

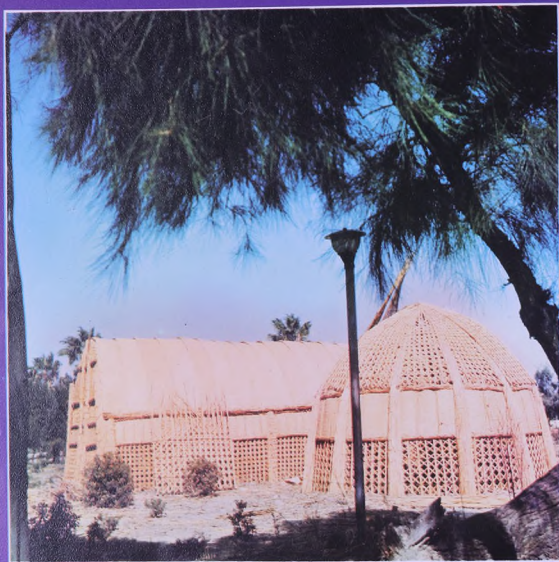
# Iran Today

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SADDAM HUSSEIN:  
EXPLAINING ROLE OF CO-OPERATIVES  
IN SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION



A Typical Arabian Guest House



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EDITORIAL

## The Army of the People

For over half a century since its formation our army has demonstrated that it is an integral part of the people. Those who tried to tamper with it for their own personal ends have invariably learned the un-forgettable lesson, much to their disappointment, that this institution is incapable of siding with anybody but the people and with anything but its aspirations.

Before the 17 July Revolution, the army was performing its task in the defence of the region and valiantly so. After that revolution the conception of its duties has been enlarged to include a greater horizon, that of the whole Arab nation, with modern arms and up-to-date training, it stands ready for the call of liberation. In the 1973 War, it responded with speed and alacrity, it bravely participated and was instrumental in fending off the danger against Damascus. Had it not been for the untimely ceasefire, this army would not have its mission cut short.

With the establishment of the al-Bakr University for Higher Military Studies, another horizon has been opened for this army. Always putting the cause of liberation in the forefront of its priorities, this mass of dedicated men is setting a model to many a Third World country. Factions inside the army there, manipulated by individuals puffed with selfish ambitions, have been playing havoc with the security and prosperity of their countries, as unfortunately is the case in Latin America.

The role of the Army in Iraq has been defined beyond any doubt. It is the safety of the land, its integrity and its devotion to the great Arab goal: The unity of the whole nation after liberating every single part from occupation, usurpation and domination.

Every year witnesses a step forward in transforming the Iraqi army into an army of all the Arabs. We are confident that despite the new trend to accentuate the fragmentation of the nation, the armies of every Arab region share with that of Iraq the aspiration to unity and the desire to serve one nation whose area stretches from the Arabian Gulf to the Atlantic.



## BAGHDAD PLAYS HOST TO FIRST CONFERENCE OF PAN-ARAB STUDENTS UNION



Comrade Michel Aflaq addressing the conference

## Arab spirit will rectify errors and overcome setbacks: Aysami

Students are the spirit of struggle in every society. They are the pioneering force for safeguarding the interests of the people and establishing democracy, liberty and social justice.

We all remember how the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) wrote a splendid chapter in the history of the Arab struggle for

unity, freedom and socialism, when its student bases, in cooperation with the general student masses in the Iraqi universities and schools declared on 20th January, 1962, a general strike in protest against the policy of suppression, tyranny authoritarianism which the then authority was resorting to against the people, particularly against its

conscious sections with the ABSP vanguards in the forefront which called for liberty and socialism. Several thousands of students took part in that strike.

In fact it was a decisive blow delivered to the ruling faction which a few months later was toppled.

Commemorating the glorious students strike of 1962, the revolutionary Baghdad played host, on December 20 last, to the first founding conference of the Pan-Arab Students Union held under the theme "THE UNITY OF ARAB STUDENTS MOVEMENT IS A STEP ON THE ROAD TO BUILDING THE UNITED ARAB DEMOCRATIC, PROGRESSIVE AND SOCIALIST SOCIETY".

The conference was inaugurated by Mr. Shibly al-Aysami, the ABSP Asst. Secretary General and attended by several Arab and foreign student organizations.

### Aysami speaks

In his opening address Mr. Aysami stressed the importance of the conference being held in such "critical conditions" obtaining in the Arab homeland. Mr. Aysami described it as "one of the decisive replies by the vigilant masses against the imperialist Zionist reactionary schemes. It embodies the revolutionary spirit which is capable of continuing the struggle and rectifying the errors and overcoming setbacks".

Commenting on the situation in Lebanon Mr. Aysami said, "The war which is going on in Lebanon stirred by imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary alliance and flagrantly implemented by the hireling regime of Damascus in collaboration with the isolationist Phalangists. It was neither a provincial nor a civil war, as they usually like to term it. It was a fierce conflict between the said alliance and the exploitation, oppression and conquest which it represents, on the one hand, and the forces of the Arab revolution and the aspirations for emancipation from all forms of exploitation and subservience which it represents, on the other".



Comrade Shibly al-Aysami

"All patriotic and progressive forces including the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian Resistance are required to move swiftly and expose and resist these hostile designs with a view to steering clear of occurrence of misunderstanding and confusion between the forces of revolution and the forces of counter-revolution", Mr. Aysami added.

### How the Union was formed

According to Mr. Ghazi Faisal, a member of the preparatory committee of the conference and secretary for foreign relations at the National Union of Iraq Students (NUIS), proceeding from its strong faith in the establishment of a pan-Arab union embracing all Arab student organizations, the NUIS called for a

plenary meeting of all Arab national student unions. The call was met with enthusiasm and a meeting was held in Baghdad on December 3-4, 1975, in which 12 Arab organizations took part. This meeting was followed by other meetings as a result of which a preparatory committee of 5 student unions of Iraq, Yemen, Morocco, Palestine and Egypt, was formed. The committee held three meetings, 2 in Cairo and a recent one in Baghdad. The preparatory committee completed the drafting of the union's constitution and basic charter and the rules of procedure of the conference.

The conference was attended by 15 Arab student national unions with 40 other friendly organization representatives who attended as observers in addition to



representatives from different political parties and forces in the Arab homeland.

#### Resolutions and recommendations

The conference which concluded on 26 December adopted a number of resolutions and recommendations. It denounced all attempts aiming at liquidating the Palestinian cause or the Palestinian revolution. It also denounced the brutal massacres that the Syrian regime perpetrated, in cooperation with the isolationist Phalangist factions, against the Lebanese and Palestinian forces.

The unanimously approved resolutions and recommendations hailed Iraq's policy towards the Palestinian cause and its continued support for the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese national movement. The conference stressed the necessity of establishing a free and democratic education system throughout the Arab homeland and more patri-

otic and progressive curricula reflecting the aspirations and interests of the Arab people. The conference also resolved that Jerusalem be the permanent headquarters of the conference and Baghdad be its temporary headquarters.

#### Allaq receives students

The Arab and foreign students who took part in the conference on December 24, called on Mr. Michel Allaq, the founding leader and Secretary General of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, at his office at the premises of the ABSP Pan-Arab Leadership headquarters.

Mr. Allaq welcomed the visiting student delegations and wished them good stay in Baghdad.

Addressing the audience the Secretary General of the ABSP said, "Iraq, a struggling country with open-mindedness and nationalist and human ambition,

is building a successful experiment for itself and for the Arab nation". Speaking about the Arab unity Mr. Allaq stressed the need "in the first for the unification of efforts and struggle in order to attain the aspired Arab unity".

On the students conference Mr. Allaq explained that "I see your conference as both a symbol and a way; a symbol of the steadfastness of the Arab nation and a way to surmounting the difficulties currently encountered. Obviously we cannot control the present unless we believe in the future. The participation in your conference by representatives of progressive forces serves as an indicator to the future of the Arab cause and as fresh evidence that that modern Arab rise is an inseparable part of human destiny. You have always readily responded to the call of duty in the darkest moments and under severest conditions. This is an obvious proof that our Arab nation goes on resurging and regenerating its capabilities"



## IRAQI ARMY DEFENDER OF ARAB REVOLUTION

By R.W. Kwatra

January 6 is a big day in Iraq. It was on this day 56 years ago that the Iraqi army was founded. Iraq is proud of its army's role in the joint Arab struggle against the partition of Palestine, and especially in the 1973 war. The enthusiasm marking the celebration of Army Day on January 6 is excelled only by the national jubilation with which the revolution anniversary is celebrated every July.

The Iraqi army has been developed and equipped with a two-fold aim — to make it fully capable of defending the country and to enable it to contribute effectively to the Arab fight for the achievement of the just national rights of the Palestinians.

This is the faith which inspires the Arab Baath Socialist Party (A.B.S.P.), and it was in keeping with the party's principles that Iraq sent its army units to Syria and units of its air force to Egypt during the 1973 war, although Baghdad had received no previous intimation of the Cairo-Damascus decision to declare war on "Israel" and had not been formally asked for armed assistance. Long before this war began, the ABSP had presented Egypt and Syria with what was described as an "integrated plan of struggle for liberation" and a scheme for using oil as a weapon in that struggle.

Iraq withdrew its army from Syria immediately after the declaration of the cease-fire, but has offered to station its troops again on Syrian soil under Syrian control if Syria agrees to the formation of a joint Northern Front and repudiates the Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 which

envisage a negotiated settlement of the West Asian dispute. For negotiated settlement means a compromise and goes against the united Arab stand in favour of the full restoration of the just rights of the Palestinian people and even negates Arab insistence on "Israeli" withdrawal from all territories seized by it in 1967.

There has been no response from Syria so far, which means that President Assad clings to the hope of a negotiated settlement through the machinery of the Geneva Conference, if not through the good offices of Dr. Kissinger. This, in Iraqi eyes, again implies that he is prepared to accept something less than what he publicly demands. The Geneva Conference is being held within the framework of the Security Council resolutions which "Israel" and the

US interpret in a manner which rejects the unquestioned restoration of the 1967 borders.

The history of the West Asian conflict shows that a lasting solution is not possible unless the fundamentals of the dispute are kept in mind. The Arab Baath Socialist Party takes its stand on the basic issue, which is that the national rights of the Palestinians, who have been driven out of their homeland, must be recognised and accepted. The ABSP and the Revolutionary regime in Iraq know that this stand involves difficulties, but they are convinced that justice is on their side and that the Arab masses are behind them. The ABSP stands for Arab unity and Iraq looks upon its army as a powerful instrument for the defence of Arab rights.







Baghdad, May 1976: President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr receiving Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin

## Arab Revolution Through 1976

# A Year of Struggles And Betrayals

By Our Political Analyst

The year 1976 was a year of limited success for the forces of peace, progress and national liberation. The sparkling victories scored by these forces during the previous year, particularly in Indo-China and Africa, drove the camp of world reaction headed by the US imperialists, into a desperate bid for regaining the lost ground. In the face of their vicious counterattacks the forces of peace, progress and nation liberation stuck to their guns though the tide of their advance somewhat weakened.

The most heinous of the conspiracies hatched by imperialism, zionism and world reaction unfolded in the Middle East with Lebanon as the main stage. After the failure of the hollow "step-by-step diplomacy" to solve the problems which had arisen as a result of the usurpation of the homeland of the Palestinians and the occupation of other Arab territories by the Zionist aggressors, imperialism, zionism and world reaction sought to liquidate the Palestinian resistance and break the morale of the Arab revolution by inflicting a crushing defeat on the Lebanese nationalists and liquidating Palestinian fighters by arming the Lebanese reaction and dividing the ranks of the people by fomenting confessional passions and prejudices. As a result, the onslaught of the Lebanese reaction against the Palestinian and the patriotic forces of Lebanon, unleashed in 1975, was brought forward to 1976 with renewed intensity and ferocity.

As a part of their renewed offensive imperialism, zionism and world reaction tried to bring in some other Arab regimes on the side of the Lebanese reaction so that the Arabs themselves could be set against the Arabs. Being fully aware of the dangers of the new conspiracy the progressive

sections of the Arab leadership embarked on a counter-offensive.

### PRESIDENT BAKR'S WARNING

On February 8 President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, in course of his speech delivered on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the founding of the People's Army, warned that "capitalist schemes and solutions, which zionism, American imperialism and quarters tailing behind them are trying to impose on the region, continue to proceed without facing a sufficient degree of firm Arab confrontation". The President referred to the events in Lebanon as a "basic link in the chain of this imperialist-Zionist design".

On February 24, Dr. Saadoun Hammadi, the Foreign Minister of Iraq, left Baghdad to visit seven Asian capitals with a message from President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr to the heads of these states which included Afghanistan, India, Burma, Sri Lanka, Laos, Democratic Vietnam and liberated South Vietnam. While explaining Iraq's stand vis-a-vis the Fifth Non-aligned Summit Conference, President Bakr drew the attention of these friendly countries to the new imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against the people of the Arab homeland.

On March 3, Mr. Tareq Aziz, the Minister of Information of Iraq, on behalf of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, inaugurated the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Afro-Asian Writers Federation. The meeting was adequately briefed on the current imperialist-Zionist schemings against the forces of peace, progress and national liberation in the region.

### SADDAM HUSSEIN IN RIYADH

On April 13, Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) of Iraq, paid a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the Saudi Crown Prince Mr. Fahad bin Abdul Aziz. Mr. Hussein also called on King Khaled bin Abdul Aziz on April 14. The two sides discussed the problems of the Arab region in general and the Lebanese situation in particular.

The leadership of Iraq also took initiative at co-ordinating the activities of progressive Arab quarters in defence of Arab revolution in general and the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese national movement in particular.

### KOSYGIN IN BAGHDAD

On May 29, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, Mr. Alexei Kosygin, visited Iraq at the invitation of the Vice Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), Mr. Saddam Hussein. The two leaders discussed the



Belgrade, December, 1976: RCC Vice Chairman, Saddam Hussein being received by President Josip Broz Tito

Middle East situation in depth. The Iraqi-Soviet joint communique issued on June 1, on this occasion, inter alia, said:

"The two sides reviewed the situation in the Arab area and agreed that the situation is still dangerous and apt to explode as a result of the aggressive, expansionist and settler-colonial policy of the Zionist entity and the forces backing it. These forces are increasing their activity in an attempt to disperse the Arab countries and make them confront each other. The two sides are convinced that a just peace in the area cannot be



Riyadh, April 1976: RCC Vice Chairman, Saddam Hussein being welcomed at the airport by Crown Prince Fahad bin Abdul Aziz



Colombo, August 1976: Non-aligned Conference

attended without liberating all occupied Arab territories, eliminating all the traces of aggression and restoring the full legitimate and inalienable rights of the Arab Palestinian people including their inalienable right to self-determination. In this respect the two sides declare their firm support to the militant movement of the Palestinian resistance for realizing these aims".

The two sides also expressed their "deep concern at the development of the dangerous situation in Lebanon and the continuous attempts made by imperialism and reaction to intervene in the internal affairs of Lebanon for disintegrating the unity of the progressive forces and striking at the Palestinian resistance movement. Iraq and the Soviet Union will continue to help stop the bloodshed in Lebanon in the shortest possible time so that the forces encountering the aggression will come out from the Lebanese crisis stronger and more united".

In spite of these warnings the Syrian rulers who were hand-in-glove with imperialism and reaction took up position against the Lebanese progressive forces and Palestinian resistance movement.

#### SYRIAN RULERS INVADE LEBANON

On June 1, the Syrian rulers mounted an all-out invasion of Lebanon. Their troops occupied the Bekka valley and the Akkar plains and blocked the land route of supply for the Lebanese national movement and Palestinian resistance. The Syrian troops also blockaded the Mediterranean coastline in perfect and overt collusion with the Zionists who were preparing the ground for annexing the southern Lebanon up to the Litani river and forcing the Palestinian resistance out of its posts bordering "Israel". The Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese national movement were virtually encircled. Their sources of supply dried up gradually. On the other hand, the Lebanese right continued to get unlimited supply of arms, ammunition and other stores through their port at Jieh around which the Syrian troops threw a protective ring.

#### IRAQI ARMY MOVES OUT

On June 9, President Field Marshal Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr despatched Iraqi troops towards the Euphrates so that they could be in battle-ready position for discharging their pan-Arab responsibilities shoulder to shoulder with their Syrian brothers against the Zionist enemy. This was done in accordance with the stand that the Arab military power and other potentials should be used against the enemy and not against another Arab brother as was done by Syrian rulers in Lebanon. The Iraqi authorities were in touch with brotherly countries like Algeria and Libya on the issue and the troops were moved out only after the Syrian authorities indicated their willingness to accept the assistance of Iraqi troops.

The Syrian rulers, however, refused to fight the Zionist enemy and proceeded to make peace with it surrendering their Arab nationalist responsibilities.

#### SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL URGED

On June 10, an emergency meeting of the Arab Foreign Ministers was held to discuss the situation. The meeting called for ceasefire and withdrawal of the invading Syrian troops. But the Damascus rulers ignored the call and threw in their military might on the side of the Lebanese reaction in order to effect the partition of Lebanon on confessional basis, destroy the Lebanese patriotic forces and cripple the Palestinian resistance movement.

In these adverse circumstances the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese national movement fought a grim battle. The Palestinian refugee camp at Tel-al-Zaatar added a glorious chapter to the annals of resistance movements.

On June 26, Iraq hosted a popular pan-Arab conference in Baghdad to extend support to and express solidarity with the Lebanese national movement and Palestinian resistance as well as condemn the Syrian regime for trying to occupy Lebanon, crush the national revolutionary struggle of the Lebanese people and liquidate the Palestinian resistance movement. The conference which was inaugurated by President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, appointed a permanent secretariat for coordinating the efforts of the Arab masses to defend the integrity of Lebanon and the rock-like solidarity of the Lebanese and Palestinian people who were fighting the common enemy of Arab revolution — the imperialists, Zionists and Arab reactionaries.

#### IMPERIALIST CONSPIRACY UNMASKED

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr in course of his address to the conference warned the Arab nations against the conspiracy that was being im-

plemented in Lebanon. He said that "neither the events that are unfolding on the Lebanese scene, nor the crimes that are being committed by the Syrian regime there, should be allowed to pass without proper evaluation and examination".

About the intentions of the isolationist Lebanese reaction who were being backbit by the Syrian regime at the behest of the imperialists, President Bakr in his above-mentioned address said:

"Right from the very beginning, the isolationists, who are led hand and foot with the imperialist quarters, never made secret of their intention to liquidate the Palestinian resistance movement or hold it in check, have it disarmed and render it incapable of facing up to the imperialist sponsored political settlement".

Subsequent events proved that the Iraqi President's assessment of the situation and warnings were not only timely but also correct.

On July 17, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr again warned that the bloodshed that was taking place in Lebanon could not be isolated from the general policies and attitudes currently prevailing in the area. In his address to the nation on the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the July 17, 1968 Revolution in Iraq, the President pointed out that the Lebanese events "are part and parcel of the conflict now raging in the area between the anti-imperialist forces on the one hand, and the imperialists, their stooges and agents on the other".

It was clear to the Arab masses and the anti-imperialist forces of the world that the Syrian rulers stood on the side of the "imperialists, their stooges and agents" on the question of Lebanon and Palestine.

#### NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

On August 16, the five-day Summit Conference of the Non-aligned nations opened in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. The leader of the Iraqi delegation, Vice-President Mohyiddin Maarouf in course of his speech there echoed the resentment of the Arab masses at the virtual occupation of Lebanon by the Syrian troops and the annihilation campaign launched by the Lebanese reaction against the Lebanese patriotic forces and Palestinian fighters.

The Colombo Summit conference, in its Political Declaration adopted on August 20, voiced its "deep concern over the deterioration of the situation in the Arab region as a result of the Zionist expansionist and aggressive designs". The declaration "vigorously condemned all efforts to maintain the status quo in the region considering that the present situation poses a serious menace to international peace".

The Political Declaration further denounced all the steps taken by the Zionist occupation authorities to alter the historic, demographic and geographic features of the area and ruin its cultural heritage.

The Declaration reiterated the position of the Non-aligned Movement that "no lasting and just peace can be established in the region without the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from all occupied Arab territories and without the acknowledgement of the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine". The Declaration also called upon the Non-aligned community to discharge its moral obligation to keep up support to the people of Palestine.

The call of the 106-nation Colombo Conference to bolster the Palestinian resistance movement and the indictment of the Zionist aggressors by the Non-aligned leaders were not taken note of by the Syrian regime. They persisted in their criminal activities against Palestinian fighters and Lebanese patriotic elements only to create conditions in which Arab revolutionaries would be forced to accept a solution of the problem created by the Zionist aggressors based on total capitulation to the enemy of the Arab masses — the imperialists, Zionists and Arab reactionaries.

#### SYRIAN TROOPS RESISTED

The masses of the Arab people in general and the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance fighters in particular unflinchingly defended their position. The invading Syrian troops met with resistance everywhere on the Lebanese soil. The Zionist gunboats and offending aircraft failed to break the morale of the fighters. The cunning diplomacy of the US and some European powers, and even the movement of the US Sixth Fleet in battle-ready condition, could not cow down the Lebanese and Palestinian militants. The Syrian rulers became thoroughly exposed before the Arab masses as well as the world progressive forces.

#### IOJ'S HELSINKI DECLARATION

On September 21, the four-day 8th conference of the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ) was held in Helsinki. In a message to the conference, which was read out by the Chairman of Iraqi Journalists Union, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr brought to the notice of the progressive journalist community of the world that "what is going on in Lebanon, hatched by imperialism and Zionism in collaboration with the Syrian regime and the fascist reactionary forces in Lebanon, was part of a deep-rooted conspiracy" against the Arab masses in general and against the Palestinian people in particular. The President urged the journalists to expose the schemings of





Zionist troops erecting outposts and barbed-wire fences after infiltrating into the Southern Lebanese territory

the imperialists and Zionists and uphold the cause of the Palestinian people.

The conference in its political document called for the unconditional withdrawal of "Israel" from all the occupied Arab territories and extended "support to 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 document further said: "The Arab people wages a heroic fight against imperialism, Zionism which is determined by the UNO as a form of racism, against all imperialist intrigues in this area and for the right of the Palestinian people to build up their own state and enjoy the fruits of complete independence".

#### CALL TO UN TO REDEEM INJUSTICE

On October 6, while addressing the 31st. session of the UN General Assembly, Dr. Saadoun Hammadi, the Foreign Minister of Iraq, categorically stated that Iraq could not possibly witness in silence the conspiracy of subverting or weakening the Palestinian resistance or the Lebanese national movement. Dr. Hammadi called upon the world organization to prove equal to its responsibility towards the Arab people of Palestine who were driven out of their homeland by the Zionist aggressors. The Iraqi Foreign Minister also demanded the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the occupied Arab territories and the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland so as to enable them to exercise their right to self-determination.

These concerted efforts of Iraq and other freedom-loving peoples of the world to secure the withdrawal of the Zionists from occupied Arab lands and the invading Syrian troops from Lebanon strengthened the Palestinian resistance and Lebanese national movement who were fighting under the most unfavourable conditions. Therefore, imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction adopted other means to achieve their ends.

#### NEW CONSPIRACY EXPOSED

On October 16, a mini-Arab Summit was convened in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It was attended besides the host country, by Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Kuwait and the PLO. The purpose was to absolve the Damascus rulers of their crimes committed in Lebanon and prepare grounds for a negotiated settlement with the Zionists which would, in effect, legitimize the Zionist usurpation of Palestine.

On October 21, the National Leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP), in a statement exposed the reactionary-Zionist-imperialist



Zionist tanks in Southern Lebanon

conspiracy and called upon the Arab people to defend the Palestinian revolution. The ABSP urged the Arab masses, national forces, regimes, political parties and popular organisations "to state clearly where they stand on what is now happening in Lebanon and warned that if the reactionary-Zionist-imperialist schemings succeed in Lebanon, they are bound to encourage certain self-concocted elements and adventurers to try the same elsewhere in the Arab homeland".

On October 25, a full-dress Arab summit was convened in Cairo. In keeping with the political guidelines of ABSP, the government of Iraq rejected the decisions of the Cairo Summit Conference as these decisions were, in effect, Riyadh resolutions passed under Cairo dateline. Instead of asking for the withdrawal of the invading Syrian troops from Lebanon, the Cairo decisions only sought to regularize the invasion by renaming the occupying troops of Damascus rulers as Arab "peace-keeping" force. The Cairo conference, like the mini-summit of Riyadh, failed to secure the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon. But the revolutionary masses of Arab homeland unequivocally demanded of these invaders to pull out of the soil of Lebanon, and instead fight the Zionists on the Syrian (Golan) Heights. Therefore, the decision of ABSP and the government of Iraq to reject

the decisions of Riyadh and Cairo were wholeheartedly welcomed by the broad masses of Arab people in general, and the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters in particular.

#### SYMPOSIUM ON ZIONISM

On November 8, a five-day international symposium on the ideological aspects of Zionist racism was inaugurated in Baghdad by Mr. Saddam Hussein, the Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), on behalf of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr. About 300 academicians, authors, journalists and other intellectuals from 46 countries of the five continents attended the symposium which was organized by the University of Baghdad in co-operation with the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP), the Arab League and the Centre of Palestinian Studies.

Explaining the purpose of the symposium Dr. Zaid Haider, member of the ABSP National Leadership and the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Symposium, said that the aim of the symposium was to "deepen the objective and scientific awareness about the Zionist movement by fundamental studies and expose the dangers the movement poses not only in relation to the Arabs, but also to humanity and the Jews themselves".

#### BAGHDAD DECLARATION

The symposium, on its concluding day on November 12, adopted unanimously a declaration which said that the UN resolution "determining Zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination" reflected the world's growing awareness of the true nature of Zionism and of the danger it represented to the peoples of the area and to world peace".

The Baghdad Declaration, inter alia, said: "We express our support for the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement, which constitute an integral part of the struggle for Palestine, in their struggle against separatism, sectarianism, and the propagation of the Zionist model in Lebanon".

The Declaration further held: "Zionism is the obstacle to peace in the Middle East. The Palestinian struggle to establish in its place secular progressive Palestinian society, all of whose citizens enjoy equal rights, irrespective of religion, colour or ethnic origin, deserves the active support of free peoples throughout the world".

The year 1976 witnessed an uprising of unprecedented magnitude of the Arabs in the occupied Palestine. They braved the "Israeli" bullets to protest the continued occupation of their motherland by the Zionists who are changing the

demographic and cultural features of the Arab land and building new exclusive settlements there. The heroism and sacrifice of the Arabs, particularly of the younger generation, shook the world conscience to its foundation.

#### ZIONISTS ASKED TO WITHDRAW

On November 24, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling upon "Israel" to evacuate by June 1 next from all the territories the Zionist entity occupied since 1967 Middle East war. The resolution also called for the phased return of the Palestinians to their homeland.

The resolution which was adopted on the recommendations of the UN's 20-member Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, urged the Security Council to take appropriate measures for implementing the resolution.

On December 12, Mr. Saddam Hussein, the Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) of Iraq, paid an official visit to Yugoslavia. At the conclusion of the 3-day visit a joint communique was issued in which the two sides affirmed that "no just and lasting peace could be achieved" in the Middle East "without the restitution of full national rights of the Arab people of Palestine".

#### THE PARTING KICK

On December 14, the Syrian rulers, in keeping with their year-long criminal activities, caused to explode a deadly time bomb at the Baghdad International Airport. The bomb was placed in a suitcase which was put aboard an Egyptian airliner bound from Damascus to Baghdad. The 8 kilogram troyin explosive smashed the customs lobby of the Baghdad airport killing three and wounding 230 innocent Arab and foreign passengers.

This vicious crime committed by the Damascus rulers was condemned by all including the Arab and foreign student representatives who were attending the founding conference of the Arab Students Union in Baghdad.

The struggle of the Arab revolutionaries, particularly those of Palestine, evoked world-wide denunciation of the Zionists as racists, aggressors and hangers of imperialism. As a result schism developed in the ranks of the ruling circle in "Israel".

On December 20, Yitshak Rabin, the Zionist Prime Minister, tendered his resignation.

The most significant positive development of 1976 is that the Arab revolution persevered in struggles and survived betrayals and conspiracies hatched by imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction,



## Saddam Hussein Explains Role of Co-operatives in Socialist Construction

The increasing attention devoted by July 17 (1968) Revolution for the promotion of cooperative movement in Iraq has resulted in the setting up of a large number of cooperative associations throughout the country.

The cooperative movement in Iraq is an integral part of the development process, and as described by the Vice Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), Mr. Saddam Hussein, "the cooperative work and cooperative activity in our country

are not a neutral sector or neutral field between the private and the public sectors, or between the socialist and capitalist systems. The cooperation sector is an active field falling within the general framework of the Revolution's ideology and perspectives".

The series of debates held for examining the causes of productivity decline rule out the necessity of cooperative movement in Iraq. At an enlarged symposium held in Baghdad on December 27 last, and organized by the Minis-

try of Labour and Social Affairs, the RCC Vice-Chairman Mr. Saddam Hussein explained the role of cooperative movement in socialist construction. He also gave valuable directives to the participants who regarded them as fresh guidelines for upholding the cooperative movement. A number of party, functionaries and government officials participated in the symposium.

The symposium was based on a study compiled by Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, titled

"AHEAD FOR COMPREHENSIVE PROMOTION OF COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN IRAQ". It dealt with the cooperative movements from the thirties till now. The study or as it was called the 'working paper', reviewed the practical administration of the positive and negative aspects of the cooperative activity over the last four decades and drew up the perspectives and framework for the promotion of this movement in the forthcoming stage.

In the course of his directives to the participants the RCC Vice Chairman Mr. Hussein cautioned against confusion between co-operatives and socialism. In this connection he emphasized that "it is unjustifiable that the cooperative activity should contradict our march for the building up of socialism. Cooperative movement should be placed at the disposal of our efforts for building socialism, at present and in the future".

The RCC Vice-Chairman further stressed that "cooperative activity in all fields is inevitably a transition stage on the road to socialism. But it must be noted that cooperative work and cooperative activity are important sources for providing the subjective conditions for socialist transformations, and they are not so in the political systems of different nature".

Mr. Hussein clearly portrayed the socialist society that the Revolution is building up. In this respect he said, "Our socialist society is the one which has a

place for private ownership, but it is free from exploitation. The private ownership is limited to the level that should not be incompatible with the objectives of a socialist regime nor with the practical administration of subsequent stages".

Dr. Izzat Mustafa, the RCC member and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, delivered the opening speech in the symposium expressing his appreciation of the valuable directives of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr to "the many meetings and debates that took place on different levels. President Bakr's directives have had considerable effect on deepening and widening the principle of free discussion and exchange of views on these free forums".

Dr. Mustafa further said that "the debates on the different aspects of our political, economic and social life have gained and are still gaining the profound interest of the political leadership. The active participation of the RCC Vice Chairman Mr. Saddam Hussein in the debates held for discussing the decline of productivity is indicative of this interest".

Referring to the objectives of the symposium, Dr. Mustafa pointed out that the central organs of the government were working for achieving these tasks:

1. Strengthening and developing economic independence.
2. realizing a comprehensive coordinated and rapid develop-

ment of the national productive forces.

The accomplishment of these two interlinked tasks is taking place within the radical changes currently being brought about in our country for constructing socialism.

"The cooperative movement in our country", Dr. Mustafa noted, "should play a profound role for realizing the central national tasks and creating the aspired changes in the structure of our economy".

With the inception of the July 17 Revolution the cooperative movement in Iraq entered a new phase. The promulgation of the 1970 Cooperative Act and the other measures which were taken aimed at providing the best conditions for the improvement of cooperative sector.

Notwithstanding the arduous efforts the cooperative sector is still characterized by weakness. This is because of the heavy legacy of obstacles inherited from the old regimes.

The symposium guided by the directives of the RCC Vice Chairman Mr. Hussein, took a number of resolutions and recommendations which will be treated as a guideline for promoting the cooperative movement in Iraq so as to keep pace with the development of other sectors in the country.





Vice President Maarouf cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the pipeline. The ceremony was attended by Turkish Premier Suleyman Demirel

## THE GIANT IRAQI-TURKISH OIL PIPELINE INAUGURATED

The Young Vanguard girl handed the golden scissors to Vice President Taha Muhiiddin Maarouf to cut, on behalf of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, the silky ribbon inaugurating one of the world's largest oil transportation facilities, that is, the joint Iraqi-Turkish 1005 km pipeline which will transport the Iraqi crude oil to the Mediterranean ports across the Turkish territories.

This event took place in the Governorate of Tameem (formerly Kirkuk) on December 3. The special ceremony which was held on this occasion was also attended by the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr. Suleyman Demirel, and the accompanying delegation comprising Foreign Minister Mr. Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil and Ministers of Communications, Health, Energy and Natural Resources and Agriculture and Food, two State Ministers and several members of the Turkish Senate. On the Iraqi side the ceremony was attended by Oil Minister Mr. Tayeh Abdul Karim and a num-

ber of senior government and party officials.

During the inauguration ceremony, Oil Minister Mr. Abdul Karim in an address stated that Iraq and Turkey "jointly celebrate today the completion of the work on one of the biggest crude oil projects in the world which has been constructed in pursuance of an agreement concluded between the two friendly countries in 1973". "This project", the Minister emphasised, "has been the outcome of the deep bonds of friendship that exists between the two neighbouring countries and will contribute to the further consolidation of the Iraqi-Turkish relations and serve the interests of our two peoples"

On December 4, another ceremony took place on the Turkish soil. The Iraqi Vice President Mr. Maarouf and Turkish Premier Demirel, and the Iraqi and Turkish delegations accompanying them arrived in the Yumurtalik District, Adana Province, to attend the inauguration ceremony of the

huge pipeline project at its terminal. The Iraqi Vice President, addressing the masses attending the celebration, said: "The benefit of this project will accrue not only to the Iraqi and Turkish peoples, but it will also accrue to the whole region". The Vice President also said that he was confident that the project which "we have inaugurated, yesterday in Iraq and today in Turkey, will help promote peace and security in the region".

The total length of the newly inaugurated pipeline is 1005 kilometres. Of this the Iraqi territories cover 345 kms and the rest the Turkish territories. The total cost of the Iraqi part amounted to about 60 million dinars. (\$ 216 million). The Iraqi State Organization for Oil Projects laid the pipeline in the Iraqi part. The work on the Turkish part was executed under the supervision of the Turkish Botash Company. The full annual capacity of the pipeline is 35 million tons and it will start with this load. It has been completed within a relatively short period.



## IRAQI ARMY MARKS 56TH. ANNIVERSARY

# GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS RECALLED

Nation-wide celebrations took place on January 6, marking the 56th anniversary of the Iraqi Army.

Founded on January 6, 1921, the Iraqi Army played a remarkable role in the struggle for independence of the country from the yoke of centuries of foreign domination. The Iraqi Army also played a pioneering role in realizing the aspirations of the people, not only in Iraq but throughout the Arab nation. It was the Iraqi Army which heralded the 14 July Revolution in 1958 by overthrow-

ing the corrupt royal regime and establishing the Iraqi Republic and it was the very army which helped topple the dictatorial regime on February 8, 1963, when that regime deviated from the original course and basic principles of 14 July Revolution. The Iraqi Army also had the honour of actively contributing to the victory of the glorious 17 July Revolution of 1968, which was planned and led by the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP).

No less important is the part played by our gallant army in

achieving decisive victory over the factions who indulged in rebellion at the instigation of enemy agent Mustafa Barzani in the northern areas of the country. That insurgency was fed and backed by hostile imperialist circles.

On the pan-Arab level, our brave soldiers have had honourable and glorious exploits in the struggle for the cause of Arab revolution. The army actively participated in the Arabs' war against the imperialist-backed Zionist enemy in 1948 and in our war with the

## NEWS IN PICTURES



An extraordinary session of the 8th regional congress of Arab Baath Socialist Party was held on January 10. During it eight more members and three candidates were elected to bring the total number of the Party Regional Leadership to 21 with 5 candidates. The session was attended by Mr. Michel Aflou, ABSP Secretary General, Mr. Shibly al-Aysami, ABSP Assistant Secretary General, Mr. Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Secretary of ABSP Regional Leadership, Iraq, and Mr. Saddam Hussein Deputy Secretary of ABSP Regional Leadership, and members of the pan-Arab and Regional Leaderships.



On the occasion of the 56th anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi Army Mr. Saadoun Ghaidan, member of the Revolution Command Council and Minister of Communications, laying on behalf of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr on January 6, a wreath at the Unknown Soldier Monument.



President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr and Mr. Saddam Hussein, RCC Vice Chairman, attending on January 6, the graduation ceremony of cadets of the Iraqi Military College.



Mr. Naem Haddad, Minister of Youth, receiving on January 7, the Iraqi-Japanese Friendship Society delegation.



Mr. Tareq Aziz, Minister of Information, receiving on January 8, in Baghdad, Mr. Lutfi Uglo, the Turkish Minister of Information and Tourism.



same enemy in 1967 when it was stationed in Jordan for a long period for the purpose of protecting this sister Arab country from any Zionist aggression and for remaining on the alert to enter into any battle when the decisive conditions of our Arab nation called for it.

Our gallant army added to its glorious history a new chapter during the October 1973 war against the Zionists. Our army bravely and magnificently fought on both the Egyptian and Syrian fronts. And Syria owes much to the Iraqi army which heroically warded off an "Israeli" breakthrough on Damascus and thus protected the Syrian capital from falling at the hands of the Zionist enemy.

Over the past 9 months the Iraqi revolution led by its leading

party, the ABSP, spared no efforts to put at the disposal of and make available to the Iraqi Army all prerequisites that enable it to be one of the strongest striking forces in the Middle East, an army fully capable of safeguarding the gains of the Iraqi people and the whole land of the Arab nation.

On this occasion the Iraqi authorities inaugurated several industrial and agricultural projects throughout the country.

#### President Bakr Congratulates the Army

On the occasion of the 56th founding anniversary of the Iraqi Army, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr addressed the following congratulatory cable to members of the armed forces:

"It pleases me on this glorious day of our gallant army to congratulate you and all members of the Army, members of police and Security Forces and Border Guards, imploring the almighty Allah to bestow success upon all of us in what serves the well-being, pride and fortitude of our armed forces as to be the impregnable bastion of the Arab nation and capable of warding off every vile aggressor pondering aggression on our beloved country, and to be an effective instrument in realizing the aspirations of the Arab nation of unity, freedom and socialism, in liberating the usurped territories of our great homeland and in safeguarding the achievements of our progressive revolution".



## 1976 A YEAR OF PROGRESS



# Towards Fulfilling the Aspirations of Revolution

It has been customary, when a new year ushers in to review the previous year's events in all fields to examine whether one's course has been right; or wrong in comparison with others' experiences. The following is a brief summary of what Iraq has accomplished over the past year:

In the field of development and Construction the 1976 Budget amounted to \$ 17153 million of which \$ 506.2 million was allocated for the Investment Programme, \$ 5018.4 million for the ordinary budget, and \$ 7055 million for the public sector.

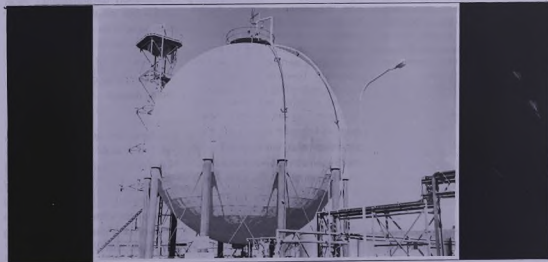
#### Development Activities

In April, 1976, foundation stones were laid for various industrial projects the total cost of which amounted to \$ 1795.2 million. And during July, foundation stones for other projects worth \$ 663 million were laid. Still, other projects, such as the \$ 165 million Himreen Dam, the construction of part of the industrial port at Khor al-Zubair at a value of \$ 114.92 million, the \$ 34 million Iraqi-Soviet fishing enterprise, the gigantic \$ 1105 million petrochemical complex, the first phase of the industrial

complex in Wasat Governorate at a cost of \$ 340 million, were also contracted for execution.

The total cost of the projects now being implemented by the Iraqi State Organisation for Construction Industries amounted to \$ 901 million. A state company for phosphates exploitation was established at a capital of \$ 1190 million. Work commenced on the largest ever residential town to be built in Baghdad to house 20,000 people. Roughly 99% of the pipelines to transport oil products between Baghdad and Basrah was completed. Some 90 multi-purpose industrial projects were also completed. A sum of \$ 102 million was added to special allocations to complete the development projects in the northern area.

In the field of education, a plan was drawn up for the coming two years to expand post-graduate engineering studies.



A seminar was held in which discussions dealt with reforming the legal system in the country and to legislate laws in harmony with the socialist transformations being brought about in the country.

On the cost of living level, 1976 was characterised by a drop in foodstuff and consumer goods prices and also in fuel and services prices compared with the prevailing prices in neighbouring Arab countries.



#### Open Debates on Productivity

During last year, the most pioneering practice in democracy took place when the shortcomings and passive trends in the government organs were discussed under the direct supervision of Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC). Another distinct practice was the successive gatherings in which reasons behind the drop in productivity were diagnosed and discussed, thus pinpointing defects and prescribing the proper solution to wards boosting production in all fields.

Another pioneering experiment on the pan-Arab level also took

place last year when hundreds of Egyptian farmers moved to Iraq to work in the "Wihda" (unity) agricultural project.

#### Furthering Arab Cause

Regarding Arab issues, Iraq's firm and principled stand towards the Lebanese crisis and its call for non-intervention in that country's internal affairs won appreciation on the part of all progressive and patriotic forces within and outside Lebanon. The

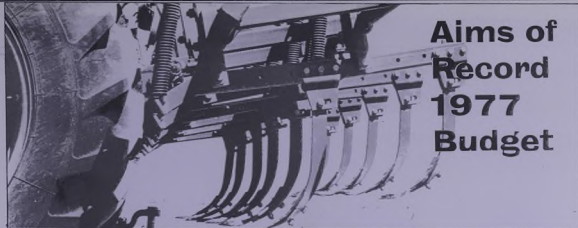
To confront this conspiracy against the Arab Nation, Iraq called for the formation of an Arab front to face up to the enemy. Contacts with certain Arab countries were made to foil this conspiracy which ultimately aim at imposing capitulationist solutions on the Arab Nation. Hence, Iraq moved its armed forces to take positions on the Arab arena and to perform its pan-Arab duty when the need arises.

#### International Relations

On the international level, Iraq called for the necessity of strengthening and consolidating economic relations among the Non-allied countries and the raw material producing countries, and to declare the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and security. Furthermore, it called for supporting the world liberation movement, suggesting at the same time, the establishment of a secretariat general for the Non-aligned Movement in order to coordinate its activities and effectiveness internationally.

Moreover, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr called for the termination of armament race, and a ban on the use of nuclear weapons. This pressing humanitarian demand was made upon his opening of signature collection campaign on the new Stockholm Appeal.

Thus, the political leadership, over the past year, has effectively contributed to translating into practice the aspirations of the Revolution by placing Iraq on the independent socialist course and among the nations striving to attain liberty and progress.



## Aims of Record 1977 Budget

### Increasing productivity and consolidating socialist base

Since the nationalisation of oil resources, Iraq's financial power continued to be strengthened, and consequently the country's general budget showed an upward trend in terms of fund allocations, thus reaching a record figure for 1977.

The country's 1977 budget, which became operative as from January 1, is the largest ever in the country's contemporary history. The budget comprises ID. 2357 million (\$ 8013.8 million) for the annual Investment Programme, i.e. an increase of \$ 3281 million over last year's allocations, and ID. 1652.998 million (\$ 5620.16 million) for the ordinary budget, i.e. an increase of \$ 238 over last year's budget. Public sector's allocations amount to \$ 2234.83 million. The new budget is a non-deficit one, and well balanced, with an overall growth rate of 4.1 per cent.

The budget aims, first, at placing the ordinary budget at the disposal of national development in order to bolster the socialist transformations currently taking place in the country; secondly, eliminating price rise in imported and basic local commodities to alleviate the burden of those of limited income; thirdly, orienting expenditure towards avoiding extravagance and keep it gauged by its economic and social return so that concentration in the forthcoming phase be on increase in productivity, raising the standard of efficiency, and best utilisation of available manpower and material potentials; fourthly, giving priority to consolidating specific sectors and activities such as health, education, youth care, and agriculture, in order to provide better possibilities and conditions in view of the increasing need for services; fifthly, to continue re-considering fiscal, accounting and organisational laws; sixthly, improve the collection of the state's non-oil revenue such as income tax and various duties, through enhancing and modernising the state's organs.

To boost the rate of growth of the specific

sectors mentioned above, allocations for the health sector in the ordinary budget amount to \$ 166.94 million compared to \$ 146.54 million of last year's allocations. Allocations for the education sector amount to \$ 631.04 million compared to \$ 582.08 of last year. Those allocations are substantiated by others in the Investment Programme.

In addition to the expenditures marked in the budget, it included the allocation of \$ 7918.26 million to meet the expenses of the semi-official organs and establishments for 1977.

The budget in general and the huge allocations for the Investment Programme confirm once again that the country continues to adopt planned comprehensive development as a method to attain higher rates of economic growth towards building the socialist base in Iraq, an objective stressed upon by the Political Report of the Eighth Regional Congress of the Arab Baath Socialist Party.

An exceptional importance is given in the new budget vis-a-vis individuals' interests, to removing a number of bottlenecks noticed in recent years, especially in the case of housing, transport and communications, public services, social care, and others.

As to the Investment Programme, it includes a plethora of indicators and central controls all aim towards regulating projects implementation, sound operation, and efficiency performance in accordance with a pre-set production plan. The programme also envisages an increase in production, development of productivity methods, priority in projects execution, and effecting a proportional balance in the social transformations, specifically in breaching the gap of subsistence requirements between the urban and rural areas.

In short, the 1977 budget reflects the aims and aspirations of the Political Leadership towards the realisation of new gains and deepening the new social buildup for the attainment of socialism.



# Backbone of Socialist Transformation



## PUBLIC SECTOR

by Kamal Butti

The public sector has always been considered by the developing countries the material base for any socialist transformation process. But the existence of the public sector alone in any society is not enough to effect this transformation. Experience in most developing countries has shown that without a conscious revolutionary leadership, all economic and social activities fall short of expectations in building the socialist society.

Iraq, being a developing country, is not an exception in this respect. During the period that stretched from 1927 until July 17, 1968, Revolution, the national economy was characterised by its complete attachment to the capitalist system and foreign oil sector dominated over all other economic sectors of the country. Moreover, the backward economy which imperialism deliberately maintained did not allow the formation of private capital capable of activating national economy even within the limits defined by the imperialists. The

state was left to undertake some production works related to the main economic structure; such works did not yield lucrative business that might attract investments and consequently create a public sector. In fact, whatever type of public sector that existed prior to July 17 Revolution was actually meant to serve the rulers of that age, imperialists and feudalists.

True, the exploitation of oil and the increasing oil revenue greatly contributed to the state's intervention in many economic activities. This led to the creation of three major sectors: First, the private sector, which undertook agricultural and industrial production, trade, banking and insurance, services and construction works. Secondly, the government sector which undertook the task of administration, services, irrigation, some industrial projects and some banking activities. Thirdly, the foreign sector, which dealt with the oil sector, banking, insurance and foreign trade.

Although the July 14, 1968, Revolution aimed at changing the whole economic and social fabric of the country, it did not give serious attention to the role of the public sector in national economy. The Law No. 80 of 1961, which liberated 99.5% of Iraqi land that remained unexploited under the control of the multi-national oil companies was born dead despite the fact that it created a national oil sector.

The sudden nationalisation of a number of large and middle-sized private factories and enterprises in July, 1964, did actually contribute to the expansion of a public sector in the country. But the impetuous way in which the nationalisation decision was taken added to the complications suffered then by industry. The nationalised enterprises failed to activate national economy as they were put under rightist bureaucrats and bourgeois figures; thus the public sector became a burden on the state and a drain on the budget rather than a source of income.

With the inception of July 17, 1968, Revolution which was led by the Arab Baath Socialist Party, the whole economic and social framework began to assume different dimensions. The Party has always maintained that in order not to turn nationalisation into state capitalism due to the absence of socialist material base, the people should be allowed to contribute to the building of the new society, i.e., in managing the economy when they, through practice, own the productive sectors.

The Political Report of the 8th Regional Congress of the Party clarified that state capitalism is a distorted image of socialism; it negates or at least fakes democratic relations in production, freezes the role of the working class and paralyzes its vitality;



it makes the bureaucrats the masters and overlords of production who impose on the working class and lower strata of employees a new dictatorship not very different from that of the bourgeoisie and its exploitation; it has a distorted view of socialism as it imagines that it merely directs the economic aspect of the state's and society's movement.

Proceeding from the full conviction in the important role of the public sector in national economy, the Party worked on enhancing and consolidating this sector. Towards this end, it adopted two methods: First, through the formation or organisation in vital economic fields; Secondly, through nationalisation to achieve full command of national economy on the way to socialist transformation.

In drawing up its economic policy, Iraq aims at diversifying production and lessening the dependence on oil as a source of income. Therefore the 1970-74 and 1974-80 National Development Plans laid stress on the public sector and its establishments as a direct instrument of implementing and achieving the plans' targets and accelerating economic growth. In the 1970-74 Plan, for example, total allocations for the public sector amounted to ID. 858.6 million (\$283.4 million) i.e. 75.1% of total plan's allocations. The 1974-80 Plan seeks to complete the process of putting foreign trade under state control together with the main branches of internal trade. Also, in preparing the industrial sector for undertaking the production of capital goods, and expanding public sector's role in constructional activities the plan has provided for adequate measures.

As to the contribution of the public sector to the economic productive sectors at factor cost, it is expected that such a contribution reaches ID. 10066 million in 1980, as against ID. 3689 million in 1974.

To sum up, the public sector in Iraq has been given the leading and dominating role to play in the industrial and agricultural process in view of the fact that state ownership is the material base for effecting socialist transformation. The public sector practically controls and undertakes a plethora of services which cover all walks of life. Of course, the consolidation of this sector does not negate the role of the private sector which has been given special importance particularly in the capital and expertise aspects, bearing in mind that the contribution of this sector to the national economy is planned in such a way as to avoid monopoly and exploitation.

## FREE FORUM

# ZIONISM IN U.S.A.

by Dr. Abdul Kadir Mohammed Said al-Bettar

Zionism and capitalism are closely linked together; wherever there is capitalism there is Zionism. This is why a capitalist country like the United States has become a stronghold of Zionism. Zionist infiltration to the United States is as old as the quest for gold and the declaration of the Afrikaner constitution after America's independence from British dominion. Zionism couldn't thrive in Nazi Germany because the Nazis saw a rival in Zionism. Both movements aspired to exploit other races, the Nazis through the use of force, the Zionists through wielding capital and making other nations starve. The one acted as a dreadful monster threatening the world with destruction, the other as an ever-hungry worm determined to eat out humanity unseen. Both were destructive forces exercising their evil intents in two different directions.

The Zionists made so much fuss of Nazi terrorism and violence, and the so-called anti-semitic racialism in an endeavour to win over the pity and sympathy of all the peace-loving nations of the world, portraying themselves as a weak people oppressed, maltreated, tormented and stripped of their right to survival.

### Dominating the Information Media:

In the United States the Zionists control and steer all means of publicity and propaganda for the advantage of "Israel" is a truth that raises so many queries. Nothing is easier to do than to mislead the American whose mentality is overshadowed by a materialistic world. Morals are defamed. The dollar-obsessed mind has lost its vitality and is

easily deceived. The American layman can no longer discern the world of false values. He is propaganda-ridden. Thus, Zionism has, through dominating the press, television networks, journalism, and all sorts of publications and social institutions, taken his attention away from what goes on in the world around him.

Zionist propaganda is so active and influential in the United States that it always decides on who goes to the White House. They buy out the electors. The nominee for presidency has to make pro-



Zionist troops dragging an Arab Palestinian

mes before he is admitted into the White House and he has to be servicable to answer the demands of Zionism.

Zionism constantly feeds the American mind with false information about the attitudes of other nations toward America. It portrays other nations' efforts and struggle for emancipation as an encroachment upon American interests rather than as attempts to get rid of imperialist domination and exploitation. A country that craves for freedom and independence is accused of being anarchic. Socialism and communism are defamed and misinterpreted. The easiest way for the Zionists to win over the Americans and the West Europeans to their side is to pretend that they (the Zionists) are anti-socialist and propagate that any nation that strives for freedom and independence is communistic even though that nation has nothing to do with communism, and although the great communist powers have shown no imperialistic inclinations.



Zionist troops guarding the streets of Beith Lahm



Zionists occupying civilian Arab quarters

On the contrary, the great communist powers have always supported liberation movements everywhere whether communist, nationalist or socialist. In this way, Zionism falsifies facts and sets up a barrier between the Western nations and freedom-loving nations.

The Zionists draw an analogy between themselves and the American pioneers. Just as the American settlers who three centuries ago emigrated to America to colonise it by exterminating its native populace, the Zionists claim that they

favours and implements in such a way that instead of arousing the anger and resentment of those victimized, it wins their satisfaction and complacency! A business man or foundation blacklisted by Zionist capitalists is doomed to bankruptcy. This is the fate of any anti-Zionist Arab. Shakespeare's Shylock lives on in every capitalist that sucks the blood of the striving masses.

The Zionists motivated by their bigotry and fanaticism for a so-called promised homeland, set up all kinds of drives to annually collect subsidies

emigrated to Palestine to build it up and develop its resources. This false claim conceals the fact that here in Palestine there developed a very ancient civilisation and a people very difficult or rather impossible to subjugate. A question must here be raised: How did the Zionists enter Palestine? Did they enter the way Ali Baba entered the cave by simply shouting "Open Sesam!" or through vicious means and conspiracy with the imperialists who use them as a tool to put down and silence any revolutionary movement that may arise in the region.

### The Influence of Zionism on Business:

The Zionists in the United States run industry, own banks and loan bureaus, finance prodigious projects and control business. A project doesn't thrive if it doesn't gain Zionist support. They spare no dishonest means to attain their material gains. Bribery, fraud and counterfeit are devices Zionism

which amount to hundreds of millions of dollars for the maintenance of "Israeli" economy and the preservation of "Israel" on usurped Arab land. They brag of modern technology, heavy armament and American military aid, and use all psychological means to weaken Arab morale and faith in victory. They seem to be misinformed about Arab potentialities. They don't seem to have realised that the Arab of the new generation is never daunted by threats, that he realises where he stands, and that he has faith in his nation and in its power to liberate every inch of its occupied land, not through speeches and promises but through being equipped with knowledge and science, and above all, knowledge of what his enemy is.

The Arab masses everywhere regardless of their creed realise one truth, and that is the truth of the oneness in their struggle against tyranny, exploitation and imperialism, and in their faith that oneness is a historical inevitable truth.





Painting by Fayek Hassan

## Twenty-five years of search and achievement

# Iraqi Art Movement-I

by Jabra I. Jabra

Until a few years ago it was possible to write about Iraqi art in more or less comprehensive terms as a phenomenon of great unexpected significance in a country that had begun to develop, together with its physical potential, its inner powers, its vision. However, as the country gained in economic growth in the last ten years or so, this phenomenon has assumed such dimensions that any but a detailed account would fall short of giving a true picture of its place in the intellectual life of Iraq. Any one who has seen the first Arab Biennale in Baghdad in 1974 would realize this. Whether holding the Biennale in Baghdad had anything to do with the result that then emerged will remain uncertain — but the result was that Iraqi painting and sculpture seemed by far the most powerful in the vast pan-Arab exhibition, that they were as good, as vital, as any in the world.

In the space of twenty-five years Iraqi art had come into its own as a thing of distinction. The art world outside may fly

Painting by Jewad Selim



into all kinds of new directions, so many creations of the inventive mind may elicit surprise and wonder with their novelty, their technique, often seeming to anticipate the look of the next technological change, but there will always remain the painting itself, the canvas, the individual's personal relationship with his own

creation, to which Iraqi art can be favourably referred and compared. For a small country like Iraq which has only just come out of centuries of stagnation, this is no small achievement.

The first comprehensive exhibition of Iraqi art was held at al-Mansour Club in Baghdad

in February 1956. The exhibition was so successful that the artists got together soon later that year and formed the Iraqi Artists Society. When after the 1958 Revolution the Ministry of Information was established, it extended State patronage to artists and their exhibitions on a large scale. The Artists Society and the Ministry of Information, combining forces, made the exhibiting of almost any artist worth the name an easy affair that cost him or her next to nothing. Moreover, the Ministry, building up its permanent gallery of modern art, bought works from nearly every artist who held an exhibition.

### Three Major groups

There were in the Fifties three

Painting by Hafidh Duroubi



major groups, each led by a prominent painter, which embodied this struggle for the recognition of the artist and his view of the world: the S.P. (Societe Primitive), led by Fayek Hassan, the Baghdad Modern Art Group, led by Jewad Salim, and The Impressionists (made up largely of post-impressionists and cubists), led

by Hafidh Duroubi. These groups have remained fairly active until recent years, comprising in all about fifty painters and sculptors. As more and more artists returned from their studies abroad (in London, Paris, Rome, Warsaw, Zagreb, even Peking), or graduated from Baghdad's own Fine Arts Institute and Fine Arts Academy (the latter being part of Baghdad University), groups in the Sixties tended to multiply or splinter off, with many artists, of course, preserving their independence. There were the Academicians, the Innovators, the New Vision Group, the One-Dimensionists — and others. Each group prided itself on being revolutionary after its own fashion, ranging in its creed from the intensely political to the intensely religious or mystic. Actually the ideological lines, whether political, mystic, or expressionist, often cut across the groups' formations in a remarkable way. What mattered in the final analysis was individual talent: the brilliant creators were of their own making. Nevertheless, each group contributed its valuable share to the general discussion and examination of ideas, just as it also made exhibitions easier to hold for the artists themselves.

### A spirit of tradition

One fact that has always to be recognised in understanding Arab art today is that however revolutionary Arab artists may be in concept and in aspiration, a spirit of tradition hangs on to them which they cannot, will not, shake off. However much they may subscribe to the view of 'internationalism' or 'cosmopolitanism' in modern art, they will not give up the notion that their identity can only be shared by rooting themselves in a tradition of their own, which helps to give

a distinction to their work, marking them off as the creators and extenders of a national culture. Iraqi artists, most of whom have a very good knowledge of other nations' art history, have right from the start attempted to bring into existence a view of art which might be called Iraqi or Arab. Hence their harking back to Sumerian and Assyrian sculpture, to Arab painting, manuscript illuminations and calligraphy, to folk motifs found in handicrafts and handwoven rugs, and to local popular themes. Their achievement in style is the child of the wedding of tradition to present-day contemporaneity. It is only thus that we may begin to understand the works of Jewad Salim, Ghafir Hassan, Kadhem Haider, Dhia Azzawi, Mohammad Ghani, Khales Rahhal, Hameed Attar, and many other leading artists. Whatever originality they may possess is thus connected, in one way or another, with the grass roots of their society, even though the connection may not be always readily visible.

Similarly, most Iraqi artists are deeply concerned with the dilemmas of twentieth century man, with the struggle of an Arab nation emerging as a new force in today's world, with the fight for freedom and independence that marks Palestinian revolutionaries. However personal the vision or the ultimate style, these are some of the major factors that make up their work.

Fayek Hassan

A very interesting case is the work of Fayek Hassan, who remains, however much he shares the limelight, the coyen of Iraqi painters. For nearly forty years Fayek Hassan has been producing paintings of remarkable



Painting by Shakir Hassan

quality. When Iraq was yet, intellectually, outside the stream of the movement in the West, Fayek Hassan, who had studied at the Beaux Arts in Paris in the early thirties, was doing his work driven almost by instinct, proving the high quality of his drawing and colouring. His understanding, however, of the significance of colour and the importance of style as part of a trend in an epoch, came to him through a few Polish painters who, themselves students of Bonnard, had an unexpected influence on three or four Iraqi artists during the War Years in Baghdad, when some Poles came to Iraq as refugees. (Jewad Salim was another artist to be thus influenced, although he had spent a couple of years studying art in Paris and Rome). Hassan's work suddenly seemed to mature: it acquired that personal quality that marks a great artist. Since then his painting has gone through a number of phases each, in a way, reminis-

cent of one of the successive trends that gained currency in Europe since the turn of the century, from impressionism to cubism, thence to expressionism and later to abstract, and finally to a form of realism through which the painter is intent on capturing certain aspects of Iraqi peasant and bedouin life, in a way peculiarly his own and suggesting the great skill of a master. What is so remarkable in all these phases is the originality he has always shown in dealing with subjects that are intensely local, intensely Iraqi. In his cubist and expressionist period he seems to distill the essence of ages of travail and agony and sheer fortitude experienced by his people. Style for him is a means to an end which is never quite exhausted, never quite realized and done with.

In recent years, horses, or horses and riders, have been his favourite theme. His paintings

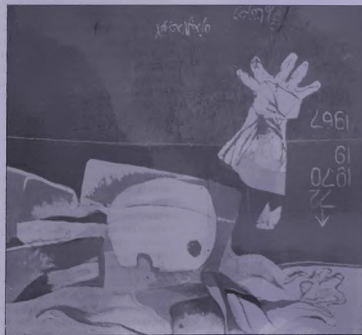
are so highly prized, that they often get snatched off his easel while still wet!

#### Jewad Selim

The only other artist who enjoyed similar popularity in his life-time was sculptor-painter Jewad Selim, who died in 1961 at the age of 41. No other single artist has had so much influence on the art movement in Iraq, an influence that has now overflowed Iraq's borders to the rest of the Arab world. During the last twenty years of his life, Jewad Selim's work, based on endless experimentation, developed rapidly through constant, untiring, discussion and theorization. After a short spell in Paris and Rome, he worked during the War years at the Archaeological Museum in Baghdad, which gave him a thorough grounding in ancient Mesopotamian sculpture. Perhaps Jewad Selim, who later studied



Painting by Kathem Haider



Painting by Dhia Azzawi

sculpture in the London Slade School from 1946 to 1949, was the first artist to make his contemporaries aware of the problem of style and tradition followed, with greater and more systematic articulation, by his younger colleague Shakir Hassan al-Said.

In spite of his immense knowledge of the history of painting and sculpture, Selim preserved an innocence, a freshness of vision, which made him draw creatively on local forms, symbols, habits, superstitions — all the folk lore still active in the

older alleys and coffee-shops of Baghdad and the surrounding countryside. When he formed the Baghdad Modern Art Group in 1951, he had no idea that he was, in fact, providing a volatile movement, whose members were an amazing mixture of professionals and amateurs, with a direction not so much rigid as inspiring.

While his friend Fayek Hassan taught painting at the Fine Arts Institute, he taught sculpture, and between them they were responsible for the early discovery or development of many talents. Selim's work in the meantime came out in an interminable flow of drawings, paintings, sculpture, even book-covers and silver ornaments. When with the 14th July 1958 Revolution Iraq was declared a republic, he was commissioned to make the Monument of Liberty in bronze. For an artist to have completed this enormous complex monument in less than eighteen months was indeed a spectacular achievement. Spread out in fourteen 8-metre high groups over a 50-metre long frieze, it stands in the heart of the capital, dominating Liberation Square. It embodies Jewad Selim's peculiar combination of power and lyricism, of the Iraqi and the Universal, together with a mystical tragic love for his country. In style, it is the final result of twenty years of study, experimentation and heart-search.





## The artist who did know what he was doing

Munim Furrat was an Iraqi primitive artist who won a worldwide notice. He was posthumously awarded the first prize of the 3rd. International Exhibition of Primitive Art held in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia in September 1972. He was a man not spoilt by the psychological burdens of formal education and modern learning and schools of art. He did not read or write. He preserved his spontaneity, virginity and originality in the field of primitive art.

Born in the Karkh side of Baghdad in about the beginning of this century, he remained in obscurity until 1970. Although he was discovered in 1959, he did not then receive the full recognition he was justly entitled to.

Chance played some role in his discovery. He used to carry around with him, for sale, the

small pieces he worked. Accidentally in Rashid Street with a small piece in his hand representing love-birds, he attracted the attention of Dr. Akram Fadhil, Director of Folklore at the Ministry of Information. Dr. Fadhil showed keen interest in his work and asked the artist to visit him at the Ministry.

During his several visits to Dr. Fadhil, he was told not to imitate but to translate the so many ideas he said they were in his mind into sculpture. Complying with this advice, i.e. worked new pieces representing his strange ideas and illogical attitudes. The results were quite astonishing. Every body who cared about art saw in them the real primitive art which was being sought in modern artistic circles everywhere in the world.

Furrat found in Dr. Fadhil the warmth and encouragement he had searched for over fifty years. So he confessed to him all the details of his life. Like other Iraqi artists in his early days, he was attracted by the Iraqi Museum. However, his experience with the Museum came to an unhappy climax when he was banned from the Museum on charges of imitating the exhibits and selling their faked copies. His first encounter with sculpture took place when he saw a magazine with pictures of statues which he thought he was able to imitate. He even sculptured the head of King George V and some Iraqi personalities of the early days of independence.

Feeling the respect and warmth extended to him, he began to supply the Ministry of Information with his most up-to-date pieces at very modest prices. His works represented human

beings in strange forms. Some of his creatures had tails, others strained under heavy burdens. Some of his pieces suggested strange and intricate sexual acts about which he had not the least misgivings. His world was a world of jinn, monsters and mythical-creatures mixed with tortured human beings around whom snakes and serpents wound. He used to confess that he did know what he had been doing.

Foreigners visiting Iraq saw pieces of his work. They were deeply impressed. It is said that some of his pieces were smuggled out to European countries where primitive art is in high demand.

### Recognition Abroad

Among those who had played a role in promoting Furrat's worldwide reputation was Mr. M.R. Pistone of the INCONTREI MEDITERRANE, who arranged an exhibition for Munim Furrat's work in Rome. Ten pieces and forty pictures of Furrat's sculptures were shown on 12 February, 1971, in the Egyptian Hall in Rome, where they were admired. In them was found the really original primitive art. The famous Italian art critic Mr. Alberto Chartini wrote glowingly about him as he found in his work traces of the primitive arts of various parts of the world.

Munim Furrat was dazed by this new recognition. He became more arrogant. Even in his years of obscurity when he was mocked by passers-by he was confident that some day he would be recognized and respected as a great artist. Every now and then, he asked about what was written about him in the press. Once he was rather disappointed when he was told that it was not possible to devote an issue of a magazine exclusively to him.

Enjoying the fruit of success, his enthusiasm and devotion to his work grew greater. Although



until recently he was living in the squalor of poverty, he was not greedy or exacting. He just continued to supply the Ministry of Information with his new pieces without asking for any price for them. Perhaps by now he felt more secure as he was given generous gifts and pension.

Though over seventy years old, Furrat was as active, as any young man. He worked every hard and never showed any sign of old age or exhaustion.

He never felt that there was an age gap between him and the younger artists who visited him often in his late years of fame. He did not treat young female artists and journalists paternally. He spoke with them freely about many subjects even about his sex life.

He had a latent contempt for academic artists. His contempt for them came up to the surface when he became a celebrity.

Ten pieces of his sculptures were selected to be sent to the 3rd. Primitive Art Exhibition in Bratislava. He refused to go with them as he believed that his life was too precious to be exposed to the hazards of airtravel.

While he was at the height of his activity rushing around to supervise the racking of his pieces, he was one day run over by a car. He died on 2 August, 1972, leaving behind him about 300 pieces of sculpture. His loss was a shock not only to Iraqi art lovers, but to the many art lovers in various parts of the world who had the chance of seeing his pieces.

Adnan al-Himairi



## PRESS OPINION

## IZVESTIA (USSR)

The Soviet daily Izvestia warned that the situation in the Arab region would remain explosive so long as the Zionists "refuse to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people".

In an article, published on January 2, the Soviet Government organ pointed out that there were no indications that "Israel" "has any intention to withdraw from all occupied territories, therefore, the situation in the area will remain extremely critical".

## PRAVDA (USSR)

On the other hand, Pravda, the daily CPSU organ, described in its issue of January 2 the large-scale land and air military manoeuvres carried by the Zionist entity in Sinai as "very provocative to Egypt and the Arab region as a whole, because they were conducted on an occupied territory belonging to the Arab people".

## ROSE EL-YUSUF (Egypt)

The Egyptian magazine Rose el-Yusif of Cairo, highly praised the role of Iraqi army in the October 1973 war against the Zionist enemy, and termed its participation in the war as a glorious event in the Arab history and lauded its performance as "unique witnessed by fierce wars".

In its issue of January 10 the Egyptian weekly paid rich tributes to the "heroic nationalist strands of the gallant Iraqi army".

YUGOSLAV MINISTER LAUDS  
IRAQ'S PROGRESSIVE ROLE

Mr. Mohammed Berberovic, the Yugoslav Minister of Information and Chairman of the Yugoslav side of the joint Iraqi-Yugoslav Committee, said: "From the point of view of economic co-operation with Yugoslavia, Iraq occupies the first rank among the Arab countries and the Non-aligned group".

In a special statement to Iraqi News Agency (INA) on January 3 in Belgrade the Yugoslav Minister indicated that his country was implementing a number of giant development projects for Iraq. Besides, the volume of trade between the two friendly countries was also increasing.

"Yugoslavia and Iraq have a future programme of cooperation which will further promote their bilateral relations", the Minister said.

Mr. Berberovic added that the policy and the role of the Iraqi socialist leadership, played within

"Iraqi army's participation in the October War came without previous arrangements with the Iraqi leadership; it was done by sheer initiative taken by Iraq".

The paper added that "under such circumstances Iraq's participation in the war should have been partial or symbolic, but on the contrary Iraq committed to the battlefield most of its striking forces".

"The Iraqi troops", the paper further said, "had to enter the war from the Syrian narrow front and not from the Jordanian wide front, hence they were deprived of the chance of demonstrating all their fighting skill and strength".

Concluding the paper said "Iraqi army has fulfilled its task in the October War with honour and pride".

## WATAN (Turkey)

The Turkish daily, Watan, in a comment published on January 8 on the recently inaugurated joint Iraqi-Turkish oil-pipeline said: "This is opening a new page in the history of the existing friendship and good neighbourliness between Iraq and Turkey". Hailing the joint venture the paper said that the relations between the two neighbourly countries were developing very rapidly. The paper also commended Iraq's nationalization of oil. "Iraq has nationalized its oil wealth following a fierce and protracted struggle against the foreign monopoly companies and thus realized the aspirations which the people had cherished for 50 years".

the Non-aligned group, and its efforts for the establishment of a just and equitable international economic order, had introduced new content and value for the cooperation between Iraq and Yugoslavia and for the multilateral cooperation on international level.

"The socialist trend in Iraq has provided the cooperation between our two countries with more substantial value", the Minister explained.

As regards the cooperation in the information field Mr. Berberovic reaffirmed that Iraq was playing an active role in this respect.

"Iraq will play host to the meetings of the international committee of communications experts of Non-aligned countries, scheduled to be held late in March next", Mr. Berberovic pointed out.

## RCC RATIFIES TWO LOAN AGREEMENTS

Iraqi Revolution Command Council (RCC) has ratified two loan agreements with the Yemen Arab Republic (Sana) and Guinea.

The 15-million dollar loan granted to Yemen from the Arab Fund for External Development will be utilized in financing some development projects including the construction of an international airport.

The 10-million dollar loan granted to Guinea would be utilized in financing some economic and development projects.

## POLICE CELEBRATES FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Izzat Ibrahim, the Revolution Command Council Member and Minister of Interior, on January 9 attended as the chief guest the public celebration marking the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi Police.

Social function and athletic and artistic activities were organized on the occasion. Special photographic exhibitions depicting the various stages of development of the Iraq Police were also held.

## TURKISH INFORMATION MINISTER VISITS IRAQ

The Turkish Minister of Information, Mr. Lutfi Tuk Oglu, paid a 5-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi Minister of Information, Mr. Tareq Aziz, beginning on January 7.

While in Baghdad Mr. Oglu held a series of talks with his Iraqi counterpart and discussed bilateral relations and the possibility of further strengthening the cooperation between the two countries in the field of information, culture and tourism.

## PAKISTANI FIRM WINS IRAQI CONTRACT

A contract for the execution of the second phase of the Lower Khalis Irrigation Project amounting to ID. 41,520,000 was awarded to a Pakistani firm. According to the contract the Pakistani firm will build integrated and concrete-coated irrigation networks including field drainage canals and self-controlled water regulators.

As regards the first stage of the project its contract was awarded to a Turkish firm. The value of the contract is ID. 29,655,000.

## ARAB HOUSING MINISTER TO MEET IN BAGHDAD

Delegations have been extended to 19 Arab countries, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Arab League to attend the second conference of Ministers of Housing scheduled to be

held in Baghdad in March next under the sponsorship of the Iraqi Ministry of Works and Housing. Invitation was also extended to UN Commission on Environment Programmes to attend as observer.

The 3-day meeting is expected to discuss topics concerning housing problems in the Arab world, financing of housing projects and coordinating Arab efforts for exploiting construction materials available in the Arab countries.

## IRAQI EDUCATION DELEGATION OFF TO SPAIN

An Iraqi Educational Delegation leaves Baghdad for Madrid on January 15 on a two-week visit to Spain in accordance with a standing Iraqi-Spanish cultural cooperation programme for 1976-1977.

During its stay in Spain the Iraqi delegation will acquaint itself with Spanish teaching programmes and systems and hold talks on the means and methods of further enhancing the Iraqi-Spanish educational relations.

## IRAQ-SOVIET COOPERATION

Iraq and the Soviet Union signed on December 29, a two-year protocol on radio and television cooperation.

The protocol was signed in Baghdad by Mr. Alexander Petrovich, Vice-Chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Radio and Television, during his two-day visit to Iraq.

## 2nd INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION ON EDUCATION

The Iraqi University of Technology will organize its 2nd International Exhibition on sophisticated educational devices between 1-7 April next.

The week-long exhibition in which specialized foreign companies will participate aims at introducing sophisticated scientific equipment used in education in the Iraqi universities.

Last year's exhibition was attended by 30 foreign companies.

## AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

222 agricultural cooperatives were licensed by the Directorate General of Agricultural Cooperatives during 1976.

The total number of cooperatives is now 1970 in the country which include 44 specialised cooperatives, 207 joint cooperatives and 79 state farms covering an area of more than 19,000,000 donums (one donum = 2500 sq. metres). The number of members is 467,000.



