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CENTRE FOR ARAB GULF STUDIES
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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL RECEIVES THE EAST GERMAN
MINISTER AND ARAB AMBASSADORS:

Arab League Secretary General El Sayed Abdel Khalek Hassouna received at his office at the League's Headquarters this morning Mr. Otto. Wenzel, East German Foreign Minister and the delegation accompanying him.

He later received separately Dr. Abdel Mohsen Zalzal, El Sayed Abdel Salam Baskary and El Sayed Hamad Isa El Regeib, Ambassadors of Iraq, Libya and Kuwait respectively.

THE ELEVENTH LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS CONFERENCE
OPENS THIS EVENING:

The eleventh session of the Arab Labour and Social Affairs Conference opened at 7 p.m. this evening at the Arab League Headquarters under El Sayed Mahmoud El Mahdi Derbi, Libyan Under-secretary for Labour and Social Affairs to study "Labour and Industrialization and their social effects in Arab Countries".

Inaugurating the meeting El Sayed El Dardiri Ahmed Ismail, Arab League Assistant Secretary General pointed out that

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the conference for social affairs experts and the seminars for social studies had laid down the rules of social reform and paved the way for workers in the social sphere in Arab countries to raise the standard of their urban, rural and bedouin societies.

He underlined the importance of industrialization and expressed hope that the studies submitted to the conference would yield their fruit. (Text of the speech attached herewith).

Meanwhile the agenda of the conference includes, among other things, the problems of industrialization, productivity, vocational training, manpower, labour policy, the social and economic effects of mechanization as well as social welfare for workers, labour culture and relevant subjects.

The Arab League Labour and Social Affairs Department has prepared recommendations covering all aspects of the subject with a view to drafting a labour charter based on industrial integration between Arab countries and the definition of the role of the state in the process of industrial development.

ADDRESS BY ARAB LEAGUE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL EL SAYED
EL DARDIRI AHMED ISMAIL AT THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE LABOUR AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CONFERENCE:

Mr. Chairman,
Representatives of States and Organizations,
Gentlemen,

A few months ago the Arab League had the pleasure to be the venue for the second session of the Arab Labour Ministers' Conference. It had arranged for the meeting, welcomed the delegates and followed up the implementation of their resolutions and recommendations.

Today, I am delighted to open the eleventh session of the Labour and Social Affairs Conference sponsored by the Labour and Social Affairs Department of the General Secretariat. This conference was, and still is, the springboard for labour and social affairs gatherings of various types and varied activities. The Conferences of social affairs experts and the seminars for social studies were guiding lights along the path of social development in the Arab world.

These conferences and seminars had laid down the general foundation and the rules of social reform and paved the way for workers in the social spheres in Arab countries to raise the standard of their urban, rural and bedouin societies. The stage the Arab society has reached at present underlines the necessity of going beyond the phase of general principles to the phase of specialization which is characteristic of the age in which we live, the age of automation and mechanization, of science and technology.

It was natural for the General Secretariat to catch up with scientific development and technical specialization. In

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passing through the stage of development Arab countries have headed to industrialization thereby seeking to secure their future and raise the standard of living of their inhabitants. Huge factories were established and oil flowed in Arab countries supporting the industrial renaissance and rendering manpower the focus of industrial, economic and social development plans.

Hence it is that this session has been devoted to the problems emanating from industrialization and labour and their relationship with the social development plans. These problems can, in themselves, be an impediment to progress and to the fulfilment of the objectives of industrial and economic development plans in Arab countries.

It is a happy coincidence that your gathering comes in the wake of the Arab League Council's ratification of the Agreement on Labour Standards in the Arab Countries which is a step towards the unification of Arab Labour legislations and which guarantees for the Arab worker a decent life that would enable him to attain progress and prosperity gradually until he reaches the desired target.

This conference is also a prelude to a number of technical specialized meetings called for by the League's Council in response to the resolutions of Arab Labour Ministers with a view to studying the subjects relating to social insurance, vocational training, productivity, labour culture and the movement of manpower and of Arab society as a whole.

Gentlemen,

The General Secretariat has placed before you the gist of the experience of a select group of experts in industrialization, labour and social development in Arab countries. It has also submitted to you several studies prepared by the Labour and Social Affairs

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Department with the sincere collaboration of specialized professors who combine to their experience in the fields of their specialization, knowledge and understanding of the problems of Arab world and conditions of the environment. The General Secretariat is confident that these studies would yield their fruit in the shape of constructive recommendations as an outcome of your deliberations and discussions by which Arab countries would be guided in their industrialization and development efforts and through which they seek to realise dignity, prosperity, sufficiency and justice for our Arab society.

I avail myself of this opportunity to thank them on your behalf for the knowledge and experience with which they have furnished us and for their genuine and sincere cooperation evidenced by the documents presented to you.

I also assure you of the General Secretariat's appreciation for this response on the part of member states, international, regional and industrial organizations as well as on the part of labour organizations which comprise the working powers of the Arab people who are basically interested in any progress or development sought by our developing countries. Thank you.
