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Rowing in
the Marshes



River Tigris,
the Beauty of Baghdad



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Correspondence to be addressed to:
Iraq Today magazine,
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Ministry of Information,
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Designer: Waleed Sheet
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EDITORIAL

All the Facts Before the People

A seminar was recently held in Baghdad under the chairmanship of Comrade Saddam Hussein. The purpose was to discuss the question of low productivity in the country.

It was a gathering which made a breakthrough in the management of the economic affairs of a developing country. So many people in high positions of responsibility faced the masses, in completely televised and broadcast sessions. They discussed freely the question of low productivity, taking their starting point the working paper prepared for this.

Comrade Hussein gave an address which contained illuminating points as to the way officials, public servants and employees should behave with regard to the administrations and departments with which they are entrusted and how their relations with their subordinates should be. He called for the rejection of tattered traditions which are no longer conducive to the building of a good society.

When stressing the importance of democratic relations among the higher and lower echelons of officials, he elucidated a major principle governing the ideology of the leadership. In revolutionary Iraq the tendency is to eradicate the feeling of superiority with which some officials might be tempted to treat the others. They are there to serve and the greater the responsibility, the more humble and self-effacing they should be. None of them is to be exempted from accountability.

The Vice-Chairman observed that the spirit of cliques should be fought and he went on to comment that this is a completely different thing from joining a trade Union which is a rightful thing. The clique spirit is a closed spirit. It wrongly interprets the saying that you should help your brother right or wrong, for the proper meaning should be that when he is wrong you must advise him and lead him to the right course of action.

The closed vision does not see society as a whole but only one corner of it.

While questioning some responsible officials, he made it clear to everybody that no man, whether a Baathist or not, could shrink his responsibilities where the interests of the whole people are concerned.

In his directions he emphasized the necessity for regular meetings between people at the top and at the bottom. By periodically discussing the problems of their departments in a democratic way, they are more likely to overcome them than when they make themselves the sole and irrefutable judges of everything down to the smallest point. The team spirit is not a luxury to be used at whim but a necessity for construction.

The effect of the seminar on the people was enormous. It confirmed the pledge of the leadership to maintain frankness and openness with the masses, not only in matters of felicitous nature but in others where there are shortcomings and unwelcome news to be reported.

Giving the people all the facts and bringing responsible persons to account are characteristics of a healthy society whose leadership is not afraid of anything except letting the people down.

Iraq Today



President Bakr's Message to IOJ

...factors which deprive peoples of their will and freedom.

Referring to the October war, the President said that on October 6, 1973, during the war with the Zionist entity, the masses rose up everywhere placing their energies for turning the military battles into a comprehensive liberation war. Iraq immediately applied the slogan of using oil as a weapon against the imperialist and Zionist aggressors.

The President pointed out that following this war imperialist attacks on the Arabs have been escalated in such a way that they did not only aim at backing the Zionist aggressor, but also at liquidating all gains of the Arab liberation movement and its militant forces — in addition to suppressing the Palestinian people's aspirations for liberating their homeland.

FRUSTRATE IMPERIALIST SCHEMINGS

Journalists Called Upon To Promote Cause of Revolution

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, in a message to the Eighth Conference of the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) held in Helsinki, from September 21-24, 1976, called upon the progressive journalists of the world to be armed with the highest degree of consciousness and vigilance to frustrate all imperialist schemings and expose the suspicious role of the imperialist information media.

Referring to the Lebanese situation the President, in his message, said 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 the conspiracy.

In Iraq, the President said, was exerting militant efforts to support the Arab liberation and the Palestine question as well as engaged in socialist transformation.

The President urged the (IOJ) members to direct their pen and energies to support world liberation forces everywhere, in order to eliminate all

Following is the English rendering of the President's message:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Eighth Conference of the International Organisation of Journalists.

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

Since the conclusion of your seventh conference in 1971, the world has witnessed a series of important events and developments, the most outstanding of which has taken place in the Arab area, following the meeting of your Executive Committee in Baghdad in 1973. At that meeting, im-

portant and outstanding resolutions were adopted which condemned Zionist and imperialist aggression on the Arab nation and on rendering the Palestinian people homeless.

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

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

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

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

What is going on these days in the Lebanon, hatched by imperialism and zionism, in collaboration with the Syrian regime and the reactionary forces in Lebanon, did not surprise the conscious revolutionary forces in the area; and did not astonish us either in Iraq. We have warned time and again against being deceived by some phenomena which seek to conceal the real intentions of certain quarters in the area. And after this rich experience much shall be decided in connection with Arab independence struggle. Arab revolutionaries are profoundly convinced of the necessity of equipping strugglers everywhere with the facts revealing the connection between what is going on in Lebanon and the schemings of American imperialism and zionism against the Arab nation and its progressive movement, and to expose the Arab quarters involved in these schemings.

The Arab Liberation Movement and the

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

The Republic of Iraq is witnessing, at this stage, a model revolutionary experiment. Militant efforts are being exerted in support of the Arab liberation and the Palestine question, together with other efforts on the way of construction and development for the socialist transformation of the country and towards achieving the national unity under the leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party in the most brilliant form, and towards laying down a progressive and radiant base to disperse imperialism trying to haunt our area.

While waging this glorious battle we never forget that we are part of the world liberation forces. We always seek to promote security and peace based on justice for the establishment of a world devoid of all forms of persecution, and the elimination of all factors which deprive peoples of their will and freedom.

Friends, Members of the International Organisation of Journalists,

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

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

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

We are observing with profound interest your attitudes in support of our just causes, in the forefront of which is the Palestine question. We emphasize our support and backing to further develop cooperation and joint action together with the Iraqi Journalists Union and Arab Journalists Federation on the path of our common goals in the struggle against imperialism and racist zionism and all reactionary and fascist forces in the world.

Finally, we wish your conference every success in fulfilling its tasks.



Saddam Hussein's Directive To Officials, Workers

tive units of public industrial and agricultural sectors to attain the fundamentally-designed targets of production.

Mr. Saddam Hussein actively participated in the discussions and put forth many comments and



Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), called upon all concerned with production to reject all obsolete practices and build up democratic relations between

remarks on the explanations the heads of enterprises and trade unions were giving.

Though the seminar gave a clear account of the high potentialities and capabilities of the Iraqi

OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES STEP UP PRODUCTION

superiors and subordinates in order to attain higher rate of productivity. He was speaking at the special seminar on the causes of low productivity.

The seminar which commenced on September 7, was attended by a number of members of the Revolution Command Council and the ABSPP Regional Leadership, Cabinet Ministers, heads of state-owned enterprises, heads of trade unions, including the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions and a large number of senior government officials and heads of departments.

The seminar was an important forum for all those who were directly involved in production to express their views without restrictions. The seminar was basically intended to find out the loopholes directly responsible for decline of productivity and the cause of failure of certain produc-

workers as to be creative and productive factors, yet there were several shortcomings to which the Vice-Chairman drew the attention of those concerned and gave his instructions to them to cope with the difficulties urging them to do all they could to step up production and stimulate the factors of production.

Mr. Saddam Hussein said:

"Now the time has come for all of us to act, each from his own position and keenness, and reject all obsolete practices and detrimental manifestations in our social, economic and educational conducts".

Mr. Hussein reaffirmed that the national wealth of any nation was the product of the herd mental and physical effort of its people. Hence, wages and improvement of living standard should by no means be separated from the rate of growth of national



wealth. He said that "new Iraq was actually born in 1968 as an independent and free country. Its huge national resources must be wisely and economically utilized to develop our nation because we cannot accept aid from any country on dishonourable and injurious terms. On the other hand, oil and sulphur are depletable resources. Successive generations have a claim on these resources. Therefore, it is unfair that the present generation utilizes this wealth in an irrational and lavish manner".

Mr. Hussein categorically stated, "We must use this wealth as a basis for the advancement of our agriculture and industry — the least we can offer



If so, why shouldn't we modify the labour law? Isn't it the same political leadership which has drawn up the working paper for labour law? It eventually can reconsider the labour law and close the gaps existing in it. The law is the son of the moment. It derives its provisions from the actuality and from the principles and supreme philosophy of the state. Thus it is subject to modification in the light of the instant need. It rescinds the old and itself becomes old requiring reconsideration in subsequent stages. These are the principles of law and developments of nature".

The seminar was basically based on a working

FREE AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS ON LOW PRODUCTIVITY

to the coming generations — if we fail to preserve for them their share in oil".

The RCC Vice-Chairman warned against the manifestations of indifference and irresponsibility in certain organs of the state which constituted a handicap in the triumphant march of the Revolution. "Dereliction of duty will have to be accounted for; first are the Baathists, then members of other parties of our national front and last is the average citizen will be held accountable for his lapses", Mr. Hussein said.

Mr. Hussein emphasized, "We want a society similar to that of our Arab and Islamic ancestors. The Islamic message would not have reached China without the Koran and the sword, that is, without democracy and punishment".

"In that society, Muslims were democratic in their discussions, but were imposing their conditions on the land in which they wanted to disseminate the Islamic invitation".

Commenting on a proposal calling for the modification of the existing labour laws as to match the developments of other patterns of life today, Mr. Hussein said, "In our Iraqi society we even modify the constitution. We modify it from time to time in accordance with the interest of the people.

paper prepared by a special committee composed of representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Minerals, Central Bureau of Labour, General Federation of Trade Unions and the Iraqi Federation of Industries. Designed to identify, through denotations and actual remarks accompanying the working motion on productivity, the paper contained a number of points dealing with the factors of production.

The first point dealt with external factors. It tackled labour legislations, political system, trade union organization and the social position of the working class.

On the question of labour legislation a few points came up and the need for some modifications to the existing labour laws as to match the massive development that Iraq was witnessing at present were stressed. As to the political system it was said that the will of the political authority was represented in the labour legislations which reflected its theory and philosophy on work and the nature of productive relations with enterprises.

In connection with trade union organisation the paper said, "In a revolutionary era, the trade unions play two-fold role. They have to protect the revolution from its enemies through day-to-day

struggle and actively contribute to the enhancement and promotion of the national economy in a manner that ensures rapid realization of socialist transformations". The paper treated the social position of the working class from a specific angle concentrating on the psychological aspect of the workman on his tribal and rural origin".

The second point was the characteristics of the working individual. In this connection the paper identified the previous sufferings of the workers under the yoke of foreign domination which consequently had generated in them some sense of incapability. The strong-willed ideology of the ABSP could cope with this problem by offering certain thoroughly studied solutions, the paper added.

The third point dealt with internal effects in an enterprise. This point tackled the administrative machinery, description and evaluation of jobs, wages policy and mobility of manpower, technology, raw materials, spare parts and accessories. It also discussed the distribution of manpower, work relations, organs of inspection and supervision and evaluation of productivity. Under each point the paper reviewed the obstacles, identified the causes and put forth remedies and alternatives.

The working paper was the subject of thorough discussions by a number of Ministers, heads of establishments, directors general, heads of popular organizations and heads of trade unions.

The seminar which was extensively covered by the Baghdad television was a frank and candid demonstration of the efforts, whether positive or negative, exerted over the past eight years of our glorious revolution by those responsible. It was for the first time in the history of Iraq that government leaders and officials spoke with such frankness and candour to the people. They even went to the extent of uncovering specific malpractices of certain units of productive machinery.

The seminar pin-pointed the factors responsible for the decline of productivity. Discussions took place on the prerequisites of how to increase production and enhance productivity of the worker and the machine and establish sound productive relations between the organs of production in a manner that ensured the fulfillment of aspirations of the leading party, the Arab Baath Socialist Party, and the great revolution of July 17, 1968.

At the conclusion of the seminar which lasted for three days, all government establishments, enterprises and popular organizations including trade unions organized a series of meetings of their rank and file staff and unionists to brief them about the objectives and significance of the seminar and the valuable directive of RCC Vice-Chairman Mr. Saddam Hussein who urged them to spare no effort to promote the national economy by increasing production.

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OUR FAITH IN AUTONOMY IS UNSHAKABLE

During his recent visit to the northern area (Iraq Today, July 20, 1976) Mr. Saddam Hussein addressed both legislative and executive councils of the autonomous area on separate occasions.

In his two addresses Mr. Hussein emphasized that "The Arab Baath Socialist Party is not confined to Baathists alone. It is the party of all sincere countrymen who have faith in their nation and who defend it. The autonomy shall perpetuate. When it develops, it will forge stronger unity of Iraq".

Touching on the significance of autonomy in relation to the Iraqis as a whole, Mr. Hussein said, "We have to work harder to cement the bases of the autonomy, especially at the present circumstances. We did not establish autonomy just for reasons relating to incidental or circumstantial factors. Our enthusiasm towards autonomy should not diminish or expire just because the hiring insurgency has collapsed. Our faith in autonomy is unshakable".

Mr. Hussein pointed out that there was no difference between the Arabs and Kurds in any point of citizenship. Mr. Hussein cautioned that "discrimination among citizens on cultural and religious considerations or any other illegitimate ground is never permissible — whether today or in the future".

Mr. Hussein, in his address, informed the representatives and executives of the Kurdish people that "we have come here to know your views". He further made it clear to those present that "there is no tax on the creative staunch opinion or on the constructive criticism".

PLENARY MEETING OF PPNF

On September 1 last, the Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Mr. Saddam Hussein, chaired a plenary meeting of the Higher Committee of the Progressive, Patriotic and National Front (PPNF) and its governorate branch committees.

In a short address at the meeting Mr. Hussein spoke of the nature of relations between the parties of the national forces affiliated to the Front. The Vice-Chairman called for "the necessity of stepping up activities of the Front to attain our objectives and strengthen the comradely relations in a constructive and positive spirit, by practising the principle of criticism and self-criticism".

In the same meeting the Front unanimously reaffirmed its faith in the policy of July 17 Revolution and supported the attitudes of the Revolution towards the Arab causes of destiny. The firm and principled support extended by the Iraqi political leadership to the Palestinian Resistance and Lebanese patriotic movement, in their fight against the Syrian-Falangists conspiracy which is being implemented at the wish of the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary circles, received the Front's whole-hearted endorsement.

NEW CONSPIRACIES, NEW ANSWERS

By M. Sadeq Ali



Henry Kissinger



Ian Smith



John Vorster

International counter-revolutionary forces, led by the US imperialists, are intensifying their activities in many parts of the world. In some places, as in Lebanon, these forces are mounting large-scale offensive. In other places, such as Italy, Portugal, Korea and Thailand, they are taking recourse to intimidation, coercion and subversion. And in areas like Southern Africa they are following a policy of carrot and stick — unleashing counter-revolutionary violence against the freedom-loving people on the one hand, and on the other, sending out cunning peace missions with a view to confusing and detracting the liberation fighters and their supporters.

The imperialist counter-revolutionary forces have been regrouping themselves for reversing the progressive current of history since their defeat in 1975 in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and some other areas in South-East Asia and in the former Portuguese colonies of Africa. The consolidation of the progressive forces in the Arab world and the universal recognition of the Palestinian resistance as a national liberation movement upset the old calculations of the imperialists. And the unprecedented solidarity of the Third World countries, led by the Non-aligned Movement, for achieving economic justice and exercising political independence of action drove these forces mad for revenge. Hence this new escalation of international counter-revolutionary activities.

The imperialists are resorting to different tactics for different areas while their strategy remains unchanged.

In Southern Africa, where new imperialist conspiracies are being hatched, the following steps are being taken by the conspirators:

- Augment the military capabilities of the minority white regime of South Africa and forge stronger bonds of military collaboration including nuclear collaboration between the racist regimes of Pretoria and Tel Aviv.
 - Expand, streamline or establish military bases or naval facilities along the African coast with a view to controlling the Cape route to the Indian Ocean and throwing naval blockade around the independent African states as and when the situation will so demand in the face of further intensification of the African revolutionary struggle.
 - Subvert the stability of the newly independent states by hiring agents internally or from European mercenary markets.
 - Mount military adventures or resort to large-scale massacre of local people with the aim of breaking their morale through the racist minority white regime of South Africa and the illegal white ruling clique of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).
- The people of Southern Africa are well aware of the intentions of the counter-revolutionary forces and their imperialist backers. The massive revolutionary upsurge that has been rocking the Southern African areas since the fall of Portuguese colonial rule in the continent, have unnerved the policymakers at Washington and Pretoria. They are, therefore, trying a new tactics which may be summed up as under:
- Win over the newly emerging bourgeoisie of the independent African states.

- b. Divide the ranks of the leadership of the liberation movements by creating a landed aristocracy of black Africans and dangling the assurance of satisfying the bourgeois aspirations of the middle class leadership.
- c. Strike a deal between the existing and potential power elite of the black Africans and the western multi-national companies for preserving what the imperialist conspirators are hawking as "common interests".

The monopoly multi-national companies operating in Africa are the main guarantors of the success of these conspiracies. They finance the recruitment and operation of mercenaries, pay off the locally hired agents, foot the bills of arms purchases, share or offer to share the fruits of exploitation with a section of the local feudal elements and bourgeoisie and help out the internationally ostracized white ruling clique.

The recent visit of Dr. Henry Kissinger to Africa is aimed at implementing the strategic objectives of the imperialists and their multi-national companies through either of the two or both tactical steps. The white regimes and the western monopoly capital have a common stake in Southern Africa and the US imperialists are providing them with the required political wisdom, military cover and scope for deception through dialogue.

THE OIL CONSPIRACY

In Southern Africa the multi-national companies are subverting the efforts of world public opinion to bring about a favourable change in the situation there. As for example in spite of economic sanctions imposed by the UN and most governments ten years ago against the illegal regime of Ian Smith in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), five major oil companies have been secretly supplying that regime with oil for its economic and military survival. A sensational report on the subject has been printed in the September (76) issue of the London-based monthly magazine, "Africa". Under the headline "Rhodesia: The Oil Conspiracy", exposes the collusion among the multi-national oil companies and the minority white regimes of Southern Africa who aim at perpetuating their exploitation of African resources and dominating over the African people.

Ever since the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) in 1965, it has been known that the Smith regime of Southern Rhodesia has been obtaining supplies from the racist regime of South

Africa. But now, for the first time, full documentary proof has revealed exactly how a number of western oil companies have enabled the Smith regime to survive.

The main evidence consists of a series of highly secret policy documents which appear to show how Mobil has been selling petroleum to a Rhodesian government agency. After UDI Mobil set up what it described as a "paper-chassis" in order to hide the fact that MOSA (Mobil South Africa) is in fact supplying MOSR (Mobil Rhodesia) with product in contravention of US sanctions regulations. Mobil in fact set up a highly sophisticated scheme whereby oil products were sold to Rhodesia through a complex chain of intermediaries. The purpose was to avoid investigation into sanctions-busting.

The paper-chase began when Mobil's South African subsidiary sold petrol to Sasol, the government's oil corporation, and was then split into three for accounting purposes. One consignment was sold to Minerals Exploration Ltd., a company set up by Freight Services Ltd., for the purpose. Another consignment was sent through two other 'companies' — first Rand Oils and then W.T. Development — before finally going to Minerals Exploration. The third shipment followed a different path: first to W.T. Development, and then to Rand Oils and Minerals Exploration. After this complicated procedure, Minerals Exploration sold the petrol to a Rhodesian government agency, known as Genta, which imports all the petroleum requirements of the illegal regime at Salisbury. Finally Genta transferred the oil to the five major companies — including Mobil — which distribute petrol inside Rhodesia.

The method of payment was just as complex, with Genta opening an account at a South African bank, and payments working back along the pipeline. Arrangements for setting up dummy companies for passing invoices were also made for the purpose.

Freight Service Ltd., usually hiding behind the name of its subsidiary, Minerals Exploration, is the only intermediary to appear in practically all of Mobil's paper-chases. It seems to act as a co-ordinator for the other companies and helps them with practical details like the printing of invoices forms. And finally, it is one of the few intermediaries which is entrusted with handling of money, not just passing invoices only.

Thus, sanctions-busting has been going on since 1966. Of late Mobil's New York Office denied the above allegations. But such denials will not hide

the operations that have been going on for the last ten years. The US Administration and the UN are reported to be investigating the evidence. They seem to be sitting idle all these years despite the fact that under their very nose Rhodesia's consumption of oil increased by 38 per cent and the Smith regime is now receiving supply of 15,000 barrels of crude oil every day. But will the multi-national companies allow a thorough investigation into the matter?

Mobil is not the only company involved in sanctions-busting. Shell, BP, Caltex and Total are also involved in this profitable trade. Evidence have come to light that Shell and BP are the worst offenders after Mobil. The chassis numbers of tank-wagons that carried oil from Maputo to Salisbury before the closure of Rhodesia's borders with Mozambique are known to many.

Independent sources within South Africa have confirmed Shell's involvement in the trade. When Shell's South African subsidiary plans their future sales, they apparently include a special category entitled 'FS'. This stands for freight Services, and it covers purchases made by the company for subsequent resale to Rhodesia.

Strong evidence suggests that Shell has also become Rhodesia's sole supplier of Avgas 100/130, a vital aviation fuel, and lubricants. Shell is by far the most important oil distributor inside Rhodesia, accounting for 36 per cent.

These giant multi-national companies have been violating sanctions imposed by their own governments as well as United Nations since 1966. Smith derives his audacity to hang on to power in the face of world-wide disapproval only because these financial powers are behind him and they are keeping his economy and armed forces afloat. And behind these companies stand the entire imperialist world.

The Smith regime could not have survived even for eleven days without the active support of the economic, political and military power of the imperialists and neo-colonialists. The oil conspiracy is a part of the grand counter-revolutionary offensive of the imperialists. In order to save the interests of these conspirators, Kissinger and Ramsfield had to visit Africa. Will the master conspirators succeed in taming the African lion through deception, bribery and blackmail? The African revolution has today entered a new phase — the phase of total victory. All conspiracies against its triumphant march will be foiled by the African revolutionary masses of people.

Intensify Struggle Against Arms Race and For Just Peace

by Muheyeddin Ismail

In the last three decades, sophisticated death-dealing weapons such as atomic, hydrogen and nuclear missiles with all their devastating consequences have caused some radical changes in warfare, making conventional strategy of yesterday obsolete, and consequently have changed the features of our age.

The first radical change was marked by the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Since that time, weapons development proceeded more rapidly than any ideas about how to use these new weapons, or how to control them. Cities, villages, harbours and ports of all kinds became easy targets for these devastating weapons. These developments necessitated that a stable and consistent programme of international cooperation for peace under which economic prosperity, stabilisation, freedom and progress could be realised.

The striving peoples, especially in the Third World have pledged their commitment to the policy of peace, and decided to face the complex challenges related to the questions of peace.

* Since the end of the Second World War, the world has grown accustomed to some certain qualitative changes. Earlier times knew nothing about such swift sweeping revolutions in the human life. So, man in this explosive age, under these new circumstances, is trying to consort himself with a world which is picking up speed 'in all walks of life.

* The nations all over the world have had their feet on the path — an arduous path — of a future conceived with much prospects.

* At the same time and immediately after the end of the Second World War, some hotbeds of war and conflicts emerged, and despite all the agreements concluded among the big powers, it cannot be gainsaid that the arms race has not been halted, but it is still a heavy drain on material and moral resources of mankind.

These are the main characteristics of our present "explosive age", which mirror deep crises and generate contradictions, but at the same time intensify the autonomous activities and energetic struggle of the peoples to bring about radical changes to secure freedom, progress and development.

But however, nobody can blink the fact that during these decades, we notice that military clashes have, from time to time, flared up here or there, especially in the Third World countries which are struggling for their independence and progress. The aggressive imperialist circles, the advocates of the positions of strength policy and the racists of all hue have conducted and continue to conduct aggressive assaults against the people and their legitimate rights. But these victories achieved by struggling peoples in the Third World have shown convincingly that imperialism failed to suppress the spirit of the peoples throughout the post-war period all over the hotspots in the world. It is quite obvious now that the present struggle for final liquidation of imperialism and neo-colonialism are entering its decisive concluding stage, and the remaining enclaves of imperialism will not survive long.

This is no longer the wishful dreams of the peoples, but the logic and verdict of the age.

This explosive age with all these hotbeds of war and conflict is characterised by a renunciation — in stentorian tones — of war and use of armed force as a means of settling disputes among nations and abandonment of blocks and military alliances and offensive military pacts.

It is the bidding of the age that all the peoples in the Third World are more than ever resolved to refuse all sorts of tutelage and to become masters of their fate. Furthermore it is the logic of this explosive age, again, that no more voracious and aggressive brutal acts will break the will of these peoples. These peoples, through bitter experiences of struggle, are well aware that there is indisputable interdependence between the struggle for liberation on the one hand, and the struggle of eliminating all hotbeds in the world for curbing the arms race in the world, on the other hand.

Now it is axiomatic to say that military-political adventures practised by imperialists, racists and their hirlings everywhere and the use of force are among the main factors which impede the stepping up of progress and development in the world, es-

pecially the developing countries. Peaceful international relations would enable these countries to overcome more easily their social and economic backwardness and introduce extensively the latest achievements of science and technology in order to speed up the growth rates of progress. We all know that more than half of the world's potentials and resources, scientific and technological is being used for military purposes. So, the speedy and effective solution of the arms race problems would provide stimuli for accelerating progress and creating objective conditions and prerequisites for building up new progressive societies, especially in the Third World, and liquidating the trouble spots from the Pacific to Palestine and from the Indian Ocean to Pretoria.

Proceeding from this constant view based on ideological principles, Iraq called on many occasions, on liquidating the positions of strength policy, putting out hotspots, curbing the arms race and use of force in conflicts, as the only way to establish and deepen equal cooperation among the nations.

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr in his message to the mass rally held at the National Council for Peace and Solidarity (NCPS) on 25 August, 1976, asserted that "the call for ending the armament race and for banning nuclear and other mass-destructive weapons is a human demand and held tenaciously by the entire people of the world in defence of their security and of their right to achieve a free and decent life in which there can be no place for aggression, oppression, exploitation or war".

The persistent efforts of Iraq in the international arena, acting hand in hand with all the peace-loving peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America, display its conviction that peace is the objective demand of all the nations, and this objective stems from the very nature of the age.

But there will be no real peace unless the positive content on international security is determined on the supreme principles of justice and equality among nations.

The Third Anniversary

A DAY IN OCTOBER

October is a beautiful time of the year in this part of the world. The days are sunny without having the terrible heat of summer and everything

The Iraqi Armed Forces in the October War

prominent generals — Arik Sharon — declared of late that the 'Israel Defence Force' can occupy all the Arab territory stretching between Baghdad and Khartoum in a week?

As they looked from their bunkers they could see across the Suez Canal Egyptian soldiers going about their business nonchalantly as they had been doing ever since the ceasefire agreement in 1970. There was no tension in the air, no ominous signs. It seemed just like any other day of peace.

But it wasn't really-the day was the sixth of October 1973.

A CONCERTED ATTACK

At 14.00 O'clock the bombardment commenced on both the Syrian and Egyptian fronts. It was short and sharp.

On the canal front, Egyptian soldiers were crossing on ferry boats and pontoon bridges. Within a couple of hours masses of infantry and armour had crossed the waterway and encircled the Bar Lev fortifications.

In the Golan area, Syrian commandos stormed the so-called 'Eye of Israel', the strategic observation post on top of Mount Hermon (Jebel el-Sheikh, in Arabic). From this vantage point, the enemy could see almost all Syrian troop movements within a radius of many miles. Now it was again in Arab hands after a brief but violent fight. Elsewhere on the plateau, Syrian armour was mounting a huge attack, spreading destruction and panic in Zionist lines and achieving a breakthrough in many places.

The Zionist entity, after its initial shock, managed to declare full mobilization and dispatch reinforcements to the two fronts to stem the tide of Arab attack. The battles raged in Sinai and the Golan Heights with unsurpassed intensity, and the great surprise of the day was the remarkable skill with which the Egyptian infantry troops used their armour-piercing missiles against the U.S. and British-made tanks of the Zionists. In a few minutes, a whole armour brigade had ceased to exist, with its commander, Col. Asaf Yagout, surrendering to the Egyptian forces together with many of his troops.

The Zionists had reverted to their bluff tactics of the June War (1967) only to find to their dismay that they were now fighting a totally different kind of war.



by F. al-Mansoury

is enveloped in the haze of mid-utumn, thereby taking on an aspect of slight unreality that is almost dreamlike.

In such pleasant weather it is easy to relax and watch the shadows lengthen as time goes by almost unnoticed.

For the Zionist soldiers in their fortified positions on Mount Hermon and in the Bar Lev line in the Sinai peninsula, it was a time of peace, their peace — Pax Hebraica. They were the new master race — the modern day children of Moses who had come, seen and conquered, so they could well afford to bask in the lovely autumn sunshine.

It is true they were slightly uneasy about unconfirmed reports reaching them which warned of an imminent Arab attack, but they were not unduly disturbed. After all, hadn't one of their most

In the first few days of the war, General Avraham Mender, commander of the armoured forces in Sinai, was killed and his brigades were in disarray.

On the Syrian front, the Arab onslaught had succeeded in liberating almost the whole territory conquered by the Zionists in the blitzkrieg of 1967. Now once again the Syrian soldiers stood on the heights overlooking the Galilee region of Occupied Palestine.

But in the moment of supreme triumph the Syro-Egyptian strategy showed its built-in cracks with the result that victory was almost slipping away.

IRAQ TAKES THE INITIATIVE

Within a few hours of the fateful attack an emergency joint meeting of the National Leadership and Iraqi Regional Leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party as well as the Revolution Command Council was held in Iraq to discuss Baghdad's role in the war. Iraq had been excluded from the Syrian-Egyptian deliberations concerning the war. Both the leadership of the country and its people had been taken by surprise as they heard the momentous news on the radio.

And yet there wasn't a moment of hesitation before Iraq decided to commit all its resources to what it considered as being the battle of destiny for all Arabs.

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr telephoned both President Sadat and the head of the Syrian regime to inform them that Iraq placed its armed forces at their disposal for the battle. Already in April, that is, five months before the outbreak of the war, Iraq had dispatched a squadron of Hawker Hunters (ground attack aircraft) to Egypt to bolster its air force, and this squadron was taking part in the first sorties against enemy positions in Sinai.

On the seventh of October, the Iraqi leadership had taken the following decision:

First: The nationalization of America's share in the Basra Oil Company.

Second: The dispatch of more aircraft to the Syrian front.

Third: The dispatch of an expeditionary force to the same front.

Already that morning, the first units of the 8th Infantry Brigade, which is completely mechanized, began to move towards the Syrian frontier. At the same time, Damascus was asking for the immediate dispatch of two Iraqi armoured divisions. The Zionist counter-attack had been so relentless that the Syrian forces had to fall back, thereby forfeiting all their initial gains.

THE MARCH ACROSS THE DESERT

After the Iraqi political leadership had taken the decision to throw all the country's armed might into the battle, the military command had

now to solve the enormous problems of transportation. First and foremost, there was the question of distance. Some Iraqi military bases lay 1450 kilometres from the Golan front. An army cannot march in the same way that cow flies across a given distance. Furthermore, an army moving across a desert becomes an easy prey to the enemy air force. Lastly, there was the difficulty arising out of the shortage in tank carriers. There were simply not enough carriers to transport around 700 tanks.

However, these enormous problems did not deter the Iraqi command. The special forces were transported to the front by means of an air fleet and the tanks which did not have carriers to carry them had to travel on their tracks. This way would harm their tracks and actually shorten their engine life, but there was simply no other alternative in this race for time. The armour had to reach the battlefield in the shortest possible time.

At the same time, the most painstaking measures had to be taken in order to ensure the safety of the long column as it traversed the open desert. In the 1967 war, the Iraqi column had been attacked by the Zionist air arm even before it reached its destination. This experience was not to be repeated. Consequently, the Iraqi ground forces marched under an impenetrable umbrella of Iraqi fighter aircraft.

In his book, 'Earthquake in October', the Zionist military commentator, Z'efi Shaf, admitted that while:

"In the Six-Day War, our air force succeeded in finding the positions of the Iraqi force as it moved towards the front and inflicted heavy losses on it. This time, however, the Iraqis were more cautious; they marched at night and the Israelis could not discover their positions". This is in fact a poor argument when we remember that the Zionist air force prided itself on its prowess in night operations. If the Iraqi army escaped damage from the air, this is not merely because it marched at night. Moving under cover of darkness was merely one of the precautions taken against air attack. There were several others.

EUPHORIA

Two days after the outbreak of the October War, a senior official of the Syrian regime visited Baghdad and called on Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council. Mr. Hussein told his visitor: 'We sent you planes on the second day of the fighting, and if tanks had wings they too would reach you on the same day. Rest assured that we shall do our utmost so that our forces arrive at the front on the earliest possible date'.

Explaining Iraq's position, a senior Iraqi official made the following statement: 'Ours is a regime which is based on principles, and one of our most

exalted principles calls upon us to play our role on the pan-Arab level in the struggle against the enemy. We shall not stay out of the war'.

Arriving in Damascus, the Iraqi general commanding the expeditionary force told the Syrian commander-in-chief: 'An army has come to you whose column stretches from Baghdad to Damascus'.

He was not exaggerating, for, practically the whole of the Iraqi army was converging on the front from its diverse bases. As for the Iraqi people, they were in the grip of euphoria. For them, the battle for the liberation of Palestine — so long overdue — had at long last come. As the army units marched towards the battlefield, people would slaughter sheep by the hundreds, prepare them for cooking, cover them and leave them by the road to be picked up by the troops.

The main roads were deserted by the civilian traffic so that nothing may hinder the march of the army, and despite the countless numbers of moving vehicles—tanks, buses, personnel carriers, lorries, staff cars, propelled guns, tank-carriers, traffic jams were at a minimum, thanks to the efforts of the military traffic police. Although Iraq had entered the war at short notice, its modern army was not unprepared for the eventuality. Indeed, everything was progressing smoothly and at maximum speed. Military observers could well admire the efficiency and competence of the Iraqi high command.

Morale was very high and soldiers and officers who had been on leave, were now joining their units even before being called up. Units which had not received orders to join the expeditionary force were now clamouring for such orders.

THE SYRIAN ATTACK AND RETREAT

In order to put the events of the war in their proper perspective we have to cast a glance at the developments on the Syrian front ever since the zero hour at 14,00 O'clock. After a ninety minute bombardment in which 140 field batteries and Katusha rocket launchers took part aided by a 100 MIGs and Suchoi-7s, Syrian armour and infantry launched their general attack on the so-called Allon Line which stretched from Majdal Shems in the north of the Golan plateau to Wadi Yermuk in the south.

The Syrian order of battle was as follows:

1. The 7th Mechanized Infantry Division.
2. The 9th Mechanized Infantry Division.
3. The 5th Mechanized Infantry Division.
4. The 1st Tank Division.
5. The 3rd Tank Division.
6. The 78th Armoured Brigade.
7. The 70th Armoured Brigade.
8. The Moroccan Brigade.
9. Detachments of helicopter-borne Special

Forces (Assigned to capture the enemy observation post on Mount Hermon).

Facing the Syrian attack were the following Zionist formations:

1. Mechanized Infantry Brigade (Golani). This brigade was stationed in 11 fortified positions stretching from Masada to Tel-el-Saqi. It was protected by a mine field.
2. 37th Armoured Brigade stationed in a line three to five kilometres behind the positions of the Golani Brigade.
3. The 7th Armoured Brigade.
4. Between 11 and 20 artillery battalions.

In overall command of this so-called northern front was the Zionist major-general Ytzak Hoffi.

Employing blitzkrieg tactics the Syrian armour and infantry pierced the Zionist lines within hours, taking the two villages of Chokhdar and Khushniya and completely destroying the 37th Armoured Brigade as well as mauling the Golani Brigade which is the elite infantry force in the Zionist army.

As the Syrian rapid advance came to threaten what the Zionists call their 'Great Line' (meaning the 1949 boundaries of occupied weight into the northern front, giving only secondary attention to the far away Sinai battlefield).

While the Syrian forces were in the process of eliminating resistance pockets in the territory they had liberated, three Zionist brigade groups (the Zionists call them Ugdas) were advancing towards the line. The new Zionist battie order was as follows:

1. Raafael Syrian group in the north comprising the 79th Armoured Brigade and the 31st Paratrooper Brigade.
2. Dan Lerner's group in the centre comprising the 17th, 14th and 19th Brigades.
3. Moshe Peled's group in the south comprising the two brigades: the 20th and the 60th.

Frightened by their reverses, the Zionist leaders had called up their former commanders to active duty. Thus the former chief of staff Haim Barlev, then a minister of transport in G'olda Meir's government, was dispatched north to air Hoffi.

At 8.30 on the 8th of October, the Zionist counter-offensive was launched in full force.

The Zionists were now fighting with fresh forces against the exhausted Syrian troops who had been fighting more or less non-stop for almost three days. The Syrians had also incurred fearful losses in men and equipment during their massive attack, and as they were now beyond the range of their SAM bases, they were becoming increasingly threatened by the enemy airforce.

They had to fall back.

This was the situation on the Golan front when the Iraqi forces began to arrive at the battlefield.



TORTURE ZIONIST STYLE

* The "Israeli" intelligence centre attached to the Nablus prison.

* Mascubia jail in Jerusalem, a few steps away from the holy sites.

* Beir Shiba in the occupied land for long term torture.

These, as all the Western media know, are only a few of the "Israeli" torture factories where men, women and adolescents of both sexes are systematically degraded, maimed and subjected to unbearable pain. But again these objects of torture are only Arabs!

However, just for the record, the following are some of the ingenious methods applied by the

It is reassuring to note the humane concern of the American Time magazine (August 16, 76) over the plague of torture. However, the media must be well aware by now, that the worst thing anyone can do with regard to such issues is to apply a double standard. Time tells us that there were "more than 40 violating states" and goes on to cite some states by name. However, due to a sudden and acute bout of amnesia, no doubt, the American magazine overlooks a major culprit: "Israel", where the worst type of race-oriented torture, after the Nazi pattern, is, as the magazine well knows institutionalized.

"Throughout much of the world", Time laments, "army barracks, police stations, offices and special wards in hospitals have been turned into interrogation centers, whose express purpose is inflicting hideous and often unbearable pain".

Unless Times subscribes to the "Israeli" view that the Arabs are beyond the human pale, it should have cited, as outstanding and most sophisticated examples of such centres of wholesale tortures and hideous pain, the following "Israeli" torture factories:

* Salfard jail where the victims are kept in storage, between torture sessions, in underground dungeons, 24 steps deep, chained to the walls.



"Israelis" who are so admired in the West:

* The banal and time-honoured method of cigarette burns;

* beatings on the sensitive areas and genitals (special plastic canes are used for maximum effects on the genitals);

* the insertion of an outside match in the penis and setting of the match alight;

* stringing the victim from his wrists with heavy weights hanging from his ankles, this method is called "al-shabb" and is very common;

* the "green door" method which is a modern variation of the middle-ages rack;

* seating the victim naked on a chair with open thighs and setting trained dogs to savage his genitals;

* forcing truncheons into the rectum;

* stuffing both ears with crushed ice and freezing the genitals through burial in crushed ice for long periods;

* stuffing the mouth with salt and forcibly shutting it;

* forcing the erect penis into a wire coil attached to a table leg and banging the table.

* the "wet submarine" method mentioned by Time magazine, however the "Israelis" invariably immerse the head of the victim into urine:

* the method of the ancient barbarians: burial up to the neck in sand, the "Israeli" innovation is a hail of bullets about the victim's head;

* incarceration in special cells where flashes of various coloured strong lights drive the prisoner to near madness; and

* deprivation of sleep for prolonged periods.

Although the genitals figure prominently in most of these methods, rape, understandably enough, is rarely resorted to. We say "understandably enough" because such acts with a gentle female would "defile" the Zionist torturer. Hence the most prevalent form of psychological torture reserved for Arab women in "Israeli" jails is the collection urinating by a group of torturers on the naked body.

The following young ladies suffered this humiliation in "Israeli" jails:

1. Miss Haifa'a Abdel Hadi, daughter of Mrs. Abdel Hadi, the president of the General Federation of Palestinian Women.

2. Miss Mary al-Shakhshire, who is serving a life sentence and who also suffered torture by being strung from her wrists with weights hanging from her ankles.

3. Miss Seham al-Wazri, who mercifully did not survive torture at the hands of the indigenous "Israelis".

Again, these are but a few methods out of the vast and grisly repertoire of the "Israeli" torturers.

What is really amazing is that all this and much worse is known to Time magazine and the Western media, at least through the reports of such international committees as Amnesty International and the UN Committee on Human Rights which have repeatedly condemned "Israel" for heinous crimes against humanity. And yet, not a word in all that humane exposé of Time magazine.

(M.M.)



A delegation representing the ABSP led by Comrade Shibly al-Aysami, ABSP's Assistant Secretary General and a delegation representing the Lebanese National Movement, holding discussions on the Lebanese and Pan-Arab situation, in Baghdad on September 23.



Mr. Saddam Hussein, RCC Vice-Chairman calling at the Embassy of People's Republic of China on September 18. Mr. Hussein signed the condolence book expressing his sorrow at the death of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. Mr. Hussein described Chairman Mao as "one of the most prominent socialist leaders in the world".

NEWS IN PICTURES



President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr congratulating the Iraqi Armed Forces on the occasion of the Ramadan Feast.



Mr. Adnan Hussein, Minister of Planning, reviewing on September 19, the planning and development policy in Iraq with visiting Indian delegation headed by Mr. Sharma, Commandant of the Indian National Defence College.



Dates to Eat Fronds to Write on



The date palm is known, since time immemorial, to be the most cherished tree to the people of Iraq. It is a source of food and it meets other multi-purpose needs. There are more than twenty million fruit-bearing palms, mostly in the south, which produce something like 350,000 tons of various varieties of dates, mainly for domestic consumption. Five major varieties are exported to world markets, where demand is on the increase.

Besides dates, the palm is a source of raw material. The trunk was used in the old days in house-roofing, and the date

stones in making animal fodder.

Recently, it was discovered, after extensive research and laboratory tests which took nearly 30 years, that the palm fronds could be used for making paper and cellulose products.

Back in 1974, and due to the scarcity of cellulose raw material for the Basrah Paper Mill, Iraqi scientists and research workers decided on utilizing palm fronds for pulp making, and if successful, to save the hard currency spent on importing the pulp.

The Paper Mill Company collected some 1.5 million palm fronds to conduct on them the ex-

periment which proved a success by Iraqi and international laboratories. In August last, the Mill's machinery ran to produce the pulp and the paper. Some 100 tons of pulp were produced, and various types of high quality papers steamed out to prove the suitability of palm fronds in paper making.

It is worth mentioning that the paper industry was set up in Iraq in 1967 when a contract was signed with a foreign firm to complete the project in 1971. Production based on imported pulp.

The total cost of paper industry projects is ID. 140 million, which includes the Maysan Paper Mill, set up at a cost of ID. 70 million.

In addition to the introduction of palm fronds as raw material in the manufacture of paper, reeds, which are abundant in the southern marshes, are now used. The Basrah Paper Mill utilizes 50,000 tons of reeds annually. It also uses the refuse of sugar-cane supplied by Maysan Sugar Mill at an annual capacity of 10,000 tons.

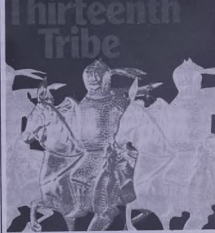
The annual productive capacity of Basrah Mill is 40,000 tons of newsprint, wrappers, duplex cartons, craft paper, and other varieties of paper. There are 452 engineers and other employees besides 1448 workers working in the Mill.

REPORT

BOOKS

Arthur Koestler

The Khazar Empire
and Its Heritage



by Arthur Koestler
Publisher: Hutchinson, London 255 pages
Reviewed by Medhat Magar

This is a book that has convincingly refuted the Zionist claim to "a promised land". As a matter of fact, the book is much more than that. What it actually says is that the whole concept of 'the chosen people' is pure illusion.

Koestler, however, has not unearthed or stumbled on something new. Many scholars, old and modern, knew the story of the Khazars and deduced the obvious Koestler himself says so more than once in his book.

The Thirteenth Tribe (it has always been said that the 'tribes of Israel' were twelve) were a pagan people of Turkish origin who lived on a stretch of land between the Black Sea and the Caspian. Koestler quotes the Arab Chronicler, Ibn-Said al-Maghribi, as saying "As to the Khazars, they are to the north of the inhabited earth towards the 7th climate. Their land is cold and wet. Accordingly, their complexions are white, their eyes blue, their hair flowing and predominantly reddish, their bodies large and their nature cold. Their general aspect is wild". Again, he tells us that a Georgian chronicler, echoing an ancient tradition, identifies them with the hosts of Gog and Magog (and describes them as): "wild men with hideous faces and the manners of wild beasts, eaters of blood". He

also quotes an Armenian writer who refers to 'the horrible multitude of Khazars with insolent, broad, toothless faces'. But the Arab Geographer, al-Ishtakri, Koestler tells us, has this to say about those Khazars: "(They) do not resemble the Turks. They are black-haired, and are of two kinds, are called the Kara-Khazars (Black Khazars) who are swarthy verging on deep black and a white kind."

It seems that the record could be pieced together from Arab sources. Al-Yakubi, a ninth-century Arab historian, traces the origins of the Khazars to Japheth, third son of Noah... other legends connect them with Abraham.

The Khazars were caught in the midst of the power struggle between the Arab and Byzantine Empires. They opted out of the dilemma by embracing the Jewish faith. This, as Koestler tells us, was not a religious conversion from paganism to monotheism; it was, simply and characteristically, a foreign policy expedient. To become Moslems would have put them on the wrong side of one power. To become Christians would have caused them no end of complications. Their 'heat bargain' was the Jewish faith: both Moslems and Christians held that religion in respect. And that is exactly what the Khazars did, according to Koestler.

"If so," writes Koestler, "this would mean that the ancestors (of the surviving Jews in the world, a large majority of whom is of Eastern European — and thus perhaps, mainly of Khazar — origin) came not from Jordan, but from the Volga, not from Canaan but from the Caucasus, once believed to be the cradle of the Aryan race; and that genetically they are more closely related to the Hun, Uigur and Magyar tribes than the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Should this turn out to be the case, the term 'anti-semitism' would become void of meaning, based on a misapprehension shared by both the killers and their victims. The story of the Khazar Empire, as it slowly emerges from the past, begins to look like the most cruel hoax which history has ever perpetrated."

In Part One of his heavily documented and thoroughly researched book, Koestler traced the history of the Khazar Empire. In Part Two (Chapter 5, 6 and 7) he compiled a respectable mass of historical evidence which, in his own words, "indicates that the bulk of Eastern Jewry — he here means of world Jewry — is of Khazar — Turkish, rather than Semitic origin. In the last chapter of his book he calls to his aid the science of anthropology. Again, in his own words, "anthropology concurs with history in refuting the popular belief in a 'Jewish race' descended from the biblical tribe."

Starting by being meticulous in his historical research, Koestler ended up by 'lacking self-consistency' when he justifies the existence of 'Israel' on grounds completely divorced from his argument. He maintains that although this racist entity has neither ethnic, nationalist nor historical claim to the land of Palestine, it "exists de jure and de facto, and cannot be undone, except by genocide." A renegade from his previous record, Koestler possibly couldn't go through with his work to be one of the subscribers to the only possible solution to the problem: a democratic secular state.

FACTS ABOUT PALESTINE

The Rabid Rabbi on the Warpath Again



The target of Cahan's Organization

Maer Cahan, the Zionist thug, who used to embarrass the Americans by the overt violence and high-handed methods of his "Jewish Defence League," has been entrusted with a new task in the occupied land.

As usual the section of the Zionist press set aside for the projection of a "liberal" image of "Israel" namely, "Haartz" and Uri Avneri's "Haolam Hazeh", in their own way, and for their own purposes, told the story of the rabid Rabbi's latest enterprise: he is mounting a campaign to "kick out" 400,000 Arabs from the occupied lands.

According to Haartz (22 July 76) Cahan promises the world that his organization will adopt any and every means to impel the "Arab minority" to

leave. "We shall offer them compensation. If they accept, well and good. If they don't we shall not hesitate to resort to extreme forms of violence. We shall not stop short of collective massacres. We want a purely Jewish state. In that state there is no place for any other race beside the Jews".

Many of the "incidents" of the past few months may be seen in the light of the programme which is being implemented by the Rabbi's "shock troops" on the campuses and among the Arab workers and peasants. On May 26 Uri Avneri's magazine Haolam Hazeh carried a strongly worded attack on the violence of extremist Jewish students of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem against Arab students demonstrating against the recent killing of unarmed civilians by the security forces. The paper said: "In all universities in the Western world the students are the vanguard of the struggle for social reform and peace. There the students attempt in various ways — moderate, radical, leftist and liberal — to change the world according to some vision of peace and progress. Israel is the only country in the Western world in which a reverse process is taking place. In order to make a successful career among the Israeli student public, a young activist must be a reactionary, a warmonger, a hater of nations and a preacher of hate".

The Rabbi's terrorist organization operates under the name "Kach". Some of the reports carried by such magazine as Haolam Hazeh, show that Cahan's organization and activities cannot be dismissed as actions of any "lunatic fringe", this label being the customary means used by the Western press to throw a cloak of triviality over such organizations whenever their true identity has to be hidden from the public eye. It is obvious that Mr. Cahan is being financed and supported by various power interests in US, Canada, Western Europe, South Africa and Australia. As a matter of fact the Rabbi seems to have unlimited funds at his disposal and his "Jewish Defence League" seems to be developing very fast into a veritable Zionist army of "storm troopers".



represented by leading world media in the West, as a broil of savage fighting initiated by simple religious motives! But is the scene really as it looks?

On first sight it may appear that the Zionists, especially through their own media in the West, have kept out of the Lebanese war to watch, not without "sympathy" (sic), what is happening, and to wish "all the best" for everybody! This has been the image of "Israel" in the minds of people deluded by the "Zionist propaganda acrobatics", but not for long. It is now evident that those who play the role of a tender nurse in southern Lebanon are those who have been backing the fascist right-wing Phalangists (with funds, weapons, ammunition and experts) in northern Lebanon not just recently, but long before anybody expected. Even long before the war itself broke out in Lebanon! Reports even show much more than that.

Just very recently the "Time" weekly revealed that an unpublicized alliance between the Zionist government and the Phalangists has been at work to exterminate the Palestinians — the real target of the whole affair — and to set up an extreme right-wing pro-Zionist government there after the

sought after defeat of the progressive left in Lebanon. Also, it was revealed that Shimon Peres, the Zionist Minister of War, has been on 4 secret visits to Lebanon, with Rabin, the Prime Minister, accompanying him on the 4th visit, to discuss with the Phalangists details of the current Zionist sea blockade of Lebanese coast to prevent any outside medical assistance reach the Palestinians, or the Lebanese progressive left forces. It has never been a surprise that the Zionists were always in the tracks of the wounded Palestinian!

What is surprising in fact, is that apart from the considerations that it was "Israel" who fuelled the fighting, backed the reactionary right-wing bourgeoisie against the progressive left, tried to picture the fighting in Lebanon as a religious war, "Israel" is now posturing as a 'tender nurse' who heals the wounds of a few war-stricken Lebanese farmers in southern Lebanon! The so-called "good fence policy is nothing more than a "good propaganda" policy. In fact it is more like a disguise who sets out to kill in the morning and then in the evening, comes and pretends to mourn the dead and help the stricken!

Typically Zionist!



The Aqsa Mosque on fire

On the morning of August 21, eight years ago, the one called Michel Rohan sneaked in inside the Aqsa Mosque with a determination to set fire to the place. Although the Zionist authorities — which occupied Jerusalem in 1967 — were immediately notified, of the "event", it was not until two hours had elapsed that a tiny fire brigade arrived on the scene! Naturally there was not much hope.

Knowing that the Aqsa Mosque holds the same sacred degree in the hearts of Moslems as the Resurrection Church in the hearts of Christians the world over, the Zionists couldn't afford doing so openly what they usually do when they dynamite whole unheard-of Palestinian villages, for example. Instead, they commissioned Rohan,

an Australian, for the crime and prepared the scene for what was to follow: a mock trial, a psychiatric warrant of being insane and certainly his release, shortly after.

The crime was so well planned and executed especially since no one dared to question the validity of the "Israeli" psychiatric report that Rohan was indeed believed to be "mad". However, one little detail was not made clear by the Zionists: How could a "madman" be accepted as a working member in the "Jewish Kibbutzim" (Zionist settlers) a few months earlier to the incident? Surely, no one would be credulous enough (though some people are if it has anything to do with the Zionists) to believe that a fully normal person, without any apparent reason, might 'run mad' in the course of three months!

Having seen that world reaction did not exceed some indignant cries — sometimes high-pitched — the Zionists became too confident especially, it seems, with relation to mosques! Be it religious fanaticism or the desire to test the ever-weakening reaction to their crimes, just recently the Zionists repeated the crime of the Aqsa Mosque on a smaller scale but in a different way. They brought down a whole Arab Mosque situated in Hebron even before its construction was completely over! During a Zionist news broadcast, the incident was dismissed by saying that the area 'was wanted for building Jewish houses'!

(M.M.)

Nurse or Killer?

The scene of Arabs "fighting each other" with "Israel" standing by as a 'tender nurse' is one that is, needless to say, so much a credit to her as it is a discredit to the Arabs. Add to this, that the fighting in Lebanon, far from its real identity, is purely



Kassim Hawal

"THE MARSHES" and A Talk About Iraqi Cinema

During the first festival for Iraqi films, organised recently by the General Establishment for Cinema and Theatre, more than one sign became evident to prove that documentary cinema was receiving due attention. The documentary cinema — or cinema of the truth — has been progressing steadily since the July 17 Revolution.

As a clear indicator of the revolutionary formula of information, the festival was significant. In fact, it was part of a grand project laid down by the Establishment for Cinema and — being carried out since the beginning of this year.

The 1976 Festival presented 14 films, most of which portrayed the new Iraq from different angles: ancient civilization... eradication of illiteracy... agriculture and the countryside... factories... social harmony... policy towards pan-Arab questions... etc.

by Riyad Abdul Karim

Despite the success achieved and the satisfaction and appreciation with which the public received the festival, the Establishment for Cinema cherishes greater ambitions. Being intent on constantly improving this kind of production, the establishment has closely taken into consideration the importance of stressing the aspect of truth and more intimate dealings with the masses when it sets out to tackle any question.

... through marriage... bright smiles. In fact the film said more than that. But the question remains: Why was it the marshes?

Now it is Mr. Hawal's turn to talk about his work.

— The film was part of my ambitions, a task. I was bent on exploring, by means of the camera, lives crowded with these kinds of problems existing amongst the social strata that lag behind modern social life. Those whom we call toilers, people who have a real claim to progress... I do know them quite well, I feel in-



clined towards them... no estrangement whatsoever.

As for the Establishment for Cinema and Theatre, I can say that its desire coincides with mine; because cinema today has become a persistent question in need for immediate development.

The establishment is doing that by means of bringing this art closer to the living reality... In this way we find the marshes — a world that suffered long years of underdevelopment — is now undergoing industrialization. In fact, the marshes are being turned into a broad industrial base, a more proper reality for the Mesopotamians, a people of a great ancient civilization. The film has also focussed the attention on the aesthetic values of the marshes' inhabitants.

"The Marshes": Simple and Difficult

The marshes, and people... inside this world which is still living its own way, undoubtedly

the camera had so many chances for exploration. There must have been some astonishing facts which emerged. Could you tell us about the results achieved by the film as you see them? ...

— The camera was the real explorer all throughout the tour. Simultaneously, it was difficult and simple to shed a light over the interior of those people. The difficulty stems from the unsuitability. In other words, a large number of cameras were often seen by the marshes' inhabitants while they were waiting for something else instead: information

was going for the better after the Revolution, and that these scenes would be the criterion by which we will see in the future, through comparison, how much behind we have left and how much we have achieved before and after the Revolution. In short, this is the aim and purpose of documentary cinema — cinema of the truth.

A New Point of Departure:

After the success the film has achieved and winning of the festival's first prize, you won the prize

in other words, we have to look at the present with an eye on the future.

If we can realize this vision, I am sure we could catch up with modern civilization, achieve local transformation, and the civilized human art. The world sees us through our tradition, through our present which translates our tradition into an acceptable formula for our living reality. When we have done a good cinema and we are about to succeed — we have put man and the new transformation in their proper place: ci-



A natural mode of life in the marshland.



One of the tasks of July 17 Revolution is to change the backward conditions in the marshes.

and answers about their life and future. In fact it is something like conditional antipathy. Because, when the blue-eyed invaders discovered this area, so strange and charming compared to their "foggy alleys", they overdid it with the marshes' inhabitants that the latter developed a semi-instinctive hatred for cameras — so you see, it was not easy to get along with them while having a camera around!

With days passing, however, their world began to reveal itself before us; we had long discourses, we even had a very friendly time together and they began to look for the future with optimism. Some of our scenes together were recorded and projected on the screen, and the rest we kept for the future, confident that all

for the best director. Therefore, could we consider this documentary film to be a new point of departure for a better documentary cinema?

— I think the film was successful for a simple reason: it is realistic. Realism was the theme as well as the target. In addition, there was this dramatic and artistic outline which interacted dialectically with the theme. This was stated about the film as being a new starting-point in Iraqi documentary cinema.

All what we hope for is a better studied documentary and feature cinema to go along with our revolutionary concepts and the ambitions of the masses. This ambition should be sustained by a scientific working-plan; in

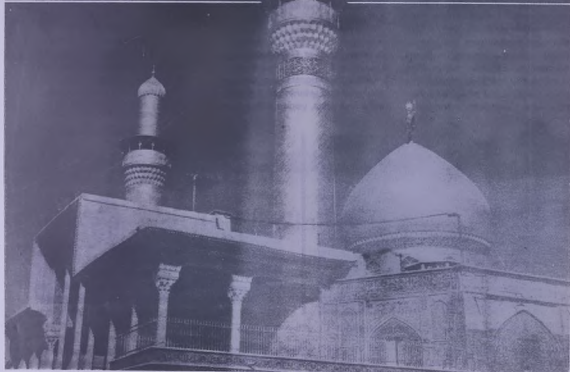
relevance with its deep human relevance.

Other Projects:

After your success, is there any determination to choose subjects similar to the "marshes" in the future?

— I said before... I am more inclined to deal with whom I know and love... my next theme will be about the working class. I shall be discussing the conditions of those workers who were deprived of their rights before the revolution, and some of whom are still suffering under the dying private sector. The film will be in a narrative form which contains many documentary facts included in the stylizing of the representation.

THE GENIUS OF ARAB CIVILIZATION



The Holy Shrines in Najaf: The Gold Minarets and dome are masterpiece of Arabic architecture.

by Ibrahim Madkour

Source of Renaissance

In any society, culture is the offspring of many factors: human potential, creative consciousness, intellectual and spiritual vitality, real achievement and progress, and freedom, among others. In the Arab society of the early eighth century, the potential for extraordinary cultural achievement clearly existed. The introduction of Islam into that society generated creative activity within the Arab consciousness. By providing new purpose and a new sense of direction, it unified a loose assemblage of tribes, inspired leadership, and unleashed collective and individual genius. In succeeding centuries, Arab society found and developed its own cultural identity, and in the process it rescued from near

oblivion much of the legacy of pagan antiquity. Linking past with future, it helped pave the way for the European Renaissance.

The Arab world, like Western Europe prior to its Renaissance, experienced a "Dark Ages Period". However, during this period, which lasted some four centuries, in atmosphere of frustration and discouragement prevailed throughout the Arab lands. The days of conquest and glory were over. There were no new worlds to discover, no great achievements to be made. The prevailing mood of despondency and loss was summed up in a famous complaint: "The first have left nothing for the last!" Speculative thought was confined to increasingly

narrow areas, scientific inquiry stagnated, and matters that had previously been studied and understood became obscure. Creative thinking and the spirit of discovery were replaced by sterile repetition and imitation, expressed in commentaries and studies of texts and stressing words rather than meaning. Cultural life was confined to a restricted group; the society at large fed on the past, ignored the present, and rejected any prospect of evolution or progress.

In the nineteenth century the Arabs once again began to be conscious of their own existence. This search for self-identity gave rise to a renewal of independent thinking, stimulated in part by intensive exposure to the thinking of others, particularly the scientists and scholars who accompanied the French expedition to Egypt early in the century. During the balance of the nineteenth century the Arab world, and particularly that part of it that borders on the eastern Mediterranean, was engaged in a process of absorption characterized by extensive contact with European scholars and teachers, doctors and engineers, architects and industrialists. Missions were sent to Europe to study mathematics, medicine, and sciences, and large numbers of European and American scholars, businessmen,

doubt but by maturity, dignity, and solidarity in performance of its international responsibilities as one of the great contemporary civilizations.

If the Arab world is in general agreement as to its cultural goals, there remains much debate as to the best means to achieve them. If there is consensus that contemporary Arab culture must reflect the Arab personality and character, it is also agreed that the Arab world must not close its doors to the possible contribution of others. In other words, the goal of contemporary Arab culture is not only to revive the glories of its past but also to include the best aspects of the present, whatever the source. The past and the present, combined, give rise to the future — a future in which the Arabs will once again be able to speak proudly of their achievements in art, literature, science, and technology.

One of the principal areas of debate is that of language. During the Arab "Dark Ages" efforts were made by various colonial powers to substitute other languages — Turkish, French, English — for Arabic. As a result, the Arab world is bilingual and trilingual in many areas, but Arabic has maintained its primacy. The issue of "classical versus colloquial" Arabic has been largely resolved through the

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

and technicians came to the Arab countries. Naturally, many problems resulted from this massive exchange of cultures and experiences, but the net

evolution of a modern classical which, under the guidance of the several language academies, has proved to be both comprehensible to students and



effect was to stimulate in the Arab world a new desire for evolution and progress and to encourage its more remote areas to catch up with the Mediterranean regions, where the exposure to the industrial world was more advanced.

The twentieth century — a century of challenge and competition — is the real starting point of the contemporary cultural revival in the Arab world. Certainly there have been obstacles. Two world wars and numerous regional and domestic conflicts have taught the Arabs the high cost of violence in lives and treasure. If these sacrifices have meaning, it is to be found in their contribution to the development of a revitalized and meaningful Arab world, characterized not by isolation and self-

readily adaptable to educational needs. The Arabic language in general use today is noticeably different from that of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Today's Arabic is a language that has been determined by the needs and the spirit of the times. It is an easier, more casual language, free of oddities, mannerisms, and conceits. It says what it means precisely clearly, and directly. It is easily adapted to modern teaching and learning situations, and it is able to transcend class distinctions in an age that disdains such privileges. Modern Arabic has already helped to narrow the gap between the spoken and the written word, the common and the classic, and in time it will replace the various slang dialects that now divide the Arab world.

Essential as this development is in terms of nation-building, it by no means diminishes the importance of learning foreign languages. Arabs seem to have a particular aptitude for language study, and they have reason to recognize the importance of communication in the modern multinational world. Hopefully, more foreign countries will in return encourage the study of Arabic, as in fact appears to be happening, judging from increased enrolment in Arabic language and area programmes in the West-ern countries.

The revival of the past, an essential part of the rediscovery of the Arabic heritage, has been accompanied by and has contributed to the flowering of contemporary letters. Modern literature reflects the challenge offered to the classic models by the new images of the present. For example, poets influenced by the Western romantics have adopted some of the classical forms to give structure to their self-expression, while the "classicists" explore new rhymes and rhythms. The essay has been greatly expanded with the growth of the press and academic publications. (From the point of view of Arabic literature, the essay is simply an advanced form of the maqamat, modernized by journalists, politicians, and academicians, and as such it has had a significant role in social reform, political movements, literary criticism, and scientific analysis). The hidden past of actual present of individuals and society. By revealing aspects of rural and urban life not generally known or observed, they often serve the cause of renovation and reform. But this does not mean that modern Arabic novels and plays have only regional significance. Many have been translated into foreign languages and are recognized among the world's masterpieces. In summary, contemporary Arabic literature, which began with imitation and progressed through interaction between the classic and the modern, has reached maturity and has developed forms and content of its own.

The revival of the arts has progressed in much the same way as has literature. This is especially true of music. The singing theatre, radio, cinema, and television have opened new vistas for composers and singers and have helped to develop a common musical taste. The eastern Arab world has its purely oriental tunes and lyrics, while in North Africa no pains have been spared to revive the music known as "Andalusian".

Contemporary science and philosophy also reflect the new spirit of awareness, openness, and independence. This movement respects the rights and the integrity of the human being and provides room for speculative thought and reason.

During the age of empire, the great rulers and thinkers were motivated by intellectual curiosity and scholarly acquisitiveness. Knowledge was revered no matter what the source, and men who could contribute to the sum of human knowledge were honored, no matter who they were or where they came from. This spirit prevails today. The modern Arab world is open to the great Western achievements in research, exploration, and creative thinking. Remembering the long days of regression, it looks forward to an era of progress and renewal.

Arabs in the twentieth century have known that they can never realize their ambitions without equipping themselves through education, and the spread of education has therefore been one of their primary aims. During the "Dark Ages" the Arab world had dwindled to a tiny handful in which teachers isolated from the outside world monotonously repeated the lessons of the past.

As for the future, it seems probable that the Arab world will follow the precedents established in the more technologically advanced countries. By the end of the century illiteracy will be eliminated in most of the Arab countries, and the search for knowledge will be fully open to girls as well as boys. The new generation has already far outdistanced its predecessors in cultural awareness. Hopefully, in the future there will be less need to concentrate on the humanities and pure science and greater interest and opportunity in such shortage areas as agriculture, industry, and commerce.

The cultural isolation of the Arabs began in the fourth century when the empire began to shrink. It was replaced, at least partially, in succeeding centuries by various forms of dependence on foreign cultures. With the Arab world free once again to pursue its own destiny, cultural interdependence between Arabs and non-Arabs will continue to grow. At the same time, the interchange of specialists and technicians among the Arab states will contribute to greater regional understanding and cooperation.

Arab culture today is developing and progressing without apprehension, confident of its ability to flourish in the larger world. It is reassured at its moment of rebirth by the knowledge that it has done this before. The legacy of greatness exists, the potential for future greatness is assured. By reaching outward for the knowledge needed to restore Arab culture to a position of beginning to share in the benefits of a gift they presented to humanity centuries ago.



The Abbasid Palace in Baghdad

Ancient Mustansiriyah School of learning, Baghdad



BAGHDAD: The City of Peace And Glory

by S. Kasso

Iraq is one of the world's richest and oldest civilizations. Names like Babylon, Nineveh, Nimrud and Baghdad of the Arabian Nights have become common immortalised words known throughout the world. To further crown the names of these ancient cities of the Orient, the revolutionary Government of the Republic of Iraq launched ambitious programmes for a master plan for the city of Baghdad, the capital of modern Iraq and to rebuild the ancient city of Babylon.

Baghdad, the ancient capital of the 'Thousand Nights and One Night', built 1210 years ago by the Abbasid Caliph Abu Jaafar al-Mansour, is currently undergoing massive transformation to enhance its beauty. During the Abbasid Dynasty, Baghdad was a vast city of palaces, big buildings, great parks and gardens. It was a great centre of intellectual activities before it was ransacked by Hulagu the Barbarian in 1258 A.D. and most of its population of 2,000,000 were massacred. In the spring of the year 762 A.D., Caliph Mansour watched the lines

of his new capital traced out with burnt cotton rags. When it was finished, he opened his speech with the following words:

"In the name of the most merciful God. Praise belongeth unto Him, and the earth is His. He causeth such of His servants as He pleaseth to inherit the same. Success attend the pious; now with the blessing of God, build on".

So began the saga of Madinat as-Salaam — the City of Peace.

VIVID DESCRIPTION OF ANCIENT BAGHDAD

Caliph Mansour took four years to build his city. He spent 4,883,000 dirhams and employed about 100,000 architects, craftsmen and labourers drawn from all over his domains. The eminent writer Yaqtub gives the following vivid description of the immortal city:

"It was circular in form with double-brick walls, a deep moat and third innermost wall rising ninety feet and surrounding the central area. The walls had four equivalent gates from which four highways, starting from the cen-

tre of the circle, radiated like the spokes of a wheel to the four corners of the empire. The whole thus formed concentric circles with the Caliphate Palace, styled the 'Golden Gate', on account of its gilded entrance, or the 'Green Dome' as the hub. Beside the palace stood the Great Mosque. The dome of the audience chamber, after which the imperial palace was named, rose to a height of 130 feet. Later tradition topped it with a figure of a mounted man carrying a lance, which the enemy might be expected".

Its walls were built of 18-inch cubical mud bricks, weighing about 200 lbs a piece, and bonded together with bundles of reeds. The whole work had one principal overseer, Abu Haniah. Some of the great cities of the Orient contributed to the beautification of Baghdad. Wasit gave five of its famous wrought-iron gates while Kufa and Damascus each sacrificed a portal. Caliph Mansour discouraged the establishment of bazars inside the city. These were set up outside 'Basrah Gate' (Karkh quarter).

The Caliph's palace contained the 'Hall of the Tree' which housed an artificial tree of gold and silver weighing 500,000 drachms, in the branches of which were lodged birds of the same precious metals so constructed that they chirped by artificial devices.



THE BEGINNING OF A REVOLUTION

Baghdad became full heir to the glory and prestige of Babylon, Nineveh, Nimrud, Ctesiphon, Ur and other capitals of the ancient Orient. It attained a degree of prestige and splendour unrivalled in the Middle Ages. The shifting of the seat of government to Baghdad was in itself the beginning of a revolution and opened the way for 'progressive influence'. Caliph Mansour eagerly encouraged the study of Greek philosophy and the translation of Greek works directly from Greek and Aramaic into Arabic by such writers as Bakhthishu, Yuhanna ibn Masawah, Hunain ibn Ishaq, etc. He established a great Hall of Science with its library and astro-

nomical observatory.

The glory of Baghdad although short-lived, gave an impulse and served as a model to the whole world, and the advantage that it was situated on a great river, the Tigris, made it accessible to traders from all parts. East and West. The wares of China and

and served as chief of the Academy. His successor, Abu Zakaria Yuhanna ibn Masawah (857 A.D.), left Jundaisabur for Baghdad. Ibn Musawah, under the direction of Caliph Maamun, established, around 830 A.D., the translation centre of Bait al-Hikma (House of Wisdom). His successor as director of this centre was Hunain ibn Ishaq.

Other scholars of the Church of the East illuminated the intellectual Arab-Islamic history of that period. It was these men who, under the command of the enlightened caliphs, translated the philosophy and scientific knowledge from Greek into the Arabic and thereby contributed immeasurably to the Golden Age of the scientific knowledge and progress of the Arabic and Islamic culture.

WHAT'S REMAINING OF BAGHDAD'S GLORY

Little of the glory of ancient Baghdad remains to be seen in our present time. However, some ancient monuments and sites still in their semi-original form:

1. The remains of the Abbasid Palace building stands now behind the Ministry of Defence at the north end of Al-Rashid Street.

2. The Mustansiriyah University, established by Caliph Mustanser in 1233 A.D., is situated on the River Tigris on the edge of North Bridge in Resafah side of Baghdad.

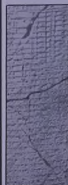
3. 'Bab al-Wastani' — one of the four gates of Baghdad — is on the east side of River Tigris. It was from near this gate that Hulaqo the Barbarian attacked and devastated Baghdad, the 'City of Peace' and Learning. Before destroying Baghdad, he first pillaged diarbakr, massacring 10,000 of the inhabitants.

4. Suq al-Ghazel Minaret, great Mosque of the Caliphs, built by Caliph Muktafi in 902 A.D., situated on al-Jumhuriyah Street in the centre of the capital. The minaret still has fragments of the Abbasid Dynasty inscriptions.

Archaeological excavations brought to light several law-codes issued by different Mesopotamian kings. The fullest and most impressive of these is that of Hammurabi, the real founder of Babylon's greatness. He was able to unite the whole of Babylonia into a single kingdom with Babylon as its capital. But Hammurabi's fame will always rest on his achievements as a law-giver, and on the great legal codes which he drew up for use throughout his empire.

These law-codes were engraved on a block stone stele discovered by a French expedition digging at Susa (Persia) in 1901-1902. It is now in the Louvre Museum. Its height is about 223 cm. with a circumference of 90 cm.

No doubt this elaborate system of laws which deal in detail with every class of the population, from the most powerful noble to the slave, was not the creative work of Hammurabi himself. Like



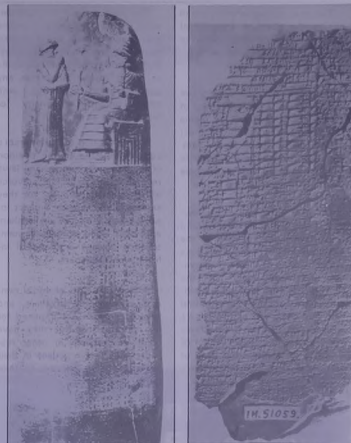
The Famous Law-Codes of Hammurabi (1792-1750 B.C.)

by Sherif Yusuf

all ancient legal codes it was governed strictly by precedent. Hammurabi's great achievement was the codification of this floating mass of legal enactments and the rigid enforcement of the provisions of the resulting code throughout the whole territory of Babylonia.

We have little space here to discuss in any detail this remarkable code; so let us be content with referring only to a few subjects. The number of laws engraved on the stele are more than three hundred, but only 282 of them could easily be deciphered.

The code begins with a group of laws dealing with legal procedure in the courts. The next two sections of the code deal with perjury. The idea behind them is that anyone who bears false witness in court will suffer the penalty appropriate to the case which is being tried.



The upper section of a stele depicts Hammurabi in a state of worship (British Museum)

Clay Tablet of Eshnuna laws, two centuries before Hammurabi's Code (Iraq Museum)

The next section is designed to ensure the absolute integrity of judges. The other sections of Hammurabi's code deal with offences against property.

Here the general penalty of theft is death, and the receiver of stolen goods suffers the same fate. Burglars and robbers meet a particularly unpleasant fate, for, after execution the body is hung or impaled before the hole by which they enter the house.

The next paragraph of the law-code deals with allotment of land to certain higher officers in the king's service. The next sections are concerned with the preservation and improvement of the country's natural resources. Maintenance of canals and agricultural land has been one of the state's chief responsibilities. So, the laws make it clear that every holder of land has to maintain the bank of any canal that flows past his fields.

From land, irrigation and agriculture the laws now turn to trade and commerce, and the first

The next subject for consideration is that of taverns. It seems that these taverns are a natural haunt for undesirable characters, and tavern-keepers are expected to report to the authorities any customer who is plotting with criminal intent. The penalty for failing to do so is death.

A long section of Hammurabi's code is devoted to the position of women in Babylonia. The laws regulating marriage and divorce are themselves enough, for they safeguard the women against injustice, and they provide for them and their children proper maintenance, except in cases of infidelity on their part.

A high standard of social conduct is expected of them, and severe penalties are imposed for its infringement. But they have complete freedom in other respects; they live in houses of their own, and can dispose of their times and money in their own way.

The next question dealt with is that of inheritance. The normal

when she becomes a member of the family on the occasion of their marriage. A widow is entitled to maintenance in her husband's house as long as she lives. Her dowry together with her portion of her husband's estate is intended to provide for her upkeep. Is it not a striking fact that the women of the eastern world should have achieved such a position of independence at the beginning of the second millennium before Christ?

Such in general is the content of the Mesopotamian law-codes. The chief interest of these codes lies in the fact that they deal with the problems of the members of communities far removed in space and time from our own, yet many of these problems confront us in our everyday life in the twentieth century.

To form an accurate estimate of the influence which Hammurabi's code of laws has on the modern codes of today is beyond our powers. But it is an indisputable fact that the legal code of Hammurabi, given some four thousand



subject to be treated is that of loans and the interest on them. The next sections return to the business of the merchants and agents.

rule is that when a rather dies his property is divided among his children, male and female; his wife also has a share which has usually been assigned to her

years ago, enshrines many of those principles of justice and mercy which we are apt to regard as the peculiar offspring of our own enlightened age.

by Mahmoud Darwish

Waiting For Them

The huts of my loved ones on the foreshore
I keep watching with the rain
I am Ulysses' son, Ulysses
Who waited for the mail
From the up North. Seas
summoned him, he didn't go, he reined
in the boats and turned
to the high peaks

Rock my father
Prayed over praying to stay outraged
I won't sell you for pearls
I'm not leaving I'm not leaving
I won't go

Voices
Of my loved ones plough
The wind, storm the walls. Mother

wait these, wait in front of the door
we're coming back and
this time not as you imagine but the way the sailors
want it this way
running upcurrent with the wind
What are you cooking? We're coming. They've
gutted all

The oil-jars, the flour sacks, mother bring the speech
of the field, bring the grass, we're coming

Foolsteps
of my loved ones are
the rocks' groans under the iron hand
and I keep watching with the rain, looking vainly
into distance
I keep on over the stone
under the stone, withstanding.

by Fedwa Tougan

A Song For The Fedayeen

It is enough for me
to die in the homeland
to be buried in her land
to dissolve and decay.
Under her earth
to be resurrected
as grass on her land
and a flower to be felt

by the hands of a child
raised on her land
it is enough for me
to remain in her lap
as earth
as grass
as a flower.

Tran. Nasser H. Aruri



Ur-Nammu, the Sumerian ruler

Based on "History Begins at Sumer" by S.N. Kramer

The unfolding of a civilization which flourished some 5,000 years ago in the land of Mesopotamia, i.e. the civilization of Sumer, has provided us with outstanding discoveries of modern archaeology, even with records revealing the very origins of modern culture.

Sumer, the southern part of ancient Babylonia (modern Southern Iraq), was the location of several important prehistoric sites during the first half of the third millennium B.C. In fact, it was the home of a series of city-state dynasties.

The first recorded social reform was in the Sumerian city-state Lagash in the twenty-fourth century B.C. That reform was basically directed against the abuses

HISTORY



The Sumerian Social Reformer

of power practised by a bad bureaucracy which used to levy taxes to increase their revenue and income.

The people of Lagash felt so oppressed that they overthrew the Ur-Nanshe dynasty and selected a ruler from another family. It was this new ruler, known as Urukagina, who restored law and order in the city and "established freedom" for its citizens.

All this is told in a document composed and written by the Urukagina archivists. For a better understanding of the contents of this unique inscription, here is a background review of some significant social, economic and political practices in Lagash.

Most of the inhabitants of Lagash were farmers and cattle breeders, boatmen and fishermen, merchants and craftsmen. The economic system was partly state-controlled and partly in private hands.

However, the citizens of Lagash were conscious of their civic rights and wary of any government action intended to limit their economic freedom which they cherished as essential to their way of life. It was this

"freedom" that the Lagashites had lost, according to that document, in the days before Urukagina's reign and which Urukagina restored when he came to power. According to the Sumerian historian who lived in Lagash almost 4,500 years ago, when Urukagina, the new and "god-fearing" ruler came to power, justice and freedom were restored to the long-suffering citizens. And from one end of the land to the other, the historian observes, there was no tax collector. Thus, Urukagina managed, it could be

said, to "establish" the freedom of the citizens of Lagash.

The removal of ubiquitous revenue collectors and the parasitic officials was not the only achievement of Urukagina. He also put an end to the injustice and exploitation suffered by the poor. Urukagina also cleared the city of usurers, thieves and murderers.

But Urukagina's reforms were not destined to survive for long. His reign was soon overthrown by Lugalgagisil, the ruler of the nearby Umma, who became the king of Sumer and the surrounding lands.

Freedom under the law, it should now be noted, was a way of life not unknown to the Sumerians of the third millennium B.C. For a long time, the oldest known code was the one dating back to about 1750 B.C., but only in recent years three earlier codes have come to light. The oldest of these is the code of the Sumerian ruler Ur-Nammu; it dates from the end of the third millennium B.C. It was excavated in 1889-1900, but it was not until 1952 that it was identified and interpreted.

Salah

NEWS IN BRIEF

PRESIDENT BAKR CONDOLES CHAIRMAN MAO'S DEATH

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr delegated the head of Presidential Protocols to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to offer his condolences on the death of Chinese Leader Chairman Mao Tse-tung. He also cabled Premier Hua Kuofeng, expressing the sorrow of the Iraqi people and government as well as his own for the "loss of the great leader".

The RCC Vice-Chairman, Mr. Saddam Hussein, personally called at the Chinese Embassy in Baghdad and offered his condolences and sympathy on the death of Chairman Mao who was described by Mr. Hussein as "one of the most prominent leaders of our age".

A cable of condolences was also sent by the National Leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party.

NEW SCHOOLS IN THE AUTONOMOUS AREA

With the beginning of the new academic year 17 intermediate schools have been opened and another 4 schools of intermediate level have been upgraded to secondary level in the self-ruled area. Several existing schools have been expanded to accommodate more newcomers. With the opening of the new schools, the governorates of Dehok, Arbil and Sulaimaniyah will have 1575 schools for various stages of education enrolling 197,562 students of both sexes and 3,149 teachers of different specializations.

AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE CONTACTS VIA SATELLITE

With effect from early October next, Iraqis will be able to make automatic telephone contact with any telephone number anywhere in the world. This will be made feasible through the earth station of international telecommunications operating on two satellites belonging to the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT). The first antenna connected to the satellite over the Indian Ocean has already been commissioned for operation and the second antenna connected to the satellite over the Atlantic will be completed very soon.

SOLIDARITY WITH LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS

A nationwide week of solidarity with the Lebanese patriotic movement and Palestinian Resistance

in their fight against the imperialist-Zionist reactionary conspiracy was opened in Baghdad on September 20.

In this week which was organized by the Iraqi Writers Union, speeches were delivered and poems read out hailing the heroic struggle of the Lebanese national forces and the Palestinian people and denouncing the treacherous stand of the isolationist forces backed by the Syrian renegade regime and the imperialist-Zionist circles.

INDUSTRIAL CITY IN BASRAH

Ministry of Municipalities has just completed the designs of the projected industrial city scheduled for construction in Basrah governorate, southern Iraq.

In the industrial city 22,000 houses and 500 apartments for the housing of 100,000 people will be constructed. The city will also have 48 kindergartens, 48 primary, intermediate and secondary schools and 20 public libraries in addition to 8 athletic clubs, two youth centres, parks, three hospitals and a vocational training centre.

BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL FAIR

With its international fair Baghdad became a seasonal centre for many countries in the world to exhibit their industrial and agricultural products.

The 13th session of Baghdad International Fair will open on the first day of October under the slogan of "For the Building of A Developed National Economy and Advanced International Economic Relations". The fair was first held in October, 1964, with the participation of five Arab countries only. Last year 48 Arab and foreign countries took part. Lasting for 20 days the fair attained its full membership in the International Union of Fairs, Paris, in 1971. Since then the fair actively participated in the Union's activities and conferences.

INTERIOR MINISTER VISITS SOVIET UNION

Revolution Command Council member and Minister of Interior Mr. Izzet Ibrahim, left for Moscow on September 18 leading an Iraqi official delegation at the invitation of the Soviet Interior Minister, Mr. Nikolai Shech.

In a statement to INA prior to his departure Mr. Ibrahim said he was carrying a message from President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr and RCC Vice-Chairman Mr. Saddam Hussein to the Soviet leaders on the cooperation between the two friendly countries and on international and Arab issues which are of the concern of both the countries.

