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CENTRE FOR ARAB GULF STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES
INFORMATION DEPARTMENT.

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THE ARAB LEAGUE NEWS SUMMARY

(This Summary covers events from March 15th. to 31st)

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ARAB LEAGUE DAY.

The League of Arab States has celebrated on March 22nd, the twenty-second anniversary of its establishment. The anniversary was observed by all the League's offices abroad.

In a statement on the occasion, Secretary General El Sayed Abdel Khalek Hassouna reviewed the accomplishments of the Arab League and its role in bringing about fruitful interaction and cooperation between Arab countries.

Pointing out that the anniversary this year coincides with significant international events, the statement referred to the process of disintegration taking place in Occupied Palestine and the repeated blows being dealt by nationalists to the imperialist regime in the Occupied South.

In conclusion, the statement described the Arab League as "a lively embodiment of a concerted Arab will in its upsurge towards the fulfilment of common objectives and destiny".

The Secretary General and Mrs. Hassouna gave a reception at G.p.mon Wednesday March 29 at the Arab League Headquarters to mark the anniversary.

The ceremonial hall of the decorated building was packed to capacity with over 1200 guests including leading personalities, religious dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps and pressmen.

This reception is annually held on March 22nd, but it took place on March 29 this year because the anniversary fell during Courban Bairam Holiday.

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ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL.

The Arab League Council has denounced the United States hostile stand towards the Palestine Cause and rejected all statements attacking the Palestine Liberation Organisation reaffirming the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

It also condemned British colonialism and held it fully responsible for the assassination of nationalists in the Occupied South and voiced its support of the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen as the legitimate representative of the people of the area.

The Council held its 47th.ordinary session at the League's Headquarters in Cairo from March 14 to 18. In an opening speech Secretary-General El Sayed Abdel Khalek Hassouna had underlined the need for collective action on the part of Arab countries to bring about economic and social progress and raise the living standard of the Arab masses. He also urged the member states to shoulder their responsibilities in the service of liberation causes in Palestine, the Occupied South, Oman and the Arab Gulf.

The Council passed a resolution condemning racial discrimination and urging world countries to sever their diplomatic and economic relations with the Government of South Africa which is pursuing this policy.

It also approved the executive programme of the Arab League's participation in celebrating the International Human Rights Year.

The Council reviewed a detailed report by the Secretary-General on the developments of Arab issues on the international and Arab levels and the activities of the General Secretariat during the period from the 46th session in September to the 47th session in March.

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The developments of the Palestine Cause at the United Nations, the intensified Israeli aggressions on Arab posts, the developments of West-German Israeli relations, the Jewish immigration to and from Occupied Palestine as well as Israel's attempts to penetrate into Asian, African and Latin American countries were all touched upon in the report.

Stressing the Arab League's support of the nationalist revolution in the Occupied South, the report referred to the barbaric acts being committed by British authorities in an attempt to prolong their existence in the area. It cited as examples the assassination of a FLOSY leader on February 26 and the blowing up of El Sayed Mekkawi's house killing his three children.

The report dealt with other issues such as Oman and the Arab Gulf and summed up the activities of the General Secretariat in the spheres of economic, social and cultural affairs as well as in the sphere of information and the combat of illegal traffic in narcotics.

Meanwhile, the Arab League Council is meeting again on May 6 to discuss the League's budget for the fiscal year 1967/68

OCCUPIED SOUTH

The United Nations Committee on the Occupied South has left Cairo on March 30 on its way to Aden via Beirut at the conclusion of a six-day visit during which it held contacts with authorities in the United Arab Republic and the Arab League to ascertain their views on the Occupied South situation.

The Committee is to study the means of implementing the United Nations resolutions on the South and report to Secretary General U Thant on the outcome of its mission.

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El Sayed Abdel Khalek Hassouna, Secretary General of the Arab League received the Committee members on March 27 and explained to them the League's viewpoint. He handed them copies of the Latest resolutions of the League's Council on the question affirming that the Arab organisation regards the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (FLOSY) as the legitimate frame of the struggle of the people of the area for independence.

After their meeting with the Secretary General, the Committee members were received by Dr. Sayed Nofal, the Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs who told them that there were indications that the British occupation authorities have renounced their pledges to carry out the U.N. resolutions on the Occupied South which affirm the people's right to liberty and self-determination.

Summing up the attitude of Arab countries towards the Committee's task Dr.Nofal emphasized the need for the complete evacuation of British troops, For negotiations with the FLOSY as the real representative of the people, and for acquainting the United Nations with the explosive situation resulting from British plots in the area. He also reaffirmed the unity of the region in opposition to the British colonialist attempts to divide it.

DEFENCE.

The Arab Joint Defence Council held its tenth session at the Arab League Headquarters from March 11 to 14 under the chairmanship of Dr.George Hakim, Lebanese Foreign Minister.

The meetings were attended by Arab Foreign and Defence Ministers, the Chiefs of Staff of Arab Armies, the Personal Representatives of Arab Kings and Heads of State, Head of the Unified Arab

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Military Command General Ali Ali Amer, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation El Sayed Ahmed El Shukairy and Commander of the Palestine Liberation Army Major General Wagih El Medany.

Arab League Secretary General El Sayed Abdel Khalek Hassouna, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Dr. Sayed Nofal, Assistant Secretary General for Military Affairs General Mohamed Fawzy along with members of the Permanent Military Committee and the Secretariat of the Joint Defence Council also took part in the meeting.

Emphasizing the grave responsibility of the Council in his opening speech Dr. Hakim had affirmed that the Palestine issue cannot be solved except through the repatriation of the Palestinian people and the realisation of their aspirations.

The Council met behind closed doors until the conclusion of its work when an open session was held at which General Fawzy announced that the Council has discussed the subjects on its agenda and adopted the necessary resolutions.

In a closing speech, the Council Chairman expressed hope that the resolutions reached would have fruitful results.

ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

The Arab League General Secretariat has issued a statement on March 21st. on the occasion of the "International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Affirming the Arab nation's adherence to the principles embodied in the United Nations relevant Declaration.

The statement supported the U.N. initiative and asserted that the Arab nation shares with the world opinion the justifiable indignation at the apartheid policies pursued by South Africa.

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It said that Israel is an even more dangerous apartheid state because unlike South Africa, the victims of its policy have been forcibly evicted from the scene. "Invisible apartheid does not hit the eye of man's conscience while visible apartheid does", the statement said.

In conclusion the statement predicted that apartheid and Zionism will sink into oblivion and will be remembered only as ugly mutations in the healthy growth of civilization.

HORTICULTURE.

Several researches on vegetables, fruits, insecticides, the industrialization of horticultural products, the economics of horticulture and relevant subjects are being studied by the Second Arab Horticultural Conference which opened at the Arab League Headquarters of March 25.

The Conference which is sponsored by President Gamal Abdel Nasser is organized by the UAR Higher Council for Scientific Research in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Arab League. Seven member states, namely Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait, Iraq, the Sudan, Yemen and the United Arab Republic are taking part.

In a speech at the opening session El Sayed Abdel Khalek Hassouna, the League's Secretary General underlined the importance of agriculture in building up the economies of Arab countries and referred to the growing demand on horticultural products in the world markets, a considerable part of which is being produced by Arab countries.

Dr. Ramzi Stino, Conference Chairman emphasized the need for the increase of economic production to meet the enormous growth

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of population.

The Conference will remain in session until April 6. An exhibition is being held on the occasion comprising pavilions for fruit, vegetables, various types of plants, machines used in horticultural purposes as well as foodstuffs and perfumed oils.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Arab League Secretary General and Mrs. Hassouna inaugurated at the League's Headquarters on Wednesday March 29 a small exhibition organized by the Information Department on the occasion of the twenty-second anniversary of the League's establishment.

The exhibition included photographic maps indicating the distribution of population as well as the natural, industrial and agricultural resources in the Arab homeland. There were also photographs of the places of historical and touristic interest in the Arab world and selections from the Mobile Exhibition of Arab Civilization which displays Arab sciences, arts and literature.

The exhibition was inaugurated shortly before the reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Hassouna at 6 p.m. on the occasion of the League's Day.

El Sayed Abdel Khalek Hassouna, the Secretary General gave a lecture at the Rotary Club in Cairo on March 28 on the role of the Arab League in bringing about political, economic and technical cooperation between Arab countries.

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He reviewed the circumstances in which the League was established, its achievements in the different spheres and the obstacles it has to cope with in the fulfilment of its message.

A British Parliamentary delegation headed by Mr.Christopher Mayhew has paid a visit to Cairo from March 20 to April 1st as part of a tour in Arab countries organized by the Arab League to get acquainted with the Arab viewpoints and aspects of progress in the Arab world.

El Sayed Abdel Khalek Hassouna, the League's Secretary General received the delegation on Thursday, March 28.

The five-man delegation which is being accompanied by El Sayed Taleb Shebib, Director of the League's office in London left for Jordan yesterday whence they will proceed to Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

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During their stay in Cairo, the delegation had met with UAR President Gamal Abdel Nasser, Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Mahmoud Fawzy and Dr. Abdel Khader Hatem.

They also had a meeting with El Sayed Abdel Kawi Mackawee, Secretary General of the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (FLOSY).

The Fourth Arab Archaeological Conference which was scheduled to be held in Jerusalem from April 1 to 10 has been put off at the request of the Jordanian Hashemite Kingdom.

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In a note to the Arab League General Secretariat, the Jordanian Government demanded that the Conference be convened later than April on account of the parliamentary elections.

The first Centre for Desert Reconstruction in Sinai (UAR) was inaugurated this morning. The centre is to study the problems and affairs of Bedouins. An observer from the Arab League attended the inauguration ceremony.

An Arab League Social Affairs expert is leaving for Yemen shortly on a one-month mission to study the students community there and lay down the basis for a social supervision system in secondary schools.

Director of the Arab League Office in London, El Sayed Taleb Shebib has recently inaugurated a Middle East Exhibition in Liverpool

The exhibition, which was organized by Arab students was attended by consular representatives of a number of Middle East countries as well as by students from 36 different universities.

Professor Henri De La Bastide of the Institute of Oriental Languages in Paris is currently visiting the United Arab Republic at the invitation of the Arab League.

Professor Bernard Gagnobin, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Geneva University had also visited Cairo at the League's invitation during the period from March 21 to 31.
