

Iraq Today

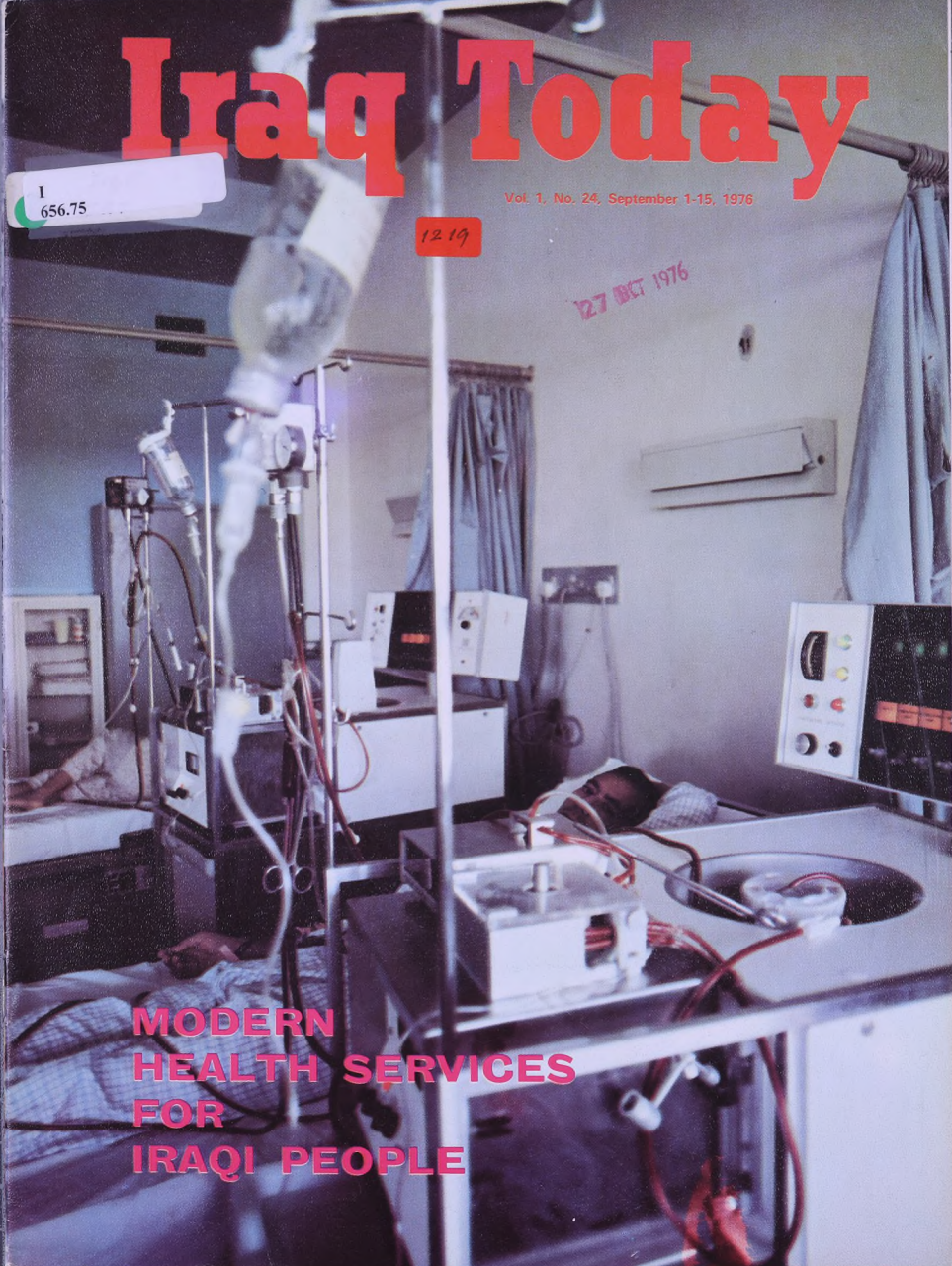
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**MODERN
HEALTH SERVICES
FOR
IRAQI PEOPLE**





Young Painters at Work



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EDITORIAL

No Guns Can Kill The Palestinian Cause

The resilience of the Palestinian segment of the Arab people is an indication of how much could be realised if all the Arab forces, material, intellectual and physical, are mobilised toward one great objective. When all the Arab governments proved they were not up to the fight in 1948, many shortsighted people dismissed the Palestinians as an insignificant quantity which would sooner or later be forgotten. But in spite of the dispersion and displacement, the Palestinians remained the centre of gravity in all the affairs of all the Arabs. From that year on all Arab liberation movements, while in the process reaching their goals and planning for victory over foreign powers, were identifying their cause with that of Palestine.

The Arab defeat of 1967, instead of stifling the Palestinians, did exactly the contrary. The crystallization of their identity became the most significant feature of modern Arab history.

When they faced the bloody ordeal in 1970 at the hands of the Jordanian reactionaries, many people came to the wrong conclusion as they were thinking in terms of the end of the existence of the Palestinian cause. But the events proved that this cause was impossible to shatter. In Lebanon they created a greater scope for action.

The aftermath of the 1973 war, waged because of Palestine, saw capitulationist trends in certain quarters that want to bring the Palestinian question to an end once and for all. What happened was that world opinion became increasingly aware of the formidable presence of the Palestinians.

The tragic events in Lebanon, spurred by the Syrian regime, point to the futile efforts to crush the Palestinians in order to make room for conciliatory, in other words, submissive, plans toward the Zionist usurpers. Whatever the outcome of the genocide in Lebanon, the Palestinians are sure to overcome their predicament and get out of the furnace sufficiently steeled to stand up against their real enemies: the Zionist aggressors.

What is happening in Kuwait is also to be linked with the designs being worked out by the enemies of the Arabs. These designs aim first of all at bringing the Palestinians to a state where surrender is thought to be the only way out of their plight.

The tribal mentality certain Arab rulers have can hardly understand the stamina of a people whose life transcends murder and oppression and the more hardships it encounters the less likely it is to give up the fight. It has always been its fate to identify fighting with life and surrender with death until such time when real peace is justly and reasonably equated with real life. And they are not alone in this life-giving vision, though realising it calls for superhuman efforts which only the truly human are capable of exerting.

Recent Developments in Kuwait

The recent political developments in Kuwait have aroused a wide concern all over the Arab quarters and they have definitely aroused our deep concern in Iraq.

These developments, as the responsible people themselves in Kuwait have affirmed, are not confined to domestic causes and circumstances only; these developments are connected with the Arab circumstances and conditions both present and anticipated. They are connected in a special way with the conditions of the Arabian Gulf area, a fact which makes interest in them, particularly on the part of Iraq which is both a member of the Arab community and an Arabian Gulf country, a natural reaction that should not irritate particular sensibilities.

It is necessary at the outset to comprehend objectively and within the framework of the circumstances of Kuwait, the nature of the recent measures of dissolving the parliament and restricting the press and all forms of public activity which are not governmental.

It is wrong, from the objective point of view, to say that "democracy" was liquidated in Kuwait through these measures, as there was objectively no "democracy" in that country from the start. It is true that the ruling oligarchy created 14 years ago certain formulas resembling those in existence in liberal systems, such as, the constitution, the parliament, private press and trade unions etc. But it was quite clear that those formulas did not change the nature of authority that remained throughout the period in the hands of a few individuals of the ruling family who are bound by family and tribal relations, and supported by monopoly, oil companies and foreign powers which established the system in Kuwait and protected it during all these years.

Foreign powers, oil companies and certain members of the ruling oligarchy wanted the system to have "strong" justifications in view of the special and well-known circumstances of this regime which are different from those of the other Gulf Emirates. They have, therefore, resorted to "embellish" that regime with those formulas that were not fitting at all to its basic nature which is autocratic and tribal.

The basic motive, then, for setting up those formulas was the special conditions of this regime, and they have never meant throughout these years

that this regime could be described as reaching, qualitatively, a standard far different from the other regimes in the Gulf and the Peninsula. Therefore, the abolition of the institutions called at the time as constitutional or democratic, does not mean, in the light of this fact, anything except the return to the fundamental nature of the regime both in form and in content.

This central fact does not mean that the so-called constitutional institutions were throughout these years, and especially in recent years, nothing but a "decor" as the ruling power desired them to be. Those institutions, by dint of the passage of time on the one hand, and because of the growth of progressive national awareness with many sectors of the masses in Kuwait on the other, have partially exceeded the limits of the frameworks pre-set for them. They started to exercise at times certain kinds of opposition, albeit partial and timid, and criticism relying on the legal and formal justifications for those institutions, and the regime was afraid of publicly revealing its lack of serious conviction in them. The regime, therefore, was forced to put up with such kinds of opposition reluctantly.

From another aspect, the conflict of interests stemming from the tribal and clanish structure of society in Kuwait was finding expression through those institutions, a fact which sometimes caused some irritation to the ruling authority. What applied to other institutions also applied to the press. In spite of its description as a "liberal" press it was largely very timidly liberal. It did not, except in some very special cases, take any stand of direct opposition to the basic decisions and trends of the authority, although sections of the press used to behave, indirectly and sometimes directly, according to programmes, especially in connection with Arab questions, which ran counter, in their conclusions, to the basic decisions and trends of the authority.

It could be said that the recent decisions did not liquidate "democracy" in Kuwait but only liquidated its outer forms and superficial practices which became, for personal reasons and for reasons related to the circumstances of the area and the designs worked out for it, an obstacle to the central tendencies and interests of the authority. Perhaps the best illustration of this is the attitude towards the conditions in Lebanon and the intervention of the Syrian

regime in it. One of the salient facts in the policies of the area is that the ruling authority in Kuwait is the most active Arab regime supporting the Syrian regime politically and economically, directly and indirectly, alone or with other parties. In fact this stand has not emanated originally from justifications particular to the present conditions in Lebanon, because it is a stand which precedes the recent developments in Lebanon. Its starting point was a policy of the ruling authority in Kuwait interlinked with certain unhealthy anxieties and presentments.

It is also well-known that the ruling regime in Kuwait has been playing, for some years, the game of backing the Palestinian resistance because this game was providing it with a credit beneficial to its special conditions to which we have alluded. In return to this, it has given no more than some efforts and money.

After the flare-up of the ferocious strife in Lebanon and the overt and violent Syrian intervention, its clashing with the Palestinian resistance, its public unveiling of its design to liquidate that game became no longer either easy or cheap. So the ruling regime in Kuwait which has sided with the Syrian regime and collaborated with it to execute the major part of the motives of the design and which is frightened of the probabilities of the weakening, or the downfall of the Damascus regime, has found itself in a grave impasse.

If the regime has exerted efforts in various forms to conceal that impasse and pretend to formally maintain the equilibrium between the two contradictory stands, the existing institutions in Kuwait, including the press, could not keep in mind all the details of the required equilibrium. Some of them did not perhaps want to do so in the way that the ruling authority wanted them to. For this reason and because of the special weight of Palestinian presence in Kuwait, Kuwait witnessed during recent months some attitudes and activities on the part of the press, parliament and popular groupings condemning the Damascus regime and exposing it, calling at the same time to take a firm stand toward that regime which is the special ally of the ruling regime in Kuwait.

That state of affairs apparently became intolerable for the ruling authority in Kuwait, not only from the psychological aspect but also from the practical one. It was possible that it could shake part of the propensities and interests of the existing regime and

spoil for it what it wanted to have cooked on slow fire. It put the ruling regime in Kuwait in a state of anxiety and self-defence inside its own house, whereas it wanted for itself, and it was wanted for it, that it should become active participant in support of the Syrian regime with a view to protecting it from isolation or collapse. In addition to the participation in the plans being executed in the area, one of the most important of which is what is called the security of the Gulf, in which the ruling regime in Kuwait has been playing an active role in laying out its suspect directions.

From this angle, the existing authority could not put up with what was taking place, hence the recent measures.

There is another aspect to the question too. The ruling regimes in the Peninsula and the Gulf were for some time upbraiding the ruling regime in Kuwait for its "democratic" game and cautioning it for the inconvenient incongruity and probable risks it would entail for them. But the ruling regime in Kuwait gave little heed to such chidings and warnings, not because it belittled the importance of those who voiced them as far as it and its alliances in the area were concerned, but because of its conviction that that game, in spite of its negative aspects, was offering it a special credit which it badly needed for the particular conditions from which the other regimes were not suffering. As the game began to threaten those very particular conditions, the two attitudes have easily met, hence the recent measures.

This, in our evaluation, is the logical analysis of the recent measures that took place in Kuwait. But the question does not stop at that, for it has other very important aspects.

The regimes and powers, in conniving with the American plan in the area aiming at the liquidation of the Palestinian question and the re-adjustment of conditions in the area in a way that secures the strategic interests of imperialism and the supremacy of rightist regimes and powers in it, would have been glad had the plan been executable without recourse to major sacrifices.

Among the things which those regimes and powers wished to have had maintained were the forms and practices called "democracy", in spite of its being far removed from the real concept of democracy even in its western liberal meaning. Such re-

gimes and behind them the imperialist powers were imagining that they could exploit such forms and practices as a weapon in their fight against revolutionary and nationalist regimes which were accused by imperialist propaganda and by most of the rightist regimes and quarters of "dictatorship" because they have no "parliaments" and "free press", etc. These regimes and powers hoped to use such forms and practices in the process of taming the masses and bewildering their ideas as well as spreading defeatism and capitulationism in their ranks. But those forms and practices which often served those regimes and powers were, and became with the passage of time, a two-edged weapon. The nationalist forces, through their activities, were able to find in those forms and practices some outlets for expressing their stands, and consequently exposing and unmasking the imperialist and reactionary plans and intentions which were designed to be applied in the area. As American imperialism and along with it the reactionary regimes and powers in the area were hasty to implement their designs and afraid, lest time should turn against their interests, they chose to sacrifice those forms and practices although they constituted some political credit designed to help execute the same plan. This is one of the reasons for the explosion of the crisis in Lebanon and the unleashing of naked fascist violence by the ruling class there on a large scale in order to realise its objectives, while it was for many years boasting of the superiority of its liberal system and its ability to resolve problems through dialogue and democratic means. It used all these arguments in its attack against nationalist and revolutionary powers.

What happened recently in Kuwait forms a complementary chain to what took place in Lebanon. It could be described, from this angle, as a speedy attempt to secure the necessary conditions for the execution of the plan and let "democracy" go to hell!

The events in Lebanon and the unveiling of the Syrian regime of its full reality as a fascist and stooge regime and subsequently, the events in Kuwait — all point to the fact that imperialism and Arab reactionaries are speedily heading, and on a large scale, to use fascist violence as a prime tool to encounter nationalist and progressive forces which resist the imperialist plan aiming at liquidating the question of Palestine and re-adjusting the conditions of the area after misleading, maneuvering and deceit had failed to realise the full goal they envisaged. Such developments had already taken place in many other parts of the world where certain regimes, previously considered "democratic", were

changed into fascist ones in order to enter into a decisive battle with progressive and democratic forces.

The other very important aspect which is connected with all the foregoing, and is of a sensitive nature is the interlink of the whole developments in the area along with the recent measures in Kuwait with the conditions of the Arab/Gulf area.

One of the most important chains in the American imperialist plan, in which reactionary regimes and quarters in the area participate, is the control of the Arabian Gulf area.

Imperialism as well as these regimes and quarters are no longer content with the minimum of what they imagine to be "assurances" for the flow of oil in the Gulf. They have been uncovering an aggressive and imperialist plan to bring the Gulf area under their hegemony and govern it at will. For this they have tried to tighten the noose on the liberated regimes and powers of the area.

Imperialism knows and the reactionary regimes and powers in collusion with it know that such a plan could not be executed before securing certain preconditions and conditions, whether at the level of the Arab area in general or at the level of the Gulf area in particular. This is the reason for the continuous and multifaceted conspiracy against Iraq, as it is considered the liberated Arab base whose free and nationalist stands and policies terrify the imperialists and their collaborators. The most dangerous chain of this conspiracy was the very active backing of American imperialism to the reactionary and imperialist insurgency in northern Iraq and the support of the reactionary powers in the area to those insurgents by all covert and indirect means and ways which were quite well known to us. When imperialism and reactionary powers found out that the game was shattered and that liberated Iraq was capable of steadfastness as it hit the plan very forcefully, they imagined that a "new policy" might realise their objectives. They, therefore, were deluded into thinking that they could contain Iraq by ways of deceit and temptation.

As we were aware, from the outset, of what was going on in the mind of imperialists, we made clear to some rulers of the area, in a direct and explicit way that we sincerely desire to establish normal relations with the countries of the area, but they must not mislead themselves that other develop-

ments have taken place in our stand which run counter to their principles at ours or which could deviate from them. If they really want normal relations they have to deal with a nationalist and liberated Iraq that follows an independent policy like the razor's edge. They have also to seriously observe the minimum limits of policies and stands which are not contrary to the nationalist interests of the Arab nation and to the regional interests of Iraq.

It seems that the pillars of imperialism and their collaborators in the area have come to realise fully that their illusions were mere dreams formed on the basis of analogy and comparison with other systems and experiences which they were able to contain and put on the "rail". We, therefore, realise that these quarters are now getting inclined to adopt the previous direct ways in their attempt to impose their plan on the area. The developments that took place in Kuwait are, from this point of view, part of the preludes to such a policy which requires, among other things, silence and quiet and the abstention from exposing the inner dealings of the policies one way or another which might constitute an obstacle in its way. This was not possible to secure in Kuwait in the conditions that existed before August 29.

As far as we are concerned, we had had knowledge of what was being cooked in the area. We warned those concerned that we knew and that we would not allow the emergence of conditions in the area which threaten our strategic rights and interests in the area. The following passage, taken from the speech of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr on the occasion of July Revolution celebrations is the best expression of this. "The course which Iraq has followed in its relations with all the countries of the area, based on co-existence and co-operation with all, irrespective of the difference in the nature of the systems and their forms, stems from our conviction that it is in harmony with the legal interests of all parties and that it secures the suitable conditions for the stability and development of the area. For us it is a constant course to which we bind ourselves as we do in our firm obligations on our policies. On the basis of this we proceeded to establish positive relations, and we still do, with all the countries of the area. It is necessary to point to an important matter here. In pursuance of this policy of ours we have called for the necessity of ensuring the freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf in view of the fact that this Gulf is a vital water-way for all the countries surrounding it and for the world as a whole, as it is one of the most vital of world waterways and because it is the greatest passage for oil wealth in the world. We talked with clarity and

sincerity to all parties concerned and it was our opinion that the interests of all the countries on its banks and the valid world interests require the avoidance of strifes and uneasy conditions in this area. They also require the strengthening of regulations related to freedom of navigation which are based on international laws and customs by issuing a collective declaration from all littoral countries that navigation in it must be free for all nations littoral to it and for all international parties. We are still maintaining this view and believe that any other formula deviating from this by trying to restrict the freedom of navigation in any form along with the form of imperialist blocs and pacts is one that is absolutely unacceptable to us and Iraq cannot but resist it in spite of its being constantly eager to establish the best relations with all parties in accordance with the central foundations of our policy".

In addition to the foregoing backgrounds to the recent measures in Kuwait, such measures and moves cannot be isolated from the new repeated of late about the probability of the Syrian regime mounting a new military campaign to liquidate the Palestinian resistance and the national movement in Lebanon before the President-elect Elias Sarkis assumes authority on September 23. This points to the fact that regimes and powers which have supported it in its bloody military campaign against the Palestinian resistance and the national movement in Lebanon, for their own reasons on the one hand and because of their link with the American plan designed to be executed in the area on the other, try, on its part, to pave the way for the new series of this plan, whether it is related to their local circumstances or to the Arab conditions in general.

The experiences of peoples struggling for freedom and the rich experiences of the Arab nation emphasise a highly important fact which applies to the present conditions in the area. Imperialism and the reactionary powers which are gradually and speedily resorting to the ways of fascist violence and which would not hesitate to take any action with a view to realising a speedy liquidation of liberation powers in the area and to readjust the conditions there according to their whims must realise that they are gambling with their fate and future. If any one of them imagines that he is "the master of the situation" in an absolute sense we say he is committing a grave mistake, for the free powers in the area are not weak as they think. Also, they have not yet put out all their reserves and when the battle comes, as the imperialists and reactionaries envisage it to come, there will be a "talk for every event" as the Arab proverb says.

Colombo Conference Achieves Outstanding Success

The Fifth Summit Conference of the Non-aligned nations successfully concluded in Colombo on August 20 last. The conference, which opened on August 16, was attended by 106 countries — 86 full-fledged participants, 11 observers and 9 guests. The all-time high number of delegations taking part in the conference speaks eloquently of the importance the Non-aligned Movement has assumed in the affairs of the world today.

The conference was graced by the presence of a number of new countries as full-fledged participants. They include, among others, unified Vietnam, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde. These countries symbolize the very essence of Non-aligned Movement — achieving total victory in their protracted fight against imperialism and colonialism and at the same time, following steadfastly their independent path to progress keeping away from military blocs.

The conference was able to overcome all the fissiparous tendencies and settle the issues of criteria of membership and political and economic declaration. The veteran Non-aligned leader, President Tito of Yugoslavia, in his opening session speech, warned against the forces that were seeking to undermine the solidarity of the Non-aligned nations. His warning certainly helped participants to be more vigilant and alert. The host Prime Minister and Chairman of the conference, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, draw the attention of all to the dangers of imperialist conspiracies which were being implemented through military bases. The leader of the Iraqi delegation, Vice-President Taha Muheydin Marouf, in his speech set the tone of the conference in all its aspects and stressed the need for unity for accomplishing the task of the movement.

IRAQ'S CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE

The Iraqi delegation contributed substantially to the success of the conference. On his return to Baghdad Vice-President Marouf said:

"We availed ourselves of every occasion to emphasize Iraq's concern for promoting the unity of the Non-aligned movement so as to enhance the advancement of humanity and foil the designs of imperialism. Iraq's catalytic role was clearly evid-

enced by the fact that the conference sponsored all resolutions and amendments tabled by the Iraqi delegation on the political and economic levels. Among those was the honouring of the memory of the heroes of world liberation movement, the condemnation of racial discrimination, the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a peace zone, the call for dismantling foreign military bases, disapproval of the US pressure on Latin American and other states and the reunification of Korea".

The need for maximum unity of the Non-aligned nations was also highlighted by Dr. Sadoun Hammadi, the Foreign Minister of Iraq, in a press conference in Colombo. Explaining the modus operandi of forging unity he emphasized that the much needed unity of the Non-aligned community should be based on the international character of the issues which were common to all. The conference should debate such issues and leave out others. The Colombo Conference finally emerged as a stronger unified movement through the adoption of the political and economic declaration of common concern.

The Colombo conference has paid due attention to economic issues which affect all the Non-aligned countries. Welcoming this shift in approach Dr. Hammadi noted: "One of the distinguishing marks of this conference is the mounting attention that has come to be devoted to economic matters, which formerly seldom, if ever, enjoyed such a degree of concern".

THREE PILLARS OF SUCCESS

The success of the Colombo conference may be summed up under three heads:

- maintaining the unity of the Non-aligned community;
- giving top priority to burning political issues of international character;
- paying adequate attention to economic problems of the Third World countries in general and the Non-aligned nations in particular.

The Fifth Summit settled the thorny question of criteria of participants amicably to strengthen the foundations of the Non-aligned Movement. The criteria determined at the previous summits were maintained and no basic revision was resorted to.

It was wise of the summiteers to have upheld the decision of the Lima Foreign Ministers Conference to invite "guests" at the Colombo Conference. Any revision of the Cairo criteria would have been unwelcome to many. Similarly, any ruling reversing the Lima decision with regard to guests would have had an adverse reaction among a number of countries. Those who predicted that the conference would fail to resolve this question were certainly disappointed. The conference did succeed to resolve the question.

On the question of pin-pointing the burning political issues the conference achieved outstanding success. It calmly withstood pressures of bilateral disputes and resolutely marched ahead with the formulation of the common and specific political task. The Political Declaration itself is the monument of success of the conference in this respect. The declaration, inter alia, said that:

- No lasting and just peace could be established in the Middle East region without the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from all the occupied Arab territories and the acknowledgement of the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine. All steps taken by the Zionist occupation authorities to alter the historic, demographic and geographic features of the area and ruin its cultural outlook must be undone.
- The Non-aligned community must keep up its total support to the just struggle of the people of Palestine.
- Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination and the collusion between the Zionist entity and the apartheid regime of the South African whites, particularly their nuclear collaboration, poses grave danger to peace, security and freedom.

The summit deplored the fact that a number of major western powers "continue to give comfort and encouragement to the racist regimes by their economic, military and other collaboration".

AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT

On African liberation movement the conference echoed the sentiments of the entire freedom-loving people of the world. It expressed firm support for the people of Zimbabwe in their struggle for achieving majority rule "using all means at their disposal including armed struggle". The conference called for the total isolation of Ian Smith's racist rule and suggested expansion of mandatory sanctions against the illegal regime.

The conference called upon all the Non-aligned states to "actively and practically support the front-line and enclave states, namely, Zambia, Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, who are victims of constant harassments, provocations and in some cases repeated acts of aggression by the fascist minority regimes".

The conference unequivocally denounced arms race and military build-up and urged for creating zones of peace in the Indian Ocean and other areas of tension. The summit called for an international conference on disarmament as well as for a special UN session to be convened on the same topic not later than 1978.

The conference stressed that international tensions could not be alleviated without positive contribution on the part of the Third World countries.

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

In its Economic Declaration the conference said:

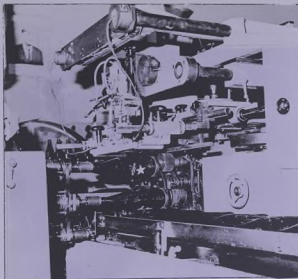
- Economic problems have emerged as the most acute issue in international relations today.
- The gap between the capitalist industrialised countries and developing countries is one of the most threatening sources of world tension and conflict.
- These countries as a whole can no longer shy away from their responsibilities or ignore the fundamentally indivisible nature of global prosperity.

The conference, by its Economic Plan of Action for developing countries decided to set up producers association for primary export commodities similar to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). This organization will certainly enhance the bargaining capability of Third World countries.

The conference will study the feasibility of introducing an international currency backed by the resources of the developing nations and setting up multi-national commercial bank of Asia Africa and Latin America. If these projects can be worked out, the developing countries will be able to exercise sufficient economic independence.

The Colombo conference has proved to the world once again that the Non-aligned Movement is a positive force in international relations of today and the leaders of this movement are equal to the task. All imperialist machinations to subvert the solidarity of Non-aligned nations is doomed to failure. The Sixth Summit, to be held in Havana in 1979, will witness greater successes of the movement. The trend of the Colombo Summit was marked by this optimism which stemmed from the participants' determination to win decisive victories against imperialism, colonialism, Zionism, racism and economic exploitation and political hegemony. This determination of the Non-aligned countries to score one victory after another against the forces of war and aggression prompted Iraq to offer to host the Seventh Summit Conference in Baghdad in 1982. The forward movement of the Non-aligned nations will certainly further weaken imperialism and all its accomplices and strengthen the forces of peace, justice and progress.

Ramadi Glass Factory Meets Market Demands



bottles furnace, with a capacity of five tons a day, teacup, saucer and water glass furnace with a capacity of 20 tons a day, and the sixth is a multi-purpose furnace with a capacity of 50 tons a day.

The factory at present meets all the requirements of domestic demand for glass panes. In respect of other domestic needs, 40 per cent of different kinds of bottles, 50 per cent of teacups and 20 per cent of drinking water glasses are also met by the factory.

Expansion:

The Factory is now undergoing a large-scale expansion process the cost of which will amount to \$20 million. Two new production lines for bottles and glass jars are about to go into operation. Three new furnaces with a production capacity of 75 tons of glass each will be completed by the end of this year. Nine fully automatic productive lines will be introduced by the middle of this year, thus doubling the productive capacity of the factory and enabling it to export part of its products.

According to the Director of the Factory, Iraq used to import

large quantities of sodium carbonate; but the factory has succeeded last July in producing and industrialising this chemical locally. The chemical is being produced at the rate of 6.5 tons a day for use in the production of vegetable oils, textiles and resins. Moreover, plans have been drawn up to produce sodium carbonate. The excellent Iraqi sand will be utilised for the purpose.

Achievements for Workers:

The State Company for Glass Industries has not neglected the worker who is the essential force of production. It has carried out a big housing project for its 1,600 workers. This project is part of the industrial housing projects adopted by the Government of Iraq. The project includes the construction of three apartment buildings each comprising 48 flats and three other residential buildings for workers. Another 200 houses are being built for the technicians and engineers near the factory. Also, an up-to-date restaurant has been built for the workers, and industrial safety equipment and overalls have been distributed to the workers free of charge.

adapted: INA

REPORT

City" institution which was opened on August 1, 1970, is perhaps a salient example of the development of the standard of health institutions in Iraq. The purpose of establishing the "Medical City" is to offer therapeutic services, train up medical students for the various health professions, institute scientific research in medical sciences and organize medical services. A similar hospital has been established in Mosul, northern Iraq.

An important stage regarding health services was initiated in the second half of 1973, a stage especially embarked upon for the welfare of citizens of the rural areas. Health Insurance Law, promulgated on August 1, 1973, covers 75 per cent of the country's population.

The application of the Health Insurance Law led to the increase in the number of main and branch health centres and clinics. The Law regulates the doctor-patient relationship in a new and organized manner far from any exploitation, giving the patient all the rights he deserves in warranted and up-to-date treatment, whilst at the same time, treating the doctor who has closed his private clinic as a result of the Law, with justice and offering him the necessary allowances.

There are more than 4444 doctors working in Iraq at present. There are 160 hospitals, 1651 clinics and health centres; 550 pharmacies; 795 dispensaries. The total number of hospital beds is 22,000.

EFFICIENT HEALTH SERVICES COVER WHOLE OF IRAQ

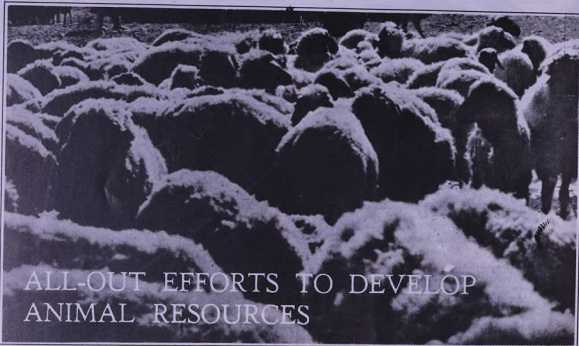
It goes without saying that the development and progress of any society is gauged by the extent of achievements it realises in various fields of production as well as in the social services offered to the citizens. Health services are in the forefront of such services in any society seeking healthy citizens capable of practising their vocations and shouldering the task of building up society.

Iraq has realised the importance of this aspect, and begun devoting due attention to health services through the legislation of special laws whereby citizens in rural and urban areas are provided with equal services. The citizens also avail themselves of the facilities offered by major health institutions set up throughout the country.

There is unanimous agreement among visitors and guests visiting Iraq that the country has wit-



nessed during the years following July 17 Revolution of 1968 such major development as has never been realised by other regions in the area. The "Medical



ALL-OUT EFFORTS TO DEVELOP ANIMAL RESOURCES



Animal resources constitute one of the main pillars of Iraq's national economy as it accounts for around 50 per cent of the total revenue of the agricultural sector. Thus, the government has given special attention to the animal sector, whether public or private, and provided it with all the prerequisites of protection and support.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform is set on enhancing animal resources vertically and horizontally which in turn will increase the individual's consumption of animal protein. According to a source at the Ministry, the increase in animal pro-

duction is not gauged in terms of the increase in number of animals alone, but also in the increase in the production of meat, milk, eggs, wool, hides and other by-products.

Therefore, the government has worked on the establishment and formation of specialised administrations, companies and agencies; it also formed the Supreme Agricultural Council whose task is to supervise and direct the agricultural sector as a whole, and follow up the progress and implementation of agricultural projects, including animal production.

The Directorate-General of Animal Resources' task is to protect the animal resources, improve their breed, promote production, conduct research works, studies and experiments which aim at developing productive efficiency. Whereas the Directorate-General of Veterinary's task is to treat, protect and immunize animals against diseases, the task of the Directorate-General of Natural Pastures is to protect, organise

and expand pastures and render various services to cattle-breeders in deserts and distant areas in coordination with the General Company for Fodder.

Other general companies, which belong to the public sector, are shouldered with the task of industrialising animal resources for marketing purposes. There are specialised companies for the production of red meat, poultry meat and eggs, fish and dairy products. As to the private sector, the government encourages it by offering all required financial and technical facilities to uplift and protect its participation in the plans drawn up for boosting this industry.

It is worth mentioning that \$250 million has been allotted for animal resources development in the 1976-1980 Five-Year Plan, mainly for industrialisation purposes in addition to the capital involved in the private sector. Moreover, the government has concluded contracts with international firms for the establishment of huge animal by-products projects.

by Moheyyeddin Ismail

The aim of philosophy of history, in brief, is to attain an understanding of the whole course of history with its factors and exponents, in an attempt to lay bare the secrets of the movement of the human history and the transition of societies from one stage to another.

graphical and climatic conditions, so he believes that the histories of Greece and Egypt would not have taken the course they did if the Greeks had lived on the Nile and the Egyptians in Greece. Undoubtedly, in this proposition, he is very near to the general theory of Ibn-Khaldoun in his Prolego-

EGOCENTRIC ILLUSION AND TOYNBEE'S STUDY OF ZIONIST PSYCHOSIS

This branch of philosophy began in the period which opened with the Arab philosopher Ibn-Khaldoun in his monumental work "The Prolegomena" or "al-Muqaddima" in which he followed a new scientific method in studying history based on the principle of keeping away from bias, partiality, fanaticism, prejudice, and dealing with historical information and data not in their chronological order but as records of living reality. But the majority of the historians in the West used to give another date for the emergence of this branch of knowledge which is 1784, the year in which some parts of Herder's book "Ideas for a Philosophical History of Mankind" appeared, which closed soon after the appearance of Hegel's posthumous work "Lectures on the Philosophy of History" in 1837.

This period dominated by Herder and Hegel can be regarded as the period of metaphysical speculative philosophy of history.

In Herder's opinion, there is a continuous gradation from the simplest form in the universe as an inorganic matter to Homo Sapien (Man) who is the highest product of life on earth. He believes that the whole universe is working for the free unconditional emergence of spirit in its broadest sense, because it would be completely wrong to think that man is the only spiritual creature in the universe. Man — according to Herder — is the creature standing between two realms: a realm of animal life of which he is the highest, and a realm of spiritual life of which he is the lowest grade. Out of this assertion, he proceeds to state that history is an interplay of two kinds of forces: the external forces or the human environment and the internal forces or the spiritual force of mankind. He thinks that every nation is animated by a certain spirit. He stresses much on the environment such as geo-

mena, because both of them tried to formulate certain laws to show that history, as a whole, is not lawless events working in camera, but proceeding according to some strait-jackets laws as natural events do. Herder tried as Ibn-Khaldoun did to discover in the general historical process a final purpose in which the destiny of man and his nation lies. Both of them are teleological in their theories. But the only difference between the two thinkers is that Herder was more speculative and believed that the end or the destiny could be reached by the striving spirit of man, and there is in the history of every nation a sort of augury which points out to the course of the march. So both of them, Ibn Khaldoun and Herder, rejected categorically "The Idea of Chance" in history. For the chance is not the pseudonym of deities, when they did not want to sign! History is rational and comprehensible.

But when we come to Hegel's dialectics of ideas, he seems more disdainful of mere nature and its laws. His philosophical system of history comprised two aspects: logic which deals only with pure reason, and the philosophy of nature and spirit. He traced history through his dialectics of ideas until he reached the absolute which is for him not a Platonic kingdom of heaven but the real fact. It is the "real reality" which is running in the actual course of history towards the absolute. For him the history is a great saga, or rather a great Greek tragedy divided into acts and scenes.

From Hegel — who taught in his doctrine that "we had learned from history that we did not learn from history" — Marx took over the dialectics. By the laws of dialectics with its revolutionary implications, Marx and the other Left-wing Hegelians asserted that according to dialectics the self-moving matter is the subject of every proposition in the

process, and this law justifies the biological evolution and human history. In this process, or cycle, there is nothing eternal, except eternally moving matter and the law of its movement and change. When Marx asserted that in Hegel's writings dialectics stands on its head and one must turn it the right way up again, he asserted at the same time that we do learn much from history and we can comprehend the world as a complex of processes through which a progressive development represents itself in the end.

From all these illuminating approaches of the previous philosophers of history, A. J. Toynbee began to concern himself with the universal history, with some new methods and new slant, in his gigantic work "Study of History" which began to appear in 1934.

The programme he had in his mind is to achieve a comparative study of all the civilizations appeared since the dawn of history, their emergence, origins, developments, interrelations, historical conclusions, retrogressions and breakdowns. This was an uphill task, but his vast astonishing historical knowledge which covers a range in time from the earliest records of primitive societies and civilizations to modern history facilitated his ambitious enterprise which he could, to a great extent, bring to off.

The key conception in his study of the genesis and decay of civilizations is the response to the challenge set by the "environment" whether physical or human. This phase of his historical philosophy seems to be mere generalization in tracing the growth and disintegration of civilizations.

In his attempt to discover the laws of history Toynbee has some affinities with several thinkers and philosophers, such as Comte especially in his social dynamics. It is obvious that his challenge — "response theory", has something in common with Bergson's "élan vital" which is the life-force and the "Darwinian survival of the fittest", which, according to Toynbee, is the capability of man to rise superior to his circumstances, through "response" and thus change radically the life-cycle of his own civilization.

Despite the speculative vein in his theory, Toynbee could explain, with excellent flair, that diffusion of cultural ideas and civilizations is not an automatic process, like an infection of a disease, but this diffusion or transmission of ideas is a sort of happy migration and adaptation.

But one of the most brilliant aspects of Toynbee's philosophical theory of history is his penetrating study of the history of the Jewish communities.

He traced the "egocentric illusion" in the history of those communities and proved that this is due to the misconception of the unity of the Jewish history from which the Jews suffered, and suffered more because of their "sub-illusion" that they are not "a" but "the" chosen people.

This led the Jews — as Toynbee noticed — to live in acute contradictions with the other nations, or the "gentiles". These acute contradictions — out of the egocentric illusion — are the dominant and permanent characteristics of the "Israeli" Zionist society. We may easily notice in this society the psychological barrier between the "chosen people" and the world, or the "gentiles".

Those contradictions — according to Toynbee — turned the "settler" into a mere confined community in the Middle East. This "settler state" has been imposed by the Zionists who planned for this entity to be a central focus that may attract the scattered Jews in the diaspora.

But the Zionists learnt nothing and forgot nothing!

They are "fossils" in the cultural sense, on which Toynbee stresses much, and because they are fossils they react today as they reacted during their exile in Babylonia. And because they are fossils they did not believe in immediate first hand experience, but in a "political god". This political god of the Zionists of today is the same political god pre-exilic and post-exilic god who built the psychological and spiritual barrier between the Jews of the ghetto and the gentiles: all the nations over the world.

Through inward and outward development of personality human beings are able to perform creative acts in the outward field of action that cause the growth of human societies and promote the human progress. But Zionism proved time and again for the world that it is an "ideological fossil" when it tried to seize a "Lebensraum" for the Jews by force in the ghettos of yesterday or the "International Ghetto" of today i.e. the Zionist settler-state in Palestine.

Toynbee concluded, by tracing the tragic story of imposing this "International Ghetto" based on racism and racial discrimination, with all its fossil values and concepts that they imposed this ghetto or the settler-state with all its psychological barriers in the area without distinguishing between "home" and "state". Here Toynbee comes to the final conclusion that this sort of settler-state with all its egocentric illusions which is not really a "home" will come to an end, under the pressure of the challenges against which it cannot give the proper response, because fossil societies are unable to give such a response.

They have no tomorrow!

by Reggie Perera, Sri Lanka Ambassador to Cairo
Courtsey: The Ceylon Daily News, July 17, 1976.



Egyptian soldiers at the Bar-Lev line after its collapse.

"Ill-informed collaborators rejoice at the so-called attack on Entebbe and are seeking to glid this dastardly violation of all international laws to present the "Israelis" as great and heroic people. I, who had the privilege to see the Bar-Lev line torn to shreds along the Suez Canal, can think of no greater heroism than when people for their homeland could achieve such victories'.

At Bandung in 1954, the first stirrings of the concept of Non-alignment were felt even in vague embryonic rhythms. The ultimate purpose of this conference could be seen by discerning students of politics. It was an expression and a determination by the underdeveloped and exploited countries to resist the continuing exploitation of their manpower and conserve that natural resources for the benefit of these countries.

The roots of this nebulous thinking, even if the ideological and organisational future was unclear, goes back to the aftermath of the First World War — the Great War which was proclaimed to be the war to end all wars but which ultimately resulted in a division of the world for the victorious Allied Powers. It is no wonder that Lenin called the League of Nations a "thieves' kitchen" rich in resources and plentiful in manpower, the homeland of the Palestinians became a mandated territory for British, Africa remained the "happy hunting ground" and India and many other nations were treaded under foot.

Britain, with hardly unco concealed purpose, created the Zionist entity to safeguard its interest in the Middle East. The crime was in the creation of such a state as a forward base for the Great Powers to protect and push forward their imperialist interests.

Britain's economy eroded by commitments during the First World War was not in a state to create a military power in "Israel". It was only after the Second World War when the United States of America emerged as the world's super

Zionism And The Arab Cause

capitalist power that the Zionist entity was converted into a super fortress in the heart of the Arab world.

Therefore, it is no small wonder that when the Bandung stirrings reached John Foster Dulles, The United States screeched like a wild cat and spat vituperative blood! He was shrewd enough even to see the potential of the Third World and to see it as a serious confrontation to imperialist plans in under-developed areas. The superior arming of The Zionist entity fed the armament kings and kept the Middle East in a state of permanent tension.

The exploiting activities in the aftermath of the Second World War, assumed two distinct trends; first, direct colonial rule and, secondly, by the export of financial capital to extract profits from natural resources in the under-developed countries and the use of their cheap manpower.

It is necessary at this point to make it clear that we are not against the Jews, but we have watched the Zionist adventures in the African continent and also seen them meet their "Water:oo" at the hands of the heroic people of Angola.

Led by the United States of America, the great capitalist powers are still seeking to maintain shaky foothold in Third World territories. The Non-aligned countries today represent the most powerful grouping that can confront imperialist adventures. These adventures, as I mentioned before, were either direct colonialism or indirect exploitation. With weak and simple people they enforce direct inti-

midatory tactics. In countries where there is a greater national awareness of their own rights and who are determined to conserve their wealth for the benefit of their own nationals, they have hitherto used indirect methods for their exploiting activities.

Unfortunately for them, the firms of goldplated Cadillacs with toger-skin upholstery have gone. Even the comprador-bourgeoisie of these countries are influenced by the awakening of their own nationals. Here it must be remembered that the decision of the Arab states to take over the oil fields and their distributions from the mighty multinational oil combines was one of the most serious set-backs to imperialist adventures among the underdeveloped nations. Here we may mention even a little country like Sri Lanka, under the leadership of Mrs. Bandaranaike and against open threats, took over the distribution of petroleum in "Ceylon" from imperialist-owned companies.

From Bandung, during the many years of evolution, the activities of the Non-aligned organisations have taken concrete shape. The Non-aligned nations are now clearer in their minds of their rights and year by year have striven to provide concrete action to harness their great potential. Their economic, political and cultural collaboration is attuned to the general strategy of anti-imperialism.



Egyptian troops after crossing the Suez Canal on October 6, 1973

The 5th Non-aligned Conference hosted by Sri Lanka and led by Mrs. Bandaranaike will, in my mind, be the continuation of the historicity of the aforementioned historical process as many of the Arab nations constitute the most threatened nations by the American forward base in the Zionist entity.

The Arab cause cannot be pushed to the background. It is not a matter of sentiment but a stark reality. I, who had the privilege to see the Bar-Lev line torn to shreds along the Suez Canal, can think

of no greater heroism than when people for their homeland could achieve such victories.

The links between Sri Lanka and the Arab world go back to very remote times; it is not important that the papyrus boats came to this "land beyond the seas for ivory, peacock feathers and sandalwood.

In recent times at critical moments of contemporary Arab history Sri Lanka has expressed solidarity with the Arab cause. The Late Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike did not in 1956 hesitate to declare unequivocally the inalienable right of the people of Egypt to nationalise the canal. On 22nd November, 1956, at the General Assembly of the United Nations he said: "I say this, and I say it with all seriousness that, as long as foreign troops — be they "Israeli", British or French — continue to remain in Egypt's territory, the position is one that is fraught with the greatest danger and one that may bring about rebuts leading to a third world war. I wish to say that those forces must be withdrawn now without any delay".

On the events of the war of 6th October, 1973 Mrs. Bandaranaike, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, expressed the views of the Government of Sri Lanka with deep faith and frankness. She said: "The Government of Sri Lanka is gravely concerned

at the resumption of fighting in the Middle East. These events are a direct outcome of "Israeli" aggression against the Arab states in 1967, its forcible occupation of portion of the territories of these states, its attempts to consolidate its occupation of these by subjecting the Arab population, its refusal to heed the demands of the United Nations and world opinion that it should withdraw from and return to their rightful owners the Arab lands it had forcibly seized".*

(* Abridged from the original text.

by Kamal Butti

Subversion Against Unity of Arab People

It is an open secret that world reaction is working today to preserve and intensify the political and economic influence of imperialism in the Middle East and particularly in the Arab world. Taking into account the huge economic potential and strategic importance of the Arab area, and feeling the danger and impact of the increasing anti-imperialist trend, produced and surged by the Arab liberation movement and its ultimate effect on national liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America and on the world-wide process of liberation mounted by the peoples still dominated by imperialism and monopolies, the imperialist forces are sparing no effort to strike at the Arab liberation movement and to frustrate and hinder the progressive transformation of the Arab world. Towards this end, various methods, including armed intervention by proxy, and political speculation and blackmail, are put into use.

The deadly Arab blows to the Zionist-racist entity in occupied Palestine in the October War of 1973, revealed an important fact which was overlooked or miscalculated by the aggressors and their protectors and supporters, the fact that resorting to arms as a means of dictating their will on the Arabs cannot work any longer. The October War proved to the whole world that the unity of action of the Arab countries in their fight against a common enemy, has tremendous potentialities.

Realising this fact, imperialism and world Zionism have now come to reconsider their anti-Arab tactics. It is evident now that the aim of such tactics is to prevent the unity of Arab actions by driving a wedge into their anti-imperialist front. This policy of "divide and rule" has been practised by the imperialists throughout the contemporary history of the Arab world; imperialist intrigues have always led to Arabs fighting the Arabs.

A specific feature of these tactics aimed at splitting the Arab ranks is the coordination of action of imperialist and Zionist agents with that of Arab reactionaries. This clearly manifests itself in the ugly onslaught now taking place against the Palestinians and progressive forces in Lebanon. Arab reactionaries, imperialists, and Zionists are acting jointly in an attempt to break the ties binding the Arab masses and to deprive them of international sympathy and support.

At the connivance of the imperialist powers, the Zionist-racist entity in occupied Palestine staged continuous armed provocations against the Lebanon to weaken the Palestinian fighters on the one hand, and turn the Lebanese people and authority against them, on the other, thus paving the way for reaction ascendancy; hence the present civil war. The imperialists are trying to lean on the vestiges of the archaic forms of social relations in the Arab countries, to use the anti-popular essence of the right-wing of the national bourgeoisie, to bribe and corrupt it, using millions of dollars for the purpose.

Fearing progressive trends in Arab countries and the growing role of the masses in the social and political fields, representatives and agents of the exploiter classes have been late concluding mean deals with the imperialist forces in an attempt to preserve their interests and privileges.

Taking the advantage of the present chaotic conditions in some Arab countries, which are not wholly of Arab make, imperialist quarters rushed to their natural allies in the area to step up their intrigues and further aggravate the conditions to materialise the blueprints of Washington-Tel Aviv axis in the area.

We are thus witnessing the far-reaching imperialist designs to revive the alliance with Arab reaction in order to impede the further progress of the Arab people and reverse the course in the service of imperialist global strategy.

Recent history convincingly shows that the cohesion of the Arab people and their friendship and alliance with world progressive forces constitute a guarantee to the growth of their might and ability to counteract, if not today, tomorrow, the intrigues of imperialism, Zionism and reaction, and to continue marching with all peace-loving peoples along the path of social and economic progress under the banner of international peace and security.

NEWS IN PICTURES



Mr. Saddam Hussein, RCC Vice-Chairman participating on September 7 in the discussion of the working paper on factors causing the decrease in productivity and production. A number of RCC members, members of the ABSP's Regional Leadership and ministers, and other concerned officials participated in the discussion.



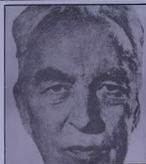
The Progressive Patriotic and National Front, holding on September 1 a plenary meeting which was presided over by Comrade Saddam Hussein, RCC Vice-Chairman.



Comrade Zaid Haider, Member of the National Leadership of the ABSP, paying on September 8 a visit to the National Gallery for Modern Art. Comrade Haider acquainted himself with the development of Iraqi plastic arts.



Mr. Hassan Ali Vice-Chairman of the Supreme Agricultural Council opening on September 1 the Seminar on the Questions of Agricultural Machinery in Iraq.



ARNOLD TOYNBEE

On Zionist Crimes Against Arabs

by Hazim Mushkat

The modern tragedy of Palestine has been placed in its true perspective by Arnold Toynbee, the contemporary British historian of considerable prestige and international fame. We publish below some quotations from his monumental work entitled "A Study of History".

Discussing History and Human Nature, he explicitly declares: "Of all the sombre ironies of history none throws a more sinister light on human nature than the fact that the new-style nationalist Jews, on the morrow of the most appalling of the many persecutions that their race had endured, should at once proceed to demonstrate, at the expense of Palestinian Arabs whose only offence against the Jews was that Palestine was their ancestral home, that the lesson learnt by Zionists from the sufferings which Nazis had inflicted on Jews was, not to forbear committing the crime of which they themselves had been the victims, but to persecute, in their turn, a people weaker than they were".*

Speaking of Western-Zionist unholy collaboration, and their consequent forcible violation of Arab Palestine, he had the following to say with exemplary fortitude:

"... and a retrospect of this chapter of these Arab countries' history would lend colour to the view that their weakness had been ruthlessly exploited by modern Western politicians to solve Western problems at the Arabs' expense... on the same cynical principle of making the defenceless pay, the Zionists on the 14th May, 1948, had set up a state of Israel in Palestine by force of arms in a war that had resulted in more than half a million Palestinian Arabs losing their homes, in compensation for atrocities committed against Jews in A.D. 1933-45, not in the Levant, but in Europe, and not by Arabs, but by Germans... By a similar ope-

ration of psychological forces the Zionists obtained a retrospective condonation from the United Nations Organisation for their violation of the rights of the Arab people of Palestine... An imperial non-Western observers' verdict would assuredly have been that, however grievously the Western peoples might have sinned against one another and against the Jewish stranger in their midst, and however desirable it might be that they should make atonement at their own expense, there was neither merit nor justice in their compensating their victims at the expense of innocent third parties. As against Zionist and Western aggressors, the Arabs had an unanswerable moral case...".*

Comparing the Zionist apprentice to the Nazi master, in a unique and revealing historical perspective, Toynbee passed unhesitatingly his considered and thoughtful judgement:

"But the Nazi Gentiles fall was more tragic than the Zionist Jews'. On the morrow of a persecution in Europe in which they had been the victims of the worst atrocities ever known to have been suffered by Jews or indeed by any other human beings, the Jews' immediate reaction to their own experience was to become persecutors in their turn for the first time since A.D. 135 — and this at the first opportunity that has arisen for them to inflict on other human beings who had done the Jews no injury, but who happened to be weaker than they were, some of the wrongs and sufferings that had been inflicted on the Jews by their many successive Western Gentile persecutors during the intervening seventeen centuries... The Jews had even less excuse in A.D. 1948 for evicting Palestinian Arabs from their homes than Nabuchadnezzar and Titus and Hadrian and the Spanish and Portuguese inquisition had for uprooting, persecuting and exterminating Jews in Palestine and elsewhere at diverse times in the past. In A.D. 1948 the Jews knew, from personal experience, what they were doing, and it was their supreme tragedy that the lesson learnt by them from their encounter with the Nazi Gentiles should have been not to eschew

but to imitate some of the evil deeds that the Nazis had committed against the Jews... The evil deeds committed by the Zionist Jews against the Palestinian Arabs that were comparable to crimes committed against the Jews by the Nazis were the massacre of men, women, and children at Deir Yasin on 19th April, 1948".†

But this is not all. Toynbee asserted, further, that the biological extinction of the Arabs as a race and a nation is a physical impossibility: "The Arabs would, in fact, be almost as difficult to wipe off the map as the Chinese or the Hindus.‡ Their violent reaction to the Zionist international anachronism and the Israeli aggressive expansionism is a legitimate measure of self-defence and a natural expression of the will to live. The Zionist and "Israeli leaders" should have known better than to expect something different. They are either brainless fools or heedless criminals: "The assaulted body social's resistance to the painful and disruptive intrusion of alien culture-elements can be taken as a matter of course".§ The "Israelis" have won many battles without winning a final victory. Their "Caesars" belongs to the past. The Arabs have lost many battles without suffering a final defeat. Their "Zama" belongs to the future. How many wars can "Israel" hope to win? What fate will "Israel" suffer if and when she suffers a single defeat? "War is a relation which is technologically educative in spite of being psychologically estranging".¶ Strength is a relative matter, not a permanent fact of history. Arab weakness is not a lasting global feature. "Israel" will not always win. Let us humbly hope that the moral is understood and the lesson is learnt.†

(*) Arnold Toynbee, *A Study of History*, Vols. 7-10, p. 177. An abridgement by Dr. D.C. Somervell. The Oxford Univ. Press, London, 1957.

(†) Arnold J. Toynbee, *A Study of History*, Vol. 8. Heretic Ages. *Contacts Between Civilizations In Space (Encounters Between Contemporaries)*. The Oxford University Press, London. Printed in the U.S.A., 1963. pp. 258-259.

(1) *Ibid.*, pp. 299-290.

(2) *Ibid.*, p. 310.

(3) *Ibid.*, p. 543.

(4) A battle won by Hannibal against the Romans in the Punic wars. B.C. 216.

(5) A battle won by Scipio Africanus against Hannibal, which ensured the final victory of Rome over Carthage in the Punic Wars. B.C. 202.

(6) *Op. Cit.*, p. 15.

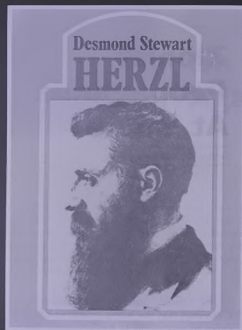
(7) This note was added by the author in February, 1974.

Zionist Propaganda At Stake!

The "Jewish Observer" magazine of June 11, reported that the world Jewish conference formed an association in Paris of some European and Zionist politicians and journalists to discuss an issue "at stake" — Zionist propaganda. Among the major questions dealt with was that the Zionist technique of propaganda has become outdated! Other than the story of persecuted Jews and the endangered lives of the "chosen race" (as Zionists like to put it), the Zionists are running out of any new ideas to delude world public opinion. "Mottos and slogans of the fifties" was the expression used to denote the extent of the dilemma in which their propaganda left to become trite bits and pieces of old stories patched up with new falsification which often sound unreasonable.

As a remedy, the association proposed the adoption of a new "strategy propaganda" in the "information war raging between the Arabs and Zionists", and the transformation of the "defensive" (sic) methods of Zionist propaganda into a new aggressive technique. The reason for the proposed transformation was aptly mentioned: that some European countries are beginning to shake off the fetters of Zionist propaganda, because what the latter claims does not conform to the reality of their actions.

BOOKS



HERZL

Theodor Herzl, the founder of political Zionism, has been the subject of several biographies and studies throughout the past decades. Not surprisingly, these books were penned by the adherents of the movement he had founded with the net result that they belong strictly to the sphere of hagiology.

In these books, Herzl was pictured as a veritable prophet; indeed, he was even extolled as an author of brilliant plays. Consequently, this biography by Mr. Desmond Stewart, a non-Zionist, is really the first dispassionate look at the father of 'Israel'.

In his foreword, Stewart writes that 'a new biography, like a new map, must in some sense be a critique of its predecessors'. Since Stewart's predecessors are all dyed-in-the-wool Zionists, the word 'critique' seems like an understatement here, for the Herzl who emerges from his book is so different from the figure reposing in the valhalla of Zionist mythology.

by Desmond Stewart
Publisher: Hamish Hamilton, London
Reviewed by F. el-Manssoury



In his search for material, Stewart had to travel to Budapest, Vienna, Paris, London, and New York; the result of his painstaking research is a highly revealing book.

In defining his set purpose, the author makes it clear that it is '... not to contribute to the polemics for or against the political movement with which (Herzl) is identified, but to discover the human being who lived from 1860 to 1904'.

The journey of discovery takes us first to Budapest where Herzl was born to a well-off Jewish family which was more Germanic in culture than strictly Jewish. Consequently, young Herzl was from his early boyhood a fervent admirer of everything German, receiving in school high marks in German literature and history while trailing behind in religion. There were two contemporary figures that influenced him deeply: Bismarck, the German chancellor and De Lesseps, the famed French engineer who built the Suez Canal. As for his mother, she instilled in him the belief that he was destined for great things in the future.

Herzl, throughout his life, always had an ambivalent attitude towards his fellow Jews. Although he befriended Jews only, he took care that they too, like him, were unpractising Jews as well as

Germanic in outlook. During his student days at the Vienna University, he joined a duelling fraternity (*Burschenschaft*) and actually fought a duel. But unlike other fraternity members who indulge in the experience more than once, Herzl never fought another duel. (It is interesting to note here that the duelling fraternities were hotbeds of the kind of aggressive German nationalism that had a strong dash of anti-semitism, and yet this did not deter Herzl from joining them).

Herzl studied law, but he chose journalism as his career on the grounds that Jews were discouraged from aspiring to become judges.

He was around twenty and still a student when something happened to him that left enduring effects on him as well as on his family. Stewart quotes a hitherto unpublished letter which Herzl had addressed to a friend telling him about his affliction: he had contracted a venereal disease.

A few years later, he was married to a rich girl with whom he had fallen in love. This marriage soon proved to be a misalliance, however, and the rest of Herzl's life was spent in long jaunts from his home. We do not exactly know why this love match should turn out to be such a failure; the mystery is compounded by the fact that the correspondence between the two disappeared without a trace after the death of Julie Herzl who had survived her husband by three years. But there were several other reasons for the marriage ending in a *pro forma* affair. Julie did not share her husband's political ambitions; she was not interested in Zionism. This attitude did not endear her to her husband, but it did not prevent him from squandering her wealth on his political schemes, while at the same time, showing his disdain for her values which he condemned as being petty. At any rate, all this friction was merely the effect of a more deeprooted trouble which Stewart attributes to the probable fact that Herzl transmitted his venereal disease to his young wife, thereby poisoning their relationship. As we follow the fortunes of the Herzl family this conjecture takes on added plausibility.

Wanting to flee from his home, Herzl asked the Viennese paper for which he worked to send him to Paris as its special correspondent. This done, Herzl began to cover the famous Dreyfus trial in 1894.

The Zionist historians date Herzl's conversion to 'Jewish nationalism' to this period. Citing his own remarks that the anti-semitic atmosphere surrounding the Dreyfus case had pushed him into embracing Zionism.

However, Stewart clearly shows that in 1895 it was too early to decide that Dreyfus was an innocent man and a victim of 'racial prejudice'. And why should Herzl only give weight to the anti-semites while ignoring the efforts of such men like Clemenceau, Anatole France and Emile Zola who were trying to exonerate Dreyfus and stamp out anti-semitism?

It was at this period of his life that Herzl began to play the role of a false prophet. He grew a large beard and went around preaching the necessity of establishing a Jewish state somewhere. 'People heard his young son, Hans, asking his mother: 'Will I have to go to school if daddy becomes a king?'

In the course of his book, Stewart demolishes many a myth woven by the Zionist hagiographers. André Chouraqui, one of Herzl's biographers, always endowed his hero with a glowing kind of spirituality, writing about his need for prayer and communion with God, whereas Stewart's sober assessment of Herzl makes it clear that the latter viewed his co-religionists as prospective constituents and no more.

Indeed, Herzl's allusions to the Jews in his diaries are always full of contempt as if he himself were an anti-semitic.

Another myth about Herzl shows him as an ideal father whereas Herzl's all too frequent absences from his home demonstrate clearly how little he really cared for his family. And it is interesting to note that of five references to the birth dates of his children in his diaries, three show that he did not exactly know how old they were!

The earlier biographies of Herzl are replete with legends. For instance, the famous rabbi Chaim

Maccoby, a contemporary of Herzl, was passionately opposed to Herzl's creed, and yet a few years after this man's death in 1916, Zionists were claiming him as one of Herzl's followers, and places in occupied Palestine were being named after him!

Herzl's journey to the 'Promised Land' has been endowed by his hagiographers with the halo of a pilgrimage although he only stayed in Palestine for exactly nine days, all the while complaining of the heat and the barrenness of the land. Out of this gear many legends; one of them was associated with the German Kaiser, for the Zionists forged a photo which showed the founder of political Zionism talking to Kaiser Wilhelm, and thousands of copies were distributed all over the world.

All his life, Herzl was enamoured of the Prussian martial spirit. He also was an ardent admirer of that arch imperialist, Cecil Rhodes, and corresponded with him, asking for his help in promoting the Zionist project. Towards the end of his short life, Herzl became frantic as he felt he was not making great progress in his scheme to establish a Jewish state. He even contemplated launching a commando raid on Yıldız Palace in Istanbul in which he would topple Sultan Abdul-Hamid and replace him by another sultan who would be willing to give him Palestine. (This kind of daydreaming was later translated into brutal action by his disciples).

Herzl was also disappointed that the mass of Zionists from East Europe did not share his reverence for the German way of life; they wanted to revive the ancient Hebrew culture which he abhorred. In his family life, the estrangement from his wife had almost reached the point of rupture. He had spent the greater part of the wealth she inherited from her father on his schemes. Moreover, she was a very sick woman though still relatively young.

Finally, at the age of 44 Herzl was dead. The Zionist propaganda mill churned out another myth about his end — he had overworked himself to death — he was a 'martyr!' of the Jewish cause. But the truth revealed by Stewart was less heroic. Herzl probably died of the very disease which, in his youth, had led to his being exempted from military service: venereal disease.

His wife Julie followed him to the grave three years later. As had been her wish, she was cre-

mated, and the disease-ridden body was turned to ashes.

The real tragedy of the Herzls really began after the death of the parents. Pauline, the eldest daughter, became a drug addict and her marriage ended on the rocks. She died in Bordeaux in 1930. As for Hans, the other child, he emigrated to England and became a Catholic. He led a poverty-stricken life, was subject to mental breakdowns and never married. It is said that he never wanted the name of his father to be mentioned in his presence. He committed suicide shortly after the death of his sister to whom he had been deeply attached. The third child, Trude, also suffered from mental disease. Stephen served as an officer in the British army during the Second World War, then was appointed commercial attaché at the British embassy in Washington. He was 28 when he jumped to his death from a bridge in the American capital. He was the last Herzl.

It is said that he left a note explaining the reasons for his suicide, but this note was delivered to the representative of the Jewish Agency in Washington and it was never published.

How to explain the harrowing end of Herzl's descendants? The most likely explanation is that they inherited their ancestor's terrible disease, hence their suffering from mental disorders.

It is also interesting to note that none of them ever chose to live in Herzl's promised land which is not really surprising since they were not really brought up as Jews. Hans, for instance, was not even circumcised.

Perhaps the key to Herzl's personality lies in his failure as a writer and dramatist. None of his plays brought him the kind of fame that he hungered for; so this frustrated man turned to politics.

In writing an unexpurgated version of Herzl's life, Desmond Stewart has made an important contribution to the summing up of Zionism. He has to be commended on a truly superb work of research which should be read and pondered by anyone who wants to broaden his knowledge about the Palestine tragedy which was the outcome of Herzl's diseased mind and body.

FACTS ABOUT PALESTINE

PIRATES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN!

It seems that the Mediterranean is witnessing nowadays what it was used to see some centuries back:

Fresh acts of piracy occurring successively! Though piracy is identical in all time, surprisingly enough, in the fourth quarter of the Twentieth Century it has put on a new menacing attitude. It is being carried out by a government instead of a gang of bandits! The 'undertakers' of the acts of piracy are Zionist naval units which have intercepted several merchant ships belonging to different countries inside Lebanese territorial waters!

It all began with 'Hermes', a Cyprian fuel ship bound for Lebanon. The ship was stopped by the Zionists, the crew was searched and a Zionist 'captain' robbed the Cyprian captain of his \$3,000 plus some more foreign currency and two Lebanese passengers! The Lebanese daily, An-Nehar, reported the news on August 6. Fortunately for the Cypriots they were not detained (in all probability for reason of the robbery). If the latter went its way safely, this was not the case with the Egyptian freighter, Abdul Basset, which was intercepted on its way to Lebanon, to be taken to port Haifa in occupied Palestine and released after two days. As the ship left, one of its passengers, an Egyptian, was missing. He was detained under the pretext of being a commando! Cafookan is a third ship to fall victim to the international pirates. Though the Turkish merchant ship was leaving the Lebanese port of (Sur) and sailing in Lebanese water, yet it was also intercepted and taken to the same port of Haifa. The fate of the seven-man crew is still unknown.

known. So far, these ships were identified and probably some few media reported the events. However, it is still completely unknown that two unidentified merchant ships were driven from Lebanese territorial waters to Zionist occupied territorial waters and kept there indefinitely!

This is the Zionist way of dealing with any ship that approaches 'their' area. On another level, some Western circles have revealed recently that Zionist merchant ships are gradually transformed into Zionist warships! As a part of the increasing militarization of everthing in 'Israel' this does not seem surprising. What is significant about the whole affair is that regardless of having warships concealed behind the identity of merchantmen to commit acts of piracy in other peoples' territorial waters, the Zionist merchant ships are employed for the purpose of smuggling arms and ammunition to some fascist regimes (i.e. Ethiopia, South Africa, Chile) which stand in the face of Arab and other Third World liberation movements. The 'Evening Standard' cited the example of a certain fruit transportation ship discovered to be carrying arms to an unknown destination. In refuting the proven accusation of the case, the Zionists alleged that arms and ammunition were carried on board to provide any necessary protection in case of danger! In fact this could have been probable had not the Zionists proved that systematic terrorism is being practised against international trade by seemingly merchant ships that appear afterwards to be belonging to the Zionists!

SHRINKING ARAB POPULATION

It is often heard in 'Israel' that the increasing number of the Palestinian Arabs poses a threat to her existence in the long-term future. Zionists claim that Arab birth-rate in Palestine by far exceeds their

own birth-rate and that this is attributed to a number of reasons on top of which is the cultural difference and the low standard of living. This is actually to say that the Arabs of Palestine and the

Under pressure and threats the Arabs leave



A one-time peaceful children's school, now a graveyard. What did the U.S. do?



other occupied territories are treated as undesirable alien elements who do all the dirty jobs, live in unbearable social and economic conditions, are discriminated against and finally they are not at all wanted. This is not a new piece of information!

Although they are treated as third class citizens, the Arabs are indispensable in occupied Palestine because they hold a large part of the agricultural and production sectors. That is why the Zionists defame them as having their number always on the increase. Though the case be such, it is inexplicable why in the past few years the Arab population there and in the other occupied territories is steadily decreasing! Any objective observer of this part of the world may not be at a loss to find the reason. It is obvious that the endless process of evacuation, detention and mass-murder were the effective means by which the rate of Arab population growth was brought down considerably, especially since the war of 1967.

On the ninth of last month, Maarive, a Zionist daily, published a figure announced by the Zionist Central Office of Statistics. It was confirmed that the percentage of Arab population in occupied Palestine and territories has diminished from 36.3% in 1967 to 35.2% in the first half of 1976! In

a period of 9 years, it was proved by Zionist organs, the Arab population did not only remain static but also diminished! This explains the fallacy of Zionist allegations.

In the coming 10 years, however, there is "more to come". Naturally more Zionist immigrants mean less Arabs. Therefore, the Central Office of Statistics was not mistaken in its prediction that the existing number of 35.2% in 1976 will become approximately 30% in 1986! If news media were honestly reporting the reality of Arab life under the Zionists, there could not have been anything more absurd than listening to the Zionist allegations of Arabs and Zionists living as co-equals. Their number could also have been equal or so. But this is not the case. Arabs under the Zionist occupation in Palestine and the territories are blatantly exposed to unbelievable oppressive measures, threats and practices which aim at liquidating them or compelling them to leave. To verify this by a small example we should go back a few weeks to the 21st of last month, a day on which the military Governor of Nablus, the major Arab city in the West Bank, threatened all its inhabitants with outright dismissal if they dared organise a peaceful demonstration in protest against the new oppressive measure of extra taxes.

When the information Agnew revealed was that American Zionists are leading America by the nose. He explained that the huge network of American information media is solely controlled by the Zionists and that the American public opinion is being hypnotized daily against the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular, though any preliminary information about the Palestine question and how it reached its present stage is hardly available. Nonetheless, what seemed to worry him most was the fact that any expected president of the US is never going to win the elections unless he "courts" the Zionists.

Observing the recent developments between "Israel" and the US on the light of Mr. Agnew's declaration, we find that two US-made nuclear reactors are to be shortly shipped to the "masters" who will naturally use the stepping up of American-Zionist nuclear cooperation for the "peaceful" purpose of developing a network of nuclear weaponry. In any case, as a logical consequence of the Zionist hold in a state which possesses such highly destructive means like the US, one wouldn't be exaggerating to say that the near future will witness undesirable developments that pose a threat to the international peace as a whole.

(M.M.)



Eagles monument



Abbasid poet Abu No'was



Kahramana Fountain

MONUMENTS IN BAGHDAD

Monuments are usually put on view for the primary purpose of recalling to mind or commemorating specific events or personalities. Their production is, therefore, a distinctive characteristic

Baghdad, the old city of "The Arabian Nights" abounded in prominent poets, musicians, men of letters and philosophers. About 50 monuments have been erected at present in various parts of the

dad of today has surpassed this fact. It is the city where the magic of "Thousand and One Nights" blends with the magic of modern technological and human progress. Most aspects

SAY IT ALL

Since Spiro Agnew, the former Vice-President of the US, is once more a free man, he is revealing day after day what he preferred to keep "under his hat" as a Vice-President. Now Agnew at least holds one common opinion with the Arabs. He proclaims the Arab lands currently held under the Zionists as occupied. Furthermore, he sees that world public opinion should call on "Israel" to withdraw. Apart from what he calls "Israel" as signifying occupied Palestine, the man felt the urge to talk, declaring that the very act of establishing the "state of Israel" in 1948 is considered to be a violation of the simplest human rights of the Palestine people. Al-Ettehad, an Abu Dhabi daily, published the news on August 5 — It was filed by its correspondent based in Washington.

A Bridge Between Generations

of societies that value the individual human being and hold an objective view of historical events. The monuments help the forthcoming generations to be inspired by the glorious achievements made by their distinguished predecessors. The monuments glorify an epoch-making achievement. For instance, monuments signifying such landmarks in the modern history of Iraq as the oil nationalisation, the National Front and other outstanding achievements are quite possible to be seen one day set up in Iraq.

capital of Iraq, the modern city of Baghdad. Each monument tells a tale about the glorious history of this city which was founded by Abu Jaffar al-Mansour in A.D. 762. But the Abbasid Caliph Harun al-Rashid, the lavish patron of music, poetry and letters, was the man who actually founded Baghdad with all its great glory.

Baghdad, located on the two banks of the River Tigris, was a world famous commercial and intellectual centre during the eighth and ninth centuries. Bagh-

dad of today has surpassed this fact. It is the city where the magic of "Thousand and One Nights" blends with the magic of modern technological and human progress. Most aspects

A sight-seeing tour of Baghdad will give a solid support to this opinion. One can easily see how the numerous monuments erected in the public squares and parks have brought back to this city its historical fame. In addition to these, there are monuments symbolizing themes of struggle of the people of this country who made and will con-

tinue to make an honourable and glorious history.

These memorial monuments have notably increased in number in the recent few years. All this is undeniably credited to the true appreciation upheld by the leadership of the July 17 1968, Revolution for the revival of heritage, thereby adding more attraction to this glorious city.

In fact, with the advent of the July 17 Revolution, all the present statues were erected except three. The monuments for the poets like Ma'arouf al-Rassafi, Abdul Mohsen al-Kadhemi and Abu Nowas, and the philosophers

like al-Farabi can be good examples out of many others throughout the capital. But the Liberty Monument, by the late sculptor Jewad Selim, remains to be the most outstanding in Baghdad. This monument, which is now erected at the "Talkies" Square, the centre of Baghdad, is considered the largest to be made by an Iraqi artist in the last 2,500 years. It is a 50-metre-long frieze, 8-metres-wide consisting of a number of groups in low-relief bronze.

It embodies Selim's peculiar combination of power and lyricism, of the Iraqi, and the universal, together with a mystical tragic love for his country.*

It will be recalled that a monument signifying the march of the Arab Baath Socialist Party was being contemplated sometime ago. Azzam al-Bazzar, 30, who won the competition to set up the monument said, "The monument tells the history or struggle of the Party before and after the July 17 Revolution in Iraq".

The monument, it is to be noted, will be 22 metres long and 36 metres high. It consists of over 36 figures. The monument is supposed to be erected at the eastern entry of Baghdad. "It could be one of the biggest monuments in the East".

(Salah)

(* Iraqi Art Today, A Preface by J.I. Jabra (Baghdad).



Arabian Horseman



Liberty monument

ART



I believe in figurative painting

"I believe in figurative painting in a modern style. I don't search within the figure itself but within the area surrounding that figure", says Mr. Dharar al-Qaddu, an outstanding artist from Motul, the provincial centre of Nineveh governorate.

To him one could find out many human objects through the windows of traditional homes: Man goes through happiness and sadness behind such windows. Furthermore, even the old walls inspire him to prepare a background for his paintings as a legacy. "I draw my themes from that background which provides many elements of various subjects. And from this locality want to give a universal essence to what is nationally common in our daily life", he goes on to say.

Artist Qaddu believes in Man and his feelings. Therefore, Qaddu's themes concentrate on Man's feelings in a new style which makes such themes universal.

Born in 1935, Qaddu practised painting when he was only 10 years old. Whenever he found a clay, he says, he used to mould a sculpture. And whenever he had the chalk or charcoal at hand he would make a drawing on the wall.

He has never held a one-man exhibition, but participated in about 35 collective exhibitions of paintings in Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, Italy and the Soviet

Union. He took part in all exhibitions of paintings held in Iraq in the recent years notably the All-Iraq Art Exhibition, the ABSP's third Exhibition as well as the Arab biennale exhibition.

Mr. Qaddu is now preparing his first one-man art exhibition. The exhibition, to be sponsored by the Mosul's Mass Culture Houses Department, will be displayed in several governorates in addition to Nineveh. "I have made 16 paintings so far", he says. He thinks that the new exhibition will represent "a turning point in my artistic approach".

About his opinion on contemporary art, Mr. Qaddu says the artist should, above all, have the basic elements of academic knowledge of art in addition to his creative ability to make something new. Otherwise it becomes all absurd, he concludes.

Dharar al-Qaddu who graduated from the Institute of Fine Arts, Baghdad in 1957, went to Italy on a scholarship to specialize in decoration. Thereafter, he got a Bachelor's degree in art from Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome. In 1969 he obtained a diploma in publicity from the San Giacomo School in Rome as well.

Artist Qaddu, besides painting, is a music enthusiast, particularly of Iraqi "maqam" (tunes).

(Salah)



by Sherif Yusuf

THE ASSYRIANS' DRESS AND JEWELLERY

To attempt to describe the complete dress of the Assyrians would be almost as difficult as to give a full and comprehensive account of an Arab Shiekh's dress of to-day.

The Assyrian king's robes are of course the most magnificent and most elaborate, both in arrangement and decoration.

Looking at the perfect figure of a great Assyrian king we are induced to describe it in detail, especially as the embroideries on the garments appear to be legendary and symbolical.

The top of the truncated cup and the cove which surmounts it are surrounded with gems; and the tiara placed round the lower part of the cup is richly decorated and tied behind with fillets having several tassels at the ends.

On the sleeves and breast of the king's under-robe is delicately traced the mystic tree, and the sleeve has, besides a border, butting at the honeysuckle.

The cords which confine the robe round the wrist have large tassels. Upon his wrist are several small chains united by a rosette clasp.

On the bas-relief Ashur-nasir-pal, king of Assyria, 885-860 B. C., is depicted arrayed in his ceremonial robes. In comparison with those worn by the mythical being standing behind him, both



Assyrian bas-relief of two warriors

are simple and inornate, the only difference being that those of the king are arranged so as to conceal both his legs.

The under-garment seems to be a fringed robe over which a long deeply-fringed mantle is arranged. Both the king and his attendant wear a broad waist-band into which two daggers are thrust; but the mantle itself was apparently fastened by means of cords ending in tassels.

The king's head-dress, however, is entirely different from that of his follower; it is a conical head-gear, somewhat like a mitre, or bishop's crown, two tails being similarly attached to the back. Judging from its general appearance, the head-dress itself must have been made of cloth.

Both figures, the king and his attendant, wear bracelets on either wrist and two armlets on the arms, while a necklace encircles their necks.

Sennacherib, one hundred and twenty years later, is no longer content with the simple yet dignified dress of Ashur-nasir-pal, but assumes a far richer and costlier set of robes.

The royal mantle is not merely decorated most elaborately but embroidered richly throughout, while his crown is also far more ornate than those worn by his Nimrud predecessors.

Regarding the dress material used by the Assyrians, many garments are doubtless made of wool or woollen stuffs, but a

kind of cotton has also been utilized for the manufacture of garments.

Women in the Royal Palace were, no doubt, as richly clad as their masters, both wearing ornamental fillets round their heads.



Assyrian bas-relief: hair style and bracelets

Jewellery

Jewellery seems to have been prized and loved by the Assyrian king and his courtiers almost as much as by the women of to-day, and the demand for novelties must have taxed the jeweller's inventive faculties to the utmost.

Not only were armlets and bracelets in requisition, but also necklaces and ear-rings. Both bracelets and ear-rings show great variety in design, and no little skill in workmanship. Thanks to the bas-reliefs, we can gain a very fair idea of the proficiency

to which the jeweller's art had been brought at this period.

The rosette as usual is playing the leading part in most of the decorative devices. The ear-rings worn by kings, warriors and priests vary quite as much as the bracelets, though there is a certain similarity between most of them.

Sandals

Sandals form the principal footwear of civilians. The ordinary sandals have thin sole and a small cap for the heel apparently made of strips of leather, sometimes coloured red and blue alternately, or the entire sandal is of reddish hue. It is held in position by a loop round the great toe, and by a string laced across the instep and tied in a bow. But shoes are also used. They are decorated with crescents and rosettes and laced in front.

Headgears

Reference has been made to the conical shaped head covering of the king. But there are a diversity of head-gears used in Assyria. The most noteworthy of these is the horned crown which was worn by the colossal winged-bulls. The horns which use the symbol of divinity occupy a prominent position on the head-coverings of nearly all Babylonian and Assyrian gods. The top massive crown is decorated with a row of feathers, while its face is adorned with rosettes. Other head-coverings are different kinds of fillets worn round the head. There are also various types of helmets used in the Assyrian army.

Royal Garments

Decorative designs on the borders of the Royal Garments are

of great varieties. On the breast of Ashur-nasir-pal's under-garments the following designs are treated very distinctly:

1. Palm-tree with an ostrich on each side of it, within a border filled with rosettes.
2. Palm, with a horned animal, rampant, on each side of it; the palm with winged beings in the character of fertilizers of the palm; and a winged, horned animal, with its head turned behind.
3. Date-palms and clusters of fruit.
4. Borders composed of palms and horned animal.
5. Cluster of palm-leaves and fruit.
6. Cluster of palm-leaves and fruit rosettes, horned animals and eagle.
7. Cluster of dates above a linear border with fringes.
8. Cluster of palm-leaves, ostriches and rosettes.

Being the leading decorative pattern, the date-palm is, no doubt, the "sacred tree" of the Assyrians. In ancient times as in modern age the date-palm produced the staple food of the country, and Herodotus says: it supplies the natives with bread, wine and honey. The scenes on the bas-relief, in which the king and the winged figures hold palm-spathes and poller baskets, really represent the ceremonial fertilization of the palm.

PRESS OPINION

PRAVDA (Soviet Union)

The Soviet leading daily Pravda, the organ of the Soviet Communist Party, said in an elaborate article that "Iraq has now undertaken constructive plans to building a solid economic base".

Setting forth some examples the paper confirmed, "Iraq at present is engaged in building 96 giant economic projects which constitute a solid base for speeding up economic and social progress".

"Nationalization of foreign oil companies was a decisive step towards establishing an independent national economy. Iraq at present utilized oil revenues for achieving quick economic development", the paper added.

Pravda reaffirmed that the current transformations in Iraq were the essence of a national system drawn up by the revolutions of July 14 1958, and July 17, 1968.

Touching on the settlement of the Kurdish issue the paper said, "The peaceful and democratic solution of the Kurdish issue and administration of autonomy in the Kurdistan area have foiled all internal and external plots to disintegrate the unity of the Iraqi people". The paper also hailed the great efforts which the Revolution exerts for reconstructing and modernizing the self-ruled area.

"The central government is implementing tremendous plans and reconstruction programmes in the area. Extensive electric power networks, thousands of kilometres of road and 6000 schools with Kurdish as major language of teaching, have been constructed in the area", it added.

Commenting on the progressive, patriotic and national front embracing the Iraqi progressive parties led by the ABSP the paper said, "It was a conspicuous initiative on the road to national unity".

On the other hand Pravda seriously condemned the acts of piracy practised by the Zionist entity in the Lebanese ports controlled by the progressive forces warning that such aggressive acts "could lead to further complications of the situation in the Arab region".

The Soviet daily described the visit of an American nuclear cruiser to the port of Haifa in occupied

Palestine as an act of provocation. "The Lebanese crisis," it said, "must be resolved in a democratic manner by the Lebanese themselves without the interference from outside".

AL-TALIA (Kuwait)

In a leading article the Kuwait magazine Al-Talia sternly warned against the Syrian regime's intervention in the internal affairs of Lebanon. The magazine said, "The Lebanese war has unmasked the false propaganda and untrue facts behind which the Syrian regime has been hiding itself. The Syrian regime has joined the traditional politicians of Lebanon who never in their life seriously knew the virtue of patriotism. Syria now receives all satisfaction and support of the Zionist entity and the American imperialism.

"The shift in Syria's attitude from a strong defender of the Palestine cause into a killer of that cause is but a part of a large US scheme which succeeded in dragging Syria to further treasons against the Arab nation and securing its close link with the American imperialism.

AL-JUMHURIYAH (Iraq)

Under the heading, "Kissinger's Tour of Africa. Is It a New American Theory, or a New Hostile Plan?", the Iraqi daily al-Jumhuriyah enquired about the reason of the sudden concern of the American State Secretary in African affairs. It asserted that there must be something unusual prompting the second man in the United States to undertake this arduous task. The paper pointed out it was not only Kissinger who visited the African continent; Defense Secretary Ramsfield, and US Ambassador to the United Nations William Scranton also visited African countries.

The paper said that one might consider such visits as part of a US theory for aiding the African states. "But what kind of states the theorist Henry Kissinger is going to aid?"

"Of course the US will press certain racist regimes to give specific concessions to the indigenous leaders provided its interests, particularly the flow of raw materials are maintained," the paper added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mr. Tareq Aziz, Minister of Information, opened on September 1 the Photograph Exhibition of Unified Vietnam held at the Iraqi Artists Society to mark the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.



OUTSTANDING STUDENTS FLY TO SPAIN

105 distinguished students honoured by President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr on August 16, left for Madrid aboard a special plane on a tour of Spain to visit the prominent places that bear the heritage of Islamic and Arab civilization.

President Bakr had earlier instructed that these outstanding students who passed with high marks in the Primary, Intermediate and Secondary general examinations this year, be sent to Spain on a two-week visit to acquaint themselves with the history of our glorious past.

PENSION FOR KING FAISAL'S DAUGHTER

The Revolution Command Council has granted Sayida Bedoor, the daughter of late King Faisal I of Iraq, a fixed pension amounting to ID. 100 per month. A residential house has also been allotted to her.

Sayida Bedoor now lives in Kerhala Governorate.

KDP CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

On August 20, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) celebrated the 30th anniversary of its founding.

The KDP, a component of the Progressive Patriotic and National Front (PPNF), marked the occasion amid splendid celebrations. Representatives from the leading party, the Arab Baath Socialist Party, the Iraqi Communist Party, and other parties and organizations which are members in the Front took part in the festivities.

Special greetings from ABSP Regional Leadership Secretary, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, were sent to KDP leaders on the occasion wishing them progress "under the banner of militant unity among the sons of our people for building a democratic prosperous Iraq".

KIM IL SUNG GREETES IRAQI WORKING CLASS

Korean President Kim Il Sung hailed the efforts of Iraqi working class and the great success and achievements it has achieved under the auspices of the July 17 Revolution. President Sung highly valued the "unwavering struggle waged by the Iraqi working class for building an advanced prosperous nation".

This was outlined in a cable received by Iraq General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU) from President Sung in reply to a message sent by the GFTU on the occasion of the observance of the "Month of Anti-American Imperialism Common Struggle".

ZAPU LEADER VISITS IRAQ

Mr. Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Zimbabwe African Peoples' Union (ZAPU) paid a visit to Baghdad late last month at the invitation of the ABSP Pan-Arab leadership.

While here Mr. Nkomo held a series of talks with Party officials which covered means for developing the ABSP-ZAPU relations, support to liberation movement in the African continent and the latest developments in Zimbabwe.

In a statement prior to his departure Mr. Nkomo expressed gratitude to the Iraqi political leadership for the "continued aid and support which it extends to Zimbabwe and other African countries.

OIL MINISTER CONFERS WITH VISITING OPEC MINISTERS

Mr. Tayeb Abdul Karim, the Minister of Oil, conferred in Baghdad on August 30 with Prof. Mohammed Sadiq, Indonesian Mining Affairs Minister and Chairman of the present term of the Orga-

nization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Colonel Mohammed Bari, Nigerian Petroleum and Energy Minister and OPEC alternate chairman, and discussed with them the prospects of coordination among OPEC member-states.

The two Ministers' visit to Iraq comes within the framework of a tour of the OPEC member-states to know their views towards the forthcoming Minister-level conference of OPEC scheduled to be held in December next.

IRAQI-FINNIISH JOINT COMMITTEE MEETS IN HELSINKI

An Iraqi delegation led by Foreign Trade Ministry Under Secretary, Mr. Mehdi Muhsen Awada left Baghdad early this month for Helsinki to attend the 4th session of the Iraqi-Finnish joint committee.

The six-day meeting will tackle topics related to development of Iraqi-Finnish relations and co-operation in various fields, particularly matters concerning bilateral trade exchange and the execution of development projects in Iraq undertaken by Finland.

IRAQ PARTICIPATES IN HUNGARIAN FAIR

Iraq will participate in the new session of Budapest Autumn Fair opening there on September 22 and lasting for one week. Iraq's pavilion at the fair will display Iraqi products and commodities reflecting the great development which Iraq has achieved in the fields of industry, agriculture and economy.

MEDICAL MISSION TO YEMEN

An Iraqi medical mission comprising doctors, dressers and medical technicians will be sent to the Arab Republic of Yemen (North).

It is to be recalled that it has been the practice of Iraq to send medical missions to Arab countries like Democratic Yemen, Somalia, Lebanon, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to render necessary medical assistance.

SEMINAR ON ARABIAN STUDIES

The first seminar of scientific centres specialized in Arabian Gulf studies is due to be held in Basrah University on October 10 next.

Sponsored by the Basrah University centre of studies will be attended by representatives from similar centres in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Arab Republic of Yemen and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. A joint action plan is expected to be worked out for adoption by the participating centres aiming at promoting scientific researches, prevent repetitions and assign specific specialized tasks for each centre.

ARAB CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A 10-day Arab conference on the use of science and technology for development wound up its sessions in Rabat, Morocco, late last month. It adopted a number of resolutions and recommendations dealing with the necessity of developing the Arab manpower and the means of constituting scientific and technological capabilities on the level of Arab homeland.

Mr. Ghanim Abdul Jalili, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, represented Iraq at the conference.

IRAQI CIGARETTES WIN GOLD MEDAL

Iraqi Sumer brand cigarettes produced by the Iraqi Tobacco General Company (ITGC) won the gold medal in the tenth exhibition of cigarettes and tobacco products organized in London last July. Another brand of Iraqi cigarettes named Baghdad won silver prize.

Iraqi tobacco products are regarded as one of the best cigarette products in the world.

IRAQI COMMEMORATES CAPUCCI'S ARREST

Iraqi postal authorities has issued a stamp commemorating the 2nd anniversary of the arrest by the Zionist occupation forces of Greek Catholic Patriarch Archbishop Hilaron Capucci.

The stamp depicts Archbishop Capucci inside the dock and a white bleeding pigeon representing the butchered peace in the occupied land and a map of Palestine.

Archbishop Capucci was arrested by the Zionist authorities in August, 1974, on charges of collaborating with the Palestinian Resistance Movement. He was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment.

A Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In your issue of July 31 last (Vol. 1, No. 21) under the headline "Add To Your Knowledge", you mentioned that Lebanon became independent in 1944". Kindly allow me to say that this information is misleading. In this respect I would like to draw your attention (and the attention of your readers) to the following historical events (Courtesy: Dr. Adel Ismail, Lebanon: History of a People).

General Catroux, the French High Commissioner to Lebanon, proclaimed the independence of Lebanon in the name of Free France, on November 26, 1941. The United Kingdom, the United States, the Soviet Union and a number of Arab and non-Arab Asian countries recognized independent Lebanon and sent diplomatic agents to Beirut. However, the provisions of the proclamation of independence did not satisfy the nationalist aspirations of the Lebanese people who demanded free polls to elect a Parliament that will, in its turn, elect the President of the Republic as a democratic manifestation of independence.

The representatives of Free France, on the other hand, did not agree to hold elections until the war was over. In the summer of 1942, General de Gaulle came over to Beirut to hold negotiations, but failed to win over the nationalist leaders. The General then insisted that the mandate continued and the nationalist forces mounted their agitation for free election and transfer of power.

In the face of tremendous political pressure the Free France authorities arranged for holding elections and the Lebanese Parliament was elected on August 29, 1943. The Parliament elected Mr. Bishara al-Khuri as the first President of the independent Republic on September 21, 1943. The new President asked Mr. Riad al-Solh to form the government as Prime Minister. The new government of the independent Republic of Lebanon proceeded with constitutional amendments in order to terminate the so-called "rights of France" in Lebanon. On November 8, 1943, the Parliament amended the constitution to make the President the chief executive and the Parliament the only legislative organ of the state. Arabic was decreed as the official language of the country.

The authorities of Free France, enraged by these developments staged a coup d'etat on November 11, 1943; they dissolved the Parliament, arrested the President and Prime Minister and suspended the constitution. All sections of people in Lebanon, irrespective of their confessional divisions, rose to a man against this highhandedness of the French authorities. The nationalist leaders, who could avoid being arrested, ignored the illegal decree. The Deputies met outside the occupied Parliament building and adopted the national flag: a cedar framed by red and white stripes. A provisional government was also formed outside Beirut in Allayy area on the initiative of Amir Majiri Arslan and Habib Abu Shahlha, two Ministers of Riad Solh Cabinet.

Finally the French authorities, having failed in their attempts to divide the nationalist forces, conceded the demands of the freedom-loving people of Lebanon and on November 22, 1943, released from jail all leaders including President Khouri and Prime Minister Solh who started functioning as the Government elected by the people. This day is observed as the National Day of festivities.

In view of the above historical events, I am of the opinion that 1941 should be considered as the year of Lebanese independence and 1943 the year of victory.

Sabir Mustafa

