

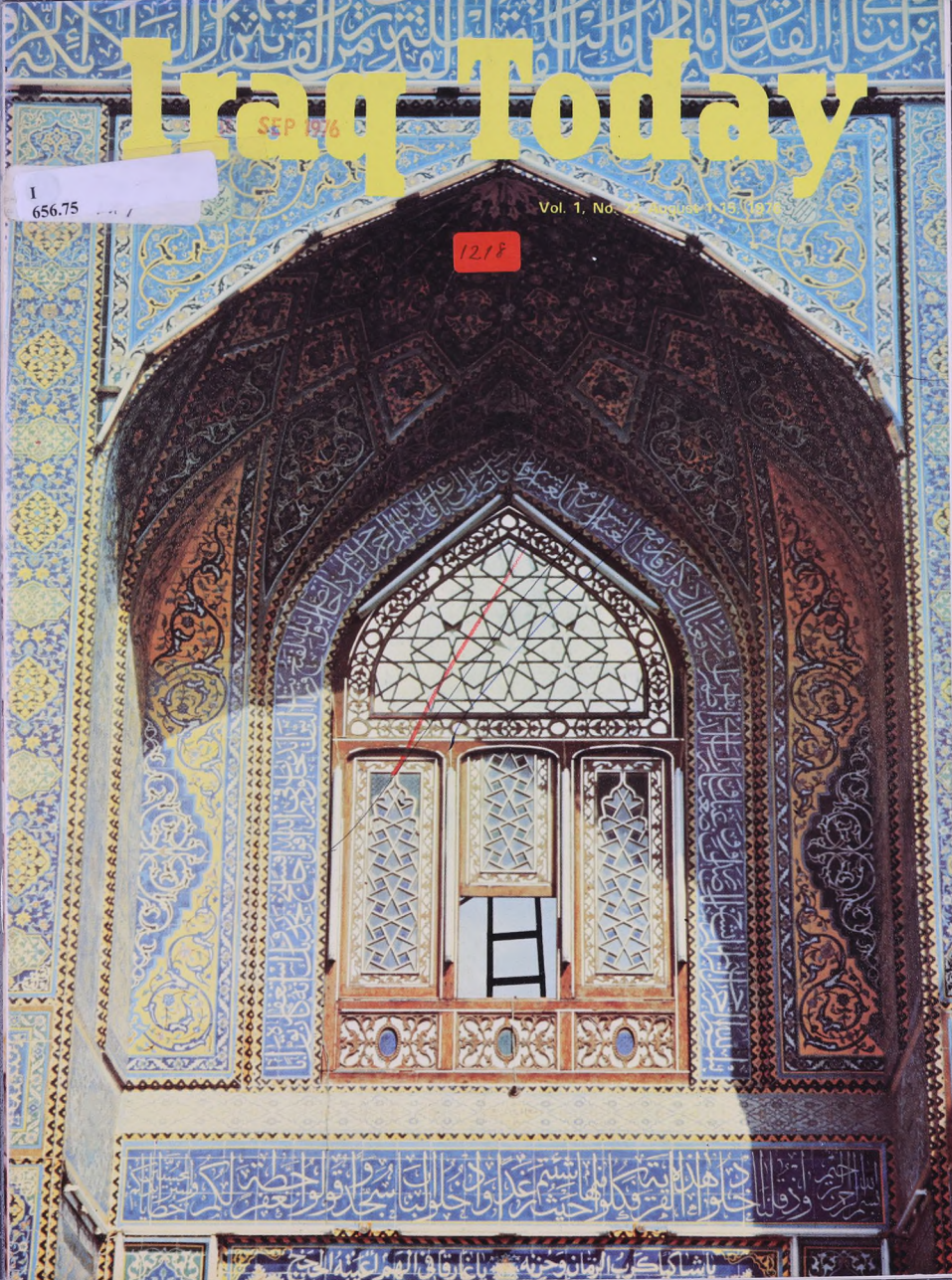
# Iraq Today

SEP 1976

1  
656.75

Vol. 1, No. 9, September 1976

1218





Students of Fine Arts Academy Performing an act at Akhaidir Citadel



Fortnightly Magazine  
 Vol. 1, No. 22  
 August 15, 1976  
 Published by the  
 Ministry of Information,  
 Directorate General of  
 Information,  
 Baghdad, Iraq

IN THIS ISSUE:

- President receives outstanding students, p. 4 ● Seventh Conference of the General Federation of Iraqi Women, p. 5 ● Role of Non-alignment in fostering international understanding, p. 7 ● Call a spade, a spade, p. 8 ● Face-up to capitalist economic challenge, p. 10 ● Agricultural project is re-born, p. 12 ● Zionist entity and Africa, p. 15 ● Zionism fetters America, p. 20 ● Sociological aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict, p. 21 ● Free Forum: orientalism and arabism, p. 25 ● Tel al-Zafar (poem), p. 24 ● Give us back our priceless antiquities, p. 28 ● The mountain of gods at Ur, p. 30 ● New trends in Iraqi culture, p. 32.

Front cover:  
 Arabic Architecture  
 Back cover:  
 Flower-Garden at al-Zawra'  
 Park — Baghdad  
 Depository number at the National Library — 236/1975  
 (al-Hurra' Printing House — Baghdad, Iraq)  
 Correspondence to be addressed to:  
 "Iraq Today" magazine,  
 Directorate General of Information,  
 Baghdad, Iraq  
 Designer: Waleed Sheeth

EDITORIAL

For A New International Economic Order

A new formula in inter-state relationship, based on cooperation as opposed to confrontation, on interdependence rather than dependence is being worked out. It takes the welfare of mankind in general as a prerequisite for the well-being of separate parts of the globe.

This new understanding, dawning on humanity, has been made all the more necessary when the richer countries have come to discover that the continuation of their own prosperity is no longer a matter solely for them to decide and that keeping the poorer nations poor must, of necessity, jeopardize that very prosperity. The world of the future, if it is to be habitable, is a community of free nations in the twofold meaning of freedom: political freedom and freedom from want.

The poorer nations have been kept as such as a consequence of foreign exploitation and, in some other cases, as a result of the inequality in the rate of socio-economic development. There are other examples, of course, where poverty is caused by intrinsic factors such as overpopulation and lack of natural resources coupled with backwardness.

Whatever the causes for being impoverished, any improvement in the standard of living helps the more fortunate countries in solving their own difficulties, especially their economic difficulties.

In the past, the Europeans used to increase their wealth at the expense of non-Europeans. Their selfishness was rewarding for them as it was apparently more advantageous and lucrative. Apparently only, for the horrible wars waged as a result of ferocious competition on colonies were capable of erasing, in one stroke, whatever advantages their insatiable imperialism was bringing to them.

If we examine a healthy relationship which exists between two advanced countries, Holland and France for instance, we can see in what way a similarly healthy interdependence can be created if the same pattern is applied to cover greater parts of the earth.

The call for a saner relationship between the North and the South is not based on mere ethical considerations, but on the realities of a world reaching such a stage in its history that no nation is safe if it thinks only of its safety; none is indefinitely rich if it disregards the conditions of others. So entangled the interests of the many have become and so interlocking that the interests of the few must, if they are to be preserved, define themselves within the framework of the whole.

The postwar period has seen many words and expressions coined, some of them abandoned such as the cold war, some lived out their utility and died.

Future generations the world over should feel grateful if the generations of this time comprehend the full meaning and various implications and ramifications of the concept of interdependence based on independence; where exploitation gives way to cooperation. It will be a world where raw materials should freely fetch their real value in the advanced world; equitable pricing should in turn contribute to the advancement of the countries of origin, and the wheel is kept running to the benefit of all humankind.

This may sound too optimistic a view of a world heading for disaster in the opinion of those who think that energy is running out, population is exploding and food is becoming short. But it is just in order to obviate such disasters that we should seriously think of the remedy which happens to be that to seek one's interest it is absolutely necessary to renounce part of one's interest, otherwise the whole is doomed to be lost.

It should be added that the Non-aligned Movement is capable of contributing a great deal to ushering the world in the new era. We are, therefore, setting great hopes on the conference of Colombo and all forthcoming gatherings of similarly noble objectives.

# President Receives Outstanding Students



President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr received on July 29 last the outstanding students who passed the General Primary, Intermediate and Secondary examinations with marks of distinction. The President congratulated them and expressed the hope that the number of such students would increase in the future.

In his talks with the students the President said, "Your hard and sincere efforts will not be wasted. We pin great hopes on you and we are confident that you will continue to work with the utmost sincerity and maintain this remarkable scientific standard".

The President urged the students to devote themselves to the service of society and humanity and put common interest above individual interest. The President reminded the students that their forefathers "had built in Iraq a great civilization which was a guideline of progress for many peoples. They turned Baghdad into a centre of civilization, culture and science to which students from various parts of the world were coming in large numbers. It is incumbent on you, my sons, to rebuild the civilization of Baghdad and shoulder yourselves and the generations that will follow you, the responsibility of building this homeland and this nation".

The President, at the conclusion of his talk, called upon the students to continue receiving knowledge, maintaining superiority and gaining advanced positions in the cause of contributions to building the homeland and realizing the noble aims and objectives of the Arab nation.

The outstanding students expressed their gratitude to the President for receiving them. They also expressed their deep appreciation for the profound interest the President has been taking in the advancement of education and science throughout the country.

# PRESIDENT LAUDS ROLE OF IRAQI WOMEN



On behalf of President Bakr, Mr. Taha Jazrawi, Minister of Works and Housing addressing the conference

# Greater Participation In Socialist Construction Stressed

On behalf of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Mr. Taha al-Jazrawi, Revolution Command Council Member and Minister of Works and Housing, opened on August 7, the 7th conference of the General Federation of Iraqi Women which was held at al-Mustansariyah University under the theme of "Towards Wider Participation by Women in the Building of the Unified Democratic Socialist Society".

Addressing the conference, Mr. Jazrawi conveyed the greetings and wishes of President Bakr to the participants of the conference. The President wished them "every success and progress for the conference to fulfill its assignments and seriously and actively contribute to accelerating the pace of socialist transformations in Iraq".

Commenting on the theme of the conference Mr. Jazrawi said, "It strongly speaks of the determination of women to play a pioneering role in productive work and for building a better future". He went on to say that the leadership of the Arab

Bath-Socialist Party (ABSP) and the Revolution were all keen to work out plans for enabling women to play their real part in society. "The GFIIW is occupying an important position in this connection, particularly in mobilizing the masses of women and orientating them to be vigilant in the face of reactionary and backward trends that degrade the position of women and impede their proper contribution to the field of public welfare.

Referring to the present critical situation in the Arab region Mr. Jazrawi said, "Our Arab nation at this crucial stage is facing an extremely dangerous plot designed by imperialist, Zionist and reactionary circles. "The renegade regime in Damascus is playing a dangerous role in the implementation of the imperialist schemings which aimed at liquidating the Palestine Resistance and striking at the patriotic movements paving the way for the execution of surrender solutions.

Next to speak was Mrs. Manal al-Alousi, President of the General Federation of Iraqi Women who said that the absolute aid which the GFIIW received from the Revolution was forming "an encouraging incentive to our women to continue exerting further efforts for eliminating all residuals of the past which impede woman's contribution to the goals of the Revolution".

Ten committees have emanated from the conference to debate the reports submitted by the secretariat of the Federation.

# RCC Vice-Chairman Mr. Hussein Attends Part of the conference

Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, attended part of the sessions of the conference. In the context of his directives to the conferees, Mr. Hussein reaffirmed that the foremost objectives of the GFIIW is the building up of a strong, cohesive society as a step for creating a developed society in the

light of the central objectives of the Revolution and the Party. The RCC Vice-Chairman then actively participated in the discussions of that particular session which he attended on August 8 and took notices of the debates of the conference.

#### Resolutions and recommendations

At the conclusion of its sessions the 7th Conference of the General Federation of Iraqi Women adopted a number of resolutions and recommendations dealt with the prerequisites for maintaining the progress and the successes achieved by the GFIW under the 17th July Revolution and the leading Party, ABSP.

The conference appealed to all concerned to make available for women the social institutions which help them be housewives and office and workshop operatives simultaneously, thus enabling them to contribute to the national product.

The conference recommended that more cultural centres should be opened to develop mental, artistic and physical potentials of women. It also recommended that cultural programmes be set up in coordination with other mass culture organizations and debates and symposia be organized to promote the social and political horizons of women.

In the field of mass media the conference recommended that periodical publications be issued and cultural weeks and festivals be organized with view to reflecting women's activities and to change the conventional look at women and introducing her as a productive element in the society.

In field of pan-Arab and foreign policy, the conference called for the preparation of detailed studies on the status of women in the Arab World and the extent of their contribution to the building of the democratic, socialist society. Concerning the foreign relations, the conference confirmed the necessity of expanding and deepening the cooperation with fraternal and friendly organizations and exchanging of delegations.

The conference adopted a plan calling for developing the educational and cultural concepts of women in the countryside to be implemented under a specific programme to be set up for this purpose and carried out in cooperation with the official organs concerned. It also resolved a proposal calling for the direct participation of Iraqi women in the local and nationwide health and educational campaigns.

In conclusion the conference re-elected Mrs. Manal al-Aloosi as GFIW President for the forthcoming term and Mrs. Betroul al-Naqib as deputy President.

## PRESIDENT BAKR'S MESSAGE TO LEONID BREZHNEV

The Personal Envoy of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Secretary of ABSP Regional Leadership, Mr. Tareq Aziz, ABSP Regional Leadership candidate-member and Minister of Information, met on July 30, Andrei Kirilinko, the CPSU Politburo member and secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee.

On behalf of comrade Leonid Brezhnev, Secretary General of Soviet Communist Party, comrade Kirilinko received a written message from President Bakr to CPSU CC Secretary General.

During the meeting which was held at the headquarters of the CPSU Central Committee, talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and deep understanding between the two friendly countries. The talks covered the current situation in the Arab area in general and Lebanon in particular. Effective means for confronting the imperialist-reactionary challenges were also discussed.

Comrade Vasily Kuznetsov, CPSU Central Committee member and first deputy of the Soviet Foreign Minister and Mr. Murtdaha Sa'ed Abdul Baqi, Iraq's Ambassador to the Soviet Union, attended the meeting.

On his return from Moscow Mr. Tareq Aziz was received by President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr on July 31. Mr. Aziz reported to President Bakr the results of his talks with Soviet officials. In Moscow Mr. Aziz held a prolonged meeting with comrade Andrei Kirilinko, the Soviet Communist Party Politburo member, on the necessity of having sustained joint action between the two countries to confront the imperialist conspiracies and schemings against the Arab nation in general and against the Palestine Resistance and the Lebanese National Movement in particular.

The President's envoy described his talks as having been marked by a spirit of understanding and mutual confidence. "We have had extensive exchange of views on Arab conditions, particularly those related to the Lebanese events", Mr. Aziz said.

Mr. Aziz also held talks with Mr. Vasily Kozintsev, member of CPSU Central Committee, and first deputy Foreign Minister. The situations in the Middle East region in general and Lebanon in particular were discussed in that meeting.

## Role Of Non-alignment In Fostering International Understanding

Despite differences in social structures and political systems, the Non-aligned countries have located suitable forms and joint action towards the international problems. This form of integration in the Third World has been advancing on different lines. It is mainly based on the Non-aligned doctrine which has created some conditions for a sort of balanced harmonisation of the interests of the countries in world peace and progress. It is proven that this joint action, aims and methods, among the countries of the Third World has helped much to do away with the fundamental question in the world which has been severely rocked by some economic crises, especially the monetary crisis, mounting social conflicts and growing unemployment and inflation. These international question which spring from the objective conditions of the advanced capitalist countries, clearly mirror the nature of the whole economic structure of the capitalist world. Convincing evidence comes from the nature of the present international economic order with all its contradictions and defects.

The joint action among the newly liberated developing countries to intensify and develop their cooperation and further strengthening and pooling of their political and mainly economic potential, has been the supreme purpose of the Third World to meet the acute requirements of the age.

According to the aims and goals of the Third World, the Non-aligned countries, especially the fully liberated ones, reaffirmed again their adherence to the spirit of the Declaration of the Fourth Conference in Algiers of 1973, which pointed out that the UN may become an effective instrument for promoting international peace and security, for the development of cooperation, and for ensuring basic rights and freedom.

The joint action of the Non-aligned countries in the four summit conferences and in the UN itself has enabled them to stress stoutly that their

own solidarity and their cooperation with other peace-loving countries have facilitated positive changes in the UN, and that the Non-aligned countries will go on without hesitation to work for strengthening and supporting the organs of the UN and any other international organisation.

As the UN was founded to defend peace and in the name of peace, the Non-aligned countries accepted the basic principles of the UN Charter despite its shortcomings and defects. They are now playing their role as active and positive proponents of the Charter in the international arena.

Now it is obvious enough that the UN as an international instrument is no more the organ or the forum of a single voice. Thanks above all to the Non-aligned doctrine, the international organisation has successfully passed the bitter conditions of the cold war and the acute divisions of the conflicting blocs. Furthermore, the UN in this new era, has been significantly influenced by the positive principles of Non-alignment to devote itself not to listen to the single chord of a single side, but to operate under the new international conditions for the benefit of the great majority of mankind.

But what about the future developments?

To establish a New International Economic Order, to democratise the international political relations, decolonise drastically and absolutely the remaining colonies in the world, to eradicate bloc monopoly and above all to enhance and strengthen the cooperation and role of the Non-aligned countries, all these are among the fundamental tasks of Colombo Conference.

Iraq as a positive participant in Colombo Conference is well aware that imperialism has lost once and for all its historical role and initiative and triumph is in store for the world community of free nations.

(M.I.)

# CALL A SPADE A SPADE

by our political commentator

Lebanon, a member of the Non-aligned group of nations, is bleeding.

The leaders of Non-aligned Movement who are assembling in Colombo on August 16 next for their Fifth Summit Conference, will find, to their utter anguish, that the lofty principles of the movement are being trampled under foot in Lebanon by another Non-aligned country — Syria.

The Non-aligned nations have always upheld the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of another country. The military machine of the Syrian regime, by mounting a naked invasion of Lebanon, has violated this policy of civilised international behaviour. Syrian tanks and artillery have completely destroyed the peace of the once picturesque green mountains of Lebanon; their aircraft have dropped hundreds of pounds of explosives on Lebanese civilian population, industrial installations and vital services plants. Their naval units have thrown a virtual blockade around the coastal line of the Mediterranean country. The people of Lebanon are being killed in their hundreds, thousands and are fleeing their hearth and home for unknown destinations and the economy of the prosperous commercial land has been completely ruined.

The Lebanese people have their own aspirations like many other peoples of the world. They are Arabs and feel proud to remain so. And as part of the great Arab Nation they throw their lot with the other Arab brethren in their common struggle against the Zionist-imperialist enemy. Their capa-

bility is limited, but they smilingly have shared the distress of their Palestinian brethren and stood by them in their trials and tribulations and in their struggle for regaining national identity.

The Lebanese people, like many others in the Third World, have their own problems too. There are some national renegades who strive for isolating the Lebanese people from the rest of their Arab brethren. These handful of isolationists who have powerful backers in the ranks of the enemies of the Arabs, are also trying to destroy the bond of camaraderie between the Palestinian and Lebanese Arabs. They have also embarked on an annihilation campaign of all progressive elements in Lebanese society with a view to protecting their class interest which runs counter to the interest of the whole people of Lebanon.

The heroic and politically conscious people of Lebanon are putting up stiff resistance to all such schemings and military campaigns of these isolationist and reactionary elements. This struggle of the Lebanese people is essentially the internal matter of Lebanon and should have been left to the Lebanese people themselves to settle. The armed intervention by Syria into the domestic affairs of Lebanon has set before other nations a very dangerous example. The very principle of respecting territorial integrity of countries faces a serious challenge in Lebanon.

The Damascus regime may seek to justify its invasion of Lebanon on the plea that Mr. Suleiman Franjeh, who claims to be continuing as President of Lebanon, welcomed the invasion. Without going into the political motive of Mr. Franjeh that prompted him to do so, one can reasonably question this isolationist leader's legal authority to issue such a certificate.

Mr. Franjeh had entered upon the office of President by virtue of one-vote majority in the second count six years ago. During the tenure of his office, he successfully alienated all sections of people by his misrule. As a result, everybody, with the lone exception of his son, demanded his resignation. The Parliament passed a vote of non-confidence against him. Finally, the country's Constitution was amended and a new President was elected to succeed him. Mr. Franjeh, who had to flee the Presidential Palace in the face of popular uprising against him, chose to cling to his office

illegally with the blessings of the Damascus regime. In fact he had lost both de facto and de jure authority to exercise his Presidential powers in the eye of the Lebanese people and the Constitution of the country.

So, even if this "Mr. Nobody" has welcomed the Syrian military intervention, he has done so without any authority and his action neither represents the will of the Lebanese people, nor does it enjoy the sanction of law.

The Syrian regime may try to take shelter for its crimes under the pretext that its presence in Lebanon has been necessitated by the unsettled conditions there. This argument also does not hold good. If a sister Arab country needs the help of others to overcome her difficulties, the appropriate forum to discuss the situation is the Arab League. The Syrian authorities did not care for any collective Arab consensus while deciding to enter into and occupy Lebanese territory. Subsequent call of the Arab League for the withdrawal of the occupation troops of Syria has also been ignored by the arrogant rulers in Damascus. This is a situation which the Non-aligned nations cannot possibly overlook, because, a member-country is violating the principles on which the very edifice of Non-alignment has been built.

The Non-aligned Movement has been lending support to national liberation movements all over the world. The struggle of the Palestinian people for the restoration of their usurped national rights has received unqualified and active support of the Non-aligned Movement. The struggling Palestinians have been subjected to an extermination campaign in Lebanon by the agents of imperialism and Zionism, and the Damascus regime is actively conniving with them. The situation has come to such a pass that the very survival of the Palestinian resistance movement is now at stake. The Non-aligned nations cannot shut their eyes to these developments in view of their own declaration made in Algiers during the Fourth Summit Conference. If the Palestinian militants are allowed to be systematically liquidated, then all pious wish for the success of their struggle will go in vain.

The memory of the bloody events of black September, 1970, and May 1973, that took place in Jordan, and Lebanon respectively, are still fresh in people's mind. So no body should expect that the agony of Tel al-Zaatar will ever be

forgotten. The Palestinian resistance movement will surely be reborn from the ashes of Tel al-Zaatar. And history will not forgive those who committed this heinous crime against humanity or collaborated with the perpetrators of the crime.

Analysing these events of Lebanon, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, in his address to the nation on July 17, 1976, correctly pointed out:

"Right from the very beginning, the isolationists who are tied hand foot with the imperialist quarters, never made secret of their intention to liquidate the Palestinian resistance movement or hold it in check; have it disarmed and render it incapable of facing up to the imperialist sponsored political settlements.

"Over the past months of bloody struggle, the Palestinian resistance movement managed to stand its ground valiantly in the face of the aggression of the isolationist forces. The well-knit cohesion that has arisen between the Lebanese patriotic movement and the Palestinian resistance was instrumental in assuring the requisites of thwarting the aggression of the isolationist forces and their allies and of the evil designs that lay behind that aggression. Among those wicked designs was the attempt to partition Lebanon and set up sectarian entities analogous to the sectarian and racist Zionist entity planted in occupied Palestine".

So grave is the situation in Lebanon today. A small Non-aligned country is being forced to change its identity and national direction. And along with it the Palestinian resistance movement is being sought to be liquidated. It is understandable that the imperialist-Zionist enemy will try its best to achieve its aims. But what is not comprehensible is that a country committed to uphold the banner of Non-aligned movement is desecrating the same banner and actively aiding and abetting the schemings of the imperialist-Zionist enemy. This double-faced policy of the Damascus regime needs to be thoroughly exposed by other Non-aligned nations. President Bakr, in his address referred to above, demanded with full justification that "neither the events unfolding on the Lebanese scene, nor the crimes committed by the Syrian regime, should be allowed to pass without proper evaluation and examination".

Time has come for some heart-searching and calling a spade a spade.

## FACE-UP TO CAPITALIST ECONOMIC CHALLENGE



For a new Economic order: Baghdad 3rd International Seminar: June 3 1976

## Non-aligned Nations Need Closer Cooperation

In view of the prevailing unhealthy trends in the capitalist world economy the developing countries, who are adversely affected by these trends, are called upon to maintain closer economic ties with one another in their common interest.

Although the present tendency for the Non-aligned and other developing countries is to expand bilateral economic cooperation, particularly on long-term basis, and to put an end to the worked-up clashes of interests following the so-called energy crisis and that of raw materials, the current world economic situation dictates the establishment of broader economic ties between these countries. This could be done by the pooling of capital, know-how and natural resources, in addition to undertaking common marketing. Thus the national economies of the developing countries will be boosted and an end be put to their dependence on the economies of the advanced countries.

In other words, such a cooperation will weaken the influence of world monopolies and effectively contribute to the national and international economic-political goals of the Non-aligned and other developing countries.

Undoubtedly, organised cooperation based on programmes of action will be a condition under which countries from the advanced world will participate in these programmes besides the international financial institutions. The cooperation orientation has been encouraged by previous Non-aligned conferences; and as a result of the changes in the international monetary system and world trade which have subjected many developing countries to severe oscillations and difficulties threatening the continuity of direct marketing of their commodities giving way to middlemen, additional efforts on the part of the Non-aligned and other developing countries are needed to administer new mea-

asures in order to ensure the constant growth of their mutual trade and their basic commodities which fall within the structure of trade.

Among the effective and tangible forms of cooperation that have proved successful with some nations over the past fifteen years are joint ventures. This form of partnership best serves common interest. In addition to helping create and deepen mutual business and confidence, this form of cooperation realises reciprocal adjustments in the national regulations of the countries concerned leading to the elimination of multi-sided obstacles and contribute to the development of particular sector of the partner country.



Delegates from developing countries discussing the world economic issues in Baghdad

Co-production is another form of economic cooperation which should be enhanced by the developing countries. In co-production, each partner performs part of the production process or supplement it. This is very feasible knowing that the developing countries own the manpower, know-how and raw materials and some of them have the money for financing such projects.

Furthermore, co-production will boost mutual trade and put the developing countries in a better position vis-a-vis world trade, as this will improve their terms of trade on the basis of a renovated structure allowing favourable valorization of their natural resources.

To allow the natural growth of cooperation between the Non-aligned and other developing countries, closer ties and cooperation between the institutions and organisations planning economic development and those financing various programmes from among these countries, are needed. More-

over, introduction of various elements in some sectors of the economy, such as labour, at a sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels, would certainly realise an upgrading of the position of the developing countries in the overall international division of economic activity. Such plans would enlarge the domains of mutual economic cooperation.

Many developing countries in recent years have achieved progress in particular sectors of their economies which proves that they are able to lend their know-how and technology, through cooperation, to other countries. To meet the needs of the other developing countries within the frame-

work of mutual economic cooperation, the trade infrastructure of most of these countries should be revised and elevated to facilitate the application of methodical and comprehensive multilateral cooperation.

Following the July 17, 1968 Revolution, Iraq has worked on the consolidation and strengthening of the Non-aligned movement. Proceeding from its conviction in the importance of this movement, Iraq has concluded many economic agreements with developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America whereby it extended economic and financial assistance to them. The forthcoming Non-aligned Summit Conference to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, is viewed in Iraq as the most important conference of its kind in view of the rich countries of economic-political conditions. The rich countries of the advanced world are determined to keep the developing and poor countries of the Third World a mere milch cow for their ever-advancing societies. Therefore it is time now for the Third World to demand its legitimate rights for a decent life.

## REPORT



Modern cows husbandry

Half-way the road between Baghdad and Hilla, a newly paved road branches out to the left and runs along a big canal whose water flows to irrigate an unlimed area of land. On both sides of the Canal dense greenery stretches eastward and westward.

As you drive onward deep in this greenery, you would meet a beautiful artificial forest and hear the noise of tractors and bulldozers filling the air. Further you would see the land divided into beautiful geometric forms. This area, or rather project, is called the "Greater Mussaib" project.

The project, which initially meant to be a cultivable area in which modern techniques in agriculture were to be introduced was completed in 1956, but due to the influence of feudal landlords, the project's lands were of a handful of beneficiaries. The land was then mishandled; the drainage system was left unattended or maintained; salinity was not treated properly, and consequently the area turned into a barren land.

The "process" of deterioration continued, whereas the administration in charge of the project



Expanding lands cultivated

## A PROJECT IS RE-BORN

confined itself to the task of distributing water and collecting taxes only.

After July 17, 1968, Revolution, and with the stress on agriculture as a source of national income, huge sums of money were allocated to reclaim the land of the semi-dead project, dredge its main canal and drainage system, and to purchase heavy field machinery, such as tractors, trucks, and other farming equipment.

The total area of the Greater Mussaib project is 250,000 donums (one donum = 2500 sq.m) of the most fertile land in Iraq. Water from the Hindiyah Barrage irrigates this land by means of a 40 km. long main canal from which many sub-canals branch. Some 70 automatic dredgers work daily in cleaning up these canals.

The project is not meant any more for irrigation, drainage and agriculture alone. There are other supplementary projects connected with it. Twenty ultra-modern yards which house some 1,315 various kinds of cattle are under strict observation in the animal husbandry station attached to the project. Milking is done

automatically and collected at an average daily production of 13.5 tons. Moreover, there are 60 folds housing 8,000 sheep. Also, there are five pens of 10,000 chickens capacity each, a big shed for honey cultivation, and a pond for fish breeding.

Some 20,000 donums of the project are cultivated with sugar-beet to meet part of the requirement of national industry.

The project constitutes six state farms covering an area of 80,000 donums. These farms produce grains, fruits and vegetables through the introduction of covered cultivation.

The Greater Mussaib project comprises various specialised departments such as, soil, land reclamation, agricultural affairs, crop protection, machine maintenance, silos and cold storages. Furthermore, the project has an independent concrete pipes factory.

As to the future plans, the project is to concentrate on the production of raw materials to multi-sided industries. It is also planned to expand the existing forest, build a spacious park round the fish pond in addition to rest houses for tourists to enjoy the scenery.



Gunnar Jarring, Meir, Abba Eban: when the UN was exploited by Zionism

## ERA OF DECEPTION IS NOW OVER

## ZIONIST ENTITY AND AFRICA

The Zionist entity, from the beginning, presented itself as a kind of 'godfather' to the emerging African states. Priding itself on its know-how and expertise, the Zionist regime was soon dispatching 'aid missions' to many black African countries as if its opposition to their independence, inside the U.N. and outside it, had never been.

Up to the Arab Zionist war of 1973, Afro-Zionist relations can be said to have gone through three stages:

1. The preparatory stage, extending from the early fifties to the Bandung Conference of 1955, witnessed the Zionist entity's tentative efforts in the direction of Africa, with Liberia and Ghana becoming the first African states to open their doors to the Zionists. However, with the early successes came also the first rebuffs: the Zionist entity was not invited to attend the Bandung conference. Not only that, the joint communiqué put out by the conference drew the world's attention to the Palestinians' plight and called for the implementation of the U.N. resolutions regarding Palestine.

2. The second phase, extending from the mid-fifties up to the immediate aftermath of the June war of 1967, saw the high water mark of the Zionist entity's relations with black Africa, when, partly, as a result of the opening up of the Gulf of Aqaba to Zionist shipping following the 1956 war, the Zionists were becoming increasingly successful in forging inroads into Africa.

3. The third stage marked the decline of Afro-Zionist relations, when, as a result of the Zionists' continued occupation of the territory of an African state (Egypt), one African country after another broke off relations with the Zionist entity.

Let us now trace the history of Afro-Zionist relations in more detail.

The first fact to be borne in mind about the Zionist entity's initial success in finding a foothold in Africa is that it was done with Washington's help and encouragement. Nadav Safran, the Harvard professor and former White House aide (who happens to be an American Israeli of Egyptian origin) was most explicit about the Zionist role in Africa when he wrote in his book 'The United

States and Israel' (published in 1963): "If there is any 'realistic' motive in Israel's program of foreign aid, it is probably to be found in the hope that it will draw tangible rewards from the United States by serving, coincidentally with her own interests, the same objects that that country seeks to promote through its aid program".

When we ask what these objects are, the answer, we find, comes readily to mind: it is to discourage the African states from taking a course towards the left, and to keep them firmly within the Western orbit. Indeed, a Zionist writer once went so far as to say that one of the Zionists' prime objectives in Africa lay in establishing a kind of bridge between the erstwhile colonial powers and their former colonies. "Israel", in his view — and he was writing in the heyday of Afro-Zionist relations — "Israel" had to be entrusted with infiltrating western aid into former colonies which would look askance at such aid were it to come straight and direct from the former colonial powers.

The Zionist entity, in its programme of aid to Africa, was actually working hand in glove with Washington, and, in order to avoid any possible misunderstanding with its senior partner, America, the Zionist entity established a special section in its Washington embassy designed to co-ordinate its aid to the developing countries with that of the U.S. The whole effort had to be painstakingly planned and synchronized.

In addition, an Afro-Asian institute was established in Tel Aviv under the direction of a Zionist American, and there were financial contributions from the European Common Market to allow Asian and African students to undergo professional training at this institute. British and American trade unions also helped, and both George Meany and Walter Reuther, the leaders of the giant American trade unions, AFL-CIO, personally took an interest in the activity of this institute.

While this was going on, the western Press which has long been a friend of the Zionists, kept trying to poison Arab-African relations by creating the vicious myth that the Arabs were slave-traders (this Press conveniently forgot the glaring historical fact that the U.S. was in fact the slave-trader par excellence).

Another favourite theme of the western Press was that of 'Arab imperialism'. Some Arab countries were accused, back in the fifties and sixties, of having territorial ambitions regarding black Africa. While these Press accusations were banded about, the Zionist entity, bent on circumventing the Arab encirclement, went on consolidating its position in Africa. Side by side with trying to win friends and influence people, the Zionists were also trying to sell their goods. Suffering from the Arab embargo, they were now going all out to conquer the black continent economically.

With economic penetration came political influence, and since politics is never divorced from strategy, the Zionist entity, as a militarist state, was soon extending military aid of sorts to more than one African country. This aid included selling arms, training troops, and extending assistance in the fields of intelligence and espionage to regimes that were not firmly in the saddle. By this kind of help, the Zionist entity was providing these right-wing regimes with a new lease of life, for, as long as leftist forces remained outside the fence, the Zionists could feel at ease.

There have been many instances of the Zionist entity's involvement in counter-revolutionary activity in Africa. The Zionist entity was active in Katanga as well as in Biafra. Zionist military instructors helped plan and execute Haile Selassie's campaign of repression against the Eritrean people. They were also involved in the secessionist movement in the Sudanese South. The late Amilcar Cabral exposed their role in Guinea Bissau where they helped the Portuguese against the nationalists fighting for their country's freedom. Everywhere in the African continent, the Zionists were working hand in glove with the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) not to mention their very close co-operation with the South African regime of apartheid.

The Zionist entity had presented itself to Africa as a country that belonged to neither of the two opposing camps; it had passed itself as a prototype of progress and enlightenment, ever willing to lend altruistic help to those who needed it. Harping on the theme of racial discrimination from which the Africans have suffered so much, Abba Eban, the

former Zionist Foreign Minister, once told a visiting African delegation: "We all have suffered from discrimination; some because of colour and others because of religion". However, Eban forbore to add that any discrimination the Jews might have suffered from, definitely did not come from the Arabs whose land the Zionists had usurped.

The Zionist propaganda in Africa always drew a comparison between Africa's struggle against Britain, and 'Israel's' 'war of liberation' against this same power. History was flagrantly falsified in order to show the Zionists as freedom fighters; as a people who had many things in common with the Africans. This deceptive propaganda did not work for ever.

As things turned out, Africa's ultimate disenchantment with the Zionist entity proved to be not too long in the offing. In addition to Africa's anger at the Zionists' intransigence in holding on to the territory of an African state, the Africans had also begun to realize that by admitting the Zionists into their midst, they had admitted a Trojan horse. The Zionist entity's firm alliance with imperialism had become clear to everyone. Many a secret operation undertaken by the CIA in Africa had been mounted with Zionist help. Everywhere, the Zionists were on the side of the reactionaries and the counter-revolutionaries against the forces of freedom and liberation. After all, wasn't the Zionist entity South Africa's best friend?

On the economic level, many projects undertaken by the Zionists in Africa had come to naught. They had over-extended themselves and they had over-estimated their capability. They had tried to compensate for this by stressing their military aid at the expense of development assistance, and by this act they had confirmed Africa's fear that the Zionist entity was simply a mini-imperialist power; a catspaw in the service of colonialism. Furthermore, the young Africans who had gone to study in occupied Palestine had come back with stories of racial discrimination and arrogance that made the Zionists stand on par with the Rhodesians and the South Africans. They had seen imported African raw materials being turned into finished goods by the Zionists, then exported to Africa —

the original source. All this made it amply clear that the Zionists were not interested in helping Africa to industrialise; like the other imperialists, the Zionists preferred that the black continent remain a milch cow for the foreign industrialists.

The Zionist entity had been against African independence. In 1956 it had voted in the U.N. against Algerian independence, and against holding general elections in the Cameroun. It had refused to denounce France's setting off of an atomic device in the Sahara. In 1960 it abstained from voting for the independence of Tanganyika, Ruwanda and Burundi. And in the 1970's, it vehemently opposed the liberation movements in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea Bissau.

This attitude was not lost on the Africans, and Guinea became the first African state to cut off diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity. By this act, the Guinean President Sekou Toure had shown understanding for the Arab position, as well as grasping the nature of the Zionists' real role in Africa. He was followed by the Ugandan Government which had caught the Zionist military mission red-handed as its members engaged in subversive activities against this African state. 700 Zionists had to leave Uganda.

In the months that followed, Chad and Congo Brazzaville followed suit, with President Tombalbaye declaring that "Israel" was as much an enemy of his country as were the governments in Washington, Salisbury, Pretoria and Lisbon. By early 1973, Niger, Mali, Burundi, Togo and Zaïre had cut off relations with Tel Aviv. Others followed in their footsteps until finally the Zionist entity was left with only one friend in Africa: South Africa. Completely isolated, the Zionists could now discard the mask of benevolence they had until then put on. Now they stood in their true colour as enemies of all developing countries, and it is in this light that their infamous raid on the Entebbe Airport should be seen.

It is brutal of vengeance wreaked on an African state as a response to that state's stand for freedom and justice.



## FACTS ABOUT PALESTINE



In Nazi Germany prisoners were taken out in the open to be shot at against a wall. In the Mafia "state" of the Zionists prisoners are being strangled inside their cells and taken out to be buried in a far away place. Of course, Germany at the time did not bother about what others would say; but "Israel" seems to worry very much about its so-called "democratic" image and what such undesirable news would generate abroad. Therefore it prefers to murder Arab prisoners in a cell (of four walls) and allege afterwards that the prisoners kill each other(!) probably because they feel bored!

## A NEW CAPITAL OF TERROR

In the public eye Jerusalem was usurped; the biggest robbery ever accomplished (notwithstanding the robbery of Palestine) took place during the 67 war when the Zionists fell on the sacred city and captured it. Protests, decisions and condemnations all stormed the Zionist government for some time, but to no avail. An efficient process of bulldozing, dynamiting and evacuation followed with some few more protests gradually dying down. Yet, facts are facts, Jerusalem was being Judaized and the die was cast!

Thereafter, the Judaization of the city seemed to arouse some criticism here and there. However, as the process went on with remarkable speed and under the strictest possible procedures of secrecy with pro-"Israeli" governments feigning ignorance and international news media standing mute — the set plan of crossing out the once Arab Jerusalem from the annals of history (as intended by the Zionists) is about to come true!

## A MAFIA "STATE"

Khedre Abdullah Issa, a Nablus Arab sentenced to four years jail term (by a court!), was the recent victim of a series of murders committed by the Zionist prison authorities. The sentence for murder, needless to say, was given from the highest government authorities and the whole operation was carried out smoothly and without much noise! How could the Zionist authorities allege that other prisoners have killed the Palestinian Arab who was suffering solitary confinement, is inexplicable!

In the mean time, while Arabs are being killed this way inside their prisons, outside, in the streets of Nablus they are being arrested at random and exposed to a very strange kind of punishment. Because they have participated in the current demonstrations against Zionist terrorism, 57 Arab students were sentenced each to pay \$ 15,000 to the court! In fact, if the court had the slightest doubt that any of the students possessed such an amount of money, the sentence would have been entirely different. In any case what is intended by the sentence is to render the students' helpless and thus to take them to prison under any pretext!

Now, when the attention of the whole world is focussed on the Zionist-cooked civil war in Lebanon, Egal Allon, the Zionist Minister of Foreign Affairs, is declaring that according to an agreement between all Zionist "parties", Jerusalem is to become the next capital of "Israel"! The US support, of course, is ready to be granted — the Democratic Party already did — and a great deal of hubbub and turmoil is being fabricated by the Zionists to disseminate through their network of news media to screen the deed for a while until it becomes outdated! (An "Israeli" child claimed to be killed by an Arab revolutionary "terrorist" would do as an example!)

As for the time being, procedures are already taken transfer Embassies and foreign Diplomatic missions to the new "capital". Meanwhile, the process of dismissing the Arab owners of the city is being accelerated.

## PALESTINE A HUGE ARMS STORE

Zionists allege they are seeking peace in the Middle East because they are weak and few compared to the large number of Arabs. It is also natural to hear them saying that Arabs want to "throw them into the sea". Factual proofs over the years, however, have shown that the Zionists have always attacked first and that Arabs had no alternative but to defend themselves. Moreover, there is ample evidence now to prove that the Arabs never wanted to "throw anybody into the sea", but that the Zionists have actually thrown the majority of Arabs of the occupied territories into the desert. This is, of course, apart from what happened to the Arabs in Palestine itself.

Crowning their scandalous allegations of being on the hunt for peace is the last declaration of Shimon Peres, the Zionist Minister of War. Peres revealed that the number of Zionist forces has in-

## SEVERAL MEANS BUT ONE END

"When the country was still in its infancy, we established one settlement after another and thus conquered the land. This should also be done in Judea and Samaria (and the rest of the occupied territories of course — the writer), although I don't think we should expel the inhabitants of the area just yet"! (Yediot Aharanot April 25). Just when does Aharon Frank, president of the Zionist farmers' union think it fit to do so? It looks as if the plan is not yet ripe and ready to strip the mask and confess that not a single Palestinian Arab is to be spared, in his own land.

Besides the 75 settlements which have been established since 1948 in the occupied territories, the inhabitable lands still left to its real owners are being exposed to tens of rules and regulations which in the final analysis, aim at one thing: expelling all the Arabs or, as Zionists prefer to call them, the non-Jews. The emergency regulations, the law on the Acquisition of the Absentees' Property and the so-called "military closed areas" of Article 125 of "the Defence Law" actually leave the Arabs with no chance to find a way out. These laws and regulations are an indirect scheme to steal the Arab land and take shelter afterwards against world public opinion, while the settlements are a blatant "kill and loot" policy which hitherto has proved successful with the defenceless Arab victims. Nevertheless, in occupied Palestine and the territories,



increased by 30% since the 73 war. Details actually show that the once peaceful Palestine is being turned into a huge arms store in which the number of tanks has increased by 35%, artillery by 25%, armours by 60% and warships by 45% (Tass). It is obvious that the \$450,000,000 "aid" granted by the US has been spent mostly on buying offensive weaponry to achieve peace the Zionist way!

every available means is used to deprive the Arabs of their lands.

January of next year for example, will witness the establishment of 18 more settlements in the territories occupied since 67. What consequences this scheme will give rise to, is yet unknown. But it is most likely, as it happened before, that 3 or 4 Western papers will "disapprove" of the "Israeli rashness" and then end up with the conclusion that "settlements pose a threat to reaching a peace agreement"! As for the Arabs who have been killed, dismantled and evacuated, it seems that nobody remembers them.

So far, the question of settlements has been arousing some argument more than any other question in the international circles. The question of land confiscation which does not seem less important, however, rarely bothers Western media in any way although the Zionists confiscate lands more keenly than they do any thing else. In Jallil for instance, 580 square miles were stolen from their Arab owners since 1948. This does not seem very significant. Yet, it appears to be significant if we know that the total land area of Jallil is 780 square miles, which means that Arabs were left 200 square miles only! In fact Jallil is just a small example of a persistent expansionist policy which in the long run, if left unchecked, will end up in just one way: to throw all Arabs out!

(M.M.)



President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr receiving on July 31, the envoy of the Sudanese President Ja'afar Numeiri, Foreign Minister, Mr. Mahjoub Makkawi.



Mr. Saddam Hussein, Revolutionary Command Council's Vice-Chairman attending on August 8, a session of the Seventh Conference of the General Federation of Iraqi Women.



Mr. Izat al-Douri, Minister of Internal Affairs receiving, on August 2nd, Mr. Kawasr Niaz, the Pakistani Minister of Religious Affairs.

## NEWS IN PICTURES



Talks between Iraq and Guyana: Mr. Sa'adeun Hammadi, Foreign Minister of Iraq holding, on August 2, talks with Mr. Fredrich Wills, Foreign Minister of Guyana. The two sides discussed prospects of developing technical and economic cooperation between the two countries.

# ZIONISM FETTERS AMERICA

"We're effective as a lobby because we've got a lot of people we can call on immediately". Thus speaks Washington's chief "Israeli lobbyist" Morris Amitay, Director of the American "Israeli" Public Relations Committee which today boasts a membership of 12,000. Amitay and his Committee are backed by virtually scores of major Zionist organizations in America and the Zionist entity. They have extensive links with the leaders of numerous American Jewish communities as well as solid contacts with the Embassy of the Zionist entity in Washington and are even in direct communication with Tel Aviv. Members of American Zionist organizations sit on boards of dozens of the largest American banks and industrial corporations. They are climbing up steep ladders of power towards the summits of the White House and Congress, the Supreme Court, the Department of State, the Pentagon and even such agencies as the CIA and the FBI.

"Israeli lobby by many accounts", stresses observer David Binder, "is the most powerful, best run and effective foreign policy interest group in Washington".

He goes on to add that many Americans fear it. And for good reasons too. Few would doubt that the influential Senator Fulbright lost his seat as a result of direct pressure applied by the "Zionist money" or that Zionists succeeded in silencing General Brown when he made an attempt to protest against Tel Aviv's open pressure on the Pentagon to secure newest weaponry. Today agents of the Zionist-"Israeli" lobby have infiltrated every American organization of any consequence. Morris Amitay, says in so many words: "I know all these guys at State and Defence (Departments) and the CIA".

The appointment of Leo Cherne, a Jew, to the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board is regarded by experts as another testimony of the omni present influence of the mighty Zionist lobby which today controls practically all the major seats of power in the complex pyramid of US Administration. The Board will not only have total control over the CIA but will also advise the President of the United States on the formulation of U.S. foreign policies. The experts emphasize that through Cherne the Zionist lobby will always be in a position to "prompt" President Ford or whoever is in the White House what is expected of him.

What are the spheres of Zionist influence in the United States? This is described in the book "America Caught in a Zionist Web". It stresses that Zionism through a system of intrigues has

penetrated many major American public and state institutions, banks, industrial undertakings, universities, media, television and cinema. It also emphasizes that Zionism is taking advantage of certain liberties in the U.S. to erode the fundamentals of the American society. Through the far-flung lobby system Zionist brokers each year spirit away from America to Israel virtually hundreds of millions of tax-free dollars. Making extensive use of the pro-"Israeli" lobby in its press the Zionist elite is working to get hold of the principal reins of U.S. Government.

Just look at American universities and colleges. At least 330 of them offer extensive Jewish courses. The youth is being taught a Zionized American way of life.

Look at Congress. The name "Zionist-Jewish club" has long stuck to it.

Look at the White House. The offices of its senior aides are filled with Jews who divulge secrets to the "Israeli" Embassy.

Look at the Pentagon, the CIA, the FBI, the Department of State — everywhere Zionists push the most important buttons.

Influential American Jews do what they like with American national wealth. One of the "owners of America" Jack Hoffman, President of the Hoffman-Rezner Corporation exclaims in elation: "With the population less than half of the population of Chicago Israel today builds more houses than Chicago". Hoffman conveniently forgets to add, however, that these houses are built on American money in the very same way as the "Israeli" Military aggression is paid from and its failing economy is underwritten by American funds.

The book "America Caught in a Zionist Web" stresses that the pro-"Israeli" Zionist lobby has become a sort of sub-government standing apart from the American society but feeding on it and working to impose its will on that society. The Zionist sub-government influences both the domestic and foreign policy-making process in the USA, sometimes directly dictating its terms to the American society.

Today the pro-"Israeli" Zionist lobby is applying great pressure to bear on the US political parties.

Zionism is an ugly political force killing the American vitality. To destroy this danger, stresses the book "America Caught in a Zionist Web" — the Zionist dilemma has to be resolved in the United States. Should America fail to bridle Zionism, it may paralyse if not outright ruin America.

## BOOKS



There have been numerous books in Arabic about the Arab-"Israeli" conflict, but this book\* is probably the first sociological study of the conflict. As such, it is more concerned with analysis and interpretation than with a straight narration of facts. In his opening chapter, Dr. Ibrahim gives a resumé of the laws and theories of conflict, citing the views of Ibn Khaldun, Karl Marx, Oswald Spengler and Arnold Toynbee among others. And since in this age of total confrontation, actual combat is merely one aspect of the conflict, a sociological treatment of a war — any war — has to link between the various variables, aspects and social systems of the parties involved in the conflict.

Conflict is defined as the clash of wills and forces between two, or more, antagonists, and its objective is the breaking, partly or wholly, of the other party's determination to carry on with the conflict. There are two methods of conflict study: the **macroscopic** method attempts to study the history of the societies in question as a whole, inferring from it the general laws that govern the progress of this history; and the **microscopic** method which studies the anatomy of the conflict in all its details.

The microscopic method also attempts to draw up the prototypes and equations which assist in the management of the conflict in given circumstances and over a specific period of time. Thus the purpose of a microscopic study is not merely the grasping of the mechanism of conflict, but also its management which entails taking the appropriate decisions, predicting the opponent's behaviour and preparing the proper response to it, etc.

Modern strategy is not an art but a complex science, and as such, it requires the combined efforts of sociologists, economists, mathematicians and psychologists, in addition to those of the politicians and the generals.

All this has given birth to the so-called **game theory** which determines the rules and the position of every player, or rather decision maker, tries to make the cost of any move he

## Sociological Aspects Of The Arab "Israeli" Conflict



في سوسيولوجية  
الصراع العربي الإسرائيلي

تأليف  
الدكتور  
شعد الدين إبراهيم

makes less than its expected reward.

If one of the players loses the game, then this is due to one or more of the following factors:

1. Miscalculation of one's own strength and potential.
2. Miscalculation of the opponent's strength.
3. Breakdown in one's intelligence apparatus.
4. Inability to realize the ideal point at which the game should be stopped.
5. The sudden and unexpected changing of the game's rules by the opponent.

As an example of miscalculation, Dr. Ibrahim cites the case of President Nasser's acceptance of the Rogers' Peace Initiative back in 1970.

In his opinion, Egyptian response to the Ameri-

can plan was probably based on the following two sets of hypotheses:

(1)

- Hypothesis: America is really sincere about reaching a peace settlement in the Middle East based on the Security Council's resolution.
- Hypothesis "Israel" does not really want a settlement based on that resolution.
- a. Therefore: Egypt's acceptance of the Rogers plan would bring America and Egypt closer to each other.
- b. On the other hand, "Israel's" reluctance in accepting the plan would cause a chill in her relations with the U.S.
- c. "Israel's" position would anger America and this might lead Washington to stop sending aircrafts to the Zionist entity.
- d. Within "Israel" itself there would be a rift inside the government between the Gahal bloc and the Mepai party.
- e. This division would weaken the internal front and consequently undermine "Israel's" position politically and militarily.
- f. If "Israel" went on procrastinating, it would not only lose America's sympathy, but would also forfeit world opinion.
- g. In case "Israel" accepted the Rogers proposals, the Zionists would have to withdraw from the occupied territories, thereby causing Egypt's objective to be realized, (bearing in mind that Egypt's objective lies in "Israel's" withdrawal from the occupied territories):

(2)

- Hypothesis: America is not sincere in bringing about a peace settlement in the Middle East based on the Security Council resolution. Ergo: the Rogers proposals are merely a bluff.
- Hypothesis: "Israel" is really unenthusiastic about reaching a settlement that is based on the Security Council resolution.
- Therefore:
- a. Egypt's acceptance of the Rogers proposals would show Egypt in a good light as far as world opinion is concerned.
- b. Egypt's acceptance would come as a surprise to both America and "Israel" since it would be unexpected. This fact would put both America and "Israel" in an embarrassing position.
- c. As a superpower, America would not be able to retreat from its once declared position, but would have to go on with the process of putting its proposals into effect.
- d. If "c" was realized then "Israel" would be bound to oppose and resist the proposals, thereby causing a rift in her relations with America.

- e. If America proved unwilling to implement its proposals, then it would be revealed to the world as a hypocrite and as a party to the aggression inflicted on the Arabs.
  - f. In addition to all these assumptions, Egypt would also have gained, by means of the ceasefire, a breathing space during which it could build its SAM bases along the Suez Canal.
- Dr. Ibrahim maintains that these assumptions made by the Egyptian decision-makers (President Nasser with the assistance of Mohamed Hassanein Heikal) were actually incomplete, for a third set of assumptions should have been taken into account. This third set would have to stem from the belief that: **NOT ONLY WERE AMERICA AND ISRAEL NOT SERIOUS ABOUT THE PROPOSALS BUT THEY ALSO HAD A COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME BASED ON A WHOLE SERIES OF PREMISES.**

In attempting to look at the Middle East conflict through American-Zionist eyes, Dr. Ibrahim comes up with the following list of probable premises, thought to have been set forth by the Washington-Tel Aviv decision-makers:

- Hypothesis: The Arabs insist on the implementation of the Security Council resolution as being the minimum of what they are willing to accept. And since the continuation of the fighting along the canal front is not in the interest of America and Israel owing to the high price of attrition for Israel, and the increasing risk of a confrontation with the U.S.S.R. for America (not to mention the risk of a revolution breaking out over the whole Arab area) therefore:
- a. The Rogers proposals would show America as a peace-loving country and would raise America's prestige in the eyes of its Arab friends.
- b. If Egypt accepted the Rogers proposals, this would make it easier for Jordan to accept the same. Consequently, there would follow a welcome period of calm for "Israel". But if Egypt did not accept the proposals, then this would provide a justification for the U.S. to go on supplying "Israel" with arms. And it would give America's Arab friends a pretext to criticize the Egyptian regime and even to withhold their support from Egypt.
- c. If Egypt accepted the proposals, this would cause a rift between Egypt and the Palestinian Resistance, between Egypt and Iraq, and between Jordan and the Resistance.
- d. This division in the Arab camp would weaken the Eastern Front if not kill it off outright.
- e. In such circumstances, and as a result of the ensuing coolness between Egypt and the Resis-

tance, Jordan would feel encouraged to deal a blow to the Resistance and even to push it out of Jordan.

- f. If this happened, the Arabs would be involved in an internecine conflict, and this would occupy them for a long time.
- g. At the same time, the U.S. would not be hard put to find justification for providing "Israel" with arms during the ceasefire, so that the military gap widens between Egypt and the Zionist entity, which fact would discourage Egypt from resuming the war once the ceasefire period had come to an end.
- h. Renewing the ceasefire period whenever it comes to an end so that the Arabs gradually lose their will to fight.

Dr. Ibrahim maintains that these assumptions were in the minds of the American and Zionist game theory specialists when Rogers, the then Secretary of State, put out his famous proposals. The outcome — as Dr. Ibrahim sees it — was a complete vindication for the American-Zionist decision-makers as the train of subsequent events has amply shown:

1. The Resistance Movement in Jordan was liquidated.
2. The Eastern Front collapsed.
3. The number of divisions in the Arab camp increased. There was a rift between Egypt and the Resistance, between Egypt and Iraq, and between Jordan and the rest of the Arab world.
4. The Syrians fought the Jordanians.
5. There were internal eruptions in Egypt with the students demonstrating against the government and sectarian clashes taking place between Copts and Moslems.
6. The Arab camp in general was divided and weak, with every Arab country conducting its own independent policy in isolation, and often in contradiction with the policies of the other Arab states.

From this, Dr. Ibrahim deduces that the American-Zionist game theorists were more adept at the game than were the Egyptian decision-makers.

However, it must be mentioned here that Dr. Ibrahim might not be altogether right when, in his listing of probable Egyptian assumptions, he places the ceasefire's use as a breathing space for the Egyptians in which to build SAM bases along the canal, right at the end (letter f). In fact, the available evidence points to this as being the number one premise in President Nasser's own version of the game theory. He was first and foremost thinking of the conflict in purely military terms. The aerial war of attrition had been badly going against Egypt, making it imperative on the Egyptian army

to establish solid defences against the Phantoms and Skyhawks; and since the building of surface-to-air missile bases was impossible during the Zionist round-the-clock air-raids, the proposed three-month ceasefire came as a blessing.

The other chapters in Dr. Ibrahim's book deal with "Israel's" utilization of the conflict to strengthen the bond linking the diverse communities and elements who have nothing but the Zionist fascist ideology as a common denominator. He also analyses the Zionist ideology, proving that it is an eclectic philosophy drawing from many diverse sources, among which is social Darwinism with its motto of survival for the fittest. This pseudo-philosophy had permeated the thinking of the late nineteenth century imperialists. From Marxism, Zionism borrowed the law of dialectics — albeit in a distorted form, and from Christian protestantism, it borrowed the work ethic, the spirit of discipline, the worship of efficiency, and pragmatism.

He also discusses the chief splits in the Zionist society: there is the split between "Israel" and Arab, and between Ashkenazi and Sephardi. And there is also the inherent contradiction between Judaism as a religion and "Israeli" nationalism.

When he comes to discuss the anatomy of the Zionist leadership, the author shows clearly that the ruling circle is comprised of men and women whose background is mainly East European. He quotes the progressive Jewish Sociologist, George Tamarin, who had once written that if a circle with a radius of 600 kilometres were to be drawn around the city of Binsk in Russia, most of "Israel's" leaders or their fathers would be found to be from that region, a fact which explains Aba Eban's unpopularity among the Zionists, for he was the odd man out; he had come from South Africa. It also explains why the 200,000 Zionists of German origin never reach the top of the leadership despite their competence and high education.

The Jews who had emigrated to Palestine at the beginning of this century had come from a ghetto, bearing the mentality of the ghetto. So it was almost natural that they should establish a new ghetto in this part of the world. Herzl and the other early Zionists had taught them no other weltanschauung.

In his study of the sociological aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Dr. Ibrahim has made a commendable contribution which goes a long way in dissipating some of the myths that have clung to the conflict for generations.

(\*) The book was published shortly before the October 1973 war.

## TEL AL-ZA'ATAR

The crushed bones of your children  
Under the cracking walls of your camp  
Shall curse the blind liar of Damascus,  
Shall to his never-ending stream if hatred  
Make a halt.

(2)

Your children  
Shall with their groans  
From under the fallen roofs of shelters  
Plant destruction in his venomous  
World of malice.

(3)

You with the bones of your men  
Are alive  
They who march against your  
Peaceful banners  
Are dead.

(4)

You; a reflecting mirror of a nation's pride  
Not a story of lamentation shall tell  
But you shall teach us how to stand alone  
Bereft of supporters  
But rich with faith  
That ultimate victory is ours.

(5)

That fire in your men's breasts  
Shall never be extinguished  
Nor shall your enemy pride themselves  
In hoisting their hostile banners  
Upon our mud walls.

(6)

Tel al-Za'atar  
A legendary legend of all times  
The last telegram you have sent  
Reads:  
Of medicine, food, water have we run short  
But not of men  
Even the dying men fight

Even the wounded fight  
Our stones fight  
Our children  
Our women  
How that the years of torture  
Have come alive.

(7)

Victorious camp of brave men  
Your banners shall be laid down  
Your spirit shall even be high  
In death ditches your men stand  
Day and night  
Ever wakeful

Lest the treacherous tanks of  
Domestic enemy and invaders  
Muster behind the line of hatred  
To stain with more blood  
The setting sun of Beirut.

(8)

How many times they have told the world  
That you have surrendered  
Forty, fifty, sixty times!  
But your confident voice  
Has always been there!  
Calm, determined and reassuring.

(9)

Closing in now is darkness  
And that hatred  
That makes of Beirut  
East and West  
That makes it a furnace of fire  
Is awakened by fresh assaults  
Against the camp of men.

(10)

Tel al-Za'atar  
Darkness is closing in  
But you shall see the light of day  
You shall see the light of day.

Aziz al-Muttaqqi

## FREE FORUM



## ORIENTALISM AND ARABISM

The orientalists, according to Professor Jaroslav Stetkevych (Department of Near East Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago) are used to behaving like exotic, esoteric clan. Their activity goes on within the polished cylindrical walls of their ivory tower. The orientalists cannot climb those slippery walls to the top of the tower, to the very battlements, in order to cast a broad look at the outside world.



## The Future Of Arabic Literary Studies Is In Arabian Hands

For example, we take those who deal with Arabic literature: for whom are meant the results of their studies?

Professor Stetkevych poses this question and tries to answer it...

He sincerely admires the romantic generation of Arabists. He says that they were possessed by the fever of discovery, by a great, soiling illusion, by a delightful, redeeming impatience. They were brilliant scholars, too, but their brilliance did not owe everything to professional competence. In literature they were mostly translators, remarkable translators still unsurpassed translators.

Professor Stetkevych says that after the innocent romantics there came the orientalists as cultural historians... They did much good and they

by Moheyyeddin Ismail

possessed an enviable certainty about their purpose and intellectual mission: They were integrating the orient into universal culture...

He says that a look into the best histories of Arabic literature that orientalism has produced will reveal that the orientalists have not even come to grips with the concept of what makes literature and what should make a literary history. Everything under the sun that has been written in Arabic longer than a century and a half ago we are inclined to call Arabic literature. Religions, traditions, theological treatises, law, chronicles, political history, geography, scientific miscellanea, philosophy, philology — all these may be found included in our concept of Arabic literature.

He adds that such an assortment of subject of matters, styles, objective purposes for which different writings were produced, when classified as Arabic literature at large, turns into an untruly monster capable of scaring away any body who might be approaching the field out of a non-orientalist postulation as to what literature is supposed to be.

Such an approach, he says, is a vestige of the time when the entire discipline of Arabic studies was treated as a legacy of a remote and dead antiquity, out of which everything is carefully salvaged to be labelled as literature. He added that orientalists did not stop to think that what is legitimate for Assyriology or Sumerology might not be legitimate for Arabic, and the orientalists continued identifying themselves in matters of basic methodology with those ancient fields of orientalism.

He said that the orientalists also have lost their interest in literature because it has been too difficult for them to master the Arabic language on time, when they were still full of enthusiasm, of creative impatience, of fertile ideas; because the years, the dictionaries, and the grammars have

drained their energies, have made them forget what they had set out to do; because they are basically disappointed with themselves, yet they refuse to admit this disappointment, hiding it under the smoke-screen of sophistication, of external scholarly competence.

Professor Stetkevych adds: "Maybe even feel a certain hostility to that literature which refused to yield to us its final secret. To a literary scholar, to a student of literature, a language and its literature constitute an environment, a chosen environment, in which he lives in this metaphorical sense so closely bordering on the real".

Furthermore, he states: "Now, environments are known to be either pleasant, congenial, or hostile and forbidding.

Which one of these two is the Arabic linguistic and literary environment to us? Is it a valley of green and barren plenty or is it a lunar landscape of craters and barren plains? Do we live in this environment of ours in the pleasant company of boon-companions and sages, of Hind, Su'ad and Layla, or are we alone, isolated, responsiveness? On an honest answer to these questions will depend whether and in what way we are capable of communicating our experience with Arabic literature to our own culture and linguistic environment provided we choose to attempt such a communication".

Regarding the methodological question Professor Jaroslav said:



Types of Arabic Calligraphy



"There are two basic and in their extreme forms mutually antagonistic schools or methods of literary study: one historical the other critical. The biographical precision, on the fixing of the chronological method relies on general chronology, on logical order of the literary production of individual authors. If it uses analogy or refers to influence it is only in order to establish the chronological priority of certain themes, motives, and genres over other ones, to do justice, once again with reference to time, to the originality of authors, literatures, or cultures. Statements of value become time-bound, culture-bound, etc.

"The critical method, on the other hand, tends to disregard time as mere circumstance. It is concerned with the analysis of literary works as aes-

thetics. Its process may be two-fold: with analysis leading to interpretation, interpretation to evaluation and impression; or vice-versa: starting with impression, proceeding towards aesthetic evaluation, and ending in detail and the kind of analysis whose role it is to answer the question "what" not "when".

About historical determination, Professor Stetkevych says: "Without further explanation as to what I actually mean by it in the present context, it may be necessary once again to call bread and butter butter, which means that the future of Arabic literary studies in particular is in Arabian hands".

Well, Professor Stetkevych, I think that this is your first visit to Iraq. You have, certainly, formed, through your Arabic literary studies an image about Baghdad and the literary life in modern Iraq: did you find this image identical to the actual reality?

This is my first visit to Iraq. I regret that, because it comes so late in my profession as an Arabist — I stress here on "Arabist" —

I have been always fond of Arabic language and Arabic literature, particularly Arabic poetry.

Baghdad was at the back of my conscience... It was a part of my imagination and my life from my school life.

I grew up on the translations of Arabic poetry as well as those classical masterpieces such as One Thousand and One Nights.

Baghdad is present always in poetry and in those lovely stories, and you can imagine how Baghdad has always been an essential part of my imaginative make-up.

In my later life when I became an Arabist, the circumstances, somehow kept me away from Baghdad. But, of course, I know I am well acquainted with Baghdad and its rich history. Though my studies about Baghdad were not limited but all these ideas are in a great need of being supplemented.

Well, now, you have supplemented, to some extent, your ideas on Baghdad and Iraq, on the real Iraq and the real city, what are your impressions about our country... social life... progress... the literary atmosphere and magazines, in brief?

Upon arrival I was struck by the vast distance and the proportion of the modern city of Baghdad. The trip from the airport... it was really a trip... This trip took me through beautiful streets, with greeneries on both sides. From the first glance, Baghdad seems to be a great metropolis. This differed from my previous ideas about this great city.

I have read much about Baghdad; its history, its literature and its arts. I imagined Baghdad as a sleepy little town with much glory in the past. This image has been totally changed from the first glance. I found Baghdad a great modern city in the very amount of construction and development can only be equal to Chicago or any other big city in the world, with enormous economic energy.

So, in the end, my historical knowledge and my present impression have supplemented each other, and perhaps suggested in my mind the thought that this great city is returning to be something it was.

Professor Stetkevych, now let us go back to your professional field. What was the motive of the line you have taken as an orientalist, or Arabist, in your scholarly studies?

My scholarly studies are not scholarly in the academic sense. I prefer to call them literary studies. Actually they are literary ones.

From my early school days my literary studies were close to the Aristotelian idea of "literary knowledge", being somehow superior to any other knowledge of the artistic perception with greater depths than any other studies.

From my early school years, even back in secondary school, I was fond of translations from Arabic literature, especially Arabic poetry. As soon as I entered the university I decided to go beyond translation in order to grasp the great secrets of the Arabic literature and knowledge.

The motivation is completely natural. It did not come as a kind of temporary interest — social or political. The fascination of this literature in itself is equal to that of any other great literature in the world.

Who are the literary figures in Arabic literature who have impressed you most?

Having had the university education, mainly in the traditional discipline, I very early discovered the importance and greatness of Arabic literature.

In Madrid, in the fifties, I turned to the modern Arabic literature. At that time I started some methodological studies. I paid attention to the 19th century Arabic literature as a background to the more recent literary life.

Naturally, I read poets like Baroudi, Shawqi, Ibrahim Hafiz, al-Akhras, al-Hilli, al-Habboubi and the others. From these poets I turned to the new generation: to the interesting period of the 20th century, particularly like Ali M. Taha, Ibrahim Najj and all the other poets of the romantic period, together with the poets of the Mahjar, such as Gibran, Naima, al-Qurawi and Ma'arouf.

One, nevertheless, can't help feeling that the romantic generation is only a stage in the modern Arabic poetry, which attempts to change and develop to catch up with all European literary schools and achievements.

I found myself, in modern Arabic poetry, fully in a new contemporary world with great generation of poets, who came out after the World War II.

Previously, I did not help feeling that I was reading or experiencing a form of literature that was somehow in the footprint of a literary trend that had already gone by and expired in Europe. I mean the romantic generation. Furthermore, modern Arabic poetry is, indeed, part and parcel of a worldwide poetical movement. It belongs to the world as a whole in the world we live in, its challenges, disappointment, hopeful intimations. In a word, the experience of modern Arabic poetry has been to me a part of my own experience as a man of my own time. I sympathise with and understand the efforts of the new generation of the Arab poets — their form, ideas and images.

Here I am pleased to say the modern poets of Iraq have had a unique role, like al-Sayyab, al-Bayati, Nazik.

I have to express my deep regret that I had come here so late, to have met a great poet and a fine spirit: al-Sayyab.

My studies of this poet, in the future, will unfortunately be based only on other critics' opinions and on their personal knowledge of him, as an artist and as a man.

These poets of Iraq are in the vanguard of the Arab poets in the Arab homeland.

## Give Us Back Our Priceless Antiquities

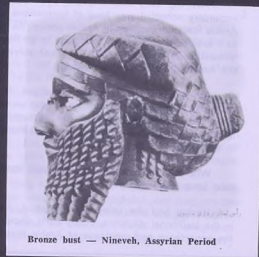
are not here. They have been moved from their place of origin to places with which they have no connection whatever. The citizens only see them in the publications of foreign museums.

Such priceless antiquities are now imprisoned in museums far removed from their natural milieu and original surroundings. In spite of all that, the visitor of the Iraq National Museum finds himself captivated by the treasures which tell the story of the richest, most ancient and finest civilisation in the whole world.

### The UN and the return of antiquities:

When will our plundered antiquities be returned? What is their number? What decision has been taken in respect of their handing them back to us?

Before answering these questions, it is necessary to go back to the resolution of the UN General Assembly taken on 19th November last year which called on all countries to hand back all artistic works, including monuments, archeological relics, manuscripts and documents, to the countries of origin.



Bronze bust — Nineveh, Assyrian Period

Bust of a stone statue — Hatra Period

Adapted from the INA

The archeological expeditions which came to Iraq during the period of imperialist domination, mandateship and stooge governments, plundered the most immortal and valuable relics which various civilisations had bequeathed to Mesopotamia throughout the centuries.

Anyone today can see these stolen wonders in the museums of Britain, France, America, Germany, Turkey, Austria and Italy, very far from the world of Sumer, Akkad, Babylon and Assyria.

The citizens, when looking at the treasures of our national museums and what still stands in the archeological sites, feel a pride not completely free from a profound sorrow as they discover that the most beautiful and some of the invaluable pieces

That resolution was approved by 96 members with none objecting and 16 members abstaining from voting.

The General Assembly confirmed that the return, free of charge, of such works as constitute part of the cultural heritage, would contribute to strengthening international cooperation as much as it would rectify, and justly compensate for, a harm done.

The UN in taking this decision has put an end to international acts of plunder to which the heritage of peoples was subjected. The culture of Mesopotamia comes in the forefront of cultures so ravaged.

This resolution is of the utmost importance to Iraq which was one of the first countries that took the initiative, especially after the 17-30th July national, socialist revolution, to demand the return of stolen treasures. In order to highlight the subject more it is necessary to go back to the Directorate General of Antiquities to tell us in figures about these plundered relics.

### Quarter million relics outside the country:

Dr. Bahnam Abu Assouf, Director of Investigations and Protection of Archeological sites in the Directorate General of Antiquities, stated to the Iraqi News Agency that there are "a quarter million pieces pointing to the ancient civilisation of Mesopotamia, imprisoned in the museums of the world such as the British museums, those of East and West Berlin, the Louvre in Paris, the museums of the American Universities and that of the Ancient East in Istanbul and the Italian museums.

Why in these museums? Dr. Bahnam replied that that was because of the illegal expropriation and larceny practised by antiquity dealers who came to Iraq in the past. What is to be done now? The Directorate General of Antiquities had formed a committee to demand the return of our treasures some years before the UN General Assembly thought of adopting its recent resolution which came to consolidate the legal right of Iraq to restore the antiquities which archeological expeditions plundered during the Ottoman and British rules as well as the rules preceding the 17th July Revolution. It was those regimes which permitted the archeological expeditions to appropriate whatever antiquities they discovered.

### What are the antiquities outside Iraq?

Dr. Bahnam, leafing through a list supported by pictures, replies:

"In the British museum there are 25 thousand cylindrical books inscribed in cuneiform in Assyrian, Babylonian and Sumerian languages, about various sciences and literary matters. In the halls of the British Museum there are hundred metres of mural reliefs representing different aspects of Assyrian life. There are also twelve relics, the most important of which are winged bulls. There is also Assur Nasse-pal's obelisk going back to the ninth century B.C. found at Nimrud.

### Ishtar Gate in Germany:

There are in the halls of the Berlin Museum in the German Democratic Republic tens of our important treasures, one of them is the famous Ishtar Gate.

### The Louvre and Hammourabi's obelisk:

In the Louvre, Dr. Bahnam says, there are about twenty of our most important antiquities among which the famous Hammourabi's obelisk on which the oldest law in history is inscribed.

A French expedition found it in Ahwaz in 1850 and transported it to the Louvre. The obelisk goes back to eighteenth century B.C. In the Louvre there are also a winged bull from Khorsabad, a number of statues of the Sumerian prince Godia as well as other reliefs representing Gilgamesh and Sargon II along with other engravings.

### The American Universities Steal our Antiquities

In the museum of Pennsylvania there is a harp box from Ur decorated with four scenes which goes back to the first half of the third millennium B.C.

In the museum of Chicago University there is a number of Sumerian statues and the statue of the worshipper which dates back to the first half of the third millennium B.C. In the Metropolitan Museum of New York there is a number of Sumerian statues. These are part of the priceless other pieces scattered in other American museums.



The Ziggurat at Ur before repairing the basement.

## 'The Mountain Of Gods' At Ur

Ur-Nammu, the great ruler of Ur, the early Ziggurat at Ur was built by him.

by: Sherif Yusuf



The site of Ur is about 375 km. south-east of Baghdad and some 16 km. west of the present Euphrates. In the midst of the desert rises its mounds with its highest Ziggurat.

In 1852, Ur was discovered by Loftus; its identity was proved the following year by Taylor the British Consul in Basrah.

In 1922, the University Museum of Pennsylvania approached the British Museum with the proposal of a joint expedition to undertake archaeological excavations in Ur. The directorship was entrusted to S'r Leonard Woolley. For twelve seasons in succession, work was carried on in the field with remarkable success.

The history of Ur goes back far beyond the Flood, into those dim days when Ur was an island in the marshland very near to the sea. There is nothing to show to what race the first inhabitants of Mesopotamia belonged but it is natural to associate them with the Semitic-speaking Akkadians who later on occupied the northern half of the twin river-valley.

At Ur, the newcomers took over the old hill-villege and rebuilt it as a town, putting up permanent buildings of burnt brick and surrounding it with stout walls for defence purposes.

At no time in its long history was the city of Ur so important as in the days of the Third Dynasty about 2300 to 2180 B.C. when it was the capital of the Sumerian Empire. The founder of this dynasty was Ur-Nammu, a great conqueror and ruler.



The Ziggurat after the reparation (height about 15 m.)

Ur-Nammu showed himself an undefatigable builder; he encircled his capital with walls rising 26 feet or more above the plain; yet this was not the only work of Ur-Nammu; the early Ziggurat of Ur was built by him.

This ziggurat occupied the site of an older but smaller ziggurat. The early structure is a rectangle measuring a little more than 60 metres in length and 45 metres in breadth, and its original height was about 21 metres.

The angles of the ziggurat are oriented to the four cardinal points of the compass. The whole structure is a solid mass of brickwork; the core, of crude mud bricks; the face covered with a skin 2.30 metres thick of burnt brick set in bitumen. The walls relieved by broad and shallow buttresses lean inwards and stand some 15 metres high; this forms the lowest stage.

Above this stage the tower is taken up in steps or stages each smaller than the one below, leaving narrow passages along the main sides and wider terraces at either end, but the stages are unsymmetrical, so that there are three storeys at the north-west end of the building and four at the south-east end, all communicating by flights of brick stairs; on the topmost stood the little square shrine of the moon god (SIN), who was the chief deity of Ur.

On three sides of the walls rose sheer to the level of the first terrace, but on the north-east face was the approach to the shrine. Three brick stairways, each of 100 steps led upwards, one projecting out at right angle from the building, two leaning against its wall, and all converging in a great gateway on the level of the second terrace. From this gate a single flight of stairs ran straight up to

the door of the shrine, while lateral passages with smaller flights of stairs gave access to the terraces at either end of the tower.

The division of the tower was emphasised by zones of colour. In the later period, the lower stages were painted black, the uppermost was red, and the shrine was covered with blue-glazed tiles; and it is probable that the shrine roof took the form of a dome of gilded metal.

These colours, according to Sir Woolley, had their mystical significance and stood for the various divisions of the universe, the dark underworld, the habitable earth, the heavens and the sun.

The terraces of Ur-Nammu's ziggurat were not paved with brick, but were covered with soil and in this trees were planted. Thus we have to imagine trees clothing every terrace with greenery, we can see how splendid monument the ziggurat was and well adapted for the use of those processions which formed a part of Sumerian religious ritual; the priests in robes of state bearing the statue and emblem of the god Mannar going up and down the triple staircase against the background of coloured bricks and trees must have made a magnificent spectacle.

The ziggurat of Ur-Nammu was so solidly built that we need not be surprised if it stood unaltered and unrepai red for many centuries. In the six centuries B.C. the ziggurat at Ur was very different from that of the twenty-two century. It was much higher, much more bulky; and above the first terrace, which remained unchanged, it bore no relation to its predecessor. The last builder of this ziggurat was Nabonidus, a Chaldean king of Babylonia. At the end of the Achemenian Persian period about 400 B.C. Ur ceased to exist.





Scene from the 8th Congress of International Art Association which was held in Baghdad in May 1976.

## NEW TRENDS IN IRAQI CULTURE



Working session of the Baghdad International Music Congress held in Baghdad in November 1975.

Although Iraq is rich in cultural heritage, the contemporary movement to revive this heritage and further develop it began in the early years of the twentieth century, particularly when Arab consciousness showed first signs of renaissance.

Iraqi literature, following the World War I, witnessed a plethora of debatable themes derived from traditions side by side with modern patriotic ones. Authors, story writers and poets began building bridges with modern European literature across which play-writing and acting were cautiously, but quickly, introduced in Iraq with the advent of the cinema. In the fifties and sixties big strides were made in the field of documentary and feature films depicting the political and social changes then taking place in the country.

In the sixties, the cultural movement flourished and expanded to cover different sectors of knowledge. Hundreds of newspapers, magazines, plays,

art exhibitions and translations found an appreciative audience. The plan drawn by the July 17, 1968, Revolution to eliminate illiteracy and the free education decision in 1974 greatly contributed to the encouragement of the dissemination of culture in the country.

The modern Iraqi art movement, which began in the thirties, has made today an unprecedented advancement. The number of plastic art exhibitions and political posters now being held in Baghdad and abroad are the manifestations of this advancement.

Despite the fact that Iraqi music has undergone some modification in regard to the instruments used to cope with the "modern" trend, genuine Iraqi music is now being utilised in the revival of folkloric heritage. The National Troupe

for Popular Arts came into being in 1971, and ever since it has won acclaim inside and outside the country.

A distinct characteristic could be seen today along the march of the cultural movement in Iraq following the July 17 Revolution. Iraqi men of letters have come to reject all forms which were considered as a standard for their works, and began to refashion the various forms and trends towards creating a revolutionary culture, a culture which rejects bourgeois and capitalist tendencies, and adopt a national and socialist course of intellectual interaction with the world progressive thought aiming at serving peace and mankind.

Iraqi culture is being revived today in a healthier atmosphere, an atmosphere of democracy and freedom, where all nationalities and fraternal minorities are demonstrating their skill in this field.

## PRESS OPINION

### AL-JUMHURIYAH (Iraq)

The Iraqi daily al-Jumhuriya, in a commentary on Colombo Summit of the Non-aligned countries, said that the conference would be held under very critical circumstances when the US imperialism and its agents were resorting to continued attempts at restoring the climate of cold war to the international arena. The daily said that the prominent position attained by the Non-aligned Movement in the world was the outcome of the strenuous fight which the peoples of the Third World waged for achieving and strengthening their national independence.

The daily reaffirmed that the Non-aligned countries' unity which was the secret behind this movement's victory in the past will remain a major and an urgent task in the future. The daily called for bolstering the Non-aligned Movement by establishing specialized agencies and organizations which would strengthen the cultural, economic and political cooperation among the member states in order to face up to the capitalist economic and political blocs and serve the interest of the peoples of Non-aligned countries.

### VOICE (Britain)

Commenting on the process of free education in Iraq the paper wrote, "More than two years have passed since private education was abolished in favour of free education in Iraq. The decision taken then (by the Revolution Command Council) has since proved to be a significant turning point in the history of the country's education system. For the first time a unified system of education has been achieved".

The paper further said, Today the state pays for all aspects of education in Iraq. Furthermore, for the first time in contemporary history national minorities enjoy their cultural rights. Kurdish, Syriac and Turkmen are taught in schools serving each respective community.

"The 1974-75 academic year witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of schools for all stages

as well as kindergartens, compared with that of 1973-74. The increase in the number of students at all levels of education has of course been echoed by a similar increase in the number of teachers as well as an increase in the rate of construction of new schools and institutes throughout the country".

### ECONOMIST (Egypt)

The Egyptian magazine "The Economist" in its recent issue paid tribute to the decisions announced by President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr on the 8th anniversary of the progressive, socialist 17 July Revolution.

The magazine said that these financial and economic decisions aimed at "raising the living standard of a great sector of nationals, stepping up production and uplifting efficiency of the workers by means of encouraging specialization and rendering respectable free life to the whole Iraqi people".

### CENTURY (India)

In an article specially devoted to mark the 17 July Revolution the Indian fortnightly 'The Century' hailed the tremendous achievements of the Revolution.

The paper said, "He who pursues the gains realized by Iraq over those past 8 years will be astonished to know that these achievements, namely, nationalization of oil resources, establishment of a Progressive National Front, granting of autonomy to the Kurdish people, adoption of a dynamic Non-aligned foreign policy and raising the living standard of the people have been significant turning points in the history of Iraq and the whole Arab nation. The paper added that the "outbreak of 17th July Revolution is a decisive reply to the perfidious Zionist aggression on the Arab nation in 1967".

The paper concludes to say that Iraq "has made rapid forward strides on the path of progress despite the conspiracies of imperialists, reactionaries and foreign monopolies".

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### PRESIDENT BAKR CONDOLES DEATH OF MALAGASY PREMIER

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr sent a cable of condolence to Malagasy President Mr. D. Ratsimamanga on the tragic death of Malagasy Prime Minister J. Rakolomala.

In his cable President Bakr said, "We learned with deep sorrow of the death of Mr. Rakolomala, the Prime Minister of Malagasy, and on this occasion we ask you to accept our sincerest condolences and sympathy on this painful loss".

### INTERIOR MINISTER VISITS CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Mr. Izzat al-Douri, Revolution Command Council (RCC) member and Minister of Interior, on August 7, left Baghdad for Prague leading an Iraqi delegation on a several days visit to Czechoslovakia at the invitation of his Czechoslovak counterpart, Mr. Jaromir Ozbina.

Mr. Douri said his visit was aimed at developing and expanding the fruitful cooperation between the two friendly countries and implementing the cooperation agreement signed between the two countries' Interior Ministers. The visit, Mr. Douri added, would also contribute to consolidating Iraqi-Czechoslovak ties of friendship and cooperation.

### IRAQI-GUYANAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Iraq and Guyana have stressed that the restoration of firm and legitimate rights of the Palestine Arab people to their homeland is a basic condition for achieving just and durable peace in the Middle East.

This was contained in a joint communique issued in Baghdad and George Town on August 6 following a visit to Iraq by Guyanan Foreign Minister Mr. Fredrick Wills and the talks he held with his Iraqi counterpart Dr. Sa'adoun Hammadi.

The two sides also stressed the necessity of withdrawal of the Zionist enemy from all occupied Arab territories, and extolled the heroic victories achieved by the peoples of Mozambique and Angola against colonialist forces and expressed their continued support for the peoples' struggle in Zimbabwe and Namibia against racial discrimination.

Mr. Wills arrived in Baghdad on August 2, leading an official delegation on a five-day visit to Iraq.

### MORE SHIPS FOR IRAQI MERCHANT FLEET

A West German built Iraqi cargo ship is scheduled to sail into Iraqi waters at the end of August.

The steamship "al-Edrisi" is one of three freighters with a loading capacity of 3,500 tons each ordered to the account of the Iraqi Maritime Transport Company at a total cost of ID. 5,350,000.

When in operation the al-Edrisi will run between the Indian Ocean ports and the Arab Gulf ports.

### PAKISTAN MINISTER VISITS IRAQ

Mr. Kausar Niazi, Pakistani Minister of Religious Affairs, left Baghdad on August 2, winding up a four-day visit to Iraq.

Prior to his departure Mr. Niazi said he had important talks with the Iraqi officials on the Iraqi-Pakistani cooperation and the traditional friendship binding the two countries. Mr. Niazi said that an agreement was reached on extending Iraqi aid to Pakistan and on facilitating visits of Pakistani nationals desirous of visiting Iraq.

### NCPS SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS INDIA

Mr. Aziz Sharif, Secretary General of the Iraqi National Council for Peace and Solidarity, early this month left for New Delhi on a several days visit to India. During the visit Mr. Sharif was due to hold talks with Indian officials on the convocation of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) 6th conference in India early next year.

At the end of his visit Mr. Sharif was scheduled to fly to Colombo leading the AAPSO delegation to the Non-aligned Summit conference due to begin there on August 16.

### NEW TOWNSHIP FOR BAGHDAD

Work will soon start for the construction of a new residential township in the outskirts of Baghdad accommodating 120,000 people, the Ministry of Works and Housing announced.

A Ministry spokesman said the Baghdad township would have 3,500 housing units making up five specimen of buildings. It is one of four townships decided for construction to ease the housing problems in the governorates of Baghdad, Basrah, Nineveh and Kerbala.

## SPORTS

### IRAQI WRESTLERS BAG 3 MEDALS

Iraqi wrestlers won two silver and one bronze medals in Kabul's International Freestyle Wrestling Championship which ended in the Afghani capital on August 1. Waleed Mansour in the 52 kgs class won a silver medal by defeating his Soviet and Pakistani rivals, but lost the final round against his Iranian opponent.

Hussein Ali got another silver medal, following his defeat against his strong Soviet rival in the final round of the 90 kgs. Thabet Nouman ended the medals' rally with a bronze one.

It is to be recalled that six Iraqi wrestlers took part in the ten-day championship in which Soviet Union, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan participated.

### IRAQI STUDENTS CHESS TEAM

The Iraqi Students Chess Team left Baghdad for Venezuela on August 4 to take part in the World Students Chess Olympiad.

Six players, headed by the chairman of the Students Chess Club, are to represent Iraq in the Olympiad which commences on August 5 and ends on August 24.

### YOUTH DELEGATION FOR SOMALIA

A 66-member Iraqi youth delegation participated in the Iraqi-Somalian Friendship Week which ended recently.

The delegation, which was headed by the Director General of Public Relations at the Ministry of Youth, included teams of athletes, basketballers, table-tennis players, wrestlers and boxers.

The second week between the two countries will be held in Baghdad next October.



### BASKETBALL TEAM VISITS JORDAN

The Iraqi National Basketball Team will visit Jordan from August 23 to 30, said the general secretary of the Iraqi Basketball Federation (IBF).

25 players are currently joining their training camp prior to their visit during which they will play two matches.



### JUVENILE WRESTLERS ARRIVE IN USA

The Iraqi Juvenile Wrestling Team arrived on August 4 in Manapa's, USA, prior to their participation in the World Juvenile Wrestling Championship which commenced a day after.

The Iraqi 14-members team, most of whom won gold medals at the 1st Asian Championship held in Manila early this year, will challenge wrestlers from Belgium, Switzerland, Iran, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Peru, Guatemala, Japan, Panama and the United States.

### IRAQI SHOOTERS TRAIN IN USSR

Ten Iraqi shooters are receiving training in the Soviet Union according to the Sports Cooperation Protocol signed between the two countries.

The ten shooters, said the president of the Iraqi Shooting Federation, will be supervised by Soviet experts for a one-month course prior to Iraq's participation in the Pan-Arab Games which will be held in Damascus next October.

### INTERNATIONAL FENCING TOURNAMENT

Iraq will take part in the friendly International Fencing Tournament which will be held in Teleron between August 23 and September 1st.

The Iraqi Fencing Federation announced that teams from Police, Army, Tameem Governorate and Physical Training College were selected to take part.

