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NO SURRENDER

FINAL VICTORY FOR PALESTINIANS

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Front cover:
May 15 — The Rejection Day in Palestine (section of a poster by Dhia'a al-Azzawi)

Back cover:
Poster of the International Art Association's 8th Congress — Baghdad, 17-27 May, 1976 (painter, Yahyia al-Sheikh)

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No Price is Too High For Liberation

Trained in the school of agony, hardened by an unvanquished defiance of all odds, the Palestinian Arab has learned the lesson where refusal becomes regeneration. Every Arab during this turbulent period of dispersion, dispossession and deprivation has identified his future with the task of regaining Palestine.

The one is dependent on the other as if by a humanised law of gravity. Any effort to separate the two and allow them to evolve in divergent directions through the search for regional and selfish survival, has found the Palestinian within sight, tremendously tangible in his sufferings, colossal in his determination. He reminds everyone that no realisation of Arab nationhood can ever take place when that part of the homeland, placed where the heart is placed in the human body and performing a similarly central function, is overlooked or treated as if it does not count.

On the 15th of May 1948, the Zionist entity was created on usurped Palestine. During these twenty eight years of trial and error the Arab has worked out a formula for his salvation: it is that no Arab can go it alone and that each Arab is responsible for all wherever a square metre of the homeland is alienated through occupation or confessional orientation.

Our age is dynamic, with sudden reversals and equally sudden breakthroughs. Stagnation and imposed status quo are ruled out as permanent features. Ian Smith in Rhodesia, along with his clique, is now faced with the inevitable which he ignored just a few months ago. The Zionists were under the same illusion with regard to the Arab capability for war. Two years ago their euphoria was shattered. A few weeks ago their self-complacency was given a severe shock by the uprising of the Arabs inside occupied Palestine. This was only a prelude to what lies ahead in store for them. They deluded the world with an adultrated Darwinian theory: The survival of the fittest. But in no time the applause was cut short by the arrogance of the performer. Sooner or later, with "Israel's" slippery downhill journey, the auditorium will shout the actors down.

Future development of this issue will be bound up with the stamina of the Arabs for whom rejection of surrender, even in defeat, is the mark of the real fitness for the authentic kind of survival.

The Zionist pseudo-nationalist movement is face to face with the genuine Arab Nationalism. The double anomaly of zionism is that it came in the wrong time for such an aggressive brand of nationalism to take roots and to the wrong place when such roots are rejected by the very soil. The Arabs, after being dormant for ages, are not prepared any longer to acquiesce. Some elements may have become weary of constant fortitude, another minority may deceive itself to think that some sort of accommodation with the Zionist entity could be a better alternative, but the majority of this nation does no see peace through surrender.

Anxious to live in peace as the Arabs are, they are incapable of buying it at the exhorbitant price of dismemberment and humiliation, and while their aspiration towards the be-all and end-all goal of unity is thereby aborted.

IRAQI-TURKISH RELATIONS DEVELOPING STEADILY

At Baghdad International Airport: President Fakhri Koruturk inspecting the guard of honour accompanied by President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr.

EXAMPLE OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS

The Political Report of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, adopted at its 8th Regional Congress (January 1974), emphasizes that the "Revolution has devoted special care to Iraq's relations with neighbouring and proximate countries based on the principle that Iraq is linked with these countries by historical ties, mutual interests and common aspirations".

As to Turkey the report states: "The Revolution has been very keen to maintain relations of good neighbouriness and reciprocal cooperation in all fields with Turkey. Over the past long years the relations between the two countries witnessed a remarkable development. Visits of significance by leaders of both states were exchanged, crowned with the visit to Turkey in 1972 of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Secretary of the ABSP Regional Leadership".

These excerpts from the Political Report are clear evidence that the relations between Iraq and Turkey are increasingly developing in all spheres of mutual cooperation.

On April 26 President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, greeted at Baghdad International Airport, President Fakhri Koruturk of Turkey who arrived on a four-day state visit to Iraq. During the visit he held two rounds of talks with President Bakr and visited some Iraqi Governorates.

In their talks the two Presidents discussed aspects of cooperation between their respective countries in the political, economic, cultural and social fields and means of promoting this cooperation. The meetings were described by President Bakr as "constituting a significant basis for dealing with the varying conditions of the world in all fields and playing a major part in the mutual understanding between our countries in accordance with the reciprocal interests and common issues".

While in Iraq the Turkish President visited three major Iraqi governorates, namely, Nineveh, Ta'meem (formerly Kirkuk) and Basrah and acquainted himself with the extensive industrial, constructional and agricultural upsurge that Iraq is currently witnessing under the guidance of the patriotic and revolutionary government of the Arab Baath Socialist Party.

The visiting President was highly impressed by the progress realized by Iraq in all fields, particularly in oil industry. In this respect he said: "I have found a revolutionary regime in Iraq possessing all its oil wealth. I have been impressed by the extent of progress which has been achieved in all fields".

The delegation which accompanied President Koruturk on his visit to Iraq included Foreign Minister Mr. Ihsan Sabri Chaglayangil, the Turkish Ambassador to Iraq Mr. Nazif Cohuruk and a number of senior officials.

At the conclusion of President Koruturk's visit a joint communique was issued:

"Iraq and Turkey have renewed their firm conviction that no just and durable peace in the Arab region can be realized except by complete evacuation of Zionists from all occupied Arab territories.

"Both countries express support to the just struggle of the Arab Palestinian people for the attainment of their firm national rights. The two sides also confirmed their support to the struggle waged by the world peoples against colonialism and racial discrimination and their backing of the national liberation movements in Africa. Similarly the two sides reaffirmed their full support to the United Nations and the principles of its Charter.

"The two sides have agreed to safeguard independence and sovereignty of Cyprus and expressed the view that the Cyprus problem should be solved on the basis of legitimate rights of both Turkish and Greek communities and such may be achieved through peaceful talks".

Touching on the talks that took place between Presidents Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr and Koruturk the communique indicated that "the talks were carried out in a friendly atmosphere and in a spirit of understanding, commensurate with the friendship and good neighbourliness existing between the two countries". Their talks, the communique added, dealt with international and regional issues of common interest as well as with bilateral relations and the means of strengthening them further. Both sides have expressed satisfaction for the development of their relations.

The communique indicated that the two sides reaffirmed their determination to promote their relations in the technical, economic, cultural and other fields, for the common benefit of the Turkish and Iraqi peoples.

Presidents Bakr and Koruturk stressed the importance of continuing contacts between their respective states on various levels with a view to further promoting bilateral relations.

President Koruturk extended an official invitation to President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr to visit Turkey. The invitation was accepted.

On April 29 President Koruturk was warmly seen off by President Bakr, a number of Revolution Command Council members, Cabinet Ministers, heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Iraq and other senior government officials and heads of popular and vocational organizations.

Mr. Tayeh Abdul Karim, Minister of Oil, presiding over the meeting of OAPEC Ministerial Council

WIDER PAN-ARAB ROLE OF OAPEC STRESSED

The Executive Bureau of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) on May 3, concluded a five-day meeting held in Baghdad.

During its meeting the Executive Bureau discussed the items on the agenda proposed for the 16th session of OAPEC's Council of Ministers which started in Baghdad on May 4.

The agenda covered the following items:

1. Setting up of a joint work programme for member states in the field of energy, use of oil alternatives and training and developing of manpower.
2. Study of proposal calling for the establishment of standardized accounting unit.
3. Prevention of sea pollution resulting from tankers.
4. Other important items.

Council of Ministers Starts Sessions:

OAPEC Ministerial Council concluded its 16th session, which was chaired by the Iraqi Oil Minister, Mr. Tayeh Abdul Karim, adopting a number of decisions and recommendations.

A press release issued after the 2-day session said the Council decided to extend the term of office of OAPEC's Secretary General, Dr. Ali Ahmed Atiqa, and to appoint the Undersecretary of Iraqi Oil Ministry, Dr. Fadhil al-Chalabi, Assistant Secretary General of the Organisation.

The Council also approved the proposals put forward by the Secretariat General concerning training institute, creation of an information centre for energy and conducting a survey of the efforts and possibilities of the member states in the field of optimum use of oil.

The Council also decided to continue with the present information programme and asked the Secretariat General to investigate the economic feasibility of the proposed dry dock project on the Mediterranean.

Other topics discussed by the Council included strengthening and developing the companies springing from the organisation and finalizing the studies concerning the creation of Arab maritime academies.

The Council decided to hold its next session in Kuwait on November 23, 1976.

Oil Ministers, or their representatives, of ten Arab countries attended the meeting namely: Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Libya Saudi Arabia, Syria, Algeria and Iraq.

Iraqi Oil Minister and Chairman of the session, Mr. Tayeh Abdul Karim, emphasised that Iraq is keenly interested in the role being played by OAPEC in developing Arab cooperation and solidarity along the road of pan-Arab unity.

Speaking to Iraqi News Agency (INA) after the meeting, he said this interest is motivated by Iraq's belief in the part played by the organisation in achieving Arab economic and industrial integration.

Mr. Abdul Karim described as "brotherly" the atmosphere that permeated the work of the meeting, saying that it had made a serious contribution to the success of the meeting and adoption of constructive decisions.

The Minister said "this makes us optimistic towards a pan-Arab cooperation on stronger and more solid foundation for the benefit of our Arab nation".

Iraqi workers celebrating the May Day

Working Class Mainstay of Socialist Construction

MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

Iraq witnessed on May 1st, a country-wide celebrations marked with mass demonstrations and marchpasts as an expression of the working class' optimistic outlook on the future awaiting it and a confirmation of the workers' potentials and creativeness in building the country's socialist society.

The Arab Baath Socialist Party's ideological and organisational strategy is based on the working class occupying the basic position in society. As the ABSP struggles for the welfare of the toiling masses, it is only natural that it should depend primarily on these toiling masses in its programmes and spheres of activities.

The Party has been able to translate its thoughts and slogans in this respect, and in the course of the seven vears since the July 1, 1968 Revolution, into tangible achievements through enacting labour legislations to meet the needs of the comprehensive transformations being experienced by the country.

Labour legislations enacted after the Revolution stress the duties of the state and its commitments to the labour movement and the freedom of its trade union organisations, to ensure their full participation in shaping the aspired for socialist society. Similarly, these legislations stress the sacredness of work, the safeguarding of the workers' rights and dignity, and the state's endeavour to develop their talents and creative initiatives, thus preparing them to share in the economic programming, administer production projects and supervise and execute the national development plans.

These legislations took also into consideration the Arab and international commitments of Iraq and covered them by labour agreements. They also expressed zeal in covering all workers as well as society, in a way that no work recompensations and security are left for individuals, administrations and companies to determine. All these were turned over to the Workers Pension and Social Security Establishment, as the sole department responsible for providing emergency health, and social services in addition to providing the workers with security in case of on-duty accidents, inability or illness.

Of these legislations is Labour Law No. 151 of 1970, its first amendment No. 50 of 1973, second amendment No 87 of 1973, and its third amendment No. 110 of 1973. Also the Workers Pension and Social Security Law No. 112 of 1969, and the new Pension and 1971, its first amendment No. 155 of 1973; its second amendment No. 32 of 1973, and its third amendment No. 66 of 1973. Decision No. 628 of 1972 granted pension rights to employees who have reached the pension age but had only five or more years of service; Decision No. 95 of 1974 raised the workers' daily pay, the workers' cost of living allowance and consequently their purchasing power. And finally, Decision No. 125 of 1974 dealt with the appointment of talented craftsmen who have no school certificate in government departments.

The above mentioned laws aim at reaffirming the role played, and being played, by the working class in laying down and expanding the economic base of the new society which the July 17 Revolution is endeavouring to realise.

In response to the benefits reaped by the Iraqi working class, the latter has mobilised all its energies and capabilities at the service of the new transformation in all walks of life.

Moreover, the Revolution, through the labour legislations, has realised plenty of guarantees and gains for the woman worker. She has secured a substantial increase in her wages, besides maternity and sick-leave with full pay and compensations.

In short, the Iraqi workers are now living under such suitable conditions that they can engage in productivity and creativeness.

Budget And Development Plans

Iraqi-made tractor tilling Iraqi land

The 1976 budget is considered the biggest ever in the history of Iraq; its total allocation amounts to $ 17.153 billion, i.e. an increase of $ 4.777 billion over last year's budget.

Those who have been following Iraq's speedy development in all aspects of life should not be surprised at the colossal increase in the budget allocations, because the country has been achieving qualitative leaps in its economic set up over the past few years, particulary after the far-reaching success of planning its financial income following the complete nationalisation and control over its oil resources and revenues — in addition to the consolidation of the direct national exploitation of the Rumailah oil fields whose annual capacity is on the increase.

The increase in the country's oil revenues constituted a stamina to the country's financial power as reflected in the investment programmes and economic development plans. The period, which began on April 1, 1974 up to the announcement of the new budget (April 19, 1976), was characterised by an upward trend in terms of the general budget allocations (including the ordinary budget and investment programme).

The expansion in the volume of the budget and the increase in the allocations of the investment programmes have resulted in essential amendments in the economic plans and developing planning principles through new techniques, to function in harmony with the new aspirations and realities. Thus, a unified strategy for a long-term plan was drawn up; and Iraq treaded the right course in making use of the financial revenues in a manner promoting speedy and comprehensive development, and consequently raising the living standard of the people. This has led to the improvement of the process of importation whereupon import programmes were laid down to meet basically the development requirements.

The new budget has been arranged in such a manner as to follow the trend which prevailed in the previous two budgets, but in a more comprehensive way. The expansion in the volume of the current budget envisages the government's aspirations in supporting the development plans and accelerating their implementation, particularly as the country is ushering in today its new five year plan (1976-80) with a stress on heavy industrialisation as this constitutes the basic material foundation of socialist transformation.

Important Characteristics

The increase in the volume of the investment programme, which stands at $ 6.076 billion in the new budget, i.e. an increase of $ 1.360 billion over last year's programme, confirms the government's orientation in effectively supporting the development plans.

The new investment programme has given special importance to the production sectors, such as industry and agriculture which are considered to be the back-bone of development; the industrial sector's share of the budget amounts to $ 2.411 billion; i.e. an increase of $ 1.020 billion over last year's allocations. This could be explained in view of the strategic industrial projects contained in the 1976-80 five-year plan.

On the other hand, the agricultural sector's allocations have also increased in harmony with the outlook towards developing the socialist sector in the countryside (state farms, collective farms, and cooperatives) in addition to completing and starting huge irrigation projects and expanding the use of mechanism and electrification of the rural areas.

Moreover, the transportation, communication and services sectors' allocations have been increased to overcome the obstacles that faced these sectors during the past two years, and in order to develop and construct a modern communication network to help and facilitate the process of development.

The new budget has given special importance to the public sector as reflected in the allocations for the organisations and establishments of this sector which amount to $7.055 billion, i.e. an increase of $769.76 million over last year's allocations. This also confirms the government's support to the public sector which it considers the "steerage" of the economic development inasmuch as it confirms the direction towards consolidating the role of the state in the economic growth, a prerequisite in attaining socialism.

As to the "ordinary" budget, which is part of the general budget, the main concentration is on treating basic issues, like backing education and scientific research, developing health services, stabilising the prices of some essential goods and making them available to the people at lower rates, supporting the Estate Bank to enable citizens to construct their private houses, providing sufficient funds for the autonomous area in the northern part of the country and other local administrations, and meeting the demands of the state machinery for manpower and various services aiming at raising its operative efficiency.

Modern housing quarter

The budget included a special allocation ($340 million) for strengthening Iraq's position in the Arab and international fields and its relations with the developing countries and international and regional organisations.

Regardless of the fact that the figures in the new budget were carefully and accurately arrived at and according to a scientific fiscal plan based on the country's economic and financial reality, the figure $1.156 million stands as a "reserve" for eventualities.

From the above, one can notics that a budget of such magnitude proves Iraq's ability to steer her way safely along the road of economic, social and cultural development overcoming whatever obstacles that might arise. Besides, it confirms the sound direction of the country towards effecting a non-capitalistic economy.

Although the budget has made it evident that the emphasis is on development issues and giving such issues top priority, still it gave special importance to treating the masses' living and housing problems and providing the best services to them through fixing and lowering the prices of essential goods through government subsidies.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS PREPARING SKILLED MANPOWER

The availability of competent cadres demanded by national development plans has become a must for the successful implementation of these plans and the attainment of the sought-after objectives; and the preparation of these cadres means coping with the world advanced technical and technological growth.

In Iraq, throughout the post July 17th, 1968 Revolution, the need for such cadres tangibly increased in view of the speedy implementation of various economic projects. Therefore, the government created in December 1975 the Vocational Education Establishment in compliance with the horizontal and vertical expansion requirements in this field. The Establishment administers the industrial, agricultural, commercial and administrative specialised schools in full harmony with the competent authorities.

The Establishment's aims are:

1. The preparation of skilled vocational cadres properly orientated theoretically and practically.

2. The dissemination of vocational education and training in various branches within the transformations in work and production.

3. To cope with the modern technical and vocational development through consolidating the cultural and technical ties with Arab and foreign scientific establishments.

4. The continuous interaction between the Establishment and various sectors in exchanging data, expertise, technicians and instructors.

In addition to concentrating on specialisation courses in the vocational schools, enrolled students receive general education similar to average secondary schools.

The Establishment is currently expanding the existing ten agricultural schools, and has commenced on the building of eight industrial schools. During the coming two years twenty-eight industrial schools will be built throughout the country.

As for the future, the educational plan envisages the need for 165 vocational schools by 1981; i.e. 86 industrial, 34 agricultural and 45 commercial schools, in addition to expanding 15 existing ones.

The creation of the Vocational Education Establishment is a step on the path of achieving the comprehensive growth taking place in all fields in Iraq and a channel for preparing a plethora of specialists.

THE BIRTH OF THE BAATH

At the end of the Second World War, the Arab Nation was experiencing a reconditioning of mind and feeling. Socio-political and intellectual factors were moulding the body and soul of the historical processes. True, awareness of geography and literature, the sharing of a unique culture and the attachment to more or less common tradition, hopes and failures, biases and heroes were not new phenomena, but the illogicality of post-war power politics and world supremacy made it more logical and more relevant, and the irrationality of world disorder made it more rational. Such was the birth of the Arab Baath Socialist Party. In a manner of speaking it was a psychological response of the first order to threats of insecurity in the Arab soul.

And that political party had an ideology: a cluster of ideas and aspirations, an insight into life itself, an outlook of a historical mission. In its broad and generic context, it applied to the great variety of the moving ideals of our time.

The Baath ideology was not, however, destined to remain the harmless pattern of related ideas and dreams, which it could have been. Because in Iraq, it was Baath power which had associated itself with the ideology, and had sustained it; Arab revolutionary ideology had thus acquired it teeth.

(Abdul Jabbar El-Shatob)

IRON AND STEEL MILL Goes Into Production Soon

Towards Heavy Industrialisation

With the construction of the iron and steel complex south of Basrah, Iraq enters the phase of heavy industrialisation. This complex, which was a mere dream, became a reality after July 17, 1968 Revolution when its foundations were laid and the contract for its construction was signed.

In 1977, Iraq will witness an important event in its economic life when the machines of the iron and steel mill will roll to save for the country some 400,000 tons of various types of processed iron annually, in addition to 1,200,000 tons of foam-iron of which Iraq will be the first producing and exporting country in the region.

Forty French experts from the company which is executing the project, and 400 Iraqi workers belonging to the State Company for Constructional Contracts, being a sub-contractor, are working at present in the project. Roughly 40% of the civil engineering work of the project has been completed.

The Project

On December 8, 1973 Iraq contracted a French company to construct the $175 million iron and steel mill with an annual capacity of 400,000 tons. The mill is to comprise a smelting section equipped with electric furnaces, a casting and a skid section for the production of rail-roads, reinforcement bars, iron-beams and angle-iron.

In October 1974 another contract was signed with the same French company for the construction of two mills for the production of foam-iron at the cost of $204.6 million; the first mill will produce 744,000 tons annually, and the second 750,000 tons. The three mills are to be completed at the same time, i.e. at the end of January 1977.

A special sea-port will be constructed for the mills at Khor-al-Zubair for the loading and unloading of imported raw-materials and processed irons. The port will be connected to the mills by a 100 km. long railway. A special 250 megawatt electro-turbine power station will be constructed too.

The contract signed stipulates that the company will build a residential complex near the project comprising 1,100 houses for the workers, and a vocational training centre for the preparation of the required technical cadre.

Why the foam-iron?

Iraq will be the first country in the region to produce and export foam-iron. The total annual production of the two special mills will be within the range of 1,200,000 tons of which 400,000 tons will be for domestic use and the rest for export. As natural gas is used in foam-iron production as a catalyst, a pipeline will be constructed to transport gas from Rumailah oilfield to the project site for use in heating systems.

Iron oxide, a raw material used in the processing of foam-iron, will be imported from abroad, such as India and Australia.

As to iron and steel, the major mill will produce 800,000 tons annually after its operation at full capacity in 1980, thus covering half the domestic requirement.

Iron-scrap, which is also an important raw material, will be collected locally besides importing considerable quantities from abroad. The mill will require 150,000 tons by 1976 of which 76,000 tons will be supplied locally.

Preliminary studies show that northern and north-western parts of Iraq are abundant with iron-ore. Until a final study is made of the commercial value of the raw material in the country, Iraq will remain an importer of iron-ore.

Workers Rehabilitation

The iron and steel complex will need, during its first and second stages, some 1,680 engineers, skilled and semi-skilled workers. The preparation of such a huge cadre requires double and extraordinary efforts in view of the fact that the country is handling heavy industrialisation for the first time. Consequently, Iraq had to seek the help of Arab expertise in countries that preceded it in this field. The Ministry of Industry has sent a number of engineers to Algeria for a two-year training course in the iron and steel mill there, and 85 technicians to Egypt for 6 to 24 months training at the Helwan mill. More Iraqi engineers and technicians are to be sent to France for further training and thereafter they will take over the mill from the French Company after one year from its operation.

The data and graphs prepared by the State Company for Iron and Steel Industries on the country's consumption show a continuous upward trend in the demand for iron for the forthcoming years. Consequently, the complex will have to increase its production, and even double it after its operation to cope with the averages attained by the advanced countries; the iron consumption in any country is a clear indication of its constructional, industrial, and social progress. Europe's per canita consumption of iron is 300 kg a year, whereas in Iraq it is only 50 kg.

Moreover, the construction of the iron and steel mill in Iraq will save some $22 million in hard currency which is currently being spent on iron imports from abroad.

Smiling to the future

A Place Where Children Are Happy

by F. el-Manssoury

Zeineb is a young woman of 22 who has been married for just over a year. She has a one month old infant whom she deposits at the nursery adjoining the sewing factory where she works. When her eight hour shift is over, she fetches her child and returns home in the factory bus.

Zeineb is just one of about 85 working mothers who entrust their little children to the care of this nursery — the first one of its kind in Iraq. Founded in the autumn of 1975, it now receives around a hundred children whose ages range between a couple of weeks and four years. Housed in a large, modern building, the premises can take up to 150 children.

The nursery is also adequately staffed. The director, Mrs. Ferial al-Habshi, disposes of the services of four qualified social workers, as well as of six supervisors. In addition, there are 18 nurses, six cleaning women, two cooks, two assistant cooks, a medical nurse and a nutrition specialist.

With experience in social work extending over fifteen years, Mrs. Habshi is herself the mother of a nine month old infant, who is also entrusted to the care of the nursery. She explains that the nursery is divided into three sections: the first section takes in infants up to one year old; the second the one to two year olds, and the third section is the graduation class housing the three to four year old.

The four social workers are young women, graduates of the sociology department at the Faculty of Arts, Baghdad University. Each is in charge of one of the three sections, helped by two assistants. In the first section there is a nurse to every four children; in the second, a nurse to every six; and in the third, one for every seven or eight children. Thus, the children are very well taken care of. In addition, a doctor visits the nursery three times a week and the medicaments prescribed are free of charge — like everything else in the nursery.

Every child costs the State around 35 Iraqi dinars a month; his meals are free and his clothes are laundered in the nursery; there is also a large variety of toys and dolls at his disposal. When he or she is not eating or sleeping, there is a full education programme which includes singing and dancing and making clay models.

There are also outings for the older tots; a few weeks ago they visited the zoo and decided that the tiger was a very nice fellow. There are other outings planned for the near future.

There is a supervisory committee which includes a female member of the factory's Workers' Union as well as three of the mothers who have children at the nursery. This committee meets once a month to iron out any problems that may arise. One of the problems which the committee had to deal with concerned the contingency of the child falling sick, and it was decided that the working mother should be permitted to stay at home in order to tend her sick child, for otherwise there would be the danger of the other children catching the disease. It is true there is a quarantine section at the nursery, but the best solution remains in keeping the sick child at home in the care of his own mother.

To conclude, it remains to be said that this nursery for the children of women workers is merely the nucleus for similar nurseries to be established across the country. The Ministry of Social Affairs is now planning the establishment of thirty new nurseries in Baghdad alone, and there is no doubt that the success of this pioneering experiment is proving an impetus in accelerating the work undertaken in this field.

A Visit to Day Care Centre For Children of Working Women

Care and convenience

by Gora Ebrahim

PALESTINE: 28 Years Under Zionism

On May 15, 1948 the establisment of a Zionist "state" on Palestinian soil was announced. But the move to create it began long before that — it started around 1896 when Theodore Herzl, the father of modern zionism, published his pamphlet "Der Judenstaat". In it he called for the creation of a Jewish "state".

The following year, on August 27, Herzl was instrumental in convening the first Zionist Congress which was held in Basle, Switzerland. Although Jewish religious sentiments were exploited to ensure attendance at the Congress, it was primarily called to launch a political movement — the Zionist movement.

Soon after the Zionist movement was launched, it became linked with imperialism, especially British imperialism. The man responsible for establishing this link was Lord Rothschild — the head of the Anglo-Jewish community who was a force in the capitalist financial world and a member of the Royal Commission. Herzl and Lord Rothschild were close friends and the latter not only came out to support Herzl's ideas but agreed to use his influence in British ruling circles to obtain a British colony to establish this "state".

Hence the idea of creating a Jewish colony in a British colony came from Lord Rothschild. The Sinai Peninsula and the island of Cyprus were first offered. This did not materialise. After this the British Government offered Herzl, through Lord Rothschild, territory in British East Africa — specifically Uganda — and Herzl accepted the offer, but could not solicit enough Zionist support to implement it.

However, after World War I a new situation arose. The defeat of Turkey and the subsequent collapse of the Ottoman Empire led to Palestine falling into British hands. When the spoils were divided after the war Palestine was placed under British mandateship.

As soon as Britain began exercising mandatory control over Palestine, Lord Rothschild began pressurising British imperialism to hand over Palestine to the Zionists as a "national home for Jews". His efforts and influence culminated in the infamous Balfour Declaration.

Lord Balfour was then the Foreign Secretary. The Balfour Declaration, issued in November 1917, "promised the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people" in mandated Palestine. The interesting feature of the Balfour Declaration is that British imperialism handed over territory over which it had no sovereignty, not even colonial control. Britain was merely given mandateship over Palestine, BUT she acted as if Palestine were a commodity which could be disposed of as she liked.

However, it should be noted that handing over of territory to aliens, over and above the heads of the indigenous peoples, was nothing new in British history. In 1910 British imperialism handed over South Africa to white colonial settlers while totally ignoring the existence of the indigenous people in that country!

The contempt harboured by British imperialism towards the indigenous people of the territories they ruled can best be illustrated by quoting Lord Balfour himself. Extracts from his own diary — which can be found in Volume 2 of Documents of British Policy — quotes him as follows: "In Palestine, we do not propose ever to go through the form of consulting the wishes of the present inhabitants".

The question that needs probing here is why was British imperialism so keen on establishing a "national home for the Jews" on a territory which was mandated to it? Lord Balfour himself answered this question: "Zionism is of far greater importance to us than the desires and prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs who now inhabit the ancient land". Of what "greater importance" was zionism to British imperialism?

Having established a foothold in South Africa in 1910, through the so-called South Africa Act, the Suez was the next strategic target. British imperialism wanted a foothold in that area as well. Hence in the implementation of this strategy "zionism was of far greater importance than the desires and prejudices" of Arab Palestinians.

At the time of the Balfour Declaration the population of Palestine consisted of 700,000 Arabs and approximately 56,000 Jews. In other words Arabs accounted for 92 per cent of the total population while the Jews only 8 per cent. Besides most of these Jews were of Palestinian origin. The Jews, at the time, owned only 2.5 per cent of the total land area of Palestine.

Between the two world wars Britain encouraged Zionist immigration into Palestine. The Balfour Declaration of 1917 helped the Zionists entice, cajole and terrorise Jews into emigrating to the so-called "promised land". At the same time the British ruthlessly suppressed the Palestinians while allowing the Zionists to arm themselves.

As a result, by 1947, the Jewish population in mandated Palestine, had risen, mainly through immigration, to about 650,000, while the Arab population had increased, by natural growth, to 1,350,000. In 1947, therefore, the Arab Palestinian accounted for 67.5 per cent of the total population and the Jews only 32.5 per cent. During this period the Jews only owned 5.6 per cent of the total land area.

Thus through the infamous Balfour Declaration and neo-colonial ambitions, British imperialism, urged by the Zionists, deliberately created the then so-called Palestine problem. After creating this situation, Britain, as a mandatory power, in April 1947, referred the matter to the United Nations. The aim of this calculated move was to get international "recognition" of the entity imperialism wanted to create in the area. How this was manoeuvred in the United Nations is best revealed by leading American spokesmen.

Senator Lawrence H. Smith, in his report to the American Congress, described it as follows: "Let's take a look at the record, Mr. Speaker, and see what happened in the United Nations Assembly meeting prior to the vote of partition. A two-thirds vote was required to pass the resolution. On two occasions the Assembly was to vote and twice it was postponed ... In the meantime intense pressure was applied to the delegates of three small countries by the United States at the highest level in Washington!

"When the matter was finally considered on the 29th, what happened? The decisive votes for partition were cast by Haiti, Liberia and the Philippines. Previously these countries opposed the move. The pressure by our delegates, by our officials, and by the private citizens of the United States constitutes reprehensible conduct against them and against us". (US Congressional Record. December 18, 1947 page 1176).

Harry Truman, who was then President of the United States, openly admitted in his memoirs that since he had no "Arab constituents" he could have scarce regard for Arab interest. Truman boasted that but for this U.S. pressure the "partition resolution" would never have got majority support.

However, the imperialist sponsored "partition resolution" was not only steam-rolled through such "reprehensible conduct" but ignored the basic and fundamental rights of the Arab Palestinian people. For instance the "partition resolution" divided the country as follows:

- To the Zionists it gave more than 56 per cent of the total land area. i.e. more than ten times what the Jews owned;
- The Arab Palestinians, the indigenous people of the country, received only 42 per cent of the country although the Arabs constituted 67.5 per cent of the population during this period and owned more than 94 per cent of the total land area.

(It is interesting to note that today the Zionists do not only occupy the 56 per cent of Palestine that was illegally "allotted" to them under the imperialist sponsored and manipulated UN resolution of 1947, but have usurped the whole of Palestine. To that they have added, since 1967, a great part of the Sinai Peninsula, the Syrian Heights and the West Bank.)

In an attempt to "justify" their usurpation and military occupation of Palestine, the Zionists claim that it is in "fulfilment of God's promise in the Bible". At other times and occasions they have invoked the "persecution" of Jews to cover up their colonial deeds.

It is claimed that Abraham was promised in the Bible that Palestine would belong to his seed — namely the Jews. But this claim has been disproved by renowned Biblical scholars. In any case if this were true the Arabs also belong to the seed of Abraham. In fact that "Divine Pact" to hand over the land of the "Cannan", which includes some portions of Palestine, was supposedly made at the time of the circumcision of Ismail from whose seed the Arabs can claim descent and whom the Jews completely disown.

Isaac, from whom Zionists claim mythical descent, was not even born at the time of the so-called "Divine Promise"!

Mahatma Gandhi, writing in "Harijan", November 26, 1938, observed as follows: "The Palestine of Biblical conception is not the geographical tract. It is in their hearts. But if they must look to Palestine of geography as their national home, it is wrong to enter it under the shadow of British guns".

However, it cannot be ignored that the Bible syndrome has been the soil in which much of western sympathies for "Israel" were rooted — particularly among those brought up from childhood on Bible stories. But over the years the situation has changed, in some cases radically.

As stated earlier, the Zionists have also utilised their persecution to justify their occupation of Palestine. But who were the persecutors of the Jews? According to Jewish historians themselves it was the Romans who dispersed the Jews in 70 A.D. and 135 A.D. In modern times it was German nazism. Today, needless to say, neither the Romans nor the Germans are "paying" for this persecution — BUT THE ARAB PALESTINIANS!

Amos Elon, a Jewish writer, sums up this aspect in his book, "The Israelis: Founders and Sons" in the following manner: "By a brutal twist of fate... the price of zionism was partly paid by the Arab inhabitants of Palestine. The Arabs bore no responsibility for the centuries-long suffering of Jews in Europe, yet, in the end, the Arabs were punished because of it".

Elon went on to add, "the price extracted was heavy; it is impossible to measure it in terms of human bitterness and suffering. Whatever their subsequent follies and outrages might be, the punishment of the Arabs for the sins of Europe must burden the conscience of Israelis for a long time to come".

He concludes his book with a logical assertion that "there is an unexpected element of irony in the fact that Israeli Jews, who owe their existence to their extraordinary memory of the past, should now be forced to rely on the Arabs forgetting theirs!"

To all colonialists the "desires and prejudices" of the indigenous people did not matter. In some cases they did not exist for the colonialists. For instance history books compiled by the South African racists claim that when the White man landed in that country, some three centuries ago, there were no Black people there! They claim that the African people of South Africa subsequently came from the north!

The Zionists hold a similar view in respect of the Palestinians. According to Amos Elon as early as 1917 "Ben Gurion made the astounding suggestion that 'in a historical and material sense' Palestine was a country without inhabitants". "The blinding effects of national ego-centricity", says Elon, "could hardly be greater".

Hence it was such similarities that prompted Verwoerd, the assassinated fascist Prime Minister of South Africa, to draw the following parallel: "The Jews took Israel from the Arabs after the Arabs had lived there for a thousand years. In that I agree with them. Israel, like South Africa, is an apartheid state". (Rand Daily Mail, November 23, 1961).

However, until recently, one of the strangest features of the conflict over Palestine was that the world condoned the wrong that was done to Palestinian Arabs. Arab sufferings were disregarded by the world as callously as the wrongs by which these sufferings were caused. Hence what was particular about the Palestine conflict was that the world listened only to the party that committed the offence while turning a deaf ear to the victims.

In the words of Arnold Toynbee, the noted historian, "The Palestinian Arabs have been despoiled and evicted by force, and the force by which they have been coerced was first British before the Israelis built military strength to do their own fighting — with American supplies of arms and American economic and political support".

Arnold Toynbee warned that "the responsibility for the wrong done to the Palestinian Arabs is widespread: now nations and individuals alike must assume the imperative task of informing themselves of the conflict in the Middle East"

Time and experience, needless to say, considerably helped to reveal the true nature of zionism. The world is no longer "fascinated" by the "David pose" of the Zionists against the "Arab Goliath". It is no longer "stunned" by Zionist claims of supposed Arab intentions; but can see and know of Zionist actions against the Arabs. It is no longer a secret to them that Zionist occupation of Palestine has led to an unprecedented form of colonialism where a whole nation has been evicted by alien settlers.

Concurrently there is a growing realisation about the wrongs committed against the Arab people of Palestine. This is a positive trend. And it is precisely these wrongs that the Palestinian Arab people — both inside and outside the occupied lands — are fighting to correct... and will eventually correct.

In the meantime it would do no harm to remember that there is a nemesis for condoning wrongs as well as for committing them!

Iraqi Jews : Victims of Reactionary Intrigues

● Who was behind their emigration... and why the door is wide open for their return?

by Hussein Fawzi

(Part One)

The talk about Iraqi Jewish citizens and what measures they were subjected to cannot be tackled outside of the overall actual situation which the Iraqi people lived through under the reactionary puppet regime in the period stretching from 1921 up to the July Revolution of 1958. Oppressions and injustice were the lot of the citizens in general, those whose impoverished economic conditions were preventing their protection from persecution. On the other hand we could say that during that time the economic conditions of Jews were comparatively better than those of the groups.

Going back to the history of the Jewish community in Iraq, it is relevant to quote here what Shacol Atichedor wrote in "Davar" in its issue of 26.3.1975. The article of that notorious Zionist activist was entitled "My first mission to Baghdad". In this article he confessed that the Jewish community preserved its Jewish personality, essence and roots. The Zionist writer noted that the Jewish community flourished culturally and religiously. After enumerating the Jewish cultural and educational establishments in Iraq, the writer points to the fact that the Jewish role in Iraq increased following the emergence of an Iraqi government under mandate in 1921. He confessed that very vital Jewish contributions, aiming at realising progress for Iraq as a whole, were made by the Jews for which they obtained the appreciation of other Iraqi citizens in addition to the betterment of the conditions of the Jewish community. It should be noted in this context that the first Iraqi Minister of Finance in the first Iraqi Government was Mr. Sassoon Hezekial, a Jew. The statements of that Zionist writer bring to light the reality of the prosperous conditions which the Jewish community was enjoying in Iraq.

This and other Zionist writers blame the Iraqi Jews for what he calls, "their falling victims of the illusion that the doors of economic prosperity and advancement in the government apparata were opened to them, a thing which increased the tendencies calling for assimilation of the Jews within the Iraqi society".

This is a final proof that the Iraqi Jews did not have the desire to emigrate from Iraq to Palestine, but the emigration was imposed on them through intrigues. in coordination with the British Zionist circles and the reactionary governments of Iraq.

The Relationship of the Jewish Community with the Other Elements of the Iraqi People

The Iraqi Jewish citizens took a clear stand along with the other sectors of the Iraqi society against the Ottoman occupation as a result of the backward and reactionary state of affairs of the Ottoman Empire. Therefore the great Arab revolution against the Ottoman rule, which aimed at the independence of the Arab Homeland, witnessed Iraqi Jewish contribution. This contribution was governed by two factors:

1. The common oppression exercised by the Ottoman authorities against the Iraqi citizen in general.

2. The hopes that a liberal rule may emerge after the fall of the Ottoman state as a result of the alliance between the Arabs and the British, consequently the scope of freedom was thought to widen. In support of that tendency the first Iraqi government chose a Jew to be the Minister of Finance.

In fact the Iraqi Jewish citizen exercised, in addition to banking and trade, a tangible role in the fields of politics and law as the Jews had many Deputies and one member in the Senate, Mr. Izra Mnahim Danial. As to Mr. Yousef, nicknamed the "great", he was one of the authors of the constitution of the Iraqi state. Therefore Iraqi citizens belonging to a community other than the Jewish had no feeling that the Jew was a parasite, as in the case of western Jews. This was because of many reasons, the most important of which were:

1. That the Jews did not choose to live in quarters isolated from the Moslems and Christians. They lived with the rest of the citizens.

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr presenting the Olympian Cup to the champion team on the occasion of the Army Annual Sports Festival held on May 15.

Mr. Sa'adoun Ghaidan, RCC member and Minister of Communications, receiving Mr. A.S.D. Sharma, the Indian Minister of Communications, on May 5.

Mr. Saddam Hussein, RCC Vice Chairman, attending the Baghdad Conference for Compulsory Elimination of Illiteracy which was opened at the Mustanssirriya University on May 9.

Mr. Izzat al-Douri, RCC member and Minister of Interior, receiving Mr. Otfried Steiger, Minister of Electricity and Electronics of the GDR, on May 5.

2. The consciousness of the Iraqi Jew of his deep rooted belonging within the framework of the Iraqi society for many thousands of years.

These two factors crystalized a feeling with the Iraqi Jewish citizen, that his being in Iraq conferred on him the prestige that he was a member of a major religious source of Judaism in the world as Iraq-Babylon was the cradle of Babylonian Talmud. In addition to that, there was the heritage of the three Jewish sages of Torah. For this reason the Iraqi Jew was reluctant to accept the notion that Jerusalem was the major centre of the Jewish religion, especially as the powers behind this notion and what is called the Jewish homeland were, and still are, western Jewish elements, forming a part of the powers that colonised the East in general and the Arab homeland in particular. In addition to that there was the feeling of cultural superiority of the western Jews vis-a-vis the Oriental Jews, besides the variance in the philosophical directions.

What Happened to Change That Relationship?

The puppet reactionary rule in Iraq, after its establishment in 1921, felt the dangers of giving full rein to the desire of the Iraqis to realise social progress and construct a society on civilised foundations similar to the British bourgeois democracy. The Iraqi Jews were prominent in calling for this. In order to stop that aspiration, the authorities resorted to various means in accordance with a British design which depended on the policy of divide and rule. Discrimination between citizens became rife.

Thus began the subversive plan to frustrate the aspirations of the Iraqis through shattering the national unity on confessional and tribal grounds. Despite this, the record of Jewish citizens never witnessed any animosity on the part of other Iraqis. If some Iraqis took an aggressive attitude towards the Jews in 1936 and 1941, this can be explained by the collaboration of some influential and rich Jews with the royal puppet authorities and their response to the British designs to continue their intervention in the affairs of the country in a direct way.

An objective analyst of the motives behind the attitude in these two periods would come to the conclusion that the events which took place at that time were part of the political conflict within the Iraqi society which took the life of numerous Iraqis belonging to various communities. In addition to that, the commotion aroused by the massacres committed by the Zionists in Palestine led to a reaction which the ruling reactionary clique abetted.

Zionism Will Become a Ludicrous Ideological Wreck

The French National Gathering for Palestine decided to publish a series of documentary booklets to expose to French readers the full facts of the Palestinian issue. The first book to come out of the press is one titled "Zionism, Palestine and UN" discussing the "Israeli" government's policy in the occupied lands, in addition to international debates on the Palestinian issue.

In its first chapter "UNESCO and the state of Israel", the book exposes and analyses in detail and with irrefutable evidence Zionist practices against the principles of the International Cultural Organization. The offensive activities of the pro-Zionist groups in France, the book reflects, are aimed at creating blinders to darken the understanding of the French people of the inhuman misdeeds in the occupied Arab territories. As an example of these misdeeds, the book mentions "the state of cultural blockade" imposed on the Arabs by the Zionist military governor. But the book concludes that this blockade gives adverse effects "since poets and writers are blossoming and spreading like orange petals. The saying of these poets and writers are on every Palestinian lip and their voices penetrate the furious wooden slums scratching the skin of time".

The Zionist enemy had no weapon to silence these voices except repression, pushing the Palestinian intellectuals to a hard choice between prison and exile. Zionist hypocrisy, the book concludes, is waning in the French mind, and the time is not far when Zionism will become a ludicrous ideological wreck.

The French National Gathering is set "to expel Zionist hypocrisy forever from the shrine of French conscience" and it is sure that the French mind is no more a fertile land for Zionist misleading, an indicator of which is the enthusiastic wide circulation of the two books "With My Own Eyes" by Felicia Langer and "Le Racisme de l'Etat d'Israel" by Israel Shahak.

Racists of the World Unite

Inspite of the close ideological, political, economic and military interests which link up the bloc of South Africa and Rhodesia together with "Israel", the recent visit of South Africa's Vorster to "Israel", however, put forward with brutal clarity the likely possibility of forming an alliance between the three regimes, the nature of which is indeed unique.

The racists, backed by the United States of America, and encouraged to exchange American and European imported scientists with uranium, led to a French diplomat recently warning the whole world from "keeping quiet" against such activities. Whether the reports lately announced by CIA sources to the effect that the Zionists in Palestine actually possess nuclear weapons are valid or not, the political moves of the South African and the "Israeli" regimes in the same direction towards an outright defence of racism on a world level are no less dangerous.

In fact the unity of the South African, Rhodesian and Zionist racism does not constitute a threat to the Third World only. Taking into consideration the mania of the Zionists concerning their so-called "superiority" over all the non-Jews of every race, together with their age old dream of world domination combined with the resources and experimenting ground facilities of South Africa, the visit of Vorster to Rabin actually deserves a second thought. This concern should not come from the Third World only, but from the West which encourages such suicidal activities. Because, notwithstanding the fact that freedom and peace of the world are threatened by irresponsible racist regimes in possession of such destructive means, an unexpected threat will equally be posed to the security of the West itself.

Alienation ...

In an interview with Newsweek, July 3, 1967, Golda Meir said all there is to say. The policy which "Israel" adopted since 1948 up till today, and most likely will adopt in the future, was summarized in her concentrated, extraordinarily 'careless' statement: "If a resolution is passed not to our liking so what? After all, it is not a tank firing at you". This actually explains why "Israel" spurns any international resolution passed by the UN.

It has become an established fact now that "Israel" violated all the Geneva conventions and brushed aside all the UN recommendations with a degrading shrug of the shoulder; reasonably enough, the Zionists knew they had strong backing by their economic and propagnada machinery in certain western governments. It appears, however, that even the very passionate supporters of "Israel" are beginning to feel that their adopted 'enfant terrible' is overdrawing on its political deposits in these countries. The Monte Carlo Radio correspondent in Palestine confirmed on April 4, that most of the western quarters, which hitherto have been "very sympathetic", are now entering the stage of advising "Israel" to change her policy for fear of completely tarnishing her picture in the eyes of world public opinion. So much so, that even Zionist Rabbis in the USA are now showing increasing signs of worry about the future of the "Israeli society".

Zionism in action

Rich and Poor

"If you don't support us, you die of hunger". That is precisely what "Israel" said to the Third World. This threat, addressed to the Third World, was, strangely enough, delivered by the West German delegate to the UN, representing the attitude of many western governments in reaction to the UN decision branding zionism as a form of racism!

UN sources announced that an obvious warning has been delivered to all developing Asian, African and Latin American countries, to adjust their attitude towards "Israel" and abandon the recent UN decision.

Bearing in mind the political weight of "Israel" in these Western countries on account of the Zionist control of their finances and economy, the warning was not unexpected. The Third World countries, deprived of development capacities, in addition to the fact that most of them have recently been liberated from European colonialism, are now confronting political blackmailing to support a fascist movement.

The question is, does "Israel", by putting pressure on certain Western countries to issue such threats, believe that her crimes will be forgiven? Apart from the fact that the Third World countries supported the UN resolution branding zionism as a form of racism because they realise the Zionist danger to their own security, the 'Israelis', who are using the economic weapon "so cleverly" have forgotten that the industrialized western countries economic "aid" to the poor unindustrialized Third World countries has been mainly "sweet words"

How to Win Elections

The American Presidential elections are being directed from somewhere outside the USA, strangely enough, somewhere from the Middle East. The Zionists of "Israel", in collaboration with their friends of the Zionist lobby in Washington, have been busy for the last two months discussing which one of the candidates should be supported. What the candidates have to do, is simply to promise to be arch suppliers of weapons to "Israel". "The Israeli-American Presidential auction" which is taking place in the USA during the primary phase of party nomination, is indeed one of the rarest. "Davar", the Zionist daily in Palestine, clarified the situation by saying the price of winning the Presidential elections of the USA this time, is not merely confined to military and economic aid to "Israel", but "political plans" securing the continued occupation of Arab land must be on top of the list.

Jimmy Carter, a Democratic Party candidate, recently promised very modern weapons. However it is quite possible that Ford, Reagan or anyone else could come out with something better.

The mock democratic US Presidential elections "in the Zionist fashion" recently climaxed in a secretary of one of the Democratic Party candidates, saying this year's US Presidential campaigning is centred around "Israel" and not the United States of America!

(Medhat Magar)

POETRY

MEMOIRS OF AN ARAB

From Occupied Palestine

by M. Jamil Shalash

9 April 1948

The first crisis... what a miserable life !
... I spat at the face of guns and bombs,
I disobeyed my emigrant people...
I was a small farmer,
I live on my field, and hate to be a thief,
I hate to see blood... colour of blood
I used not to dance
For the flames:
I am not a watchful pirate,
Monstrous, greedy, infatuated with the Song of
Blood and steel.

* * * *

25 July 1950

O' memories of yesterday... I wish we were not...
But year after year
I used to conceal the horror of shame,
as if it was gunpowder
in the ground.
O' my memories!
There was a field, but guns nestled in its soil.
There was a cottage of a faithful farmer,
But ruined by the malicious Zionists' bombs
I repeat and repeat again my song:
We will pass away, O' time...
The dawn blossomed in other nations,
but we still dream of security.
And we cannot provide bread for happy life...
There... with the invading Zionists.

17 June 1949

O'life, I am still loyal,
But an insult to pride is deeper and severer than instults of years...
O' Heaven! What a wound!!
I do harbour feelings of hatred, to see the savage...
To come back with only two handfuls of ashes
From the bloody field... That in its redened
flowers of corns,
the flames roar
and roar but in my
depths... to melt me
as if I am in Hell.

* * * *

(Trans. from Arabic)

by M.I.

Books

The Noble Arab

by S. Kasso

"The Noble Arab" is the title of a new book soon to be published in America by Fred Tamimi of Turlock, California, President-Founder of the Tamimi Assyriology Foundation. Turlock Daily Journal recently carried a special article on the book titled "Tamimi Authors the Noble Arab".

In this introduction to "The Noble Arab", Tamimi writes:

"Time is long overdue for a book of this kind, particularly when public opinion in the world and especially in the United States of America has been so poisoned by a barrage of false and malicious propaganda emanating from universities, colleges, the TV and other media. These sources, controlled by a few and all aimed at the destruction and assassination of the character of the Arabs — one of the noblest and creative nations in history. Indeed, even among the cultured, there is a great deal of ignorance of the real character and origin of the Arabs and of the true doctrine of the moral values of Islam — the mighty system of monotheism and the greatest of non-Christian religions".

The book contains seven chapters and a map of the Middle East. The chapters are titled, "Prehistory", the "Period of Ignorance", "Mohammed the Prophet", "The Qoran", the "Number of Sects", "The Rise and Spread of Islam" and "The Arab in Modern Times".

In the first chapter, Tamimi explains the discovery of the "missing link" which connects the Arabs to their "rightful origin" — the oldest civilisation of mankind — the land of Sinai — the rich central plain of Tigris-Euphrates Valley.

In the second chapter the author explains a period of confusion when polytheism, the Jews, Christians, Hanifs and Idol-worshippers were struggling for supremacy over the land and the people of Arabia proper.

The next chapter elaborates on "Mohammed the Prophet of Islam and the Messenger of God" The following chapter explains the Qoran "the holy book of Islam, its message as revealed to the Prophet and preached by him and succeeding leaders of Islam".

The next two chapters deal with the number of sects and their beliefs and the rise and spread of Islam. The final chapter, "The Arab in Modern Times" explains the Arab's dominance by the colonial powers, his freedom from oppression, his leading role in world affairs and his misunderstood and distorted true image by foreigners.

Tamimi, a linguist, historian, author and lecturer, has spent some 51 years as a decipherer of ancient inscriptions and records — 22 years in the Middle East, including Iraq, and 29 years in the United States of America. Tamimi, originally an Iraqi-Assyrian, has worked with picture writings, hieroglyphic, pictographic, cuneiform and early alphabetic Aramaic and Assyrian writings.

Add to Your Knowledge

Iraq-Architecture

In Iraq you may find numerous mosques built in the traditional brick style. This style connects the prototype in Medina with the famous mosque of Ibn Tulun in Cairo. Worthy examples of these are at Ukhaidir, Roqqah, Abu Dulaf and Samarra. The first two of these are of the mid-ninth century.

* * * *

● When did an epidemic cause a revolt?

In 1381, a rebellion, headed by Wat Tyler, flared up. The main cause of this revolt was the terrible visitation of a plague known as the 'Black Death' which ravaged England in 1348-1349, carrying off one third or more of the population. Land owners sought to compensate themselves for the huge rise in wages consequent upon the dearth of labourers by increasing the amount of forced labour and by other exactions. Distress and ill-feeling grew so acute that the whole of south-eastern England revolted.

* * * *

● What bridge connects a palace with a prison?

The Bridge of Sighs in Venice connects the Duke's Palace with the state prisons. Regarded as one of the most beautiful bridges, this structure was erected between 1595 and 1605 to the designs of Antonio (or Giovani) Contino, nick named as da Ponte. The bridge is so called because of the painful prison memories it evokes. A similar bridge, crossing the Can from St John's College, Cambridge, is also known by the same designation.

* * * *

IRAQ IN MARITIME HISTORY

by John de Courcy Ireland Ph.D.
Chairman, Irish Arab Society.

Mesopotamia they used to call it — the Land between the Rivers, as the Greeks knew it. And Mesopotamia it still was to the world, a backward province of the decaying Turkish Empire, when the Iraqi Arabs began the long movement that was to liberate their country from the Turks only to see it fall into the hands of the British; and then, starting all over again, stage by stage to transform their country from a colonial dependency into a socialist republic. The people of Iraq are today more sure of themselves than for many generations, and ready after a vast lapse of time to resume their old position in the vanguard of civilisation. For this ancient land between the great Euphrates and Tigris and stretching down the Shatt El-Arab to the Arabian Gulf has seen the great cultures of Ur, Babylon, and Assyria and the rule of the great Abassid Caliphs when Baghdad was the world's leading cultural centre and Basra its busiest port.

Iraq being one of the centres from which human civilisation sprang — the city of Ur of the Chaldees was flourishing 29 centuries before Christ, and, in the nineteenth century B.C. Hammurabi, the real founder of the Babylonian Empire, published the oldest surviving code of laws — it was not long before its inhabitants began experimenting in boat and shipbuilding, first on their great rivers, then on the open sea. For the development of water-transport is always an essential accompaniment of the development of civilisation.

The German author Dr. Friedrich Moll, in his remarkable collection of some 4,000 reproductions of artistic representations of shipping in antiquity, "Das Schiff in der Bildenden Kunst", devotes his first two plates (92 representations in all) to Assyrian and Babylonian vessels, the oldest representations being nearly 6,000 years old. "In the ancient world" writes Lionel Casson in his classical "Ships and Seamanship in the Ancient World", "we can trace the dugout (canoe) chronologically from the Stone Age to the fifth century A.D., and geographically from Spain to India" including, he emphasises, the Euphrates Valley. He prints an illustration of a clay model of a Mesopotamian river craft, probably a coracle, which he dates to about 3,400 B.C. He has a great deal to say about the "quffa" or round coracle of the lower Euphrates, depicted in Assyrian reliefs of the ninth to seventh centuries B.C., seen by the ancient Greek historian Herodotus, and still an essential means of river transport in Iraq: the Assyrian reliefs show fairly large sized coracles calculated to have been able to carry 4-5 tons and propelled by four oarsmen. A representation now in the British Museum shows such a coracle transporting a chariot.

Now let Professor Romero of the University of Santiago de Compostela take up the story: he was recently responsible for the construction of a skin coracle of the type believed to have plied in the Bronze Age between his native Galicia and these islands. He writes: "We do believe in the evolution of means of navigation and ought therefore to suppose that the ships of the Bronze Age which sailed up the western European coasts were remote descendants" (of Mesopotamian ships of the third millenium B.C.). A fascinating proposition linking Ireland and Iraq long before even "The Irish Times" was thought of. Professor Romero quotes another outstanding expert on ancient vessels, J. Hornell (who made a detailed study of the Irish curragh) "... the coracle is the most primitive hide boat, coming from the same origin or family as that from which the coracle named 'sufa' of Iraq... proceeds".

The other ingenious and well-attested early Mesopotamian vessel is the "Kelek", the raft made of a wooden frame, resting on multiple bladders to prevent destruction in the rocky rapids of the upper Tigris and Euphrates. Such rafts are depicted in Assyrian reliefs of the eighth century B.C. and were still in use in Iraq earlier in this century, all of 50 feet square and kept afloat by as many as 1,000 bladders.

Both the "Quffa" and the "Kelek" are believed to descend from much more primitive rafts of bundles of reeds. But it was not long before these early Iraqis began building vessels of a more ambitious nature, and of this we know a little from one of the greatest of all early epics, and from Mesopotamian versions of the Flood, one of

which appears in the Gilgamesh epic.

Gilgamesh, which is an Akkadian rendering of a Sumerian name Bilga-mes, meaning "The Ancient is a Hero", is said to have been a king, the 28th to rule after The Flood, successor to Dumu-zi, who, being a fisherman, is also associated with the age-old story of constructive exploitation of water in Iraq. Gilgamesh ruled in Uruk, which is on the site of Warka, in southern Iraq, where the earliest inscribed clay tablets ever to have been discovered were found, dating to roughly 3,100 B.C. He later became a god to the King's of Ur. Gilgamesh's story is a poignant reflection of man's eternal yearning to conquer Death. In his determination to discover how to do this he set off on a fabulous journey, which incidentally brought him across much water, to find the sole survivor of The Flood and learn the secret from him. From this figure he heard the story of The Flood. Apparently mankind had incurred the displeasure of the gods, who decided to remove the troublesome breed by drowning.

Gilgamesh and his lion

A merciful god, identified as En-Ki, resolved to save a pious king, Zi-u-sudra, whom he informed how to build a boat in which he and his family will survive. "For seven days, for seven nights The Flood had swept over the land and the storm-winds had tossed the huge boat on the great waters" as the Sumerian version of The Flood has it. Eventually Zi-u-sudra survived and was rewarded with eternal life in "the place where the Sun-god rises", identified with Bahrain.

An earlier version of The Flood is found in the Epic of Atram-hasis, sections of which have been discovered on tablets dated to the reign of Ammi-Saduqa 17-2-1682 B.C., in the Old Babylonian period. Here it is Atram-hasis, also a pious king, who is saved, having been warned to "build a ship".

In the Gilgamesh story, the hero has to journey beyond "the Waters of Death". He learns that the "ark" of the survivor (whose name in this version has become Uta-napishtim) was a perfect cube, each side measuring about 200 feet, with seven decks, and that it required huge quantities of bitumen, pitch and oil to keep it watertight.

There was a door, a hatch, a steering oar and a helmsman. The "ark" was difficult to launch, and, once in the water two-thirds of it were submerged.

The interesting features of this story is that it shows a remarkable knowledge of ship-building and ship-handing, demonstrating the venerable antiquity of the great maritime traditions on which modern Iraq is successfully building. Only the shape of the Babylonian "ark" is awkward, but this was a deliberate poetic device to catch and fix the audience's attention and emphasise the supernatural nature of the episode.

Uta-napishtim went through a series of splendidly described gales that could not have been thought up by anyone who had not experienced an angry sea. Eventually, as R. Camobell Thompson has it in his translation of the Gilgamesh epic into English hexameters:

"Lulled was the sea all spent was the gale,
assuaged was the deluge",

and the "ark" had come to rest on Mount Nisir, identified as Pir-i-Mukurun a mountain 8,600 feet high east of the Tigris in the Lesser-Zab Basin.

Uta-napishtim waited a week before following the tried practice of seamen in ancient days, perhaps indeed first used by the Babylonians though mentioned also in very early Indian maritime literature — he sent out birds to reconnoitre, and when a raven did not return, prepared to disembark.

The Assyrian King Sennecherib in the seventh century B.C. built up a powerful fleet and though it was chiefly constructed and manned by Phoenicians, predecessors of the modern Lebanese, there is no reason to doubt that on board were Mesopotamian seamen. By this time mariners from the Shatt-el-Arab had established regular contact by sea with what is now the coast of Pakistan, and indeed many relics of ancient Mesopotamia have been recovered in the excavation of the sites of the ancient Indus civilisation at Harappa and Mohendjudaro, dating to 2,300 B.C. Seamen from what is now the coast of Iraq participated in the great developments by which Arab seamen became for centuries to come the natural intermediaries between the civilisations of Asia and Europe.

Under the Abbasid Caliphs Iraq was the centre of world culture, and seamen from Basra were regulary sailing not only to India but Indonesia, China and East Africa. Arab ships were by far the largest and the best appointed in Chinese waters or in the Indian Ocean.

It is no accident of course, that under Harun al Raschid, the most celebrated of the Caliphs of Baghdad, the maritime prowess of the Iraqi people was epitomised in the immortal stories of Sindbad "the Sailor", which show a remarkable knowledge both of the maritime geography of much of the world and of the culture of many peoples. Sindbad made seven voyages, to India, to the Kingdom of Riha (probably Malaysia) to Silaheth Island, to Malabar and on to the Nicobar Isles, to "the island of the Old Man of the Sea" (Probably the Konkan coast of western India) and on to the Maldive Isles and the pearl fisheries of the Gulf of Manaar, to Ceylon, and again on the last voyage to Ceylon. The stories show a profound knowledge of ships and the sea, and the kind of powers of observation that are naturally developed by good seaman. Here is an extract from the account of the sixth voyage:

"I arrived at a seaport where I embarked on a good ship whose captain was determined to make a long voyage. It was in fact very long but at the same time so unfortunate that the captain and the navigator mistook their course, so that they did not know where we were". Eventually, they did manage to recognise their position but the captain then showed great alarm, declaring: "We are in the most dangerous spot in the whole sea. A very swift current has got hold of the ship and we shall all be dead in less than a quarter of an hour". He then gave appropriate orders, but the ships rigging was unable to stand the strain thrown upon it, and the ship went ashore. But crew, passengers and cargo were got on to the beach. However, "this coast was littered with the remains of ships that had been wrecked and because of a great many bones... we decided that a great many people had perished there". They found much wealth cast up, a remarkable freshwater river that flowed inland, a stream of pitch, also trees and ambergris. The current added to an inshore breeze would always cause shipwreck and offshore breezes were blocked by a high mountain, so that even when they blow the current would eventually carry any ship ashore.

This passage, like so many others from Sindbad, achieves the clarity of a chapter from an Admiralty Coast Pilot, the language of which, according to that great maritime writer and master of English, Joseph Conrad, approaches perfection in its brevity and exactitude.

It was during the centuries of Europe's "Dark Ages" that Arab navigators, sailing under the Abbasids, gave to so many of the stars they observed and utilised on their voyages the names by which they are now universally known, the names learnt over and over again by tens of thousands of seamen of every nation on earth. And it was after the Abbasid decline that Arab seamen, still ubiquitous on the seas between the Arabian Gulf and the coast of China, learned from the Chinese the use of the compass, modified it, and transmitted it, apparently early in the twelfth century (as they transmitted so much else of value) to the maritime republics of Italy, And for centuries, thanks to the accumulated observations of the superb seamen of Basra and other Arab centres, Arab geographers were the best and indeed almost the only geographers in the world.

Abu Mohammed Kasim ben Ali, surnamed Hariri, the great poet of Basra, was born about 1054 and died in 1122. In Paris there is a manuscript of his collection "Makamat" depicting a ship whose sail and yard show interesting features. Table No. 7 of Schulz's collection of Islamic miniatures gives us another "Makamat" illustration, what would appear to be an elaborate river boat with a much elongated prow or bouzprit, propelled by oars, while an illustration for the same collection in the Asiatic Museum in Leningrad depicts a ship propelled by oars with mast (including a crow's nest) folded back along the deck, and a highly sophisticated anchor. This illustration is dated from 1223.

The Iraqi scholar Ibn-Khallikan from whom we know something of the voyages of certain eminent Arabs, had been born in 1211, and some seventy years later Basra was visited by the famous Marco Polo as the natural starting place for his projected sea voyage to China. He embarked there in a local vessel which brought him as far as Ormuz.

A Franciscan, John of Montecorvino, late in the thirteenth century also sailed from Basra, his ship taking him round India to Java and Sumatra and thence to his destination, China, which by now had a large settlement of Iraqi merchants and seamen. Odoric of Pordenone, another Franciscan, accompanied at least part of the way by an Irish colleague, travelled to China via Basra earlier in the following century, and the greatest of all medieval travellers, the Moroccan Arab Ibn Batuta, twice visited Basra in his 28 years of voyaging, 1325-53, and experienced the skill of Iraqi watermen on the Tigris for almost its entire length. The Great Mongol Empire of Kublai Khan found in Basra its most reliable commercial link with Europe, trans-shipping there from Arab seagoing ships to local river-craft goods destined for disembarkation at Baghdad and transport by caravan to Trebizond or Beirut and thence to Europe.

The Venetian Nicolo Conti in the fifteenth century travelled by local river-craft down the Euphrates to Basra and thence by a ship of that great port via Ormuz to Cambay in India.

And so it is evident that, whether under Parthian, Persian, Arab or restored Persian rule the seamen and shipbuilders of the Shat carried on and developed the great maritime traditions of Akkadian, Babylonian and Assyrian days, making their port one of the commercial hinges of the trade of the world, and an inevitable jumping-off for travellers seeking to penetrate the mysteries of the East.

When the Portuguese reached India by the Cape route and altered forever the whole history of the world, the merchants, seamen and shipbuilders of Iraq did not tamely surrender the advantages which they and their ancestors' skills and efforts had given them. The distance of the natural flow of commerce that was to make of a narrow stripe of Atlantic Europe from Cadiz by way of Lisbon, Bristol and London to Antwerp and Amsterdam the magnet irresistibly attracting the bulk the world's commerce was the first stage in the creation of unrest to capitalism and the whole mechanics of modern imperialist economics. The Iraqis resisted the new developments, fighting the Portuguess and at the same time showing their flexibility by rapidly learning techniques of European shipbuilding introduced by their enemies in Arabian Gulf, and adapting them to their own traditional methods.

The result of the dramatic events of the 16th century, in which the Iraqis were not helped by being brought in 1534 under the control of distant and usually neglectful Istanbul, was indeed the disruption of natural organic development of Asia and the Arab world; but it also produced, in reaction, the traditional Arab dhow as we know it, to the story of which Iraqi shipbuilders and seamen richly contributed. "Arab dhow", this vessel is described in one of the greatest of all time handbooks, R.C. Leslie's "Old Sea Wings, Ways and Words" (London) "with her well-arranged splendid sail-power and lines of hull, which agree very much with the 'wave-line' theory, fussed over and said to have been first discovered by shipbuilders about 40 years back", R.C. Leslie emphasises the importance of the dhow-builders' discovery of enormous value of the deep heel, or great draught of water aft, in proportion to the forward draught.

It is not surprising that B.W. Batche's booklet, produced by H.M.S.O. for the London Science Museum in 1966 to illustrate in twenty sections the main features of small craft from all nations outside Britain, devotes three of the sections to crafts from the Arab World, the dhow, the Nile cargo-ship, and the Mesopotamian Kelek.

Basra, which, like certain Irish medieval maritime cities, was from time to time able to assert its independence of distant royal authority, continued to struggle in the seventeenth century for a share of the seaborne trade of the Arabian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, and in the "Memlook" period, 1706-1831, regained a certain eminence.

The debt of Iraq to her maritime population during the centuries of Arab decline is immeasurable. The seamen and shipbuilders of Basra and the boatmen and boat-constructors of the Euphrates and Tigris kept life-giving circulation going in a community which must often under Ottoman rule have seemed doomed to suffocation.

Today the Euphrates and the Tigris (on which bizarre naval actions were fought in the first world war, as well described in R. Braddon's "The Siege"), and the Shatt-el-Arab and Basra, all are pulsing with a new vigour. The Iraqi people are coming into their own, and using the wealth accruing from their oil to transform their river transport and the very rivers themselves, to modernise their historic seaport, and to equip themselves with a powerful up-to-date merchant navy to avoid dependence on foreign shipping companies, a fishing industry suitable to Arabian Gulf conditions and possibilities, and an adequate fighting navy to protect their coast and their river life-lines.

Dr. de Courcy Ireland is Director General of the International Institute of Maritime Culture. He is a well-known author, scholar and historian on Maritime affairs.

King Ashur-bani-pal and his queen feasting in their garden, attended by servants and musicians (marble relief from Nineveh)

Music During The Sumerian, Babylonian And Assyrian Periods

by Sherif Yusuf

Archaeological research in Iraq has unearthed what is supposed to be the oldest musical instrument known to man, a double pipe made of bone. Experts believe that this instrument was made during the Charcolithic Age, a period between the Bronze Age and the Stone Age, some three thousands years B.C.

It seems that all three of the instruments which appear first in history the pipe, the drum and the harp, originated in the Middle East and were quickly distributed in the world then known.

Archaeologists, working in the Tigris-Euphrates valley, uncovered the sites of a number of cities in which some pre-Babylonian race had lived — Ur, Eridu, Uruk and Kish the seat of the oldest culture so far found in these regions, and Agade capital of the ancient kingdom of Akkad.

Notwithstanding the fact that Sumerian research is still in its infancy, we know much of its historical background, its economics and its social life, its religious beliefs and practices and its government, art and letters.

As has been true all through its history, music, in this early civilization, was connected with religion. In the Sumerian religion there was no universal god, but rather a number of deities belonging to the different city-state and associated with the serious phases of human activity.

Most of these gods lived in temples. Music was used in the worship of these temples, where the priests were wont to deliver the revealed word of the god to the people to the solemn accompaniment of the harp, a fact which caused this instrument to be thought of as that of the decision of fate.

There were likewise music groups of liturgists and psalmists, both men and women, in the temples, trained to sing and play in praise of the god. A late account desribes these groups as consisting of an orchestra, led by a harp, with seven-stringed lyre, a two-stringed lute, pipe and so forth, and a number of singers.

When music made its advent, it was a fully established art, one which played an important role in the life of its time and established its standing for centuries to come. It was used in connection with religious services; it was thought to possess definite powers of magic. Officially it was recognized by the state and religious authorities, although, there is evidence that it was likewise pursued for pleasure's sake, with wine and women. This music was both vocal and instumental, employing many instruments, among them the harp, the lyre, flute, drum, reed pipe, double as well as single trumpet, timbrel and rattles.

Music Among The Babylonians

There remains little to be added regarding the music of the developed Babylonian civilization which came out of the earlier Sumerian beginning in Mesopotamia.

The relation of these two cultures is difficult to establish, for there was a great deal of warfare, conquest and interpenetration. The first created a civilization, the second developed it to a height and passed it on to a future period.

Essentially traders, business-men and warriors, the Babylonians achieved more success in science than in art. Their legends became known to the whole world. Yet in the visual arts and music they accomplished little that was new. Their music was but an elaboration of Sumerian practices. They used, perhaps, more and bigger instruments — harps, lutes, single and double flutes, reeds, trumpets, drums, cymbals and tambourines.

The singer sang and the orchestra played both in the temples and in the palaces, but again, no real examples of Babylonian music have come down to us, and so we know nothing of its character.

Music Among The Assyrians

The splender of the early city of Babylon was short lived. After the death of Hammurabi, the Hittites swept down from the northern mountains and laid hold of Babylonia for a time: they were followed later by the Kassites from the eastern mountains.

The Gold Lyre from the Royal Cemetery at Ur of the Chaldees (3000-2750 B.C.)

In 1350 B.C. the able rulers of a city-state at Ashur, south of Mosul, extended the boundaries of their dominance and formed the Kingdom of Assyria, which for more than two centuries was a very strong military power.

The chief Assyrian contributions — if they can be called contributions — to the progress of men were in the art of war. So we can hardly expect any important developments in Assyrian art. Except in their magnificent bas-reliefs filled with scenes from their wars and hunts, the Assyrians did not distinguish themselves as artists.

The one outstanding illustration of the use of music in the Assyrian civilization is the great decorative relief, from the time of Ashurbanipal, showing the royal musicians celebrating the triumphant return of the king from one of his wars.

In this procession there are players on double flutes and harps, a player on a percussion instrument and singers, one of them holding his hand to his throat in such a way as to produce the nasal tone so characteristic of oriental music, the others making the rhythm by clapping their hands.

Musicians always accompanied an army on the march. Strings, percussions and wind instruments were all known, the first of these including a kind of squarish cithern. This was played while walking, as was a portable harp with sounding box covered with skin. There was a kind of a miniature mandolin with an extremely small sounding box and strings attached to the end of a very long handle.

Percussion was by drums of different kinds, ranging from portable timbals to others of very large dimensions. Some of the instruments were wholly made of metal, like the handle cymbals, or the sistrum.

Wind instruments comprised a variety of single and double flutes and also, no doubt, pan pipes. On a relief, which is now in the Louvre, four musicians are performing while the army has halted for a rest. Drummer and harpist, cithern-player and cymbalists face each other in pair, alternately advancing and retreating.

Finally one can say that the people of Mesopotamia were certainly cognizant of the capacity of music for stirring the emotions. A Sumerian clay tablets of the twenty-sixth century B.C. attributes this power to it:

To fill with joy the Temple court
And chase the city's gloom away,
The heart to still, the passions calm
Of weeping eyes the tears to stay.

Copper Craft

History of Iraq copper-smithing is rich and old, having its roots striking deep into ancient ages, where it was first introduced to make domestic utensils and everyday tools. Since then copper-smithing has developed and its methods and styles varied.

This handcraft was well known in many towns and cities of Iraq, such as Mosul, Baghdad, Hilla and Kerbala, but nowadays and due to the appearance of modern utensils made of aluminium or plastics, you could only find copper-smith markets in Baghdad and Kerbala, which are still making copper objects, and some of them are still obtained for domestic use such as coffee-pots, ash-trays, pitchers and jugs; but others like censers, aladdin lamps, bells and bowls are obtained only for decorative purposes.

There are three main methods to make a copper article, each one depends on the shape and style of the object required; but sometimes you use the methods one after the other to make a certain object; these methods are: (1) malleation, (2) perforation and (3) engraving.

To make a coffee-pot, a certain type of hammer is used to malleate the copper sheet and turn it into a shape of the pot required, then the pot is filled with bitumen and left aside until the bitumen becomes solid; a graver is used to make the required engraving on the walls of the pot, which usually represents some archeological sites such as the Lion of Babylon, the Spiral Minaret of Sammarra or the Winged Bull of Nimrud and so on; together with shape of flowers or palm trees. The finished pot had to be heated to spill out the bitumen.

Perforations are made on the walls of censers, and some trays which are used for decorations; the procedure is similar to that used in engraving at first stages, but later a very sharp graver is used to cut small pieces out of the copper walls of the censer or the tray, to make the required perforations of designs required which mostly are in shapes of roses, vines and similar botanic figures.

The tools used by the copper-smith are very simple and consist of hammers of different types, scissors, anvils, vices, pincers, callipers, files and a forge.

Many kinds of copper articles are still made, specially in Baghdad and Kerbala copper-smith markets, such as trays, vases, pots, pitchers, bowls, jugs, censers, ash-trays and aladdin lamps.

PRESS OPINION

ATH THAWRAH (Iraq)

May Day

Greeting the 1st of May, the International Labour Day, the Iraqi daily Ath-Thawrah — in an editorial — wrote:

"The 1st of May is a well known day in the history of struggle of the working class. It forms a conspicuous mark in workers' boldness and ability to sacrifice and persist. They have been exposed to several kinds of oppression and persecution at the hands of exploiting capitalists who only aim to satisfy their greeds".

The paper added: "In our Arab nation, our workers have played an active role in the struggle against foreign domination".

Referring to the ABSP's policy towards the working class the daily said: "In this context, the Arab Baath Socialist Party has devoted exceptional attention to the Arab working class. Hand in hand with workers the Party participated in most of their uprisings against oppression, exploitation and foreign domination. The ABSP had a pioneering role in the establishment of trade union organisations in the Arab homeland proceeding from its faith that unity of the Arab working class is a genuine historical and objective fact, challenging all kinds of partitioning of the motherland. The Party also took the initiative to decree that Arab workers wishing to work in Iraq are to be treated on equal footing with their Iraqi brothers in all financial and legal aspects".

TURKISH PRESS ON:

The Visit of President Koruturk to Iraq

The Turkish press paid tribute to the visit of the Turkish President, Fakhri Koruturk to Iraq. Following are some excepts.

Commenting on the visit the Turkish daily "Turcman" said: "The curve of Iraqi-Turkish relations diagram is always inclining upward, specially after 1968".

Another paper "Yeni Olos" wrote: "A remarkable positive change has occurred in Iraqi-Turkish relations following 1968. High level visits and talks have taken place between the two countries. The joint cooperation has grown noticeably and the Iraqi strategic oil pipeline passing across Turkish territory is the best example for the positive development of the relations between the two countries".

As for "Kon Eden", it said that, "leaders of both countries are sincerely determined to promote and strengthen relations between the two states in the various fields".

BORBA (Yugoslavia)

The Iraqi Yugoslav Relations

Under the heading "optimum cooperation between two Non-aligned countries", the Belgrade daily 'Borba' said: "The Iraqi-Yugoslav relations are the best example of cooperation between two friendly, developing and Non-aligned countries. Both of them are fully contributing towards establishing a new international economic system with greater justice".

The paper, referred to the recent meeting in Belgrade of the Iraqi-Yugoslav Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation, indicating that the committee "has reviewed many important items related to economic cooperation between the two countries. It reached agreements on rules for settling of payments, expansion of the volume of trade between the two countries and the entry of Iraq and Yugoslavia as co-partners into a third market".

AL MUHARER (Morocco)

Iraq a Centre of Struggle

The Moroccan daily al-Muharer, organ of the Socialist Union Party, in a leading article entitled 'Moroccan impression about an Arab land' said: "Thanks to the wise leadership of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, Iraq has become an advanced centre of struggle in the eastern wing of the Arab homeland. Its socialist, economic and cultural achievements are at the service of the Arab causes".

DIE ZEIT (West Germany)

Threat to the Zionist Entity

Under the heading 'End of Zionism' the West German weekly paper "Die Zeit" published an article written by Jurgen Thrwald saying that a new danger is threatening "Israel". This danger, which could be fatal, is that zionism began losing its supporters even among the Jews themselves. The Zionists in occupied Palestine are relying to a great extent on the financial and moral support of world Jewry. This reliance is impossible to last forever, because zionism, as an ideology, is unsound and unacceptable to non-Zionist Jews.

Following June 5, 1967 War the "Israelis" have destroyed 20,000 houses inhabited by Arabs and over the same period established 41 Jewish settlements for which they have spent over 800 million "Israeli" liras.

NEWS IN BRIEF

AYSAMI RECEIVES INDIAN MINISTER

Mr. Shibly al-Aysami, Assistant Secretary General of Arab Baath Socialist Party, received on May 6 the visiting Indian Minister of Communications Mr. S. D. Sharma who arrived in Baghdad two days earlier on an official visit lasting four days.

During the audience Mr. Aysami reaffirmed Iraq's faith in the policy of Non-alignment and neutrality and in promoting cooperation among developing nations.

Expressing the Indian government's appreciation of ABSP policy towards Non-aligned and developing states, Mr. Sharma reviewed with Mr. Aysami the friendly relations existing between Iraq and India. He also conveyed the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi's appreciation of the "efforts exerted by Iraq towards enhancing neutrality and Non-alignment policy and towards stepping up cooperation among the developing countries".

PRESIDENT BAKR INVITES MEXICAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT IRAQ

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr has extended an invitation to President Luis Echeverria Alvarez of Mexico to visit Iraq and the invitation has been accepted.

President Bakr's invitation was contained in a message to President Echeverria delivered by Iraqi Foreign Minister, Dr. Saadoun Hammadi, during his four-day visit to Mexico which began on May 2.

FINANCE MINISTER RETURNS FROM RABAT

Finance Minister, Dr. Fawzi al-Qaisi, returned from Rabat, Morocco, after leading the Iraqi delegation to the meeting of the Arab Ministers of Finance and Economy and the 5th annual meeting of the governing council of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) which concluded there late last month.

Dr. Qaisi said their talks dealt with issues of Arab cooperation in the economic, financial and monetary fields.

BAGHDAD TO PLAY HOST TO 8TH PLASTIC ART CONGRESS

Under the patronage of Iraqi Information Minister, Mr. Tareq Aziz, the 8th congress of the International Association of Art (AIAP) will open in Baghdad on May 23, under the theme of "Today's artist is an active factor in society".

Delegates from several Asian, American and European countries are scheduled to attend the conference along with observers from Arab and world plastic arts federations and associations. Prior to the official opening of the congress the AIAP General Assembly will hold a preparatory meeting on May 17.

ARAB SEMINAR ON FINANCIAL PLANNING CONCLUDES

A month-long Arab seminar on financial planning was concluded in Baghdad May 5.

The seminar, jointly sponsored by the Iraqi Finance Ministry and the Kuwait-based Arab Institute for Planning, was attended by 25 trainees from Jordan, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Somalia, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan and Iraq.

IRAQ SIGNS ACCORD WITH HUNGARY

Iraq and Hungary signed in Baghdad minutes of an accord for cooperation in the fields of works and housing. The accord provides for the exchange of experts and technicians and the possibility of seconding a number of Hungarian specialists to commission the prefabricated houses plant under construction in Iraq.

The minutes were signed by Dr. Rashid al-Rifa'ie, Minister of Works and Housing, for the Iraqi side, and by the visiting Hungarian Minister of Construction and Town Planning.

GDR MINISTER VISITS IRAQ

Mr. Otfried Steiger, the German Democratic Republic's Minister of Electrical Engineering and Electronics, paid a visit to Iraq during which he had talks with a number of cabinet ministers on Iraqi-GDR cooperation in economic, trade and development fields.

OPEC'S SECRETARY GENERAL HAILS IRAQ'S OIL POLICY

Secretary General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Mr. Otekiti Feyide, said that the organisation "has registered Iraq's oil nationalisation decision as the most important national step taken by an oil producing and exporting country".

Mr. Feyide, who was speaking to the Iraqi 'Oil and World' monthly added that "many OPEC member-states have followed in the footsteps of Iraq and achieved at different degrees, control over their oil industry".

IRAQ PARTICIPATES IN WHO MEETING

Dr. Izzat Mustafa, member of the Revolution Command Council and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, returned to Baghdad from Geneva where he attended part of the 29th General Assembly meeting of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

While there, Dr. Mustafa also presided over the meeting of the Executive Bureau of Arab Health Ministers' Council held to coordinate efforts of participating Arab delegations and unifying their stand towards the agenda of the WHO meeting.

AGREEMENT ON USE OF COMPUTERS IN AGRICULTURE

A cooperation agreement, on the use of computers in agriculture, was signed on 5th May between the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and GDR Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Nutrition.

IRAQI-CUBAN YOUTH COOPERATION

General Federation of Iraqi Youth (GFIY) and the Cuban Youth Federation signed in Baghdad, late last month, a protocol on promoting cooperation between youth movements in both countries.

The protocol calls for exchange of publications and delegations, and coordination on political issues at international youth meetings and festivals.

IRAQI-CANADIAN AGREEMENT

Iraq and Canda, on April 29 last, signed in Baghdad two draft agreements for bilateral technical and economic cooperation and trade exchange between the two countries.

IRAQI COMMUNIST PARTY PLEDGES COOPERATION WITH ABSP

The Iraqi Communist Party (CPI) has reaffirmed its great appreciation of the progressive achievements won under the leadership of Arab Baath Socialist Party.

In a cable of thanks to the ABSP regional leadership for its greetings on the occasion of CPI's third national congress, the Communist Party expressed determination to "work together with you and all the national forces and elements, for winning still further gains and for strengthening our progressive patriotic and national front".

THE 9TH CONGRESS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF KURDISTAN

The 9th national congress of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, one of the parties affiliated to the Progressive Patriotic and National Front (PPNF) was held on May 5. A message from the Arab Baath Socialist Party was read at the congress by Comrade Abdul Fatah al-Yassin, ABSP regioual leadership member, which emphasized that "all progressive forces are very keen to safeguard the national unity and share a common destiny so as to close the door in the face of foreign imperialism and for building a democratic and prosperous Iraq".

SPORTS

PRESIDENT BAKR PATRONISES ARMY SPORTS DAY

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, patronised on May 14, the Army Annual Sports Day in which 1200 cadets participated. The Sports Day, which was one of the best performances of the Army, was held at al-Sha'ab Stadium.

Brigadier Nash'at Maher al-Salman, director of the Army's physical training, announced that the winners of the various games will represent Iraq in the forthcoming Military Sports International Council's Championship to be held in Brazil next August.

IRAQ WINS WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Iraq has won the 3rd Baghdad international free style Championship ended on May 7.

Iraq won 6 golden medals followed by Pakistan with Afghanistan coming third.

Teams from Libya, Egypt, Tunisia, Iran, in addition to the three winners participated in the 2-day championship.

IRAQ STAGES ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Iraq will stage the 2nd Asian Youth Free-style Wrestling Championship next September, the Iraqi Wrestling Federation (IWF) announced.

IWF's sources said that a cable has been received in Baghdad confirming the International Wrestling Federation's approval.

Iraq, during the coming championship, will back Palestine's membership to IWF.

ASIAN TABLE-TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

The 4th Asian Table-tennis Championship will be he'd in Malayisia in 1978, the Asian Table-tennis Confederation announced in its meeting held in Pyongyang at the end of the last April.

IRAQI FOOTBALL TEAM FOR ASIAN CUP

29 players were called by the Iraqi Football Association for training prior to their participation in the final rounds of the Asian Football Cup to be held in Teheran early next June.

Iraq has qualified for the rounds by topping the Asian Group II following the tournament held in Baghdad last November.

TRACK AND FIELD ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FORMED

A three-member committee has been formed by the Iraqi Track and Field Federation to select the Iraqi athletes who will take part in the two-nations' meeting between Iraq and Iran from June 8 to 11. The Iraqi athletes will also represent Iraq in the Montreal Olympics next summer.

AL-SHAIKH 76 الشيخ

برعاية السيد وزير الاعلام المؤتمر الثامن للرابطة الدولية للفنون التشكيلية

الفنان اليوم : مساهم بناء في المجتمع - ١٧-٢٧-ايار- بغداد ٩٧٦

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION
ON THE OCCASION OF THE I A A 8th GENERAL ASSEMBLY & CONGRESS
ARTIST TO-DAY A CONSTRUCTIVE PARTICIPANT IN SOCIETY
BAGHDAD 17-27 MAY 1976