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CENTRE FOR ARAB GULF STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

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THE ARAB LEAGUE NEWS SUMMARY

(This Summary Covers Events From April 1st. to 15)

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FINANCE TALKS.

The Arab Finance Ministers Council has approved the requirements of the Unified Arab Command, the financial statutes of the Technical Authority for the Utilization of waters of the River Jordan and its Tributaries as well as the financial system of the Palestine Liberation organization.

The Council which met at the Arab League Headquarters in Cairo from April 3 to 5 agreed to the establishment of an Authority for Financial Control of the three organizations stemming from the resolutions of the Arab Summit Councils. It also approved the appointment of a General Supervisor and two assistants through contacts between Secretary General and the countries concerned.

The Financial Central Authority which is to have its headquarters in Cairo will be composed of a civil and a military branch and will submit an annual report to the Councils of Arab Kings and Heads of State and the Prime Ministers as well as the Personal Representatives of Kings and Heads of State. An eight-month budget of 35000-sterling for the authority was ratified by the Council.

The Council endorsed the resolution on the measures to ensure fulfilment of the financial commitments of the member states towards the Unified Arab Command, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Palestine Liberation Army and the Jordan Waters Authority. It agreed that Arab governments should issue local legislations to ensure the fulfilment of these commitments at the scheduled dates, in the specified amounts and in the agreed upon currency. The Council called on Arab countries to deposit their funds in a bank to be named by the Arab League General Secretariat which is to undertake their transfer to the organizations concerned.

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On the question of the Financial Organization for the Liberation of Palestine, the Council approved a proposal presented by the PLO Chairman calling on the governments of member states to make available permanent financial resources on the popular level through agreements between each Arab Government and the Liberation Organization.

The Arab Finance Ministers meetings had opened at 3.30 p.m. on Monday April 3 to discuss the establishment of an independent body for financial control of the organizations stemming from the resolutions of the Council of Arab Kings and Heads of State and the amended draft financial statutes of these organizations. Measures to ensure fulfilment of the financial commitments of the member states stipulated by the Arab Summit resolutions as well as the projected Financial Organization for the Liberation of Palestine were also on the agenda.

In an inaugural speech, El Sayed Abdel Khalek Hassouna, the League's Secretary General underlined the importance of the Finance Ministers' discussions.

He expressed hope that the meeting would contribute to the fulfilment of the financial commitments and the development of an adequate system for financial control and revision.

Scientific Cooperation.

A delegation of experts from the Spanish Scientific and Technological Consultative Authority for Development paid a visit to the Arab League Headquarters on April 3 and were received by El Sayed Aref Zaher, the League's Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs.

Possibilities for scientific cooperation between the technical organs of the League and the Spanish Authority were discussed at the meeting which was attended by the Spanish Ambassador in Cairo.

El Sayed Zaher explained to the delegation the role of Arab experts in the spheres of development in Arab countries and the efforts

of the Arab League in coordinating their work for the benefit of the Arabs as a whole and for the realisation of the League's objectives in establishing close cooperation between its member states in the various spheres.

The Assistant Secretary General had earlier discussed with Dr. Salah Hedayat, Scientific Adviser to the United Arab Republic President and Head of the Scientific and Technological Consultative Board for Development, the measures to ensure cooperation between this board and the Arab League in the fields of science and technology.

Industrial Development.

The Arab League General Secretariat has communicated to the member states a number of proposals to serve as a basis for the study to be conducted by Arab experts and specialists on the establishment of an Industrial Development Centre for Arab Countries. A relevant recommendation was adopted by the Industrial Development Conference which met in Kuwait in March, 1964.

Arab economic planning and industrial coordination experts will be meeting at the League's Premises on May 18 to explore the possibilities for the establishment of this centre which is aimed at promoting industrialization in Arab states, developing their industries and co-ordinating their efforts in this sphere.

The projected centre is to work for the promotion of researches and studies relating to industrial conditions in Arab countries and means of improving them. It will also give advice and technical assistance to Arab countries in the field of industrial development and coordinate their efforts through the exchange of information and experiences and the unification of specifications and terms pertaining to industries. The functions of the centre also cover the arrangement

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and coordination of programmes of research, studies and training on an Arab regional basis and contribution to their execution.

Meanwhile the question of setting up this centre will also come up for discussion at a meeting on May 20 of Liaison Officers for the Conference on Industrial development held in Kuwait last year to review progress in the implementation of the Conference's recommendations. The meeting will consider the arrangements made by Arab countries for the World Seminar on Industrial Development to be held in Athens, November next.

Social Affairs.

An Arab League delegation headed by El Sayed El Dardiri Ahmed Ismail, Assistant Secretary General participated in the first Conference for African Social Affairs Ministers which met in Cairo from April 10 to 13.

The Conference was attended by 23 African countries including four Arab states namely, Algeria, the Sudan, Morocco and the United Arab Republic which is the host country. Ten international and regional organizations including the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Arab League also took part in the conference's work.

In its statement to the Conference, the League's delegation underlined the role of international and regional organizations operating within the framework of the continent in carrying out projects for raising the standard of local societies and social development plans particularly in the sphere of training. It also referred to the existing cooperation between the Arab League, on the one hand, and the United Nations and International Labour Office, on the other, in organizing training seminars for workers in the fields of cooperatives, social service and social defence against crime as well as in the holding of seminars to study the problems of social development.

The delegation called on the Conference to give a new incentive to regional organizations to exert greater efforts in participation with the countries of the continent to raise the standard of the African society.

The report approved by the Conference at the conclusion of its work touched on the social welfare plans, the development of society in the African continent and relevant solutions.

It stressed the need for large-scale social surveys and researches on social problems to be conducted in cooperation with the international bodies and the regional organizations working in the service of the continent.

The report condemned racial discrimination pointing out that social development cannot be realised unless racial discrimination is completely eliminated in Africa and all other parts of the world.

The Conference had opened at the Presidency Headquarters in Heliopolis, Cairo on Monday, April 10. It was inaugurated by UAR Premier Sidki Soliman deputising for President Gamal Abdel Nasser. Arab League Secretary General El Sayed Abdel Khalek Hassouna, Assistant Secretary General El Sayed El Dardiri Ismail and Dr. Abdel Wahab El Ashmawy, Assistant Director of the Labour and Social Affairs Department, were present at the meeting.

University Graduates.

Some 150 university graduates from Kuwait, Iraq, the Sudan, Algeria, Syria, Palestine, the United Arab Republic and Lebanon as well as a representative of the Arab League have participated in the Second Conference of the Arab Feminist Union for University Graduates which met in Cairo from April 1st to 4.

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The Conference stressed the need to step up the struggle of the Palestinian women to restore their usurped homeland and demanded the application of the international labour law providing for equal wages between men and women.

It also recommended the establishment of a liaison office in Cairo between university unions in Arab countries under the auspices of the Arab Feminist union to carry out the recommendations and resolutions of the conference.

Addressing the opening session of the Conference, Dr. Talaat El Refaie, the Arab League representative had underlined the contribution of such gatherings to the progress of Arab women, the organization of their ranks and unification of their efforts.

She affirmed that Islam had granted women equal rights with men.

Dr. Talaat emphasized the responsibility of cultured women in the struggle for the restoration of Palestine.

In conclusion, she pointed out that our battle with colonialism and Zionism is a comprehensive one which requires constant knowledge in addition to continuous work.

News In Brief.

Arab League Secretary General El Sayed Abdel Khalek Hassouna has received a message of thanks from Mrs. Indira Gandhi of India in reply to his cable of congratulations on her re-election Prime Minister.

In her message, the Indian Premier pledged to work for the promotion of cooperation, understanding and good will between the Arab and Indian people.

Arrangements for the first Arab Conference on Standardization were

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discussed at a meeting at the League's Headquarters on April 9 of the Conference's Administrative Authority under El Sayed Aref Zaher, the League's Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs.

Discussions touched on the administrative and financial statutes, the budget of the Conference and the contribution of the Kuwaiti Government.

The Arab League and delegates from Arab countries will be taking part in the Seminar on Demographic studies organized by the United Nations Demographic Centre for North Africa in collaboration with the United Arab Republic during the period from April 17 to 21. The Seminar will take place at the Arab League Headquarters.

The growth of population and its impact on educational plans, birth and death rates as well as manpower are among the subjects on the Seminar's agenda.

Mr. Hares, Member of the Upper Council of Maharashtra, India paid a visit to the Arab League Headquarters this morning. He was received by El Sayed El Dardiri Ahmed Ismail, the League's Assistant Secretary General. Indian-Arab relations and Indo-Arab societies in India were discussed at the meeting.

Later, Mr. Hares met a group of Arab League officials and explained to them the various economic, social and political developments in India.

Dr. Clovis Maksoud, Former Director of the Arab League Office in New Delhi who presided at the meeting pointed out that in

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view of the common problems facing India and Arab countries an exchange of views is beneficial.

He expressed hope that this process of cross-fertilization of ideas continues.

Afghani Prime Minister Mohamed Hashem Maiwandwal has presented a precious carpet to the mosque annexed to the Arab League building.

El Sayed Shamseddin Magrouh, Afghani Ambassador in Cairo called on the League's Secretary General on April 2nd and handed the carpet on behalf of the Afghani Premier.

The Arab League General Secretariat has sent notes to the member-states asking them to take the necessary measures concerning the use of Arabic as a working language at the International Bureau of Education in Geneva and the International Conference for Public Education and brief it on the outcome. The General Secretariat will be working out a relevant Arab plan on the occasion of the 30th session of the Conference scheduled to be held in Geneva next July.

The Arab League Council had adopted a resolution at its 47th session urging the member states to continue their efforts to obtain approval for the use of Arabic as a working language at the Bureau of Education and the International Conference.
