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**IN PRACTICE:
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF
AUTONOMOUS AREA IN SESSION**



27 OCT 1976



**NEW
ACADEMIC YEAR
BEGINS**



Habbanyia Lake:
Attractive Surroundings



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IN THIS ISSUE

- Aysami Speaks on Arab situation, p. 4 ● President Bakr calls for new economic order, p. 5 ● Saddam Hussein's directive to educated personnel, p. 7 ● Write For A Cause, p. 9 ● Iraqi Foreign Minister calls upon UN to compel Zionists to withdraw, p. 13 ● The Iraqi armed forces in the October War, p. 16 ● Syrian regime departs Arab students, p. 21 ● Autonomy Law in Practice, Kurds enjoy peace and prosperity, p. 22 ● One way out, p. 25.

History and Literature:

- Churches in Iraq, p. 30 ● Arabic Classics: Majnun Layla, p. 31 ● The epic of Gilgamesh, p. 32.

Front cover:

New Academic year begins in Iraqi schools and universities.

Back cover:

Scheherazade and Shahriar, bronze statue by Mohammed Ghani Hikmat.

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Correspondence to be addressed to:
"Iraq Today" magazine,
Directorate General of
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Designer: Waleed Sheet
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EDITORIAL

The October War: One Step Forward to Liberation

Three Octobers back the Arab fighter liberated the Arabs from an age-old sense of helplessness. With this feat he shattered a myth and created a reality. The myth was the Zionist invincibility, the reality, the unshakable Arab presence in the world.

He was ready for more sacrifices and valour but was kept in check by leaders who customarily try to manipulate the will of the masses in accordance with their objectives and that war had objectives which were pre-set, limited and meant to be a threshold for opening a new page with the Zionist entity.

The Iraqi army took an honourable part in that war though the knowledge of it came to Iraq through broadcasting stations. With a speed that astonished military experts, Iraqi forces were rushed to the battlefronts both in the north and the west. They were fighting alongside their brothers with a determination to wipe away all the previous defeats and setbacks. They were gaining grounds when their just aspirations were aborted by the call for an untimely cease-fire. What began as a war of liberation ended up by suspect moves to gain better grounds from which to negotiate with the Zionists. Prior to the war there was a great deal of talk about injecting warmth into the stagnant situation of no-war, no-peace, so that negotiations would get moving. When the October war flared up the Iraqi leadership, while participating to the full, was not unaware of the limited nature intended for the operations. It was more of a tactical campaign than strategic.

Even for such limited ends the aftermath of that war should have been better than what actually took place. One of the consequences was putting the Arab oil in the service of the Arab cause. Iraq initiated this step by nationalising the American and Dutch shares in the Basrah Petroleum Company, a measure which started a chain reaction in the Arab nation that became really serious for the supporters of Zionism, but, again, that weapon was allowed to be blunted by abruptly ending the boycott.

There followed a series of events which cannot be described as commensurate with the will and fighting spirit shown by Arab fighters in that war. It is now the Palestinians who have become the target. The Lebanese reactionaries, hugely supported and instigated by the Syrian regime, are trying to liquidate the Palestinians and get finished with the Palestinian question altogether. The Syrian regime, led by the same men who intentionally allowed the October war to fitter away, is doing its utmost to pave the way for accommodation with the Zionist entity. Since the Palestinians stand in the way of such a treacherous move, they must be massacred to the point of annihilation, along with their allies, the Lebanese patriotic and progressive movement.

We have so much confidence in the Arab people that we cannot concede that a few deviationists can really deviate the Arab liberation current from its historical course. The Arabs who proved they could fight well in a proper war and valiantly did so in October 1973, have also proved many times that they are capable of fighting their tyrants who stand in the way of their liberation from the Zionist usurpers.

Iraq Today



Aysami Speaks on Arab Situation



Comrade Shibly al-Aysami, Assistant Secretary General of ABSP, on October 4, delivered a lecture at the cultural centre of the General Federation of Iraqi Women.

In his speech comrade Aysami reviewed the developments of events on the Arab arena since the fifties. He explained that the fifties stage was characterized by "a revolutionary tide coupled with certain setbacks, while the sixties stage was characterized by a reactionary tide coupled with serious setbacks following victories". The position continued to get worse in the seventies with the acceptance of Rogers plan, liquidation of Palestinian resistance in Jordan and the abandonment of the "four noes" of the Khartoum Arab summit (No conciliation, no negotiation, no recognition of the enemy and no concession on the Palestinian cause). "During this stage", comrade Aysami emphasized, "the reactionary regimes who were in favour of cheap settlement, were very active in exploiting the positive results of the October war for achieving the surrender solutions which imperialism was trying to impose on the Arab people".

"In this particular stage, the reaction succeeded in containing certain Arab regimes, previously counted on the side of progressive forces", Mr. Aysami added.

The most important victories of the 70s were summed up by Mr. Aysami as under:

The consolidation of 17 July Revolution, realization of oil nationalization in Iraq, the collapse of the agent pocket of Mulla Mustafa and his clique in northern Iraq, protection of Damascus

from falling with the hands of the Zionist enemy, the massive uprising in the occupied land and the continued resistance of the Lebanese and Palestinian people against the imperialist plots.

Comrade Aysami spoke about the Sinai disengagement pact and its demerits resulting from the settlement which the United States wanted to impose on the Arab nation. He pointed out that the Syrian regime "opposes it only in form because it has weakened that regime's negotiating position, but not in substance, the Damascus regime is proceeding towards implementing the UN resolution 242 which gives recognition to the Zionist entity". He further said that the events of Lebanon had uncovered the real face of the Syrian regime and placed it in the rank of those conspiring against the Palestinian Revolution.

"Events of Lebanon have been going on in accordance with a carefully worked out plan whose implications and consequences are very clear to us. The Syrian regime tries to woo the Palestinian resistance, but at the same time does not hesitate to strike at it if it failed to implement Damascus designs.

At the conclusion of his talk comrade Aysami said: "The struggle against surrender solution in the existing stage represents the conflict between the masses and their progressive forces on the one hand and the Zionist-imperialist forces on the other and embodies the determination of the Arab nation to uphold the cause of liberation and promote the values of righteousness and justice".



President Bakr calls for new economic order

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr has said that the solution of the problems of growth and the achievement of an equitable world economic order calls for the introduction of fundamental changes in many fields of international relations and forging stronger solidarity of the progressive forces for facing up to imperialism and unmasking the imperialist conspiratorial schemings.

The President, in a message to the World Development Conference which opened in Budapest on October 8, said, Iraq with the suffering: it

Forge Stronger Solidarity of Progressive Forces

experienced at the hands of colonial exploiters and the pillage to which its resources were exposed, firmly believed in the necessity of conducting common struggle against reaction and all forms of colonialism past and present, until a world economic order based on mutual respect and equal benefits has been established.

Following is the text of the President's message.

"It is my pleasure to greet you in the name of the people and government of the Republic of Iraq and in my own name and wish your conference all success in its efforts to help the develop-

ing nations solve the problems they encounter in their development process and back up the unflinching struggle waged for the creation of an equitable international economic order. Such an order will assure free and decent life to the peoples of the developing countries which, for so many centuries, faced all kinds of oppression and exploitation and remained open to the plundering of their natural resources by imperialism.

"You are now meeting to consider some of the most important and most pressing problems of our day and age. These are all closely linked with the struggle mounted by peoples for building a better future and side-tracking the consequences of the prevailing international economic order — one that produces a state of imbalance in international economic relations in such a way as to preclude the introduction of fundamental changes so indispensable to the realisation of liberation and economic social progress.

"The capitalist and imperialist countries, led by the United States of America, are directly responsible for this imbalance and economic pillage. It has been their practice to exert inhuman pressures of every description expressly and cause more harm to the economies of the developing countries, especially the progressive ones among them, and to hamstring the implementation of their development programmes. Furthermore, the imperialist powers are always after stirring up wars, contriving crises, escalating the armament race, thrusting the war machine into various places around the world, arming the forces of reaction and massing them up against progressive forces and regimes. What has happened in Vietnam and Angola and what is now happening in Lebanon where the Syrian regime is mounting a glaring intervention in support of reactionary and rightist forces and against the Lebanese national movement and the Palestinian resistance serve as stark

examples of the flagrant intervention by imperialism. Further, the action of United States in arming the Zionist entity and the rightist isolationist forces provides an irrefutable evidence of its aggressive designs and efforts to sabotage the economies of the Arab homeland and exploit Arab resources. Sure enough, the aggressive policy of imperialism is also to blame for the monetary upheavals and spiralling inflation now experienced around the world.

"Iraq, which in the past suffered from the impact of the imperialist dominance and from the plundering of its resources by monopoly interests, does firmly believe in the necessity of pressing on with the joint struggle against reaction and all forms of colonialism, past and present, until there arose in the world an economic order based on respect and equal benefits — one that assures prosperity and just peace, guarantees absolute national sovereignty over national resources so as to see to it that optimum utilization is undertaken in such a way as to yield maximal growth rates.

"The solution of growth problems and attainment of a just world economic order presuppose the creation of fundamental changes in many facets of the prevailing international relations. This also calls for constant support from the progressive regimes and the socialist countries so as to stem the armament tide of the reactionary and suspect regimes and requires unflinching solidarity between the progressive forces in order to counter imperialism and unmask imperialist designs intended for deflecting the developing countries from carrying out their development plans.

"Once again I greet you and assure you of our solidarity with you in your meaningful efforts to deepen mass struggle for the good of humanity in its entirety".



Saddam Hussein asks educated Personnel

Commit your expertise to the service of the people

Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), attended on October 5 a seminar organized by the Ministry of Information at the Directorate General of Antiquities to examine ways and means of developing the functions of the Ministry's establishments. The seminar was convened in view of the fact that information, culture and arts media have a special responsibility to propagate the revolutionary ideas and slogans presented in the two statements issued by the Revolution Command Council and the Regional Leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party on September 30.

Mr. Saddam Hussein, in his address to the gathering, said, "Now is the time for devoted and dedicated work. Men of skills and qualification, as we understand them to be, are not only the holders of University degrees; they also include specialists who have mastered their own line and who are placing their experience in the service of their

people and are hurling themselves with energy and passion for promoting inventiveness through hard work. As for those who cling to self-seeking pursuits absolutely inconsistent with public interests, are to us no men of skills at all; rather, we regard them as elements ranged against society, against the revolution, against the homeland and against the code of ethics".

Mr. Saddam Hussein added, "There are some who work for university degree for degree's sake and who do not commit their expertise to serving the people and the homeland. Men of this kind are far from discharging their national duties as should be; they prefer to remain slaves of the degrees they hold. This is because any amount of energy that remains outside actual performance is a captive one".

Addressing himself to the members of the staff of the Directorate General of Antiquities, Mr.

Saddam Hussein said, "Your establishment is an article of faith with you and, more particularly, with specialists among you. This is because your establishment is treasuring the most precious things we, the Iraqis, have about our past. Further, the establishment is the medium which indicates to the outside world that our country, now the scene of the unfolding of extraordinary revolutionary activities, was the cradle of civilizations which have rendered immense services to entire humanity".

Mr. Saddam Hussein called for emulating Iraqi and Arab heroes who, history told us, went to the extent of giving their lives for the homeland. It was regrettable, he said, to see some people fall a prey to deviationist trends, leaving aside Iraqi and Arab history that abounded in self sacrifice.

Mr. Saddam Hussein continued: "What we are after is to develop the skills of our own nationals so as to put them in the right place and enable them to discharge scientific duties which self-seeking specialists cannot handle. We respect the work of specialists and assure them, within the limits of available possibilities, the kind of sound and reasonable climate they require. It should be noted in this respect that an honest man is not the one who makes his contribution only in the circumstances he wishes to be made available to him. An honest man is one who makes the most out of what is available for the sake of promoting development. It is not right to draw up comparisons between the kind of care we take of scientists here and the care taken in some other countries that had, in certain epochs, colonized our own and other countries and managed, by that colonization, to attain their present standards".

Mr. Saddam Hussein added: "You can of course demand, and get whatever is available and feasible in your country within the context of the country's general development and needs as well as within the context of patriotic and nationalist assignments abroad".

In conclusion, Mr. Saddam Hussein asked participants in the seminar to make from the de-

bate an objective assessment, free from personal prejudices, of this establishment and of the way it should carry out its duties in the proper way.

Mr. Tareq Aziz, Minister of Information, who spoke earlier, said the debate and other meetings arranged by the Ministry were motivated by the guidelines of the Leadership of the Party and the Revolution as embodied in the two statements issued on September 30. He added: "We, at the Ministry of Information, have made up our mind to enforce the decision of the Leadership and conduct a comprehensive, objective and democratic study of all establishments of the Ministry of Information to identify their positive as well as their negative aspects.

Mr. Tareq Aziz went on to indicate the kind of concepts that should guide the work of such meetings in the future. "Everyone should speak out his mind in complete freedom within the boundaries of objectivity, honesty, truthfulness and morality. He added: "The Leadership of the Party and Revolution guaranteed to all of you full freedom of expression. I myself, as a Minister of Information, guarantee you this right. I want my words to be heeded by responsible persons at the Ministry. Any one who does not commit himself to these remarks will be penalized by the leadership. Further, I do not want you to take my words as an act of incitement. I am not inciting you against any one in your department. I simply urge you to do what you consider to be right and what should be brought to the attention of responsible quarters in the Party and in the Ministry".

Next to speak was Dr. Issa Salman, Director General of Antiquities who, in a report, reviewed the accomplishments of the Directorate over the past years.

The seminar which was presided over by Comrade Nassif Awad, Director of the Information Office at the National Leadership, discussed various activities of the Directorate General of Antiquities.

by M. Sadori Ali

A journalist, worth his salt, tries to uphold the cause of the under-dog. He seeks to disseminate the truth for the benefit of the majority of people, but his environment and situation at times put limitations on his normal urge. He, therefore, faces a continuous struggle — the struggle between external compulsions and internal inclinations — during the course of the professional discharge of his duties. In his struggle he is aided not only by the society outside, but also by the community of his calling.

WRITE FOR A CAUSE

The Eighth Congress of the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ) at its Helsinki session last month has strengthened the hands of the journalists all over the world in their struggle against these external compulsions. The Congress, representing over 150,000 journalists of 100 countries condemned the "imperialist system of information which tries to exercise influence on public opinion in the developing countries". The Congress also lent total support to the "progressive journalists in the capitalist countries, particularly in their fight against the concentration of the news media in the hands of the press monopolies".

The imperialist domination over news media has resulted in the most distorted coverage of information in many parts of the world. The monopolists in the press field have debased the profession of journalism to such an extent that the fighters for national liberation are portrayed as "bandits", "terrorists", "rebels" and "outlaws". The counter-revolutionary violence resorted to by colonialists and their local stooges is sought to be justified in the name of freedom and liberty cunningly shrouding the fact that this freedom means that: freedom to exploit others' resources and liberty means their liberty to trample under foot the liberty of 90 per cent of people who are subjected to live in inhuman circumstances.

These monopoly press bosses systematically try to subvert the stability of newly independent states by tendentious coverage of events. They



President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr.

highlight only the failings of regimes that do not succumb to their pressures and ignore or play down the achievements of such regimes. They create disaffection among the usually suffering, and therefore credulous, people by highly exaggerating the extent of corruption prevalent among the higher echelon of government functionaries in such countries. They give rise to a sense of despondency among the people by hammering on the weaker aspects of the nation and try to create conditions favorable for the penetration of neo-colonial influences both on the economic and political fields.

The unfolding of anti-imperialist movement all over the world has influenced the journalists also. They are now trying to turn the table on the disinformation campaign of the imperialist press magnates. The International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) contributed substantially to the development of this new awareness among the journalists. Even the imperialist press itself at times feels the impact of the awareness. Discussing the rationale of setting up of the Non-aligned nations newsagency pool, the London Economist says:

"The big Western wire services and broadcasting companies dominate their field as the multinationals dominate theirs, and operate according to the same market principles".

Quoting the above comment of the Economist, Mr. Varindra Tarz, Vittach, a noted journalist from Sri Lanka, laments in his column in the Newsweek (September 20, 1976):

"A Western editor whom I had always considered to be a humane journalist with a deep empathy for the poor world, justified his reluctance to make even a mention of World Population Year in his newspaper on the ground that "population is not sexy". The UN correspondent of a big wire service said he would file population news if it was given to him in "conflict terms". Many journalists regard poverty as a bore".

This is the attitude of a section of journalists hired by the information field "multinationals". To them poor countries of the world wherein inhabit over two-thirds of human beings become newsworthy only in terms of conflict and sex. The hopes and aspiration of these overwhelming majorities of people on earth are of no significance to the giants of news media or the journalists working for them. This situation calls for drastic changes in the system of dissemination of news on world-wide scale. The Non-aligned nations decided to set up their newsworthy pool just as a beginning for effecting such a change.

As consistent fighters against imperialist blackmail and disinformation tactics, the Non-aligned nations decided to set up a pool of their own newsworthy. The pool will seek to cater to the needs of the people of Non-aligned countries and help enhance the fighting capability of honest and progressive journalists of the capitalist countries also. The Helsinki Congress of the I.O.J. also sought to encourage this struggle of journalists. The Congress, which was attended by a delegation from the Iraqi Journalists Union in its document, inter alia, said:

"The Congress greets our colleagues of the capitalist developed countries, who fight their rights, for democracy and social progress, against attempts of the monopolies to transform them into servants of their interests by the aid of concentration of the enterprises of mass media and exploitation of the scientific and technical progress of the means of diffusion. These journalists fight against the repression of the reaction. In this fight, they enjoy solidarity and support of their colleagues from different countries of the world".

Expressing solidarity with the journalists of developing countries the Helsinki document said:

"The Congress appeals to journalists to participate in the mobilization of the public opinion in favour of the solution of one of the main problems of the contemporary world: liquidation of the sub-development and building up of a New International Economic Order, based on the equality of rights of all peoples without any form of discrimination in the economic relations. This fight is an important part of the common fight of peoples for peace, security, national independence, cooperation and social progress".

As the upholders of the cause of justice journalists, particularly those outside the orbit of im-

perialist monopolies, have a responsibility to redouble their efforts in exposing the imperialist-Zionist-racist conspiracies against the forward march of the national liberation movements, revolutionary upsurge of the people of Arab region including those of Palestine, Southern Africa and elsewhere. The Helsinki document of the IOJ Congress has also underscored this imperative task. It said:

"The Arab people wage a heroic fight against imperialism, zionism, which is qualified by the U.N.O. as a form of racism, against all imperialist intrigues in this area, for the right of the Palestinian people to build up their own state and enjoy the fruits of complete independence. The Congress supports the fight of the progressive forces of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples for the creation of conditions for a just settlement, including the withdrawal of the Syrian troops.

"The Congress emphasizes the necessity of the unconditional withdrawal of "Israel", occupying troops from all Arab territories, occupied as a result of the aggression in 1967.

"The Congress expresses its profound solidarity with the fight of peoples of South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Rhodesia against racism and apartheid, for their liberation and independence".

In this connection the message of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr of the Republic of Iraq to the Eighth Congress of the IOJ deserves commendation. In his message, which was read by Mr. Tareq Aziz, the Information Minister of Iraq, the President said:

"I extend my best greetings to you on the occasion of the convocation of your eighth conference. I have the pleasure of offering my congratulations on the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of your militant Organisation, whose existence has expressed the will of the progressive journalists all over the world in the struggle for defeating imperialism and aggression; for the establishment of just peace in the world, and achieving prosperity, progress and democracy for the peoples".

The Iraqi Head of State drew the attention of the progressive journalists of the world to the heinous schemings of the imperialists in the Arab arena with a view to helping them comprehend the situation in the region in its correct perspective. He explained:

"On October 6, 1973 a new war broke out with the usurper — the Zionist entity. The Arab masses rose up everywhere, placing their energies for turning the military battles into a comprehensive liberation war, combatting aggression and restoring to the Palestinian people its rights. Regarding Iraq, it has mobilised all its military and economic energies for the battle, and immediately applied the slogan of using oil as a weapon against the imperialist and Zionist aggression.

"World imperialism, with American imperialism at the forefront, was shaken by the uprising of the



Raghdad, March 16, 1976: Joint meeting between Mr. Tareq Aziz, Iraqi Minister of Information, Mr. Sa'ad Qasim Hamoudi, President of Iraqi Journalists Union and Mr. Jerry Kubka, Secretary General of IOJ.

Arab nation. Thus, U.S. imperialism put all its weight to liquidating the positive propositions which that war offered, aiming at tilting the balance of power in favour of the Zionist enemy. That attempt was carried out, partly by intensifying political and economic support to the Zionist entity, and partly by luring some concerned Arab countries to accept settlement.

The imperialist attacks have been escalated in such a way since they did not aim at backing the Zionist aggression only, but they also aimed at liquidating all the gains of the Arab liberation movement and its militant forces, in addition to suppressing the Palestinian people's aspirations for liberating its homeland.

"When imperialism and zionism and their camp followers were confronted with the firm stand of the Arab masses and the Palestinian resistance movement they turned to the final solution, namely, physical liquidation, which is being resorted to at present in the bloody acts performed on the land of Arab Lebanon. These ugly acts have unmasked and exposed many overt and covert agents of imperialism.

"What is going on these days in the Lebanon, hatched by imperialism and zionism, in collaboration with the Syrian regime and the reactionary forces in Lebanon, did not surprise the conscious revolutionary forces in the area, and did not astonish us either in Iraq. We have warned time and again against being deceived by some phenomena

which seek to conceal the real intentions of certain quarters in the area. And after this rich experience much shall be decided in connection with Arab independence struggle. Arab revolutionaries are profoundly convinced of the necessity of acquainting strugglers everywhere with the facts revealing the connection between what is going on in Lebanon and the schemings of American imperialism and zionism against the Arab nation and its progressive movement, and to expose the Arab quarters involved in these schemings.

"The Arab Liberation Movement and the Palestinian Resistance, in this crucial predicament, search in their determination to struggle, that which provides them with the necessities of steadfastness against the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary attack. While they look forward to more support from you and from the militants and the progressive forces all over the world, they warn again, that the success of the imperialist plot in the Arab area will not affect the destiny of the Arab liberation movement only, but will exceed far beyond that".

The journalists who hold a powerful weapon in their hand, can rise to the occasion and expose the imperialist schemings thoroughly so that a world-wide movement against such schemings can be built up forcing the imperialists to retreat. President Bakr is respectful to the might of the pen; he therefore, extols the role of the journalists with confidence.

"You have the capacity and efficiency to contribute to the realisation of these noble aims, and disseminate values of what is good, and values of progress in the world.

"Your pen should be directed and your energies mobilised towards achieving this end and should be the weapon which may contribute to the utmost in confronting the imperialist onslaught on the destinies and liberties of the peoples. This ferocious campaign exploits all means, including the press and other information media for sabotage purposes, intrigue, and fabrication.

"To face up to the suspicious imperialist press and information media linked up with exposed imperialist schemings, the progressive journalist will should be armed with the highest degree of consciousness and vigilance to frustrate all attempts at delusion and deviation".

In order to achieve the task set before the progressive journalists of the world the IOJ document has called for concentrating attention among others, on the following spheres:

"To support our colleagues in the developing countries, particularly to help them with training and education of journalists; to denounce the imperialist system of information which tries to exercise influence on the public opinion in the developing

countries; to help the journalists of these countries to work in the interest of their peoples and their democratic development.

"To enlarge and multiply the solidarity actions with the fight of all progressive journalists for national and social liberation. The Congress appeals to all member and friendly organizations to participate in these solidarity actions.

"To support the just fight of the progressive journalists of the capitalist countries for democracy, particularly to support their fight against the process of concentration in the mass media by the press monopolies, the process which contributes to the manipulation with the public opinion by the political and financial power. The work of journalist in this sphere corresponds fully to the interests of the whole society.

"To continue in explaining that the general and complete disarmament is a guarantee of the social progress of all peoples. The armament races, and especially the nuclear ones, become one of the most dangerous factors, menacing the world permanently with the new world war.

"To continue in the fight for the rights of peoples to live in peace and in freedom, in the fight for gaining the respect of the dignity of the man against all racial, social or religious discrimination, for solution of international problems without using the force".



Baghdad, March 17, 1976: Signing an agreement of cooperation between Iraqi Journalists Union and IOJ.

Hammadi calls upon UN to compel Zionists to withdraw

Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr. Sadoun Hammadi, on October 6 addressed the United Nations General Assembly's current 31st session.



Dr. Sadoun Hammadi, Iraqi Foreign Minister

In his address Dr. Hammadi said that Iraq could not possibly witness in silence the conspiracy now going on in Lebanon with the object of subverting or weakening the Palestine Resistance or the Lebanese National movement. "Iraq" Dr. Hammadi emphasised "will struggle steadily to prevent that from happening and to safeguard the unity and independence of Lebanon against any outside intervention".

Dr. Hammadi called upon the world organization to prove equal to its responsibility towards the Arab people of Palestine and to make redress for the injustice inflicted on them since they were driven out of their homeland by the Zionist entity. He urged the UN to undertake the implementation of resolutions adopted by the UN Commission for Arab Palestinian People which stressed the necessity of withdrawal of Zionist forces from Arab territories and the return of Palestinian people to their homeland so as to enable them to exercise their right to self-determination.

In his address Dr. Hammadi recorded Iraq's denouncement of United State's attitude against the Republics of Socialist Vietnam and People's

Angola's admission to the membership of the United Nations.

In his comprehensive speech the Foreign Minister stressed that, "Since the 30th Session of the General Assembly the world has witnessed the continuation and escalation of the conflict between the new and the old; between the forces that oppose colonialism, economic and racial domination and the receding remnants of those colonialists and races and their allies: the conflict between the peoples who will accept no substitute for the full exercise of their inalienable political and economic rights and the unholy alliance formed by colonialism and racism — particularly in South Africa and Palestine, the heart of the Arab Homeland — an alliance which desperately seeks to continue the usurpat on of those rights through methods which have been condemned by contemporary international law, the conflict between the states advocating the necessity

Conspiracies to Liquidate Palestinian Resistance and Lebanese Patriotic Movement Must be Foiled

of establishing a new political, social and economic order based on the aspirations of the peoples to a real peace predicated on justice and universal prosperity on one hand, and the forces tenaciously using all means at their disposal in order to perpetuate the domination, exploitation and spheres of influence.

Dr. Hammadi said that the world was going through a historic period and that "developments in the field of the international relations over the past few years have proved beyond any doubt that world problems of the last quarter of the 20th century have grown so inter-linked and inter-twined that it is now impossible for any state or group of states, no matter how strong or capable, to solve these problems by themselves". "These developments", he added, "have also demonstrated the facts that the will of the peoples who have now entered the world stage constitute a factor that cannot be ignored in the search for a solution to any international problem".

Dr. Hammadi went on to say "that the transition from the traditional order to the new international order has become an historical neces-

sity on which the destiny of man and his very survival depend".

"Revolutionary Iraq", the Foreign Minister pointed out, "stands with those who believe that the forces of good throughout the world cannot but join together in order to lay down new strong foundations for international relations".

PALESTINE

On the central issue of Palestine, Dr. Hammadi reminded the United Nations that the responsibility for the Palestine tragedy "rests primarily with this world organisation and particularly with this assembly, which in 1947 adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine in violation of provisions of the charter, thereby over-stepping its mandate. In contravention of the principle of the rights of the peoples to self-determination, that resolution ignored the will of the Palestinian Arab people who constituted then the overwhelming majority of the population of Palestine".

Dr. Hammadi stated that the various resolutions of the United Nations on Palestine, despite their importance, were by themselves inadequate as a remedy for a problem threatening international peace and security.

However, in adopting the special resolution which determined that Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination, the international community displayed enough courage to recognise a simple truth which the forces of Zionism and colonialism sought to suppress. The overt steps taken this year by the racists in South Africa and the Zionist entity to reinforce their unholy alliance have put an end to all doubts as to the true nature of the Zionist entity now existing in Palestine.

The Foreign Minister then turned to the uprising of the people of Palestine in the occupied lands. "The continuous uprising of the people of Palestine in the face of the barbaric acts of repression committed by the usurper, the Zionist entity, and their successful resistance against all the plots hatched inside and outside Palestine to contain and liquidate their revolution have once more proven to the world the true mettle of the Arab people, their adherence to their full inalienable rights, and their readiness to make all the sacrifices necessary for the recovery of those rights".

"Zionist plans", the Foreign Minister continued, "had and continue to have as their essential aim the elimination of the Arab nation by every possible device. Beside its ceaseless activities aimed at enlarging the area of the Zionist entity, Zionism strives to fragment the Arab world".

"What happened and is still happening in Lebanon is but a living example of this evil endeavour fostered and implemented by world Zionism", he said, "As a progressive Arab country not remaining silent about the plots which are being carried out in Lebanon with a view to destroying

or weakening the Palestine Resistance, as well as the National Movement of the Lebanese people, Iraq will, therefore, remain steadfast in its struggle to prevent this outcome and to preserve the unity and independence of Lebanon against any external interference in its internal affairs".

However, Dr. Hammadi stressed that, "Iraq and Palestine are two integral parts of the Arab nation which, more than any other nation, has suffered and continues to suffer from fragmentation, aggression, occupation and exploitation, hence our premise that the question of Palestine is the crux of the matter and that the liberation of the Arab land from Zionist occupation and the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights are among the most important prerequisites for the achievement of Arab unity.

SOLIDARITY

Dr. Hammadi once more reaffirmed Iraq's solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. On Africa he said that the development during the last year constituted the beginning of the final phase of the bitter struggle between the forces of liberation and progress and the racist settler colonialism supported by the imperialist powers, particularly the United States of America. The mounting African and international support for the liberation movements of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa, he said, augured well for the final elimination of colonialism and racism from the African continent.

The Foreign Minister hailed the victories of the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea over imperialism and its local agents and welcomed the reunification of Vietnam. However, on Korea he said "We regret to see the mounting tension there and the fact that imperialism is reinforcing its military presence and bases in South Korea. We stress once again the necessity of the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea in order to enable the Korean people to determine their future without foreign interference as well as to reunify their territory".

On Latin America he said that attempts were being made by certain great powers to create such regimes as would tow their line. He said that those who refused to tow the line were exposed to constant attempts to undermine their regimes. He expressed Iraq's firm support for the progressive trends and the liberation movements in Latin America and particularly saluted the struggle of the Chilean people.

NON-ALIGNMENT

"The Republic of Iraq", Dr. Hammadi stressed, "considers the Non-aligned movement one of the corner stones of its foreign policy". Iraq, he added, upholds the principles of this movement and attaches the highest importance to its effective ability to promote security and peace in the world.

The Foreign Minister paid tribute to the summit conference of the heads of state or government of the non-aligned countries held recently in Colombo, and added that Iraq supported and upheld the Colombo's numerous resolutions and final declarations. The Non-aligned movement, he emphasised "has thus become a potent means by which member states can cope with international events and currents... and assert itself as an embodiment of the will of the peoples and their aspirations to a free independent life within the framework of justice and peace.

THE INDIAN OCEAN

Iraq attaches the highest importance, Dr. Hammadi stressed, to the declaration of the Indian Ocean and its natural extensions as a zone of peace. "The continued existence of the influence of the imperialist powers in the Indian Ocean and the fact that some of them are reinforcing their presence, strengthening their military bases and building new ones, constitutes a direct threat to the security of the littoral and hinterland states and contributes to the intensification of international tension", the Minister warned. He renewed the call for the convening of a conference by the assembly in which the littoral and hinterland states and the major maritime users would be represented. He also pointed out that Iraq supports and adheres to the resolution on the Indian Ocean adopted by the 5th summit conference of the Non-aligned states.

NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

Dr. Saadoun Hammadi then went on to review the struggle of developing countries to overcome the problems of under-development bequeathed to them by long periods of exploitation. Iraq he said, has been actively participating, along with other developing states in the various international economic conferences held with a view to achieving equitable international economic relations and creating a new international economic order which would enable the developing countries to deal on equal terms with the developed countries and help them to realise their legitimate aspirations. The Foreign Minister added that Iraq believes that a radical solution to international economic problems lies in rectifying the balance of forces in economic relations.

Reviewing the numerous meetings held to work out equitable economic relations, Dr. Hammadi said that it was regrettable that certain capitalist industrial states adopted a negative attitude and remained intransigent to the legitimate demands of the developing nations. Iraq, he said, firmly believes that the producers of raw materials among the developing countries should close their ranks to counter world monopolies and to secure equitable prices for their products as this is their

only means of increasing their capacity to import what they need for the development of their countries.

ARMS RACE

Among the foremost problems threatening the world peace and security, the Foreign Minister emphasised, is the unremitting continuation of the arms race in the world. "How painful it is that the annual cost of armaments rose to 300 billion dollars from 200 billion dollars only a few years ago and that this happened at a time when nuclear disarmament has become the most urgent requirements of the new international order", he said. The diversion of such fabulous sums from socio-economic development represents the vast disparity between the requirement of human security and the actual policy of states, he pointed out.

Dr. Hammadi called for more effective measures, on the regional and global levels, to reduce the arms race, to hold the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to confine the use of atomic energy to peaceful purposes only.

DETENTE

On the issue of international detente, the Foreign Minister said: "Iraq stresses, once again that it welcomes the policy of international detente which has replaced the policies of confrontation and cold war. However, we would like to emphasise, at the same time, that we want such detente to be universal, permanent, and based on justice and respect for the rights of the peoples to independence, sovereignty and progress. It should not be based on the polarization or the appointment of spheres of influence nor do we want it to be achieved at the expense of small and weak nations".

THE UNITED NATIONS

Dr. Hammadi said that persistent efforts were being made to weaken the role of the UN and to belittle its importance. Voices have risen condemning the new majority and the just resolution it adopts.

However, the Foreign Minister added, it was regrettable to see a number of states, particularly the United States of America, increasingly shaking the confidence of the international community. The use of the veto, he added, in the Security Council made it impossible for the council to discharge the function entrusted to it by the charter. The exercise of the right of veto or the threat of its use against a resolution aimed at achieving the aims and purposes of the United Nations, the Foreign Minister said, runs counter to the principle of good faith in the implementation of international instruments and should, therefore, be considered as an illegal abuse of that right. He called for the strengthening of the role of the UN.

THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY

THE IRAQI ARMED FORCES IN THE OCTOBER WAR



Part II

IRAQ ENTERS THE BATTLEFIELD

On the tenth day of the tenth month of 1973, the vanguard of Iraq's armoured fist began to arrive in the Damascus area from its bases in Iraq. Dubbed the Khalid bin al-Waleed force in memory of that outstanding Arab general who, fourteen centuries earlier, had crossed the Syrian desert from Iraq at record time to knock out the Byzantine army in the decisive battle of Yermuk, the Iraqi expeditionary force had more or less followed the same path on its way to the front that was not far from where the famous battle of the Yermuk river had been fought.

The armoured column was at once deployed to hit the flank of Lanner's group of brigades which had broken through the Syrian lines in the Sasa area, thereby threatening Damascus itself.



In the early afternoon of the eleventh of October, the Zionist Commander, Lanner, was standing on top of Tal al-Shaar, and inspecting the field with his binoculars, when he saw from afar the dust of the approaching tanks. He estimated their number to be between a 100 and 150 tanks and they were advancing towards his positions from the south.

At first he thought that they were a part of Peled's armour coming to reinforce his brigades, but then he realised his mistake. This was the Iraqi army.

Describing Lanner's dismay at the unpleasant surprise, the Zionist general Chaim Herzog later wrote in his book 'The War of Atonement' that the two brigade commanders serving under Lanner

by F. el-Manssoury

were bitterly disappointed. They had thought that victory was within their grasp when suddenly the Iraqis intervened from practically nowhere to snatch the fruit of victory from their hands and turn the tide of battle in Arab favour.

This Iraqi intervention in the most critical hour spelled the beginning of the end for the Zionists' seemingly inexorable advance on Damascus.

There was a very intense engagement with tanks facing each other at a range of around 300 metres. The battle continued as night fell with tanks on both sides using infra red sensors in order to see in the dark.

After hours of very heavy fighting, Lanner gave the orders to disengage and redeploy. His forces had been hard hit, so now they dug in a box-like formation opening towards the east.

Following a preliminary bombardment by the Syrian artillery, the Iraqi al-Mutassim task force advanced towards the Zionist positions. But the Iraqi commander realised in good time that it was a trap and took the necessary measures to foil the Zionist plans.

It is interesting to note that the roles in this battle were reversed; the Zionists, always priding themselves on their prowess as night fighters and on their inventiveness in tactics, were now fighting a set piece battle from their trenches and fortified positions, while it was the Iraqis now who were showing adeptness at night fighting and mobility.

At the break of daylight, enemy planes became active, taking opportunity of the fact that the Iraqis were now fighting outside the effective range

Mr. Kamal Junbulatti, Chairman of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement and the accompanying delegation are being received by Comrade Shibly al-Aysami, Assistant Secretary General of the ABSP and some members of the National and Regional Leaderships of the ABSP, on their arrival in Baghdad on September 30.



President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr is being seen off on October 6 by Mr. Saddam Hussein, RCC Vice-Chairman. President Bakr left for Paris by a special plane for a few days private visit to France.



Mr. Hikmat Ibrahim, Minister of Foreign Trade, inaugurating the 13th Baghdad International Fair on October 1. The fair lasts for three weeks.



Dr. Riadh Ibrahim Hussein, Minister of Health, receiving on October 4, Mr. David Ennals, the British Minister of Social Affairs and Health.

NEWS
IN
PICTURES

of their surface-to-air missiles. Consequently, the Mutassim task force withdrew in good order with the Zionists too weak and unable to engage it further.

Both sides had lost rather heavily in the bitter fighting. The enemy abandoned 16 tanks on the battlefield, while the Iraqis lost 16 tanks, 12 armoured personnel carriers and one armoured reconnaissance car. However, the Iraqis succeeded in stemming the Zionist counter-offensive. From now on the Syrian capital would be safe.

THE BATTLE OF KAFR-NASSEJ

On the 13th of October, the Iraqi force went back to the attack. It was the same force that had fought the previous battle, but the Zionist commander on the field, Uri, thought that these were fresh reinforcements — he did not believe that it could be the same Iraqi force — and gave orders to withdraw from Kafr-Nassey for redeployment in preparation for a counter-attack.

The Zionists did not choose to launch a night attack that evening; they remained put. But next day the battle was on with all ferocity. The commander of the Iraqi Quteiba task force received a mortal wound and a new commander took over. The battle grew in intensity and later in describing the fighting, a senior Iraqi officer compared it to two locomotives crashing headlong into each other at full speed.

In this very violent engagement, Tel Antar fell in the hands of the enemy, but this did not deter the Iraqis, for although they had now been fighting non-stop for several days without reinforcements (whereas the enemy was being reinforced from his nearby bases), their morale was high and they were intent on defeating the enemy, no matter at what price.

The battle for regaining the lost Tel Antar began at midnight of the 15th. The objective was to inflict as heavy punishment as is possible on Lanner's group of brigades in preparation for a general attack to be carried out by joint Iraqi-Syrian-Jordanian forces.

The balance of the opposing forces forbade now any attempt at fighting according to the rules of the strategy of indirect approach propagated by Liddel Hart. Both sides had realised now, that there was nothing for it but to fight a set piece battle.

The Zionists were now taking heart from the colossal military aid they were receiving from their American allies and they had still not given up their hope to take Damascus and to crush the Syrian Army in the process.



Now the second battle of Kafr-Nassey started and once more tanks were locked in mortal combat. The Jordanian 40th armoured brigade tried to leave the enemy off his positions but had to withdraw after losing between 20 and 28 tanks. This reverse was suffered because the said brigade lacked anti-tank missiles while the enemy had them in plenty. At any rate, the enemy brigade was free after the Jordanian disengagement to take on the Iraqis now that their flank had been left uncovered. But the Zionist onslaught was checked and the enemy had to retreat. By the 17th October and in spite of the continuous reinforcements and the American airlift, Lanner's troops were completely exhausted and Hoff, the overall Zionist commander of the front, decided to withdraw them.

Peled's group now took over and the Zionist tanks were deployed along the al-Mas-hara Tel Antar line; but by then the Iraqi contingents had grown in strength as more and more units were arriving in the front from their faraway bases in Iraq.

On the night of the 18th, Iraqi Special Forces carried out diversionary attacks on the enemy's positions on Tel Antar, and three hours before dawn, the Iraqi Third Mechanized Battalion stormed the hill and took it. However, the hill changed hands more than once as the ebb and flow of the battle continued, until the opposing lines finally became more or less rigid for the time being.

But, while the enemy was frenziedly consolidating his positions in this hilly terrain, the Iraqi command was preparing for the general attack of all Arab forces to throw the enemy back and annihilate him. The hours were pregnant with expectation for the coming battle.

THE DOUBLE STANDARD OF WESTERN MEDIA

Three Arabs were recently hanged in Damascus. Just a few hours separate their arrest and their execution as the trial was extremely speedy, the execution instantaneous. Even persons court-martialled during the heat of belligerency would not have been treated with such haste. We need not have been treated with such a show of strength a great deal of fear and trembling is eating into the marrow of the Syrian regime, and it is the responsibility of the Syrian masses to liberate themselves from the fascist yoke. However, what is wanted to be laid bare here is the utter disregard of Western media when it comes to anybody whose fate is not of the slightest concern to the West or the Zionists. Had it been a question of persons other than Arabs, the Western media would not have been so taciturn about it. In fact some rejoicing was heard from many an anti-Arab quarter.

The seismograph of Western media is hypersensitive with regard to any non-Arab even when caught red-handed in the act of espionage or sabotage, provided that he should not be an Arab. If he is an Arab or of Third World, whatever is done to him by the so-called machinery of justice, has no repercussions whatsoever. Their sympathies become immediately dormant and their anxiety about fair trials become blunted.

It has been like this for so many years. No one who is not European, American or Zionist

counts much in the scales of their values. Even South Americans stir no feeling of moral indignation when they are brutally massacred by their Pinochetlike tyrants.

There are two sets of values in western mentality and consequently Western media. The U.S. has again vetoed the admission of Vietnam to the U.N. claiming that a list of American persons lost during the American war of aggression against Vietnam was not provided. Should Vietnam demand satisfaction for its own losses in human life alone during that dirty war, assessed by many to reach a figure of more than one million people, what will be the answer of the U.S.?

What concerns us here is the stony silence of the so-called civilised quarters which were not disturbed by the bodies remaining dangling in the air for a time longer than that elapsed between the arrest and execution.

In occupied Palestine so many violations of the simplest moral and legal norms are perpetrated every day by the Zionists, but the Western media remains unperturbed. If such infringements of human values are reported at all, they are so sugar-coated as to appear under the legal guise of self-defence. It is because Western media is so biased in their reports, overstating and understating as they see for their interests, that the call for a new agency for the Third World is justifiable.

Syrian Regime Deports Arab Students

Arab students deported from Syria said in Baghdad that the Syrian regime was resorting to suppressive measures against the Arab students who were receiving their education in the Syrian universities.

Speaking at a press conference on October 3, these students who have been expelled by the Syrian regime from the colleges in Damascus, Aleppo and Ladhki, said that the Syrian renegade regime was trying to liquidate the Palestinian Resistance. They said the Syrian regime was implementing the orders of imperialism and Zionism. They also said that the economic situation in Syria is getting worse following the Damascus regime's intervention in Lebanon. Prices are soaring rapidly and the deficit in the State budget is no longer liable for remedy.

The national movement in Syria has expressed its disapproval of the regime's military intervention in Lebanon. The Arab students are constantly confronting the evil designs of the regime, despite "measures of torture and arrest campaigns launched against the nationalists".

The regime's party decided to deport all Arab students who are not on the side of its organization. "The students are facing a state of terror and persecution in the hands of the local authorities in Syria. 8 Palestinian girl students were jailed 30 days ago and are still suffering much as a result of bad treatment", one of the students disclosed.

As regards the campaign of arrests waged by the Syrian authorities against the Syrian students, the 37 deported students said "The total number of Syrian students arrested recently was more than 2000".

The students highly appreciated the positive stand of the Iraqi political leadership and revolution towards the Palestinian cause. "Iraq has turned into a bastion of freedom. It spares no effort to give its unlimited support to the Palestinian cause", the students said.

Kurds Enjoy Peace and Prosperity

"The Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) is national, humanist, socialist and democratic in its tenets. It is only natural that it should understand and recognize the legitimate rights of the Kurds

relationship between the central authority and autonomous institutions was promulgated. Thus the historic links between the Iraqi Arabs and Kurds entered a new stage based on the recogni-



Kurdish folk dance

and struggle for their fulfilment. The party, having been in power since July 17-30, 1968 bears responsibility for guaranteeing these rights in constitutional, legal and procedural forms.

The basic and constant course adopted by the party to guarantee and safeguard those rights is the peaceful and democratic course through sincere and positive cooperation with the national and progressive forces of the Kurdish masses and within the framework of the joint national action as represented in the progressive patriotic and national front.

"In the light of these conditions the ABSP has worked with all the means at its disposal since the July 17, Revolution to find a solution to the Kurdish question.

With a look at the foregoing excerpts from the Political Report of the 8th Regional Conference of the Arab Baath Socialist Party one can sense the determination and keenness of the political leadership to implement, in letter and spirit, the 11th March Manifesto of 1970 whereby the Kurdish masses were granted autonomy within the framework of the Republic of Iraq.

On March 11, 1970, the autonomy law governing the Autonomous Area and regulating the

tion of the cultural rights of the Kurds.

The autonomy law which was legislated by the Revolution Command Council in the light of its final form laid down by the Progressive Patriotic and National Front Higher Committee constituted a turning point in the history of the Kurds who suffered much during the previous regimes.

Following the enforcement of autonomy, the autonomous institutions have been functioning successfully as the fulfillment of autonomy brought about to the area peace and stability never witnessed in earlier years. Thanks to the full understanding and fruitful cooperation between the central authority and the Autonomous Area's machinery the Kurds made bold strides on the path of progress and prosperity.

In 1974, with the promulgation of the autonomy law, two councils were immediately established. One is the Legislative Council and the other is the Executive Council. These councils have been operating normally and the Legislative Council has been holding its sessions regularly.

On October 2, The Legislative Council of the Autonomous Area held its 3rd session which started in Arbil Governorate.

The session was attended by Mr. Ghanim

Abdul Jalil, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research who is in charge of coordination between the institutions of the Autonomous Area and the central authority, Mr. Abdul Fattah Yassin and Mr. Hassan Ali, both members of the Regional Leadership of the ABSP.

It was also attended by the Chairman of the Executive Council of the Autonomous Area, members of the Legislative and Executive Councils, the Governors of Arbil, Sulaimaniyah and Duhok of northern Iraq.

Others attending the session were the secretary of the Higher Committee for the Northern Affairs, deputy secretary and members of the ABSP leadership, northern branch, and representatives of Progressive, Patriotic and National Front



Modern housing facilities in the North

and popular organisations in the governorates.

CHAIRMAN MAHMOUD'S ADDRESS:

In his opening address to the session Mr. Bakr Mahmoud, Chairman of the Legislative Council of the Autonomous Area, stressed the importance of exercising extraordinary efforts in confronting imperialism which had been implementing its plans and conspiracies for liquidating the revolutionary positions in the area and swooping on every revolutionary movement. Mr. Mahmoud said that the military moves mounted by the regular Syrian army to strike at the positions of the Palestine revolution and the Lebanese national movement "is a clear evidence to the determination of the imperialist hirelings for removing the revolutionary seats in this area and in rest of the world".

He added, "Iraq's revolutionary march already replete with many gains and gigantic achievements is quite capable of destroying conspiracies and conspirators. In spite of all intrigues Iraq will ever be a splendid example of the country pursuing a liberating, democratic and socialist policy. This is made possible, thanks to the ideological and doctrinal principles of the Arab Baath Socialist Party".

The Chairman of the Legislative Council highly evaluated the humanitarian stand taken by the revolution in welcoming and embracing the returnees (Kurdish insurgents who responded to the revolution's general amnesty) and hoped those returnees would contribute to developing the northern area and its institutions and in building up modern Iraq.

"The solid and principled attitude taken by the revolution towards the Kurdish question is", he said, "the natural outcome of the progressive human ideology and a reflection of the moral values and principles of the Arab Baath Socialist Party. This attitude is a firm guarantee for the militant cohesion in all circumstances among countrymen".

Mr. Mahmoud added he was confident the Kurdish masses would stand firmly against any anti-revolutionary attempt and that these masses would stand with maximum consciousness and enthusiasm on the side of the revolution which provided them with the opportunity of enjoying their democratic rights and defending all gains and achievements realised for the toiling masses.

Referring to the decision for abolishing extraordinary and emergency measures in the area, he said, "The high national interest and the sound evaluation of the new stage's circumstances dictate conscious and serious transition to normal formulas and measures befitting with the revolutionary movement and its method in dealing with domestic problems in all parts of Iraq".

Mr. Mahmoud said that a committee, formed for this purpose was holding debates and sessions with different sections of the people in the area listening to their problems, their complaints and their viewpoints. The committee was apprised of the methods adopted by official organs in dealing with citizens and repudiated ill-intended rumours imparted by enemies of the people and the homeland, he said.

The Chairman of the Legislative Council said that the visit of the area last July by Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council, had created the ideological and political ground for consolidating the autonomous rule and imparted psychological satisfaction among the masses.

He then drew attention to Mr. Hussein's assurances that the revolution regarded the process of developing the autonomy area "is a continual process for whose progress everybody should contribute... It is a serious operation for consolidating the national rights of the Kurdish masses".

THE ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report of the Executive Council of the Autonomous Area, presented by Mr. Hashem Hassan, chairman of the council, praised direct support given to the area by the leadership of the party and the revolution, headed by President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr. This support has taken the form of the particular interest in the area and the allocation of necessary additional funds in order to accelerate the completion of urgent projects. This interest was also expressed by the numerous visits of various members of the Cabinet and comrades of the leadership in order to see personally the conditions of the area and become acquainted with its needs. Added to all that is the assignment of a comrade from the leadership of the party to conduct coordination between the central authority and the bodies of autonomous administration. This step has brought about direct contact at leadership level and made easier the possibilities of decision making in many of the cases.

The report reviewed in details the most important accomplishments of the Executive Council on various levels and its role in solidifying the bases of the autonomous rule.

EDUCATION

The report referred to the expansion in the overall efforts in education. 195 schools were opened for the three educational stages. Many kindergartens and professional institutes, also started functioning. The number of students enrolled in the schools of the area during last year increased by 92757 male and female. In addition 164 anti-literacy centres were opened and the number of those joining them increased by 10892 persons, male and female. The building of 196 schools for the different stages of study was completed.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN REFORM:

The report gave details concerning the development realised in this field in all aspects. 221 animal breeding projects were being built, 39 of which were completed and the others under construction. They can accommodate tens of thousands of different kinds of animals. Three stations for animal breeding as well as agricultural

establishments together with houses were also built. The cost amounted to more than ID. 3,500,000.

The establishment of 160 cooperatives was completed, the membership of which reached 42293 farmers, both male and female. Pioneering and mechanised farming and the use of modern methods are being propagated.

The report referred to the activities of the administration of internal affairs as ID. 25,991,342 were allocated for various projects in the area, apart from the private budgets of these administrations which amounted to ID. 9,842,722.

The General Secretariat for the administration of internal affairs opened numerous centres in various parts of the area for the registration of the civil status in addition to the management of other administrative tasks.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF MUNICIPALITIES:

The report went on to detail the achievements in the field of municipal and summer-resort services and the co-ordination between this administration and the Ministers concerned with a view to expanding the various kinds of services to the citizens and the allocation of necessary funds for this purpose.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

The report reviewed the activities in the field of social affairs which had resulted through the expansion realised in the number of health establishments, their staff and securing medicines and developed medical equipment for them. A sum of one million dinars was spent for this purpose. A good number of hospitals were built together with other health centres and houses. Labour hotels, social centres and nurseries were also constructed.

WORKS AND HOUSING:

The administration of Works and Housing had its staff fully recruited. It started its activities in the building of roads, bridges and other installations costing around ID. 1,500,000, not to mention the projects being centrally executed.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS:

The administrative structure for these has been completed, as they have started work. There has been a great expansion in postal, telegraphic, telephone and wireless services. Additional post-offices have been opened.

CULTURE AND YOUTH:

The report went on to review the advance gained in covering the area with cultural and youth establishments.

The report also reviewed the problems and obstacles which stand in the way of every administration and the measures suggested with a view to overcoming them and enabling the administrations to carry out their duties in the best way possible.



ONE WAY OUT

By Kamal Butti

Within the context of imperialist conflicts, oil, particularly Arab oil, has been the "master" key for the American and West European rapid economic growth. Oil for industry is like money for commodity, and he who holds it has an upper hand over his adversaries, no matter how strong they are. Such is the strategic guideline of the US not only after getting hold of this oil key, but also striving to control the sophisticated branches of industrial technology, such as electronics, all with the aim of remaining the supreme master of the imperialist world!

Following the October War of 1973, Washington discovered that its policy, since the establishment of the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine in 1947, based on the precept that "Israel" is the only force capable of protecting the oil interests of the "free world", and therefore, she should be supported in her aggressive adventures against the Arab states, should be tactically modified after it became convinced that "Israel" cannot dominate the Arab homeland, nor can she maintain

her rule over the Arab people. Moreover, Washington has discovered through the introduction of Kissinger's "shuttle diplomacy", that the Zionist aggressions have always prompted solidarity among the Arabs, and consequently, embarrassed the position of US "friends" among the Arabs and Arab nation, and these sentiments have developed a particular anti-US character. To obliterate the features of this character, Washington drew up its new Arab strategy that was immediately put to work in the "settlements" formula which would freeze the Arab-Zionist conflict for many years to come during which Washington would be able to creep back to the area and further plunder Arab oil.

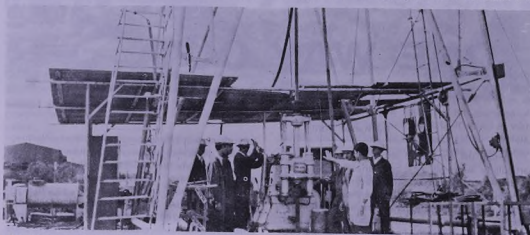
It is evident that the new US policy has shifted, temporarily, from concentration on "Israel" alone into reliance on the "other loyal" and allied forces in the area as well. Consequently, one does not hear and read in American information media today outspoken and unreserved statements of support of aggression; instead, such expressions and terms like "peaceful mediation" and "pressure on Israel" are being commonly used. Of course

Results of imperialist conspiracy in Lebanon

Washington has persistently refused and avoided to have same Europeans as partners in the "solution" of the Middle East "crisis".

It would be sheer naivety to perceive the US — West European conflict as centered only around the resources of the Arab homeland; it is no more a secret that Washington is after the whole political future of the Arab area. This should well be viewed in terms of the "battle" now raging between world blocs and powers, on the result of which the fate of many countries will depend.

Since world imperialism, especially US imperialism, aims at controlling the Middle East and get hold of the resources for the purpose of combating socialism and national liberation movements, and defeating adversaries within the imperialist camp, the Arabs should make it their duty to interfere in these imperialist schemes through exploiting the contradictions of the capitalist countries. They should begin with fully controlling their oil through nationalisation so as to be capable of disposing with it as will in all the conflicts which they wish to influence, thus sharpening the said contradictions inside the imperialist camp. They



Developing a national oil cadre to combat monopoly

should use oil as a political measure of self-defence against the forces bent on devouring them.

Such a policy of influencing the struggle among ferocious powers undoubtedly calls for a firm united Arab stand based on the gains achieved in the last decade. It would be impossible to avert the imperialist offensive and foil its schemings by an Arab homeland which is being manipulated by Washington and others. The post-October War period and the current Lebanese crisis are but the recent manifestations of the imperialist scheming in action. The imperialist consolidation, through open moral and material support of the local reaction and the Zionist entity in an attempt to liquidate the Arab Palestinian

resistance and progressive and patriotic forces who are standing today on the threshold of a historic juncture, has put us in a position to have no other choice than either to allow them divide up and control the Arab homeland, or to adhere firmly to the course of world revolution to proceed further along the path of progress, unity and liberation.

Iraq has repeatedly warned of the imperialist dangers presently engulfing the Arab nation. She has correctly diagnosed the symptoms befalling our homeland right after the October War and called for an intensification of Arab struggle towards the liberation of occupied Palestine and restoration of Palestinian legitimate rights in their country. Iraq has always said that we should not expect the friend of our enemy to come up and salvage a situation of his own making. It is crystal clear now that after neutralising the confronting parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the physical liquidation of the Palestinian resistance and that of the patriotic opposition, is the straw before the last in the imperialist basket of schemings which totally aim at re-mapping the Arab homeland and

re-imposing imperialist control, economically and politically. It would be ridiculous to think for once that the very recent law passed by the US to impose heavy sanctions against American firms who concede to the Arab economic boycott of "Israel", a friendly gesture of a country out to "solve" or rather "settle" the Arab-Israeli crisis squarely and legitimately.

Iraq has maintained that the only way to economic and political independence and recovery of usurped Arab land and rights is the way of armed struggle and unity of ranks. Many peoples in the world have treaded this course, defied mightiest powers, and came out victorious. An example to be followed.

INTERVIEW

A SURGEON WITH ENGINEERING THINKING

"I have practised the profession (surgery) before and after the Revolution of July 17, 1968 both inside and outside Iraq and I should assert here the fact that surgery has far advanced in this country", says Dr. K.M.S. Abdul Wahab, 43, who has recently returned to Iraq in the wake of the issuance by the leadership of Iraq of the highly qualified staff law.

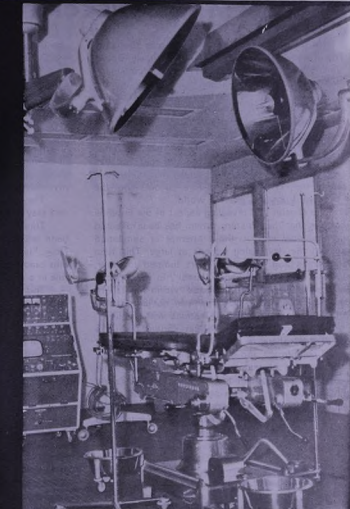
He goes on to say: "It has even become quite possible here to perform any operation". But our surgeon does not want to specify any remarkable operation he has done and adds only: "Any operation is an exciting and useful experiment by itself for me. All I want to do is to contribute as much as possible to the medical profession and the whole community as far as the field of surgery is concerned".

Q. As a surgeon, how do you feel when the patient is in your hands?

A. Any surgeon has, in one way or another, a personal command over life and death of his patient. He is, therefore much of a person taking a life and death decision over the lives of many people almost daily. Hence, surgery is not primarily a discipline of the hand but of the mind and character.

Surgery, Dr. Abdul Wahab goes on to explain, requires people to have physical stamina to operate on for many hours with undiminished concentration and without showing the effects of fatigue. But mental stamina and resilience are very important for the surgeon.

In addition to surgery, Mr. Abdul Wahab is interested in engineering. "I live among the engineers more than I do among my colleagues the surgeons", he says. The secret behind this is probably due to his early wish to



be enrolled at an engineering college. But he continues: "I had no other alternative at that time but to be involved in the medical profession". He did not, however, lose interest in engineering. He has managed since then, he adds, to make a compromise between engineering thinking and the medical practice. Being very punctual is an engineering thinking by itself, he points out. This explains why he is so keen about setting everything in order meti-

culously.

Dr. K.M.S. Abdul Wahab got his M.B.S.Ch.B. from the Medical College of Baghdad University in 1963. And in 1972 he was conferred upon F.R.C.S. in U.K. where he practised the profession for quite a few years. He used to be faculty staff member at the medical Colleges of Mosul and Baghdad Universities. He worked as surgeon in various Iraqi hospitals as well.

(Salah)

FACTS ABOUT PALESTINE

ENTEBBE: THE CONSECRATION OF PIRACY

In the West, people have gone over the edge. There is joy and jubilation on a grand scale. Books are being hatched at lightning speed from many Zionist incubators. Films are being made and the supposedly sedate British journalists are whooping and dancing war dances in the streets. An American magazine, the U.S. News and World Report, made a comparison between the "Israeli" raid on Entebbe and the failure of the Americans in similar ventures. Not a leader in the intoxicated British press has told the world at large that "Israel" has, yet again, taught the "civilized" world how to deal with the "backward upstarts" of the world.

The sinister and revealing aspect of the Entebbe craze is that the Western venom has been directed unashamedly and without attempt at simulation against the developing nations at large. This time the Arabs and the others were lumped together, for the first time perhaps: "Israel", in its capacity as the spearhead of the "civilized" world, has taught the "inferior races" that they can no longer defy the advanced and powerful nations with impunity.

The jubilation in the West should tell us a great deal. There is a thinly covered cesspool of racial resentment and ill-will lurking underneath the double-faced protestations of good-will and masquerade of cooperation. When "Israel" raided Entebbe, it was not striking at a Palestinian group or President Idi Amin alone, and most certainly, it was not acting on its own behalf. At least this is

the unavoidable impression given by the Western media while it froths at the mouth.

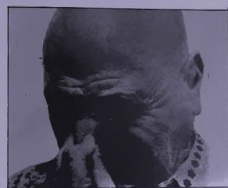
There are many lessons to be learned from Entebbe. The first and most important one is that we, in the Third World, are in the same boat: our struggle is one and the same all over the world and our enemy is also one and the same despite its many faces and voices. "Israel" has played its cards right: in its hit against Uganda, a sovereign state many thousands of miles away from occupied Palestine, it has put into practice the much vaunted myth of the "long arm of Israel".

The message is clear: mind your own business and stay safe, get involved and you will be hit.

This is something that the imperialist West has been telling the Third World for a very long time. Now, "Israel", has taken advantage of it and put it into practice. It is the old technique of divide and rule in a new gangster context.

This jubilation in the imperialist world should elicit a unanimous response from the developing world. Entebbe is not a setback that concerns the Palestinian resistance or the Government of Uganda alone, it is a most ominous beginning of a new era in international relations where the dominant north will be the gangster hit and the complete disregard of the traditional forms of international behaviour. The response from the Third World has been feeble and a little dazed. It should have been, at least, unanimous.

Haolam Hazeh, a Zionist magazine, either for being afraid of the future of the "Israeli" army, or, as usual, playing on the same chord of having "liberal" press in "Israel", has revealed recently that 35% of "Israeli" women doing their military service



«The Stinking "Israeli"»

are pregnant! Quoting a certain Miss Shoshana, an oriental Jew, the paper reported that "a woman soldier in the Israeli army is a prostitute in a brothel". For in addition to the 35% pregnancy rate amongst "Israeli" women soldiers, "abortion and the use of contraception" is widely spread. "It is utterly disgusting", Miss Shoshana added, "there is a lot more!" Obviously she was referring to the "ab-normal practices" imposed upon them by high-ranking officers of the army.

As for the widely spread phenomenon of finding female corpses on the main roads of occupied Palestine, it was revealed by the same source that high-ranking officers, for fear of being "admonished" or blackmailed, prefer to cut it short and get rid of their women companions. The usual way is to strangle them. 15 such cases were reported by the magazine to have been discovered only last June. An example of this occurred during the same month when a certain "Israeli" general entered a women military camp in Gor Jordan and came out with an apparently pretty "soldier" after taking a 3-hour leave for her. Elaine Afinsan was found strangled on the main road the following day.

Sex crimes dwindle beside the figure of 37% drug addicts in the "Israeli" army! To be precise, actually 29% of the "Israeli" women soldiers were discovered to be "junkies". "Hush, Opium, heroin and morphine are being distributed among them like cigarettes". Al-Hamishmar, another Zionist paper, said. The total number of the regular drug addicts is put at 100,000 in the regular "Israeli"

army. This bad habit of drugs, Haolam Hazeh reported, "passed from high-ranking officers to their women companions on red nights". It is worth mentioning in this context that the rate of drug addiction there jumped from 15% in 1973 to 37% in 1975.

The trading and sale of scandals is also a common practice within that army. Just very recently the son in law of Mr. Dayan, the former defence minister, was dismissed from the army on charges of selling to enemy quarters "information about scandals which took place at the (Israeli) ministry of defence". Colonel Doff Sieoun and his assistant major Abraham Billing have been in the trade, it seems, for quite long. All this of course not to mention the old but fast-money-collecting "job" of selling arms and ammunition belonging to the army, to the black market and the crime organizations. Haolam Hazeh mentioned the case of a highly placed person responsible in the storage department of the "Israeli" army, who, on his own, struck a bargain with a crime organization and came out with 50,000,000 "Israeli" Liras! Mokid, an "Israeli" daily, published a report in which the military police is said to be involved in an investigation of a similar 20,000,000 Lira bargain, which the police seemed reluctant to "give any more information about", for the reason that a good many name of some "Israeli" generals appeared to have something to do with the scandal. All this of course, overshadowed the fact that "Israeli" officers, "high and low", are using "Israeli" soldiers as servants in their homes.

THE "ISRAELI" ARMY

Despite its so-called "impeccable" image, the "Israeli" army, in a period of one month, has done more dirty work than the worst type of criminal organizations can do. Not that the Zionist military establishment has not committed more crimes in occupied Palestine than the Nazis. But that this very establishment, the most important in a militarized entity, is striking from the inside and the smell is drawing the attention to all kinds of scandals that would probably make the hair of those who admire "Israel" stand on end!



Armenian Church

Seventh Day Adventist Church



Christianity came to Iraq in the first years of the Christian era. Some of the Christians inhabited Saliq and Kassinton (Madayin). In Erbil, Christianity was spread by the two apostles, Saint Eddy and Saint Mary, who preached it and called for the belief in one God.

Christianity was embraced by many Jews, heathens and Magi — the worshippers of Fire and the Sun. The converts ardently espoused their new religion, especially in the middle of the fourth

Issam al-Khattat

Churches In Iraq

century. Churches proliferated in northern and southern Iraq and were built even as far as in Qatar and Bahrain.

Fanatic Jews sowed the seeds of discord. They provoked the Magi against the Christians. The result was the martyrdom of countless Christians, especially as Sabur II, the Persian King, spurred the strife and persecuted and killed the Christians. He destroyed monasteries and burned churches. In spite of all the oppression Christianity survived.

The Fifth Century witnessed certain philosophical teachings which influenced religious exigency. Internal divergences resulted from this among Christians. Some of them followed the school of Antioch, others followed that of Alexandria. The first was Aristotelian while the other, Platonic. The church in Iraq was influenced in the same way. The Eastern Church, followed the School of Antioch. The Syriac Church is now the Syriac Catholic Church and Syriac Orthodox Church. All these people have been living in Iraq since the dawn of Christianity. In Baghdad resides the Patriarch of the Chaldeans assisted by Archbishops and bishops inside and outside the country.

The Church of Virgin Mary, Mater Dolorosa, at Shorjah, the Arab market, is considered one of the biggest and most ancient churches. Some other churches are Saint Joseph Church at Kharbandah, the Church of Virgin Mary at Outer Karradah, Saint Gorguis Church at New Baghdad, the Virgin Mary Church at Palestine Street, Saint Joseph Church at Dawoodi, Saint Harnah Church

at Dawra, The Holy Family Church at Battaween, the Church of the Two Apostles at Salihiyah.

Most of these churches are built in genuine oriental style. Modern churches have some of the characteristics of Araic architecture.

The Assyrian churches are the Virgin Mary Church, at New Baghdad, Saint Zia Church at Karradat Mariam.

The Syriac Catholics have an archbishop. Some of their churches are the Church of the Lady of Salvation at Shorjah and the Church of the Lady of Salvation at Alwiyah and other churches at al-Mansour. The Syriac Orthodox also have their archbishop. Some of their churches are Saint Peter's Church and Saint Paul's Church at Alwiyah as well as others. The Armenian Orthodox have their churches too. All Christian sects enjoy freedom of worship in their own churches.

There are in Iraq many monasteries and convents, most of them in northern Iraq, such as Mathew's Monastery and Saint Bahnam Monastery, as well as many other churches in Mosul and Basrah.

All Christians in Iraq share with their brethren the belief that Palestine should be liberated from the Zionist usurpers and that its legitimate people, the Arabs, should go back to it so that all faiths will be able to live together as they have been living in Iraq peacefully and democratically, said a young monk whom we met in Baghdad. He added, "Palestine was and should remain a land in which Muslims, Christians and Jews live in a state of fraternity".

POETRY

MAJNUN LAILA ARABIC CLASSICS

I moved from house to house in Laila's town,
And kiss each wall. It's not a love of stone
That grabbed my heart: I love the love inside.

• • • •

Shine in the moon's place when it dips -

The dawn is late, become the sun.

You reflect the light of the sun.

But the sun lacks your mouth and smile.

Your charisma is sunlight coiled

With moonlight, but your eyes dazzle

Too brightly to cup sun or moon.

You radiate the moon's first hue,

But the moon has no neck like yours.

Where are the sun's dark eyes and heavy lids?

• • • •

And sink its fangs and claws in her belly,
I hit the wolf with an arrow which shot
The life out of its throat. My anger cooled,
And my pulse settle. A gentleman will avenge.

• • • •

When Laila was a small tomboy her friends

Could see no bumps on her blouse. I loved her
As children were shepherds of the flock:

I wish the lambs, and ourselves, had never
moved.

• • • •

My soul chung to her soul

Before thought and later

Our love was centred in drops.

Our love cried in the cradle,

It fused our lives and grew.

When we die, it won't die.

It will survive to light

The darkness of our grave.

Translated by George Wightman
and Abdullah al-Udhari

How can a pain in the chest be softened?

Closer than your hands are the darts of death:

Too much loss; too much want; absence. I tremble,

You can't come to me; I can't come to you.

Our love is a small bird tied by a child,

The bird sips the lake of death and the boy

Goes on with his game. He doesn't have the sense

To feel the bird's pain; and the wings can't fly,

I know a thousand roads, a thousand places,

But without a heart there is nowhere to go.

I saw a gazelle nibbling in a garden:

It thought it was Laila in the sunlight.

Gazelle, eat in peace, I come as a friend

Take your time, I'll be your castle. When I flash

My sword it glowers. When I lunge, it slices.

Shaken I saw a wolf attack the gazelle



The Tragedy of a King Seeking Immortality

The Epic of Gilgamesh, written some five thousand years ago in ancient Iraq, is less widely known than the *Odyssey*. Like other epics, it is a narrative poetry of a heroic nature.

It narrates the exploits and adventures of Gilgamesh, King of Uruk. However in the Akkadian language in which the epic was written, Gilga-

THE EPIC OF GILGAMESH

mesh means father or hero or old man. It is therefore a poetical record of the Mesopotamian hero, whether he was a real king or a legendary figure around whom great and variegated myths were spun. It is a mixture of real history and folk tale, of the natural and super-natural, the realistic and imaginary.

It seems that the heroic poetry in which the story of the Sumerian king and hero was narrated originally, verbally recited in public places before it was committed to the eleven tablets discovered not long ago at the library of Ashurbanipal in Ninevah under the title of "He Who Saw Everything To The Ends Of The World".

The Epic of Gilgamesh has been described as "The odyssey of a king who did not want to die". It tackles the question of life and death — a question which always poses a great problem to man.

It has survived the five thousand years or more because it tackles one of the most sensitive frailties of man, namely, his fear of death. Like the Greek Classics, the Epic of Gilgamesh can still

move the reader because of its approach to such puzzling question as the life after death.

According to the epic, Gilgamesh, who was two-thirds god and one-third man, was strong, brave and very good-looking. At the same time, he was arrogant, ruthless and a lascivious lover-maker who was always after the daughters and spouses of the Uruk citizens. His conduct caused serious complaints among the citizens of his city. Because of these complaints the gods created his counterpart in Enkidu, a stalwart brutish and hairy



man who lived among wild animals with the main object of distracting Gilgamesh from doing wrong.

Enkidu was seduced and domesticated by Shamkha the courtesan. He gave up living among the animals and came to Uruk to defy Gilgamesh.

Just as planned by the gods the two giants were engaged in a terrible trial of strength, after which they became bosom friends.

Eager to make himself famous, Gilgamesh in the company of Enkidu, set out for the Cedar Forest, the abode of Humbaba whose "mouth was fire, whose breadth was death". They succeeded in their adventure and Gilgamesh felled the trees of the forest. Angered by this action, Humbaba tried to kill the two adventurers. But the god Shamash rescued them by paralysing Humbaba who was eventually killed by them.

After the victorious return of the two heroes to Uruk, the goddess Ishtar fell in love with Gilgamesh. Knowing the tragic ends of those whom Ishtar had loved, Gilgamesh let her down and abused her. Hurt by such rejection, Ishtar asked the god Anu to send the Divine Bull to ravage Uruk. However, the Divine Bull was slain by both Enkidu and Gilgamesh and its thigh was tossed in her face. Such an imprudent action was not tolerated by the gods who instantly decided that one of the two should die. It was Enkidu, who was condemned. He fell seriously ill and dreamed of the Nether world "The World of Dust". He died and was mourned for seven days and seven nights by Gilgamesh and the citizens of Uruk.

The death of Enkidu heavily weighed on Gilgamesh who suddenly realized the horrors of death. Though he was fearless, yet he did not want to die. He decided, therefore, to meet Utanapishtim, the man who survived the Deluge and learn from him the secret of immortality. Going through terrible adventures, he made his way to a certain barmaid called Siduri who advised him to stop worrying and enjoy life as long as he knows the whereabouts of Utanapishtim. Headless of the fresh dangers involved in the search, Gilgamesh set out again assisted by the boatman Urshabi.

At last he met Utanapishtim who gave him an account of the Deluge and revealed to him that a thorny plant which was the plant of life grew in the depth of the ocean and Gilgamesh should get hold of this plant to attain immortality. Having succeeded in picking the plant, to his misfortune, he fell asleep near a spring. A serpent came out of the water and took away the valuable plant. Saddened by such a misadventure, Gilgamesh returned to Uruk.

In the prologue, Gilgamesh's praise is sung for building the great city of Uruk and its temple. He is commended for his courage, knowledge and virility. He is shown almost as a legendary figure. In contrast, his lamentations over his friend were heartfelt and realistic as the loss of Enkidu was a turning point in his life because it opened his eyes to the mysterious question of death. Surprisingly, the mournful scenes and lamentations as well as Gilgamesh's appeal to the Euphrates and animals to join in expressing their sorrow and sadness over the death of Enkidu is a typical Iraqi custom practised until the present day.

It is Siduri the barmaid who really told him the real secret. She told him that he should enjoy life. She might have implied that Gilgamesh being human was doomed.

The epic was popular in the old days in the whole parts of the Near East and it might have influenced the *Odyssey* and even the Biblical account of the Deluge. In short it is a great literary work which has not lost its liveliness and depth although it was written very long ago.

Adnan al-Himairi

PRESS OPINION

ATH-THAWRA (Iraq)

In an editorial on the present nation wide campaign to stop up production and identify the handicaps affecting productivity and impeding the rapid progress of industrial and agricultural process in the country in a manner agreeing with the aspirations of the political leadership, the organ of ABSP, said: "The question of building develop and productive relations occupies extreme importance in promoting national economy and bringing about the most favourable conditions for achieving prosperity and social welfare". The daily added that the achievement of a drastic transformation in the socio-economic structure and the promotion of revolutionary process entail the building of productive relations capable of securing the energetic activity of the productive forces and the construction of aspired prosperous revolutionary society.

The daily explained that the 17 July Revolution since assuming power in 1968, has set before itself the assignment of enhancing the socio-economic standard of the masses and altering the productive relations and outdated modes which hinder the effectiveness of the forces of production. It concluded to say that the slogan put forward by the ABSP calling for stepping up production should be taken as guideline for exerting redoubled efforts and making optimum use of all available resources for building the new society along the road of achieving the major objectives of the people and the Arab nation.

A.B.S. (Spain)

The Spanish press welcomed the visit of 105 outstanding Iraqi students of both sexes who went to Spain as advised by President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr to see the heritage of their Arabian and Islamic ancestors.

The A.B.S. daily of Madrid wrote: "President Bakr of Iraq wanted to reward the outstanding students who passed their final examinations with merit in the primary, intermediate and secondary stages of education by sending them to Spain to acquaint themselves on the spot with the Arabian and Islamic civilization built in Spain, especially the Arab's ingenuity in architecture and erasique, which have had considerable effect on the Spanish culture".

HUR ANADOL (Turkey)

Iraq continuously seeks to establish a close economic and political relations with the Third World countries with a view to terminating the imperialist domination over these countries and helping them realize progress and prosperity for their peoples in all fields.

This was the theme of a recent article published in the Turkish newspaper "Hur Anadolu". The paper describes Iraq's policy in this respect as "springing from the objectives and humanist outlook of Arab revolutionary movement which the 17 July Revolution is keen to deepen and perpetuate".

AS-SAFIR (Lebanon)

The Lebanese daily As-Safir recently published two messages from the Soviet leaders one to Lebanese President Elias Sarkis and the other to the head of the Syrian hiring regime Hafez Assad. In the message to President Sarkis, the Soviet leaders said the new military offensive launched against the Palestinian Resistance with the active support of the Syrian forces was arousing misgivings among all those who were taking the initiatives to bring about peace in Lebanon.

The newspaper warned that the attack constituted an effort on the part of certain forces inside and outside Lebanon to push through a settlement at the expense of the Palestinian Resistance movement "which is valiantly pursuing the line of progressive struggle against the Zionist aggression and imperialist-Zionist schemings in the Arab region".

The Soviet message further said that it was the hope of the Soviet government that the assumption of presidential powers by Mr. Sarkis would constitute a turning point in regard to the settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

In the message to Hafez Assad, the Soviet leaders clearly stated that the Syrian forces had joined hands with the forces of the rightist reactionary camp in the assault on the Palestinian Resistance Movement. The message continued: "We should like to emphasize thereby that the continuance of conflict and Syrian intervention on the side of the rightist forces disagrees with the vital interest of Lebanon, the Palestinians and Syria itself".

NEWS IN BRIEF

KAMAL JUNBULATT VISITS BAGHDAD

Mr. Kamal Junbulatt, President of the Progressive Socialist Party of Lebanon and Chairman of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement, paid a two-day visit to Iraq early this month.

During his visit Mr. Junbulatt and the accompanying delegation held talks with the ABSP delegation led by Comrade Shibly al-Aysami, Assistant Secretary General of the Party. The talks centred on the close relations of struggle between the ABSP and the Lebanese National Movement and Palestinian Resistance and the dangers arising from the treacherous plot being carried out by the forces of the Damascus regime in cooperation with the Lebanese rightist forces with the support of the imperialist-Zionist circles.

Mr. Junbulatt was also received by Mr. Saddam Hussein, the Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC). During their talks the two sides discussed the existing situation in the Arab homeland with emphasis on the situation in Lebanon in the light of Syrian military invasion of this sisterly Arab state.

In a statement on the arrival Mr. Junbulatt said that the Syrian regime was supporting the isolationist phalangist forces in their attempt to implement the Zionist-imperialist plan of establishing "minority states in the region". He highly appreciated Iraq's stand towards the Lebanese issue and its refusal to accept all schemings aiming at liquidating the Palestinian resistance and the patriotic movement of the Lebanese people.

YOUTH DELEGATION OFF TO INDIA

A delegation representing the General Federation of Iraqi Youth (GFY) left Baghdad for India on October to attend the international conference of youth to be held in the Indian city of Madras.

The conference, being organised under the slogan of "Turning the Indian Ocean Region into a Zone of Peace, Security and Cooperation", will be attended by youth organizations from more than 20 countries. It would also discuss the political situation in the Indian Ocean, problems of social, economic and cultural growth in the littoral countries and the role of youth and students in boosting peace and cooperation among peoples of Asia and Indian Ocean region.

IRAQ PARTICIPATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT

A delegation of the National Council for Peace and Solidarity (NCPS) of Iraq left Baghdad early this month for Budapest, Hungary, to attend the

4-day International Conference on Development opened there on October 8.

Led by Mr. Aziz Sharif, the NCPS Secretary General, the delegation reviewed the bitter struggle waged by the Iraqi people for liberation of their natural resources from foreign monopolies and placing them at the service of the people.

ANTI-ALCOHOLIC CONFERENCE IN BAGHDAD

An anti-alcoholic conference will be held in Baghdad on November 20 next to discuss the dangers arising from alcoholic addiction.

The 5-day conference, jointly sponsored by the Iraqi Ministries of Interior Health and the Arab Organization for Social Defence, will be attended by representatives from Arab countries and international council on alcohol and addiction as well as by other specialized organizations.

IRAQ'S ROLE IN HELSINKI CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Mr. Aziz Sharif, Secretary General of the National Council for Peace and Solidarity said, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr's message to the World Congress on the Termination of Arms Race, Disarmament and Detente recently concluded in Helsinki, Finland, was received with remarkable appreciation by the participants.

Speaking at a press conference in Baghdad, Mr. Sharif, who also attended the Helsinki international conference for denouncing the imperialist conspiracy against the Lebanese and Palestinian people, said the two conferences highly appreciated Iraq's stand and policy towards issues of liberation and self-determination. The Iraqi delegation, Mr. Sharif added, urged Arab governments "to live up to their historic responsibility at this stage and check the invasion of Lebanon by the forces of the Damascus regime".

SEMINAR ON AESTHETIC EDUCATION IN BAGHDAD

A regional seminar of aesthetic education in the Arab countries was held in Baghdad early this month under the slogan of "Let's Make Aesthetic Education a Revolutionary Springboard to Promote Values of Our Civilization".

The 5-day seminar was sponsored by the Iraqi Ministry of Education in cooperation with the UNESCO.

To the participants the aesthetic education means those fine arts such as music, singing, painting, theatre, dancing and poetry and the art of how to teach them during the various stages of learning.

