

# NEW IRAQ

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A MONTHLY PICTORIAL MAGAZINE ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF GUIDANCE



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A MONTHLY PICTORIAL MAGAZINE  
ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF GUIDANCE

SUPERVISED BY THE DIRECTORATE OF POPULAR ARTS AND CULTURE — BAGHDAD

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UNKNOWN SOLDIER  
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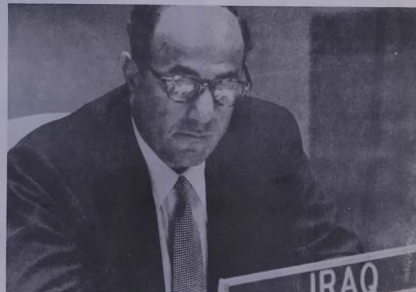
## FOREIGN POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ AS PRESENTED BY THE IRAQI DELEGATION TO

## THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

In these pages, NEW IRAQ presents some of the activities of the Iraqi delegation to the fifteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly... the widely-publicised speech delivered by Sayid Hashim Jawad, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the debates, the Arab and international discussions in the lobbies of the United Nations, and the party given by the Iraqi delegation in honour of the Algerian delegation, which was attended by a large number of international personalities. It was during this session that Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, Prime Minister of the U. S. S. R., informed Sayid Karim Belqassim, Deputy Prime Minister of the Algerian Provisional Government, of the Soviet recognition of the Algerian Government. The whole of the Arab world now hopes that other countries will follow the Soviet Union's example in recognising this young sister state and its heroic struggle for independence.

Following is the text of Sayid Hashim Jawad's speech to the General Assembly of the United Nations on October 6th:

The attainment of political in-



Sayid Hashim Jawad, Iraqi Foreign Minister, addressing the current session of the United Nations General Assembly

dependence by subjugated peoples, reflecting the basic aspirations of all those nations deprived of their national freedom, is an inevitable step to be followed by others in the course of the progress of human society towards social and political existence.

The rapid increase in the membership of the United Nations should not only be considered as a result of the attainment of independence by new

nations, but also as an expression of genuine desire on their part to join hands with other nations. It is also an expression of their genuine desire for strengthening this organisation so as to enable it to play its historical role in promoting international understanding and cooperation and to widen the area of peace and justice.

Although the eyes of the world are turned with anxiety

to the deliberations at this Session of the General Assembly due to the alarming international trends which developed in recent months, especially between the big powers, nevertheless, world public opinion expects from this Session not to forget other problems which are contributing to the increase of tension in the world.

These problems include the denial of membership to the People's Republic of China in the United Nations; the continued occupation of West Irian by the Netherlands; the attempt for the separation of Mauritania from Morocco by France; the war in Algeria; and fighting in Oman; the Palestine Question; and the question of the Congo.

It is time that this General Assembly take a more positive stand with regard to Algeria. We believe that peace in Algeria is an essential preliminary to the



Members of the Iraqi Delegation to the United Nations, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sayid Hashim Jawad in the centre.

Sayid Karim Belqasim, Deputy Prime Minister in the Provisional Government of Algeria, shakes hands with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev during a party given by the Iraqi delegation to the United Nations.



relations of the Arab States with France, and to a large extent with the West.

How futile and atrocious it is to continue on the road of error, especially at a time when the peace of the world is threatened. We believe that unless action is taken rapidly to terminate the Algerian War to the satisfaction of the Algerian People's aspirations, the war area may extend and the struggle will become more international.

Israel has been, for the last twelve years, a factor disturbing

in the Middle East and an inherent danger to its security and that of world peace. Above all, Israel's presence and acts against the Arab countries have provided pretexts for the intervention of certain powers, and an excuse for exercising pressure thereupon.

For the last five years the people of Oman have been in a state of revolt against their oppressors and have been fighting the British colonial occupation. Although the people of Oman possess neither the necessary arms nor the military organiza-

Assembly. We cosponsored that resolution together with all the African States who were members of this organization at that time. The 17 sponsors were supported fully by all the other member states from Asia and the resolution was adopted without a dissenting vote by the Assembly.

The fundamental issue in world politics today is the defence of peace. If the world is to face the problem of peace boldly — and that indeed is the only way to cope with the many problems which poison the relations between nations — it is bound to follow the policy of peaceful coexistence. The possibility of peaceful coexistence of states with different social and political systems has been confirmed in the inter-war period.

Since the National Revolution of July 14, 1958, Iraq, under the guidance of its leader, Abdul Karim Kassim, has been following the road of positive neutrality in its relations with various groups of powers in the world. Our foreign policy of neutrality is in essence a policy of peaceful coexistence. Thus with a spirit of neutrality and guided by the desire for peaceful co-operation with nations, our relations with states of different social and political systems have been developing favourably. Our policy of positive neutrality helped us to promote good relations with the East and West, and with our neighbours and a number of other Asian and African states. In adopting a policy of peaceful co-existence, Iraq has been able to contribute to the combatting of the cold war and to set an example for small states to follow.



A group of Arab leaders at the party given by the Iraqi delegation in honour of the Algerian Government.

the peace in the region of the Middle East, and a cause for obstructing its normal development and progress; and the presence of one million Arab refugees has served as an annual reminder to the General Assembly of a much bigger problem, the Palestine problem.

With the passage of time, it has become abundantly clear to most members of the United Nations that Israel constitutes the major factor of instability

for prosecuting the war against the modern weapons of destruction employed by the forces of a big power, the British have not been able to defeat them or to gain a victory. This shows that a people fighting for a just cause — their liberation — can never be defeated by a colonial power, however strong.

Our position regarding the Congo question is based on the resolution adopted more than two weeks ago by the General



Tens of thousands of jubilant Iraqis from all parts of the country marched through the centre of Baghdad on 3rd December in a five-hour procession to celebrate the Day of Safety and Rejoicing.

Major-General Abdel Kassem, Prime Minister and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, made seven appearances on the saluting base of



the Ministry of Defence, each time greeted by a tumultuous ovation from the marchers and many thousands of others who had gathered in the area of the Ministry to greet their Leader.

Helicopters trailing portraits of General Kassem and the flag of the Republic flew low over the route of the procession, and Baghdad Radio and Television covered the festivities through-

out the day.

It was on 3rd December, 1959, that General Kassem left hospital, fully recovered after the abortive attempt on his life eight weeks earlier. The thanksgiving of the Republic's seven million people on that memorable day has now been perpetuated in a national public holiday - the Day of Safety and Rejoicing.

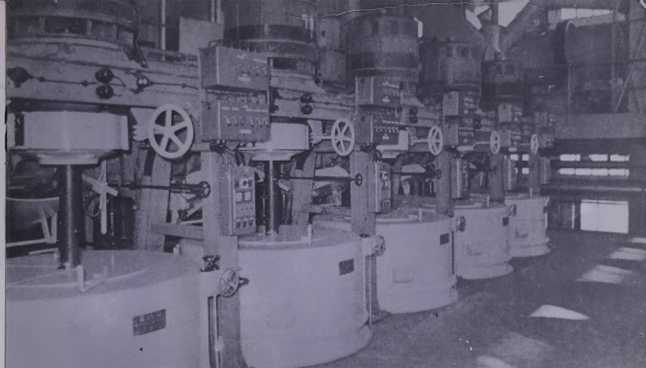
# Day of safety and rejoicing





Sugar beet plant

# SUGAR



Machinery for the separation of white sugar.



After a series of sustained and continuous efforts in preparation and construction, the humming sound of machinery and implements rang out in a suburb of Mosul, announcing the birth of a factory to produce - for the first time in the history of modern Iraq - white sugar. That was on the morning of 28th January 1959. The cost of the factory exceeded 2 million dinars, and it proved to be equivalent to the standard of other sugar factories of the world, with a capacity to produce 30000 tons per year. The raw material used in the factory is sugar cane, the cultivation of which has proved successful in the north during summer, as well as winter seasons. In addition, the process of purifying and cleansing raw sugar imported from abroad is also carried out in this factory. Thus, it has become possible to work it during many seasons of the year. The work there is not confined to the extracting of white sugar, but there are many by-products like molasses extracted from date juice, spirits, yeast and fodder.

# FACTORY

## Sections of the Factory.

The sugar factory in Mosul is a self-sufficient unit of production, and has all sections, usually required by large factories attached to it. There is a watersupply system for the public, boilers for raising steam, turbines to generate electricity, a bitumen station for the extraction of lime, another for making carbon oxide from limestone to be used in the cleansing and purification processes. Attached also to the factory are a workshop and a carpentry branch.

## Importance of the Sugar Factory to the National Economy.

Iraq consumes about 141000 tons of sugar yearly, and this quantity, the value of which amounts to about six million dinars, is all imported from abroad. From this you can judge the importance of establishing sugar factories in our country, which is a great

consumer of this commodity. This first sugar Factory - after it commenced production - met one fifth of Iraq's requirement - a fact which, in turn, led to an equivalent reduction in the import of sugar. In addition to the efforts which are being exerted to increase the production of this factory and to raise its industrial capacity, the responsible authorities are constructing another factory at Suleimaniyah, depending upon increased and improved cultivation of Iraqi sugar cane. The evolution of sugar industry in Iraq is moving toward the realization of self-sufficiency and ceasing - finally and once for all - to depend on its import for meeting our requirements from this vital commodity - a fact which will save a considerable part of our national wealth from being exhausted by foreign companies abroad.

More than 50,000 staff and employees in semi-official departments are now drawing the benefits of the Civil Pensions Law which had formerly been limited to purely governmental institutions.

The plight of these people, like that of many other sections of the community, had been ignored during the old regime, and it was not until the passing of Law No. 122 of 1959 that anything was done to safeguard them against disability and old age.

The new law differs from the old Civil Pensions Law in two respects: its wider scope, and the lower scale of contributions demanded (5 per cent. of the basic monthly salary instead of 6.25 per cent.)

As provided under the new Civil Pensions Law, members of semi-official departments become entitled to a pension after 15 years of service under certain fixed conditions including physical disability, discharge, or death - in which case the pension is paid in full to dependants. After 25 years, members of these departments are entitled to draw their pensions regardless of their personal circumstances, simply by applying for retirement. In all other cases, they are paid a gratuity which is calculated by multiplying their final salary by the number of months spent in service and dividing the result by 12.

The number of departments and institutions covered by the new Law is 39, employing more than 50,000 people. On the assumption that each of these has a family of five, there are now a quarter of a million more Iraqis who need not fear the results of disability, old age or the death of their breadwinner.

The Pensions Fund is administered by a semi-official de-

partment set up under the new Law. It is known as the Directorate-General of the Pensions Fund, and began to operate on the 22nd September, 1959.

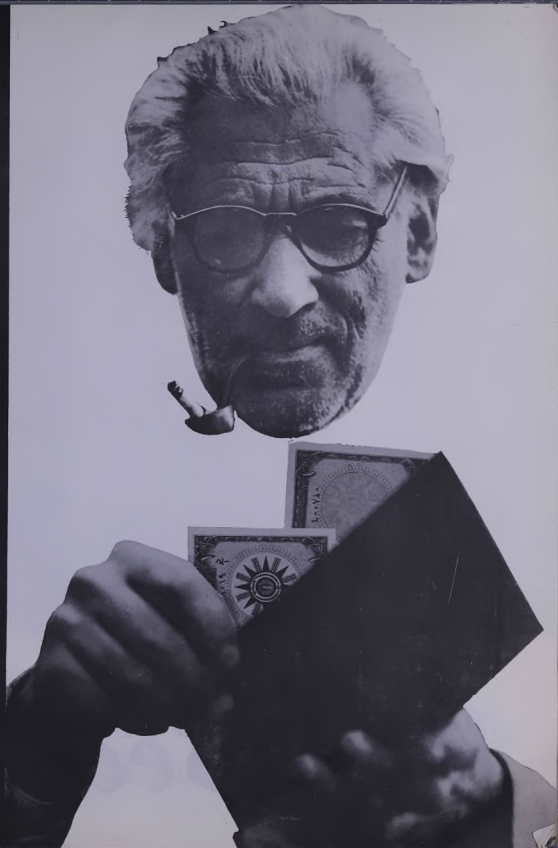
Since then—as the Director-General, Sayid Abdul Amir al-Arradi explained to NEW IRAQ—it has dealt with 20,000 applications referring to various pension questions. From the beginning of 1960, no fewer than 40,000 incoming and outgoing letters have been handled by the department.

The Pensions Fund operates on the employees' subscriptions which are sent in by the various departments concerned, with an additional 10 per cent contributed by the departments and a substantial Government allocation. Evidence of the Fund's sound financial position is the fact that already it has set aside a sum of about 1D.1 million for eventual maturity. It has also provided certain Government banks with loans to help them in completing public service projects. Other funds have been invested in Treasury bonds, while still others have been placed as permanent deposits at interest rates between 3.25 per cent and 3.75 per cent.

Under the provisions of Law No. 122, the Fund is not allowed to invest its money in the purchase of lands. Sayid al-Arradi said, however, that officials of his department were preparing an amendment for eventual Government ratification which would allow for the erection of a special office building to replace its present rented offices.

It is hoped to extend the coverage offered by the Fund still further in the future, and among other projects under consideration is the provision of a housing scheme for Fund officials.

# LAW FUND PENSIONS



Agricultural authorities in Iraq have launched an ambitious project for the improvement of grain and other seeds in order to raise the general level of agriculture and increase its output throughout the Republic.

The Ministry of Agriculture has established a special "Farms Section" entrusted with the task of finding better seeds of higher yield for Iraqi farmers. Despite the difficulties facing this long-term project, it has already made considerable progress.

It has at its disposal some 20,000 donums of arable land for the large scale development of improved types of seeds. The land is in four areas: one at Abu Gharraib, near Baghdad, a second at Hawijah in Kirkuk Liwa ( province ), a third, known as Bakrajo Farm, at Suleimaniyah, and the fourth, Niniveh Farm, at Mosul. To these has been added the Model Farm at Latifiyah.

In addition to high quality wheat seeds, like the Ajibah strain, these farms produce linseed, lucern and cotton seed, as well as vegetable seeds, including tomatoes, cucumbers and beans. Evolution of the various strains

goes on year after year with great care and attention.

Apart from Ajibah, the main wheat strain produced is Florenca, all seeds are sifted and harmful seeds removed by means of special machinery. They are then treated with Acrosan to prevent blackening.

Production is not, however, confined exclusively to seeds: during 1959, the various farms sold 147,975 young fruit trees and 45,633 decorative shrubs of various kinds.

Other activities of the Farms Section provide raw materials for local industries. One of the most important of these activities is the growing of pistachio, sunflowers, sesame and linseed to supply the vegetable oil companies. Jute and coriander seed are also grown for the rope and gunny-sack industry, and 70 donums of sugar cane is being cultivated for the manufacture of sugar in Mosul.

The expert and painstaking work carried out on these farms is of special benefit to the small cultivators who can now get cheaper seeds of higher yield—an important contribution to the steady improvement of their living standards.



# More Seeds

## FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION



## IRAQI MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

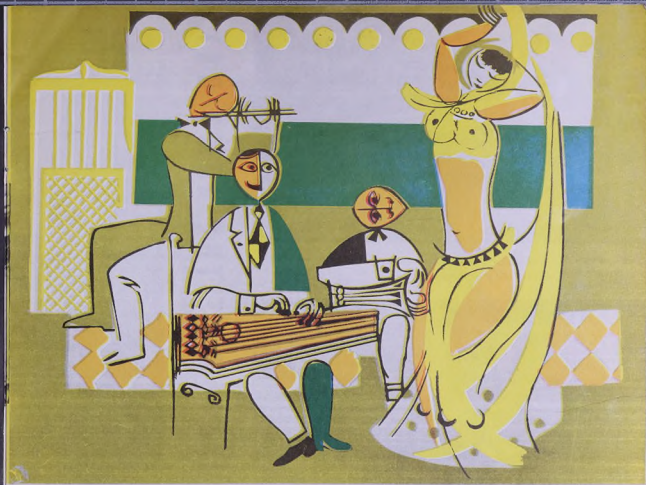
Throughout the Arab world, the xylophone is second in popularity only to the lute.

With its fixed tones and wide range, it occupies a position among orientals comparable to that of the pianoforte in the west.

Historical records indicate that the xylophone had its origins in Iraq. During the 7th Century B.C. the Ashouros had an instrument known in their language as the "isharlo" with ten strings tied horizontally. The notes were produced by striking

the strings with small sticks. The "isharlo" bore a basic resemblance to the present-day dulcimer.

An improved version of this instrument came into use during the third century of the Moslem era. Known as "El sharud", it



# The Xylophone

was invented by an Arab musician, Hakim Bin El Ahwas el Saadi. A painting of the sharud by el Farabi was reproduced in his book "Al Mausiqat" ("Music").

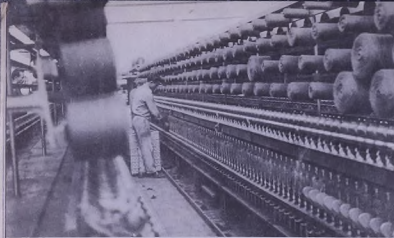
Ibn Sina, writing in the "Kitab al Shifa", described the sharud as "one of those instruments

in which the strings are strung lengthwise". Successive generations of Arab musicians produced the modern version of the xylophone.

This normally has 78 strings, arranged in threes, although some have as few as 63 and

others up to 84. It is played by means of a metal "striker" held on the forefinger of each hand by means of a ring. Mutes, which can be raised or lowered, enable the musician to produce softer tones.





“Al-Shuhada” textiles factory which provides all army and police requirements.

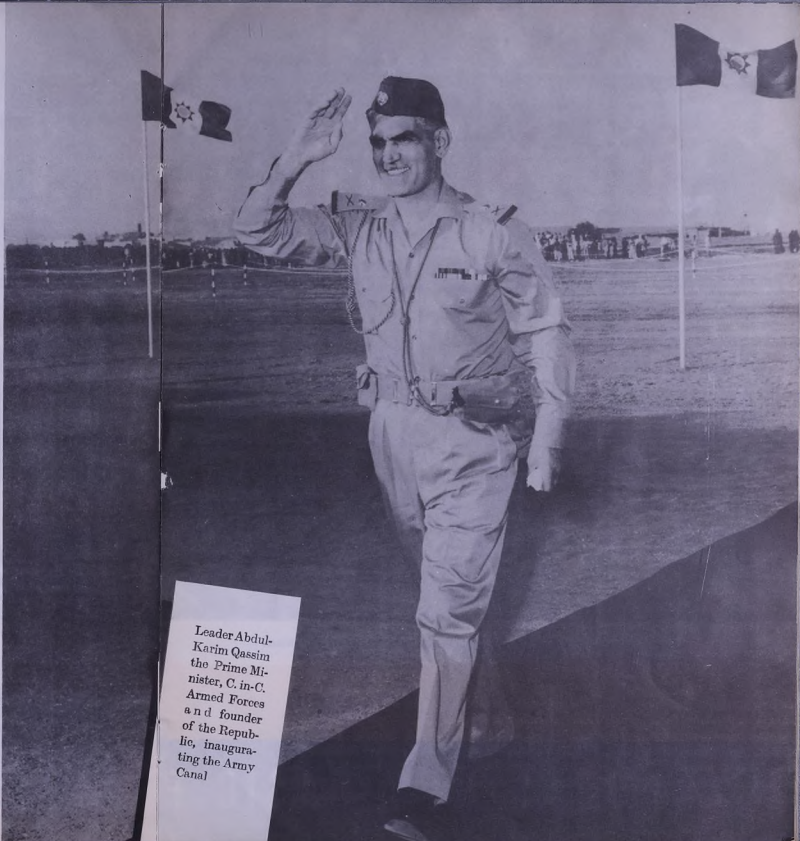


▲ Equipment repairing training centre

▼ Shoe factory which provides all army and police requirements.



**ON THE OCCASION OF THE ARMY DAY**



Leader Abdul-Karim Qassim the Prime Minister, C. in-C. Armed Forces and founder of the Republic, inaugurating the Army Canal



Iraq Army Team in a march-past before the games.



The Leader, Abdul Karim Kassem, presenting prizes to winners.



Scene depicting the Iraq Army Soccer Team playing a visiting team.

**SPORTS IS A BASIC FEATURE OF THE ARMY**

# IRAQI



# CINEMA

The Iraqi cinema industry is beginning slowly to emerge from the decline into which governmental apathy during the old regime had allowed it to fall. Although the industry still receives no financial or technical assistance

from abroad, the Government of the Republic is now playing an active role in encouraging the production of films "Made in Iraq". Before long, it is hoped that cinema audiences throughout the world will be

able to see their first Iraqi films.

First attempt to make an Iraqi film came in the year 1939 when a joint production called "Cairo - Baghdad" was filmed in the Studio Misr, Cairo. Iraqis and Egyptians both took part

in the production and acting. A second film, "Ibn Sharq" ("Son of the Orient"), was later produced in the same way.

Both films had soundtracks in colloquial Arabic, and in both the "plot" was of a type which

appealed to the ordinary people. Their success led to the establishment of the "Studio Baghdad" in 1948, and it was in this studio that the first purely Iraqi film "Aliya and Asam" was produced by the French producer Schutan.

"Aliya and Asam" was widely acclaimed in artistic circles, and may be regarded as the true starting point of the Iraqi film industry. It was followed soon afterwards by another success, "Leila in Iraq", with the well-known

Egyptian producer Ahmad Kamil Musa.

But then ensued a long and barren period during which no films were produced and even the "Studio Baghdad" was closed down. For several years, the industry ceased to exist except in the dreams of the enthusiasts and hopes of the public.

In 1943, however, a fresh start was made with "Fitnah and Hasan," produced by Haidar Umer. This was soon followed by "Nadam", the sixth film to be produced with Iraqi participation, and the fourth to be produced exclusively in Iraq. Credit for this film, which enjoyed considerable success, must go to the Iraqi sound expert Abdul khalq al-Samarrai who not only recorded the soundtrack but also wrote the script and supervised production. A seventh Iraqi film, "Wardah", produced by Yahya Faiq, was shortly followed by others, including "Arhamuni", "Arus Al-Furat" and "Doctor Hasan".

The series reached its climax with "Man El-Masoul", produced by Abdul Jabar Tawfiq Wali, and perhaps the greatest of all films produced in Iraq before the Revolution. The story was woven around the ordinary events in the everyday life of a real Iraqi family living in one of the working class quarters of Baghdad. It was not taken from any historical saga or from any romantic conception of Bedouin life, but from the day to day activities of a family typifying the hundreds of thousands of working people who make up the teeming population of capital.

The outstanding skill of the production staff, technicians and artists all contributed towards making the film a landmark in the history of the Iraqi cinema, but first and foremost it was its

direct appeal to the audience, who saw their own lives enacted on the screen, which guaranteed its success.

The triumph of "Man Al-Masoul" was equalled only by that of "Saeed Effendi", which again dealt with the daily lives of the people—although this time in a rural area. "Saeed Effendi" was the modest diary of a well-loved teacher sharing his learning with his pupils, his children and his neighbours. The unforgettable scenes from the classroom, the coffee shops and the streets made a tremendous impact on audiences throughout the country who again witnessed all the humour and tragedy, the happiness and pathos of their daily lives transformed into a masterpiece of realistic art.

Produced by Kamiran Husain, "Saeed Effendi" ranks with the best productions of the old European school of realism in the cinema.

In spite of these two triumphs, which had proved that Iraq possessed producers, technicians and actors capable of the highest standard of craftsmanship and art, the successive governments of the former regime failed to provide any form of encouragement to the industry. Since the Revolution, however, the Republican Government has established a Cinema and Stage Board which has already produced two outstanding documentaries: "Our Revolution" and "The Great Joy".

Other films—social, cultural and documentary—are in course of preparation, and the board is doing all in its power to assist private Iraqi film makers. Soon it is hoped that Iraqi films will be able to compete with those of other film-producing countries on cinema screens throughout the world.

A character actor in the film "Saeed Effendi"...

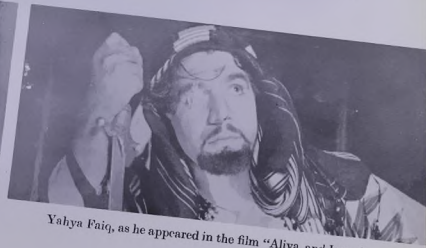
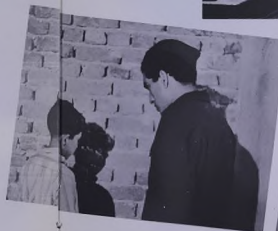


Scenes from the film "Man al Masoul" ("Who is Responsible?")

Two scenes from the film "Aliya and Issam"



A scene from the film "Man-Al-Mas'oul"...



Yahya Faiq, as he appeared in the film "Aliya and Issam"

The turbulent reign of Ashur Banipal, last of the powerful Ashur Kings, is described in a wealth of documents from the Sargons library discovered in Nineveh.

Ashur Banipal lived from 668 B.C. to 626 B.C., and for most of that time he was in constant conflict with other states which never ceased to attack him.

Foremost among these states was the Egypt of Pharaohs - and the most prominent of the Pharaohs during this era was the powerful Taharqa, a soldier of negro origin. To weaken negro influence in Egypt, Ashur Banipal formed an alliance with the Egyptian prince Nicho, at that time a prisoner-of-war in the Ashur Kingdom, with the help of supporters in Egypt and the

King Ashur Banipal met this crisis with a terse letter which has gone down in history as a masterpiece of diplomatic correspondence:

"The King of Ashur addresses the following lines to the Babylonians —

"I am in good health; your hearts should on this account be filled with happiness and joy.

"I am addressing you with regard to the empty and insignificant words spoken by the liar who alleges to be my brother. I know what he has told you. His words are meaningless and like the wind: do not trust him in anything ...

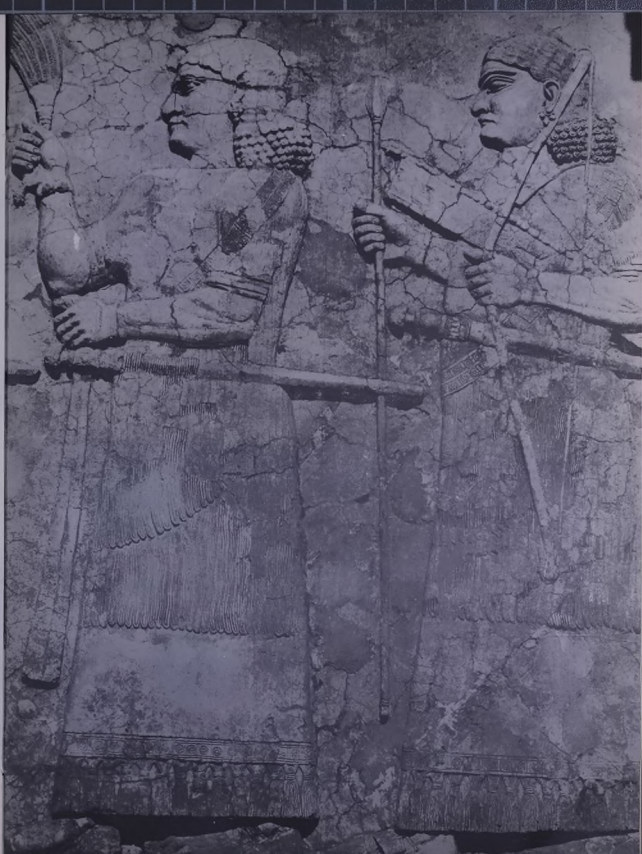
"I declare to you from my own mouth that he behaved as a contemptible traitor when he stated that my object was to de-

## DIPLOMACY DURING THE ERA OF ASHUR BANIPAL

Ashur Army, Nicho eventually overthrew Taharqa and ascended to the throne in his place.

But in the meantime, Ashur Banipal was faced with a crisis nearer at hand. His younger brother Shamash - Shum - Ukin, whom he had appointed viceroy in Babylon, turned traitor, declared the independence of Babylon with himself as king.

file the glory of the Babylonians who love me: thus should I be polluting and disgracing my own mane. Your friendship with the Ashurs and the freedom that I have bestowed are more precious than I can imagine. Do not, therefore, listen to his lies and do not spoil your reputation and your name, which are beyond suspicion and doubt before me and



before the world.

"Do not fear a n y increase in taxation or any violence ..."

The letter had its effect. The Babylonians forsook Shamash—Shum—Ukin and v o w e d their allegiance to Ashur Banipal.

A letter in similar vein was addressed to Belibni, King Ashur's representative in Nippur, and to the people of Nippur:

"I am in good health : let your hearts be filled with joy and happiness on this account.

" Y o u know that the whole

country has been smitten with the hand of destruction and with the iron sword of Ashur, by the will of G o d : likewise, fire has swallowed it a n d it has been trampled under the feet of the animals, u n t i l i t bowed before me.

"You should a rest all the rebels who now seek safety in defeat. It is necessary that the rebels should be separated from the people as y o u separate wheat from chaff before your homes. You should not allow anyone to

pass through that city gates before you first inspect and search him thoroughly. No-one s h o u l d escape from here; and if he succeeds in finding an asylum by any means I shall wreak revenge upon his accomplice and his children. Whoever catches him and brings him to us dead or alive shall receive a good reward. I shall order that he shall be placed in the scales, and I shall pay him his weight in gold ..."

After the defeat of Shamash, many Babylonians fled from

their ruined city and took refuge in the Kingdom of Elam. Among them was Belibiddin, grandson of a former king of Babylon and a constant opponent of A s h u r Banipal. King Ashur despatched an envoy to Elam with a letter demanding the immediate surrender of the refugees :

"If you do not hand over these people," shall declare war on you and destroy your town and take your citizens as prisoners... I shall trample you under foot as I did your predecessor, Tiyoman."

The king of E l a m refused to surrender, but paid dearly for his defiance: Ashur Banipal planned a conspiracy which ended his life.

As Ashur Banipal's power increased, so did his arrogance. On one occasion he declared: "I have destroyed my enemies, the people of the Kingdom of Elam, because they did not agree to be subject to the state of Ashur. I beheaded them and cut their lips and exiled them to Ashur."

He drove in a chariot drawn

by four kings whom he had defeated, a n d exhibited other defeated kings in cages in the streets of his capital.

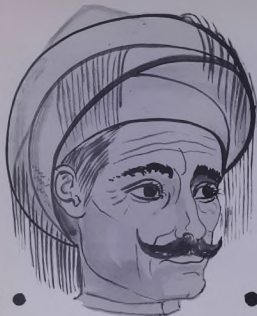
But slowly King Ashur's power began to decline before the concerted onslaughts of neighbouring states to the north a n d south. Fresh waves of invaders fell upon the once powerful Kingdom of Ashur, until finally the Persians gained sway over all the countries of the old east in the sixth century B.C.

The siege of Lachish: Hebrew prisoners imploring mercy



King Ashurbanipal shooting lions from the saddle





# Usta Rajab al-Rowanduzi

## MASTER GUNSMITH OF IRAQ

Several readers have written asking for further details of the life and work of Usta Rajab al-Rowanduzi, the Iraqi master-craftsman whose beautifully designed guns were referred to in the tenth issue of NEW IRAQ.

Surprisingly little information about him was available in Baghdad, but a documentary team from the Ministry of Guidance visiting the north of Iraq was able to trace some of his descendants still living in the ancient town of Rowanduz, 365 km. (about 226 miles) due north of Baghdad.

It was from two of his great-grandsons-Anwar Muhammad Nauroz and Sabri Najib Nauroz, both working for Iraqi Government departments - that we obtained the following account of the man whose name is a household word among connoisseurs of ancient firearms throughout the world.

Al-Rowanduzi was originally named Usta Rajab ibn Usta Mahammad. Usta is an Arabic word meaning "expert" or "craftsman". Following the custom of the time, he later acquired the name of his birth-

place. The exact date of his birth is unknown, but it must have been some time around the year 1770 A.D. Details of his childhood are equally obscure, although it is known that his family originated from Raswi village in the Lajan district of Azerbaijan.

The name of al-Rowanduzi will always be linked with that of another al-Rowanduzi - Muhammad Bey bin Mustafa Bey al-Rowanduzi, known as "Kor-pasha", the Kurdish revolutionary who was Usta Rajab's patron (and best customer) for many years. Muhammad Bey's name is inscribed on two of the guns by al-Rowanduzi in the Wastani Gate Museum in Baghdad, which bear the dates 1232 and 1245 in the Moslem calendar (1817 and 1830 A.D.)

The shrewd old Kurd was quick to appreciate the genius of al-Rowanduzi's intricate

craftsmanship and immediately decided no other gunsmith could provide the arms he needed for his planned uprising against the tyranny and oppression of Ottoman rule. Impressed by al-Rowanduzi's almost fanatical devotion to his craft, Muhammad Bey sent him to St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) to study the latest developments in the construction of firearms. On his return, Muhammad Bey established him in business, providing him with materials, tools and even workmen.

It was after al-Rowanduzi's return from Russia that most of his greatest masterpieces were produced. Altogether, it is estimated that he made some 200 guns. But not all of them were designed for the arts of war and rebellion. One of the most famous-unfortunately lost in the sacking of Rowanduz during the first World War - was an impres-

sive cannon mounted on a carriage which he built for his only son Mustafa. This cannon let out a terrifying boom, but was otherwise completely harmless. Mustafa eventually passed it on to his only son Nauroz, but all trace of it has now been lost.

But al-Rowanduzi's devotion to his patron came second to his devotion to his craft, and after Muhammad Bey's eventual surrender to the Turks, it was the Ottoman government which paid for his workmen.

Despite the incredible detail of his work, al-Rowanduzi established a form of rudimentary "assembly line" production in his spacious house in Rowanduz. One section was used for smelting the crude iron, another for preparing the special blocks in which the breeches were moulded, a third for assembling the completed guns, and a fourth for the intricate processes of engraving.



The house in which Usta Rajab used to live.

ving and low-relief decoration. Unfortunately, the house where all this prototype mass-production was carried out was burned down by the troops of the Kaiser during the first World War.

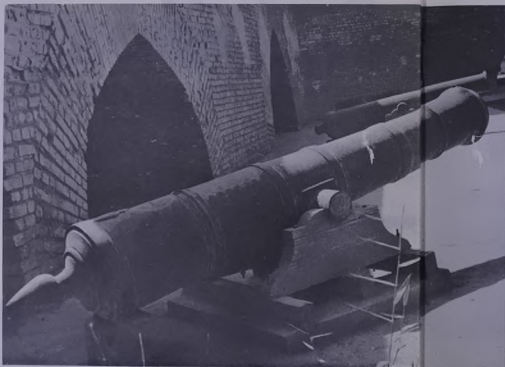
According to the present-day elders of Rowanduz, several of whom can look back on almost a century of history, al-Rowanduzi died at ninety, a ripe old age in any town except Rowanduz where longevity is the rule rather than the exception.

Of al-Rowanduzi's enormous output, only a few examples can be traced, some of the finest being in the Wastani Gate Museum. The largest of these bears the inscription "Khediv of Mosul al-Khazra Muhammad" close to the muzzle. Muhammad Pasha Alamdar was governor of Mosul for the Ottomans. The date of this imposing weapon is 1250 in the Moslem calendar (1873 A.D.) seven years after the end of Muhammad Bey's rule.

Another interesting specimen in the Arms Museum is a gun of medium size, girdled by spiral rings, on the lower half of which is inscribed "Mashaallah Nasr Min Allah Wa Fateh Qarib". ("Whatever the Almighty Wills; Victory from God and Conquest at hand.") Below this is written: "Its owner is Amir al Mansur Muhammed Bey- Mutasarrif of Rowanduz and Harir and Korib Mustafa Bey-Qantar 6. Work by Rajab - year 1245." In the middle is a painted hexagonal star with a crescent below, and the figure 20. The meaning of this figure has not been established.

In Rowanduz itself, one of al-Rowanduzi's guns, set on a

One of the guns made by Usta Rajab.



Rowanduz, Usta Rajab's home town in northern Iraq.



Another of Usta Rajab's guns.



mount, is still fired during Ramadhan and festivals. The gunpowder is inserted through a hole beneath the breech, covered with old cloth thrust down the muzzle and ignited with a burning ember. Similar guns by al-Rowanduzi are still in use in a number of towns and villages of northern Iraq. Other guns are believed to have found their way into Iran. According to Ala Sajadi in his book on "Kurdish Revolutions", the Iranians, under the command of Abbas Mirza, attacked Rowanduz during the rule of Muhammed Bey and seized a number of guns which they took with them on their retreat to Iran.

Al-Rowanduzi has left the world a legacy of superb craftsmanship which has scarcely been matched by any other gunsmith. Clearest proof of the incomparable workmanship which went into the construction of all his guns is the fact that one of the specimens now in venerable retirement in the Wastani Gate Museum was found in the waters of the Rowanduz River where it had lain for many years.

Today its condition is as perfect as the day it left al-Rowanduzi's workshop - no longer an instrument of destruction but a silent and enduring monument to the genius of a man who was as much an artist as an artisan.



# NEWS IN PICTURES



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3

1. A football match was held in Baghdad, recently, between a Tunisian team and the Iraqi Army team. Above is a scene from the match which the Iraqi side won 3:2.

2. Dr. Faisal as-Samir, Minister of Guidance, at the Yugoslav photographic exhibition, in Baghdad.

3. Sayid Nuri Jamil, Iraqi Ambassador to India, presents his credentials to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of the Indian Republic, on 1st Nov., 1960.

4. The Minister of Guidance, Dr. as-Samir, attending the posters exhibition, held by the Iraqi Artists Society, at the Fine Arts Institute, Baghdad.



4

● Baghdad is to have its own Opera House. The Economic Planning Board has decided to arrange an international competition in order to secure the best possible design and the highest standard of architecture.

The Board has agreed to allocate I.D. 300,000 for acquisition of the proposed site, and a further I.D. 10,000 for printing of documents and advertising the competition.

The Opera House will contain everything necessary for staging operas, ballets, plays, symphony concerts and choral concerts, in addition to public lectures and meetings. The stage will be equipped with the most up-to-date machinery, and there will be a separate hall for ballet rehearsals, together with rest rooms, changing rooms, rooms for the administrative staff, workshops, general stores, garages and parking places. The entire building will be fully air-conditioned.

● To celebrate the twelve-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Baghdad city and the eleven-hundredth anniversary of the death of the famous Iraqi philosopher El-Kindi, the Council of Ministers has approved the holding of a World Scientific Festival in Baghdad next autumn, under the supervision of the Ministry of Guidance.

To lay down the general plans for this festival, the Council has authorised the Ministry of Guidance to set up a committee of representatives from the Ministries of Defence, Education, Interior, and Guidance, the Amanat al-Azimah (Baghdad municipality), The University of Baghdad and the Iraqi Academy.

Invitations will be extended to foreign universities, institutes and orientlists to attend the Festival. These invitations will be sent out as quickly as possible, through Iraqi Diplomatic Missions abroad, to enable those invited to carry out any preparatory historical research.

The Festival will include an exhibition of books, pictures,

reliefs maps and special plans of the town. The Festival will last for one week, the last two days being devoted to celebrations in memory of the great Iraqi philosopher.

● One of the most important discoveries of ancient Sumerian art of this century was made recently among the ruins of the Temple of Inanna in the old holy city of Nippur, known in Arabic as Nuffar. The find, dating back to around 2,800 B.C., consisted of some fifty pieces, about half of which were exquisitely carved human figures placed in the temple to propitiate the goddess and later buried beneath the floor when a fresh temple was erected on the same site. The finest piece was a standing figure in green translucent stone with a gold mask. The excavations are being carried out by a joint expedition from the University of Chicago and the American Schools of Oriental research.

● Sayid Jasim Hamza, head of the Marine Section of the Iraqi Ports Directorate, left Baghdad for Federal Germany on 1st December to take delivery of the third steam tug built for the Ports Board in the Federal Republic.

● Sayid Mustafa Al-Uzri Director-General of the Tobacco Monopoly Administration, has announced that the current tobacco crop will meet the entire domestic demand. In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency (INA) he said: "Production is at present estimated at 150,000 bales of tobacco." Sayid Al-Uzri added that he had visited the tobacco factory at Suleimaniyah which had been ready for operation from 1st December, and which would shortly be taken over by the Ministry of Industry.

● Colonel Ismail Razouqi, Chairman of the Army Sports Committee and President of the Conference of Iraqi Army Sports Officers, announced that Iraq would in future participate in major international football tournaments arranged by the

International Military Sports Council. Colonel Razouqi was speaking at the close of the Conference. The Iraqi team will meet the Turkish team in Turkey on 8th January, and the two teams will meet again in Baghdad on 10th March. The Iraqi volleyball team will take part in next September's Teheran tournament; in basketball, Iraq will play in Turkey next May; track and field teams will compete in Belgium, and wrestlers will go to Turkey and Portugal, for the marathon.

● Export of Iraq dates for human consumption showed a n increase of more than 9,000 tons this year compared with last year. Exports from the beginning of the 1960 season up to 31st October totalled 43,959 tons. Figure for the corresponding period last year was 34,963 tons. A further 2,428 tons of dates left over from previous seasons were also exported this year.

A statistical report issued by the Ministry of Commerce showed that the quantity of boxed dates exported during the present season amounted to 16,331 tons against 9,173 tons during the same period last year.

● The Iraqi Dairy Service has been allocated a 4,000-jonum plot of land at Abu Ghurair. The land will be used as pasturage for 1,500 pedigree foreign cows belonging to the Central Dairy Scheme.

● Sayid Nadhim al-Zahawi, Minister of Trade and head of the 17-man Iraqi delegation to the recent Cairo conference of the Arab Economic Council, said he believed results of the Council's recommendation for strengthening the boycott against Israel would become apparent during the next year. Sayid al-Zahawi was speaking to the Iraqi News Agency (INA) on his return from the conference which closed on 18th December. The delegations will re-convene in Baghdad on 10th April. Sayid al-Zahawi said: "The Iraqi Republic welcomes the Arab delegates to Baghdad and wishes them every success in their mission."

## IRAQI ARTIST

FARAJ ABBO

Born in Mosul in 1921. Completed his formal education at the Baghdad Central Secondary School in 1939.

Studied painting at the Secondary School, Hillah, and the Teachers' Rural Painting School. Was later appointed Inspector of Painting in Mosul Liwa (province).

Delegated by the Ministry of Education to study at the Fine Arts Institute in Cairo. Obtained his certificate in 1950 and later obtained a diploma with honours and first prize at the exhibition of graduates' diploma projects.

Was later sent under a fellowship to Rome where he obtained the M.F.A. degree with credit, in painting. Was appointed teacher of painting in the Fine Arts Institute, Baghdad. Participated in a number of national and international exhibitions.

Member of the Founders' Body of the Iraqi Artists' Society, and one of the members of the "Baghdad group" for modern art.

Inclines in his style towards the modern realistic school, and tries to merge some of the modern concepts in art while preserving its Iraqi character.



