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CENTRE FOR ARAB GULF STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES
INFORMATION DEPARTMENT.

MAY 16TH, 1967

THE ARAB LEAGUE NEWS SUMMARY.

(This Summary Covers Events from May 1st to 15th)

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M A Y 15.

Arab League Secretary-General El Sayed Abdel Khalek Hassouna made a statement on May 15th on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the occupation of Palestine in which he recalled the imperialist-Zionist plan which had culminated in the usurpation of Palestine.

He said the establishment of Israel on May 15, 1948 was a signal that Zionist conspiracies had fulfilled their ambitions and a springboard for a series of premeditated armed aggressions on Arab countries.

He also remarked that Israel has recently doubled its efforts to obtain more destructive weapons and external aid.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General pointed out that the memory of May 15 should be an incentive to the Arabs to consolidate their strength and solidarity and take effective measures to confront the Zionist threat and the imperialist plan.

LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS.

The Arab Labour and Social Affairs Conference has called for the establishment or consolidation of industrial planning centres in Arab countries to undertake the drafting of programmes and the study of industrial projects.

The Conference which held its eleventh session at the Arab League Premises from May 6 to 11 urged Arab countries to spare no effort to reach the stage of industrial growth that would guarantee, within the framework of a balanced economy, maximum economic production and full employment of manpower. It also called for encouragement of national industry through the exemption of machines

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needed from customs duties and the establishment of special funds for certain industries.

As regards training and technical education, the Conference recommended that the state should establish a central authority for vocational training and technical education to undertake the planning of the various levels of technical and vocational education linking them with the development plans.

Other recommendations adopted by the Conference included the establishment of an Arab Regional Centre for Social Research to work for bridging the gap between technological progress and social and cultural underdevelopment.

On the question of social development and the role of the state, the Conference asked Arab countries to consider the coming ten years as a "development decade" in which they would define their policy and the priorities of their plan.

The Conference called on the Arab League to work out a permanent system for the exchange of experiences and technical aid and the reinforcement of statistical organs in Arab countries.

The Conference underlined the role of information machinery in stepping up social development and called for expansion in the gradual application of the social insurance system.

It also recommended the set up of a Centre for the Development of Human Resources under the auspices of the Arab League to lay down training programmes for labour leaderships in Arab states.

The Labour and Social Affairs Conference had opened on May 6 in the presence of delegates from Arab League member states and representatives of the United Nations Office in Beirut, the Inter-

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national Labour Office, the Office for Scientific Cooperation in the Middle East, UNICEF, the Afro-Asian Organization for Economic Cooperation, the Arab States Centre for Education for Community Development and the International Federation of Trade Unions.

The Conference studied "Labour and Industrialization and their Social Impact On Arab Countries" and discussed 30 papers on the subjects on the agenda which included, among others, the problems of industrialization, productivity and vocational training as well as the sources of manpower, the social and economic effects of mechanization as well as the role of the state and organizations in social development.

EXHIBITIONS.

The Arab Exhibitions Authority has underlined the importance of Arab countries' participation in African fairs and exhibitions in general and the Kenya exhibition in particular to confront the Israeli economic infiltration into the African continent.

The Authority, which met at the Arab League Headquarters on May 10, urged Arab countries to raise the standard of their exhibits in order to indicate the progress and the industrial and agricultural revival in the Arab world.

It also denounced Israel's exploitation of international fairs and exhibitions for political propaganda purposes in violation of the rules and regulations of international exhibitions and emphasized the need for participation in Cyprus International Exhibition in appreciation of the Cypriot Government's gesture of refusing Israel's participation.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

Arab League Secretary General El Sayed Abdel Khalek Hassouna has sent a cable of congratulations to Dr. Laker Hussein on the occasion of his election President of India. The cable expressed confidence that Indian-Arab friendship will be further strengthened under Dr. Hussein's leadership.

The Secretary General received on May 6 Mr. Otto Wenzer, East German Foreign Minister and the delegation accompanying him.

Arab delegates to the 20th session of the World Health Organization's General Assembly held a meeting at the Arab League Office in Geneva on Saturday, May 6 to coordinate viewpoints towards subjects on the agenda and fix a date for the Arab Health Ministers' Conference.

A Conference for the Arab Towns Organization met in Kuwait from March 11 to 15 to discuss measures for raising the standard of municipal services in Arab towns in order to cope with the growth of population.

Secretary General El Sayed Abdel Khalek Hassouna received at his office at the Arab League Headquarters on May 15 Mr. Karoly Szarka, Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister. The meeting was attended by the Hungarian Ambassador in Cairo.
