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WOMEN IN SEARCH OF KNOWLEDGE

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President Bakr addressing the conference

a revolutionary situation which stands in the face of all submissive settlements".

The representative of the Lebanese national movement said: "Our people stood in defence of the Palestinian people out of their conviction in this people's right to exercise their national duty on all Arab lands".

Comrade Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Secretary of the Regional Leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party and President of the Republic, stressed that the unity of Arab progressive and national forces in each country and in the Arab arena is a basic necessity for confronting imperialist and Zionist conspiracies and schemings and a prerequisite for achieving progress along the course of pan-Arab aims.

UNITY OF ARAB PROGRESSIVE FORCES IS A BASIC NECESSITY FOR CONFRONTING IMPERIALIST CONSPIRACIES



Participants in the conference

Comrade Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr stressed: "We should do our utmost to preserve the security of Lebanon, enhance her unity, safety and stability and struggle against partition and confessional feuds".

Palestine Liberation Organisation's representative declared: "The Syrian regime moved with the full leverage to check the emergence of

In his speech addressed to the Arab Popular Conference for Supporting the Palestine Resistance and the Lebanese National Movement, which opened on June 26th, Comrade Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr said: "We exerted great efforts and made many attempts to realise this aim. We called for the necessity of forming a fighting northern front, opening other fronts and seriously struggling for liberating the occupied Arab land provided that the regime in Damascus rejects

resolutions No. 242 and 338 of the Security Council, thereby paving the way for Iraqi forces to effectively join the Syrian forces on the front".

President Bakr also elaborated on the contacts made on this issue and pointing out that, "talks between us and many other Arab brothers who care for the unity of the Arab progressive forces, specially the Libyans, continued for a long time".

Comrade Bakr added: "After many consultations with Libya and Algeria, we worked out common bases needed for the formation of the northern front and for struggling against the Zionist enemy".

On the stance of the Syrian regime, President Bakr revealed that "after informing the head of the Syrian regime (Hafez Assad) of our decision, which was communicated through our brother Mr. Abdul Sallam Jaloud, the Libyan Prime Minister, and after we had been notified of the agreement of the Syrian government to the working programme and the entrance of Iraqi forces into Syrian territory, we made the necessary preparations to mobilise our forces and commanded them to proceed. Actually these forces did move, but all

US imperialism. "After this regime, with its collaborators, felt that they went far in their attempt to bring about the execution of their plot, it unrolled its intent, decided to execute its all-out military invasion and attempted to liquidate the Palestine Resistance and the Lebanese national movement".

The inaugural session of the conference, held at Mustansirriya University, was attended by Comrade Shibly a'Aysami, Assistant Secretary General of the Arab Baath Socialist Party and a number of members of the Party's National Leadership, the Vice President of the Republic, a number of Revolution Command Council members, Ministers and members of the Higher Committee of the Progressive Patriotic and National Front.

The opening session was also attended by senior officials, representatives of popular and professional organisations and unions, delegates from Arab progressive political forces and parties and popular organisations and unions in the Arab homeland. The conference was sponsored by the Progressive Patriotic and National Front of Iraq.



Working session

of a sudden the ruling regime in Damascus started its extensive military campaign in Lebanon against the Palestine Resistance — for whose cause and for the cause of the whole Arab nation the working programme of struggle basically existed.

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr reviewed the stand of the renegade regime in Damascus, its contradictory policies and its effective participation in the settlement schemes machinated by

Representative of the Progressive Front evaluates the Role of the Conference:

Comrade Na'eem Haddad, member of the Baath Party's Regional Leadership and Secretary General of the Progressive Patriotic and National Front said in his speech that "the value of the conference basically stems from the objective justification which made its convocation an im-

perative necessity..." As regards the fighting in Lebanon, Comrade Haddad said that "what is taking place there, whether as a cause or a result, reflects the equation of struggle between the forces of the Palestinian revolution and the Arab liberation national movement on the one side and the renegade submissive forces with their liquidationist and defeatist solutions on the other".

"One of the clearest things is that the bloody and the more-than-one-year conspiracy against the Palestine Resistance Movement and the Lebanese national movement was executed only after some Arab regimes deeply involved themselves in settlement with the Zionist enemy, which in turn were machinated and executed by top departments of American imperialism. The American imperialist policy calculated that any step taken on the path of settlement and agreement with the Zionist enemy cannot advance except through liquidating the elements of strength and endurance and through spreading an atmosphere of division, disintegration and despair".

Imperialism Aims at Imposing Capitulation on the Arab Nation:

The Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation said in his speech that "what is taking place in Lebanon today is inseparable from the attempts witnessed by the Arab arena since the October War, 1973, for reaching a settlement which fully contradicts our people's hope of liberating all of Palestine. The imperialist circle are working arduously with local elements for reaching a settlement worked out on the basis of perpetuating the Zionist entity on Palestinian land so as to ensure their economic interests, first of which is petroleum, in addition to their political and military aims. Hence any observer of the events in Lebanon cannot analyse the reasons of the last crisis and work out its results and dimensions outside the frame of the contradictions and the nature of conflict in the Arab homeland — this conflict fundamentally in between imperialism, Zionism and reaction on the one side and the Arab masses and their national and progressive regimes on the other.

"In the wake of the October War, there started an operation of arranging the problems in the Arab area in the way which serves US imperialism, Dialogue with US imperialism was reopened and some parties staked the area with a hope to settling the problems in the Middle

East. This, however, led to making political and economic changes in the Arab area and increases constantly the influence of American imperialism which is seriously seeking the perpetuation and development of these problems in a way that serves its interests. This is carried out by freezing the Arab-Zionist conflict, by providing suitable atmosphere to impose concessions, liquidationist and submissive solutions and by eliminating the gains realised by our people's struggle over the past years", said the Palestinian representative.

On the attempts made by some Arab regimes to harness the Palestine revolution he said: "After the October War, specially after the Sinai Agreement, some Arab regimes realised that the escalation of the Palestinian revolution and the support given to it by the national movement within the alliance existing on the Lebanese arena, will lead, sooner or later, to losing their reins; therefore they made attempts to contain this revolution, harness and prepare it to accept settlement projects which inflict injustice on Arab rights".

The Lebanese People Stood in Defence of the Palestinian People:

The representative of the Lebanese national movement said in his speech that, "what is offered by Lebanon today for thwarting the fierce imperialist conspiracy, which is machinated against the whole Arab national liberation movement, is but a continuation of our people's rich struggle and sacrifices".

On the efforts made by the Lebanese national and Palestine movements, the Lebanese representative said: "The national movement and the Palestine Resistance have been working seriously since the beginning of the flare up to end the fighting, restore normal life and reach a political solution to the Lebanese crisis. Moreover it did not spare any effort towards this end... But imperialists, Zionists and reactionary forces, who are interested in seeing Lebanon burn, were pushing events toward further escalation in the fighting after the collapse of the regime's establishments, specially the repressive establishments, and after the emergence of a possible military defeat inflicted upon the rightist forces".

IN ORDER NOT TO ERR IN JUDGEMENT

by our political analyst

Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) of Iraq, in the course of an interview with the Editor of the Indian weekly, Blitz, has reviewed the current Arab situation. Analysing the present conditions obtaining in the Arab world, Mr. Hussein, while taking into consideration the negative aspects, emphasises on the development of the positive characteristics of the situation.

Mr. Saddam Hussein describes the weak points of the situation as the "vacillation of certain Arab rulers and the large-scale imperialist onslaught, particularly the onslaught of American imperialism". But the strong point of the situation, or the silver lining as he puts it, are the deep-rooted fighting legacy of the Arab Nation and its enormous inherent strength that makes it dauntless in the face of hard and arduous conditions. These strong points or positive aspects will finally triumph.

Analysing the situation dialectically and placing events in their historical perspective, Mr. Hussein confidently formulates that "the difficulties facing the Arab nation at the moment do not prevent us from saying that this stage is a flash-point and will certainly turn into an instrument serving the objectives of the Arab struggle".

Mr. Hussein's formulation can be supported by the example of the special conditions of the Egyptian, Jordanian or Syrian fronts. If one looks at them mechanically or bases one's assessment on the current predicaments of certain Arab regimes, one will end up in concluding fallaciously that the Arab front has been overtaken by a great weakness. But in the event of fighting flaring up in one of the fronts, the whole situation will undergo a fundamental change. These changes will be brought about by:

- The people of the Arab homeland who will compel the regimes to strengthen the fighting capabilities of the Arab Army;
- The dimension of the front will change as fighting will not be localised in one front

only; it will engulf all the three fronts, namely, the Syrian, the Egyptian and the Jordanian;

- The vital interests of US imperialists in the Arab region will be exposed to a violent storm as a result of the universal indignation of the masses of the people against the US imperialists who ally themselves with the Zionist enemy; and
- The urge for Arab unity will take on a definite shape as the countries on the direct confrontation line with the Zionist-imperialist enemy will not only run out of excuses for not allowing in armed forces of other brotherly Arab countries, but will welcome them for the sake of their own survival. It will also be imperative for them to stabilise their defence in depth and seek to maintain the much-needed logistical support.

These factors that will emerge during the fighting will fundamentally change the present state of affairs in favour of the Arab struggle for liberation, at the core of which stands the task of liberating Palestine.

In this background Iraq offered to send combat troops to the Syrian front. The Syrian authorities had at first expressed their doubts about the genuineness of the Iraqi offer. The Damascus rulers' efforts at misinforming the people did not succeed as the Iraqi President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, in his message to the Arab Nation on July 17, 1975, on the occasion of the July Revolution of Iraq, categorically declared: "We maintain that the time has come for the immediate formation of a northern military front between us and sister Syria and for the presence of Iraqi troops on the Syrian territory provided that the Syrian government clearly announces rejection of Resolution 242 and 338, and the Geneva Conference, in the light of the basis we have stated, and adheres to the militant line which regards the Syrian occupied territory in the Golan as a part of a whole, considering its liberation a step on the road to

liberating Palestine and all the usurped Arab territories".

The Syrian rulers could not afford to misguide the Arab public opinion on the issue any longer. So Iraq successfully coordinated its stand with Libya and Algeria with a view to activating the fighting fronts. Its initiative gained momentum and Arab masses hailed the policy of struggle against the conspiracy of capitulation. In the circumstance, the Syrian rulers modified the plank of propaganda and discovered pre-conditions in the Iraqi offer of sending troops to the Golan Heights.

Mr. Saddam Hussein, in his interview under discussion, puts the record straight on the question. He says: "We have placed no condition whatsoever except that these forces should follow the road to liberation away from Kissinger's schemes".

The Arab masses certainly do not expect of the revolutionary Iraqi political leadership to commit its forces only to perpetuate the Zionist occupation of Palestine. They want to see Palestine liberated and usurped Arab lands regained. The purpose of activating the front with the enemy cannot but be only this.

A shrewd escapist as he is, Mr. Hafez Assad then sought protection behind another argument. According to him the compromise formulas and capitulationist line could not be repudiated before the arrival of the Iraqi troops without risking Zionist encroachment. The Iraqi leadership accommodated the Syrian rulers on this supposed handicap. Mr. Saddam Hussein says: "So we modified that condition and stated that the Iraqi forces were prepared to be present in Syria as soon as the Syrian regime signalled its consent, provided that after the arrival of the Iraqi forces the Syrian regime would proclaim repudiation of the compromise and capitulationist formulas. But the Syrian regime failed to comply.

It is now clear that the Syrian rulers have exhausted all their excuses for keeping the Iraqi armed forces from performing their pan-Arab responsibility. If any new pretext is cooked up by the present rulers in Damascus for maintaining the status quo at the front line, that pretext will be rejected by the Arab masses who refuse to co-exist with Zionist occupation and usurpation.

The rulers in Damascus have now been thoroughly exposed to the critical eyes of the Arab people. Their lukewarm attitude to the Iraqi in-

itiative at opening the northern front, their unholy alliance with the Jordanian ruler and their invasion of Lebanon — all these steps are being taken for the fulfilment of one central purpose: to freeze the issue of liberating Palestine and come to a settlement with the Zionist enemy.

Mr. Saddam Hussein explains: "The Syrian regime cannot exercise sufficient flexibility concerning Golan. This is because the Syrian people want to recover Golan in full. At the same time the objectives of the Syrian people do not stop at regaining Golan only. In the first place the Syrian people lost Golan in the course of the struggle for the liberation of Palestine. What is required, therefore, is the liberation of Palestine".

So, any new effort at recovering Golan will entail the struggle for recovering Palestine also. In this situation the Syrian regime looks for a compromise solution that will not look like a surrender but in effect it will be the abandonment of struggle.

Mr. Saddam Hussein sums up the Syrian intentions thus: "The compromise settlement, in order to be passed through without a storm lashing at that regime, should come under an Arab tent — a confederal formula between Syria, the Resistance Movement and King Hussein. The West Bank will be under the wing of King Hussein while, seemingly it will appear as though it were a commando base".

The Syrian rulers, the Jordanian Monarch and the imperialist sponsors of the above scheme appear to have taken for granted that all other factors determining the Arab destiny will remain static in the process of the fulfilment of this scheme. But that the other factors shall not remain static have unmistakably been proved by the turn of events. The package deal of the Syrian rulers, Jordanian King, US imperialist and the Zionists have failed to silence the Palestinians, scare away the Lebanese progressive forces from the path of struggle and mislead the Arab public opinion about the urgency of implementing the Iraqi initiative at activating the fighting fronts against the Zionist enemy and against US interests.

In his interview with the Indian Editor Mr. Saddam Hussein has only spelled out some inescapable truths concerning the Arab situation. Let everybody take note of them in order not to err in judgment.

ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS OF OIL NATIONALISATION

By Dr. Nazar M. al-Ameen

Until recently there was no national oil sector in Iraq. Being entitled to exploit all of Iraq's oil in accordance with foreign concessions gained on account of their political and economic occupation of the region, the monopoly oil companies, therefore, were the only controllers of the whole bulk of oil industries up to the promulgation of Law No. 80 of 1961.

The monopoly oil companies were granted their first concession according to the agreement signed on March 21, 1925 at a time when these companies were capable of practising political pressure. British imperialism was instrumental in granting the monopoly companies the privilege for exploiting mineral wealth in Iraq in the light of the great probability of finding oil and the signs which indicated the existence of huge amounts of reserve.

So, on the basis of these possibilities the monopoly companies signed between themselves the Red Line Agreement which put an end to their competition, and by virtue of which Iraq fell subject to the group of companies which constituted the Iraqi Oil Company. Later on, these companies kept trying to modify the aforementioned agreement so as to realise the highest possible profits as well as to have an absolute control over the oil sector in Iraq.

Political Manipulation For Economic Control

In 1931, the companies achieved their awaited success on account of the political circumstances of Iraq. For Britain at the time was bargaining with Iraq to end the British mandate and recommend her to the membership of the League of Nations; the sharp international economic crisis of the thirties was also an important factor. Still, after the modification of the aforementioned concession, which entitled the monopoly companies to cover an area of 22,000 square miles instead of only 192 square miles, and after calculating the huge Iraqi oil capacities, the companies did their utmost to get hold of the total land area by using their political influence, and finally succeeded in doing so. The concession was further modified to the benefit of the companies entitling them to cover a total land area of 46,000 square miles in 1932.

In 1938 the monopoly companies were granted more concessions, they now controlled 93,000 square miles. As a result, all the oil wealth of Iraq came within their reach and the companies came to be the sole production, investment, planning and executive power of the oil industry, the sector considered the most important in the national economy.

After the Revolution of June 14, 1958, however, the companies concessions underwent extensive studies by the government. A number of conclusions were reached. Yet during the negotiations which took place, the just demands of Iraq were met with an apathetic attitude on the part of the companies. Consequently the government had no other way than using the legislative methods to protect and secure its inherent right to its oil wealth.

Law No. 80 Towards Restoring National Rights

In 1961 the Law No. 80, which is considered an important event in the oil industry, was promulgated. The importance attached to Law No. 80, actually stemmed from the fact that it was the first law promulgated on the road to restoring the rights of the Iraqi people. And according to this Law, 99.5% of the total land area still unexploited by the monopoly companies, were restored. Many attempts were made afterwards, to enircle and paralyse that law, the violence of which actually enabled the companies to freeze it after the secret negotiations which took place with the reactionary Aref regime on February 2, 1964.

The negotiations conducted resulted in the issuance of two drafts stipulating the remodification of the 1952 concessions. Lands probably bearing oil, which included the oil fields of Rumaila, Zubair, the southern Kirkuk, the southern Bay Hassan, northern Jambour and the western Ain Zala in Mosul were all returned to the monopolists. The fixed reserves of the aforementioned oil fields are estimated approximately to be 3,000,000,000 tons.

Grim Battle With Monopolies

Surprisingly enough, the Iraqi National Oil Company established on August 2, 1964 (to

play a practical role in the successful execution of Law No. 80), was left the lands in which the existence of oil was doubtful.... Even so, these areas were not safe from the avarice of the monopolistic companies. The monopolists proposed the establishment of the Baghdad Oil Company as an association made up between the Iraqi National Oil Company and the other oil companies operating in Iraq on the basis of allotting one third of the shares to the first and two thirds to the latter!... In return for that, the national oil company was required to give up 33,000 sq. km. of its best land!

In this way the monopoly companies succeeded in crippling Law No. 80, of 1961. Consequently the National Company, which was to execute the law, was also disabled. But in spite of the atmosphere of secrecy and concealment which enveloped the negotiations conducted to restore the lost privileges of the monopolists, the patriotic forces headed by the Arab Baath Socialist Party, however, kept them under close observation for the sake of exposing the core of the whole affair. At the end, by putting pressure on the monopolists and by denouncing their activities, in addition to the difficult situation which followed the defeat of June 5, 1957, the patriotic forces succeeded in freezing the agreement of the Baghdad Company.

Nevertheless, the monopolistic system of privileges had a direct impact on the economic structure of Iraq, the result of which actually put the country in a position subject to the monopolistic economy of the industrialised countries, and created duality in its national economy.

Contradiction Between Two Modes of Production

In fact this is the case with all oil-producing countries subjugated to the system of foreign concessions. The national economy of Iraq, therefore, was divided into two different branches. The first was a developed capitalistic branch employing huge amount of capital (foreign capitals) and using more advanced technology to increase the productivity rate and obtain very high "profits", which all went to the monopolists. The second branch, meanwhile, was backward and traditional. Using old means of production on the account of the small capital employed, the second branch realized a small productivity rate which in turn helped in decreasing the accumulation of capital. This branch of the economy was characterized by the hegemony of the agricultural sector and the economic dependence on the capitalistic countries for the purpose of securing the essential needs of society and owing to the imbalanced economic position in Iraq.

This condition prevailed until the breaking out of the national progressive July 17, Revolution, which concentrated on changing the oil policy fundamentally.

One of the Revolution's chief aims was to lay a strong basis for establishing a national oil industry capable of consolidating the national economy by means of investing oil locally and through national institutions. The national oil company was the means by which the new policy was to be carried out. In other words, the task of restoring usurped Iraqi rights from the monopolists' hold by means of putting oil in the service of the economic development was to be achieved.

Economic dimensions...

Economic Significance Of Nationalisation

To define the economic dimensions of the Nationalisation Act it is necessary to view the subject from several angles.

It is known that the policy of oil industry before the Nationalisation Act was being decided by the boards of monopoly companies. Naturally their decisions were taken according to their own interests and not according to those of the oil-producing countries. This led to the segregation of the oil sector in Iraq from the other sectors of the economy — a completely independent sector before the Nationalisation.

Taking into consideration that the Nationalisation Act, in the first place, is the state control of the private enterprises of oil industry and directing them for the good of the country, it also means the incorporation of the oil sector into the national economy for serving the state aims of development. We should mention something here about the size of the oil sector and the importance it occupies in the Iraqi economy.

The oil share in the G.N.P., during the years following 1970, amounted to more than 40%, its share in the trade balance during the last two years was not below 90% of the total Iraq exports. This actually means that the oil sector is the most important in the economy.

The historic Nationalisation Act in effect, put the oil sector under government administration to be managed in accordance with the requirements for economic development. We can say, therefore, that the positive effects of the Nationalisation Act could be summed up as follows.

The Act of Nationalisation enabled Iraq to adopt a correct production policy. In other words, the production rates estimated by the state were proportionate with the oil reserves,

so that obtaining the oil should protect the country's wealth from any damage. Because, if a wrong oil policy were adopted, the oil reserves would be damaged and consequently the country's wealth.

In addition, the nationalisation and state control of oil served the state in following the policies which achieved its aims as well as in realising the actual wealth potentials available. Given a chance to explore new areas of oil probabilities, the Government started wide-scale operations of land coverage. For those areas yet undiscovered were completely neglected by the monopoly companies whose major aim was to achieve the highest possible profit from the existing oil fields and to avoid any extra expenses necessary for the investment of new oil exploration. Furthermore, the production means employed then did not undergo any improvement measures for the same purpose of saving extra expenses!

For these reasons, necessary procedures were taken after the nationalisation to develop the existing oil fields by means of modern technical methods in order to raise their producing capacities and achieve the greatest possible benefit. Efforts were also exerted on the road to digging for new oil fields.

Oil revenues — a top important item in the trade balance and subsequently the major source of foreign currency needed to secure commodities, equipment and means of production — if controlled by the state will undoubtedly guarantee its safety from the avarice of the monopolistic companies, as was the case before Nationalisation.

Controlling Production And Pricing

It is known that the oil revenues depend on two elements: the amount of production and price. Therefore, controlling the production means controlling a major part which in turn determines the amount of revenues. In other words, this will be decided by the state and not the foreign companies. In addition, if the state and its institutions were the direct means for oil marketing, by being in a situation to determine a price proportionate with its real value, the state will also be in a situation to have absolute control of oil revenues as revenues are directly affected by production and prices.

It follows then, that the state will be able to realise its economic development plans as a result of having the financial sources in hand. The state's ability to estimate these financial sources, on account of its control of production

and marketing of oil, will also help it in laying down plans suitable to the country's potentialities. Naturally the process will take place through a complete arrangement between the apparatus of planning and production in the state.

The Nationalisation of the oil companies gave the country's economic independence a new important dimension and at the same time did away with the duality which used to characterise the Iraqi economy. In fact, economic independence is the main stay for the protection of the political independence of any country. For without the first, the latter will always be pressurised by its dependence on foreign economic control. It is taken for granted that the construction of an independent economy on a sound bases could not be overlooked in the process of having a free political regime.

Linking Production To Development

Linking up production to the economic development plans of the country after the nationalisation of oil, will be reflected on the various aspects of economic life and will raise the standard of living by increasing the per capita income on account of the progress and development which will accrue in the various economic sectors. Making it possible to carry out ambitious development plans, the Nationalisation will lead to increasing and developing all the economic sectors as well as raising their productive efficiency.

The Nationalisation of oil companies, and adopting the economic principles which secure the establishment of a sound economy, has guaranteed to Iraq the chance for laying the groundwork for an all embracing oil industry. The Revolution has given a wider scope to establishing a modern oil industry and to leave behind the phase of exporting crude oil only. In other words, the country will pass the stage when the state was limited to exporting basic raw material to become a source for industrialised commodities and materials. This actually means increase of revenues in foreign currency owing to the difference in prices obtained from selling oil products. The establishment of an oil industry will also lead to creating trained technical cadres capable of participating in our industrial advance.

Oil industry projects are not limited to the construction of refineries only, but also petrochemical factories, a basic element in modern industry and the major source for providing the various industries with their needs.

Harnessing Natural Resources

Research Institute Helping Improve Cultivation

Iraq is abundant in natural resources. But how to survey and make use of these resources?

An Institute under the name of "Barron Regions Research" was established in 1959 for this purpose and was affiliated to the College of Agriculture, Baghdad University. In 1967, the name of this Institute was changed to "Natural Resources Research Institute" and was affiliated to the Establishment of Scientific Research. The tasks of the Institute were to collect data on water, soil, plants and weather; study same scientifically and make such studies and maps available to the appropriate departments for economic utilisation. Moreover, the Institute was charged with the task of forwarding recommendations for the development of desert pastures and improvement of cultivable land.

The Institute comprises seven sections and units in which twenty Iraqi research workers work in addition to researchers from Holland. These sections are: soil, water resources, land reclamation, botanical environment, fertilisation, weather and laboratory analysis.

In addition to participating in the training of college students in summer vacations, the Institute supervises the post-graduate curricula of the Colleges of Agriculture and Engineering at Baghdad University. It also sits in specialised committees and of those drawing-up the national development plans.

Since 1968, the Institute has prepared 90 research papers on water, plants and soil. Some of these works were conducted jointly with Egyptian and Indian researchers.

As to the projects implemented by the Institute in cooperation with the Ministries of Irrigation and Agrarian Reform, they are mainly in the field of subterranean waters, particularly in the northern part of the country. The work included the evaluation of the waters, quantitatively and qualitatively; the suitability of soil for periodical cultivation; the application of various types of fertilisers as dictated by the variance of weather conditions.

Moreover, the Institute runs experimental farms in different parts of the country for the improvement of agriculture.

Due to the importance of pastures, especially desert pastures, in the economic growth of the country and its direct relationship with animal resources, the Institute has, since 1968, conducted extensive studies on the nutritive value of wild plants to animals.

Of the important projects that are now being undertaken by the Institute is the Dalmaj Experimental Farm, which is part of the 320 donums state farm (donum = 2500 sq. m). The project covers the study of soil before and after reclamation, drainage, fertilisation, water rationing and regulation, and agricultural rotation.

In Raid and Khalis projects, which are 25-50 km west of Baghdad city, agricultural engineers began to work in 1972 on water consumption for agricultural purposes under various farming conditions to determine the exact amount of water needed for crop cultivation.

Because of the direct relationship between the weather and agriculture, the Institute has built a number of modern agricultural weather forecast stations which provide daily and monthly readings on maximum and minimum temperature, soil temperature, relative humidity, rainfall, wind velocity, sun radiation, evaporation, etc.

Mineral waters and natural springs constitute another rich source for health and agricultural purposes. The Institute conducted surveys and analyses on the waters of 116 springs all over the country in addition to hydrological surveys in areas surrounding the dams and reservoirs in the north to determine the suitability of the subterranean waters for human consumption.

The Institute has a unique library, rich in specialised books: it has 3,000 multi-lingual books and subscribes to 120 specialised scientific magazine of related sciences.

PALESTINE CAUSE HAS TOUCHED EVERY HEART

by
Dr. Fayez Sayegh
U.N. Diplomat

It is now fortunately, generally and almost universally recognised that the crux of the Middle East conflict is the Palestine problem. Any attempt to settle the Middle East conflict without solving the Palestine problem is an exercise in futility.

It is generally recognised that there are two problems in the Middle East and not one. They are distinct but inseparable, or to put it obversely, they are inter-related but by no means identical.

There is the inter-state problem, the conflict between the various Arab states and "Israel" and there is the existential problem of Palestine, the fate of the Palestinian people, which came about as a result of the establishment, the consolidation and, later on, the expansion of "Israel". These two problems are and must be perceived as being distinct and, of course, not separable.

In the relationship of these two problems it is seen that one is the original, the other is the derivative. One is the cause, the other is the effect. Without challenging the cause of the original problem any attempt to manage and concoct arrangements for settling the derivative effect are bound to be impermanent, insecure, unjust and, therefore, non-workable.

For a quarter century the world was content to think about the Arab-"Israeli" conflict and for

get about the Palestine problem; except when it came to thinking of those poor wretched miserable Palestinian refugees who needed money for food, accommodation and blankets to cheer them against the cold.

It became clear, and particularly after the 1973 war, that no waiting for time to deal with the Palestine problem would actually solve that problem. To ignore the Palestine problem and focus on the Arab-"Israeli" conflict would neither solve the problem of Palestine nor bring the Arab-"Israeli" conflict closer to a solution. It has become almost universally recognised that you want to confront the essence of the problem if you want to bring about a lasting peace in the Middle East.

The E.E.C. (European Economic Community), the O.A.U. (Organisation of African Unity), the Conferences of Non-aligned States, the Islamic Summit Conference, and, more recently, the United Nations, as the highest world tribunal with the most universal scope in its membership, have all pronounced themselves in recognition of this fact. One hundred and sixteen countries by voting YES, or by their explanation of their abstentions have indicated that they recognise these facts.

Only the great powers of Bolivia, the great democracy of the Dominican Republic, as well as "Israel" and the United States, and, with a great deal of regret, the Government of Canada, remain unable to bring themselves to a recognition of these facts.

But the world at large, the world in its multitude of billions, the world that knows what it means to liberate because it has experienced liberation wars; the world that knows what it means never to give up and never to accept a problem as permanent because it has fought colonialism and its semblance of permanence for centuries and eventually overcome. That world has come to recognise that unless the problem of Palestine is also dealt with and dealt with in a justice that recognises and observes the inalienable rights of the indigenous people of Palestine, there can be no justice and no solution and no settlement to the Arab-"Israeli" conflict and no peace for the world at large.

SELECTED ARTICLES



ABSP Leadership's Achievements

BETTER LIFE FOR IRAQI PEOPLE



Bird's-eye view of a modern quarter in Baghdad.

by William de Alwis

"Extracts from The Ceylon Daily News"

In Iraq, legendary home of the Thousand and One Nights and the magic carpets, another legend is being born. It is a story absolutely devoid of the miraculous flights of poetic fancy and promises to outlive and outshine the fabulous legends.

I was there early last month to attend the 29th celebration of the Arab Baath Socialist Party. (Baath means renaissance).

We drove from the airport and crossing a massive nine span bridge over the Tigris, we were in Baghdad proper. For the first-time the transformation from the land of legend has been final and thorough. Only evidence of the past was in the numerous hoardings advertising new hotels, business places, etcetera — names such as Gilgamesh, Abbassid and Babylon. Look for closer evidence of the country's past — from the Sumer of 3500 B.C., Babylon of the Hanging Gardens, Ur of the Chaldees Nineveh, Mesopotamia the land between the rivers in the museums. But as in Sri Lanka, here too you will find that most of the priceless relics have been carried away to the museums of Europe, replicas remain.

The winds of change are still blowing over this land. Iraq is still basically agricultural — the land between the rivers — for

the majority of her twelve million people. To them the immense wealth that is gurgling out of her oilfields, the black gold, is only a vehicle for the attainment of a simple life according to the dictates of Islam.

In a handful of years after it assumed power the ABSP has steered the country through a series of well conceived development programmes several stages closer to the successful establishment of a modern state. Agrarian reforms, aimed at bringing within socialistic focus the relationship between the land and the man who tills it and erasing all traces of feudalism, are being rigidly enforced. Education is compulsory at the elementary level and free at the primary, secondary and higher level. Five universities, in Baghdad, Mosul, Basrah and Sulaimaniyah, complete this sphere of the development programme in which Arabic is the first language, English second. The country's investment plan lays heavy stress on industrialisation with the accent on satisfying local requirements before export. It is venturing into all fields from the traditional wool to synthetic textiles; from tobacco to drugs and pharmaceutical appliances, sugar to food canning and vegetable oils, and from fertiliser and other petrochemical industries to the manufacture of agricultural machinery and vehicles.

The total nationalisation of the country's oil wealth in 1972 and 1975 proved the historic turning point of Iraq's fortunes. At Rumaila a fresh faced, young production manager, with justifiable pride explained the politics of oil, "with the foreign owners of my country's oil it was always a case of an energy crisis or a surplus. We will have none of either. And we will use our resources to the best advantage for the greatest good for the longest period possible. From 1968 till we got rid of them in 1972 they harnessed only a tenth of the country's resources. We are now conducting surveys on the rest — the 90 per cent that has for so long been unutilised".

One of the most significant steps forward in the field of oil, the opening of the Strategic Oil Pipeline from the Rumaila oilfield in the south of Iraq to the north was achieved on December 27 last year. An 810 kilometre long 42 inch pipeline now enables the export of crude oil from either of its terminals in the Mediterranean or the Arabian Gulf. Projected annual capacity of this pipeline in either direction or simultaneously in both directions is around forty four million tons each way.

Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council of the Republic

of Iraq, summed up the views of his country on this occasion thus: "Brothers once again the Revolution of this country has proved beyond doubt; that imperialism, whatever might and main it might possess, whatever arrogance it might display and whatever additional capabilities it might come to have along the way of seeking to attain its despicable goals, still remains incapable of disrupting the people's will to proceed forward in a direction opposite to the imperialistic line, provided, the requisites for endurance and progress are assured to the people along with conditions for achieving a better life".

These words sum up the mood of the average Iraqi of today. Conscious of the hard won rights and privileges he has been denied throughout centuries of foreign domination the ABSP's Revolution Command Council has found itself an almost unanimously acceptable leader to steer the country toward the attainment of common objectives.

Revolution — Arab Revolution is the key theme of the day. Most of those I spoke to in the streets, in the shops and the open air restaurants where they sit interminable holiday hours sipping Turkish coffee and Sri Lanka tea, showed a sense of keen participation in their respective fields.

JOINT STRUGGLE AGAINST RACIST AXIS

By Gora Ebrahim

In 1970 the authorities in "Israel" offered some blankets and medicine to African Liberation Movements through the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The purpose of this gesture, however, was obvious to all — it was aimed as a bribe to silence the growing African opposition to zionism.

AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION IS ONLY NATURAL

At the same time the racist regimes in southern Africa, against whom the African nationalists were waging a liberation war, were launching their own diplomatic offensive. They were calling for a "dialogue" with independent African states, hoping that such an offensive would lead to the isolation of the African Liberation Movements.

It is interesting to note, however, that while "Israeli" leaders were posing publicly as sympathisers of liberation movements in Africa through the "blanket-medicine gesture", it did not affect their relationship with the then fascist regime in Portugal, with the racist Ian Smith or with the arch enemy of Africa, the apartheid regime of South Africa. On the contrary ties between the Zionist entity and these fascist and oppressive regimes grew stronger.

In June 1970 the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of African Unity met in Addis Ababa. Two basic issues confronted the OAU then — the "dialogue" offensive by Pretoria and the issue of the "blankets-medicine gesture" by "Israel".

Western news media, at the time, launched its own offensive, claiming that these two issues would "rock" the very pillars of the Organisation of African Unity. Here, needless to say, it should not be overlooked that western news media — recently confirmed by Spiro Agnew — is by and large controlled by the Zionists, either directly or indirectly.

The OAU, however, adopted the correct path in dealing with these "explosive" questions. The member states decided not to philosophise over the questions but rather to let the people directly concerned give their opinion on these issues. And the people directly concerned were the African Liberation Movements themselves.

Consequently the debate on "dialogue" and the Zionist "gesture" was opened with addresses from the delegates of the African Liberation Movements. I was given the privilege of being the first speaker as representative of a Liberation Movement from apartheid South Africa.

The attitude of the Liberation Movements within southern Africa to these two issues — which they considered as being two sides of the same coin — was very clear. There existed no basis for a "dialogue" between the oppressor and the oppressed.

pressed, between the usurper and the usurped. Despite this truism, it is a fact that the leaders of the Liberation Movement in South Africa explored and pursued every avenue to solve the issue peacefully. Chief Albert Lutuli, the late President of the African National Congress, even won the Nobel Peace Prize for his attempts to open a dialogue with the oppressor.

Hence the "dialogue" call by the racists did not stem from any genuine desire to "peacefully resolve the problem" but rather to sow discord among Africans and to try and isolate the African Liberation Movements from their natural allies.

On the other hand, the Zionist "gesture", as I pointed out then to the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OAU, was a calculated attempt to hood-wink Africa while at the same time pave the way for infiltrating African Liberation Movements. Consequently this "gesture" should not just be refused, but exposed and rejected with a sharp rebuke. (It was even suggested that if the blankets and medicines were already in the possession of the OAU they should be handed over

to the Palestine Liberation Organisation... but, as usual, the Zionists had merely "promised" to donate these).

As a result an overwhelming majority of the OAU members voted for rejecting the "dialogue" bait of the South African racists and the "blanket-medicine" bribe of the Zionists.

For the Zionists, however, this rejection by the African Liberation Movements and, consequently, the Organisation of African Unity, constituted the beginning of the rejection of the whole concept of zionism itself on the African Continent.

It was at this very Council meeting, and subsequently taken up by the OAU Summit, that the idea was mooted to send an OAU delegation to Egypt, Syria and occupied Palestine to "explore the role the OAU could play in the Middle East crisis". To some this was a fruitless exercise while others considered the move an important one, in that the OAU would get a true picture of the nature of zionism and the role of the Zionist entity in the area.

In 1970, therefore, the Presidents of Senegal, Nigeria, Zaire and the Cameroons undertook this mission on behalf of the Organisation of African Unity. The outcome of the mission indeed proved to be revealing. The report of the four member delegation subsequently moulded the attitude of the OAU member states to the Zionist entity as it categorically stated that the authorities in "Israel" were bent on perpetuating their hold on occupied lands under the pretext of "a secure frontier".

Here the OAU was left with the basic question, namely, should the OAU condone acquisition and occupation of territories in the name of "secure frontiers" or oppose this expansionist tendency. The choice was not difficult, it had to categorise such expansionist tendency.

The opposition, however, had to be clear and categorical because the OAU faced a similar threat in southern Africa. The racist regimes in Rhodesia and South Africa too were making cries and threats about "secure borders". The racists also threatened to bomb capitals of independent African states in southern Africa for the support these states were rendering to African Liberation Movements. AND IT WAS A KNOWN FACT THAT RACIST SOUTH AFRICA AND THE ZIONIST ENTITY WERE COOPERATING MILITARILY AND SHARING EXPERIENCES ON THE QUESTION OF "SECURE BORDERS".

In due course the OAU member states made their opposition to zionism unambiguous. Out of the 46 states that are members of the OAU, 42 severed relations with the Zionist entity. The other

four, in terms of African politics, are nonentities and, therefore, do not matter.

The great rupture, however, came in the wake of the October 1973 war. All those who had not previously severed relations seized this opportunity to do so.

It is now almost three years since the October war and during this period, it is important to note, that the Zionist entity did not succeed in restoring relations with a single African country — not even with those she previously considered as "staunch friends". But Africa did not stop at that... the OAU then went on to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; considers the PLO as a liberation movement which is entitled to OAU diplomatic, political and material support and played an important part in the resolution of the United Nations Organisation branding zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination.

Geographically a large part of the Arab homeland lies in Africa. Also the bulk of the Arab population. Eight of the twenty Arab League members are also members of the Organisation of African Unity, many of them founder members. No Arab country, despite the vast political divergencies that exists among the Arab countries, has any diplomatic, political or economic ties with the racist regimes in southern Africa.

Afro-Arab solidarity, therefore, stems not from expediency but from principles. Both face a common enemy. The ideology and method employed by the South African racists, commonly known as apartheid, shares many common features with zionism. Both preach exclusiveness, the concept of the master race, use the Bible to "justify" their inhuman racial practices and both have usurped the lands they now occupy from their rightful owners.

It is clear to Africans that the independence and security of the Continent will ever remain threatened as long as apartheid is permitted to survive on the southern tip of Africa. Equally it is clear to the Arabs that as long as the cancer of zionism is allowed to exist in the very heart of the Arab homeland the Arabs — without exception — face a very real danger. AND SINCE APARTHEID AND ZIONISM ARE CLOSELY COLLABORATING TO PERPETUATE THEIR INHUMAN EXISTENCE, IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT ARABS AND AFRICANS CLOSE THEIR RANKS, FORGE CLOSER UNITY AND WAGE A DETERMINED STRUGGLE AGAINST THEIR COMMON ENEMY.

And this is what is happening.



Comrade Shibly al-Aysami, Assistant Secretary General of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, receiving on June 29, members of the Moroccan delegation of Socialist Union of Popular Forces who paid a friendly visit to Iraq.



President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr receiving on June 16, Mr. Raul Leon Torres, Governor of the Cuban National Bank. During the audience, President Bakr received a message from the Cuban President, Osvaldo Dorticos.



Mr. Saddam Hussein, RCC Vice-Chairman, receiving on June 20 Mr. Yassir Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

NEWS IN PICTURES



Mr. Ghanim Abdul Jalil, Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and Mr. Ousmane Camara, Senegalese Minister of Education, signing on June 25 an agreement for developing cultural and educational relations between the two countries.

REPORT

Foreign Language Teaching In Mosul University

Foreign language teaching in the College of Arts at Mosul University started in 1966. At that time it was confined to teaching the English language and literature. In 1973, a French language section was opened. Since 1969, the programme of the English section was revised to train both translators and teachers of English.



In the laboratory of Foreign Languages Department

The department started with 10 students only and 3 staff members. Now 385 students are enrolled in the English language section in the College of Arts and 90 students in the first year in the English section of the College of Education (founded in 1975). In the translation section there are 65 students at present. As for the French section 43 students are enrolled. The number of staff members has increased to 33; 17 of them are Iraqis, 2 Egyptians, 9 British and Americans and 5 French.

Cooperation and coordination:

On the question of cooperation and coordination the Head of the Department, Dr. Issam Al-Khatib, Ph.D. said:

"We hope that the conference of Deans of Colleges and Heads of Departments held in Baghdad in February this year and other similar gatherings will open the gates for more concrete cooperation". But with foreign universities, Dr. Khatib pointed out, two agreements were concluded for the exchange of students and staff members and publications, one with a French University and the other with an English institution. "We have now started contacts with the University of St. Andrews for cooperation in Arabic and history studies primarily, but also includes English as an additional aspect of cooperation".

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of both the English and French sections are to train students who are familiar with reading, writing and speaking these languages.



Building of Foreign Languages Department

as: Such graduates can be useful in other fields than teaching as well.

The programmes are especially designed to train teachers, explained Dr. Khatib, stating that the "training of teachers is the objective of the College of Education. As to the training of translators, the Department started this scheme as early as 1968. It was decided then that the programme should be revised to meet the needs of our country for translators and interpreters. So the English section started in fact to train all its students towards this end".

In 1970, it was decided that only part of the students should be trained as translators and the other part should continue to specialise in English. From 1975 specialisation in translation started from the first year and a new programme for translation and interpretation is being devised. "The Department is very likely to start graduate work in the various skills of translation. This scheme is planned for 1978, first with a 2-year diploma course, then hopefully in the future the programme will develop to offer an M.A. degree in translation", disclosed the Head of the European Languages Department.

OBSTACLES:

Among the obstacles in foreign language teaching is the shortage of qualified staff. "The Department", said Dr. Khatib, "met this problem by employing 16 non-Iraqi staff members". Also the Department is planning a graduate course in translation and scientific English to meet this

shortage. There is a lack also of staff members well-trained in teaching through the modern audio-visual aids and laboratories. "In this respect, we have one language laboratory for better pronunciation of a seating capacity of 20 students. The capacity of lecture halls, however, is below the standard we had hoped for".

Suggestions

1. To improve the standard of teaching more qualified university instructors are needed, instructors trained in modern techniques of language teaching. In a move to deal with this problem the Department sends a number of its Iraqi staff every summer to attend special courses abroad.
2. Gifted students for language learning should be selected through special admission tests.
3. One more essential requirement of teaching a foreign language is that the number of students in each class should be reduced to about 15 instead of the present number which ranges between 30 to 45. To fulfil this requirement more staff members, lecture halls, facilities and aids are needed.

All efforts made for the improvement of foreign language teaching programme in this country are due to the sustained attention being paid by the quarters concerned in revolutionary Iraq. The European Languages Department of Mosul University is but an example signifying that foreign language teaching is such an important cultural phenomenon within the July 17th Revolution's objectives regarding higher education.

Evening courses

The European Languages Department also caters for the need of the people of the city of Mosul for foreign language learning. The University's Cultural Centre has organized an evening course throughout the year for teaching English and French to those interested from outside the University. This course started in 1972 and is still in progress. The number of participants ranges between 70 to 150 every year.

French section:

The French Section was officially opened in 1973. It consists of a four-year course and a fifth year to be spent at an approved institution for French teaching in France. The section started with 7 students only and 2 staff members. Now there are 43 students and 5 staff members.

The Head of the Department says: "Our plans for the future of this section is to reduce the year to 3 with a fourth year in France. Also, we intend to introduce two specialisations in this section, one for translation and the other for French teaching. Trieste specialisations may be introduced on the graduate level too".

THE EXPLOSION IN APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA

By Michael Medan

In mid-June some 10,000 African students in Soweto Township, near Johannesburg, in South Africa organised a peaceful demonstration against the introduction of Afrikaans — a language derived from the 17th-century Dutch spoken by early settlers — as a medium of instruction. The South African racists, however, instead of heeding to the just opposition of the African students unleashed their trigger-happy fascist police on the unarmed students. The consequence of this unwarranted racist action has left, according to official figures, 176 dead, 1139 injured and 1298 arrested.

The death toll, needless to say, far exceeds the figure for the ignominious Sharpeville massacre of 1960 when the South African racists opened fire against unarmed men, women and children, killing 69 and wounding 365 — many of them seriously.

The total population of South Africa is approximately 21 million. Of this figure the racists only number around 4 million. The official languages in South Africa, as imposed by the apartheid rulers, are English and Afrikaans. African languages are totally ignored.

At first, however, English was emphasised but lately a systematic campaign was launched to enforce Afrikaans as a medium of instruction, and not merely as a language. The aim behind the imposition of these two foreign languages in the African majority is, without doubt, to deprive the latter of their language and culture. The racists consider this an essential step in their bid to perpetuate racist colonialism in South Africa. Hence the language issue is closely linked with the entire apartheid structure of South Africa.

The racists in South Africa account for only one-fifth of the total population. But they wield total political, economic and military power. The four-fifths of the population, the real owners of the land, are totally excluded from all legislative organs of the country. Not a single African, not even a puppet, sits in the South African parliament. The entire commerce is in the hands of the racists.

The racists effectively occupy 87.3 per cent of the total land area in South Africa. On these lands Africans have no right whatsoever, they can merely be hired by racist settlers as farm hands. The four-fifths of the population, on the other hand, are said to have "rights" only in the remaining 12.7 per cent of the total land area. And it is this arid and semi-arid 12.7 per cent of South Africa that is called the "Homelands" or "Bantustans".

According to a commission set up by the racist authorities themselves, this 12.7 per cent of South Africa comprises 30 per cent arid land, 30 per cent semi-arid land and only 40 per cent cultivable land. Although South Africa is fantastically rich in minerals (produces more than 90 per cent of the world's diamonds) none lie in the Bantustans.

The allocation, needless to say, was carefully made. Since South Africa is a highly industrialised state, it requires manpower. This it draws from the African population. Because the allotted land is so limited and unproductive, Africans are compelled to become "migrant" labourers in order simply to exist. People fighting to ward off hunger do not haggle over such issues as salaries, fringe benefits, medical services and the like. Consequently they become victims of capitalist exploiters.

African workers in South Africa are considered to be the least paid compared to workers in other industrialised countries. In addition to that the apartheid laws forbid them to become "skilled" workers — even if a worker has 50 years of experience. The so-called "Job Reservation Act" of apartheid South Africa actually prevents Africans from doing certain kinds of jobs — these are exclusively for Whites.

The disparity between White and African wages is 20 to 1. Although the racist government laid down a cost of living salary in 1974, which amounted to R90 (approx. £55) for an African family of six residing in an urban area, not a single industry in the country pays a salary anywhere near that figure. Two years ago this sparked off a series of strikes — affecting over 160 factories — despite the fact that Africans are not allowed to either form or join trade unions in apartheid South Africa.

The recent demonstrations in South Africa, therefore, are a reflection of the oppressive conditions prevailing in that country. The opposition to the Afrikaans language was, in reality, a mani-

festation of rejection of the entire oppressive and repressive system in South Africa.

It is due to this fact that the death toll, during the recent demonstrations, reached such a high figure.

The South African racists, however, have been attempting to cover up their unwarranted killing by claiming that the fascist police only opened fire "when their safety was threatened". But concrete evidence show the contrary.

Firstly not a single racist police was reported killed in the 176 dead. Pictures and films taken of the shootings show that racist police were sitting in comfortable safety and taking pot-shots at school children.

However, the recent police brutality in South Africa is neither surprising nor anything new. It is fascist tactic to employ reactionary violence whenever the oppressed demand their legitimate rights. And this is what happened in apartheid South Africa during the Soweto demonstrations.

Although resorting to reactionary violence is an old fascist method, historical evidence proves that wherever there is oppression, there must be resistance. And in the end the forces of liberation always triumph over the forces of oppression.

The most recent examples of this truism can be found in Vietnam, occupied Palestine and in Southern Africa. The Americans dropped more bombs in Vietnam than those dropped during the whole of the Second World War. They despatched a million troops to South Vietnam. In the end the forces of liberation triumphed over the biggest imperialist power in the world!

In occupied Palestine the Zionists based their whole usurpation policy on terrorism. They massacred innocent men, women and children at Dier Yassin and continued to bomb, kill and terrorise Arab Palestinians. But this oppression and terror has not led to submission — on the contrary it has further steeled Palestinians and other Arabs to resolutely struggle against Zionist colonialism.

Similarly the Soweto uprising has once more demonstrated that an oppressed people will never submit to the dictates of their oppressors — whatever the price. At Sharpeville and Soweto the African people were prepared to die for their freedom; **BT FROM NOW ONWARDS THEY WILL ALSO FIGHT FOR IT.**

LITERATURE

Zionist Poetry...Despair and Non-Co-existence

A poet owes, or rather should owe a profound fidelity to the truth: The objective truth and the subjective one. Poetry may be born of suffering, but cannot co-exist with degradation, vice, despair and boredom. Without revolt against the vices and miseries of life a poet can explore no poetical territory — he will lose his essential ambitious attempt which animates the poetical experience.

This is a fact agreed upon, according to which, we find that Zionist poets in the Zionist entity wrote no poems of any distinction since the imposition of that entity on Palestine. All the poems produced during this period represent the dullness of existence. They do not give the reader the human touch which is essential in poetical experiences, since poetry, in some aspects, is a sort of autobiographical profession.

The Zionist poet has resigned to effete feelings and exhaustion. He is in the dry-point.

Boredom and despair are the sources of the following poem written by the Zionist poet Yakub Basar after the October War 1973:

"We breed
The coming war
We breed it
In the bedrooms
And the rooms of the children.
Drowsiness
Is becoming dark
To touch it... we are in panic".

Here are also lines from a poem written by Yahud Ami-Hai suffused with despair, despite all the false life insurances in the Zionist entity: "I paid off all the taxes... to all the treasuries. I am totally insured.

I have relations with all the treasuries. Any change in my life will cost them pain. Any movement from my part will cause them pain. My death will ruin them. My voice goes to the clouds. My hand became a piece of paper... an insurance policy.

I see the world through withered iris flowers..."¹

Here in this poem we find that despite all these insurances, nothing will remain for the Zionist in his artificial society, nothing but to see the world through this tragic perspective, namely the withered yellow petals of iris flowers.

Nothing is genuine, but the meaningless life.

The Zionist poet observes life from within, and finds out that there is nothing true in his destiny.

Artificial entities burgeon nothing original. They are effete and doomed.

(M. I.)

(1) Translated from Arabic (Zionist Contemporary Literature), al-Hilal Edition — Egypt.

ADD TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Proverbs and Proverbs

- The morning to the mountain, the evening to the fountain.
The Arabs said: Serve your youth, your old age will serve you.
- All doors are open to courtesy.
The Arabs said: Sweet words get snakes out of their pits.
- Nought shall you have from him who has nothing.
The Arabs said: He who has nothing, can give nothing.
- Fall not out with a friend for a trifle.
The Arabs said: Keep your friend even in fire.
- He makes no friends, who never made a foe.
The Arabs said: He who doesn't know how to fall out with friends, does not know how to make them.
- He is a good orator who convinces himself.
The Arabs said: He who knows himself, know his Lord.

FACTS ABOUT PALESTINE

"Israeli Empire!"

The question that has repeatedly been asked by objective international figures whether: "Israel wants to become an empire?" seems to be relevant every time the Zionists take a further step in their fixed policy of expansionism. All the world knows — despite some few statesmen feigning ignorance — that Palestine was occupied in 1948 and that by the year 1967 the West Bank, the Syrian Heights (the Golan), and Sinai have also been annexed. It is also known that in those occupied territories 69 settlements have been established up till today to be turned into Zionist cities and military centres, all the Arab inhabitants of these axes were either evacuated, arrested or killed.

Now constituting a tangible evidence that the statement engraved on the Knesset building: "Your borders Israel extend from the Euphrates to the Nile" is not mere talk; 80,000 new donoms of Jordanian land were recently annexed to the "awaited empire". Of course the process of turning the whole area into a military base for the sake of committing more murders, necessitated the rapid evacuation — if not the killing of the Arab inhabitants — and the dynamiting of all existing houses and buildings alike!

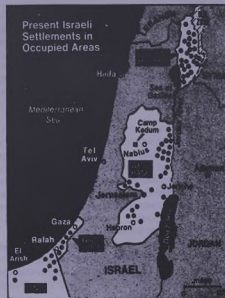
Still busy registering the looted Arab property, and cleaning the yet hot blood left after the massacre, the Zionists were not contented. Their savage tribe was operating elsewhere! More 6,000 donoms of the Tobass area, near to Jenin, were surrounded with barbed wires in preparation for turning them into yet another military area described as "prohibited"!

The Unheard Cry

The story of Mohammed Yousif Hawaja and why he was found hanged in a Ramallah prison toilet on June 2, is a well known one but is also new! The theme of those who die during the course of interrogation is as old as "the establishment of Israel" itself. Yet the savageness of torture that is being applied since 67 is indeed unheard of before.

On the 4th of last month, a group of Palestinians, headed by Abdul Jawad Sallah, formerly the Bierra governor in the west occupied territories, arrived in London for the purpose of convening a meeting with British officials to discuss

That Zionists should use their propaganda machinery to "brainwash" those who might protest, is of no importance. The fact of expansionism



Since the 1967 war, Israel has set up 69 settlements (shown by dots) in occupied territories. Four are off this map, one is west of El Arish, three are in south on Gulf of Aqaba. Sites of proposed new settlements were not given.

will inevitably be known and attacked, not only by international organisations, but also by every conscientious person. The question is for how long will the conspiracy of silence continue?

the proposed recognition of the PLO by Britain. The talks actually digressed to deal with the question of torture and tangible cases were presented before the British officials even from among the group of Palestinians present!

The torture crimes committed in "Israel" needn't be attested to. Because, besides Article 31 of the Geneva Convention stipulating that "No physical or moral coercion shall be exercised against protected persons, in particular to obtain information...", the Commission for Human Rights has nearly lost its status as an International Organisation mostly for the reason that "Israel" con-

siders herself — especially in regard to international resolutions — to be existing outside the human community. The repeated Commission's accusations of Zionist inhuman practices are completely disregarded.

Famous cases of how Arabs are treated in prisons have penetrated the iron secrecy belt surrounding "Israel" to go outside and become the moment's talk of the whole world. Bishop Cappucci is an example about whom the latest dispatches coming from occupied Palestine reveal that physical measures are being applied

on him in an attempt to end the current hunger strike he started in protest against the way Zionist prisons are run!

The Commission for Human Rights has succeeded in obtaining the figure of 5,000 Arab political prisoners in the west occupied territories alone while the number assessed by the PLO is put at tens of thousands. Nevertheless, the terror that overcame Hawaja, compelling him to put an end to his life only the second day after being arrested, could explain something about the nature of prisons run by the Zionists in Palestine.

Six Years In Two!



Since Presidential candidates in the US know it is unthinkable to win anything without Zionist support, they have come to the natural conclusion that the more weapons they promise, the more likely they are to win elections. Similarly, because the American Congress sees that "Israel" would come "under grave dangers" (!) \$400,000,000 worth of weapons have been approved as "aid" for the period from July 1975 until September 1977. It is worthy to note that the same amount of money was approved by the Congress before, except that for the period extending from 1969 up till 1975!

The trebling of American "aid" to "Israel" must have been worked out a long time ago, before the US elections. The efforts exerted by American Zionists to pressurize their government was actually complemented by the allegations of "Israeli" officials concerning an unknown "danger" which they kept reiterating long before the elections. The result was successful except for one thing.

Knowing that the total amount of external aid allocated for foreign countries is only \$7000,000,000 and that "Israel" gets \$4000,000,000 alone, the probability of US acceding to further increase the "aid" to the Zionists is totally out of the question. The reason is simply that the US

has pushed its budget to its brim in this respect. As the Director of the US Budget Department puts it: "The US budget is incapable of any more increase in its allocations to Israel".

The form of US "aid" to "Israel" is indeed interesting. For instead of financially helping out the suffocating "Israeli" economy the US is supplying "Israel" with "Pershing" missiles (capable of being fitted with nuclear warheads), the far-range "Lance" missiles, the modern F. 16 fighters, in addition to other sophisticated tanks and weaponry. This "non-defensive" weaponry it seems, is needed to protect "Israel" from the supposed "grave dangers"!



(Medhat Magar)

Revival Of Ceramic In Iraq

ANCIENT ART ATTRACTS MODERN TALENTS

by F. el-Manssoury

'From Paris to New Delhi, there is no other ceramic school to compare with ours in excellence or seriousness of purpose'.

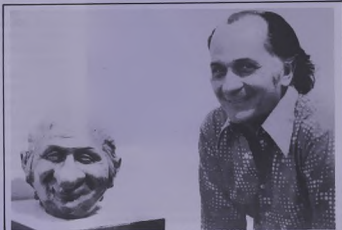
These words were uttered by Professor Valentinus Charalambous, head of the ceramics department at the Iraqi Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad. Is it an idle boast? Is Professor Charalambous merely being carried away by the understandable enthusiasm he feels for his young students?

In order to give a satisfactory answer to this, we must first cast a glance at the background of the ceramics school in modern day Iraq.

In 1957, a young Cypriot from Famagusta named Valentinus Charalambous arrived in Baghdad straight from the London Central School of Arts and Crafts, where he had specialised in ceramics. As the son of a family which had worked in ceramics for generations, Charalambous had always been fascinated by the great Arab treasure in ceramics. But the question that nagged at him was: Why has the chain been broken? Why are the Arabs no longer producing the beautiful pottery for which they had been famous throughout the world for centuries?

Charalambous founded a ceramics section at the Academy of Fine Arts, and this section has now grown into a full-fledged department with around 80 stu-

ding some very good notices on the occasion. Professor Jacques Berque, the renowned French Arabist, expressed his admiration of the exquisite exhibits,



Professor Valentinus Charalambous and the bust by Mu'ayed Ni'ma

dents, 60 per cent of whom are girls. We can have an idea of the remarkable progress achieved when we remember that the first batch of students at the ceramics section in 1957 numbered exactly three. One of these three, Sayed Saad Sha'ker, is today himself a teacher at the department, and a noted ceramics artist in his own right.

The ceramics department has already put on several exhibitions abroad — in Beirut, Paris, Schwerin and Bucharest. The Paris exhibition, opened by M. Jacques Chirac, the Premier of France, was specially successful with the French press writ-

saying that the Iraqi artists had a special place in his heart as they managed to combine in their work a sense of heritage as well as a touch of Zeitgeist. Iraq, the cradle of world civilisation, was a country of poets, artists and men of letters, he said.

The visitors to the exhibition were surprised to learn that what they were seeing was actually the work of undergraduate students in their early or mid-twenties. Indeed, the exhibition was so successful, that this year's annual exhibition of the students' output is earmarked for a European tour that will take it to London, Rome, Madrid and Athens.

Talking to Professor Charalambous about his department, we learn that every student costs the state around 500 Iraqi dinars a year. Not only is tuition completely free of charge, but the academy also provides the students with all the required raw material, placing at their disposal a well equipped work shop

folkloric art in Iraq". The Professor is full of optimism about the prospects of ceramics in Iraq: more and more people are beginning to be interested in this art, and there are today quite a few homes which give pride of place to ceramic "objects d'art". Collectors are en-

thusiastic for themselves are Mohamed Arabi, Muna Abdel-Qader and Maher al-Samarrai.

One of the most interesting aspects about ceramics is its attraction for girls, there are so many of them taking up ceramics today. But unfortunately,



Miss. Waiqa Mohammed and her work



Mr. Mu'ayed Ni'ma and his work

for modern ovens. In exchange for all these facilities, the academy has an option on one third of the output of every student. This is then added to the academy's collection of works of art by the students.

What are the goals of the ceramic school, we ask Professor Charalambous. He replies: "What we want to do is to create an Iraqi school of ceramics which would embody the living heritage of ancient Mesopotamia, coupled with Islamic art and motifs from contemporary

the increase, a fact which makes happy news for the artists.

In the latest exhibition held by the department, some remarkable talent has emerged. One of the most promising young artists is Sayed Mouayed Ni'ma, 25, who is in the fourth year. Ni'ma is probably the world's only cartoonist in ceramic. His work is truly remarkable. Another talented student is Waiqa Mohamed, a young woman of 23, who is specially skillful in her use of colours. Among the graduates who have made a

many of them give it up after marriage. They either become housewives, or they take up some job which has nothing to do with the art in which they had specialised. Professor Charalambous considers that a pity, as some of these young women had shown excellent promise.

Apart from this negative aspect, ceramics is a thriving art movement in the Iraq of today. It is a continuation link in the chain of Islamic art and a considerable contribution to world culture.

Iraqis Knew About Electricity Before Its Invention

"WE WERE NOT THE FIRST" is the title which the British writer Andrew Thomas chose for his book. The ancient world knew about aeroplanes, atomic bombs and even about "robot", man's latest invention, the author relates in his book. He says that documents indicating to chemical war have been discovered in India, China and Mesopotamia.

"Ancient rulers and scientists, realising the dangerous consequences arising from exposing scientific and chemical secrets to be used by those seeking destruction and annihilation, kept these as state secrets".

A Chinese scientist wrote a thousand years ago: "One of the big mistakes in the exposition of factors and secrets of chemical reactions to the military".

Mention of atom and electrons was made in the books of Brahman Indian scientist and religious men. Voga Vasishtha writes in one of his books: "There are vast worlds within each atom" Indian wiseman Oitka mentioned before 2500 years that all the materials are made of neutrons or atoms and that is why he was nicknamed "Kanada" or grain seller.

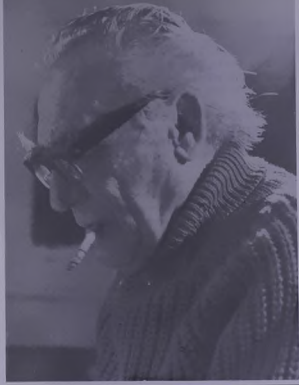
Did the ancient Iraqis know about electricity? Many scientists and archaeologists confirmed this during their excavations and studies in Iraq. German archaeologist Wilhelm Koneigh found during his excavations in Baghdad from 1938 to 1939, a number of pottery pods the upper ends of which were covered with one layer of asphalt; protruding from it two metal poles connected to brass

cylinders. Koneigh, relating a description of his discovery in an article published in Austria in 1940, said it is an electric battery. But other scientists and archaeologists refused to accept his discovery that ancient Iraqis knew about electricity unless they were presented with explicit evidence authenticating the discovery.

After World War II, Willard Gray of General Electric of America, made an original replica of 2,000-year-old Babylonian battery. He filled it with brass sulphate instead of the mysterious material found in the ancient battery which had evaporated during the long period. He was amazed when he found that the battery contained power. This was a clear proof that the Babylonians knew about electricity and in fact put it into practice.

Similar batteries were found in the ruins of Babylon. It seems that the religious men and scientists kept secrets of electricity for themselves. Nevertheless, the discovery of batteries in ancient Babylon indicates that there was some sort of an electric apparatus used in ancient times. British historian, Dr. Dennis Sowat mentions in his book on the ancient world that "there is evidence that there was electric apparatus used in ancient Egypt". A probable explanation of the availability of an electric apparatus is the mysterious light which made the eyes of Pharonic god Isis shine.

Many historians have spoken about permanently-lit electric bulbs used in ancient times. But, unfortunately, there are no specific means to show whether these bulbs used to be lit through electric current or other power. Historians are of the belief that the big shrine built by Roman King Pompilius had an eternal fire. There was a permanently-lit bulb placed at the entrance of Jupiter's Shrine. It remained lit for many centuries.



FREE FORUM

a communication between the artist and the public. But it remains then to distinguish the artistic expression from the communication of that expression.

Proceeding from this general conception summed up by the theme of the 8th. Congress of the International Association of the Plastic Artists (IAA) recently held in Baghdad, we met the great Bulgarian Artist Prof. Detschko Ouzounov, the Chairman of the IAA, the Demitrov-Prize winner and the Artist of the People (75 years), immediately after the concluding session of the IAA Congress in Baghdad.

(M. I.)

Iraq Today: Have you been to some historical sites in Iraq? If you have, what are your impressions?

Ouzounov: Yes I have been to some historical sites in Iraq during these days of my first visit to

Interview With Professor Detschko Ouzounov, The Bulgarian Artist

- **What is art? How could we realise the artistic work?... Through commitment?**
- **Is it merely a physical skill? Is it mere ability to use tools?**
- **What are the achievements of the young Iraqi artists?**
- **Modern artist and heritage face to face...**

"Art and Reality". The importance of these two words must be always emphasized when we talk about the artist's responsibility towards the public. An artist cannot escape from reality and construct a dream-world. There must be always

Iraq. I am extremely happy indeed to have this opportunity to visit this country with all its rich ancient culture. To get acquainted with such great and interesting cultures is a fruitful experience. I am always interested in first-hand experiences. They are marvellous. Those historical sites of Iraq are full of inspiring, artistic and monumental works. It was a good opportunity, or rather a profound artistic experience, to get acquainted with those sites such as the Holy Shrines in Najaf and Kerbala together with those valuable exhibitions and national museums. What I have found in those Holy Shrines and monuments are the genuine products of the Iraqi authentic culture.

We have to appreciate deeply these magnificent works of arts, which reflected the greatness of your history.

Iraq Today: Will you give us briefly the main features of your artistic experience?

Ouzenou: In my long artistic experience I have been always guided by my devotion and loyalty to my country — my motherland which I love and lived its history and its great achievements. I committed myself to my motherland and consequently to my art. This led me to devote myself, in my field, to the struggle of my motherland for freedom and progress. I have been always inspired by my people's traditions and heritage seen and touched everywhere in the everyday life of my people. To me, and to any other artist, the only source of inspiration is the life and heritage of the people.



Let us identify always the beautiful with the popular.

Iraq Today: But, does that mean that you prefer, more or less, the great artistic achievements of the past to those of the modern age?

Ouzenou: Not at all. I have always been interested in the great achievements of the past as well as in those of the modern times. Not only that. I am interested in every great artistic work everywhere.

What is the correlation between the subject matter and the most modern form of plastic expression? This is the important question which has always been harping on my mind; and my answer to it is my whole artistic life. Consequently, I do not forget for a moment that the spirit of the age is the axis of every good artistic work. And such good artistic work certainly appeals to the public audience.

This is the responsibility of the artist i.e. to be in quest of the most beautiful language which attracts the people.

Iraq Today: What is your advice to the young generation of Iraqi artists?

Ouzenou: I would like to give, here, a piece of advice to the young generation of the Iraqi artists:

Be always sincere and courageous.
Imbibe your works with love and zest.

- Sincerity.
- Courageousness.
- Zest.
- Love.

Without these elements no artist can do something great.

By these elements you can achieve something great that may last for long time.

Again, remember these four elements!

THE HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON

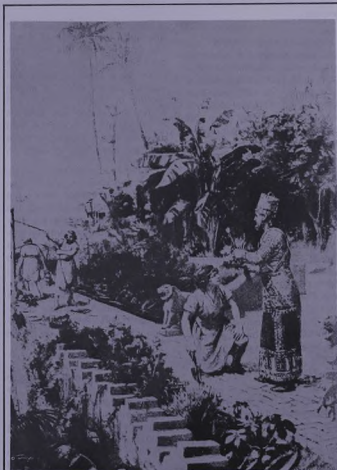
ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD

By Sherif Yusuf

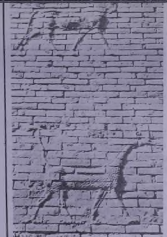
Babylon, the seat of learning, religion and philosophy, rose again to prosperity after the

fall of its rival Nineveh, the capital of Assyria. In 625 B.C. Babylon became the capital of the new Babylonian Empire.

Nebuchadnezzar, the great king of Babylon, renewed her



The Hanging Gardens as imagined by a painter



Reliefs of legendary animals on the walls of Babylon

youth and the city attained a material splendour and magnificence such as she had not achieved during the long course of her early history.

Nebuchadnezzar was a mighty builder, he greatly enlarged and rebuilt his Royal Palace, and in the course of his reconstruction raised its terraced platforms to so great a height above the surrounding city and plain that its Hanging Gardens became one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world.

During his long reign of forty-two years Nebuchadnezzar devoted his energies and the wealth of his Kingdom to this work of rebuilding both the capital and the other ancient religious centres of Babylonia.

Practically everything at present visible on the surface at Babylon, or excavated by the Germans before the First World War, dates from the period of its reconstruction by Nebuchadnezzar and the death of Alexander the Great in 323 B.C.

There are a number of reasons why we know a great deal about Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon. First and foremost is the fact that almost everything he did, he himself recorded in inscriptions on stone and baked

brick. In the writings which date from his later years, he asks simply: "Is this not great Babylon, which I have built for the glory of my majesty?"

Herodotus, the father of all travel writers, gives a spirited and perhaps over-imaginative account of its magnificence. As he looked at the Hanging Gardens he could not hesitate to consider them one of the wonders of the world.

According to one historian the story of the Hanging Gardens goes as follows: "Nebuchadnezzar, as he caressed the maiden at his side, his lovely princess, Amytis of Media, he whispered to her how glorious should be the city he would make for her delight. Scented gardens, bowers and palm groves he would make for her delight". "Oh my Lord", Amytis said, "I long for the hills of Media. This unending flatness of Babylon takes the heart from me".

Nebuchadnezzar bade her comfort. He would make garden-hills for her. As she raised her face in wonder to him he told her what he meant. He explained how terrace upon terrace could be raised, as his ancestors had built the temple towers. Each terrace stood upon a vault of brick pillars. Each pillar will be hollow, yet filled with fertile earth. Down the pillars would run the roots of palms and cypresses. He would bring her cedars from Lebanon too. Over the wall of each terrace would fall such a profusion of gay climbing plants that the walls would be hidden in their beauty, and only the tiers of flowers would show. She would rejoice in climbing from terrace to terrace, when she walked the lilies would offer her their scent. The scent of clover and sweet herbs would make the evenings fragrant.

To make the gardens always fresh, he would tame the waters of the Euphrates and bring perpetual moisture to her plants. The water of Euphrates sprang in fountains even to the seventh and topmost terrace a hundred feet up the hill.

Inside the hollow pyramid the heavy water wheels were trodden day and night unceasingly by a hundred Jewish slaves. They sang in their weariness the following song:

"By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept..."

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget her cunning".

Nebuchadnezzar could not hear their songs but when he looked upon Babylon he thought that he had fulfilled most of the dreams of his boyhood. Never had Nebuchadnezzar stopped seeking the glory of Babylon. He had made her mistress of the world. He had not forgotten his old lesson that a great city is a wealthy city. So the wealth of the world travelled from Babylon up the pleasant Valley of Mesopotamia to the Sea of the Setting Sun".

When Koldewey did his digging at Babylon he discovered a massive building at the northern corner of Nebuchadnezzar's Palace. From the central court of this palace a wide passage led to fourteen cells, similar in size and shape, surrounded by a narrow corridor and a slightly irregular quadrangle wall 30x42 m.

In one of the western cells there was a well which differs from all other wells known either in Babylon or elsewhere in the ancient world. It has three shafts placed close to each other, a square one in the cen-

tre and oblong ones on each side, an arrangement for which no other explanation than that a mechanical hydraulic machine stood here, which worked on the same principle as our chain pump, where buckets attached to a chain work on a wheel. A whim works the wheel in endless rotation, and then the water buckets provide a continuous flow of water.

All cells were vaulted with circular arches. The central building rested on the 16 walls that vaults and on the 4 walls surrounding them. The span of these vaults was about three metres.

The roof was protected by an unusually deep layer of earth. The protection of this roof from permeation of moisture was made by a layer of reeds and asphalt placed over a strong roofing of hewn stone, and above this rested two courses of bricks laid in mortar. A lead covering again separated these from the deep layer of earth on the top.

Now, the reason why the Hanging Gardens aroused the wonder of the people for centuries and were considered among the Seven Wonders of the World was that they were laid out on the roof of an occupied building. Furthermore the legendary connection with the name of Semiramis has largely contributed to this. Also the expression "hanging" has no doubt heightened their fame.

In modern towns and cities nowadays, buildings, such as hotels and apartments of multi-story buildings, have joy gardens where people enjoy living among the trees in open air. This will probably reminds them of the old Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

PRESS OPINION

INDIAN PRESS HIGHLIGHTS SADDAM HUSSEIN'S INTERVIEW WITH EDITOR OF BLITZ.

Wide coverage was given by the Indian press to the exclusive interview granted by the Revolutionary Command Council Vice-Chairman, Mr. Saddam Hussein, to the Editor-in-Chief of Blitz, Mr. Karanjia.

The statements contained in the interview were carried widely in the Indian press. In all languages and editions. The interview was also broadcast over Indian radio.

The Indian weekly Blitz, which published the interview in full, said: "Iraq is determined to promote Arab national interest, placing it above all other considerations". The paper highlighted Iraq's preparedness to dispatch Iraqi military forces to Syria to fight along with the Syrian army the common Zionist enemy from there".

Commenting on the interview the New Politics newspaper said: "Mr. Saddam Hussein's statements on the situation in Lebanon provides the sole solution to what is going on there". The paper described the existing situation in Lebanon as the "most serious imperialist-Zionist threat facing the Arab nation". It added, "the only way before the Arabs in their confrontation with the Zionist enemy is to unite their ranks as called for by Mr. Hussein".

The "Nal Dunia" daily, gave prominence to Iraq's stand towards sending troops to Syria saying: "Iraq's preparedness to send troops to Syria to fight the Zionist enemy is a sincere expression of her commitment to serve the Arab cause. It represents the only hope which is still in the hands of the Arabs".

Another newspaper, Society, emphasised Mr. Saddam Hussein's statements concerning the situation in Lebanon and Iraq's readiness to dispatch forces to Syria to liberate the Arab territories occupied by the Zionists.

TASVIR (Turkey)

The Turkish paper Tasvir has hailed the movement of the Iraqi armed forces to be ready to confront the Zionist enemy for the liberation of the Arab occupied territories.

In an article on Iraq's recent move, the paper said "The Iraqi army had played an active and honourable role in 1973 October war and was able to protect Syrian capital Damascus and prevent its possible fall in the hands of the aggressive Zionist forces".

Commenting on present Syrian regime's military intervention in Lebanon the paper said "It is directed against the Arab masses and their just

causes. The Arab masses are against this intervention which serves no body but the enemy".

ATH-THAWRA (Iraq)

Commented in its editorial on the speech of President al-Bakr at the Arab popular conference held in espousal of the Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese patriotic movement. It wrote:

The important nationalist speech, in which Comrade Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Secretary of the ABSR Regional Leadership and President of the Republic, opened the conference has stressed the necessary militant prerequisites for supporting the Palestinian Resistance and backing the Lebanese patriotic and progressive forces, as well as the causes enabling the Arab revolutionary movement to overcome the state of collapse and destroy the barriers and negative obstacles obstructing its march.

The stress on confronting these intrigues and deterring their designs and meeting the necessary requirements for this purpose, will not only result in overcoming the state of recession and strengthening the nationalist upsurge, but will also inflict a crushing defeat on the aggressive calculations and the strategy of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance.

Inasmuch as the scientific outlook on the nature of the conflict on the Arab area stresses the need for rallying the Arab masses and their fighting and militant forces in a bloc opposed to the bloc of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance and all the defeatist and capitulationist forces, the stress on the need for building militant unity on the level of each Arab country and consequently the arrival at the unity of the patriotic and progressive Arab forces along the level of the nationalist arena is a correct one, which accords with the features of the revolutionary outlook to this conflict and the required task for resolving it in favour of the Arab nation and the movement of its progress and on the path of its major nationalist goals".

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (Poland)

In a commentary in its recent issue, the magazine said: "Iraq, as a result of the policies pursued by the Arab Baath Socialist Party, has succeeded in wringing its natural resources from the claws of foreign monopolies, thus becoming a country with huge economic capabilities and financial resources, which fact has enabled it to implement its plans for rapid national development".

It also pointed to Iraq's role in backing the developing countries, stating that "in 1974 Iraq had allocated 855 million US dollars as aid to these countries".

NEWS IN BRIEF

IRAQ-IRAN BORDER TREATY COMES INTO FORCE

Iraq and Iran have exchanged in Teheran the instruments of ratification of the International Border and Good Neighbourliness Treaty signed between the two countries and the three protocols and their appendices annexed to it.

Exchange of instruments of ratification took place at a special ceremony held in Teheran on June 22 in which Iraq was represented by Dr. Sadoun Hammadi and Iran by Foreign Minister Mr. Abbas Ali Khalatbari.

Commenting on the accord reached with Iran Dr. Hammadi said "both sides have shown goodwill and have had the determination to put an end to their outstanding differences and problems.

"With the exchange of instruments of ratification all major and minor problems, which were outstanding between the two countries, have been practically solved, and that all agreements concluded between us have actually come into force.

"We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to our Algerian brothers for their good offices which realised this fruitful result".

MINISTER OF INFORMATION PATRONIZES PRESS DAY

Information Minister Mr. Tareq Aziz patronized, on June 16, a special celebration organized by the Iraqi Journalists Union to mark the 107th anniversary of the first Iraqi newspaper (see Iraq Today 15th June).

A number of press men, Arab and foreign correspondents, information organs and union members attended the celebration.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Aziz called on the Iraqi journalists to exert "exceptional efforts to turn Iraq and its press into a source of enlightenment in the Arab homeland and an invincible force against the imperialist, bourgeois and right-wing elements and their ideologies".

IRAQI-GREEK COOPERATION AGREEMENT

An Iraqi-Greek technical cooperation agreement was signed in Baghdad early this month

which provides for the expansion of bilateral co-operation, and the possibility of Greek participating in Iraqi development projects in the fields of industry, agriculture, tourism, maritime and training of technical cadres.

YASSER ARAFAT VISITS IRAQ

Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) paid a three-day visit to Iraq from 19th to 21st June, 1976.

During his visit Mr. Arafat held talks with Arab Baath Socialist Party officials led by Comrade Shibly al-Aysami, ABSP Assistant Secretary General. The talks dealt with the latest development in the Arab region and the Syrian regime's military intervention in Lebanon which aims at liquidating the Palestine resistance and the Lebanese national movement.

Mr. Arafat was received by and held talks with Comrade Michael Aflaq, ABSP Secretary General, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Secretary of the Regional Leadership and RCC Vice-Chairman Saddam Hussein, Deputy Secretary of the Regional Leadership.

Commenting on his talks in Iraq Mr. Arafat said: "The Iraqi leaders reaffirmed their principled and firm support to the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese national movement in their fight against the conspiracies of the isolationist forces and the Syrian military intervention in the current events of Lebanon.

"I have received from President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr and Comrade Saddam Hussein firm assurances and response towards our cause and towards the Lebanese national movement".

Mr. Arafat was received and seen off at Baghdad International Airport by Comrade Shibly al-Aysami, and a number of senior Party officials.

VIETNAMESE DELEGATION VISITS IRAQ

An economic delegation from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam headed by the Deputy Minister of External Trade paid a few days visit to Iraq.

While in Baghdad the delegation made contacts and held talks with Iraqi Foreign Trade Ministry officials on matters related to further developing economic cooperation between the two countries.

SPORTS



FIRST IRAQI WOMAN PARACHUTIST

Iraqi Women have entered a new field of sports with Miss Suad Abdul Rahman — 23 years — parachuting an 850 metres fall to become the first woman parachutist in Iraq.

Miss. Rahman, in addition to five other girls, is a member of the General Federation of Iraqi Youth.

The six girls were on a 6-month parachuting course — al-Baath course — and since the experiment was a success a reliable source announced that 21 males and 9 more females are to start a new course shortly.

TABLE-TENNIS

The Iraqi table-tennis Federation has held a 10-day training course for referees of the armed forces. The course held at the Army Sports Club began on June 15.

SENEGAL FINALS

The Iraqi military athletic team, as well as 12 basketball players, left Baghdad on June 15, to participate in the International Military Championship, finals which started on the 16th, in the Senegalese capital.

It is worth mentioning that the Iraqi team carried a present which was delivered to President Leopold Senghor from President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr.



HANDBALL

The Iraqi Handball Federation has called on all members of the Youth Team to attend a training course at the Mansour Youth Stadium as a preparation for the friendly matches to take place in Sofia next August.

WATER-POLO

Seven teams representing the Ports Establishment, Naval Forces, Coastal Defence, Mohammed al-Qasim Forces, Education Directorate, Iraq National Oil Company as well as the South and Federation Clubs have participated in the Basrah Governorate's advanced water-polo championship ended a week ago, the Swimming Federation of Iraq announced.

WEIGHTLIFTING STATE TRAINING

23 weightlifters, who started their training earlier this month, will compete in the trial championship to be held on July 3.

The best nine weightlifters will be selected to represent Iraq in the International Friendship Weightlifting Championship due in Bulgaria between July 17 to 25.



