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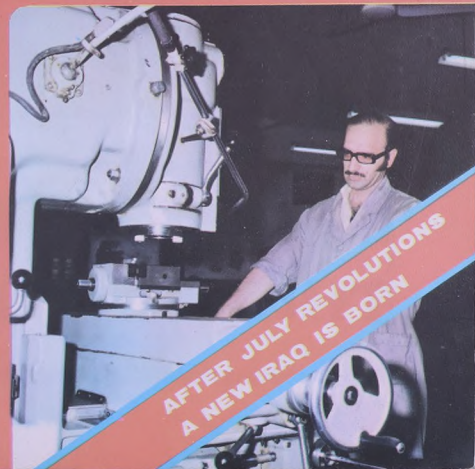
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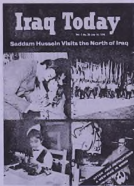
Saddam Hussein Visits the North of Iraq



AFTER JULY REVOLUTIONS
A NEW IRAQ IS BORN



BEAUTY IN THE NORTH OF IRAQ



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Front cover:

The 18th anniversary of July 14, 1958 Revolution, and the 8th anniversary of July 17, 1968 Revolution.

Back cover:

Scene from the North of Iraq.
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EDITORIAL

17th JULY REVOLUTION

The balance sheet of the 17th July Revolution abounds with credits. Each year that passes brings with it achievements of the highest order. The outgoing year witnessed the complete liberation of the national economy which reached its apex in the nationalisation of Basrah Petroleum Company, the last remaining foreign economic stronghold in our country. Should one go on to enumerate the credit items, one could cite the reigning stability and the rule of law, two aspects unfortunately lacking in many other parts of the world. Full employment, which goes in hand with a quick budget for the current year, is transforming Iraq, in record steps, into a welfare society where every citizen enjoys the benefits of national income.

However, the national leadership, recognising that Iraq is only one region of the Arab homeland, has not confined its attention to it to the exclusion of every other region. On the contrary, armed with a clear vision of what the future of the whole nation should be, the national leadership has been indefatigably consolidating the desire of the Arab people in the eventual unification with tangible and practical measures. Its stand with regard to the Lebanese fighting proved by recent events to be the sound one. Its treatment of every Arab as full Iraqi citizen is paving the way for the materialisation of one Arab identity long conceived as an ideal far removed from reality.

No one could pretend that the end of the road of unity and prosperity has been reached nor that the realisation of all aspirations is round the corner. But, judged by the difficulties already surmounted and the feats accomplished by the leadership, there is justifiable reason to hope that in the years to come more constructive steps will be taken by the men and women whose courage and creativeness have always been true to our expectations.



Leaders of the Arab Baath Socialist Party — from left: Michael Aflaq, Shibly al-Aysami, Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr and Saddam Hussein

THE FOUNDATIONS OF JULY 17 REVOLUTION

by our Political Analyst

In a given society a revolutionary situation is considered to be ripe when (a) the ruling class becomes totally isolated from the disillusioned broad masses of people, (b) the oppressed and exploited people become subjectively prepared for a drastic change and (c) a party, armed with a revolutionary ideology and organisationally capable of carrying out the task of revolution, develops. Among these three factors the most decisive is the third one without which a revolutionary situation may degenerate into chaos paving the way for a counter-revolutionary take-over.

In Iraq all the above-mentioned three conditions developed fully on the eve of the revolution of July 17, 1968. The ruling classes that came to power after the revolutions of the July 14, 1958, and February 8, 1963, failed to live up to the expectations of the people. A more reactionary take-over was staged on November 18, 1963, when the regime took recourse to total suppression of the

revolutionary and democratic forces in order to cover up its shortcomings and failures.

These regimes that came to power riding on the crest of the revolutionary urge of the people failed to solve the antagonistic contradiction of society in Iraq as well as on pan-Arab level.

In Iraq where semi-feudal and semi-colonial relations of production existed, the contradictions that needed to be resolved urgently were the contradictions between the backward peasantry and the traditional feudal elements, between the working class and the semi-capitalist owners of means of production and between the whole people and the neo-colonialist foreign exploiters of the oil resources and their handful of native collaborators — the comprador-bourgeoisie.

On the pan-Arab field the main antagonism that called for solution without delay was the antagonism between the Arab people as a whole and imperialist-Zionist aggressors who had fragmented the Arab homeland to perpetuate their domination and usurped the Arab land of Palestine by physical occupation.

FAILURES OF TWO REVOLUTIONS

The revolution of 1958 achieved a great success in overthrowing the monarchy, the main defender of the feudal relations of production and social backwardness. But it failed to bring about an agrarian revolution that could have freed the peasants from the shackles of feudalism and unleash their productive initiative and remove their age-old backwardness. The leaders of the revolution flumbled at a stage when their own class interest came in conflict with the interest of the peasantry in general.

The regime which did not intend to carry the revolution through to the end, sought to lull the peasantry by partial reforms. The Law No. 30 on agricultural reform was issued to limit the ceiling of land holdings. As a result small and medium sized ownerships increased greatly. The pulls of feudal elements on the leadership resulted in misuse and misinterpretation of the law which underwent many amendments only to serve the feudal interest. Huge sums of money were paid to the expropriated landowners in the name of justice. But no steps were taken to mete out justice to the peasantry who were subjected to injustice of all sorts for ages. As a result their lot did not improve and they became growingly disenchanted with the revolution.

During the period following the February 8, 1963, Revolution and the counter-revolutionary push of November 18, 1963, the feudal influence, though theoretically destroyed, remained very strong as a result of the misapplication of the land reform law. The small holdings sector was weak and unproductive. Farmers lacked capital and inputs. Marketing expertise and facilities remained beyond their reach. Their miseries mounted because of the influence of users who represented feudal interests in rural society. A new relationship based on exploitation appeared as a result of leasing out lands by the impoverished tillers of the land to the feudal and bourgeois classes. As a result the number of landless peasants increased in the country-side and an exodus of such peasants to cities ensued. This situation further defeated the purpose of land reform and agricultural productivity touched a new low, turning a self-sufficient Iraq into an importer of foodstuff.

With regard to the task of resolving the contradictions between labour and capital in order to unfracture the forces of industrial productions, the 1958 regime took some bold and progressive steps. The vital sectors of economy were brought under state ownership and measures were taken to build a new industrial infrastructure. But these commendable steps did not yield the desired results due to the influence of bureaucratism. Maladministration rendered many projects uneconomic. No measures

were taken to prepare skilled and politically motivated cadres who could run these public sector enterprises efficiently. As a result national economy suffered from stagnation and the working class found themselves in fresh chains of bureaucratic oppression and exposed to the exploitation of state capitalism.

In the pan-Arab field the 1958 regime, which successfully pulled down the headquarters of imperialist conspiracies by overthrowing the seat of greater unity among the Arab countries, Regional chauvinism blinded the vision of the leadership. The cause of Arab unity was sought to be sacrificed at the altar of personal glory.

The revolution was thus finally betrayed. The antagonism between the rulers and the ruled became acute, and the inevitable result was the overthrow of the regime on February 8, 1963, by the mixed forces of progress and reaction. The reactionary elements of the new regime consolidated their position by another campaign on November 18 taking the advantage of the weakness of the main political party, The Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP), that could have changed the wind in favour of the progressive forces.

During the intervening period from 1958 to 1963, the masses of the people became more conscious of their rights. The propaganda work of the Arab Baath Socialist Party and other progressive parties and groups among the people in the field of ideology enhanced their political consciousness tremendously. So, the 1963 regime also had to undertake a number of progressive measures in order to mitigate the sufferings of the peasantry and working class. In industrial field the regime undertook to increase the dominance of the public sector. Many large and middle-sized industries were nationalised. But as these progressive steps were not taken from any ideological motivation, the bourgeois class successfully undermined them through corrupt and class-conscious rightist bureaucrats. Mismanagement and manipulation robbed the nationalisation measures of their progressive content. The public sector, instead of becoming the mainstay of national economy, turned into a heavy burden on the state and a drain on the public exchequer.

NEW REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION

Consequently, the 1963 regime also failed to fulfil the aspirations of the people who felt the need for a genuine revolutionary change in all fields. And the main revolutionary party, the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP), which by now had gathered sufficient strength, was prepared to perform the role of a midwife for ushering in a new era with the aim of rectifying the mistakes of the past regimes and build up a new, industrially independent and

socialist Iraq capable of realising the strategic objectives of Arab Revolution of Unity, Freedom and Socialism.

The ABSP, which was born in the background of the fragmentation of the Arab homeland under the Anglo-French conspiracy hatched through the British civilian, Sir Mark Sykes and French diplomat M. Georges Picot and the Zionist-US imperialist schemings of implementing the Balfour Declaration, steered itself through the hard and arduous struggle and in the process found out the correct ideology for the emancipation of Arab masses and for fulfilling their aspirations. Its long-term aims of realising Unity, Freedom and Socialism caught the imagination of the people and its perseverance in imagination of Palestine and recovery of other occupied Arab lands endeared itself to the rank and file of the Arab revolutionary fighters. For historical, theoretical and practical reasons the ABSP emerged as the vanguard party of the Arab Revolution.

The Party's ideology is characterised by two fundamental qualities; it is scientific and it is revolutionary. The scientific quality of the Party ideology has made it possible for the ABSP to reject any ready-made frameworks to be transplanted on the Arab soil and seek solution of social contradictions on the basis of the reality in relation to objective and subjective conditions obtaining in Arab society. The accumulated revolutionary experience of mankind serves as beacon light to the party for arriving at its goal.

The revolutionary nature of the Party ideology has led the ABSP to base all its social and economic analysis on dialectical logic which affirms that there exist contradictions in Arab national society and there are struggles among the antagonistic classes in that society. The class struggle in Arab national society is characterised by an endeavour to achieve two objectives at the same time — forging Arab national unity and eliminating exploitation.

The Party believes that these contradictions will not be resolved spontaneously, nor can they be overcome by the goodwill of well-meaning reformers, nor by partial reforms within the framework of the present society. The change-over from one social system to another, particularly in the backward countries, cannot be achieved gradually, but by a bold stroke which brings about a qualitative change in the existing social structure.

ABSP'S STRATEGIC LINE

On the basis of the above ideological foundation, the ABSP has embarked on the course of its struggle to shape the Arab destiny. As no bourgeois-democratic revolution has preceded the Arab revolution and as the Arab revolutionary movement developed during the era of socialist revolution, the Party's strategic task enjoins upon it to accomplish three revolutions at one and the same time. These are:

- (a) a scientific and cultural revolution at the intellectual level to rid the masses of people of their medieval mentality which impedes their forward movement and hinders the development of their creative faculties;
- (b) a revolution at the economic level to replace feudal and semi-capitalist relations of production by socialist relations so as to free the forces of production, both at the rural and urban areas, of their shackles which are inconsistent with the social need for an economic upsurge; and
- (c) a revolution against the fragmentation of the Arab homeland and its reactionary consequences and manifestations.

REVOLUTIONARY BASE AREA

Remaining totally committed to the strategic task of accomplishing the above-mentioned revolutions on pan-Arab level, the Party considers it tactically important to assume power in one or any Arab country, taking into consideration the requirements of strengthening the base area of revolution. The counter-revolutionary putsch of November 18, 1963, in Iraq and the subsequent repressions suffered by the revolutionary masses and Party cadres both in Iraq and Syria made it absolutely necessary for the Party to work for assumption of power in any Arab country where conditions permit to save the revolution from white terror and attempt at liquidation.

In Iraq this repression further isolated the regime from the people. The crucial stage came after the June 5, 1967, defeat when vast Arab areas were occupied by the Zionist-imperialist aggressors. The people were no longer prepared to live with deception, disgrace and humiliation.

The ABSP found the Iraqi soil most fertile for a decisive revolutionary stroke. The party had by now emerged stronger, both organisationally and ideologically, in the face of ruthless suppression. Workers, peasants and revolutionary soldiers were organised under the leadership of the party to undertake the task of accomplishing the revolution based on the ideology and aims of the Party.

The moment of decisive strike came at 3 a.m. on July 17, 1968. The party succeeded in seizing power in Baghdad. By 3 p.m. of July 30, 1968, the party firmly consolidated its position. Since then the Revolution of July 17, 1968, has been marching forward towards realising the aims of Unity, Freedom and Socialism making its base area, Iraq, an impenetrable bastion of Arab Revolution. The mistakes of the regimes of 1958 and 1963 stand as negative examples before the 1968 Revolution. And the correct-theoretical conceptions acquired through years of struggle serve as its solid foundations.



Masses welcoming Mr. Hussein

SADDAM HUSSEIN MEETS PEOPLE IN NORTHERN REGION

Autonomous Area Being Developed Along With Whole Of Iraq

The Kurdish issue has played a considerable part in the life of Iraqis, whether Kurds or Arabs. The faithful nationalists spared no effort to preserve and maintain the national unity, irrespective of race or culture. But others, acting on orders from imperialists, endeavoured to split this sacred unity.

Last year, however, the alliance of the Kurds with their Arab brothers resulted in the renegade clique, led by agent Mustafa Barazani who desperately attempted to hinder the implementation of the autonomy in the Kurdish region, being liquidated for good. Consequently stability and normal conditions of life returned to the area while the economic and living situations have been flourishing.

With the restoration of normal conditions to the area special care and attention have been devoted by the central government to reconstruct the region with concentration on providing promising economic life. Since the actual functioning of the autonomy in the area, several visits have been made by Party and Cabinet members to observe on the spot the progress of the development of the north.

The most important visit following the collapse of the renegade clique is the one made recently by Revolution Command Council Vice-Chairman Mr. Saddam Hussein, from July 5 to 8.

On his tour of the northern area Mr. Saddam Hussein was accompanied by RCC member and Minister of Communications

REPORT

Mr. Saoudun Ghaidan, RCC member and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Dr. Izzat Mabout, RCC member and Minister of Works and Housing Mr. Taha al-Jazrawi, the Chief of Army General Staff and a number of Party and Cabinet members.

The tour covered the governorates of Nineveh, al-Tamim (formerly Kirkuk) Sulaimaniyah, Duhok and Arbil. In each governorate Mr. Hussein had meetings with local officials, leaders of popular organizations and public figures.

Mr. Hussein, in statements he made during his visit, emphasized on the faith of the political leadership in autonomy. "When the political leadership decided to establish autonomy in the northern area, its decision was not incidental nor circumstantial. We, the Iraqis, have to prove to the Arab nation and the whole world that our faith in autonomy is deeply rooted in our conscience and that development of the autonomous region should be in keeping with the development of the whole of Iraq" Mr. Hussein indicated.

"We are very keen to meet you directly in order to acquaint ourselves with your opinions and your thinking concerning the path we should pursue and the way we should work with you for the development of the area and for offering more services to its sons".

Mr. Hussein added that "the previous circumstances in the area were very severe and bitter.



At the office of the Iraqi Company for Oil Operations

The honest citizens of our people stood with full strength to defend the land and the result was that goodwill triumphed over the ill-will".

Throughout his tour of the northern area the RCC Vice-Chairman was met by thousands of citizens who had lined the streets to greet his procession and express their loyalty to the Revolution of 17th July and its leaders. The inhabitants carried slogans hailing and supporting the wise stance and policy of the political leadership of the ABSP.

Earlier, six cabinet ministers paid a several-days visit to the

area to observe execution of the numerous development projects and acquaint themselves with the needs of the local administrators and inhabitants.

The six ministers were, the Minister of Home Trade, Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Minister of Municipalities, Minister of Awqaf (Religions Endowments), Minister of Education and Minister of Health.

While there, the ministers held a series of meetings with local officials and discussed with them the best ways and means for developing the area. Particular emphasis was laid by Mr. Mahjoub, Minister of Education, on

raising the standard of education and teaching, with a view to making it reaching the level aspired by the Revolution. Similarly Dr. Hussein, Health Minister, inspected health institutions of the area to know their needs and requirements for medical supplies and buildings, while the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, conferred with the officials responsible for implementation of agrarian reform acts and projects. During the meeting it was decided that a plan be set up to make available to the inhabitants needed foodstuff and complete the projects of raising livestock and those projects connected with agricultural production.



Mr. Hussein meeting with religious men in the North

Iraq Lends Total Support To Revolutionary Movements

LIBERATION OF OCCUPIED PALESTINE CENTRAL TASK

BY OUR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR

Since assuming power in Iraq in 1968, the leadership of the July 17 Revolution, guided by the strategic objectives of the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP), has been lending total support to national liberation movements in Asia and Africa. In general and the liberation of occupied Palestine in particular. In doing so the revolutionary leadership has successfully linked up the Arab liberation struggle with the main current of world revolutionary movements for national independence and against imperialism, Zionism, racism and all forms of colonial and neo-colonial subjugation and exploitation.

By objective and dialectic analysis of the situation the leadership of the July 17 Revolution has set before itself the task of liberating occupied Palestine as the central issue in the Arab liberation struggle. Therefore, the recovery of all Arab territories occupied by the Zionist-imperialist enemy subsequent to the occupation of Palestine is vitally dependent upon the liberation of Palestine.

There are some quarters who are inclined to welcome partial concessions based on the acceptance of the UN resolutions 242 and 338. Iraq is opposed to this kind of peaceful and partial solutions as these so-called settlements envisage the recognition of the Zionist entity and lend legitimacy to all Zionist aggressions prior to 1967. Sounding a note of warning against such a trap, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, in his address to the nation delivered last year on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the July 17 Revolution, said:

"Grave deception is contained in it as it ignores the Arab rights in Palestine portraying the question as though it had started in 1967, pretending to forget that the present generation has rejected from the beginning, the Zionist occupation of Palestinian soil, that this generation has been fighting for long years to get it liberated, and that what happened in 1967 had been caused by the occupation of 1948".

The policy being pursued by Iraq on this issue does not stem from the desire to dogmatically adhere to a particular position. Nor does Iraq harbour any intention to outhered Herod and thereby embarrass some others. As President Bakr explains the basis of this policy in course of the above-mentioned address:

"It is the product of two fundamental considerations; the first is that the Zionist entity, by its very nature, by its organic connection with imperialism, and by assuming the role of its commissioner in this sensitive area, could not be but aggressive and expansionist. The second consideration is that the Arab nation is not incapable of attaining all its legitimate rights wherefore it would renounce some of those rights in order to obtain others".

The Iraqi leadership does not set for the Arab nation impossible tasks. The history of the Arab nation is the history of glorious struggles against domination. Temporary setbacks have failed to extinguish the flame of fighting spirits in them. The situation today is much more favourable to the Arab strugglers than in the past. President Bakr in his aforementioned address takes note of all these factors while proclaiming his confidence in the ulti-

mate Arab victory for liberating Palestine not through capitulation or surrender, but through struggle. He says:

"With the big human, economic and military resources it possesses and the position it occupies in the international community, the Arab nation is not weak, is not incapable of combatting the Zionist aggression, as portrayed by elements colluding with imperialism and those who have little confidence in the ability and the possibilities of their nation. Mobilising these energies of the nation, or any important part of them, bringing them together within the framework of a militant and serious long-term plan, utilising all available circumstances and establishing international relations corresponding to the strategic target, will enable the nation to attain its objectives of complete liberation. If it was not possible to fully attain that strategic target within any particular stage, the nation may undertake significant steps on the road leading thereto, without being forced to resign neither that objective nor its historical rights".

The leadership of the 1968 Revolution in Iraq does not rest content with formulating objectives only. In order to translate these formulations into practice, the leadership takes adequate and concrete steps. These practical measures include the offer of committing Iraqi troops to battle on the Syrian territory for the immediate formation of a northern military front against the enemy. The Iraqi troops have already been sent to the border with Syria so that they will be able to fulfill their pan-Arab responsibilities as soon as the Damascus regime will allow them to take up their positions at the Golan Heights. The leadership has also called for opening the Jordanian front and suggested that both the Jordanian and Egyptian fronts should be sustained by multiple Arab economic and military supplies.

In any struggle for national liberation the most decisive role is played by the people. Establishing friendly regimes and other allies can augment the efforts undertaken by the people themselves. In the case of Palestine, the situation is no different. On behalf of the Government and the political leadership, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, without any pretension, recognises this historical truth and highly commends the part being played by the people of Palestine for the liberation of their country. President Bakr says:

"International understanding of the Palestinian issue is stronger and wider today than it was to be, by virtue of the struggle of the Palestinian

people themselves, their great sacrifices and the role of the Palestinian resistance movement".

During the post-revolution period Iraq has established organic links with the anti-imperialist forces the world over through its active participation in the movement of Non-aligned countries. It has also developed cooperation with other Third World countries for peace and security and for curbing the economic hegemony of the industrially developed nations.

The revolutionary regime of Iraq has been supporting the national liberation struggle of Arab and African peoples since it came to power in 1968. In Asia the peoples of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos have received an all-out support from the Iraq leadership during their liberation struggles. The people of Korea have found in Iraq a strong ally in their struggle for erasing the traces of imperialist aggression of 1950. In Africa, similarly, the peoples of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea Bissau received from Iraq all possible help in their struggle for national independence.

The revolutionary regime of Iraq has been extending economic assistance to the newly independent countries of the Third World in accordance with the Party's strong belief that the role of a country supporting a national liberation movement does not end at the stage when the movement assumes political power. The struggle for economic reconstruction is as hard as the struggle for independence, if not more. Moreover, where a newly independent country will change its colour or not depends largely on whether it can build a strong base for national economy. Neo-colonial forces stage a comeback by hitting at the soft belly of economic distress. So, Iraq's twin policy of supporting the national liberation movements and assisting the economic recovery of newly independent countries is consistent with the Baath Party's genuine concern for the real triumph of national liberation movements.

The peoples who are still fighting for their national independence, such as the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Eritrea, are looking forward to Iraq as a trusted friend and the leadership of Iraq has lived up to the expectations of these freedom fighters.

Since the July 17 Revolution of 1968, Iraq has emerged not only as a bastion of Palestine liberation movement, but also as a stronghold of all peoples who have been fighting for national independence and economic reconstruction.

by Kamal Butti

THE NATIONAL FRONT: EDIFICE OF THE UNITY OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES

The birth of the National Front in Iraq constitutes a unique event in the political history of the country as it represents an ever-sought-after aim of national solidarity and national unity, and the strengthening of alliance with all progressive forces throughout the world. The agreement on the Na-

lysis of the internal, Arab and international conditions as it was issued during the critical stage which was characterised by the challenges of the monopolist foreign oil companies operating in Iraq, and the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary conspiracies in the Arab area.



Mr. Saddam Hussein chairing one of the meetings of the Front

tional Action Charter and the rules of work of the Progressive Patriotic and National Front signed by the Arab Baath Socialist Party and the Iraqi Communist Party on the eve of 17 July 1973 and later joined by the Kurdish Democratic Party and progressive nationalists and democrats is considered a bright landmark in the process of a serious and sincere work for the collaboration of all patriotic parties and forces in the country in confronting the dangers threatening the very existence of the Arab liberation movement and in building up a socialist democratic society.

The Arab Baath Socialist Party, which has shouldered the task of the revolutionary changes in Iraq on the 17th and 30th of July 1968 and the responsibility of political power, has stressed on all occasions the importance of cooperation between the progressive patriotic forces in order that they may perform their positive role in building the country and in accelerating the revolutionary march both in the internal struggle for a better future and the Arab struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

The National Action Charter, which was announced on 15 November 1971, is the foundation stone on which the National Front was built. Its major objectives were the intensification of the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

Furthermore, the Charter is considered a political document of great importance in the modern history of Iraq because of its deep correct ana-

lysis of the internal, Arab and international conditions as it was issued during the critical stage which was characterised by the challenges of the monopolist foreign oil companies operating in Iraq, and the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary conspiracies in the Arab area.

The Charter also included a special stress on strengthening the ties with the socialist community and freedom-seeking countries and movements; also on the peaceful and democratic solution of the Kurdish issue according to the March 11 Manifesto of 1970; laying down the foundations for a national oil industry; application of progressive land reform and expansion of the public sector; commitment to revolutionary culture; and the enactment of legislations which serve the interests of the toiling masses and ensure their rights.

The rich experience of national struggle in Iraq over the past fifty years, has underlined the fact that the people were able to achieve great victories when the patriotic and progressive parties and forces were united in fronts, and whenever these fronts were dissolved, for one reason or another, they were doomed to grave defeats and setbacks. Joint action between the various Arab, Kurdish and other nationalities, constituted a rich resource for the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction, and for realising the national and pan-Arab aspirations of the people. Through the National Front the people are being mobilised in effective militant form, thus unleashing their energies for creative work internally and on the pan-Arab level.

The National Front is a pool of all nationalities within the homeland to continue the national struggle. The common struggle was a

by the forces participating in the Front has by its nature, the effect of creating better conditions for cementing the traditions and relationships of fraternal cooperation and reinforcing mutual trust between those forces.

Drawing its political line from the National Charter, the Front's policy in the Arab field is determined by the full and effective participation in Arab Liberation Movement aimed at liquidating all forms of imperialism and combating zionism and reaction. The Front is dedicated to:

1. All-out struggle against imperialism and its influence, interests and mainstays; liberation of all parts of the Arab territories from imperialism; firm opposition to the direct or indirect foreign infiltration into the Arab homeland.

2. Opposition to any foreign attempt aimed at usurping, subjugating or slicing off any part of the Arab homeland, and protecting the Arabian Gulf from outside interference.

3. Struggle for the attainment of Arab unity, having full confidence in the masses as they are the effective instrument in moulding the process of historical unity.

4. Struggle against zionism as an aggressive racist movement, and its settler, expansionist, fascist and reactionary entity and ideology. Work towards enabling the Palestinian Arab people to return to their homes and determine their destiny on their liberated land. In addition condemn all settlements and projects aimed at liquidating the Palestine cause by partial solutions.

5. Bolstering the Palestinian resistance and offering it the required assistance for enabling it to achieve the unity of its detachments and freedom of action for the aims of the Palestinian Arab people.

6. Achievement of unity of joint action among all revolutionary and progressive forces, both on the official and popular levels, in the Arab homeland, for the preparation of the biggest and most effective means and resources in the struggle against imperialism, zionism and reaction.

7. Enhancement of militant solidarity with the Arab Gulf countries and wherever the struggle for liberation erupts as this struggle is organically linked with that against imperialism, and for liberation and unity.

The Front believes that the unity of action of the Arab countries, and the mobilisation of their efforts and potentials in the struggle against aggressive intrigues and scheming of imperialism, zionism and the reactionary forces, together with their closer cooperation with the socialist countries, are the major prerequisites for successful struggle against Zionist-imperialist aggression. Thus, the Front advocates armed struggle on the popular and official levels, whether on the Palestinian front or in any unruptured part of the homeland, as the national task to attain ultimate Arab objectives.

As to foreign policy, the Front holds that the revolutionary movement in Iraq is part of the world anti-imperialist revolutionary movement. It identifies Iraq as being aligned with the camp of the peoples fighting against imperialism, aggression, and racial discrimination; support for the world liberation movements, enhancement and consolidation of cooperation and alliance with the progressive forces throughout the world and the socialist countries in particular; and supporting the cause of freedom and world peace.

The Front adheres in its foreign policy to:

1. Rejection of all forms of dependence; support the right of self-determination for nations and peoples; and condemnation of the policies of aggression, usurpation, racism and racial discrimination.

2. Opposition to aggressive military alliances, plans and blocs, and of the imperialist policies endangering the security and safety of peoples and jeopardising world peace.

3. Enhancement and development of relations with the patriotic and national liberation movements particularly of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and with the progressive workers' and popular movements in Europe and the United States; and the enhancement of the role of Iraq in the struggle for achieving the unity of the anti-imperialist forces.

4. Building up relations of friendship and cooperation with all states towards supporting Arab national issues.

5. Active participation in the struggle of mankind for achieving peace based on justice, warding off the danger of war, banning the use of mass destruction weapons, and relaxation of international tension in a manner ensuring the basic rights of all peoples of the world.

Towards the aforementioned objectives, the National Front was able, over the past three years, to translate these objectives as witnessed by the multi-sided contacts with world progressive forces, movements and parties, supporting their causes and obtaining their support for Arab causes, in addition to effectively contributing in implementing autonomy rule to the Kurdish people in northern Iraq, supporting the Lebanese patriotic front and the Palestinian Resistance in their struggle against the imperialist and reactionary intrigues in Lebanon.

The rise of the National Front in Iraq has come in response to a cherished wish which had been called and struggled for by all the progressive parties and forces in the country. It has come also as a living response to the requirement of deepening and consolidating the July 17, 1968 Revolution completing the march of the July 14, 1958 Revolution; and attaining the national and pan-Arab objectives of unity, liberty and social progress.

17 JULY REVOLUTION Historical Task Accomplished

by Moheyyeddin Ismail

Now it is obvious enough that the 17th July Revolution has been the beginning of a new era unprecedented in modern Arab history.

The political leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, as an advanced detachment, has won through this great revolutionary event a decisive victory in crushing all the reactionary forces in Iraq which were for a long time against the interests and aspirations of the oppressed people.

Initiated and steered by the political leadership, the Revolution shouldered all-out responsibilities with energetic efforts to put an end to the infamous previous sloth regimes under which a sharp decline was obvious in every aspect of life in Iraq.

Immediately prior to the 17th July Revolution the previous regime was in a state of complete political paralysis and in its last days was in a natural state of moribund.

Political lethargy, irrationalism, absence of planning, social welter of confusion and attempts to realise temporary and false class conciliation, all these and others were the factors which worked to produce deep contradictions and tensions in the society. But together with all these evil consequences of the past, there was the intentional and deliberate negligence of the central issue of the Arab nation: The Palestinian Question. So the creation of a new life was a weighty major task. The political leadership, from the very beginning of the Revolution, began to work heart and soul to eradicate all the lamentable throes and agonies of the past.

With assiduity and perseverance and without losing sight of realities and facts, the political leadership paved the revolutionary path in order to hew out the destiny of the Arab nation through the struggle for achieving the strategic aims of Arab unity, freedom and socialism. Here we must

not forget that the ABSP ideology believes in the human free will and the ability of man to formulate his life. This ideology does not relieve man of responsibility in his society. This is the central point of the revolutionary ethics of the ABSP ideology which believes in the free will of man and the ability of man to hew out his destiny. This explains to us why the political leadership refuses, by will and by reason, the "stepping-back policy" which is sometimes unavoidable for some other ideologies.

The political leadership, out of this concept which does not let things and events take the ordinary process, but the revolutionary one, believes that victory is always in store for this nation and its just revolutionary cause.

● Iraq during these eight years, under the leadership of the ABSP could frustrate successfully all the imperialist and reactionary violent plots and attempts to restore their political and economic interests and ends. It has launched a vigorous struggle to defend the rights of the Arab nation at large.

● It could, in an exemplary way, lay down the firm foundations of the ideological fortress for the Arab revolution, and by this it has highlighted the efficacy of revolutionary free will in building up new societies and carrying the causes of the peoples to success.

● It could, with colossal success, cement solidarity with all the progressive forces in the world and promote friendly relations with all the peoples, in a creative revolutionary activity.

A great leap forward has taken place in the life of the Arab nation with the advent of the 17th July Revolution which paved the way for a great upsurge in the Arab liberation movement on all fronts of struggle...

It is a step-up in modern Arab history.

FEATURES



Agrarian Revolution Ushers In New Era In Rural Iraq

From the time of the Sumerians and the Babylonians, Iraq has been known for its agricultural wealth and economy. In addition to the rain in the northern area of the country, the Tigris and the two rivers — the Tigris and the Euphrates running the length of the country from time immemorial) gave a very fertile and agricultural soil.

In modern Iraq, too, agriculture plays an important role in the country's economy. After the 17th, July 1968 Revolution, many measures were taken with a view to promoting and developing this sector of the economy. The bases of the agricultural policy in Iraq may be summarized as follows:

1. To materialize a radical agrarian reform in the Iraqi rural areas, and to eliminate feudal agricultural ownership and semi-feudal relations by enforcing the Agrarian Reform Law No. 117 of 1970.

2. To expand the socialist ownership sector by purely state owned farms, collective farms and agricultural cooperatives, and developing them in all aspects.

3. To achieve full coordination and integration between agriculture and industry in order to provide the greater part of raw material needed by the national industry on the one hand and for trading purposes on the other.

4. To eliminate other rural exploitations, high rates of interest loans and commercial exploitation in particular. This may be done by restricting agricultural marketing and loans to the public sector and the cooperatives or gradually.

5. To eliminate out-dated social and tribal relations and customs and ideas prevailing in the rural areas, and to spread socialist culture among the farmers.

6. To reinforce the woman's role in the agricultural promotion, freeing her from suppression, servitude to which she was subjected.

7. To comprehensively develop the rural areas economically, socially, culturally and the gradual elimination of differences between the countryside and urban areas.

Science and Technology in Agriculture:

Scientific agricultural planning which is of paramount importance to promote agriculture is very complicated even in developed countries, but the problems in the developing countries are even greater. The use of very high technique is a necessity. Mechanization, the use of plastic and glass houses and covered and uncovered trenches and drains, and the preparing and training of technical

personnel, the education and the raising of the standard of living of the farmers themselves are all important.

In fact water and the farmers are the two classical and basic elements needed by agriculture. The laying down of a balanced water policy is necessary for the maximum scientific use of water available and the removal of salination by proper drainage systems.

Iraq can make use of the technological approach in agriculture which involves among other things, the introduction of remote detection by space satellites; aerial photography of agricultural areas by using the various channels of infra-red rays in order to know the type of plants, areas cultivated, damaged plants and diseases, reclaimed and salinated lands, and also for fertilizing purposes. Iraq has also started to experiment artificial drying of some seeds in the middle Euphrates and Maysan (a governorate in the south coast of the country) with a view to providing abundant quantities of seeds. This process is closely connected with the vitality of the seeds and saving them from deterioration and destruction.

Agricultural Land Ownership:

As a step towards the complete state appropriation, state owned farms and agricultural cooperatives are being developed and their number increased to reach 1635 in membership and has gone up to 240,000 farmers covering over 17.5 million donoms of land (a donum is 2500 m²). The number of mutual cooperatives is 173; the number of local cooperatives has reached 1218; the member-

ship of the production cooperatives of the joint cooperatives is now 207932 farmers and the area of their land being 13 million donoms; the number of collective cooperatives now stands at 78 with 10614 members and their land area is 600,000 donum roughly.

As an emphasis on cooperatives a new draft law of the agricultural cooperatives was one of the subjects on the agenda of the June 1976 Second Conference on Cooperatives in Baghdad in order to arrive at the best method for strengthening and developing the cooperative movement with a view to effectively contributing to the social transformation in the countryside. The tasks of the General Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives are to take part in the general agricultural planning in Iraq, to supervise the execution of the decisions taken with a view to arrive at the best formula in production process in order to raise the standard of the cooperatives and their members.



Peasants working under the supervision of agricultural guides

Agricultural land appropriation and the limits laid down by the Agrarian Reform Law No. 117 of 1975, are near completion as well as the areas appropriated in the autonomy rule region under Law No. 90 of 1975. The distribution of lands following the appropriation is now under way. The area covered in that region is 5 million donoms of which some 1,300,000 donoms have been distributed among some 60,000 families.

Dates and Palm Trees

Iraq is well farmed in both dates and palm trees. It has 30% of all palm trees of the world and produces 22% of the world's dates output. About 70% of Iraq dates are exported. A research centre for palm trees and dates already exists. Specialized sections for dates and palm trees are established at the Directorate General of Horticulture and at Baghdad and Basrah Universities. For the purpose of future scientific research and development some 10, 30 million will be raised in connection with dates growing. It is also important to note that the regional conference of Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) recently decided to establish a regional

palm trees and dates institute in Iraq.

Land Reclamation

As for land reclamation Iraq faces the problem of land salinity. Untriting efforts are, therefore, being put to properly tackle this problem which manifests itself in central and southern Iraq and adversely affects agriculture. The desalination project involves great government spending which in itself is detrimental to the country's economy. Iraq's measure in this respect is based on an integrated policy of irrigation networks and drainage system.

Mixed Projects

In so far as mixed agricultural-industrial projects are concerned Iraq intends to establish an integrated agricultural-industrial project at Dujailah in Wasit Governorate covering 92000 donoms of land. The project will embrace the preparation of the drawings and designs, surveying, building irrigation and drainage networks, automatic control, building folds for 17000 cows and 70,000 sheep,

and road building. The agricultural density of the project will, in its first stage, be 192%.

Forests in Iraq

Forests in Iraq are plenty. Timber is used as construction material and for furniture. Other uses include paper industry rayons pressed timber, plywood, charcoal, etc. Forests also contribute to better weather conditions by acting as wind buffers to protect crops from high velocity winds accompanied by sand. This will no doubt increase the agricultural output. They also can supply trees for planting along public roads, and for encircling towns with green belts, and are excellent tourist resorts. Trees also help in fixing and strengthening the soil especially along river banks. The latter is a great advantage as it entails saving money spent on cleaning and dredging canals, brooks and reservoirs.

Forests in Iraq are not only natural, in fact they are being planted and as an example we may mention the new afforestation project which recently started in Maysan Governorate covering 45000 donoms of land.

Over the past eight years, the July 17 Revolution in Iraq has accomplished a record development in all aspects of the country's life. The Revolution, since its inception in 1968, has adopted the principle of planning in harmony with the Arab Baath Socialist Party's ideology and objectives in uplifting the country's economic, social and cultural standard towards attaining the socialist society.

One of the first economic tasks that faced the Revolution was the realisation of a radical agrarian reform which was initially introduced following the July 14 Revolution of 1968 but suffered many set-backs as it failed to fulfil the peasant's needs. In 1969 amendments to the first Agrarian Reform Law were enacted to abolish the feudalist so-called "right" to choose the land they are entitled to keep and to do away with the compensation principle. These amendments were followed by the enactment of Law No. 117 of 1970 which provided for land ownership ceiling and new rules for land distribution in harmony with the productive requirements and conditions in the country.

Since the old Agrarian Reform Law had not resulted in the development of agricultural output by the required rates and since the total area of arable land was



ON THE THRESHOLD OF PROSPERITY

Eight Years Of Economic Progress



Digging new channels for agriculture

limited, the Revolution saw that it was imperative for state farms sector firstly, the collective and cooperative farms sector secondly, to occupy the leading and decisive role in the agricultural productive activities. This step represents a cardinal transformation trend towards the socialist orientation of the economy as whole and the agricultural sector in particular.

Regarding the industrial sector, the past three years witnessed a number of achievements aimed at the completion and expansion of a score of vital projects which had been started earlier (the direct exploitation of oil, sulphur and petro chemicals are the most outstanding), in addition to effect heavy industrialisation.

Diagnosing the major symptoms of the industrial sector (shortage of the required qualities and quantities of raw material and the problem of qualified cadre) the Revolution succeeded in providing the proper treatment and cures, simultaneously realising the fact that to achieve true socialism the working class has to occupy an active position in the country's economic productive process on the one hand and a review of the conceptional meaning of this class in a way that allows it to embrace new social groups and to sustain its basic characteristics on the other.

Labour Law No. 151 of 1970 was enacted to secure the freedom of trade unions, holding the state responsible in providing all material and moral guarantees for the working class and ensuring its participation in economic planning and political activities of the country.

Moreover, the Pension and Social Security Law No. 39 of 1971 covered all the workers and ensured all types of social services for them — e.g. housing health and education, etc.

In the trade sector, the Revolution introduced major modifications giving the public sector the leading role in stabilising trade transactions, import and export activities with the aim of accomplishing and strengthening Iraq's economic independence and its basic interests and pre-requisite of development.

Furthermore, the diversification of import sources was a fundamental step in enhancing Iraq's economic independence. Such a step had two major consequences. First, it ended the country's dependence on the industrialised western countries for capital goods, a matter which constituted a basic factor in the success of the country's economic development plans and expanded its trade dealing with the socialist and Third World countries. This step helped to attain major economic accomplishments which Iraq had unsuccessfully strived to achieve previously — oil nationalisation, direct exploitation of oil and sulphur are some outstanding examples. Secondly, the diversification of import sources successfully helped to avoid any involvement in the international monetary crises and the spiral inflationary tendencies which have characterised the western world economies for the last eight years.

What Iraq has achieved in the oil sector is self evident. Iraq's complete economic independence was accomplished and the doors for comprehensive economic planning and development were wide opened.

Following the nationalisation victory on March 1st, 1973, successive investment programmes were introduced, unprecedented in magnitude (1976 investment programme stands at \$6.076 billion) thus enabling the country to fulfil its ambitious plans and projects for the welfare of the people.

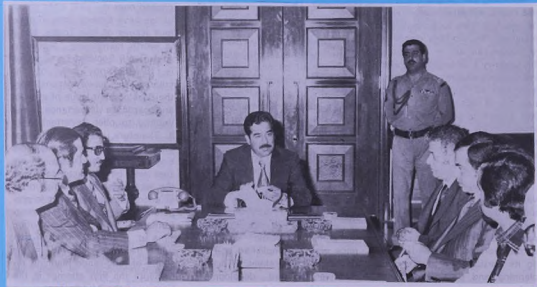
The decisions of February 1974 represent another side of the Revolution's numerous economic measures introduced to achieve a higher level of economic and social welfare of the country. The decisions were taken to enhance the purchasing power of the public through the augmentation of their wages and salaries on the one hand, and the reduction and stabilisation of certain basic taxes and prices of a number of staple services and goods on the other when the state shouldered the differences and fluctuations of world prices.

We need not enumerate here the projects and plans accomplished over the past eight years, as we have already done in previous issues of Iraq Today, but it is worth mentioning that the Arab Baath Socialist Party, which is the leading party of the country, has always considered the development issue of a direct and particular importance, and worked to offer its attention to it. Therefore, it can be said that this issue has entered a new era since the last four years: an era that will be characterised with the accomplishment of high rates of economic development in preparation for the socialist transformation which the Revolution aims at. It should be noted that what Iraq has achieved in the scope of long-range planning represents the first attempt in the history of the Middle East.

NEWS IN PICTURES



On the occasion of the 18th anniversary of July 14, 1958 Revolution and the 8th anniversary of July 17, 1968 Revolution, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr gave a grand banquet at the Presidential Palace on July 17. From left: Mr. Saddam Hussein, RCC Vice Chairman, Comrade Michael Allag, Secretary General of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr and Comrade Shibly al-Aysami, Assistant Secretary General of the ABSP.



Mr. Saddam Hussein, RCC Vice-Chairman, receiving on June 29, the Lebanese delegation to the Arab Popular Conference for Supporting the Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese National Movement.



July Celebrations: The representative of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Mr. Taha Jazrawi, Minister of Works and Housing, placing a wreath at the Unknown Soldier Monument on July 14.



Mr. Yareq Aziz, Minister of Information, holding on July 17, a press conference with the Arab and foreign press delegations to the July Celebrations.



Iraqi masses hailing the nationalisation of Basrah Petroleum Company in December 1975

Oil National Lays Firm Foundation of National Economy

The Arab Baath Socialist Party has always considered economic independence parallel in importance to political independence and complementary to it.

In leading the Revolution of July 17, 1968, the Party found itself duty-bound to wage a complex and multi-sided fight towards achieving economic independence, as this independence constituted a central condition for liberating the Arab homeland and enabling the Arab people to challenge the imperialist-Zionist aggression and evil designs. The then prevailing conditions in the Arab area, and after the usurpation of Palestine, revealed the importance of the economic factor as an effective weapon which could and must be used by the Arab people in their struggle against the aggressors.

The decisive battle in Iraq to achieve economic independence was the battle of liberating the oil resources from the control of imperialist monopolies in planning, production and marketing. Without liberating oil from foreign control, no progress would be achieved and the country would remain underdeveloped in all fields.

Oil nationalisation was the foremost strategic aim of the Arab liberation movement. It was the

Arab Baath Socialist Party that coined the slogan "Arab oil for Arabs". By making the decisive move of oil nationalisation on June 1st, 1972, Iraq realised economic independence. The political, economic and technical provisions made by the government for the success of nationalisation put it on the right course from the outset until complete triumph on March 1st 1973, when the oil monopolies had to concede to the decision.

The nationalisation decision in Iraq contributed effectively to the exposure of the energy crisis in the West and the revelation of its grave political and strategic dimensions. Oil nationalisation was the beginning of a new international era paving the way for basic changes in the balance of world power in favour of people's liberation movements.

The July 17 Revolution through the oil nationalisation battle realised major progress. The Iraqi economy is now largely led and directed by the national interests within the framework of the Revolution's principles. The ABSF was able also to transfer the Arab struggle to a new stage compatible with the challenge posed by imperialism and racism. It opened a new chapter in the Arab national-social struggle with far-reaching future effects.

REPORT

Vanguards Organisation A New Phase Of Youth Movement In Iraq

Another eventful season of youth activities has now set in throughout the country. Every summer vacation, the youth vanguards and "futtowa" of the General Federation of Iraqi Youth

aged between 15 and 16 years, ranges between 10 to 15 days, but the camps set up for the training of leaders of youth vanguards who are above 16 continue for 15 to 30 days.



In our life lives joy

(GFYJ) become like a beehive. Camping sites are set up in each governorate. Such camps have diverse objectives.

The new vanguards usually join the local training camps where they are trained on self-reliance, patience, endurance, love of team work and the building-up of correct comradely relationships. But the central training camps, which include vanguards who have already joined a local camp, provide those attending with ideological lectures in addition to physical training. The duration of training in these camps for the new "futtowa"

Moreover, there are work camps for industrial and agricultural production which may last the whole summer holiday or most of it. These are similar to the Abu Mnaisir and al-Khalissa camps set up by the National Union of Iraqi Students in the recent years. The specialized activity camps help in detecting and developing the remarkable skills and talents latent in the youth vanguards and "futtowa". Such camps are intended to promote the talents of the attendants by intensifying their interests and hobbies in the fields of sports, art, culture and science. The duration of the camp may



Emblem of the Vanguards Organisation

continue for the whole summer or for a week. The outstanding vanguards who excel in school, training or production are later admitted to recreation camps. Such camps are usually set up in the most beautiful places in Northern Iraq.

RCC Law on "futtowa" and Youth Battalions:

On November 4, 1975, the Revolution Command Council (RCC) promulgated the "Fut-



Scientific progress serves the homeland

towa" and Youth Battalions Law. The law embodied the resolution of the Eighth Regional Congress of the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) which called for the training of youths in the use of arms so as to qualify them to defend the Revolution and its progressive achievements and objectives.

However, the training and upbringing of youth and "futtowa" in annual work camps throughout Iraq have considerably contributed to the deepening of revolutionary values and behaviour as underlined by the Political Report

of the ABSP's 8th Regional Congress.

As a result of these activities a new generation is developing that can comprehend fully the socialist way of life, away from feudalistic complications and backwardness. Consequently it has now become quite natural that a 12-year-old youth can discuss political matters concerning the country or the Arab nation. Such a vanguard can give an opinion on colonialism and im-

scientific and recreational outings with the aim of broadening the scope of knowledge among the vanguards, particularly on aspects of civilisation and contemporary developments in the country.

The creation of the Youth Vanguards Organisation was announced on the 29th anniversary



perialism and can even define the broad features of the liberation movements in the world and their aims.

The vanguard's programme concentrates on pan-Arab struggle, its contemporary struggle, the Arab liberation movement as well as the march of the national and socialist July 17 Revolution. Furthermore the programme lays stress on first aid, civil defence operations, athletics and voluntary labour campaigns.

The Youth Vanguards Organisation, among other things, ensures

of the ABSP, on April 7, 1976. The GFY, began organising the youth vanguards on September 1, 1973. However, the vanguards who are now in their fourth year confirm the success of such a contemporary, revolutionary, national and humanitarian experiment. About 160,000 youth vanguards are now enrolled in the GFY camps. The first vanguard experiment in the country was at the Abu Ghraib camp organised by the GFY (Baghdad Branch).

Salah

REPORT

Scientists Suggest Measures For Improving Veterinary Care

The care and welfare shown by the Revolution in the course of its strategy to realize rapid and extensive economic development and social progress were not confined to humans only, but also covered the animals, on the grounds that they constitute an important part of production and a source of subsistence to man himself.

The interest in animal care in Iraq is represented in the greater number of students enrolling in the colleges of veterinary medicine and the numerous conferences and symposiums taking place from time to time throughout the country on the domestic, Arab and other levels.

Recently the second conference of the Iraqi Veterinary Association was held in Baghdad during 15-17 June, 1976.

Opened by Dr. Taha Ibrahim al-Abdullah, President of Baghdad University, the conference was held under the slogan of "Veterinary Scientific Researches in the Service of National Development" and attended by Iraqi veterinarians and a number of Arab delegations concerned with this branch of science.

Addressing the conference Dr. Abdullah expressed the Association's appreciation "for the aid and care the Iraqi veterinarians are receiving from the political leadership".

During its sessions the conference discussed several papers dealing with various aspects of animal diagnosis, treatment, microbiology, infections, etc.

The following papers were the focus of lengthy discussions:

1. **Survey of veterinary education in Iraq:**
A study designed to investigate the status of veterinary education in Iraq as viewed by 177 veterinarians.
2. **The immunologic control of canine reproduction**
A process of immunisation of three male dogs with a single dose of ovine pituitary preparation induced the formation of antibodies which were associated with impairment of reproductive function.
3. **Observation on the pathology of lung worm**

infection in Iraqi sheep

A study made on 10 lung specimens collected from different abattoirs in various provinces in the country from apparently healthy slaughtered animals.

4. **Incidence of pneumonitis in sheep in Iraq.**
Information and samples obtained in the study of incidence of pneumonia concerned from inspection of slaughtered animals, the registry book, and pathological statistics.
5. **Harmonically active ingredients in fodder plants and its role in animal production.**

A survey on the importance of these compounds to animal nutrition.

6. **Evaluation of diagnostic procedures for Iraq**
Blood sera from examined cows were subjected to different serological tests.
- In addition to the foregoing papers the conference debated several other topics.

In conclusion the conference issued a number of recommendations aiming at lifting the standard of the veterinary profession in Iraq and the Arab Homeland.

The recommendations gave special emphasis to the necessity of promoting the training of veterinary cadres and developing this field of study with view to ameliorating the animal wealth in Iraq. One of these recommendations called for "carrying out of an extensive survey and study on disease common to man and animal, including the physiological and pharmacological properties of natural plants in Iraq with the aim of extracting medical drugs useful for therapeutic purposes".

Emphasis was also laid upon limiting utilisation of vaccines to those produced locally as well as on the importance of cooperation among Arab countries within a consultative body to unity efforts to prevent invasion from abroad of endemic disease detrimental to livestock.

A resolution was adopted calling for the use of Arabic language in scientific, veterinary and academic researches and for expanding cooperation between veterinary bodies and institutions in the world to help exchange expertise in this field.



IRAQ'S FIRST MULTI-PURPOSE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Hala is a girl of thirteen who has just passed to the seventh grade in her school. As she is a voracious reader of novels, the three month summer vacation is the best time of year for her to indulge in this, her favourite hobby. So about three times a week, her mother takes her, along with Ismael, to the Library of the Arab Child, where the two youngsters spend a very enjoyable time browsing through the books, painting and seeing films.

This library for children, the first of its kind in Iraq, was opened in 1968. Situated in one of Baghdad's most pleasant suburbs, (it lies opposite Zawra park which houses the zoo) and between 8 a.m. and 19.00, droves of children aged between six and fourteen make use of the centre's facilities.

Parents who bring their children and deposit them at the centre, can then leave, with their minds at ease, knowing that their children would be very well taken care of. The main attraction at the centre is of course the well-stocked library which has books in half a dozen languages. Every youngster is issued with a borrower's card and he is instructed in the use of the index card system. Hala is a reader of fic-

ture before her mother returns to fetch them and take them home, so they look into the music room where some of their contemporaries are playing the piano, the accordion, the violin, the drums and the lute. enjoy this cacophony of sounds, before bidding goodbye to their friends at the library and turn to go home.

Mrs. Inaam Munir, the director of the centre, is justifiably proud about the success of this pioneering experiment. A graduate of Hammeton College in Cambridge, Mrs. Munir is a specialist in kindergarten work and in the education of juveniles. She explains to us that the use of the centre's facilities is completely free of charge. The painting studio alone costs the state around 150 Dinars a month in colour tubes, paper, brushes etc.

But the centre never suffers from financial hardships since the state is fully aware of the good work it is doing in encouraging youngsters to read, and in providing them with excellent entertainment in their leisure hours. Mrs. Munir's sole complaint arises out of the great concentration in the centre, for to date it is the only centre of its kind in Baghdad and more than six hundred boys and girls visit it every day. This number increases during the examination season when many boys and girls bring their text books along with them to do their school-year revision in the congenial atmosphere of the centre. There are, consequently, plans afoot to establish another centre in Baghdad. Educational experts in Basrah and Mosul are also studying the experiment with a view to establishing a similar institution in these towns. So things are clearly on the move in this respect and perhaps one day in the not too distant future, mobile libraries will tour the countryside and the outlying districts so that no citizen in this country is left without an opportunity of becoming a book reader.

tion, so she goes for the novels shelf, while her brother, Ismael is fond of reading books that deal with the lives of great inventors and discoverers. After browsing through books for an hour or so, they choose the books they want to take out, then head for the painting room where they join a host of other young artists. In this studio for juveniles, there are enough colour tubes, inks, paper, brushes and pencils to satisfy the creative urges of the children. Under the supervision of the centre's staff, the boys and girls draw and paint to their hearts' content. If they get tired of this, they slip into an adjacent hall where another of the centre's supervisors is in charge and her speciality is story telling. So for around half an hour, the children sit rapt as they listen to the story.

By then it would be 11.00 a.m. time for the film show. So Hala takes her younger sibling in hand and they go into the 300-seat cinema hall where cartoons and feature films for juveniles are shown to an appreciative audience.

At around mid-day, the show is over and it is time for refreshments, so Hala and Ismael head towards the tuck-shop for soda pop. They have half an hour left

ZIONIST AGGRESSION AGAINST UGANDA

"The Government of the Republic of Iraq wishes to express full sympathy with and support to the Republic of Uganda Armed Forces in facing up to the attacking pirates.

"The action of the Zionist entity — an action of which even die-hard fascists are hardly capable — bears evidence of deep-rooted spirit of aggression that gives no weight to the values of the civilised international society, unmasks the Zionist entity and exposes this entity's designs. These designs, however, cannot be concealed for long, though they were passed off for a while on some people.

"Furthermore the Zionist aggression constitutes a glaring defiance not only to Uganda and Africa, but also to the entire Third World. Yet we see, quite amazingly, that there are some without any sense of responsibility who hail this aggression as an act of heroism!

"The Government of the Republic of Iraq denounces the aggression on Uganda and calls upon the international society to measure up to its responsibility by punishing and denouncing the outlaws".

(Statement of the Foreign Ministry of Iraq)

The Zionist attack on Entebbe Airport in Uganda, whatever the pretext, constitutes aggression and a blatant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Uganda. It represents a new form of imperialist "gun-boat" diplomacy.

The attack and the violation of Ugandan sovereignty by the Zionists is, indeed, a grave crime particularly because the sole concern and interest of the Ugandan regime — in the whole episode — was to save the lives of those involved. The following irrefutable facts bear this out:

1. WHEN UGANDA ALLOWED THE HIJACKED PLANE TO LAND AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT THE AIRBUS ONLY HAD FUEL TO LAST FOR HALF AN HOUR. It was, therefore, the magnanimity of the Ugandan Government of allowing the hijacked plane to land that saved the Airbus from crashing due to the lack of fuel.
2. The Ugandan leader, President Idi Amin Dada, saw to the humane treatment of the hijacked passengers by requesting the hijackers to hold their hostages in an old airport building; otherwise, the passengers would have had to endure six days and nights inside the Airbus.
3. It is to the credit of Uganda that it provided basic requirements to the passengers. They were given food, drinks and medical care.
4. THE UGANDAN LEADER ALSO ASSISTED IN SECURING THE RELEASE OF SOME 150

by Gora Ebrahim PASSENGERS AND WAS NEGOTIATING THE RELEASE OF OTHERS IN RETURN FOR THOSE LANGUISHING IN ZIONIST PRISONS.

5. It is no secret that the Zionists in occupied Pa'estine officially informed the Ugandan Government of their willingness to meet the demands of the hijackers.
6. IT IS BEYOND DISPUTE THAT NO ONE DIED OR WAS ILL-TREATED UNTIL THE AGGRESSION LAUNCHED BY THE ZIONISTS.

However, for all the just and humanitarian steps taken by the Ugandan Government to save lives, UGANDA WAS MADE THE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION!

In the attack 20 Ugandan soldiers were killed and 32 wounded by the Zionists. The old airport building was completely destroyed. In addition to that the Zionists destroyed 11 Ugandan military planes which were parked at Entebbe Airport.

The aggression against Uganda, as evidence now shows, was worked out collectively. The American "Time" magazine stated that Kenya agreed to the Zionist attack provided that "in return for the service rendered by the Kenyan authorities, Israel undertook to blow up all the planes of the Ugandan Air force grounded at Entebbe Airport". The magazine further added that in accordance with the deal Zionist planes used Nairobi Airport BEFORE and AFTER the attack on Entebbe.

In the meantime another American magazine, "Newsweek", reported that Kenya secretly asked for US backing in the event of any repercussion following the criminal Zionist attack on Entebbe. It also said that Washington responded to the Kenyan demand by assigning a formation of US naval planes to carry out reconnaissance flights over Ugandan-Kenyan frontiers. "Newsweek" further revealed that a special task force of the US 7th Fleet was ordered to enter Kenyan waters. It has since been confirmed by the US Defence Department that five warships of the US 7th Fleet — led by aircraft carrier "Ranger" — were on their way to the Kenyan port of Mombasa.

Given these facts, it is not difficult to deduce that the supposed "rescue" operation was merely a cover to undermine the sovereign and independent regime of President Idi Amin Dada of Uganda. Hence it is these considerations that prompted the Organisation of African Unity to unanimously condemn the Zionist act of aggression.

The attack on Uganda, it should be emphasised, was no act of "heroism" on the part of the Zionists BUT A CONFIRMATION THAT THE ZIONIST ENTITY IS ALSO AN AMERICAN BRIDGEHEAD TO BE USED AGAINST THE INDEPENDENCE OF AFRICA!

FACTS ABOUT PALESTINE



Oriental Jews in "Israel"

The Mounting Danger

After the war of 73 the last patches over the eyes of immigrant Jews in "Israel" were removed. The "promised land" suddenly appeared to be a promised "lie" and those who were first enthusiastic to come to Palestine are now more enthusiastic to leave. The fact of counter-migration from "Israel" today is the gravest Zionist problem as well as a danger ever-increasingly mounting.

For this reason, the Zionist Knesset is about to issue a decision — or perhaps enact a law — "to close the Israeli prison gates". The Zionist Minister of Labour, Moshe Evram, declared recently that more than 300,000 Jews have left Palestine

Fresh Terror



One Arab, four Zionists

for their original fatherlands since 1948! The number of the run-away Jews after 1973, was by far the largest in 3 years compared to the past 25 years!

The prohibition of counter-migration is intended to be a last Zionist measure to stop the inevitable withering away of the "Israeli myth". But the reality and living circumstances under Zionism could never be changed overnight or by a government decision. For, in addition to the striking racial discrimination which divides the "Israeli" society into four categories: Western, Eastern and Arab Jews besides Christian and Moslem Arabs — the astonishing high rate of crime and the harsh economic conditions of inflation and unemployment on account of the giant military budget (60% of the total budget) actually make life unbearable in "Israel".

Meanwhile, the counter-migration process equally poses threat of a different kind to the "Israeli society". Because, though they are daily exposed to the techniques of mystification and brainwashing, Jews of the international community who were so easily deluded into emigrating to "Israel" before, are now beginning to reconsider the offer. The fact that after 1973, less and less Jews are thinking of the so-called "promised land" as their natural destiny, is something to be taken into account if Zionist officials think of the "prohibition of counter-migration" as the final solution to all problems.

Being so worried nowadays about the recent killing of Africans in South Africa, unexceptionally all the world reporters kept the openly racial acts of South African Police under their close observation, and strongly condemned them. Meanwhile, in occupied Palestine, the besieged Arabs who no-one knows why they are killed daily, their news do not seem to attract the attention of the "humane" journalists who work for "objective" and "democratic" papers.

The Foreign press reporters who inexplicably ignore that part of the world are either afraid of arousing the anger of the "all-too-strong" Zionists in their countries, or simply have their material banned from publication. In effect, Zionist oppression of Arabs has become more and more ferocious. The trigger-happy Zionists have the habit of sniping Arab children in the streets of Jerusalem. This is done in order to impose terror or as it has appeared from so many similar cases, simply to pass time!

A 6-year-old boy was reported by Wafa, the Palestinian News Agency, to have been shot dead by a "brave" (sic) Zionist soldier in Nablus 10 days ago. Ironically enough, a Zionist paper said the (6-year-old) boy was accused of trying to steal the weapon of a soldier during the current demonstrations and was "punished" by the soldier!

Having their machine-guns ready for work, the Zionists never bother to think about consequences simply because they know that all their

"Points Of No Return"



Every new settlement planted by Zionists in the occupied Arab territories is a "point of no return". The 75 settlements already constructed since 1967 were a preponderant plan to encircle the stolen land and gradually liquidate its inhabitants. On the other hand, the awaited new Jewish immigrants are used for the purpose of filling in the space created after exterminating the Arab inhabitants or pressuring them to leave by applying terrorist procedures. (Usually sniping 2 or 3 children and raping women!) The supposed fait accompli is a Zionist attempt to rewrite history.

28 years ago it was announced that the "state of Israel is established". How the Zionists managed to reach the borders before 1967 is best recounted by the "Israeli" paper "Zu Haderech" of 17.3.67: "In the first few years following the establishment of the state, the government of Israel simply ruled by means of plunder" the paper adds: "But when the world began to notice the acts of

They Sell Their Weapons!

Among the strange news recently coming from "Israel" is that a Zionist military court has sentenced two of the "promised land's" soldiers to 13-years in a Jerusalem prison. The court which is used to sentencing Arabs only (in case Arabs are tried at all when arrested) found that the case in point was too scandalous to be dealt with openly and the session took place under secret procedures. However, news about the soldiers' charges leaked out.

acts would be "justified", "accounted for" and even given the lie to it, for a moment, a foreign journalist would think of dealing with a "too-dangerous-to-be-reported" subject like this one. It would be taken as outright anti-semitism and even a sacrilege!

Because the Zionists were alleged to have been persecuted by the Nazis, now they are given full rights to kill Arabs, dynamite their houses and snipe their children if they have nothing else to do!

Israel's rulers, the government utilized the land expropriation laws in order to appear in the eyes of the world as a civilized and modern state! Afterwards, these laws and the emergency regulations used as pretext to displace Arabs were declared by Mr. J. Shapira, a leading Jewish lawyer, as follows: "Not even in Nazi Germany did such laws exist!"

After the war of 1967 mostly all western Governments "hailed the conquering heroes" whose thirst for blood is never equalled even by the Nazis who Zionists exaggerated in their attempts to picture as such simply to turn the world's attention from their crimes committed against the defenceless Arabs. Today, no wonder, as no effective international measure is taken to check their actions: the Zionists are planning for more and more settlements to encircle more land and kill more Arabs, but also to claim that they are persecuted by the anti-semitic Arabs (Arabs are the origin of semitism).

A report from Novosti News Agency on June 26, published the declaration of the Zionist Minister of Agriculture that his Government is planning to plant 60 more settlements in the occupied Arab territories. No doubt, the Zionist plan which was also published in the New York Times is of multiple purposes. "Israel" primarily realizes that more settlements mean more aggressive facilities and thus more terror for Arabs. Yet, the major motive, however, is to make the Arabs too busy thinking about settlements to be able to remember their central cause: PALESTINE.

Contrary to what they keep reiterating about themselves, the Zionist soldiers appeared to be lacking in faith. During the trial, the two soldiers admitted that they sold Arabs 36 machine-guns and amounts of ammunition which belonged to the "Israeli" army. In return for the weapons they received a "Peugeot" car and 4301! It seems that the two soldiers got tired of killing Arabs after having asked themselves why they do so?

(Medhat Magar)

LITERATURE



Sa'ad al-Bazzaz

In Search Of Sea Birds

"In Search of Sea Birds" is the title of Sa'ad al-Bazzaz's new collection of short stories published quite recently by the Ministry of Information.

This is the second collection issued by the same author. Dedicated to "Shadhil Taqa, my uni que teacher", the collection includes 13 stories.

The story that gives the title to the collection occurs with a new wording inside the text: 'Out of Sea to Search for Sea Birds'.

Taking the story as a specimen for the whole collection, one will arrive at certain conclusions. A balanced dialogue is often introduced but it seems to lack the dynamic vitality of everyday interchange.

However, there is a tendency to repeat words that convey some dramatic movement. 'Your glass' is repeated three in the first eight lines. But, nevertheless, the way Bazzaz employs his words assures his readers that his language is becoming more flexible, more expressive.

Short-cuts in the presentation of material may be the characteristic features of a good writer and these are used to advantage by Bazzaz. These devices serve to condense the temporal range of events and vary the scenes of their occurrence quite elegantly.

Though personal comments on the author's part are introduced at intervals yet such interference will have the serious disadvantage of weakening the text. But the tension resulting from the author's personal interference subsides when the central character forcibly takes things over and starts revealing his inner thoughts. These thoughts are allowed to speak in a loud excited voice. And the reader is greatly relieved by the sober vision, a vision that is not clouded by the repercussions of past disappointments on the hero's part.

On the psychological level, the interior monologue and the free association of thoughts may be envisaged as the right medium for releasing thoughts

that are consciously repressed, frugal use of these devices are more relevant to casual employment than to a previously mapped-in principle.

There is also a skillful use of popular Palestinian songs. These fit in well with the text but it may be argued that the abundant use of songs in one story may break the continuity of the text and disadvantageously stop the flow of ideas at some sensitive points were the whole situation becomes highly tense and thus any relaxation will passively affect the action.

But the technique is not the only thing that a critic looks for. And it is in 'content', that Bazzaz is seen at his best. Political awareness serves as the background across which his characters move upward to glory or downward to failure. But the flexible movement of characters across a clear-cut political line is of a very sensitive matter and not infrequently an author may stumble, where he thinks he has perfected. One would for instance, expect an experienced revolutionist like Amar (the central character) to take things into his stride and offer words of hope.

Yet when he utters them, they are as sad as the songs he hears all the time around him. However, towards the end, a more courageous spirit emerges.

Amar, the central character, realises that he is a new refugee from the occupied territories. He, a homeless writer, is often told by others that he has surpassed those writers who live in comfortable houses. Why he has succeeded where others have failed, he cannot tell.

To the observant eyes of a critic, there seems to be a steady yet a confident movement on the author's part to dispel his readers' insight so that the impenetrable world of his characters is put into the right perspective. That Bazzaz is capable of doing so gives him a well-deserved credit.

Aziz al-Hutalibi



Kadhun Haider

The Role Of Artists In A Changing Society

By Kadhun Haider

The ability of artists to change the environment is considered by them an axiomatic fact. There is a great number of universally recognised truths, some of which required great human efforts to be established as such, while others could not be so accepted by the human mind. Normally, numerous hypotheses are needed to establish the authenticity of any issue. Present-time hypotheses, are divergent and greatly contradictory. Moreover, they are related to other human activities which are not exactly artistic, such as human sciences or the science of cognition.

The question "who is the artist?" may be a point of disagreement of any two persons. All may disagree on this question. Discord may be quite intensive while examining the viewpoints.

In Arabic, the term "art" has diverse applications. Such is also the case as regards some other languages. For example, one may say the art of driving, of leading, of politics, of propaganda etc... This term, in fact, is applied to a broad spectrum of the subtle and well qualified activities of the human mind. Any person who is capable of performing properly a skillful deed, is considered to be an artist in his realm. This expression which is used by other peoples also points out that art is a

human activity of a unique skill and quality. Hence, it inevitably plays an effective role in changing and developing society, although originally art used to be ascribed to intuition and vision, or, according to some philosophers, to experience. Naturally, experience leads to skillful craft — a term which used to be applied, by some Arab critics, to poetry and prose.

Should the artist change and develop society? How could this be achieved? Are there any plans to do so? Are there any studies to be carried out by the artist so that he can play the role of developer and planner of society? Are there any official institutions set up for this purpose in the various societies in the world?

Unlike architects, scientists, teachers and social reformers, the artist does not think at all of making such plans or setting up such institutions, official or private, to set to motion the process of change. Simply he has only to carry out his creative work which usually does not need such institutions but requires museums and studios. Even these could be dispensed with if the artist so desired or if he were deeply convinced that art possesses a real ability to change and reform society and environment.

This is a general process that could be observed in all fields of art. Yet, the plastic arts differ in one way or another from other forms of art e.g. music, the theatre, literature and the cinema.

The artist may or may not realise the effects, changes and developments which he produces. The work of art is a human activity of a high level, and, in comparison with other activities and actions of man, is characterised by the quality of perception. This leads, necessarily, to the improvement and change of the human position.

The appeal which has recently been voiced to revive old heritage is but one of the phenomena to change society and environment according to a new concept that seeks to set up a new society dominated by certain relations which are considered to be a natural extension that produces no subsidiary effects. If, however, there is a counter call attempting to bury the past, its heritage and all that is connected with it, such as classic literature



and art, stressing that efforts should be confined solely to the future, it nevertheless, seeks to change human society, human relations and human activities.

When artists work collectively within a certain circle, they become capable of changing and speedily affecting their society. Many such occurrences could be depicted in the history of humanity. Changing human relations may take a radical form, as is the case in Iraq. The artist may work individually producing true artistic works which correspond to the meaning of art despite the differences of the philosophic tendencies underlying this term. Discussing the effects of art on society, requires, first of all, a specific understanding of three basic concepts: art, society or environment and the notion of change. The definition of the first two concepts,

i.e., art and society or environment, may lead us to intricate discussions which fall outside the scope of the question under study. We therefore shall confine ourselves to the third concept i.e. the notion of change.

Change through the medium of art, is not necessarily a development towards the better. It means finding the prerequisites of a new age dominated by certain relations which are wholly or partly different from those prevailing in a neighbouring or previous society. Changing society through art is effected at present in a way different from that of past times or early ages of civilisations.

Some of the human activities are organised while others are not in need of, or do not depend on organisation. Generally speaking, art belongs to both categories. The plastic arts, which are organised, are more effective and may deeply penetrate the society.

If the art aspects in the life of man are to be enumerated, taking into account all its meanings, philosophies, aspirations and applications, we shall find that the circle it belongs to is equivalent or larger than that encompassing all other human activities.

These art aspects contribute to the organisation of the perceptible and conceivable relations of society, and are capable of changing and driving it towards a different stage. Hence, modern societies pay great attention to the improvement and development of these effective social aspects. The study of this question has been included in the teaching curriculums, while the laws and regulations governing art aspects are being studied in specialised institutions, colleges and academies. This is a bright proof of the significant role of art in changing society.

It is argued that modern societies pay attention even to the simplest and passive aspects of human activities. Hence, it is natural that art should receive its share of the social concern. This may sound to be true and may not be true at some other instant. Advanced societies, however, are giving increased attention to matters of art. In Iraq too, growing attention is being given to this aspect, while those factors which used to constitute the bases of old society in this country are diminishing.

The development of the social form takes place as a result of scientific discoveries and technical innovations, some of which are characterised

by artistic qualities resulting from the work of an artist who previously studied and decided how to use this form, that material or the instrument at his disposal. In the past, arts were confined to a limited number of activities, such as painting, sculpture, music, singing and drama. But due to the broadening circle of human labour, the creative work of man found new means of expression e.g. the cinema, T.V., costumes etc... Increasing number of people are taking art as a profession, thereby intensifying the effect of art on society. Art associations and unions have been set up, and one such association is IAA, which is striving to establish better human relations. The exhibition, "Artists Against Racism" is but an indication of the unity of artists within one world association which is willing to make the world listen to its frank word.

If art activities are to be abolished from the environment of man, a great defect will show in the balance of human relations.

The rejection of old art methods by a certain region produces a new change in the characteristics and features of that society which, in its turn, affects the artist. Similarly, the acceptance of old methods, or contemporary ones that belong to another region, by a society dominated by relations which are different from those under which those methods were hammered out, produce new changes in the society concerned. In brief, this means:

1. Applying or rejecting old methods or ideas.
2. Applying methods and ideas belonging to a different but contemporary society.
3. Revising or rejecting a heritage belonging to a certain region.

The new outlook of art formulated at the beginning of our century, gave a new balance to arts all over the world. Consequently Negro art is not to be valued less than Greek art, or Indian art less than Chinese art, etc... As a result new concepts and aesthetic principles concerning Japanese, Negro and Islamic arts appeared on the chart of contemporary European values.

We, in our turn, are making use of the conclusions formed by present-day European thinking in connection with art. We are also making use of

our heritage and present realities of our society. In consequence, a blend of all these elements reflects itself in the applications of our contemporary society, e.g. architecture, arts, costumes and even folk-art and crafts.

Artists and workers in this field have recognised this strange blend, and studies are being made in this connection in order to better understand this situation.

Our knowledge of ancient societies has been acquired through the agency of archeological art findings.

Social, political and philosophical revolutions have greatly influenced art which affect, in its turn, the human social type. What happened following the French Revolution, assumed a new position in life, acquiring a new identity which contributed to the interpretation of social relations and the development of the external environment of man. Man had a new position, women had a new identity, wars, the cries of children, the movement of society, etc... all were associated in the mind of man with new entities.

The same occurred after the October Revolution at the beginning of this century: Present time socialism assumed the character of a new social organisation, a new human vision and comprehension of present realities of man, collective work, new human prosperity, distribution of responsibilities, and a new position adopted by art toward a man looking forward to a better future.

Freedom is an innate character of art in its genes and tendencies. It enables art to play its effective role in society. Hence a two-sided process could be observed in the function of art. On the one hand it makes use of its freedom to make changes, and on the other it makes use of organisation in order to express this freedom, so that humanity may attain a new interaction between man and society, on the one hand, and man and his inner latent faculties, on the other.



Assyrian relief

SEMIRAMIS : Between Myth And Reality

The first modern hotel built in Iraq in the early period of independence was called Semiramis. Throughout the Middle East, cinema houses, theatres, public parks, hotels and touristic spots bear this name which has in fact become a popular one the world over. Who is Semiramis? What is the origin of this romantic name? Was Semiramis a mythical or historical personality?

Semiramis, Queen of Assyria, was one of ancient world's most eminent and influential figures. Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire since its rise in 612 B.C. until its fall in 18 B.C. Mythology has distorted the history of Semiramis, branding her a mystical figure, but latest probes into the intricate history

of the ancient world have proved that Semiramis had a prominent place in ancient world's history. Her historic deeds, often mentioned in myths narrated in Greek and Roman chronicles, although not yet fully exposed, far surpass her legendary feats.

According to legendary tales, Semiramis was the wife of an army commander named Onnes, one of the commanders of the Assyrian King Ninus, who built the city of Nineveh. Onnes, while returning from a military expedition in the eastern boundaries of the empire, met Semiramis in the city of Ascalon in Syria. Queer tales were told about circumstances of her birth. It is said that Goddess Derceto, who had the head of a woman and the

body of a fish, had offended the great Goddess Ishtar. To punish her, Ishtar had made her fall in love with a young handsome man of Ascalon. She married the young man and gave birth to a daughter. After realising that she has married a mortal, Derceto murdered her husband and abandoned the child in the desert where a colony of doves existed. Goddess Ishtar ordered these birds to take care of the child. When the little girl was a year old, she was discovered by a shepherd who brought her to his village. The chief of the village adopted the girl and gave her the doves'. When army Commander Onnes married her she was 20 years old.

In those days when army commanders set out on military campaigns they used to take their wives and children with them. Semiramis accompanied her warrior husband in these campaigns, taking part personally in the battle. She succeeded in many expeditions where commanders failed. When the news of her military feats reached the King, Semiramis was granted an audience with the monarch. The bachelor King was struck by her stunning beauty when he received her, accompanied by her husband. The King had earlier tried unsuccessfully to find a woman to share the throne with him — one to be beautiful as well as intelligent and dead-endful. He had ordered a search in vain to be made throughout his vast empire. In Semiramis he found the characteristics of the wife of his dreams. The King told Onnes, the husband of Semiramis, that he intends to take Semiramis as wife onto himself and offered him the choice of marrying a royal princess. Onnes, who was madly in love with his wife, turned to Semiramis to reply to the King's command.

By S. Kasso

But ambitious Semiramis was silent, indicating her reluctance to oppose the offer. This was a life chance to put her talents into reality. Onnes immediately left the palace and went home and handed himself.

Semiramis married King Ninus and gave birth to a son who was named Ninvas. When her husband king died after a reign of 52 years, Semiramis built a giant monument on his grave and erected a splendid golden statue in his memory after succeeding him on the throne as her son had not yet reached the age of maturity to be crowned king. During her reign her empire encompassed Mesopotamia (Tigris and Euphrates), Western Asia (Syria and Lebanon) and Iran. Her influence extended to Egypt and Libya. Semiramis emerged triumphant from all her military campaigns, except the one in India. Although occupying a large part of the Indian continent after crossing the River Indus, she was compelled to retreat following her injury in the battle, losing a large part of her army. It is interesting to note that during her Indian exploit she thought of a cunning plan to defeat the Indian army in the initial stage of the battle. Elephants used by the Indian army were a source of great concern to Semiramis for these animals were invincible and were not found within the bounds of her empire. She assembled a number of cobblers in a closely guarded enclosure and supplied them with the hides of three thousand black oxen. She commanded them to use their leather to make as many dummy elephants as possible. When these were finished, she had camels trained to get inside them to move about in them as if they were of armour. The first encounter between the troops of Semiramis and the Indian forces took place on the River Indus, where the queen's boats defeated those of the Indian King in a fierce engagement. Queen Semir-

amis had pontoon bridges built to span the river. When the Indian troops saw the mock elephants advancing in the ranks of their opponents, they were shaken with fear and astonishment. Their king nearly believed that Semiramis was some sort of a sorceress, for he definitely knew that there were no elephants in Assyria. But his despair was short-lived as the queen's secret was not kept for long. When the Indian king learned how the elephants had been 'manufactured', his forces regained their moral.

On returning from her Indian campaign, Semiramis concentrated on building. Her works spread throughout the Assyrian Empire, building new cities, beautifying others, constructing roads through rugged mountainous regions to facilitate movement of trade caravans, erecting temples and splendid memorial monuments. Even to her credit goes many of the antiquities of unknown origin in western Asia, Iraq and Iran. During one of her extensive inspection tours, she spotted near Teheran a picturesque place and decided to beautify it by building a large park with gardens and springs on the site. When the work was completed, she summoned her royal sculpturers to the site to engrave her figure standing with two of her generals on the breast of the mountain overlooking the park, which bears the name of Semiramis until this day.

One of the giant accomplishments of Queen Semiramis was the building of Babylon, the second capital of the Assyrian Empire. As she came from a land of orchards and gardens — Syria — Semiramis wanted to recreate the landscape of her place of birth in Babylon; thus, the celebrated Hanging Gardens came into being. The gardens were planted on terraces which were built high up on each other and made of bricks bound with tar.

Thick layers of earth were spread on these terraces to such a depth that the roots of the tallest trees could expand in them without any hindrance. At selected points in the gardens there were wells which supplied river water for irrigation. The water was handed up in buckets by men who were given the task of keeping the supply constant so that the vegetation was never dry and was always green even in times of great heat.

Archaeological explorations in early twentieth century proved that she was a famous queen. In one of the temples in northern Iraq a statue of Semiramis was unearthed with a dove on top of it and an inscription 'Summora-mal' which means 'The Lady of the Palace'. The inscriptions of a column unearthed in 1909 describe Semiramis 'The Lady of Shamsi Adad Palace, Queen of the World, Queen of Assyria and Queen of the Four Corners of the World'. The inscriptions revealed that Ninus was her son. This unique column shows that she had a high place in the religion during the succeeding eras. There is high praise for her in the Median archaeological finds as well.

According to archaeological finds, her name is derived from the Assyrian word 'summat', meaning dove — and is the origin of the symbol of dove which was found on top of her statue. Mythological stories tell that after her death she changed into a dove and flew from the palace among a flock of doves, thus becoming immortal. Assyrians consider dove sacred and this Assyrian name has a correlation with 'the doves of Ishtar', the goddess of love, beauty and motherhood. The dove for them is the symbol of matrimony, fidelity, compassion and peace. Dove is mentioned in the chronicles of the old European nations and remains the symbol of peace until this day. The European nations owe a lot to the East in their religious and cultural customs!

NEWS IN BRIEF

PRESIDENT BAKR OFFERS CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF CHU TEH

On July 10, President Ahmed Hassan Al-Bakr delegated Presidential Chief of Protocols to offer on behalf of the President, Iraqi government and people condolences at the Chinese Embassy in Baghdad on the death of Chu Teh, member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee.

Vice President Mr. Taha Muhyiddin Marouf and Foreign Minister Dr. Saadoun Hammadi also called at the Chinese Embassy and offered their condolences on the occasion.

IRAQI-JAMAICAN AGREEMENT

Mr. Ghanim Abdul Jalil, Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and Mr. Dudley Thompson, the visiting Jamaican Foreign Minister on 3rd July signed in Baghdad an agreement for bilateral scientific and cultural cooperation.

The agreement provides for exchange of experiences between Iraqi and Jamaican educational, cultural and scientific establishments, professors, specialists, technicians and the granting of scholarships.

TAREQ AZIZ ADDRESS NON-ALIGNED INFORMATION CONFERENCE

Information Minister, Mr. Tareq Aziz, said the Iraqi government was firmly working for backing the Non-aligned movement in all fields.

Addressing Non-aligned countries Information Ministers Conference recently opened in New Delhi Mr. Aziz pointed out that "Iraq's position in this field has been reflected in speeches and statements made by President Bakr, the Party and state documents and government representatives during all meetings held prior to next months Colombo Summit Conference of Non-aligned countries and other international forums ... Iraq has strongly backed the founding of a pool for Non-aligned countries news agencies".

The five-day conference was attended by delegates from 60 Non-aligned countries and considered aspects of mutual cooperation among Non-aligned countries, particularly in the field of information and news agencies.

SIGNING OF IRAQI-BULGARIAN AGREEMENT

A veterinary agreement was signed in Baghdad on July 10 between Iraq and Bulgaria and a protocol after the 8th session of the Iraqi-Bulgarian joint committee for economic, technical and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Hassan Fahmi Juma, Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, for the Iraqi side and by Mr. Gancho Krustev, Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry, for the Bulgarian side.

Mr. Krustev, who is chairman of the Bulgarian side to the joint committee and the delegation accompanying him had arrived in Baghdad early in the month to attend meetings of the committee.

CONCRETE SLEEPERS FACTORY IN BAGHDAD

Transport Minister Mr. Abdul Sattar Tahir Sharif signed, in Baghdad, on July 6 a contract with a British firm to construct a factory for the production of concrete sleepers at Abu-Ghraib at a cost of ID. 5,400,000. The factory is scheduled for completion within 18 months.

IRAQI FINANCED REFINERY IN SOMALIA

Oil Ministry Undersecretary, Mr. Abdul Mun'em al-Samarraie, returned to Baghdad on July 7 after attending the foundation stone laying ceremony for \$27,000,000 oil refinery in Somalia whose construction is financed by Iraq.

Financing of this refinery is part of Iraq's strategy to help the Third World countries promote their economies.

IRAQI AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

Mr. Mohammed Sabri al-Hadithi, the new Iraqi Ambassador to Iran, on July 8 presented his credentials to Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

Mr. Hadithi, who was Foreign Undersecretary, succeeded Mr. Medhat Ibrahim Juma; now Iraq's Ambassador in Vienna, Austria.

SPORTS

BAGHDAD TABLE-TENNIS CUP

Salah Ali Bakir of Kadimiya and Riyadh Hassan of al-Zawra Club qualified for the final match of Baghdad Table-Tennis men's Cup, while Abdul Sahab's twins, Amal and Firyal, qualified for the women's singles.

Seventy seven players of both sexes took part in the four-month preliminaries which ended on June 28.

IRAQ IN TABRIZ TOURNAMENT

The national under-18 soccer teams of Turkey, Soviet Union, Saudi Arabia, Finland, Afghanistan and Iraq have been invited by Iran to participate in a Tournament to be held in Tabriz from August 13 to 20.

The tournament, is organised to prepare Iran's squad for the Asian Youth Cup in Malaysia next April.

The Iraqi Football Federation accepted the invitation following the Iranian Football Delegation's visit to Baghdad two weeks ago in which a meeting was held to promote the Iraqi-Iranian Sports relations in the future.

TUNISIA BEATS IRAQ IN CHESS

Iraqi Student Chess Team defeated the Tunisian team by 3.5-2 points in their first round match held on June 28 in Mustansiriyah University Hall.

In the second round between the two teams the Iraqis lost by 5-1 points. The second encounter took place at Solly Club on June 2.

AL-TA'MEEM WINS

Al-Ta'meem governorate (Kirkuk) won the Northern Area's Boxing Championship which ended on June 2. Niveveh came second and Diyala won third place.

Abbas Majid of al-Ta'meem was named the best boxer in a championship in which 3,000 spectators attended.



9 WEIGHTLIFTERS CHOSEN

The Iraqi Weightlifting Federation held special trials on June 3 for the top Iraqi weightlifters to participate in the International Friendly Championship to be held in Sofia next month. 9 weightlifters were selected to represent Iraq, it was announced.

BASKETBALL COACHES MEET

The Iraqi Basketball Federation (IBF) on June 4, called on all coaches to attend a meeting to discuss the Iraq team's preparations for future international tournaments.

The Somali-Iraqi Friendly Week, whose date has not yet been announced, is the next tournament in which Iraqi Basketballers will participate.

BULGARIAN VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Bulgarian National Youth Volleyball team arrived on July 10, in Baghdad to play several friendly matches against local teams, according to the Sports Cooperation Protocol signed between Bulgaria and Iraq.

BAGHDAD CHESS TOURNAMENT

Baghdad Open Chess Tournament commenced on July 9, at the Solly Club's Gardens.



At the end of the tournament, which consists of eight rounds, six players will be selected to qualify for the final rounds to be held next September.

