. With this, the verdict has acquired its final form. Lotz has been sentenced to life imprisonment with a fine of 32,000 L.E.; his wife Martha Clara, three years imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 L.E. The third defendant, Kiesow, was acquitted.

Earthquake

At 7.30 a.m. last Sunday, November 28, Cairo and most of the Delta was suddenly shaken by an earthquake, which scientists have classified as of a medium category. The earthquake caused no damage. It started at the island of Rhodes, 700 kilometres from Cairo. Egypt is generally safe from earthquakes; very few have happened over the past decade, and even these occur in the form of very slight tremors.

Lebanese Ambassador succeeds as Cairo Doyen

Joseph Abu Khater, the Lebanese Ambassador in Cairo, has succeeded the Chinese Ambassador, Chen Chai-Kang, as doyen of the diplomatic corps in Cairo. The Chinese Ambassador has been transferred to another post. Joseph Abu Khater has been the Lebanese Ambassador in Cairo, for five and a half years.

Nasser speaks on December 21

The U.A.R. this year celebrates Victory Day on December 21 instead of December 23, which coincides

with the night of Shaaban 30 (Arab calendar), the beginning of the Glorious Month of Ramadan, the month of fasting for Moslems.

President Nasser arrives by train at Port Said on December 21, in the



morning, to take part in the celebration and to make a speech in the evening.

No more prisons in Cairo City

Last week, a decision was made to pull down the 100-year old Miar prison, the central prison in the city of Cairo. The prison is in the Al-Kalaa suburb, on the way to the famous monumental Citadel of Saladin. The area where the prison stands today will be changed into a public park. The 3,000 prisoners, meanwhile, will be moved to other prisons in the U.A.R.

One more prison existed in Cairo at the spot where the picturesque Ramses square now is; the prison was called the Foreigners' Prison and was removed immediately after the outbreak of the Revolution in 1952. In its place today stand a number of apartment blocs overlooking the wide square.

The Foreigners' Prison was in fact part of the class system applied in Egypt in older times; at the outset it received only foreigners, then later Egyptians with a privileged social status.

Prisons in Egypt today apply a system of vocational training, whereby prisoners are taught and trained for various vocations, in order to make use of the time they serve and to be able to make a decent living for themselves after their release.

Hidden Treasures

Spanish resident of Cairo, painter Luis Canizares, has been absorbed for the last two years in his Zamalek studio on a large collection of subjects inspired by the Passion of Jesus. Mr. Canizares is in no hurry to finish: he estimates another two years of work on some of his canvases. For those who have been privileged to watch their progress, the evolution of the series from the decorative to the genuinely inspired is of great interest. Recently, a woman of some sensibility, shown the seven heads representing the last seven phrases spoken by Jesus on the Cross, was so overcome by the pity, terror, and reflections on our human condition that these inspire, that she fainted.

This is not the place for a critique of Mr. Canizares' work; suffice it to say that when European connoisseurs become aware of it (those of them who are not taken in by the mountebank art farces fashionable in the world today) they will have something to talk about.

★ ★ ★

The Oldest Arab

Haj Ismail Ahmed Yassin, of Aqaba, Jordan, claims to be 121 years old, and is therefore the oldest known inhabitant of the Arab world. He says that he is quite certain of his age and that his birth was recorded in the time of the Ottoman Empire. The old man's recipe for longevity is a diet of camel milk, dates, and yoghurt.

He is able to recall the Arab revolt when Prince Feisal drove the Turks from Aqaba. Haj Ismail says that he remembers Prince Feisal had a young Englishman with him, for whom he later worked as a guide in the desert for a salary of six gold dinars a month. The Englishman, Haj Ismail recalls, spoke good Arabic and his name was Lawrence.

★ ★ ★

Arabic Chant in St. Peter's

The Lebanese monk, Sharbel Makhruf, a Maronite who died in 1898, is to be beatified on December 5 in a ceremony at St. Peter's, Rome. The beatification rite will be in Latin, and the subsequent Mass will be chanted in Arabic according to the Maronite rite.

★ ★ ★

Social News

The Embassy of Kuwait is open after a week's official mourning for the late Emir.

The Arab Observer mourns the passing of Kamel El Shinnawi (see obituary notice).

Cairo this week has been revelling in a Garbo Festival: for the not-so-young a host of glorious memories revived, for the mods, a revelation of beauty and genius.

★ ★ ★

Cairo's newest bazaar is tucked away near Garden City. One of the world's greatest architects gave suggestions for the transformation of a garage into an enchanting Arab-style shop on several levels. The objects to be found there are suitable as souvenirs of a trip to the UAR — and for Christmas gifts, too. The Arab Observer looked round with eagle eye and saw nothing in bad taste and a great many objects representing the best in Egyptian craftsmanship.

According to report published in the Turkish press on November 28 professors and a number of students from the Faculty of Political Science and Law of Ankara University and from the Institute of Middle Eastern Studies have issued a joint declaration relating to the foreign policy of Turkey. The main points in the declaration are: that Turkey should take her place in the comity of nations struggling for independence; that Cyprus should become an independent, non-aligned country with guarantees for both national communities on equal basis; that armed intervention in Vietnam should be stopped immediately and all interference in internal affairs of the country should be ended; that there should be complete co-operation between Turkey and the non-aligned nations as well as with all peoples struggling for self-determination.

★ ★ ★

Hunting Lodges

The late King Farouk had a number of hunting lodges scattered across the Western Desert. The shutters are now being taken down from these, and they are being converted into Combined Units (clinic, school, welfare, veterinary service).

★ ★ ★

U.A.R. Freighter Missing

As we go to press there is still no news of the UAR, freighter «El Arish», last heard of in the Bay of Biscay. Last radio messages were that the ship was trying to make the port of Corunna. Air and sea units of different nations are hunting for the ship, which was due home in Alexandria on 28 November with her Captain, Zulfikar Hassan, and a crew of thirty one.

★ ★ ★

Beatle News

The Arabic press has been marveling at the comet-like rise of the Beatles, who like to picture themselves as having been misty-eyed intellectuals who somehow started to warble and thrum, they know not how. Believe us who know, it was hard-headed business from the start: one of them (which? we do not pretend to know them apart) was a prosperous teen-clothes-boutique operator in one of Britain's northern cities, son of a prosperous Jewish manufacturer: he and his friends saw no reason why they, too, should not avail themselves of some of the wealth an hysterical public flings at the feet of its teenage idols.

N.B.: In Cairo they are known as Al Khanafes.

★ ★ ★

Queen of Sheba Background Beatrix Foreground?

An academic question: if Heads of State (or their heirs) go on holidays in Israel, do they qualify for the Arab League Black List? The Israelis have conducting a «come to Israel for your honeymoons campaign, hoping to induce Crown Princess Beatrix of Holland and her fiancé, Claus von Amsberg, to visit Israel after their marriage next spring. Will they, won't they? One thing is sure, whatever the Israelis try to do, they will never make their stolen wedge of territory a tourist paradise. Ellath was never a very exciting place: to try to make it so by pretending that the Queen of Sheba landed there is really bending over backwards. What the Queen of Sheba did, of course, was to float down the Nile, view the marvels, and stay at a comfortable hotel in Cairo, which, if they really want to enjoy themselves, is what the Dutch princess and her bridegroom will do.

★ ★ ★

U.A.R.



Egypt

Emir Sedairi, chief
Saudi delegate, at
a press conference



Deliberation by
two tribal chiefs

At Harad:
Yemeni gains
confirmed

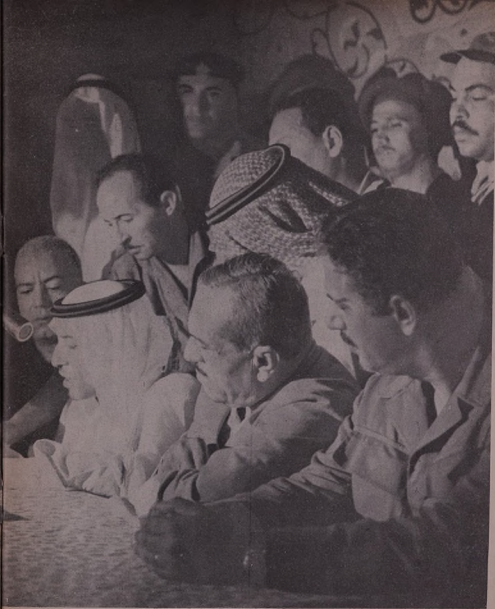
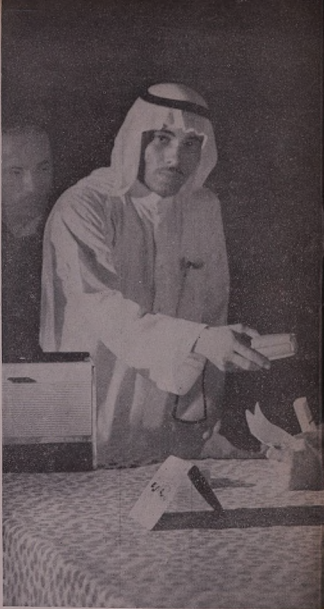


Tribal delegates
retire to their
camps after each
session



A happy reunion
at long last

At Harad :
Yemeni gains confirmed



Members of the Supervisory Committee at the Peace Conference.

Emir Abdullah al-Sedairi, head of the Saudi side, addresses the conference.

AT HARAD

The Harad Conference opened on the 23rd of last month to decide on the form of government in Yemen during the transitional period before a plebiscite is held next November in which the Yemeni people will state their will. It is not strange, as was said by Ahmed Nooman, the republican member of the conference, that the discussions should last two or three weeks for they had to heal the scars left by three and half years of war and put an end to strife among the Yemenis.

It was a fascinating sight to see the Sheikhs of Yemen embracing each other. Those who arrived first at the site of the conference went out of their tents to receive the newcomers with open hearts and outstretched arms, with tears of joy filling the eyes of both sides. A fall of rain, regarded by the Arabs as a good omen, gave the conferees a sense of optimism about the success of the task they had met to accomplish.

The Yemen Peace Committee issued a communiqué saying that the two Yemeni delegations to the Conference held a private meeting to exchange views on the questions under discussion. The peace observers represent Saudi Arabia and UAR with El-Qadi Abdul Rahman el Eriany, member of the Yemeni Republic Council and Ahmed Nooman on the republican side, and Ahmed el-Shami and Sheikh Salah ell-Masri on the other side. Meanwhile the Liaison Committee met to discuss the agenda and the means of settling reservations put forwards by the two sides.

Conference welcomed

Addressing a popular rally, General Hassan e'-Emary said, «The government has welcomed the Harad Conference because of its confidence that all sections of the Yemeni people are united in defence of the gains of the revolution.»

The Republican Council has received many cables from Yemeni committees abroad as well as local chieftains and organisations, proclaiming their unyielding adherence to the republican regime and their

readiness to defend the revolutionary achievement.

Not an easy task

No doubt the task of the conference will not be easy; some desperate voices may attempt to wipe out the gains of the revolution. But the Yemeni people are behind their republic and refuse to let the clock turn backward.

The Egyptian and Saudi sides are determined to implement the Jeddah agreement in letter and spirit and are sparing no efforts for the success of the conference.

In his meeting with Marshal Amer, First Vice President of the UAR after his return from Riyadh, Mohamed Ali Reda, Saudi Ambassador in Cairo, gave Amer a message from King Faisal. The mission of the Saudi Ambassador in Jeddah concerned the efforts made to provide the Harad Conference with every guarantee of success. Amer had already sent messages to King Faisal and Emir Sultan, Saudi Defence Minister, in that connection. After the meeting of Reda with Amer it was decided that Hassan Sabri el-Kholi in his capacity as a personal representative of President Nasser should proceed at once to Sanaa to act in the liaison committee between President Nasser and King Faisal. A message sent by El-Eriany to Marshal Amer is at present a topic of conjecture among diplomatic circles in Cairo.

Private meetings marked the conference, to settle the reservations made by the two sides in the opening sessions. It is learned that during these meetings agreement was reached on many outstanding questions.

IRAQ'S PRUDENT SOCIALISM

The Iraqi Premier, Dr. Abdul Rahman al Bazzaz, said last Wednesday that there were no essential differences between the «prudent socialism of Iraq» and the socialism applied in the UAR, and that slight differences between them resulted from the circumstances, potentialities and capabilities of the two countries.

In an interview given to the Middle East News Agency (MEN) correspondent in Baghdad, Dr. Bazzaz said that the form of unity between the UAR and Iraq had been entirely left to the UAR Unified Political Command. President Abdul Salam Aref, he said, would visit Cairo shortly.

The Iraqi Premier added that the present endeavours to improve relations between Turkey and Iran did not mean there was going to be any association with the policies of the two countries. He also condemned Britain's colonialist policy in the Occupied Arab South and affirmed that Iraq was going to render every support to the Arab Gulf Emirates.

The following is the text of the interview:

Question: Would you please explain the concept of «prudent socialism»?

Answer: Prudent socialism is Arab socialism aimed at realising social justice, increasing production and distributing wealth on a fair basis. It is a kind of constructive socialism that neither believes in the division of society into classes nor in the inevitability of class conflict. It believes that socialism is but the social aspect of Arab Nationalism. In other words, it is a type of enlightened socialism that benefits from all doctrines, views and ideologies without having to stick to any of them. The criterion is the ultimate end, not the means, which may have to be changed in accordance with circumstances.



Complete cross-section of Yemeni society at Harad Conference.

Abdul Rahman al-Eriani, head of the Republican side (right) and Ahmad Mohammed Nooman (centre) at the Peace talks.



Question: What is the attitude of « prudent socialism » towards socialism as applied in the UAR ?

Answer: There are no essential differences between them, only in so far as the circumstances, potentialities and capacities of the two countries differ. For example, the area of cultivable land and population density in the UAR give an individual farmer an area not exceeding a few dunums (one dunum = approx. a quarter of an acre), while in Iraq an individual farmer can get a larger area in view of the vastness of the cultivable region and the relative smallness of the population. The conditions are also rather different, for in the UAR large foreign capital was concentrated for quite a long time, causing great harm to Egyptian farmers and workers.

No domination by capital

Meanwhile, industry in Iraq is not mature yet. Very few factories have been set up. Thus the industrial situations in the two countries do not invite comparison. National capitalism can play an important role in realising prosperity and so the private sector has to be encouraged. The important thing is that there should be no domination of capital over the government, nor ought there to be any social discrepancy existent in Iraq.

Question: In the government policy statement, you have stated that the government was ready to grant concessions to Iraqi and foreign companies to exploit the country's natural resources. Doesn't this seem incompatible with the socialist trend ?

Answer: This offer is not incompatible with the objective of socialism, for it is aimed at increasing production. The achievements of the UAR in this connection prove this fact. The establishment of the Free Trade Zone in Port Said is a further proof that the UAR socialism — like the Iraqi socialism — is flexible enough and mainly concerned with reaching its ultimate end.

Question: Would Iraqi President Abdul Salam Aref visit Cairo shortly ?

Answer: He will surely leave for Cairo in a short time.

Question: What are the questions to be considered by the Unified Political Command at its coming meeting ?

Answer: The agenda will be prepared after consultations with UAR officials. Generally speaking, the meeting will be a further step towards realisation of the Arab nation's hope for establishing its common entity on firm, carefully-studied foundations.

Question: Will the form of unity between the two countries be considered at the meeting of the Political Command ?

Answer: We believe that the Arab nation is one indivisible whole and we also believe in its oneness of destiny. The UAR National Charter has affirmed that the road to unity is long and hard and that the struggle for its realisation cannot be monolithic. Yet the peculiar circumstances of each country should be taken into consideration, and the matter is thus left to the parties concerned to decide upon it.

Question: But unity is a popular demand ?

Answer: Unity does not mean a central state into which all parts of the Arab nation would melt as one entity. There are various forms of unity, and this is a constitutional issue concerning which there would be agreement among the parties concerned. Throughout my life, I have been one of the most enthusiastic advocates of Arab unity. I was even deprived of my freedom for some time because of my strong conviction over Arab unity. In spite of my belief in the inevitability and importance of unity, I do not find that unity necessarily means one simple state. I have expressed my views on unity in my book «THE UNIFIED STATE AND THE FEDERAL STATE».

Question: Do you intend to visit neighbouring countries ?

Answer: There is nothing definite about that. Unlike many other Arab countries, Iraq has long borders with two big non-Arab Islamic countries. Any government appreciating its responsibilities would seek good relations with two neighbouring countries such as Turkey and Iran. This does not at all mean that there is going to be any association with the policies of the two

countries. It only means the establishment of cordial relations and the promotion of commercial and cultural relations with them.

Question: You have recently announced the formation of a ministerial committee to organise the Arab Socialist Union in Iraq. What are the rules according to which this organisation will be conducted ?

Answer: We shall benefit from our own experience as well as from the experiments of the UAR. We shall endeavour to make the Arab Socialist Union the popular power backing the regime. It will be the concourse of all the revolutionary groups that believe in total Arabism, socialism, unity and sound democracy. We shall endeavour to combine the intelligentsia, farmers, workers, nationalist businessmen, students and all those who support the revolution and work to realise its objectives. All will participate in building a sound and free society that will interact with all Arab countries for reaching the ultimate end of establishing the common Arab entity.

Arab Gulf Emirates

Question: What is your government's attitude towards Britain's policy in the Arab Gulf, and to what extent is your government ready to support the Arab Gulf Emirates ?

Answer: We sharply criticise Britain's policy in the Arab Gulf, and I have explained the Iraqi Government's viewpoint in this respect to Mr. Wilson in London and to Mr. Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, during the recent meetings of the United Nations. I believe that the British Government gravely miscalculated when it deposed the ruler of Sharjah. It was also mistaken in preventing the Arab League from offering aid to the people of the Gulf. Iraq will render every support to the students and citizens of the Gulf.

Question: Did the Iraqi Government fulfil all its obligations towards the Unified Arab Command and the Palestine Liberation Organisation ?

Answer: Iraq will fulfil all its obligations. It supports the Arab League and the Arab Summit Conferences, and will never hesitate to offer whatever is asked of her.

Sudan

THE DANGERS OF A MULTI-PARTY SOCIETY



Mahjoub :

We don't fear the Communists ?

The Sudan is going through a critical period. A good many elements combating each other in this large territory which adjoins eight African countries, its people split by several and contradictory political under-currents, some springing from the land itself and others imported from outside.

The government's decision to dissolve the Sudanese Communist Party has complicated the situation, leading as it did to violent demonstrations against restrictions on liberty of opinion.

Thirty-six parties, organisations and trade-unions agreed in their opposition to such restrictive measures, and the Democratic People's Party, which is patronised by All al-Merghani, leader of the Khatmiya Sect, stood by the Communist Party, objecting to its dissolution as it was an officially recognised party, represented by 11 deputies in the Constituent Assembly (Parliament). The important professional trade-unions, including the syndicates of lawyers, engineers, teachers, and also the university professors and the judiciary itself — who represent the pick of intelligentsia in the country — support the Communist Party's right to exist.

None of these are Communists, but recent events have made them get together to work against the government.

Another occurrence has contributed to recent developments and precipitated certain events. This was the disparaging remarks made by a

student of the Teachers Institute about Islam in a lecture to teachers. Three days after this incident, which was deplored most strongly by all, the Umma Party's members and supporters attacked and even demolished Communist Party centres. The following day the demonstrations intensified and multitudes demonstrated after the Friday prayers asking for the dissolution of the Communist Party. The government announced that in response to the wishes of the masses, it had asked the Constituent Assembly to amend the Constitution and dissolve the Communist Party.

The opposition — represented in the 36 parties, groups and trade-unions — then called for the big demonstration which rocked Khartoum, raising banners calling for



Sheikh Abdul Rahman :

one of two alternatives is inevitable...

the abolition of all laws restricting general freedoms. Parallel to it another big demonstration was organised, comprising government supporters, members of the Umma Party and the National Unionist Party (a number of whom, however, joined the other side with the opposition).

The Sudanese capital was almost on the verge of witnessing a serious clash. Providentially, however, nothing too serious occurred, though dozens were injured and many were arrested but later released.

However, the government proceeded with its plan, obtained the approval of the Constituent Assembly to amend the Constitution, and prepared to draw up a special bill dissolving the Communist Party, to be submitted to the Assembly this week. The latter no doubt will ra-

tify it as it has already approved the amendment to the Constitution.

In an interview given to newsmen, Prime Minister Mohammed Ahmed Mahjoub stated, in answer to a question as to whether the government did not fear the consequences of dissolving the Communist Party, as it was an officially recognised party : « We do not fear the Communists. They cannot work underground, as some may believe, because they are known to us, for they revealed themselves when their party was allowed to do as it pleased. None of them will now be able to seek protection from anyone, because the citizens themselves have now become the guards and protectors of the country against the Communists. They will no longer be able to have fortified chambers underground or secret printing presses, as was the case previously ».

However, the views of the Sudanese Prime Minister are not shared by many others who anticipate that the situation will not pass peacefully. As proof to this, they point out that the number of Communist supporters is rapidly increasing, as shown clearly in the recent elections, when the majority of the National Unionist Party candidate over the Communists at an Omdurman by-election did not exceed 88 votes.

There is no doubt that the Communists entered the National Assembly by way of the Khirrijin — the debating chamber allocated to University graduates in the Constituent Assembly. However, it seems probable it will be more difficult to get rid of them than it was for them to get in.

Inside the Constituent Assembly itself, the expulsion of the Communist deputies is also being opposed by



Azhari :

will a national Cabinet be formed ?

the 21 Southern deputies who were returned unopposed by the southern constituencies before the postponement of elections in the South.

Factions in

Communist Party

The Sudanese Communists themselves, however, are split into warring factions. The party backed by Peking has levelled serious accusations against the other Communist Party which has published cables of support it has received from Moscow.

Whatever the internal developments in the Sudan at the present moment, observers expect important events in the coming few days. Politics are preoccupying the Sudanese people, and everyone is wondering what the future holds for the country, whose political future seems uncertain.

According to Aly Abdul Rahman, leader of the People's Democratic Party, one of two alternatives is inevitable: either complete collapse, or a national Cabinet that will work to save the situation, while formulating a Constitution that would realise stability. But who can formulate such a Constitution?

The present Constituent Assembly was elected to draw one up. It did not do so, but amended, more than once, the provisional constitution. The only sensible solution to the existing crisis, adds Aly Abdul Rahman, is to dissolve this Assembly and form a national Cabinet of the three big parties: the People's Democratic Party; the Umma Party and the National Unionist Party, providing they are represented by equal numbers, and do not exclude representatives of the other parties.

It is learned from reliable sources that the other side, as represented in the Umma and National Unionist Parties, does not object to the formation of the national Cabinet, but that it does not agree to the dissolution of the present Constituent Assembly.

A new idea has also emerged and is currently under study, namely, that « a national committee » should be formed with an equal membership of the three parties, say, 20 of each, beside some representatives of the other parties. This committee would work at once to formulate a draft permanent constitution and

complete its task in the shortest possible period, say, in one month, after which the draft constitution would be submitted to the Constituent Assembly for ratification.

Another idea proposes the retention of the present Assembly, on condition that one word only should be amended, namely, that the Assembly should become « Consultative » instead of « Constituent ».

In any case, contacts are now in progress between the two parties through mediators who consider that it is impossible for the present position to continue, disturbing as

it is to the economic stability of the country and its general development.

The Sudanese economy has begun to suffer seriously during the past year: foreign capital is no longer being attracted to the Sudan, and at the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Ezz Eldin Aly Amer has pointed out that too much money is being smuggled out of the country. (Interior Minister Ahmed al Mahdi replied that the government is relaxing no efforts to intensify control at the customs to cope with smuggling).

Morocco

IDEAS CAN'T BE ABDUCTED

The Arab world is still most concerned with the mysterious disappearance in Paris five weeks ago of Mehdi Ben Barka, the Moroccan progressive nationalist and exiled opposition leader.

Progressive revolutionary elements all over the world are equally concerned.

Political commentators have gone far in trying to account for the motives behind Ben Barka's mid-day disappearance. Some consider a prime reason for his abduction possibly was to prevent him from returning to Morocco to obstruct any reconciliation between the nationalist movement, led by him, and King Al Hassan II. This is substantiated by the fact that contacts were in fact being made with Ben Barka to convince him to return home.

Other commentators say that the U.S. Intelligence is behind this incident, because Ben Barka presided over the Preparatory Committee of the Three Continents (Asia, Africa and Latin America) People's Solidarity Conference, scheduled for next month in Havana, Cuba.

A third group reckons that those who abducted him were some extremist elements of the underground French Army (OAS), which is still living in the moon and dreams that there is still a French Empire... and that the existence of Ben Barka constituted a danger to imperialistic influence.

Whatever the case may be, it cannot be confirmed that any of these explanations has hit the mark of the truth. All that one can underline is



Mehdi Ben Barka :
symbol of an idea

that reactionary elements, with colonialist forces behind them, who would be uniquely interested in Ben Barka's disappearance.

Ben Barka was born in 1920 in Rabat, Morocco, of poor parents. He worked as a teacher of arithmetic in Rabat from 1943 until 1948. During this period (in 1944 to be precise), Ben Barka joined the Moroccan Istiqlal (independence) Party and signed a party manifesto flaying the French protection in Morocco. He was then sentenced to imprisonment and after his release strived to convert the party into a popular organisation. As a result, General Juan, the French Governor at the time, ordered his exile for four years in South Morocco. Speaking of Ben Barka, General Juan, who



King Al Hassan II :
all reconciliation now obstructed

in 1952 was Commander of the French Occupation Forces in North Africa, said: «...He is our most dangerous enemy.»

Ben Barka was elected President of the first Legislative Assembly after the independence of Morocco in 1956. During the period of consolidation of Morocco's independence, he undertook the leadership of the mutiny movement within the Istiqlal Party against the old leadership, which had developed in the wake of the national movement. It later transpired that the old leadership had a conservative rightist tendency, and Ben Barka, the Party Secretary General, was leader of the leftwing within the Istiqlal, while the rightwing was led by Alal al Fassi (Party leader) and Ahmad Belafrej.

The matter culminated in Ben Barka forming a new political group in January 1959, which broke away from the Istiqlal Party under the name of «The National Union for Popular Powers.» This new party was the offspring of full accord between the popular base in the different parties in realising that to remain in the synthetic partisan position was an enfeeblement of the popular powers enabling feudalistic interests, both inside and outside, to control the country.

In fact, Ben Barka's life was threatened on more than one occasion, the best-known incident being in November 1962 when he was seriously injured in a car accident. At the time, the Party released a statement accusing the Moroccan Royal Court of engineering the accident. One year later (on No-

vember 9, 1963, to be exact), the Moroccan Military Court in Rabat passed a death sentence against Mehdi Ben Barka on charges of seditious and subversive activity against the security of the State. The verdict was passed in *absentia*.

We now review his theory and views on three causes: Arab unity, Socialism and Arab Nationalism.

As regards Arab unity, Ben Barka believed that all-out Arab unity should be established on progressive foundations springing from the political, economic and social life of the Arabs; that the soundest method of building Arab unity on stable bases, would be to unify the popular structure, that is, create Arab popular organism identical in their ideological and social context, and manner of struggle, providing such organisms would exist only to unify the concepts of the Arab people. Ben Barka was thus enthusiastic about convening a conference for the political structures of the Arab popular powers in 1963.

His view of socialism, however, is summed up in the fact that democratic socialism cannot succeed in underdeveloped countries, in spite of the fact that this type of socialism might succeed in industrially-advanced countries. Indeed, he believed that this system might obstruct development.

Ben Barka did not object to the socialist countries seeking aid from foreign capital, but this should take place with strong reservations and within the strict limits of the development programme. He believed that socialism is only a means for reaching development and equity, and requires continual criticism on the road to these: it also requires a democratic, popular control that can put this development in the service of the people before all other interests.

As for his opinion of Arab Nationalism, Ben Barka believed that Arab Nationalism must reject any racial or religious basis, since it is an historical, social and ideological phenomenon embracing all Arabs in the Orient and Maghreb: it affords the opportunity for distributing potentialities and proficiencies as could realise the progress of all the Arab countries, and, consequently, should not need support and persuasion, since it is implicit in the reality of the life of the Arab nation.

Ben Barka, as known to all, was a good-hearted and thoughtful man. He was a symbol of an idea. Though Ben Barka has disappeared, the idea will remain.

Libya

LIBYAN SPOTLIGHT

On December 24, oil-rich Libya celebrates the 13th anniversary of its independence. Like teenagers all over the world it is going through some emotional growing pains. But under the steady hand of its patriarchal 76-year-old King Idris, it seems to be weathering them. Development schemes are mushrooming and in the 1965 budget, 70 per cent of the country's oil revenues were devoted to development. The one big bone of contention is the government capital of Baida, which is an ultra-modern ghost town established by royal decree, when parliament was not in session. But the King has had his way because as one Minister put it — «If a man does nine things right, he must be allowed one thing wrong.»

In a recent press interview, Libya's Prime Minister Hussein Mazek was asked whether or not he thought Libya's three provinces of Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and the Fezzan would remain a united whole.

He replied that, of course, Libya was now one country, united in its determination to bring prosperity to its people — and in its desire to further the cause of peace.



The search continues for oil in
the Libyan Desert



Libya's desert also teems with archaeological expeditions

But this is a question that is asked by many outside observers of this young Arab country.

At present, stability is maintained through the patriarchal rule of King Idris — the priest king whose steady hand holds the impetuous and traditionally warring mixture of tribes together.

Non-party government

The government is non-party; its nucleus, the sheikhs and leaders of the older generation.

Its members are carefully vetted to keep out hotheads in a country which is still 65 per cent illiterate.

In the 1965 budget, 70 per cent of the oil revenues was given over to development schemes. Agriculture alone was allotted 10 million pounds and, under the new Idris Housing Scheme, 70,000 houses are to be constructed immediately; 10,000 houses are to be built every year and leased on an instalment purchase plan.

Old properties and shanty towns are being ruthlessly razed in Tripoli to enable new roads to be built. Drainage and water pipes are being laid and modernisation of electricity and telecommunications is under way.

Construction and engineering firms from every country crowd Tripoli, Benghazi and, now, Tobruk.

But except for the ports of Marsa Brega and Ras Lanuf, midway along the Tunisia-Egypt coastroad, life in Libya is concentrated in Benghazi, a small, sleepy port and Tripoli, whose population has now passed the quarter-million mark.

The rest of Libya's million-and-a-half people are desert nomads with no fixed abode and no desire for one... except for the desert towns and villages such as Homs, Ghadames, Sebha, Brak and, except of course, the Brasilia of Libya — Beida.

Slave routes

The desert stretches for a thousand kilometres between Tripoli, Libya's capital in Turkish days, eastwards along the coast to Benghazi. Southwards to the borders of Algeria, Nigeria and Chad is another 1,000 kilometres of shifting dunes, through which the ancient slave routes wound from oasis to oasis bringing captives from mid-Africa to the markets of Libya and the Middle East.

Although the majority of Ministers and members of Parliament are from Tripolitania — their businesses, families and friends being there — five years ago a Royal decree fixed Beida, set among the green hills of Cyrenaica, as the new capital of Libya.

The decree was greeted with consternation and protest from the Prime Minister, members of the government, embassies and employees in all the ministries.

Ghost town

But Beida was born. Today, when Parliament is not sitting, it is an ultra-modern «ghost town».

The next session of Parliament opens tomorrow, December 7. The Ministers are already preparing for their expedition to Beida.

In a land where even the advent of the transistor radio has not stifled the travelling tale-bearer, the only explanation one can think of, in the continued existence of a town nobody wants, is the desire to create a fairy story.

A memorable dream

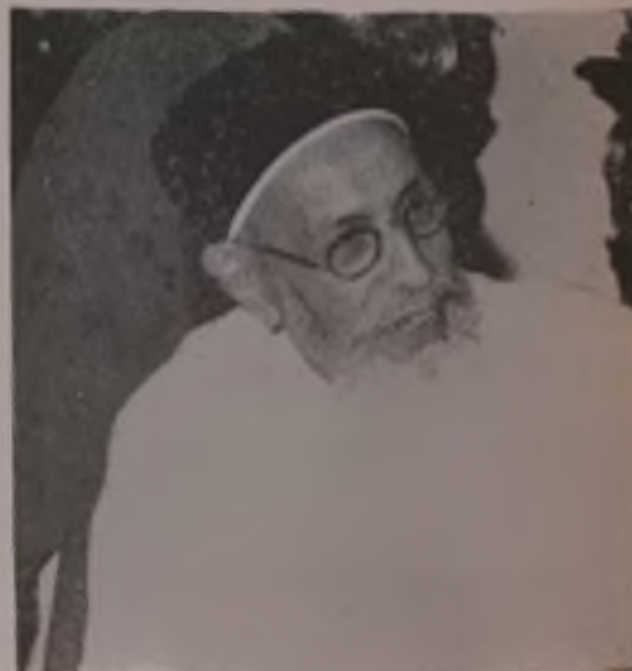
One morning, they say, the King awoke, deeply disturbed. He sent

for his Prime Minister and told him of a dream which had been so vivid and memorable that it was starkly clear to him, even in the brilliant sunlight of the morning.

In the dream, his old father, the founder of the Senussia, a holy man venerated throughout the Moslem world, who devoted his life to religion and teaching, had appeared before his son. «What has happened to my beloved Beida, the fountain of our religion and spiritual home of all true Senussis? Alone and neglected it stands on its bare hillside, its people forgotten and sad.»

Greatly disturbed by the torment he had obviously caused to the spirit of the deceased, Beida was declared the new seat of the government.

Despite opposition, it has remained so.



King Idris :
had a vivid dream...



Hussein Mazek :
Libya will remain a united whole

Occupied Palestine

PRELUDE TO THE RETURN

Newsagencies reported last week that the Arabs living in Occupied Palestine had placed pictures of President Nasser and Marshal Amer in the ballot boxes at the recent Israeli elections, and that the Israeli Police are conducting an investigation into this matter.

The newsagencies stated that the cards to which the Arabs affixed these pictures, also carried the slogan of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and an oath saying: « We swear, in the name of Almighty God and the usurped homeland, that we shall carry on the war inside Israel until Palestine becomes once more a free Arab country ».

Some of the Israeli newspapers published reproductions of these cards.

In fact, the cards, which bore the pictures of President Nasser and Marshal Amer, were not the first manifestation of the resistance of Arabs living in Israel to the Jewish State.

In spite of the fact that the Arab minority in Israel is living permanently under martial law and military rule; that the Israeli authorities subjugate this minority to stringent supervision and severe repressive measures, and that the authorities deal most strongly with every attempt made by the Arabs to express their indignation at the Israeli occupation, — in spite of all this — the Arab minority has never ceased to manifest its resentment at those who have plundered their country, nor have they missed any opportunity to express their confidence that Arab struggle will definitely liberate Palestine one day, under the leadership of Gamal Abdul Nasser.

The Israelis themselves have admitted the existence of this factor in their midst, as have the pro-Zionist newspapers and newsagencies.

In his book entitled «THE ARABS INSIDE ISRAEL», Walter Schwartz, the Jewish writer, recorded the faith of the Arabs everywhere—even inside Israel — in President Nasser. He says, on pp. 15 and 16: « You could hear the Arabs in Israel shouting the downfall of Ben-Gurion, demanding the termination of military rule, and hailing Long Live Nasser ».

Schwartz recorded, elsewhere in the same book, a confession by a senior official of the military who rule the Arabs in Israel (namely, the Police Inspector in Nazareth), in which he admitted the faith of the Arabs inside Israel in their nationalism and in Nasser, the pioneer of Arab Nationalism.

In an interview given to the author of the book, the Israeli inspector said: « We have in Israel 200,000 Arabs; this means there are 200,000 nationalists who believe in the principles of Nasser! » (p. 20).

The same Jewish author quoted another example of the belief of the Arab minority in Israel that the day of salvation from the prison of Israel must dawn, and that this salvation will be due to President Nasser.

He stated that he had asked an Arab youth in Israel one day about the leader in which he believed most, and the young man answered at once: « It is Nasser... Nasser is the greatest leader in the world... He is greater than Saladin! ».

The American newspaper *New York Times*, known for its partiality to Zionism and Israel, published in its edition of September 23, 1961 a report which stated: «...Twelve persons were injured in the clash which took place between the Arabs and Israelis in the ancient city of Acre. Hundreds of policemen, reinforced by strong units from the Frontier Force, were rushed to the Arab quarters to restore peace. Twelve policemen were also injured in the demonstrations which broke out in the city of Nazareth, when about 2,000 schoolboys gathered in the square of the Virgin Mary's Well and began to shout: « To hell with Israel... Long Live Nasser! ».

Newsagencies, foremost American UPI, stated in the cables they released from Tel-Aviv on October 22, 1961, that the Israeli authorities had arrested seven Arabs at Kafr Yassef in West Galilee, on charges of chanting the praises of President



The «elections» card that startled the Zionists...

Nasser during a marriage ceremony.

Indeed, Ben-Gurion himself and, later, Levi Eshkol, admitted the strong belief of the Arabs living in Israel in Arab Nationalism, and their allegiance to President Nasser.

Whenever voices in the Knesset ask for an end to military rule from the districts populated by the Arabs, and that permission be given to the Arabs to move from one area to another freely and without a special permit from the Military Governor, the never-changing answer of the Israeli Prime Minister — be it Ben-Gurion or Eshkol — is that the Israeli authorities cannot relax the restrictions imposed on the Arab-populated areas as the Arabs are a possible Fifth Column inside Israel; their sentiments are against Israel, and their hearts are with Gamal Abdul Nasser!

The misery in which the Arabs live inside Israel, and the inhuman treatment which they receive, have reached an extent that provokes even the sympathy of some of the Israelis themselves.

The Israeli authorities, in fact, went so far in humiliating the Arabs, that an Israeli body (an anti-Zionist body which calls itself «The Third Power», and advocates accord with the Arabs) submitted a note to the U.N. Rights of Man Committee complaining of the bad conditions of the Arab minority in Israel.

According to the note, dated November 21, 1961, «When establishing the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, the government which was

then set up released a statement in which it appealed to the Arabs living in Israel to maintain peace, and pledged to guarantee for them all the rights of citizens and complete equality with others.

The statement also said that the State of Israel would maintain full equality in the social and political rights of all the citizens, without discrimination due to creed or race.

« It soon transpired, however, that these statements were not only insincere but misleading.

« All Arab villagers live under military rule, and no Arab villager has the right to leave his place of residence without the written permission of the Military Governor, even if this were to look for employment or to seek first-aid.

« Arab children have died on the arms of their mothers while the latter were waiting in the corridors of the Military Governor's office for permits to be issued to them to go to a doctor.

« The migration permit determines for the recipient the route which he should follow, and forbids him to depart from it.

« If a Jewish settlement close to the Arab areas wants to purchase a piece of land from an Arab village, the Military Governor insures for it the purchase of the required land, and at a « suitable » price.

« The Arab peasant, who refuses to sell his land, will not obtain a

permit to go to the city and sell his crops.

« The Military Governor ensures that no Arab worker who expresses sympathy for the party which opposes Zionism, will get a permit to enable him to go and look for a job, so that he and members of his family remain idle and hungry.

« The greater majority of the Arabs living in Israel are peasants; the land is the main source of their income and is often the only source.

« During the war of 1948, and even before it, Jewish settlers had begun to expropriate the lands of their Arab neighbours, and in this they were assisted by the Armed Forces and Zionist organisations.

« In this way, a good many Arab villages have lost most of their lands and all the lands of some Arab villages were looted; these villages were then completely demolished lest their owners should return to them.

« Thus a new type of Arab refugee was created — refugees who had never left their homes in Israel, until expelled by the Israeli land-looters.

« These new refugees are second-class refugees, the processes of transforming them into refugees having been carried out by organised and « legal » spoliation.

« At present, there are in Israel about 30,000 of these refugees, who are landless, homeless, and whose

living conditions are most extremely wretched.

« Should Arab land be needed for building a Jewish settlement, such land is declared a « security area » and its Arab farmers are banned to enter it. In this manner, the land can no longer be tilled and becomes neglected, when the Israeli Government expropriates and gives it to the Jewish settlers.

« Through this legal fraud, an area of about 1,250,000 dunums of the lands of Arabs living in Israel has been confiscated, which is more than 60 per cent of the total lands they had owned ».

These paragraphs from the note which was submitted by the Israeli « Third Power » body to the U.N. Rights of Man Committee, give a clear, but most gloomy, picture of the atrocious state of injustice in which the Arabs of Israel are living. They also show to what extent Zionist terrorism and coercion can go.

If one were to remember this while reading about their never-ceasing brave challenge to Israeli occupation, and about their applause on every occasion of Nasser and Arab Nationalism, and about their continuous assertion of their belief that Palestine must be liberated and that Israel must vanish, one must realise the miraculous heroism which such action implies, and the great risks the Arabs take whenever they move or open their mouths.

In fact, their deeds are but a living proof that the spirit of resistance in the Arab Nation will never die, and that the liberation of Palestine must come sooner or later.

WHEN THIEVES FALL OUT

To paraphrase, the mills of truth grind slowly, as is the case with all the bluffs imposed on world public opinion over the supposed Israeli victory in the Sinai campaign in 1956. Slowly, indeed, they are being shown up, to the detriment of their inventors.

Moshe Dayan, Israel's former C-in-C who led the Sinai campaign, has thought it was time some truth

(contd. on page 33)



Arab villages on the border now rubble and lifeless

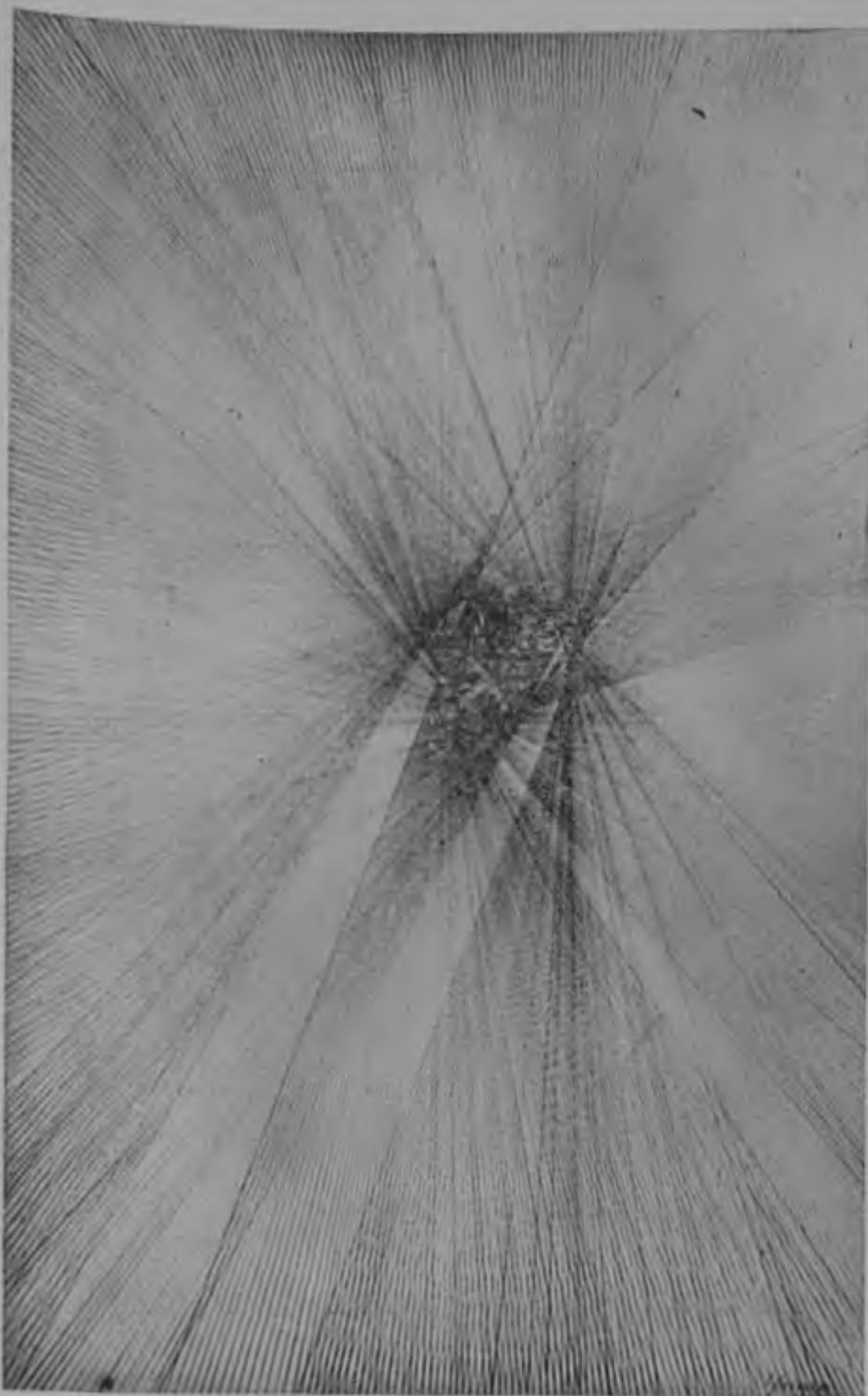


'Horse' by Mustafa Rashid

Art in the Service of Everyday Life

Back from her trip to the Lebanon, and bubbling over with new ideas, the owner of Akhenaton Gallery, Yasmine Ballarian, effected her first innovation by giving an exhibition in November in which life and art met. In addition to the customary paintings and statues, a large number of the exhibits consisted of objects intended for everyday use, like tables and lampshades.

One of the three exhibitors taking part was Ann Haig, who turned from the classic lampshades she ordinarily makes to an exotic and original type inspired by her recent trip to Indonesia.



Yasmine Ballarian uses mathematical precision

Bringing back with her graceful wooden statuettes of Balinese figures and dancers, she topped them with lampshades of her own design, creating a harmony between the two.

Drawing her inspiration from the statuette itself, she would make one lampshade in the form of a pagoda, another in the shape of an umbrella, and a third in the semblance of a Chinese hat. Using colourful batik decorated with French beads in one, she would resort to rice stalks in the second, and criss-crossed strips of wood in the third.

These artistic creations were the main attraction in Ann Haig's Indonesian corner, which also included masks, engravings, dolls, pictures made with bamboo threads on a black background, paintings on wood, colourful batiks figuring flowers and fruits, bamboo musical instruments, graceful wooden birds hanging by threads and giving an impression of flight, and even a rope rug.

In all these works, the Indonesian craftsmen express in graceful and simple terms, the «rhythm of nature in which they live» — to use the words of Ann Haig herself.

Concurrently with the exhibition in Cairo, Mrs. Haig held another in Milan, in which she displayed coral lamps. One of these — in which she utilizes corals from the Red Sea — was also included in the Akhenaton exhibition.

Yasmine Ballarian

The second artist taking part in the exhibition was Yasmine Ballarian, who placed art at the service of everyday life by using some of her attractive thick-paster abstractions as tops for gilded Louis XVI tables.

Strangely enough, there was no clash between the antique table forms and the modern decoration, and the result was pleasing and harmonious.

Yasmine also presented a number of gouaches inspired by her visit to the ruins of Baalbec, Lebanon. Still retaining her abstract style, she nevertheless permits nature to make a fleeting comeback in some of her paintings.

Making clever use of a limited number of colours, she shows us the picturesque stone structures flooded with light, bathed in a dreamy mist,



Ann Haig brought back with her masks, statuettes, paintings and miscellaneous knick knacks from Indonesia





The Crucifixion by Mustafa Rashid

or aflame with the reds of a setting sun.

Among these poetic impressions, one is surprised to find a single work in which Yasmine abandons her dreamworld, to use cool logic and mathematical precision in drawing a web of fine black lines.

Moustafa Rashid

The third artist in the exhibition was Moustafa Rashid who studied sculpture at the Free Section of the Fine Arts Academy, and now works at the Military Museum.

Using iron, to which he resorted to two years ago, as his material, Moustafa finds his inspiration largely in the animal world, and presents a dynamic bull and horse, an aggressive rhinoceros, a graceful deer, and a strutting cock.

Describing the way he works, the 35-year-old sculptor says, «I start by making sketches of the animal, then I sculpt from memory, using plaques, accentuating some parts more than others, and abstracting the forms.»

Actually he seems to retain some of the effects of drawing in the sculptures themselves, with the spaces giving an impression of light and shade. The artist even uses as theme a still-life which one would have expected to find in a drawing rather than sculpture.

«I am trying to detach myself from the limits of sculpture», Moustafa says, «from sheer volume»; and he has achieved his aim to a considerable extent. One of his most successful works in the exhibition is an expressive and simplified version of the Crucifixion.

Statuette and lampshade harmonise



Lampshade in the form of a pagoda





Indonesian painting on wood

(contd. from page 26)

about the episode should be told.

At the zenith of the Israeli election campaign, Dayan's book *DIARY OF THE SINAI CAMPAIGN* was in fact published to win votes for Mapai against inter party RAFI, which he had decided to join at the last moment.

The fairy tale

While praising his master Ben-Gurion, Dayan sets at naught the fairy tale of the Israeli Defence Army. To begin with, Dayan admitted that Israel would not have launched the attack on Egypt, had it not received French and British assurances that full backing would be given. But he also admits the heavy losses inflicted on his first-class warriors

no way justify the demoralisation of the Israeli ranks who until then had believed in the « myth of the invincible army ».

But, amid the hubbub raised by the disappointing revelations of Dayan's book, no one had really time to question foreign military commentators who were induced by the Zionist movement to write books in praise of the Israeli Army. We do not know what people like Liddle Hart (« The 100-hour War ») or Hendricks, will feel, now that the man responsible for the Sinai operations has ridiculed all their works...



Ben-Gurion :

the myth of the invincible army...

of the 10th Paratroop Brigade. He admits that the negligence of the Brigade Commander in carrying out Headquarters instructions cost him 37 men dead and 86 wounded in the steep Mitla valley.

Naturally, Dayan's revelations were the target of vigorous attack from Israeli circles which thought that his prospect of winning votes in the election campaign could in



Moshe Dayan :

couldn't have picked on a better time..

Occ. Palestine

ISRAEL STIRS IT UP

No sooner had Marshal Amer, the UAR First Vice-President, returned from his State visit to France recently, than the Zionist authorities rushed Israel Ben-Eliezer, the Knesset Deputy Speaker, to Paris.

Ben-Eliezer contacted a few French senior officials, including the Ministers of War, the Interior, the Minister for Algerian Affairs and the Commander-in-Chief. His errand apparently was to try and divert France from the shift-over in its attitude towards the Levant.

Ignoring the new and objective trends of France's international views, Eliezer wished to explain Israel's role in the Middle East. He told his French hosts that Israel was acting in the interests of the West in undermining Arab unity...

This argument is perhaps still welcomed in certain European capitals, but in view of General de Gaulle's bold policy of seeking the friendship of the Arab World, — a policy which he clearly expressed



Marshal Amer in Paris :
a warm welcome

in his warm welcome to Marshal Amer, — Ben Eliezer is out of step with the times.

A question which remains without an answer is how the Zionist bosses will explain Ben-Eliezer's mission to Paris to Afro-Asian countries which are still misinformed by Zionist propaganda that Israel is a peace-loving State, opposed to colonialism... when it is evident that she is trying to make France, an ex-colonialist power, her ally against the Arabs.



Defence Minister Messmer :
met Ben-Eliezer

Africa

Rhodesia

ESTIMATES FOR ARMAGEDDON

Aftermath of a
Bulawayo riot —
clearing up the
wreckage.



In the event of war erupting in Rhodesia, more than 500,000 men, armed with the best equipment available from Eastern and Western countries, could be engaged.

The military dangers have been pointed out by the Institute of Strategic Studies in London in a report on the men and arms available for commitment to a war over the Rhodesian unilateral declaration of independence.

The Institute did not say so, but few observers doubt that once hostilities begin, it will be impossible to restrict them to Rhodesian soil.

The Institute did not evaluate the fighting capabilities of the Rhodesian forces or, for that matter, any other military power on the African continent. It had no interest in the military situation except to list the numbers of men and machines ready for war. The report made chilling reading.

Rhodesia herself has 4,300 men in uniform, kept at peak fighting point and formed into two regular infantry battalions, four active territorial battalions, four reserve battalions, a paratroop squadron and armoured mobile patrols.

To support the regular forces there are 900 airmen and one squadron each of Hunter fighters, Vampire fighters, Canberra bombers, Provost reconnaissance aircraft, Dakota transports and Alouette helicopters.

Behind the regular Rhodesian forces stand 6,400 police, all riot and emergency trained and armed, and 28,500 reserve police. They have automatic weapons and armoured cars.

Many of the regulars and reserves are African. Whether or not they

would be committed to military action in a war against African forces is still not known.

Rhodesia's white-ruled neighbours, South Africa and Mozambique, are even better manned and equipped.

But whether or not they would go to the aid of a Rhodesia under armed attack from outside remains to be seen.

The Institute said South Africa had 26,500 men and women in her armed forces, including 5,500 regular troops and 13,500 draftees (conscripts) who serve nine months.

Equipment includes Sherman and Centurian tanks, the French-made Panhard armoured cars and Cessna reconnaissance aircraft.

In addition, South Africa has a 4,000 man air force with one squad-

ron of 18 Sabre jets (with another 20 in reserve), one squadron of 16 Mirage fighter bombers, one squadron each of Canberras and Buccaneers, Seven Shackleton sea patrol planes, and 60 helicopters plus transport planes.

The conscripts — called the South Africa Citizens Force — fly about 200 Harvard aircraft, with another 300 in storage, and 30 Vampires.

The police force, with 29,600 regulars and 6,600 reservists, have 430 riot trucks and 80 armoured cars.

South Africa's para-commando units have armoured cars and 250 aircraft of various size and speed.

Almost all her forces are white.

Portugal has about 30,000 of her troops, many of them crack commandos, in Mozambique, but they are fairly tied up in the sputtering, insistent guerrilla war in the East African territory.

Details of their deployment and equipment are still a closely guarded secret in Lisbon.

Facing the white-controlled forces are 492,500 African troops, according to the Institute report, including 2,500 in neighbouring Zambia and another 1,500 in Malawi.

Zambia's army has 2,200 men, including an armoured car squadron, two regular infantry battalions and two reserve territorial battalions.

Her air force, with 300 men, comprises six transport planes and four communications craft.

Zambia also has 6,000 policemen and, like the regular forces, they have been trained and still are, in many cases led by white officers.

What the white officers would do



Bulawayo strikers hold an «indaba» conference...



ZAPU Treasurer Jason Mayo one of those behind the African revolt



...while police patrol in ease of trouble

In a showdown with Rhodesian forces is another unanswered African question.

Malawi's army — pledged by Prime Minister Dr. Hastings Banda not to intervene in any case — consists of one infantry battallion and supporting services.

She, too, has a police force of 6,000.

Like Zambia, the Malawian forces are led by white officers.

Tanzania, linked in many ways with Zambia, has two infantry battalions, armed with the latest equipment from Peoples China and Russia.

Her police force, totalling 1,350

men, is also armed and equipped with Eastern bloc weapons.

The Organisation of African Unity Forces — the 492,500 figures does not include police — can muster 515 combat aircraft and 162 transport planes.

Many African countries could not donate men or equipment to a war, for a variety of political, fiscal and practical reasons.

But the deepest fears throughout the world is not a direct black white war in Southern Africa, but that hostilities, once started, may lead to an East versus West clash, involving the world.

Congo

RINGING THE CHANGES

« Another crisis, but the condition of the patient remains basically the same, » would be the possible verdict of a doctor were this country a sick man. Sick for the last five years it certainly has been, the struggle between nationalist forces and those of reaction, heavily backed from outside, causing a general malaise at all levels of life. And expectations that the new government imposed by General Mobutu will tackle the Congo's problems from a sincerely Congolese point of view are nil. The new self-styled President of the country was one of the chief conspirators in the events that led up to the murder of the country's first premier — Lumumba ; the new government he has chosen is little different in composition from the previous ones which have consistently taken their orders from Belgium, London, Lisbon and Washington.

The government was drawn up, sworn-in and voted into office three days after the army's bloodless coup ousted Joseph Kasavubu as president.

The posts were roughly split between erstwhile supporters of Kasavubu and former Prime Minister Moïse Tshombe, whose growing dispute had threatened to tear the thin

political fabric loosely holding together the country's tribal and regional groups.

Neither Tshombe nor Kasavubu were in the new government. Tshombe was reported to have been offered a post but refused anything less than the Foreign Minister's job.

This was believed to be unacceptable to Mobutu in view of the hostility many other African leaders feel towards Tshombe for his role in trying to lead the mineral-rich Katanga province into secession after the Congo gained independence from Belgium in 1960.

Loud applause broke out from the parliamentarians when Tshombe cast his «Yes» for the new government—the eleventh since independence.

«We're all for it, and it was high time that the brakes were put on chaos and anarchy in this country,» Tshombe said. «We have fought against the personal policy of ex-president Kasavubu but we fully support this government.»

Observers said a check of the new government ministers indicated the Kasavubu group had some of the better known and so far more influential politicians.

But the Tshombe supporters had some of the better jobs.

The important post of Interior Minister was taken over by Etienne Tshickekedi, a member of Tshombe's Conaco Party.

But also in the new cabinet is former Interior Minister Victor Nendaka, who was named as Minister of Transport and Communications. Nendaka is one of Tshombe's chief enemies.

He was heard to laugh scornfully when Tshombe showed his disappointment as Mobutu told parliament he was declaring himself president for five years and calling off the presidential elections scheduled for February.

Mobutu said his coup was aimed at heading off civil strife. «The military command could not remain insensitive towards the grave deterioration of the situation,» the one-time journalist and sergeant told the country after his coup.

He told parliament «I have accepted this task with deep humility.»

During the special session he wore a bemedaled military uniform denoting his rank as head of the Congo's armed forces. He sat in the chair covered with plastic leopard-skin formerly used by Kasavubu.

He held the swearing-in ceremony



New Chief-of-State — Mobutu

at the presidential mansion overlooking the Congo River rapids.

Mobutu said, however, he will use the official residence only for official business and will continue to live in his house in a military camp near Leopoldville.

After the formalities, the new government drank champagne toasts on the lawn.

General Mobutu designated Col. Leonard Mulamba as premier to form a government of national union in which all provinces are represented.

Col. Mulamba was until now, military commander and republic commissioner for the rebellion-stricken Stanleyville area.

At the same time, general Mobutu named Major-General Louis Bobozo Commander-in-Chief of the Army, the post Mobutu had held himself until the coup.

In a 12-point declaration, self-appointed President Mobutu guaranteed the constitution, the continued adherence of the Congo to the Charter of the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity, and all treaties concluded with friendly countries.

He assured the safety of foreigners and of their property.

The declaration appealed to the population «to put confidence in the army high command» and appealed to everybody in administration and economy to stay calm and at work to assure the continuity of normal life.

If parliament would ratify the Congo's adherence to the Common Ser-

vices Organisation of the African and Malgasy States (O.C.A.M.) the country would also respect this adherence, said the declaration.

The declaration gave the assurance that all civil rights guaranteed in the constitution would be respected, and that all political prisoners were going to be released. Not to be released however were the detained nationalist leaders.

Mobutu declared that no measures would be taken against Kasavubu or any other politician.

The declaration said all bans on newspapers recently taken by the Kimba government were lifted including those on foreign publications (the Kimba government had banned the Belgian weekly newsmagazine which had been violently anti-Kasavubu and pro-Tshombe.)

The coup came completely unexpectedly after six weeks of political crisis in which President Kasavubu deposed Premier Tshombe and nominated Evariste Kimba, leader of a small party as Premier to form a government.

The government had been formed excluding Tshombe's «Convention National Congolaise Party» and fell again when a Tshombe-led majority in parliament voted it out of office on November 14.

In spite of the defeat, President Kasavubu had again nominated Kimba and consultations to form a government excluding Tshombe had apparently come to a deadlock.

The crisis provoked a bitter fight for power with Kasavubu trying to keep the apparent majority of Tshombe's Conaco Party from forming a government.

The ultimate goal of the fight was considered to be the presidential elections to be held under the constitution next February and in which Kasavubu was seeking re-election. It was assumed that to prevent Tshombe from being a serious rival the fight broke out.

General Joseph Desire Mobutu's coup was the second he brought off since the Congo became independent on June 30, 1960. He is only 35 years old.

Colonel Mobutu, then army chief of state «neutralized» then President Kasavubu, Premier Patrice Lumumba and Parliament on September 14, 1960.

This was after the Congo had exploded into a power fight between Kasavubu and Lumumba shortly after independence which had been ac-

accompanied by an outbreak of army mutiny, and general chaos.

Mobutu's first coup in 1960 was followed by the split between Leopoldville and Stanleyville where the Deputy of the imprisoned Lumumba, Antoine Gizenga, set up a nationalist government contesting the Leopoldville government's legality.

When the Leopoldville parliament was reopened on July 9, 1961, Mobutu pledged not to mix any longer in politics with his army.

Since then, however, he has remained a key figure in the off and on political struggles of Congo politics over the past five and a half years.

An apparent difference of opinion between Kasavubu and the Army Chief was the continuing use of white mercenaries as an integral part of the Congo's Army.

The mercenaries had been brought into the Congo after Moïse Tshombe became Premier in July 1964 and after the Congolese Army had virtually collapsed in the face of nationalist revolution.

After Tshombe's dismissal, President Kasavubu had promised at the Accra Conference of African Heads of State that the mercenary prob-

lem would now «soon find an African solution.»

This had been interpreted as meaning that the mercenaries would have to go. Kasavubu's declaration immediately caused a violent denial by General Mobutu, who also opposed the President's feeling towards certain nationalist leaders in search of a political solution.

Mobutu, speaking on a hill overlooking the majestic Livingstone rapids of the Congo river, said Kasavubu was notified by letter of the army's action. He said he had ordered measures to assure Kasavubu's personal safety.

«All the deposed politicians are free to do what they want,» Mobutu said. «Ex-president Kasavubu can choose whether he wants to be a senator for life as promised to former presidents in the constitution or retain his seat as a parliamentary deputy.»

Mobutu said all political prisoners not connected with the nationalist revolution would be freed.

«There is no question that we pardon the chiefs of the rebellion, who are renowned assassins,» Mobutu said.

«The rebellion will be fought until it is completely defeated by military means and military means only,» Mobutu said.

In Washington a State Department official said that possible U.S. recognition of the new Congo government was already under study.

But the department spokesman denied that the U.S. Government had any advance notice or had been involved in the coup.

«The U.S. Government had no advance notice and we were not involved,» he said. «We are naturally watching the situation closely. We are studying the matter of recognition.»

In an editorial the New York Times commented that the coup in the Congo «is not an unexpected shift» in what it termed «the incredibly complicated Congolese political situation.»

«The Congo certainly needs stability more than anything else, the action of Tshombe's party in hailing the coup as an «act of heroism» surely signifies its hope that the leader will be brought into the government in some important capacity,» claimed the newspaper.

«It is interesting that, having

made the coup, the new head of state told newspapermen to call him «mon General» and not «Monsieur le Président.»

«Perhaps a military dictatorship can provide internal peace. In the Congo, one must always say «perhaps.»

«... One thing seems clear in the Congo's murky political picture: Joseph Kasavubu is mostly to blame for plunging the country into another period of uncertainty and bringing on the military coup that has removed him as President.

«... The situation called for continuation in tandem of President Kasavubu and Premier Moïse Tshombe... instead, the President dismissed Mr. Tshombe not because the latter was failing but because he was proving to be the Congo's first effective political leader...»

«So cut with Mr. Kasavubu goes his reputation as master of the Congolese political manoeuvre. His political future would appear to be considerably less promising than that of his enemy, Mr. Tshombe. The tragedy is that his manoeuvres have helped make his country's future as uncertain as his own.»

In an editorial entitled «THE CONGO'S CHRONIC CRISIS», the New York Herald-Tribune said:

«The question is whether a discipline imposed by an army is compatible with the growth of any kind of civic responsibility... the Congo... may pose a harder problem than Gen. Joseph Mobutu can cope with. But it is reasonably clear that democracy, in any western sense, has no chance in a country so poorly equipped with trained personnel and a responsible citizenry. Some form of authoritarianism is inevitable, and it is better that this should come in the form of army men, native to the soil, than under the cloak of a «people's democracy» which would sacrifice the Congolese to an alien and unworkable ideology.»

Peoples China's first reaction to the military coup in the Congo was one of displeasure.

Peking's Official New China News Agency, in a report on the coup described Mobutu as a «notorious running dog of the imperialists.»

The Agency said that since 1960 Mobutu has «seized military power, repressed the patriotic forces, betrayed Congolese national interests and served imperialism.»



The rubbery Mr. Tshombe — still bouncing.

Asia

ROUNDUP OF ASIAN

AFFAIRS (2)

November, 1965

Asia hit headlines in November more than once — and it wasn't only to report the Continent's chronic problems! Russia made new scientific strides and renewed its ideological dispute with China on a grand verbal scale; People's China broke ground and will be admitted as a member of the World Disarmament Conference scheduled (it is hoped) for 1967, but has been rejected for the United Nations. In the Philippines Senator Ferdinand Marcos won the elections; in Japan the country has been wracked by demonstrations against the Japan/South Korea «normalization» talks — which are being forced through, nevertheless.

In Indonesia it has been a month of raids, purges and appeals to military chiefs to stand united behind President Sukarno; in Vietnam an illwind is still blowing, as also in the Pakistan/Indian border dispute — both problems are no nearer solution now than last month.

So despite the diversion of world attention to the problems of Rhodesia, Asia has nevertheless managed to hold its own!

Soviet Russia

It was quite a month for Russia. In a military parade marking the 48th anniversary of the 1917 Revolution, two giant orbital missiles rumbled over the cobbles in snowy Red Square. The Kremlin address

attacked US involvement in Vietnam; renewed the pledge that Russia would continue full political, economic and military support of North Vietnam; admitted anxiety about the anti-Communist campaign in Indonesia; warned that Russia had a rocket which could orbit the earth and be brought down on any target at the press of the button, and reaffirmed its stand against Peking.

The former subjects represented nothing new; the latter two resulted in reaction:

Whether from fear that they weren't only bragging, or hope that they were, the United States set about studying the Soviet missile claims — with added intensity when, four days later, the USSR launched an «interplanetary station» towards Venus, and followed this by a claim that the Soviet Union was creating powerful missiles that could be manoeuvred, even in orbit around the earth, to drop nuclear warheads on any target.

Confirmation of the ideological dispute with Peking came as a bit of a blow to People's China. Unfortunately a «warm greetings telegram» to the Kremlin had earlier in the day touched off speculation that there might be a slight turn for the better in relations between the two countries. The hope was short-lived. Doubtless annoyed at the criticism in the public speech from the Kremlin, China denounced the new leaders of the Soviet Union in a scathing editorial attack in the Communist Party newspaper «Red Flag» on November 10.

The article denounced the tactics of the Kremlin leaders as «more cunning and hypocritical» than those of Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, and

accused them of collaborating with the United States for world domination.

The Soviets returned the attack. Rejecting as slanderous provocation China's charges of US-Russian collaboration, «Pravda» accused the Chinese editorial writers of being «pervaded with a spirit of hostility towards the Soviet people, and towards the Soviet Communist party... saturated from beginning to end with impermissible, utterly groundless, slanderous, provocative fabrication...»

Thus ended the 14-month old Soviet silence on the ideological dispute.

People's China

No longer feeling safe under the protection of major powers, the smaller nations of the world have been clamouring for a world disarmament conference. And one that could be attended by People's China, now that it is a nuclear power.

Well, China made the grade at last. The General Assembly's main Political Committee on November 23 called for a conference that could be attended by China, and the resolution was overwhelmingly approved by a 91 to nil vote. France abstained. Nationalist China did not participate.

This resolution had followed a two-week effort to compromise between the rival drafts for the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons which, it will be remembered, were submitted by the United States and Soviet Russia at Geneva last summer. Despite heavy diplomatic pressure at the current session, there seemed, at first, no point at which to move towards closer agreement. The non-aligned nations, however, played their part, and also sponsored a resolution that the Conference be held not later than 1967.

CHINA IN THE UNITED NATIONS

There was less success for People's China in the United Nations. The General Assembly rejected the bid for a seat; however it should be recorded that the Asian Nation came the closest ever to being invited to take its seat in the United Nations: A 47-47 split with twenty abstentions.



Red Square 17 October parade: this year, some giant-giant missiles.



They all feel China should be in U.N.

A growing number of nations claim that China cannot be barred much longer, and that a United Nations without Peking cannot lay claim to universality.

The United States, however, still claims that to give Peking a seat would «shake the foundations of the world organisation» and amount to «yielding our weakness and Peking's strength as a vindication of her past and present bellicosity as proof positive that political power... does, indeed, grow out of the barrel of a gun...»

However, the drive to seat Peking continues from year to year. And the idea of 2-Chinas? The Soviet Union, Albania and Cambodia have already rejected any idea of recognising both Peking and Nationalist China — which has held its seat since the founding of the United Nations in 1945.

The «New York Times», commenting on the outcome of the Assembly vote said: «It was typical of the debate that the two votes at its conclusion helped blur rather than clarify the true sentiment of the Assembly it is clear that in a roll call free from diplomatic pressure a majority of the 117 U.N. members would vote to admit Communist China.»

It really is quite unrealistic to keep out of the United Nations a sovereign country, a nuclear power, and a nation which has such a wide role in the world political scheme.

Japan

Japan saw both natural and political eruptions during November. The volcanic island of Toroshima, 360 miles southeast of Tokyo continued to rock from a series of tremors more than twelve hours after an earthquake hit it on November 13; and nation-wide anti-Government demonstrations to block restoration of the Japan-South Korea diplomatic ties reached an all-time high in both concentration and determination.

While the treaty organisers were pressing through the final stages of the agreement, students blocked

traffic and obstructed police; 75,000 people attended protest rallies throughout the country. In Tokyo the demonstrators jammed the Central Station in an attempt to disrupt rail service, and while Japan's Lower House of Parliament approved ratification of the treaty, the Upper House was paralysed by socialists endeavouring to stop the final stage.

The Plenary session was in uproar. Fists flew. Angry shouts echoed. But the treaty organisers turned a deaf ear. Rammed through a midnight session, the bill will automatically become law thirty days after its passage in accordance with the Constitution.

But 30 days of hellfire may be expected. The inadvisable, and «abnormal» will be done. Relations between Japan and South Korea will be «normalised», ending what the treaty sponsors claim to be «half a century of discord between the two countries which began when Japan annexed Korea in 1910.» But which really amounts to sealing Korea forever into a divided country, linked to the destiny of Japan.

And in South Korea? Massive demonstrations and fury as well. A very «normal» situation indeed.

Indonesia

The swirling development of Indonesia's anti-Communist campaign continued unabated through October into November. Unofficial estimates say 5,000 people have been rounded up since the October 1 attempt to overthrow President Sukarno.



American aggressors thunder through a terrified land, leaving ruin in their wake.

The President started off November with a promise to take action, « proper action », against the Communist Party. What kind ? He didn't say. But it was a scathing attack that was followed by week to week developments.

On November 2 several decrees were signed authorising the army's proclamation of a state of martial law in certain areas. It was considered as a « pure formality » while army patrols backed by local Moslems continued weeding out Communists in several East Javanese towns.

November 3 saw the biggest demonstration yet. A reported 100,000 broke through a cordon of troops and armoured cars in Medan, North Sumatra, and tore down China's flag and shield from the Chinese Consulate. Two days later it was reported that the Indonesian Communist Party Chairman, hunted by troops ever since the coup, had been trapped in Central Java. Excitement rose, but died down when it proved false. But the official News Agency Antara reported that Communist Congressmen had been deprived temporarily of all their congressional rights.

By November 7, there were rumours circulating that President Sukarno actually considered dissolving the Indonesian Communist Party because of its involvement in the coup. But still the President beat around the bush. « I am thinking everything out concerning dissolution of the PKI » was the most he'd admit to.

On November 9, a huge pro-Sukarno demonstration took place in Jakarta, involving 100,000 people, followed a day later by the lifting of martial law and cutting down the night curfew by an hour in some areas — but not in two parts in Java.

Search for the PKI boss, who continued to evade arrest, went on, and then, just before the Indonesian Heroes Day on November 11, President Sukarno reportedly pointed a finger at diplomats attending a ceremony at the State Palace, and warned : « you had better not try to launch subversion in Indonesia because you will eventually fall ».

Thus accusations against the Communist Party for betraying Indonesia continued ; arrests continued : then on November 17, a

presidential decree was promulgated ordering « a purge of Communists and sympathisers ».

This is what the people of Indonesia had been waiting for. Thousands streamed into the centre of Jakarta in a mass demonstration against « Communism and Imperialism ».

Repercussions

Reactions to the events in Indonesia are worthy of record. The Soviet Communist Party newspaper « Pravda », though obviously concerned about the extensive measure « to liquidate the Indonesian Communist Party », somewhat toned down its criticism of the decree by calling it « a matter of great concern to all genuine friends of the Indonesian people », thereby leaving the door wisely open for friendly relations.

On Indonesian/United States relations, President Sukarno had this to say : « ... the U.S. has always helped Indonesia when it was already certain that Indonesia was going to win... I know the U.S. has said that Indonesia is leftist. Therefore the U.S. is striving hard for the separation of Indonesia from China... », thereby reiterating that an anti-Communist stand did not necessarily mean falling into the arms of the West.

To prove also, that U.S. wishes of a wedge between Indonesia and People's China are to no avail, meet-

ings were held between President Sukarno and the Communist Chinese Ambassador to discuss co-operation and relations between the two countries, « no matter how difficult the circumstances ».

And what of Britain ? A meeting took place between the First Deputy Prime Minister of Indonesia, Dr. Subandrio (whom President Sukarno praised as « a capable foreign minister » after rumours had circulated last month that he was going to be sacked for alleged involvement in the October 1 coup), and the British Ambassador to Indonesia, to review willingness by Britain to discuss the matter of British military bases in Singapore.

November was a month of soaring prices for almost all essential goods in Indonesia. People have rushed to the shops in an anxious spending spree. Rice, the staple food, has leapt in price beyond the reasonable, as a result of the Government's increase in fuel prices to meet production and transport costs.

Vietnam

The dawn of November saw the celebration in South Vietnam of National Day — the second anniversary of an army coup which overthrew the authoritarian regime of President Ngo Dinh-Diem — the end of a reign of terror that, it was hoped, would bring peace to the strife-torn country. But the graph of unrest in South Vietnam climaxed, time and again, at coups d'état



Gurkha troops on Sikkim border are among world's finest fighters.

and attempted coups d'état, and sank, at very best, to a hopeless pessimism.

The present generation of young Vietnamese, who have known nothing but war and bloodshed, are rearing a generation of children suffering the same insecurity and horror. There is no foreseeable end to it all. The very jargon used in political circles in discussing Vietnam, ensures that not even the most flimsy basis for discussion between the Communist North and severed South can be reached.

The United States continues to prod its propaganda line that it is willing to have unconditional discussions at any time with Hanoi... and then tables the conditions ! France must be developing a permanent smirk at the way the United States is coping with its discarded problem.

A black sky

United States aircraft continued, throughout the month, to plaster North Vietnam. During the first week they dropped more than 60 tons of bombs on the bridge leading to North Vietnamese missile sites, while the missile sites themselves received 20 tons of bombs and thousands of pounds of cannon fire. The attacks against strategic points are getting closer and closer to Hanoi. Thirty-five miles now.

In South Vietnam itself the war between the National Liberation Front and the South Vietnamese cum US forces, continues unabated. Elaborate hideouts of the Front are being routed out with as much regularity as successful raids against Government outposts.

On November 7, fighting broke out again west of Plei Me Special Forces Camp, and fierce fighting raged with the Front taking a heavy toll of US and Government forces. But then two days later the tables were turned. And a Front battalion suffered very heavy losses at the hands of the Government forces.

These two episodes served to accelerate the tempo; and mid-November the West Central Highlands of South Vietnam saw some of the bloodiest fighting of the war. US infantrymen were locked in a fierce battle with the Liberation Front's forces on a strategic highway about

40 miles North West of Saigon. Airstrikes, armoured troop carriers, mortar fire — death ! Fighting flared up along the Vietnam/Cambodian border, and on November 18 hundreds of the Front's forces shot their way through a defence perimeter, swarmed on to an American airfield and blew up four planes with satchel charges.

It was a daring raid. They raced across the runway, laying their bundles of explosive beneath every piece of equipment they could find, and the blazing debris that remained was a sorry sight for the US forces.

A slaughtered land

The great tragedy of November was the second accidental American bombing within 10 days of a South Vietnamese village, where men, women and children were trying to lead as near a normal life as possible. They are used to the sound of aircraft overhead, and gunfire around, but the horror of suddenly seeing the bombs falling in their direction — the panic, screams, prayers — can only be imagined. And then the counting of the dead — the walls, and the feeling of utter hopelessness.

This was not a case of deliberate bombing to be sure. It was all just part of the tragedy of war. But those who hold the reins of war in their hands would do well to think twice before allowing such a thing to happen again.

It was hoped that now that the US is beginning to suffer heavy casualties in Vietnam (official US figures said 240 US military personnel were killed in the week ending November 20 compared with a previous record 86 the week before) and now that public opinion is so critical, they might finally be encouraged to recognise the National Liberation Front as genuine freedom fighters, and at least agree that they should be represented at a round table conference.

But the hope died ! President Johnson has decided to send more American troops to South Vietnam « to bolster the 160,000 Americans already in the war zone » ! And Mr. Dean Rusk, the US Secretary of States, implied at a Press Conference on November 5 that the US really had very little hope that the

bombardments of the North would bring Hanoi to the Conference table...

India/Pakistan

November carried on the deadlock from the month before. At the beginning of the month Pakistani President Ayub Khan said that a military settlement alone between the two countries was not enough to bring peace to the subcontinent and that, although a ceasefire and withdrawal of forces were important as preliminary steps, peace could return « only if the basic cause of the conflict was resolved », for which purpose, « it is essential that the Security Council institute meaningful procedures such as would help bring about a settlement of the Kashmir dispute on an honourable basis ».

Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri simultaneously replying to a question on the problem, said that if the Security Council failed to stabilise the ceasefire and stop « sustained war preparations »... by Pakistan, « we will sit tight where we are ». Reiterating that Jammu and Kashmir form an integral part of his country he announced that the Kashmir political issue should not be raised before a military ceasefire and troop withdrawal had been settled... and that it was advisable to wait and see what resolution was passed in the U.N. Security Council.

But this was a ticklish problem too, because a dispute arose in the UN over the powers of the UN Secretary General U Thant. The Soviet Union, which supports India, insisted that the Security Council should have full control over peace-keeping operations, and should have an opportunity to approve the Secretary General's plan — or in other words considers the Council itself as the ultimate authority on the functions and direction of the peace-keeping mission; the Western powers believed that U Thant should retain his executive authorities without repeated reference to the Council.

On November 5, the Security Council ordered India and Pakistan to stop all violations and withdraw to pre-August 5 positions — promptly and unconditionally.

President Ayub Khan's reported

willingness to meet Indian Prime Minister Shastri at any time and any place to discuss their differences, met with «readiness» by the Indian Prime Minister, provided it was understood that India did not deviate from the stand «we have taken on this particular question».

India and China this month continued to swap strongly worded but not far-reaching protests on border violations.

General

1 — The year long presidential campaign in the Philippines was violent at times — 52 persons were reported to have died during disorders. The victor was Senator Ferdinand Marcos, 48-year-old lawyer and war hero and represent-

ative of the Nacionalista Party. Philippine foreign policy is not expected to be much affected by the changeover because President Marcos, like his predecessor, pursues a pro-American policy and is a hardened anti-Communist.

2 — Japan experienced the worst shipping strike in the country's maritime history when the 134,000 member all-Japan Seamen's Union ordered a 10-day strike at 52 major seaports while seeking an average monthly pay increase. Last minute negotiations to avert the strike were to no avail, and Japan's domestic economy and foreign trade will be seriously affected.

3 — Former president and publisher of the leading Seoul Daily

«Kyunghyang Shunmoon» has been gaoled for three years for employing a North Korean Communist as the newspaper's Tokyo bureau chief. The court ruled that he had violated anti-Communist national and security laws by employing a man who defected to North Korea last December.

4 — The Soviet Union has expelled the correspondent of the «Washington Post» because his paper published «The Penkovsky Paper's», an anti-Soviet book alleged to have been written by a spy. The official Soviet newsagency, «Tass» claimed that these papers «were an obvious forgery by the American Intelligence Agency», in an attempt to vilify the Soviet Union and a premeditated act in the spirit of the cold war.

STAYING IN THE U.A.R. ?

BUSINESS OR PLEASURE

OLD EGYPT OR NEW

FIND OUT MORE BY TAKING

The Arab Observer

THE MIDDLE EAST'S MOST INFLUENTIAL ENGLISH WEEKLY

5 PIASTRES

Afro-Asian Economic News

High Dam contracts

Soviet experts in Moscow have already drafted two contracts for the supply of High Dam power equipment; the first is related to the provision of turbines and generators for the High Dam power station and its equipment and the second covers the transformer station.

High Dam Minister, Engineer Mohamed Sidky Soliman, will receive the draft of these two contracts this month. Joint meetings between the UAR and Soviet sides are scheduled to take place in Moscow in January to discuss the terms of both agreements prior to signing contracts. The value involved is estimated at L.E. 25 million.

Fruit-pressing factories

The trade agreement recently concluded between the UAR and Yugoslavia provides for the set up of fruit-pressing and canning factories in the UAR with the aid of the Yugoslav experts.

The production of these factories will be allocated for both local consumption and export.

UAR-Czech. Co-operation

UAR experts will contribute to construction projects in Czechoslovakia by building schools and hospitals to the value of L.E. 60 million.

A committee of engineers from the « Arab Contractors Company » will go to Prague to negotiate the terms of this operation, due to last ten years.

UAR share in I.M.F.

The International Monetary Fund has preliminarily approved the measure of the UAR increasing its share in the fund from \$ 120 million to \$ 150 million.

Mr. John Gunther is arriving this week to resume talks on the issue with UAR officials.

Oil output

Crude oil output in the UAR in 1964 showed a marked increase to about 7 million tons. The output is expected to rise in the next few years as a result of newly discovered oilfields.

Oil derivatives produced in the same year amounted to 7,446,000 tons, compared with 6,206,000 tons in 1963.

The crude oil output in the next few years will show a tremendous increase after the new discoveries in the Gulf of Suez and other areas.

Uranium

Uranium ores were discovered last week by geological missions belonging to the UAR Atomic Energy Organisation, at a depth of 50

metres below surface level at the Wadi El Atshan area in the Eastern Desert. Persistent prospecting operations had been carried out in that area over the past few months.

The uranium found is of the same nature as the pitchblende extracted by France from its atomic mines and which is used as fuel for its reactors.

British experts to visit Cairo

The Higher Scientific Research Council has addressed an invitation to five experts, members of the British Scientific Council, to visit the UAR. The experts are specialized in textile dyeing, chemistry, geophysics and X-rays.

The visit will take place as part of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement concluded between the UAR and Britain.

UAR-East German Co-operation

An agreement has been concluded between the UAR and the East German Company « Karl Zeiss » which will undertake the training of UAR technicians and experts on the use of scientific appliances exported by the company to the UAR.

Agreement has also been reached to accredit permanent technicians to the UAR to supervise the use of Karl Zeiss apparatus.

The possibility of increasing UAR imports of Karl Zeiss scientific apparatus was also brought under discussion with UAR officials who agreed that an exhibition of Karl Zeiss scientific apparatus and lenses be held in the UAR in February.

Law amended

A Libyan Royal Decree has been issued amending the 1955 Petroleum Law and incorporating the OPEC settlement reached last year with major oil companies licenced to operate in Libya.

Under the new law, Libya's oil revenue in 1966 is expected to soar by 50 million pounds (140 million dollars).

The new law provides that no existing oil company in Libya may obtain new concession areas unless it accepts the clauses of the new law in connection with royalties and discounts.



Many UAR Co-op stores have juice bars.



M.S. Seven Seas College

SEA-GOING COLLEGE MAKES 17 STOPS AROUND WORLD

The M/S Seven Seas, floating campus of the Seven Seas Division of Chapman College, Orange, USA, the only ship of its kind in the world, arrived last week in the UAR as one of her 17 ports of call during the 108-day Fall Semester world voyage.

The semester began with departure from New York City on October 20, and will end when the ship docks in Los Angeles next February 4. Aboard the ship are some 300 American students from 42 American states and Canada, enrolled in a unique educational programme to study at first-hand the lands and people of the world.

Netter Worthington, a professor of Art at Chapman College, is Dean of the ship aboard the Seven Seas, together with 33 professors on the faculty staff.

The Seven Seas, for which the Holland — America Line is general agent, is travelling from Europe through the Mediterranean to the Near, Middle, and Far East and Hawaii before arrival back home in the United States.

According to Dr. John L. Davis, President of Chapman College, the purpose of the Seven Seas Division is to integrate regular college study with the experience of world travel.

Before visiting each country, the students become familiar with its

geographical, economic, historical, social, and cultural background through study aboard ship between ports in a basic Area Studies course. While in each port, students participate in field trips and excursions, both required and optional, as well as in individual research. They then return to their ship where they report their research in form of test papers.

Cities being visited on the current voyage include Lisbon, Barcelona, Marseilles, Naples and Rome; Piraeus and Athens, Istanbul, Alexandria, Port Said, and Suez, Bombay, Port Swettenham and Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Manila, Hong Kong, Kobe and Yokohama, and Honolulu.

In addition to full-time undergraduate and graduate college students, the passengers include a group of adults participating in the Around-the-World Cultural Seminar, a companion programme to the Seven Seas Division's regular college offerings. The adult education programme offers an opportunity to combine a World tour with study in the fields of humanities and arts. Seminar participants, like their fellow passengers who are doing full-time college work, study aboard ship and take field trips in ports.

Although there are many recreational activities and facilities available to the students aboard ship,



Students of floating campus

the emphasis of the programme is wholly on education, with students carrying a full load of courses just as they would on the home campus in the United States. The Seven Seas Division programme is planned to make the world a classroom for the student rather than to offer him a pleasure cruise. A total of 36 courses are offered.

There is a spacious library on board the Seven Seas equipped with about 8,000 books of all types. Classes are held every weekday while at sea. Approximately half of each semester is devoted to land-based activities in ports and countries visited.

A 482-foot ocean liner of 12,574 gross tonnage, the Seven Seas has ten classrooms, a hospital, and facilities for entertainment such as a theatre, swimming pool, sports

areas, library, oceanography laboratory, lounges and a dining room.

All students aboard the floating campus are required to maintain a high academic standard and pay a sum of 3 thousand dollars upon enrollment.

It is hoped that in the near future, students from Europe and the Middle East will be allowed to join this sea-going college.

Christmas on board

The Seven Seas will return through the Suez Canal next May.

Worship services are conducted on board by chaplains of the Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches.

Since the M/S Seven Seas will be travelling between Malaya and Thailand on Christmas Day, religious services and Christmas festivities will be conducted on board.

May at Cairo, on June 20 the local race at Ismailia, July 11, local race at Ismailia, July 23, — important final to choose UAR champ — and on August 1, the championship of the UAR at Alexandria.

The main hope of the trio is the same — to reach a certain standard enabling them to participate in international rowing heats. The required training however, is somewhat long and difficult, but the girls are dauntless and determined.

They are already used to long, continuous hours of training; not one day passes without the usual practice sessions and even after the opening of school their additional homework does not deter them from striving for their cherished goal.

Like father like son

As the saying goes 'All his geese were swans', and in this case it is true as the father of the three youthful champs is himself a champ.

Mr. Raafat gained the UAR rowing star in 1948. A son of Port Said, he worked in the shipyard of the Suez Canal authority and became one of the leaders in the construction of Arab ships. Every year on Victory Day a ship is inaugurated and a foundation stone placed for yet another.

Father supervises meticulously the training of his daughters for two and a half hours daily. A part of this time is devoted entirely to physical fitness exercises and the other part to arduous rowing.

The starting point of the training

Sports

ALL HIS GEESE WERE SWANS

Just as Port Said daily witnesses a horde of stately steamers and liners from the north slowly entering the Suez Canal at exactly 5 p.m., so does it welcome three rowing boats circling gracefully the calm waters of the Port.

The occupants are three teenage girls, racing each other across the port with great enthusiasm and skill.

They are Laila Mohammed Raafat (17 years) student at the Lycée Secondary School, Ablah (16 years) pupil at the Egyptian Secondary School for science, Zelnab (15 years) pupil at Bon Pasteur. But who are they? They are the rowing girl champs of UAR.

Almost 7

During this year Ablah alone participated in six races and obtained first individual position in the Skiff class. The first was on March 28 when she entered the local race at Ismailia; then followed races on 7th



All his geese were Swans



Laila Raafat — a secret hope



Ablah — almost 7 Victories

starts from the Suez Canal authority club which offers the three champs all facilities, then, cutting the distance to the end of the port some two kilometres away, and finally returning to the starting goal.

The skiffs fly over the surface of the water round the liners stationed there from all parts of the world. The passengers of all nationalities lean across the rails to wave at the three youthful figures as they scull swiftly by.

When the training is finally terminated, the champs return to their home to relax before starting on their school homework.

Laila told the Arab Observer «The



The Father was a champ



Zeinab — youngest but not least

main thing is to organize our time which as you can see is quite limited, so as to achieve all our fondest hopes».

Whereupon Ablah commented «Rowing is not the only sport we go in for. We participate in most sports at our schools, ranging from basket-ball, volley-ball, ping-pong and swimming.»

The youngest put her word in. «We find that by organizing our time, we can combine all our activities with those required at school and home».

Turning to Mr. Raafat, the «Arab Observer» asked him to put in a final word. «When Mr. Mahmoud Yunis the engineer was the head of the Suez Canal Authority» he commented. «He sent me for a training course in rowing to Switzerland in 1962. There, I attended international races and also learnt all the types of boats and skiffs as well as the different kinds of oars used in international contests. This experience I have found has its merits as I can now pass it on to my daughters.»

Football

SHOCKS IN UAR SOCCER

Three results from five soccer matches played in the UAR division were unexpected. The victory of Zamalek over Ismaili by 4-1 was a crushing one, the goalless draw between Union Recreation and the Aviation S.C. in Alexandria, and the 3-1 triumph of the Suez Canal over the National Sporting Club.

Although Zamalek had the advantage of playing at home amongst about 15,000 of its fans, even the most optimistic of Zamalek lovers did not expect such a heavy scoring margin between the two main rivals of the first division.

As for the long awaited game between Zamalek leading the top of the table by 12 points and National leading it from the bottom with six points to its credit, it ended in a satisfactory draw for both teams.

Zamalek met the well-known soccer team, 'Internazionale' champion of Italy and the world. The game promised to be a hot one for both sides especially for the Egyptian team, but Zamalek put on as good a show as at its local matches, though it lost by 3-1.

MUSIC

WIENER SYMPHONIKER TRIO

A select audience of music fans was invited to attend a concert given by the Wiener Symphoniker Trio at the Ewart Memorial Hall, and sponsored by the Austrian Embassy in collaboration with the American University in Cairo.

The Trio gave a highly competent

rendition of pieces by Robert Schumann, Armin Kaufmann and Arthur Honegger.

Of particular interest were the Sonata for Viola and piano by Paul Hindemith, the trio A-Minor Op. 114 by Johannes Brahms, and the absolutely delightful final rondo in E-flat major K 498 by Mozart which the Trio played as an encore.

The Wiener Symphoniker Trio who came to Cairo on a concert tour organized with the help of the Austrian

Federal Ministry of Education, consist of Florence Wild (piano), Fritz Haendschke (viola), and Richard Schoenhofer (clarinet).

The pianist Florence WILD began her studies of music at the age of four and entered the Geneva Conservatory of Music when she was only thirteen to study under Dinu Lipatti. She finished her studies under Professor Nikita Magaloff and received the 'Prix de Virtuosite avec Distinction'. She went later to Munich and Vienna to round off her studies before embarking on a successful career as a soloist.

The violist Fritz HAENDSCHKE studied under Professor Mahlke at the Academy of Music in Berlin. After a short engagement with the Symphony Orchestre of the West-German Broadcasting Corporation he went to Ankara (Turkey) at the invitation of Paul Hindemith, and worked there for three years as a solo viola player, teaching at the same time at the Turkish Academy of Music. In 1938 he returned to Germany to become member of the Eerlin Philharmonic Orchestra and later on member of the Berlin Opera. During the war he participated in some 40 musical tours throughout Europe. For a few years after the war, Fritz Haendschke performed as a soloist or a member of chamber music ensembles. In 1949 he was offered the post of viola soloist with the Hamburg Radio Station.

As for the clarinettist Richard SCHOENHOFER, he graduated from the Vienna Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. After his first engagements as solo clarinettist in Innsbruck and after winning the first prize in a competition of music in Vienna, he was called to the Munich Opera by Clemens Krauss. He also taught there at the Conservatory of Music until 1947, when he was called back to Vienna by Dr. Wilhelm Furtwängler and offerer the position as solo clarinettist with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

Today he is still a member of this orchestra, but apart from that has become well known as a soloist and chamber musician. He is a member of the renowned Bläservereinigung (Wind-ensemble). As a teacher he works with the famous Vienna Boys Choir. His successful activity in Austria as well as in foreign countries has brought him the honorary title of professor, awarded to him by the President of the Republic of Austria.

THE INVINCIBLE FIST

Cassius Clay has retained his world heavyweight championship with a decisive victory over Floyd Patterson.

The referee stopped the bout after two minutes and 18 seconds of the 12th round with Patterson still on his feet, but unable to defend himself against the flailing fists of the 23-year old champ.

Patterson, struggling desperately to keep his feet and under the influence of pain-killing drugs told a press conference that he had injured his back during training and had been troubled with it after the third round of the bout.

Cassius Clay fighting under his Black Moslim name of Mohammed Aly showed himself a master boxer through the 12 rounds, but he could not finish off the courageous challenger, who was bidding to become the first man ever to win the title for a third time.

Patterson's dogged determination made it the longest world-heavyweight championship bout since he himself knocked out Roy Harris in the 12th round in August 1958.

It almost appeared at times as though Clay was carrying out his pre-fight threats of 'punishing Floyd for all he has said about me'.

On the other hand the unpredictable Clay was both belligerent and benevolent following his victory. He commented 'He took my best punches. He didn't fall. He was determined. He is a good fighter. You gotta give him credit'.

The champ then held up his bare fists, the knuckles on which were swollen.

"See? I hit him good. He fought a good fight."



Short Story

THE SPIDER

by

Mostafa Mahmoud

translated

by David Bishai

Continuing the first Arabic Science fiction novel presented by the Arab Observer, and recommended to freeze the blood with expertly-described technical details.

What Damian was after seemed to be to discover the secret of life. The few words scribbled in the notebook indicated this. His researches centered on chemical and electrical reactions in the nerve fibre. How was the electrical impulse formed in a nerve fibre, how it was transmitted to the muscles, how could the muscle in an insect's wing contract at the speed of 500 times per second?

From whence did the power emanate that could move an insect's wing with the speed of a plane's propeller? What was the secret of this magical substance called actomyosin, that forms the living muscle? And the chromosomes, life's most impregnable secret, those minute bars in a cell's nucleus that can only be detected through the most powerful microscope, and which contain all elements of heredity, even more, perhaps a complete file of one's life all recorded on these chromosomes, travelling with them from generation to generation?

Damian was trying to get to the secret through the use of radiation.

And this mysterious, minute appendage in the human brain, the pineal body, which hangs in the center of the brain like a little bean without a function or any known use: could Damian have uncovered its secret?

What had this man found out? He robbed, he even murdered. Yes. That death which had seemed natural was perhaps a murder contrived in order to obtain his victim's brain. Maybe it was one of his hideous experiments. Maybe he was now on his way to committing another crime.

I had been driving my car along the Cairo-Alexandria highway on my way to Tanta on some family business. I was deep in my thoughts concerning Damian, unaware of my

exaggerated speed, when suddenly I caught sight of a huge truck before me. I pushed at the brakes, whisking the car off the main road and into a freshly-ploughed field. Luckily, the car got stuck in the up-turned earth, and I barely escaped certain death. My face was drenched in sweat, and my fingers had become ice-cold. I shakily started wiping my sweat while a group of peasants tried to dislodge the wheels and push the car back on the road.

Inch by inch the car started to move under the heaving of the peasants. I reached for the starter to get the car going again. My eyes fell on the geiger counter which was placed under the windshield, quite accidentally, and to my extreme astonishment, I saw the needle climbing steeply, indicating the presence of strong radiation.

This might mean that Damian's hideout was near by, where he kept the radium needles. Then I must be a few steps away from the secret.

All I needed was to drive round once or twice to be able to locate the exact position of the hiding place. I inspected the area I was in. The highway was clear. There were no buildings in sight, except a small villa about 500 yards from where I stood. There were no alternatives. This villa near the deserted road must be the hiding place. The high reading I got from the geiger indicated that the radium was placed openly and not concealed within a lead container. Maybe it was actually being used in an experiment.

My nerves were on edge as I looked over the villa with its shaded windows. I parked the car at a safe distance and walked over, climbed the few steps to the door, and stood looking around me. Should I ring? Definitely not. Any warning of a visitor would give the man enough time to conceal what he was up to. I had to rely on the element of surprise. I had to get in, through any entry but the door. If I could place the car under the balcony, I could climb to it with hardly any effort.

In a minute I was circling the car and placing it in the proper position. I climbed on it, then jumped on the balcony, and stood with only a curtain between me and the interior. I carefully peeped through at an empty bedroom. Beyond there was a spacious hall, then a corridor, then a room with lights showing through its open door, through which I could see a large autoclave.

It was the laboratory. He must be there now, hard at work! Should I enter? Or hide until he left so that I could conduct my search at ease? I preferred to hide. I returned to the bedroom and slid under the bed, keeping my ears sharpened for any noise.

Long, dreary hours dragged by and my body became stiff all over. Not a sound indicated that there was a living soul around. Maybe he was out and had left the lights on to discourage thieves. I sneaked out from under the bed and crept into the hall. Through the laboratory's door I peered, shaking with fright. It was empty. It had been empty all the time. In a minute I had searched the rest of the house to make sure no one was there.

Then I did not waste a moment. The laboratory was my target. There, to my right on one of the tables, was the brain I was looking for placed in a jar of formaline. A rapid glance showed me that it had been cut in a longitudinal section, and that the pineal body had been removed.

On another table there was another brain, and a third, and a fourth, all placed in formaline, all cut longitudinally and all with the pineal bodies removed. It was enough to freeze the blood in my veins. Was I confronting a mad assassin indulging in mass murders to obtain the necessary material for his experiments? Or was it that this man had made such an important discovery that all human values had diminished before the possibility of uncovering the secret of life?

The laboratory contained a generator of static electricity, distilling tubes, filters, acids, alkalines, small basins to preserve living tissues, and a microscope. In one corner there was the lead container with its double walls where the radium needles were kept. It was open, and empty. In the other corner there was a peculiar looking chair, similar to those used by dentists, and it had several levers attached to it. Above its headrest three glass tubes resembling cathode ray tubes, were attached.

Any one seated on the chair would be a target of the rays coming at him from the right, left and front. Three rays beams, bouncing from three reflectors and concentrating at one point in the skull of the seated person. The various levers around the chair could arrange the seat for the skull to fall at the exact concen-

tration point. The levers were equipped with precision scales for the head measurements.

I had never seen a similar machine before. Parts of it were made locally and on the whole it looked like an invented thing. But what kind of rays did it produce? Radium rays? There did not seem to be any place for the radium needles in the machine. The cathode ray tubes were different in shape and size from those familiar in X-ray machines. They produced a special, high-frequency ray, maybe a gamma ray, or a beta ray, or any other type of short frequency waves, or even a kind of radioactive isotope ray.

But how could he obtain radioactive isotopes without the use of an atomic reactor?

I noticed a screen in a corner, with a clothes-hanger behind it, maybe for a visitor to undress and hang his clothes to undergo certain medical examinations or chemical tests. There was something fishy about that. The screen led to a door which opened on a small, square room that contained a funny-looking machine, similar to a small reactor, but was not a reactor in the known scientific way.

In the centre of the machine was a radium bomb, and it contained the missing radium needles.

It was obvious the man had achieved several phases by which he could break down matter into radiation, which he used in his experiments on the living brain. But why did he need a generator for static electricity? And all those distillers, dyes, solutions and bunsen burners? There must be another chemical operation of equal importance going on.

I looked through the microscope and was surprised at the sight of countless spermatozoa. They were not human sperms; most probably they were extracted from frogs. My assumption was confirmed by the discovery of several frog ova. This indicated the man was attempting to witness the actual fertilisation of the ovum, the splitting and the formation of the embryo, and the role the chromosomes and the nucleus played in the operation.

The microscope's indicator was pointed at the ovum's nucleus and its chromosomes. The presence of a dropper containing a blue fluid beside the microscope indicated he was attempting to find out the effect of various chemical substances on the chromosomes.

It was the laboratory of a dedicated researcher.

On the table there was a notebook. Barely had I started to open it when I heard a key turn in the door, and hurried footsteps coming towards the laboratory. I searched frantically for a place to hide. I could not find one except the screen and I hurried behind it, holding my breath for fear of being detected.

Damian walked in accompanied by a man with a rather large head. Damian looked paler and thinner than the last time I saw him. I heard him tell his visitor, pointing at the peculiar chair:

— This is the machine that will cure your baldness.

— I hope to God it will be cured in your hands.

— Just relax and don't worry.

He led him by the arm towards the chair.

— Take off your beret and sit down.

The man took it off. He was completely bald.

I understood Damian's game. He lured the man to his laboratory under the pretext of curing his baldness. In this way he could make of the man a guinea pig for his experiment, or maybe his crime. The wretched victim would become just another brain in one of the formaline containers lined up on the corner table.

I was just about to witness a terrible murder. I thought quickly while the man was slowly taking his seat in the monstrous chair. Damian started taking his head's measurements, writing them down, then he adjusted the levers, the tubes, the reflectors to fit the required distance. Then he opened a drawer, extracted a syringe and filled it with a blue fluid, similar to the one in the dropper, and injected it in the man's vein.

Damian looked at his watch:

— In ten minutes I shall start the treatment.

Why ten minutes, I asked myself, still trying to think fast? My medicine came to my rescue. The ten minutes were the time needed for the injected fluid to reach the pineal body in the brain and to begin to act on it. Then Damian would direct his rays at the pineal body.

In a few minutes the infernal crime was to be committed, and I was going to be a witness to it.

Something had to be done.

Something must be done.

WHAT DOES

THE USA WANT ?

By Mohamed Ouda

This is an interview published in Al Goumhouria with William Polk, who was passing through Cairo. Like Al Goumhouria we are publishing this interview because it reflects the American point of view regarding the main differences between the two countries. The very fact that it appeared is, in our opinion a proof of a real desire to give every one fair play. Naturally we do not agree with all that Mr. Polk says. At the same time we do not think there is any need to answer these points of disagreement, since they are obvious. In places the logic of his argument leads to the wrong conclusions, such as, for instance his ideas about the necessity for the UAR to cut down on industrialisation as a condition to more USA help. In advocating this Mr. Polk reflects a way of thinking which is, unfortunately, associated with colonialist ideas, which we know very well that he cannot be accused of. He is forgetting two things, first the effect of industrialisation on the standard of living and secondly the psychological and symbolic side of the question. Industry means to developing countries a high standard of life as well as a place among the developed nations. Industrialisation to us has become progress and Mr. Polk suggesting a resort to agriculture is asking the UAR to regress.

William Polk is a young professor of Middle East contemporary history at the University of Chicago. He is also head of the Middle East research center of the same university.

During Kennedy's rule, Polk was one of the talented young professors close to the American president. Through them, Kennedy sought to change US internal and external policies.

Polk was also a member of the foreign policy planning council headed by Rostow the well known economist. The council's mission was to re-evaluate the American foreign policy. Polk's speciality: US policy towards the Arabs. Polk was the one who wrote the report on the basis of which Kennedy underlined his policy toward the Arab East.

Polk was Kennedy's close advisor on Arab affairs. He maintained his post under the Johnson Administration too. Polk wrote many books and research papers on the Arab East, the latest of which was «The United States And The Arab World,» the volume that all US officials are reading to understand this region.

Polk is the other, cultured, polished and broadminded face of the US policy.

We met him during his last visit to Cairo and had this conversation :

Polk said : There are two principle aspects in the US relations with Egypt. The first is that what you consider necessary for you, we too consider it so. What you want is that Egypt should remain independent, strong and enjoying prosperity and dignity. From our point of view this is necessary because by becoming weak, poor and worried, Egypt will be a source of danger threatening the entire area if not the entire world. It is in America's interest that Egypt should enjoy a strong government and a prosperous economy. The second aspect is that Egypt's foreign policy agrees with US policy on what is essential. We seek to maintain peace and bolster stability. We believe that war anywhere might lead to a world wide war. Egypt, too, does not want war, which means consuming its power and sources as well as hampering its development plans.

«The most important lesson learned from the imperialist period is that no one can impose an alien system. Systems develop according to heritage and national demands. In America, we consider our democratic, parliamentary government and our mixed economy best for us. We notice the USSR, Yugoslavia and Rumania are turning in our direction. We believe you would find a way to combine the Arab past and the Arab contemporary social demands. We realise that to you imperialism meant exploitation. Capitalism to us means construction and development. Ford, Rockefeller, Carnegie and Du Pont are the ones who built America. Your history has no one like them.»

We told Polk : «This does not mean that capitalism becomes socialism and socialism becomes capitalism.»

He answered: «India considers itself socialist. By comparison one will find that we are more socialist than India. Taking into consider-

when we disagree with you on any policy. Aid sometimes, is used for ation the labor and other social laws we have, I can tell you we are more socialist than you are».

«Another secondary issue is what is written frequently in the Arab East about the US 'imperialist' need for the Suez, oil, or bases. I would like to tell you this is an old style of thinking. What you consider important, we too consider it so—that these things remain useful. The US government is not interested in who owns the Suez Canal... What is interesting is that the Canal should remain open for international trade and navigation... As to bases, there is only one base in Libya. We closed Dhahran base when the Saudi government requested us to do so.

«Another secondary question is the economic aspect... We hope the UAR can get aid and trade from many countries. We have actually asked all the European countries to adopt a positive attitude in matters of trade and aid to the UAR and all the Arab African countries. All you have to know is that US does not want Egypt to be dependent on her economically... We want economic relations to be established between independent countries. We realise that stability in Egypt can materialise only through the continuation of progress and economic development».

We told Polk: «But US aid stops bargaining or pressing on a certain policy.»

He answered: «We have disagreed on foreign policy, but I assure you that we do not oppose Arab unity. We just disagree with you on the way it should materialise. We do not oppose non-alignment policies and we do not stand against them. We do not want Egypt to be our ally or to support us in the cold war. It is in the interest of neither the USA nor UAR to be allies in the cold war. I, personally, oppose such a policy. But, we in America have many forces against aid in general. Many Americans oppose foreign aid, thinking the American people should have more. Many others want aid to be given only to friends... I believe it is important to you to know the various political forces in the USA.

Polk also said : «I would like to assure you that there is no difference between Kennedy or Johnson on aid to UAR. The only difference is in style and speed. As I have men-

tioned, we believe that more prosperity in Egypt will lead to less violence in her policies and that more stability will lead to more democracy...»

We told Polk : «The real and essential path to development is industrialisation. The USA does not support or aid in the UAR's industrialisation. This is a basic fact.»

He answered : «In the first place, it is easy for us to help you through the surplus agricultural products we have. We prefer the easy way to help. In the second place, most of the American economists and officials believe that Egypt was wrong to rush toward industrialisation. You create more problems by building steel or car factories and consume your hard currency of which you have little. Most of the American economists think that what is important for Egypt is to increase agricultural production. If you can promote your cotton production to the American level (three fold the Egyptian production per Feddan), you can sell your product in world markets and get hard currency. You can then move thoughtfully toward industrialisation within your hard currency stock limit... Rostow once said that the most important thing Egypt can do is to create a national market. Village people in Japan buy most of the Japanese production of cameras. In Egypt the Fellaah cannot buy the products of his country...»

We asked him : «Why did you enthusiastically support the industrialisation of Japan and W. Germany and abandon helping in the industrialisation of Egypt and India ? ».

He answered : «Because Japan had the industrial basis, the technicians and the labor as well as the power resources (Polk did not say Japan also had the pro American statesmen and capitalists).

Polk was not embarrassed to end his talk this way : «There are tides in our relations. There is no basic disagreement. Even on Israel, you do not seek war with her. We too want the same. Even in Vietnam, you want an end to war and we want the same. The most important thing for you is to build up Egypt. It is the same thing as far as we are concerned. »

Polk doubted whether we would publish his talk complete and in an objective manner. There is nothing more useful than doing so. There is nothing in the talk we need to hide.

History of an Aggression

The Trial of the Playa

Giron Mercenaries

To those who are not familiar with Playa Giron — it is the Bay of Pigs.

This book, published in Havana, does not contain the views of a particular author on the invasion. It is the compilation of articles, confessions, proceedings of the trial and statements of the Chief of Justice and Defence Attorney. Its introduction is the speech delivered by Premier Castro on the first anniversary of the victory of the People of Cuba over the mercenary forces at Playa Giron.

On the 17th of April 1961 a brigade consisting of nearly 1500 renegade Cubans, trained, equipped, and financed by the United States Administration — Yankee to the Cubans — made an attempt to capture a plot of land on Cuban national soil. The incident captured the headlines all over the world and it was expected a third World War might flare up. The aggression was universally denounced. Mass meetings and demonstrations supported the people of Cuba. Volunteers of every nationality were ready to take up arms in defence of the Cuban People.

For those who know about the « Bay of Pigs » from newspaper accounts, this book will remind them that the press is not always reliable. Castro's speech is comprehensive.

It deals with internal affairs and foreign policy. It also gives details of the invasion. The documents which the book contains present the reader with the inside story, the story of a valiant people fighting back imperialist intervention, once more asserting that the cause of the people will always be victorious. As well as being factual, the book also has a human touch.

The Invasion :

The invasion cannot be properly understood except in the light of the circumstances of the Cuban Revolution. A Socialist State led by a proletarian government in the heart of the imperialist stronghold is cause enough for headaches among the magnates of the United States, for these have been faced with a social revolution that upholds the respect of work and workers, the even distribution of wealth, and the elimination of exploitation of man by man.

The success of the revolution in Cuba drove the power combines in the United States to take immediate action to undermine it. The Central Intelligence Agency set to work. It recruited elements hostile to the revolution by their class nature, and trained them in different camps in U.S. and Latin American territory. The C.I.A. agents executed the plans of the State Department and became active among all those who were prejudicial against the Castro regime.

The engineers of this plan of aggression were careful to select 1500 men who were all antagonistic to the Cuban Revolution. Without exception the individuals who constituted Brigade 2506 were either people who were once wealthy exploiters or who were in the service of the overthrown capitalist regime. They consisted of landlords, latifundists, businessmen, industrial magnates and ex-soldiers. More than 500 belonged to the propertied class, and some owned as much as 47,000 acres of land. The booty of this military operation was to have been: almost 1,000,000 acres of land, nearly 1000 apartment buildings, 70 factories, 10 sugar mills, 3 banks, 5 mines, as well as other forms of property. The social structure of Brigade 2506 was truly representative of the most reactionary parasitic elements, who were mainly landlords.

The Objective :

When setting the objective of the invasion the imperialists took into consideration the fact that the occupation of Cuba was out of the question. They knew only too well that the 6 million fighters on the small island off the coast were not to be subdued by any military forces, however great. The plan was to capture a plot of land on Cuban territory and to set up a counter-revolutionary government. This accomplished, the U.S. intended to carry out a war of exhaustion against Cuba from this foothold. It was in this way that they hoped to destroy the Cuban revolution and bring back misery and humiliation to a heroic people.

The Plan :

After having carried out subversive actions for a long time, and after conducting economic warfare against Cuba, the U.S. finally commenced its armed aggression. Military operations were carefully planned.

A brigade of 1500 men equipped with 15 naval vessels, 30 aircraft and heavy artillery set out to land at a certain point on the Southern Coast of Cuba. A zone known as the Zapata swamp was chosen for the operation. Surrounded by swampland and quagmires, it was not easily accessible, from the inland. Three narrow roads were the only means of land communication across the Zapata Swamp. Three roads that were easy to defend but difficult to capture. Had one been blocked by the invaders, it would have been difficult to get tanks and artillery through.

On the 17th of April 1961 successful attempts to land were foiled by small units of the National Revolutionary militia. Immediately the enemy landed, the armed forces of the Revolution took up positions and forced the mercenary troop to retreat. Meanwhile the Cuban Revolutionary Air Force sank one of the invading ships. On the night of the 17th, the invaders consolidated their positions. On the 18th a heavy counter-offensive was launched by the forces of the revolution. By the evening of the 19th after heavy fighting and constant air attacks by the Revolutionary Air Force, the invading forces were

routed and most of them were taken prisoners.

Success and Failure :

There were excellent reasons for the defeat of the aggressors. In their appraisal of the Cuban situation the Kennedy administration correctly surmised that the Cuban people would not be dominated. Their shrewd plan to carry out a war of exhaustion would have caused much bloodshed had it succeeded. Their choice of place, from the strategic point of view, was recognized by Castro himself as being very good. However, the Pentagon underestimated the valour of the Cuban people and their ability to retaliate. They banked on the fact that the Cubans had not trained their men to use the new weapons they had received. On the other hand the Pentagon overestimated the ability of the mercenaries and relied too much on modern equipment. The people behind the aggression refused to realize that a man with a cause can perform miracles against great odds, even if he is not well equipped.

The victory of the Cuban people was a result of their revolutionary attitude. They had wasted no time in training their forces to use the new weapons they had received and were quick to mobilize their men to launch a counter-offensive. Small numbers who showed heroic resistance threw the enemy into confusion, and the enemy was defeated before they could re-align their forces. The fact that the Cuban people were prepared to fight back even U.S. troops was the decisive factor in attaining victory.

Confessions of the Mercenaries :

No man however unscrupulous will take up arms against his fellow countrymen just for the fun of it. The confessions of the mercenary officers show the state of mind of those who led the brigade on this reckless adventure. Dreams prefabricated by the C.I.A. led to their deception and they lived to regret it. After their defeat, and after they were respectfully treated by their captors, many of them saw matters in a different light. Whatever their pre-conceived ideas had been, they discovered the truth when they saw things for themselves. The slums they had left behind when they fled from the revolution had been cleared

and in their place stood new buildings that housed the Cuban workers. The soldiers of the Revolutionary Army showed a high degree of discipline. These and other manifestations were clear evidence that what was taking place in Cuba was good and would not be destroyed. They had learnt their lesson, only too late.

The Trial :

It was not only the mercenary troops who stood trial. Looming up behind the men who took up arms against the People of Cuba stood the U.S. The real culprit behind the invasion, who violated international law and ignored the rights of nations to their homeland was the United States government under the Kennedy administration. True, the plan to invade Cuba was drawn up before Kennedy came into office, but this only goes to show that real authority in the United States is not in the hands of the President but in the hands of the war mongers — the tycoons and the industrialists.

The defendants were accused of treason, committing crimes against the state and changing the constitution through violent means. They were also accused of committing actions that were detrimental to the integrity and independence of the Republic. With these charges the prosecution requested the maximum penalty.

The court passed its sentence and demanded that the accused pay indemnifications varying from 25,000 dollars to 500,000 dollars, providing that in the event of not satisfying the indemnification the prisoners were to be imprisoned for a period not exceeding 30 years.

Today almost 5 years later Cuba is marching from one victory to another. Its international prestige is growing and its influence on Latin American countries is becoming greater day after day. The Cuban Revolution has become a pattern for Latin American peoples to follow. The plots of the United States are doomed to failure. The victory of the Cuban people is inevitable. Premier Castro did not err when he said : « When there is a belief in the masses, when there is faith in the cause because it is a just one, then there is no need for tanks, bombers, heavy mortars, or «bazookas», much less for the support of a fleet.»

Literary echoes:

The monthly *Al Fikr Al Moasser*, published in its November issue short critiques of famous playwrights, novelists and artists. We have chosen two of these, one about Bertold Brecht and another on Michel Butor to introduce to the reader examples of literary criticism in the Arabic Press.

The contradiction in Brecht's Theatre

Brecht believes that the dramatic work should contain an accurate reflection of events in which individuals are engaged and give the audience the opportunity to take a certain attitude towards them. Thus his plays aim at creating in the audience the ability to form a judgement on what they see and hear. He addresses their minds as well as their emotions.

A play, for Brecht, is a kind of trial in which the audience, author, producer and actors cooperate to give prominence to facts and create the atmosphere which will help the audience to form a correct judgement. Brecht stated once that he wanted to establish a permanent theatre which would present every week a famous trial and at the end of the show, the audience would be asked to give its opinion or judgement on the case.

He believes that the theatre is a revelation of secret matters and if a playwright wants to explain a social phenomenon he must have deep insight and relate events with precision.

Brecht was preoccupied with the working class. He stated in his « Short Organon For the Theatre » that a theatre truly in tune with our age should push the modern theatre towards the provinces where it should flourish for those who work very hard and produce much, in order to provide them with fruitful entertainment by presenting to them their basic problems.

Brecht's theatre, contrary to his wish, has attracted the intelligentsia much more than it has interested the working classes, though Brecht did not pay any attention to the intellectuals who admired his art.

One of the producers of his plays said that Brecht failed to please the working class because he doubted their intelligence and was always explaining to them what was going on, explaining it over again after they had seen the play.

In his play « Mr. Puntilla », Brecht made the car driver refuse to marry the rich daughter of his employer on the pretext that she was not good enough to marry a worker. But he was afraid that the audience should not understand his intention so he used posters during the play to say what was going to take place, the excessive use of which made the play seem childish. But the childish aspect of his plays attracted the intelligentsia for they discovered an imaginary language which the workers held as a kind of madness.

Mr. Puntilla, who is generous when drunk, and cruel when he is

not, decides to stop drinking and holds a party to celebrate this decision, but during the party he forgets his decision and drinks hard. This is comic drama with a self-evident moral.

Brecht used his art for didactic purposes and says — for example — that it is the duty of the wife of the worker, when he returns home, to get him the paper, take off his shoes and turn aside anything that might annoy him. Both Iva and Martha go through this test but Eva fails and attacks, unexpectedly, the rich, while Matty looks at her admiringly; then he beats her. But the artificiality of the middle class, which does not exist either in the lower or the upper class, soon appears in the nature of Eva. Brecht is able to create a sense of class differences in an unexpected way and in an unexpected place.

In his second novel « Table 2 » he explains his theory in detail, at the same time as taking the stuffing out of many hoary traditions; even changing the ordinary way of reading; making the reader's eye go up and down the page between lines and footnotes. He believes that a book is like a cathedral or a big city at night visited for the first time, a marvel for sight and sense, though not demanding accuracy or logic in apprehension of them.

The novel « 6,810,000 litres d'Eau à la Minute » is a general view of Niagara Falls giving an idea of what they mean per se and what they mean to others; their length, depth, height, history, their poetical, legendary and human significance. All these are recorded by Butor in his book, sometimes in a musical, and sometimes in a narrative way. He describes them for the sake of description as well as for their dramatic significance. All these things mix together and form in the end pure poetry in which the traditional aspects of a « book » disappear making way for what might be termed an « artistic tour ».

Butor describes Niagara as Chateaubriand would have seen them, that is, as a symbol of silent, inspiring nature, as well as symbol of dreadful, cataclysmic nature. Or in other words, as symbols of a kind mother as well as a vortex of doom.

Butor divides his book into twelve chapters according to the seasons of the year; the corn of April is a symbol of marriage and the mist of December of widowhood... etc. These chapters are twelve movements in a symphony in which each movement relates the story of an individual or a group of people.

The weak point of the writer, however, is that he sacrifices the individual to the whole and sacrifices the human texture to structure. Thus the work of art becomes an opera or a ballet in which the individual is only a pawn in a game of chess, moving helplessly and unconsciously.

But in spite of this weakness we find ourselves unable to ask Butor more than he gives us; it is enough that he should enchant us with new modes of expression; for, teaching us different ways of reading, he forces us to think differently also, preparing us to make our own discoveries.

MICHEL BUTOR AND THE NEW NOVEL

The latest publication of Michel Butor the French novelist is « 6,810,000 Litres D'Eau à la Minute » which is neither quite a novel nor a didactic work; it is, so to speak, a vision, for Butor does not write lines but fills blanks.

Butor has explained his manner of writing in his first novel, « Table I » dealing with his subject primarily as a naturalist scientist who observes natural phenomena and records them with the accuracy of the expert.

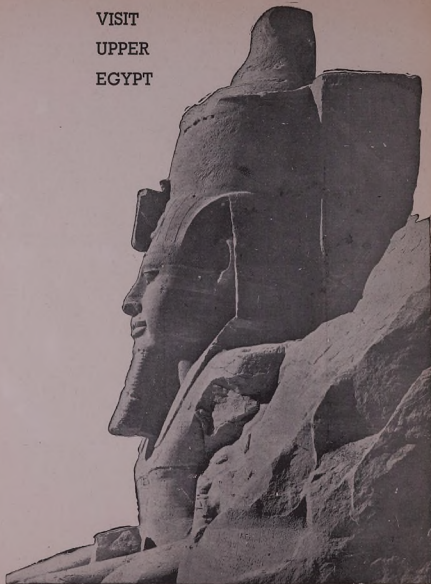
Butor, however, denies the existence of an absolute realism either abstract or concrete; he maintains that the human conscience cannot describe existence objectively. Butor, contradicting modern French writers who believe that Man cannot detach himself easily from time because time is a standing fact, exactly as Man is, and which cannot behave alone or work in the absolute as the classical writers believed.

So we find Butor make the hero of his new novel resist Time and fight till he defeats it, as in truth

he expects man to conquer it. In other words, time has no value by itself, but derives value from its close relation to life and its continual contact with the human reality.

Accordingly, Butor finds himself compelled to search for tools which will help him express this strange intermingling of time and existence. He refers to the historical framework in the same way as Faulkner does, or else he analyses with such accuracy that his description of persons and situations seems photographic; at other times he uses simple constructive methods.

VISIT
UPPER
EGYPT



BENA' AL WATAN

THE PEOPLE'S MAGAZINE

THE NATIONAL

PUBLICATIONS HOUSE



Complete cross-section of Yemeni society at Harad Conference