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CENTRE FOR ARAB GULF STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

FEDERATION OF ARAB ENIRATES

AREPORT

Information, Rewearch & Publications Section

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To plan a federal budget and decide each member's state participation in it.

To decide on a permanent centre for the federation.

10. Each government to excercise its soverieghty in internal affairs that do not fall within the orbit of the federation.

11. This agreement could be changed by a decision of the Supreme Council, any alteration to be discussed and agreed on in the subsequent meeting of the Council.

12. This agreement shall become effective on the 30th March 1968.

1st Session of the Supreme Council

The Supreme Council convened its 1st session in Abu Dhabi on 25th May 1969 and held four closed meetings in which some aspects of the Dubai agreement were discussed, such as choice of a chairman and centre for the Federation and the drawing up of the constitution. The Council resumed its meetings on the 6th of July 1968 and Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan was elected Chairman. The Council issued a communique on the 7th July 1968 and adopted the following resolutions:-

- 1. To appoint a constitutional expert to draw up a permanent constitution for the federation with the provision that he completes his task within six months.
- 2. To set up a committee to consist of one member from each Emirate that will liase between the constitutional expert and the Emirates.
- 3. To elect on a rotating basis one of the members of the Barne Council as Chairman for each session. The elected chairman will stay in office until a new chairman is elected in the subsequent session.

- 4. The secsions's chairman referred to in paragraph "3" will be responsible for the following:
 - a. To chair the meetings of the supreme council
 - b. To supervise the taking of minutes.
 - c. To supervise the implementation of the decisions taken by the Council.
 - d. To convene the council at the request of any of its members or for any other argent reason.
- 5. Until such time as a permanent centre is decidedon, the Supreme Council will decide in each session on a venue for its next session.
- 6. To set up a Temporary Federal Council which was appointed as follows:-

Abu Bhabi: Sayyid Ahmad Bin Hamid

Aides : Syd. Khalaf Bin Hamad Attibeh.

Byd. Attibeh Bin Abdullah

Syd. Mchammad Bin Khalifa Bin Mandi.

Bahrain: Syd. Youssef Shirawi.

Aides : Syd. Hohannad Gaber Al. Ansari.

Syd. Jassim Bu'Alay.

Syd. Habib Qassim

Qattar: H.E. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad

Aides: Syd. Ali Al-Ansari

Syd. Ali Al. Jideh.

Dubai: K.E. Sherm. ... Bin Rashid

Aides: Syd. Syd. Ahmed Salim.

Um Al-

Quwein: H.E. Sheikh Sultan Ahmad Al-Keala

Aides: Syd. Rashid Hamid Sultan.

Sharjah: H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Sultan.

Aides: Syd. Mohammed Bin Ubeid Al- Shami

Syd. Tarim Umran

Ras Al-

Khaima: H.E. Sheikh Khaled Bin Sagr.

Aides: Syd. Ahmad Bin Said Bin Ghabash

Syd. Abdullah Bin Ahmad Shirhan

Syd. Mohammed Abdul Rahman Abu Casida.

Al- Pugoira: H.E. Shoikh Hemad Bin Sayf

Aides: Syd. Abdullah Abdul Rahman Bin Faris.

Ajman: E.E. Sheikh Hameid Bin Rashid.

Aides: Syd. Hamad Mohammed Bu Shehab

Syd. Mohammed Rahmat Al- Amiri

Syd. Abdullah Amin.

The duties of the federal council shall be:

- a. To consider the affairs of the union in general
- b. To propose federal laws and to supervise their implementation.
- c. To set up rules and executive decisions for the federal legislation.
- d. To prepare the draft general budget of the federation and to supervise its implementation.
- e. To form the councils, committees, and bodies necessary to assist it in the performance of its duties.
- f. To submit progress reports to the supreme council.
- g. To submit recommendations on the best means to realise the ends stipulated in the Dubai Agreement.

It was agreed that decisions in the Federal Council shall be taken on a two thirds majority basis.

- 7. To request the Federal Council to set up committees for the unification of:
 - a. Currencies
 - b. Postal services
 - c. Federation flag and national anthem.
 - d. Official gazette.
- 8. To deposit 50,000 B) for the implementation of the Council's decisions.
- 9. To approve the election of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamed Al Thani Chairman of the Temporary Federal Council.

2nd Session of the Supreme Council. The Supreme Council held its fourth meeting in Doha, Qatar, on the 20th of October 1968 and elected Sheikh Ahmed Bin Ali Al Thani Ruler of Qatar as Chairman. The Supreme Council issued a communique on the 22nd of October and adopted the following resolutions:-

- 1. To ratify the recommendations of the Foderal Council in setting up the following committees:
 - a. Education Committee centred in Qatar
 - b. Health Committee centred in Bahrain.
 - c. Labour Regulations and Social Welfare Committee centred in Qatar.
 - d. Property Ownership Committee centred in Qatar.
 - e. Trade Committee centred in Dubai.
 - f. Communications Committee centred in Abu Dhabi.
 - g. Carrency and Postal S rvices Committee.
 - h. Immigration and Mationality Committee.
 - i. Federation Flat and National Anthem Committee.

Every member state can have two members in each committee, and each committee has to draw up its own internal regulations and to prepare studies and reports to be submitted to the Supreme Council within three months.

- 2. To set up federal forces consisting of land, naval, and air units with unified training and command. Each member state, however, has the right to establish its sovereign forces which can be integrated in the federation defence system when the need arises. The Council further resolved to appoint two military experts to submit a report on organising the federal defence force.
- 3. To set up a three man committee with members from Abu Dhabi, Bahrein and Qatar to co-operate with Dr. Sanhori, the legal expert, in preparing answers to the questioninaire pertaining to the permanent constitution submitted by Dr. Sanhori.
- 4. To appoint an economic expert who will survey the area in preparation for a comprehensive development plan for the area with priority given to more needy Emirates.
- 5. To grant and council authority to take final decisions in somecases in implementing and to accept the appointment of the following to the Federal Council:

Sayyed June al Majed Dubai Sayyed Majed al Fatim Dubai Sayyed Mabarek Ali al Khater. Qatar. The Supreme Council further issued a declaration in support of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

3rd session The Supreme Council held its fifth meeting in Doha, Qatar on of the the 10th of May 1968 and elected Sheik Ahmed Bin Ali al Thani Supreme Chairman. A communique was issued on the 14th of May, 1969 and the Council. following resolutions were adopted:-

- That the Federation should have a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman to be elected from its members for the period of 2 years which are not immediately renewable.
- 2. That the Federal Council should be replaced by a cabinet consisting of 13 ministers, The Supreme Council has the responsibility of appointing and dismissing ministers and prime ministers. The ministeries created shall be:

Foreign Affairs; Interior Affairs; Defence; Education; Finance, Economics, and Industry; Justice; Public Works; Communications and Agriculture; Labour and Social Welfare; Information; Planning.

The cabinet, acting as the executive branch of the union, shall be responsible before the Supreme Council for the administration of all foreign and internal affairs in accordance with the constitution.

- 3. That the federation shall have one flag for its foreign representation, though each Emirate may keep its own flag.
- 4. That a committee be set up to consist of advisors and legal experts who will prepare a draft constitution in accordance with the principles included above, the committee to conclude its work within two months and to refer its project to an Arab legal expert for his recommendations. The draft temporary constitution must be submitted to the Supreme Council in its next session, and the council shall then elect the Federation chairman and deputy chairman, and set up the Federal Government.
- 5. The council ratified the financial regulations submitted by the Federal Council and resolved to set up an Additing Department to check Accounts.

- 6. The Council studied the report submitted by the military experts concerning federal defence and referred it to a committee that shall submit recommendations concerning the report to the Council in its next session.
- 7. The Comman approved the setting up of two committees:
 - a. Immigration, Passports, and Nationality Committee, centred in Un al Quwein.
 - b. Information Committee, centred in Abu Dhabi.
- 8. The Council discussed the setting up of an Advisory National Council and the question of a Federation Centre and deferred both matters for further discussions. It was decided to hold the next meeting in Abu Dhabi.

THE TEMPORARY FEDERAL COUNCIL

The Temporary Federal Council was set up by a resolution adopted by the Supreme Council on the 7th July, 1968. Its authorities, as defined by the resolution, are as follows:-

- a. To consider the affairs of the union in general.
- b. To propose federal laws and to supervise their implementation.
- c. To set up rules and executive decisions for the federal legislation.
- d. To prepare the draft general budget of the federation and to supervise its implementation.
- e. To form the councils, committees, and bodies necessary to assist it in the performance of its duties.
- f. To submit progress reports to the suprem
- g. To submit recommendations on the best means to realise the ends stipulated in the Dubai Agreement.

It was agreed that the decisions in the Federal Council shall be taken on a two thirds majority basis.

The Temporary Federal Council has held five meetings since its establishment. The first meeting was held in Doha, Gatar on September 8th 1968 to discuss the following matters:-

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- a. Internal Regulations for the Council
- b. The setting up of the various federal committees
- c. The forading an official gazette
- d. Preparing reports on Education, Health, Social Services, Economic Affairs, and Transport.

2nd meeting. The second meeting was held in Sharija on 26th November 1968.

3rd neeting. The third neeting was held on 4th March1969 in which the Council adopted resolutions to unify currencies and postal services and to recommend the setting up of a federal postal agency.

4th neeting. The fourth neeting was held in Ujman on 1st April 1969 and locked into the recommendations of its various committees set up.

The Temporary Council agreed in this meeting on the following:

- 1. To set up a Federal Board of Education.
- 2. To set up a Federal Board of Health.
- 3. To set up a Federal Board of Communications.
- To set up a Committee that will study co-ordination of information services in the federation.

5th meeting. The Temporary Federal Council held its fifth meeting in Doha, Gatar, on 22-23 June 1969 and issued a communique which stated that agreement was reached on the following:

- 1. The setting up of a federal Board of Industry and Commerce.
- Acceptance in principle of the setting up of a Federal Board for Social Welfare.
- 3. The federal Board of Social Welfare was delegated to look into the Federal Labour Law.
- Ratifying the setting up of the Information Committee and the Indigration and Passports Committee.

The Temporary Federal Council further appointed Sir John Willoughby as the federation military expert and appointed with him a military team of advisors consisting of three experts. The Council further wrote to the International Benk for Reconstriction and Devot at asking help in finding an economic expert to conduct an economic survey of the as.

Federal Council Committees.

The Federal Council has set up the following committees:-

- 1. Trade Committee, (2) Prpoerty Ownership, (3) Labour Regulations, and Social Welfare, (4) Defence, (5) Currency, (6) Legal,
- (7) Official Gazette, (8) Liaison (following up) Committee,
- (9) Communications, (10) Members' Renumeration, (11) Information,
- (12) Immigration, Passports, & Nationality, (13) Internal $R_{\rm o}$ gulations,
- (14) Constitution Questionaire Committee and (15) Flag, National Anthem & Motto.

The various Federation Committees held several meetings to study and report on aspects of federal integration. The Liaison Committee was responsible for studying the various reports of the committees and recommending the submitting of resolutions to the Federal Council which in turn would seek the ratification of the Supreme Council.

Legal Committee:

The Legal Cormittee set up by the Supreme Council met on 20th May 1969 and was divided into two subcommittee, one with members from Bahrein, Abu Dhabi, and Qatar, and the second with members from Dubai, Sharija, Ras Al Khaima, Ujman, Um al - Quwein, and Fugira. The committee met again in Abu Dhabi and was able to complete a draft constitution although thre are several points which are left for discussion in the Supreme Council.

Currency Committee: The Liaison Committee recommend the resolutions submitted by the currency committee that:

- 1. The unification of currencies should be effected by a Supreme Council Law based on the Currency / reement signed between Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Qatar and Bahrein in 1965.
- 2. That the Supreme Council should be responsible for the circulation of currencies outside the Federation.

Postal Service Committee: The Liaison Committee decided the following:

- 1. That the Federation should have one Flag and National Anthem for its foreign representation.
- 2. It was suggested that the Federal Council should start a competition for submission of a federation Anthem & Motto.

3. It was noted that the Dubai Agroement does not stipulate the acceptance of one flag in the area and emphasises the soverighty of each Emirate.

Official Gazette: The Federal Council accepted in its meeting in Sharija on 26th November 1968 the Federal Official Gazette project.

Education Committee: The Education Committee submitted to the Federal Council the following recommendations:-

- 1. That the Education committee should be authorised to visit the Oman coast to study the Educational situation in order to submit an overall Education plan. The committee did in fact visit the Coast.
- To set up a committee for the unification of the education syllabi and sch ol books, and classes.
- . 3. To set up a committee for the unification of examinations.
 - 4. To set up a committee for drawing up a unified plan for the obliteration of illiteracy and for adult education.
 - 5. To set up a committee to study the project of a Federation university.
 - 6. To look into school medical services.
 - 7. To spread and diversify vocational and industrial training.
 - 8. To emphasise Teachers' Training.
 - 9. To emphasise cultural development by setting up public libraries and by other methods.
- 10. To emphasise female education.

Health Committee: The Health Committee submitted several recommendations to the Federal Council of which the most important are the following:

- 1. The setting up of Medical units and hospitals in the Enirates.
- 2. The emphasis on preventive health measures.
- 3. The setting up of four Health Centres in the Federation in Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Bahrein, and the Oman Coast.
- 4. Priority in health measures to be given to Emirates lacking in health services.

- 5. The setting up of a technical committee to study health projects in the federation.
- 6. The coordination of health services with neighbouring Arab countries.
- 7. The preparation of a unified Medicine Law.
- 8. The setting up of an administrative organisation that can implement the decisions of the Federal Council.
- 9. The setting up of Health Training Centres.

Trace and Industry Committee: The recommendations of this committee included the following:-

- That nationals should have the freedom to carry out trade activity in any Emirate, with the provision that these activities do no harm local interests.
- 2. To remove custom duty on all industrial and agricultural products within the federation.
- 3. To establish a Free Trade Some in every Emirate.
- 4. To encourage the setting up of public companies with participation from all Emirates.
- To set up a committee to study and unify Customs Regulations.
- 6. To unify weight systems.
- 7. To publish Trade Laws in each Emirate and work towards unifying them at a later date.

The Liaison committee accepted these recommendations and suggested the setting up of a Trade Board similar to the suggested Postal Services Board.

Communications Committee: The Liaison committee studied the communications committee. Recommendations for improving communications and resolved the following:

1. To suggest the setting up of a Communication Board that will be responsible for coordinating communications.

Information Committee: The Information Committee convened on 2nd July, 1969

in Abu Dhabi and agreed on some recommendations which will be submitted to the Federal Council. The recommendations included the setting up of an Information Board, of Federal Radio, and Television services, Federal news Agency, and the training of nationals in the information media as well as the coordination of information policies of the number states of the federation.

The Supreme Council will convene its Fourth Session in Abu Dhabi on the 21st October, 1969.