

11TH SEPTEMBER



BULLETIN OF THE KURDISH STUDENTS SOCIETY IN EUROPE UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

Decisive Days

The current development of events in Iraqi Kurdistan and its culmination in another war has not been unexpected, least of all by the people of Kurdistan who have suffered continuously from the intransigent policies of the ruling Ba'thists in Baghdad. Immediately after the conclusion of the 11th March Agreement in 1970 between the KDP and the Ba'thists, those who failed to subdue our people and its revolution by force of arms tried in vain to achieve its old aims by intimidation, assassination, mass deportation and other unsavoury means which the ruling clique has become so experienced in. Those attempts also failed to break the Kurdish movement; in fact, the reverse is true. Today the Kurdish people stand more united than ever before behind the banner of the KDP and under the leadership of Barzani.

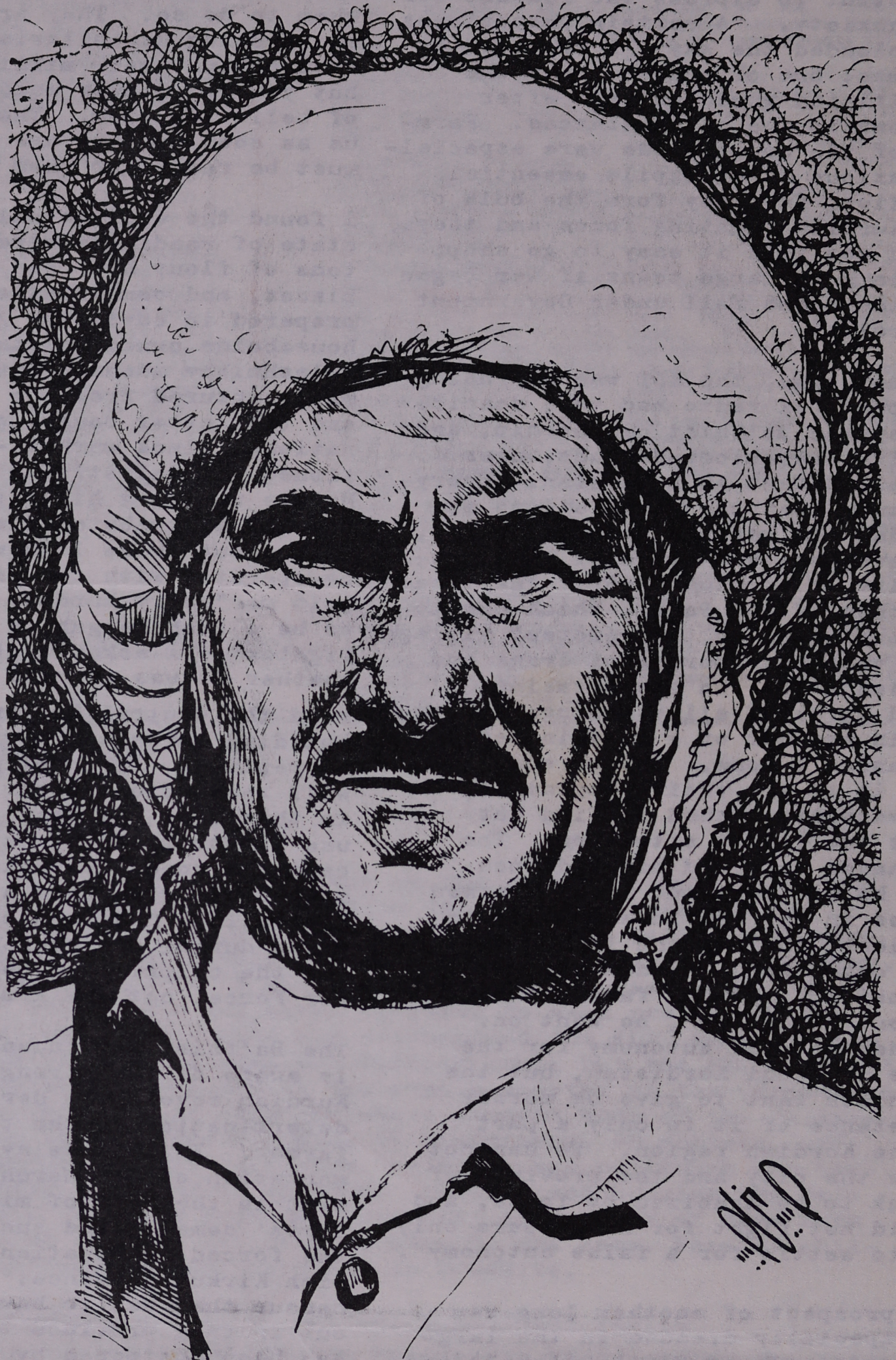
No sooner had the regime announced its so-called ((autonomy-for-the-Kurds)) scheme than tens of thousands of students, workers, peasants, tradesmen, civil servants, army officers and policemen left their homes, pouring into the liberated areas, leaving their jobs and properties behind, intent upon fighting to the end for their cause.

The Iraqi army has commenced its campaign in Kurdistan, well equipped with the most modern means of destruction the Soviets could provide, including poison and nervous gases, this army which exceeds by far any colonial oppressive army in its brutal and ruthless tactics is let loose upon the villages of Kurdistan to burn and plunder, to kill and to destroy, a people whose only crime is to demand the simplest and most basic of human rights, the right to vote, to be educated, to reap the riches from their soil, to live without fear and persecution, to control their own local administration and affairs. Is this too much to ask for a people who ^{have} inhabited this land for thousands of years and who, like the rest of mankind, are entitled to the principles of liberation and self-determination.

We call upon all the decent peoples of the world, all humanitarians, student organisations, in particular Arab organisations, to stand by the Kurdish peoples in their hour of peril. The fascist regime of Baghdad under the banner of Pan-Arabism and socialism is perpetuating the most vicious of crimes against humanity. It is their duty to dissociate themselves from these crimes and support the people of Kurdistan who selflessly and with great sacrifice never wavered from their struggle and the manifesto of their revolution "Democracy for Iraq, autonomy for Kurdistan"; they have stood alone and with the minimum of resources, resolutely and courageously for a very long time demanding very little. The coming days will be decisive; the world must know, the world must act.

11th September

On the 11th September, 1961 the Kurdistan Democratic Party led by General Barzani rose with arms to



defend Kurdistan against the intransigent and oppressive policies of Kassem and his dictatorship in Iraq. Kassem fell from power, then Arif and many others in their inglorious quest to subdue the peoples of Kurdistan. The peasant with an old rifle stood the test of time, brought down the successive loathsome regimes and defeated the most modern of weapons and armies to make the uprising of 1961 into a revolution and bring our peoples struggle to the forefront in the oppressed peoples struggle for liberation and self determination.

To our leader Barzani we pay tribute.
The Kurdistan revolutionary army
(Pesh Merga) we Salute;
for our martyrs we mourn AND TO
THAT SACRED DAY, 11TH SEPT. 1961,
WE STAND IN REVERENCE.

Which way for Kurdistan-Iraq ?

By H Bān-Yārān, a Kurdish journalist and a friend of the Society who recently visited the liberated region of Kurdistan.

In mid-February, when I left the liberated areas in Iraqi Kurdistan, there was a public rush on the shops for sugar and tea, sugar being impossible to find in many towns. The price of other non-perishable food materials also showed a marked increase, and yet, I found the ordinary man-in-the-street strangely reluctant to express the reasons for his anxiety. "A certain unhappiness has clouded the sky", I was told by one man; but of course, only the uninitiated would enquire after reasons in the circumstances. Farmers of the countryside were especially anxious to stockpile essential supplies, for they form the bulk of the Kurdish fighting force and they would not find it easy to go shopping in some large towns if war began and the towns fell under Government control.

At that time, the KDP was not using its powerful radio and yet, despite widespread Ba'thist censorship, and despite snow-blocked roads, news travelled fast in Kurdistan. Everyone knew that the negotiations in Baghdad had reached breaking-point, and everyone was aware of the possibility of a resumed war. The local branches of the Party, which are to be found even in the remotest village, were the main sources of Iraqi and Kurdish news. On one occasion, I found Kurds of all standings streaming in and out of a certain senior commander's home. Though some had come in to air their complaints, the majority wished to find out about the latest situation. The commander informed his audience that he had just put all the armed forces in the province in a state of alert, in case the Iraqi Government opted for a sudden military offensive. "We are facing a most serious situation", he went on. "We demand real autonomy for the whole of Iraqi Kurdistan, but the Ba'thists want to give us merely a pretence of it in only a part of the Kurdish region. We can not allow the city and the province of Kirkuk to be Arabized by force, and we did not fight for nine years only now to settle for a false autonomy".

The prospect of another long war is especially dreaded in the larger towns such as Howlir (Arbil) and Sulaimanieh, which have to be abandoned by the lightly-armed Kurdish army. In these towns the bulk of the population is remarkably happy with KDP administration, and the return of Arab control is generally equated with a stagnant economy, political repression and rocketing crime. On the other hand, in most of the liberated areas under the Kurdistan Democratic Party's control, trade is expanding, there is a great deal of construction work in progress and no visitor can fail to be impressed by the free political and social atmosphere prevailing in the land. In one poor-man's cafe, I even found one man defending the Ba'thist Government! He argued that the two peoples

of Iraq deserved no better, and while the rest of the crowd passionately disagreed, I was pleased to see that everyone remained the best of friends when the discussion was over.

The countryside differs in its attitude to the resumption of military conflict. The farmers, who would be the main target for the Iraqi Air Force and Army, regard another long war as inevitable and hold the belief that they may as well prepare for it cheerfully. One farmer with whom I stayed a few days told me: "The Arabs will never respect our national rights unless we force them to do so. They are very good at shouting humanitarian slogans from behind their million radios, but you must never make the mistake of believing them. They will attack us as soon as they are ready, and we must be ready for them when they come".

I found the village militia in a high state of readiness already. Tens of tons of flour had been stored in safe places, and bomb-shelters had been prepared in caves and gorges. Many households owned Russian and Chinese Kalashnikov machine-guns, the former make captured from the Iraqi army and the latter bought on the international black market - someone mentioned the Palestinian guerrillas. Morale was very high, too. "Since the KDP distributed the farms and kicked out those landowners who co-operated with the Ba'th", they told me, "every Kurdish farmer wishes to be a Pesh Margah, a freedom fighter". I asked another farmer whether he was worried by the new road the Central Government was building through his village. "No", he replied. "I'm delighted. It will revolutionise our agriculture in this area and they'll never dare use it for military purposes. We've captured enough bazookas and anti-tank mortars to give them a severe hiding". His village had been burnt down three times during the course of the war, but the culprit had been the Iraqi Air Force, not the Army.

The Ba'thist Government in Baghdad is aware of the strength that the Kurdish revolution derives from the determination of the tough hillside farmer. Yet, it delays the implementation of the March, 1970 Agreement in the hope of minimizing the Kurds' demands and succeeding in the forced Arabization of the oil-rich Kirkuk province. The general census that was to have been carried out in this province three years ago has been postponed by the Government indefinitely and, in the meantime, the Arab army has been evicting hundreds of thousands of Kurds from their villages, settling Arab tribesmen in their place. Thousands of Kurdish workers have also been expelled from their jobs in the oil-fields of Kirkuk itself.

The 72yr. old Kurdish leader, General Mustafa Barzani, has been understandably reluctant to start another war, hoping that the Government's delaying tactics might merely be part of its jockeying for position in future negotiations. But many of the General's younger colleagues have come to the conclusion that the Ba'th will never

give real autonomy to the whole of Iraqi Kurdistan, and without a large measure of independence in economic matters, Kurdish culture in Iraq will be extinct within two or three generations.

The three million Kurds of Iraq are once again involved in a war of survival and are determined to bring down the Ba'thist regime in Baghdad, one of the most barbarous cliques ever to rule Mesopotamia. But the Kurdish leadership must be pre-occupied with a larger question: should it keep Kurdish demands restricted to their present minimal level for autonomy within the Republic of Iraq, or ought it risk a longer war and declare the independence of Kurdistan? The recent exodus of over 200,000 Kurds into the liberated areas, many of them highly educated, must have made the pressure for the latter course enormous.

Whatever the future may bring, the present war must be as bitter as any that the Kurds have fought against foreign invaders over the past three thousand years. They will certainly win again, but I wish it were not necessary. At this moment I am thinking of those villagers who recently showed me extreme hospitality. Has their village already been burnt down for yet a fourth time within the memory of its teenagers?



Commander Isse Swar, in charge of the Kurdish Revolutionary Army in the Northern Front. Below, map of the liberated region of Kurdistan.



Press Review

CIVIL WAR RETURNS TO KURDISTAN

Northern Iraq is not an area to which the world's news media have easy access. But it is by now clear that Kurdistan is once again in a state of insurrection against the Baghdad Government, and that the scene is set for a renewal of heavy fighting, if indeed it is not already taking place.

So ends a four-year truce between General Mustafa Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Arab Baathist regime of General Hassan Al-Bakr and Vice-President Saddam Husayn. On March 11, 1970, the Baathist leaders drew the logical conclusion from the inability of the Iraq armed forces, after nine years of intermittent warfare, to overcome the resistance of the "Pesh Merga", or Kurdish guerrillas, in the mountainous heartland of Kurdistan. A 15-point agreement was signed, recognizing the national rights of the Kurds and their autonomy "within the framework of the unity of the Iraq Republic". A mixed higher committee was set up to supervise the application of the agreement over four years. Five Kurdish ministers were brought into the Iraq Government, and soon afterwards a new Constitution was proclaimed which explicitly recognized Kurdish national rights.

But a number of crucial points were left unresolved by the agreement. In particular, the degree of autonomy to be conferred on the Kurds was not clearly defined; nor was the

geographical area within which they were to enjoy it. The KDP has consistently demanded a fully federal system and has insisted that the Kurdish state must include the province of Kirkuk. The Baathists have been willing to concede a more limited autonomy and have been determined to exclude Kirkuk from Kurdish control because it is the centre of the country's largest oilfield. They have not been satisfied with the KDP's suggestions that oil should be a central government responsibility but that the Kurds should get a share of the profits in proportion to population. Instead they have tried to "Arabize" Kirkuk and other peripheral districts of Kurdistan, both on paper by arguing from an out-of-date and inaccurate census and in practice by encouraging transfers of population. This has inevitably sharpened Kurdish resentment and mistrust.

Mistrust is profound on both sides. The KDP has accused senior officials of the Baath party of organizing two unsuccessful attempts on the life of its leader. Its militants are convinced the Baathist military regime can never sincerely accept a compromise, and that the only valid guarantee of Kurdish autonomy would be the introduction of "real democracy" in Iraq as a whole—the effect of which, they believe, would be to break the Baath's monopoly of power.

On the Baathist side there is the suspicion that the KDP's demand of autonomy for Iraq

Kurdistan is only the prelude to the dismemberment of Iraq and the formation of an independent Kurdish Republic (as envisaged by the Treaty of Sevres after the First World War), in which the 2½ million Iraq Kurds would join up with the five or more million in eastern Turkey, the 4½ million in Iran, the six hundred thousand in Syria and perhaps even the hundred and fifty thousand in the Soviet Union. Even if this danger seems remote, there is the fear that the KDP is a tool of "reactionary forces", whether in the United States, Iran or Israel, seeking to overthrow Iraq's "progressive" regime and reverse both its nationalization of the Iraq Petroleum Company and its alliance with the Soviet Union. General Barzani has occasionally made remarks which lend some colour to these suspicions, and the Iraq Communist Party, for long his close ally, has now drawn away from him and accepted an honorific but largely powerless position alongside the Baath in a "Progressive National Front".

It seems however that General Barzani's forces are still in control of most of Kurdistan and that the Government will not be able by conventional warfare to impose acceptance of the "autonomy" which it has unilaterally announced. There are rumours that it has plans to do so by unconventional means, notably the use of poison gas. There should be no doubt what the reaction of world opinion would be if these rumours were verified.

THE TIMES, 16th. March 1974

Civil war in Kurdistan

From Mr
Sir, We are most grateful to The Times for having raised the issue of Kurdish survival in the leader of March 16. There is a real danger of genocide if poison gas is used against the Kurds. This would be dangerous, not only to the population in the border areas, but also to those who have been fleeing from the cities in Iraq.

We only want to live in peace with our neighbours, and are very fearful that, after five unsuccessful extended military campaigns, designed to suppress the Kurds, they might this time use unconventional terror methods; hence our fear of the poison gas. This would run contrary to the basic principles of humanity, as well as to agreed rules of international law.

We know that two different types of Russian-supplied poison gas have been imported with 40,000 gas masks. They have been stored in the Taji military camp near Baghdad, in the

second division in Kirkuk, and in the Mosul headquarters, the fourth division, where special commando units were trained in the use of gas. We also know that an eighth and ninth division have been established for the special purpose of conducting "unconventional" surprise warfare against the Kurds.

While the Kurds were negotiating for a peaceful form of autonomy, our leaders became painfully aware of military operations being made in readiness for a major military attack. It is hoped that the Baghdad Government will use the new found wealth for other purposes than to kill members of a small nation, and that the peace of the Middle East should not be upset by this military adventurism which can hurt Arabs and Kurds alike who have recently begun to live in peace.

Yours sincerely,
Secretary,
Kurdish Students' Society in Europe,
United Kingdom branch,
43 Cumberland Road, W3,
March 17.

THE TIMES, 19th. March 1974

Iraq threat to liquidate Kurdish insurgents

Baghdad, April 25.—The Iraq Government will have to "liquidate" Kurdish irregular forces led by Mullah Mustafa Barzani in northern Iraq if they do not surrender, Mr Saddam Husayn, the vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, said here today.

Mr Husayn told a Progressive National Front meeting: "All we can accept is that he raises the white flag and lives as an ordinary citizen before it is too late."

The council earlier today announced an extension until May 25 of a general amnesty for Kurds who had left their jobs for the northern mountains.

"Barzani is deceiving himself if he thinks he can be considered as the representative of the Kurds, of a patriotic movement or of a political block, or if he thinks he can ask us to

discuss at a table or negotiate the Kurdish question". Mr Husayn said.

A broadcast by the "Voice of Free Kurdistan", reported by the Teheran newspaper *Etelaat* today, said that 18 Kurdish women and children had been killed and a number of others wounded in new fighting yesterday near the town of Zakho, three miles from the Iraq-Turkish border.

The fighting was still going on near Zakho, in the Sibi valley and on the Bihavir Dag mountain.

A source in Diyarbakir, in eastern Turkey, reported today that the Turkish authorities had strengthened security forces in border areas to prevent Kurdish or Iraqi troops from carrying the battle into Turkey.—Agence France-Presse.

THE TIMES, 26th. April 1974

Kurds' successes threaten Ba'aths

From DAVID HIRST: Beirut, April 18

The fighting in North Iraq between Kurdish rebels and Government forces is moving closer to that all-out confrontation which, if it does come, will almost certainly produce more dramatic upheavals than any previous round of this perennial conflict.

Not only the ruling Ba'athist regime, but the territorial integrity of Iraq itself, is at stake this time.

Clashes have been occurring for several weeks now, ever since the Government proclaimed its final terms for Kurdish autonomy and the rebel leader Mustapha Barzani rejected them as wholly inadequate.

But Kurdish versions of the latest clashes, and the tone of Radio Kurdistan, suggest that the Government is facing a far bigger threat than it bargained for.

According to the Kurds, the rebels are getting the better of Government forces in areas where, in previous uprisings, they barely had the resources to operate at all.

They have moved far out of their almost impregnable mountain fastness in the north-east and into the central plains. There has been fighting within a few miles of Kirkuk, location of Iraq's biggest oilfields, which the Kurds want to make their regional capital.

In two places the rebels are operating out of areas of Kurdish population within about 70 miles of Baghdad — south of Khaniqin, near the Persian frontier, and at Adham on the road to Kirkuk.

The Government is in danger of losing control of two dams, Dukhan and Darbendikhan, which regulate water flow to a vast region of eastern Iraq. The road to Kirkuk is open, but travellers reportedly have to go in convoys under armed guard.

Another important Kurdish success — not achieved in pre-

vious campaigns — is control of the town of Agra in the north. This is denying the Government the opportunity to exploit the traditional animosity which local tribal leaders have for Barzani.

In the past few days the heaviest fighting has apparently been concentrated on the road between Kirkuk and Suleimaniyah, which the Kurds claim to have cut in three places.

The entire 20,000 population of the town of Chamchamal half way along the road has apparently taken to the hills. According to the Kurds, Government forces have been looting the deserted homes and shops.

They also say that Government forces have begun to shell Kurdish villages in several areas, using artillery rather than planes. The Kurds claim to have already shot down nine jet fighters.

Much of the fighting is reported in daily bulletins on Radio Kurdistan. The radio, one of the most powerful in the Middle East, broadcasts from rebel territory. It can be picked up as far afield as Beirut much more clearly than Radio Baghdad. Its bulletins are impressively detailed.

Radio Kurdistan also puts out straight anti-Government propaganda of an increasingly virulent kind. Its clearly unfolding purpose is to demoralise the army and to encourage it and the Iraqi people to rise in revolt against the Ba'athist regime.

"Democracy for the Arab, autonomy for the Kurds," is its basic refrain, and it flays the undemocratic character of Ba'athism — along with other unsavoury aspects of President Bakr's rule, like the fact that he and an astonishing number of his colleagues come from the small provincial town of Tikrit.

THE GUARDIAN, 19th. April

OTHER NEWS:

OVER 200,000 REFUGEES

As soon as it became clear to the general population that the Ba'th were dragging Iraq into another internal war, many Kurds in areas under Government rule left their jobs and homes and headed for the liberated region in Kurdistan. These Kurds, and a few thousand Arab refugees, total over 200,000 people and their decision to seek protection in the liberated region has overwhelmed the KDP. Many of them have applied to join the Kurdish army, but the KDP does not have enough weapons to arm even a quarter of the volunteers. The refugees include the whole student body of the University of Sulaimanieh, plus 60 professors, 40 doctors, and hundreds of army officers, soldiers and policemen who have bought along their weapons. Feeding and housing the refugees is a big problem, specially since many of them have become ill due to long journeys in the snow. Several children have already died due to frostbite.

"SLAUGHTER & STARVE" FAVOURITE BA'THIST TACTIC

According to the Kurdistan Democratic Party radio, the Voice of Kurdistan, hundreds of women and children have been burnt to death by Napalm-like bombs of the Iraqi Air Force. The Ba'th use Sokhoi-7 Russian bombers — paid for with Kurdish oil — to bomb Kurdish villages inside the liberated region indiscriminately. This region has also been put under economic and medical blockade in order to force its people give up their fight against fascism. As in previous struggles, these draconian measures will not succeed, but they do reveal the inhumanity of Ba'thism and its friends. The KDP, in a broadcast, has invited foreign journalists, United Nations observers and Government representatives from all over the world to go to the liberated region of Kurdistan in order to inspect the atrocities and watch Ba'thism in practice.

PLEASE ADDRESS all enquiries and offers of help to:
The Kurdish Students Society in Europe,
c/o 44, Earl's Court Road, London, W8 6EJ.
Each copy of this bulletin costs 10p.

KSSE-UK annual general meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Kurdish Student Society in Europe United Kingdom Branch was held in London on Sunday 31st March, 1974. More than 80 members were present besides many guests and friendly student organisations.

The recent developments in Kurdistan-Iraq and the unleashing of another Ba'thist military offensive against our people cast a shadow of anxiety over the proceedings. The secretary's report included an outline of the latest developments in Kurdistan and the committee's work in enlightening the student body in this country and the public in general on the plight of the Kurdish people. A full discussion followed the secretary's report which was approved unanimously. The meeting adopted many resolutions regarding the recent

developments in Kurdistan. It also adopted resolutions expressing the society's solidarity with the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America in their struggle for self-determination and the end of all forms of colonialism and racial discrimination.

The last item of the meeting was the election of the new Branch Executive Committee and the meeting ended with the Kurdish National Anthem (Ay-Raqeeb). After the meeting, a seminar was held to discuss the latest developments in Kurdistan. The main speaker was Dr. Shefiq Qazaz, head of the Information Department of the KDP, who gave a detailed account of the situation in the area and the efforts of the Kurdish Revolution to avert the latest war.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE A.G.M. OF KSSE-UK HELD IN LONDON ON 31ST MARCH, 1974

1. The A.G.M. salutes the heroic Pesh Merga, (Kurdish Revolutionary Army,) the defenders of the Kurdish people and integrity of Kurdistan. And respectfully greets the leader of our people General Mustafa Barzani President of the Kurdistan Democratic Party.
2. The A.G.M. calls upon the Governments which rule over the different parts of Kurdistan to recognise the national rights of the Kurdish people and stop their policy of national discrimination against our people.
 - A. In Kurdistan-Turkey: The Turkish authorities deny the existence of the 8 million Kurds in Turkey and this chauvinistic stand is accompanied by a policy of persecution and national discrimination against the Kurdish people's struggle for their rights. The meeting demands that the new Turkish government which claims to be liberal and democratic, to take a new humanitarian stand towards our Kurdish people in Turkey.
 - B. Kurdistan-Syria: The A.G.M. strongly deplores the chauvinistic "Arab belt plan" and the imprisonment and torture of the members of the Central Committee of the Kurdish Democratic Party in Syria, and sees these acts as examples of the fascist policy waged by the Syrian Government against the Kurdish people. The A.G.M. demands the end to these inhuman policies and the immediate release of the members of the Central Committee of the Kurdistan Democratic Party.
 - C. Kurdistan-Iran: The A.G.M. renews its stand by the struggle of our Kurdish people and demands the Iranian government to recognise the national rights of our Kurdish people in Iran.

- D. Iraq: The A.G.M. strongly deplores the chauvinistic policies of the Ba'thist regime in Iraq against the Kurdish people and denounces the unilateral declaration by the Ba'th of a so-called "Autonomy for Kurdistan". The meeting sees this scheme as a means of hiding the evil intentions of the Ba'thist's and as a clear breach and betrayal of the historic 11th March, 1970 Peace Agreement.
3. The A.G.M. expresses its anger and protests against the supply of arms, including poison gas and napalm, by some powers to the Iraqi Government which are sure to be used in the savage war against the Kurdish people.

medical aid for kurdistan

The Annual General Meeting of the Society, beside passing resolutions on general issues, took a number of decisions regarding practical help for our people in their armed struggle against aggression. According to one of these resolutions, the Society is to set up a Medical Aid Committee for Kurdistan. During the previous wars, the Baghdad regimes always imposed a medical as well as an economic blockade on the liberated areas and would not even allow medicines for ordinary ailments to pass through. The medical supplies we received from foreign Red Cross societies, though highly appreciated, were not enough, and this time we must make a concerted effort aimed at improving the situation.

Our aim should be to encourage our sympathizers abroad to set up medical aid committees in their towns, and then act as the liaison between them and the hospitals and clinics in Kurdistan. In the next issue of the Bulletin, when we hope to have

Newroz Celebrations

The Kurdish Students Society in Europe - U.K. Branch - held its annual Newroz celebrations, (the Kurdish National day and New Year) in the Student Union Buildings of the Imperial College, University of London, on 30th March, 1974.

More than 400 people, including many of the society's friends, journalists and members, filled the hall which was decorated with photographs of Kurdistan and General Barzani. There were also posters of the Pesh Merga (the Kurdish revolutionary army) and such slogans as 'Long live Barzani' 'Viva the Pesh Merga', 'Autonomy for Kurdistan' and 'Happy New Year.'

The celebration commenced with the Newroz ballad, the traditional Newroz song. The secretary of the branch then addressed the gathering, thanking the guests for joining the Society and its members in the celebration of their National day. He stated that this year's Newroz has come at a time when our people in Kurdistan-Iraq are facing the threat of yet another bloody military campaign at the hands of the Ba'thist, military dictatorship in Baghdad. He went on to say that the events of the past four years since the 11th March Agreement have now more than ever convinced the Kurdish people of the regimes bad faith. The secretary of the branch concluded his speech by calling on the friends of our people to come to the aid of the Kurdish people during this new ordeal, particularly at a time when it has become known that the Iraqi Regime possesses poison gas and other modern weapons of devastation.

The gathering was then entertained with songs by one of the most famous and renowned singers in Kurdistan, and dances as well including Sye Payee, Cykhany and others.

A film, taken by a member of the society visiting Kurdistan, was shown. Kurdish food was then served during the intermission and flowers were distributed conveying the green and beautiful wild spring during Newroz in the mountains and valleys of Kurdistan. The celebration continued well into the night with everyone joining the Kurdish dancers wearing their colourful costumes with wishes for a happy new year for the Kurdish people and all their friends.

set up the main committee, we shall describe the exact mechanisms by which the whole scheme may operate. Meanwhile, we ask interested readers to inform us of their views and possibilities. It must be pointed out that although the participation of doctors, nurses and pharmacists would be very valuable, medical leaning is not essential and we expect the bulk of the aid to be contributed or gathered by members of the public.