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TRIUMPHANT MARCH OF ABSP



Triumphant March

Twenty nine years ago, the vanguard of Arab nationalist awareness, the Arab Baath Socialist Party, was born. It became the embodiment of Arab aspirations and the unflinching instrument in the service of the masses. Throughout this highly eventful period, the Party gained invaluable experience which further deepened and solidified the ideological structure of its mission. In its constant contact with the masses and its persistent challenge to imperialism, zionism and reaction, it was able to see clearly, more and more, the scope of action which, coupled with a reliance on the people, has led to the historical triumphs over such imperialist bastions as oil interests and the staunch stand vis-a-vis capitulationist attitudes regarding the Palestinian question.

Whether out of power or assuming it, the Party has proved to be an indomitable fighter for the right of this nation to live in freedom and real peace. As regards the latter it held the view that it can be true only when usurpation and aggression are removed from the Arab homeland once and for all.

The Party was never loth to be enriched by lessons from setbacks as it has never been touched by euphoria when victories are won. As it is a living cause embraced by living men and women, it was bound to confront living and complex situations. It is to the credit of the Party and to its vision and profound sense of responsibility that it emerged strengthened from setbacks through reconsideration and reassessment of the prevailing as well as potential conditions.

Without deviating from principles and particularly in their application, the Party extended a Friendly hand to every state and everybody having some affinity with it in the search for freedom and the fight for human dignity. It befriended all liberation movements the world over and, wherever possible, it has provided them with its vast experiences and helped them in every conceivable way.

The Party is fighting for Arab national liberation and is defending it where it has been gained, knowing that the task of guarding it is no less demanding on its full energies than the struggle for wresting it.

Having accomplished the great feat of conquering imperialism in Iraq and establishing socialism, the Party, projecting the will of the masses, is steadfastly pursuing the liberation of Palestine while at the same time it marches on toward Arab unity. In fact there is an interdependence and dialectical relationship between the liberation of Palestine and Arab unification. When the one progresses, the other is apt to advance and vice-versa.

Our hope in the Arab unification cannot belong to the fantasy when such a tremendous political and massive force as the Arab Baath Socialist Party is entrusted with it, for it is a Party experienced in surmounting the insurmountable, in solving the seemingly insoluble, and vanquishing what was often described as invincible. With political wisdom and loving care for the people, the ABSP has given renaissance, incorporated in its very name, a realistic ring and an audible resonance.



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**HAND-WOVEN CARPETS' WORKSHOP
IN ARBIL**

AFLAQ SALUTES ARAB REVOLUTIONARIES



Comrade Michael Aflaq, the Founder, Leader and Secretary General of the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) stated, on the ABSP's 29th anniversary, that what always saved the Party and helped it to face and overcome all difficulties and follow up the struggle, was truthfulness to itself and to the masses.

He congratulated, in his address, which was broadcast over radio and TV network, all militant Baathists everywhere—those who have remained steadfast in struggle and persistently marched

hatched by the reactionary and imperialist forces. Besides, the Party suffered from conspiracies engineered by forces which were supposedly its allies along the paths of struggle".

Comrade Aflaq further said that the truthfulness of the Party to itself and to the masses saved and helped it to face up to and overcome all difficulties and continue to march ahead. This was what enabled the Party to penetrate the hearts of the Arab masses who embraced it and

Time Is Against Forces of Backwardness

ahead despite all hindrances, hardships and difficulties.

Comrade Aflaq said that the successful experiment in Iraq in its depth and steadfastness was not a gain for the ABSP only but constituted a factor of power for the whole Arab Nation because for the first time in modern Arab life such a revolutionary experiment was being consolidated and its roots being spread in town and countryside, among all groups and sectors of the people.

"The Party," Comrade Aflaq said, "was born as a result of the sufferings undergone by the Arab masses and the challenges facing the Arab Nation. The Party has undergone many vicissitudes and distortions because it was holding new ideas and great objectives which endangered the interests of many powerful and dominant segments in the society. The Party suffered much from the hostilities and conspiracies of these forces as they were more severe than those

gave it more opportunities to serve them. These masses realised that the ABSP was the real embodiment of their aspirations and objectives.

"The ABSP was born under the conditions of the miseries of prevailing Arab backwardness. These conditions were not compatible with modern civilization... Therefore we had to re-assess our heritage to resuscitate our originality and the spirit of our national glory. This was how we reached the hearts of the masses because they were sure that the Party was the product of their land, climate and history. The more the masses clung to the Party's ideology and struggles, the more hostility was directed by imperialism and exploitative reactionary classes against the Party", he added.

Comrade Aflaq went on to say that, "when the Party realised with the late leader, Gamal Abdel-Nasser, the first experiment of unity in recent Arab history, imperialism, Zionism and reactionary forces were gravely upset and stricken

with fear. They exploited the erroneous application of the experiment to undermine and destroy it; but the struggle of the Baathists in Iraq was so expanding that it became a mass torrent that achieved marvellous victory over the dictatorial rule in the 14th of Ramadhan Revolution.

"This victory was a vengeance against the foiling of unity by the secessionist conspiracies and a unique opportunity to revive unity and wrest the initiative from the hands of imperialism, Zionism and reaction. But the lessons of secession and the failure of the experiment of unity were not availed of to transform the dictatorial mentality, so the Arab revolutionary forces remained disunited and at odds. The initiatives remained in the hands of the enemies who inflicted successive setbacks on November 18 (1963), February 23 (1966) and June 5 (1967)".

Successful Experiment in Iraq

About the successful experiment of the Party, in Iraq, Comrade Aflaq said:

"In the first year of the Party's existence, when the number of the Baathists did not exceed some scores, the 1941 Revolution took place in Iraq. It was the first occasion through which the Party applied its ideology of unity and nationalism. This means, the Party viewed Iraq, from the outset, as having a prominent and distinct role to play.

"When the Party began to have its organisation in Iraq in the early fifties, a new stage in the advance of the Party began. Since its beginning, that organisation was actually characterised by high spirit of struggle and by extraordinary perseverance due to the severity of political circumstances which were prevailing in the fifties on the one hand, and the type of strugglers who were attracted by the Party on the other. These qualities, which characterised the Party in Iraq, gave it abundant continuity and experience of struggle and organisation and helped it overcome the setbacks inflicted on it and come out stronger in structure and richer in experience. These qualities made it capable to become the bastion of the entire Party.

"The successful experiment of the Party in Iraq to such a degree and with such depth and steadfastness is not a gain for the Baath Party only but it is a factor of power for the whole Arab nation. It is for the first time in its modern life that a revolutionary experiment is so consolidated that its roots penetrated into the masses in the

city and countryside and into all groups and segments of the people. It ran parallel to the life of these masses and there was a fusion, which was expanding day after day, between the Party and the masses.

"A Party with such qualities could not be built except by strugglers characterised by revolutionary morality, by serious commitment, by rich experience and experiments and by militant practices and scientific spirit".

On the Leadership of the Party Comrade Aflaq said that "this Leadership gave the Party in Iraq distinctive place and features and realised for it a qualitative leap which gave off the potentialities of Iraq for the first time and with such expansion and momentum. It made Iraq, under the leadership of the Party, prepared for discharging its pan-Arab commitments. Proceeding from the decisions of the Party's national and regional congresses it worked to build the Progressive Patriotic and National Front... It also strove for consolidating the relations between the Party and all revolutionary, national and progressive ranks in the Arab Homeland, first of which was the Palestine Resistance Movement... It also succeeded in establishing strong relations with many liberation movements in the Third World, with the Non-aligned and socialist countries".

The Arab Situation

On the Arab conditions Comrade Aflaq said: "When we look profoundly at the internal Arab situation, we shall find that under the manifestations of deterioration, disintegration and fighting and the looming of social diseases and rotten bogiories there are facts which call for optimism rather than for pessimism and despair... It is true that the reactionary forces and agent groups, directed by imperialism and Zionism, started the attack on the strongholds of the Arab revolution and its ranks — the national movements or the Palestine Resistance Movement. But the deeper actually was that these reactionary and agent groups were and are still fighting a defensive war. These groups are representatives of backwardness, exploitation and corruption, of dying out layers of necescence, sick isolation and communal spite.

"They stand in the way of a bright Arab future represented in the Palestine resistance and the movement of the toiling Arab masses as their struggle to wrest their rights and establish their progressive pan-Arab virtues threaten those isolationist groups and their agent leadership with imminent elimination. Time is running counter to the movement of these exploitative and backward groups...", Comrade Aflaq said



Dr. Elias Farah

RENAISSANCE FOR REAL PEACE

Comrade Dr. Elias Farah, member of the National Leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, stated in a lecture delivered at the beginning of the Cultural Season of Mosul University, that a quick glance at the previous period in the Arab homeland will be sufficient to provide an important and basic conclusion, namely, that the Arab homeland is passing through a historical stage... It is the stage of awakening, rebirth and renaissance.

He added that the meaning of development in the periods of renaissance (the renaissance of people) is to build peace. The Arab nation, now struggling for its natural and lawful right in progress, unity, liberty and socialism, does not attack anybody. But the enemies of its renaissance who covet its land and riches fear that its unification, liberation and the realisation of the aspirations of Arab masses would threaten their interests. They stand, therefore, in the way of its renaissance by attempting to keep the Arab people imprisoned within the confines of the conditions which caused its stagnation for long centuries.

Comrade Farah indicated the basic features of the post-war stage in the Arab homeland by

saying that through the interaction of the factors following that war and through the many-sided struggle against imperialism and Zionism the Arab liberation movement took roots and grew. The growth of this movement together with the fight against imperialism and the struggle for socialism are the most prominent features which distinguish this period.

The second feature of this period is the development that took place in the ideological sphere. Arab revolutionary thought has achieved an important leap in the direction of perfecting a revolutionary guide for action in the service of Arab liberation movement.

Comrade Farah emphasised that the maturing process realised during this period in the ideological field has provided the Arab liberation movement with an effective weapon with which to fight the remnants of fascist thought and the aberrations of reactionaries as well as the narrow regional trends. It also gave a new momentum to socialist thought since it linked the struggle for socialism with its living framework, that of the struggle against imperialism and fragmentation.

The contemporary Arab ideology, as embodied in the idea of unity, liberty and socialism has become the theoretical guideline for revolutionary action in the Arab homeland.

In his reference to the development of party life as a third feature of this period, Comrade Farah stressed the importance of the emergence of a revolutionary Arab ideology with a scientific programme based on the dialectic of history.

It is an ideology which came into being as a result of the analysis of the actual Arab structure and exposed its contradictions. This ideology has nothing to parallel its importance save the development of a revolutionary instrument to express it in the form of a party organisation covering the whole Arab land.

Dr. Farah said in his analysis of this actuality that the national organisation, at a nation-wide level, has realised a basic step in the way of uniting the idea with its instrument within the framework of the present Arab renaissance. This nationalist framework has given to the organisation and the revolutionary structure of toiling masses a real body for the theory of unity and socialism through which they can move to conquer fragmentation, backwardness and exploitation.

Comrade Farah asserted that the emergence of the Baath Party was both the end of a stage and the beginning of a new one... for the Baath

Party was capable, for the first time in the history of contemporary Arab thought, to give a new meaning to nationalism. With this it has transcended all the shortcomings, backwardness and bigotry of petit bourgeois nationalist concepts as these were separated from socialism, class content and the progressive humanitarian and revolutionary outlook.

He added, "Thus the Baath has put an end to the theoretical wandering and inaugurated a new stage of national organisation which embraces the people of the Arab homeland, in spite of regional fragmentation imposed by imperialism. The establishment of the Baath Party was tantamount to the establishment of a new stage of Arab struggle... It put before the existing parties a major option: either they develop or their role is as good as terminated. This was what actually took place through the fifties, sixties and early seventies when they witnessed the stage in which patriotic, nationalist and progressive fronts were formed.

Thereafter Dr. Farah defined three principal phenomena which distinguished the party life in the Arab homeland during this period:

1. The continuation on self-criticism and deepening this through further assessment of objective factors because party life of the previous stage was orientated towards faulty and counter-productive direction.

2. The return of alliances within fronts through perfecting political and patriotic action charters which are precise and advanced.

3. The interaction between party life with armed struggle methods particularly in the case of the Palestinian revolution and the Fedayeen. Dr. Farah elaborated on this by pointing to the efforts the Arab Baath Socialist Party has exerted since the 17th July nationalist-socialist revolution in the region. He said that those efforts culminated in success when on July 15, 1973 the National Patriotic and Progressive Front was announced.

He mentioned the direct contributions of the ABSP in the fight for the liberation of Palestine through the Arab Liberation Front and through rallying with all other fighting Palestinian groups.

Comrade Farah referred to the impact of the Second World War on the Arab homeland when he said that the reactions of that war were inevitably all embracing for most part of the Arab regions and the various aspects of their life. The reactions and repercussions carried with them some fascistic ideas in the first period of that war, but at the same time they

helped crystallise the overall objectives of the present Arab renaissance. They also decided the orientation of may Arab aspirations.

As to the deepening of sentiments of unification, he said that the war was instrumental in that field as it contributed to the development of nationalist consciousness. The genuine meanings of that war could be summarised as the winding up of imperialism and fascism, the latter being an off-shoot of the capitalist system; the emergence of the socialist era, and emergence of the age of the toiling masses in search for their freedom and progress.

As a result of this, he went on, the liberation movement of the Arab people was intensified together with their nationalist awareness. The Arab people realised that the road to freedom was the road of unity and that unity was the road to freedom. Equally unity was the guarantee for independence and that only the toiling masses could wrest freedom and only they could realise unity and socialism... and proportionately with this accelerating development was the magnitude of the conspiracy laid out by the imperialist-Zionist alliance.

A new world came to the fore in the aftermath of the Second World War... but the tragedy of the world lies in the fact that its new structure can be born only through a bitter struggle that puts mankind before the spectre of a new war. The Arab homeland has been one of the major arenas of struggle throughout this period which has lasted for thirty-nine years after the war. In this period the Arab people made big strides in liquidating the old colonialist and imperialist bases and in exposing the real nature of neo-fascism which usurped Palestine.

Comrade Farah affirmed at the end of his lecture, that a quick look would suffice us to reach the important and basic conclusion that the Arab homeland is passing through a historical stage... the stage of awareness, rebirth and renaissance. The Arab nation in its struggle today against the alliance of imperialism, Zionism and reactionary forces, finds itself before an upward road, the road of real peace, the road of the triumph of the peoples. He also confirmed that the post-war events have shown that the Arab homeland is marching on toward renaissance and will be a graveyard of the enemies of peace as it will be a launching pad for the progress of humanity. The Arab peace will be achieved under liberation. What we see today on the Arab scene by way of capitulation, submission and surrender, runs against the simplest features of progress realised by the Arab people.



At the Party's National Leadership Headquarters — from left to right: Comrades, Shibly al-Aysami, Saddam Hussein, Michael Aflaq, Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr and Munif al-Razzaz.

APRIL 7: A Glorious Day In The History of Arab Nation

Nation-wide celebrations took place on April 7, marking the 29th anniversary of the founding of the Arab Baath Socialist Party. The ABSP was founded, bearing new thoughts to the Arab masses everywhere.

As Comrade Michael Aflaq, the Founder and Leader of the Party and its Secretary General, put it: "The Party was born as a result of the sufferings undergone by the Arab masses. It came as a response to the challenges facing the Arab nation. The Party experienced multiple difficulties because it brought along new ideas and set itself great objectives that were construed by reactionary elements as a new danger threatening the positions of influential quarters and putting a stop to their vested interests".

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, who is also ABSP Regional Secretary in Iraq, declared: "The Baath has chosen systematic revolutionary work as its approach in realising total transformation. It adopted a national organisation on a pan-Arab level, in order to utilize it as an effective instrument in the movement of profound changes. The

Baath relied on the toiling masses in all their sectors: workers, peasants, soldiers, revolutionary intellectuals as an avant-garde force leading the march of the revolutionary struggle. The Baath considered these popular forces as being directly involved in the nationalist task of building the Arab society".

The Party's anniversary, however, was observed with overwhelming joy throughout the governorates amid huge celebrations. A number of Comrades of the National and Regional Leaderships of the ABSP patronized these mass celebrations, inaugurated several huge projects and laid foundation stones for new projects.

Banners and slogans of congratulations addressed to the Political Leadership of the Party and Revolution on this occasion stressed the will of the masses to carry on the struggle in the course of realising the objectives of the Arab nation in unity, freedom and socialism. These banners decorated the entrances of the state offices, establishments and headquarters of the popular and vocational unions and organisations.



Wishing a new prosperous year: Iraqi masses hailing the Foundation Day of the Party.

In the meantime, the Comrades in charge of the Party's branches, sections and organisations throughout the governorates received well wishers. In Baghdad, a huge mass rally was held at Al-Kashafa Stadium and it was attended by Comrades Shibly al-Aysami, Assistant Secretary General of the ABSP and Naeem Haddad, Regional Leadership member.

Addressing the rally on behalf of the Party, Comrade Naeem Haddad said: "The ABSP's principles have inspired the masses and equipped them with a theoretical weapon with which to counter imperialism, zionism and reactionary conspiracies".

Comrade Haddad declared that the Party in its march and heroic battles achieved the greatest national victory when it carried out the 17th July Revolution. Within a few years after the revolution, Comrade Haddad added, the Party was able to realize radical transformations in Iraq, crowned with such remarkable achievements as the radical agrarian reform, commencement of an agricultural revolution, legislation of labour rights, nationalisation of oil, solving of the Kurdish issue in a peaceful and democratic manner, realising the unity of the national progressive parties within the framework of the Progressive Patriotic and National Front (PPNF), the implementation of extensive national development plans and the adoption of a firm and revolutionary stand against imperialist and Zionist schemings. The Party also

devoted considerable attention to realise a remarkable progressive and socialist changes within the society and state. All these are clear-cut indicators to the new Iraq led by the Arab Baath Socialist Party.

The anniversary was also greeted by the Iraqi press which devoted leading articles to the occasion.

In its editorial "ATH-THAWRA", organ of the ABSP, described the Party as one of the historic movements embracing the masses and mobilising them to struggle against partitions, backwardness, exploitation and foreign presence. The daily added that the Arab arena, in 1947, came to know a pan-Arab socialist Party equipped with progressive revolutionary ideas.

On the other hand, "AL-JUMHURIYAH" Daily stated: "The birth of the Party has been a new turning point in the movement of pan-Arab struggle and a qualitative change in the then existing methods and ideas".

The Party, the paper added, had laid down a new morality in struggle and developed a clear scientific ideology based on a national revolutionary organisation.

Projects Implemented on the Occasion

Every year, the 7th of April has been a source of joy and happiness to all citizens. Similarly it



Iraqi women participating in April 7 celebrations

is a glorious occasion for either inaugurating or laying foundation stones for industrial and agricultural projects. This year the cost of these projects totalled about 600 million Iraqi dinars (2040 million US dollars). Foundation stones were laid for four strategic projects costing about 492 million Iraqi dinars. The first was the phosphate chemical complex in Qa'im, Anbar governorate. This project, costing 194 million dinars alone, consists of seven huge plants for phosphate processing, sulphuric acid and phosphoric production, compound fertilisers and floride ammonium. It is scheduled for completion in 1980. The four projects also include a new fertiliser plant in Zubair, Basrah, at a cost of ID. 200 million. It is designed to also produce one million tons of ureau fertilizer per annum and is due for completion in 1980. This project will play a considerable part in the national economy as it will boost our exporting potentials in addition to its being an

adequate source of chemical fertilizers to meet domestic demands.

The third project was the operation of a phosphate mine in Aqasha, Anbar, costing about 28 million dinars. It will produce 3,4 million tons of raw phosphates annually.

The fourth project was the paper plant in Maisan governorate whose initial cost was estimated at ID. 70.

On 7 April too, the ground satellite station, was officially inaugurated. This station links Iraq with the rest of the world by a system of telecommunication and TV network.

In addition to the aforesaid projects there were many others which were either completed or initiated.

NEWS IN PICTURES



Comrade Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Secretary of the Arab Baath Socialist Party (Regional Leadership) and Comrade Saddam Hussein, Deputy Secretary paid, on April 7, 1976 a visit to the Headquarters of the Party's National Leadership on the anniversary of the founding of the Party — from left to right: Comrades, Shibly al-Aysami, Michael Aflaq, Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Munif al-Razzaz, Saddam Hussein and Ali Ghannam.



Paying respects to Comrade Michael Aflaq

Congratulating Comrade Shibly al-Aysami



Military commanders congratulating Comrade Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr on the occasion of April 7 anniversary



Comrade Saddam Hussein attending the festival organised by the General Federation of Iraqi Women on the anniversary of the founding of the Party.



Dr. Izzat Mustafa, member of the Regional Leadership of the ABSF, Minister of Health, opened on April 7, 1976 the Party's Exhibition.



Mr. Taha Jarzawi, member of the Regional Leadership of the ABSF, Minister of Industry and Minerals, laying the foundation stone of the phosphate mines in Akkashat



On behalf of the Party, Mr. Na'iem Haddad, member of the Regional Leadership of the ABSF, Minister of Youth, addressing the big festival and parade organised on April 7

Scenes from the parade and festival held on April 7



PALESTINE:
CENTRAL ISSUE OF
ARAB STRUGGLE

ABSP UNDERSCORES REALISM

When the Arab Baath movement first emerged in the early forties, the Palestine issue was subjected to an imperialist-Zionist conspiracy which ended up in the usurpation of Arab Palestine and the emergence of the Zionist "Israel".

Although the Baath commandad meagre potentialities at that phase of contemporary Arab history, it shouldered a distinguished role in exposing and resisting the sinister imperialist-Zionist designs. When President Roosevelt of the US declared, in 1945, support for Zionist immigration to Palestine, the Baath presented a protest memorandum to the US Minister plenipotentiary in Syria stressing the Arab's rejection of the exploitation of their land by any foreign power.

Since the foundation of the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) in 1947, the Palestine issue has been treated as the central issue of Arab struggle which necessitated unification of Arab revolutionary forces for the mobilisation of Arab mass resistance against the usurpation of Palestine and its dismemberment from the Arab homeland.

ABSP's attitude, right from its first Constituent Congress, centered around Arab Palestine.

Immediately after the UN resolution partitioning Palestine and establishing the Zionist entity, the Party called for a people's war of liberation to recover the usurped right. 'Salvation garrisons' were formed for volunteers who, together with the leadership of the Party, joined in an armed struggle against imperialism, Zionism, defeatism and its mongers. Meanwhile, the Party carried out an intensive programme of explaining the factor behind the loss of Palestine, confirming that Arab reactionary governments of the time had been the cause of that loss due to their connection with imperialist powers which carried out the Palestine usurpation conspiracy.

Besides defining these factors, the ABSP steadily put forth practical formulae for the liberation of Palestine from Zionist usurpation. In addition to calling upon the Arab governments to secure and foster Arab efforts, the party stressed the necessity of adopting measures against those who uphold, sponsor and help the Zionist entity in defiance of the Arab just right in Palestine.

This attitude of the Party confirms the supreme and profound standard of consciousness

it always maintained within the context of its outlook to the Palestine issue. In fact, this attitude had been inherent in the Arab cause of Palestine, in the sense that no Arab is unaware of the fact that the Palestine issue is today the most serious problem in the Arab daily life.

Hence, the ABSP has been struggling for the adoption of scientific revolutionary techniques for solving the Palestine issue because the problem, as confirmed by the Party's literature, is so serious as to occupy a central position in the Arab struggle, notably as:

First, all Arab states face the threat because the aim of Zionism is not confined to Palestine, but extends to the whole Arab area from the "Euphrates to the Nile", with Palestine constituting a spring-board, as has been proved by the present Zionist occupation of territories belonging to three Arab states.

Secondly, all the pro-Zionist powers are forced to do so by the prerequisites of their interests. "More profit would be secured from siding with the Zionists," some western policy makers would argue. Through correct diagnosis the ABSP has exposed the core of Zionist-imperialist alliance.

Thirdly, Zionism represents an economic power which attempts to turn Palestine into a "factory" out of which Arab markets would be over-flooded with goods that would nip Arab eco-

nomy in the bud and disrupt Arab economic unity.

Fourthly, the Zionist entity is a strategic base for world Zionism and imperialism.

The ABSP maintains that people's and regular armed struggle is the natural way for delivering Palestine from the claws of Zionism and imperialism, and securing it from the mischief-making of reaction and liquidationist formulae. This is because the lessons of history and the struggle of peoples the world over have conclusively shown that what was taken by force could be recovered only by a force expressive of the revolutionary will of the masses and that the road of negotiations always leads to concessions particularly when negotiations are unequal.

The Party is certain that the schemes aimed at liquidating the Palestine issue and undermining the Arab revolutionary movement stand no chance of success regardless of what concessions may be made by those who show optimism with regard to "peaceful settlements", and irrespective of the manoeuvres and subtleties of the imperialists and Zionists. The day will not be long when the masses will assume their natural role in their struggle of destiny and when the Arab nation will be given the opportunity to utilise its enormous resources. The Arab nation will then be in a position to proceed, in steady and firm steps, along the road of unity.

Solidarity With Palestinian Masses Iraq Observes Land Day

In the wake of the general uprising in occupied Palestine staged by the Arab people there in protest against the Zionist occupation, the Arab world has been observing the Land Day in many cities.

On March 30 there was a protest march in Baghdad called for by the Arab Baath Socialist Party and the Political Committee of the Palestinian Revolution in Iraq, in solidarity with the heroic struggle waged by the Arab people in the occupied land.

Popular, professional and student organisations took part in the mammoth demonstra-

tions. Also Iraqi workers staged a 15-minute token stoppage in the factories, in solidarity while the daily newspapers declared that the heroic uprising in Palestine was a "genuine expression of the indomitable spirit of the Palestinian people".

The first lecture on that day in all Iraqi colleges, institutes and schools was dedicated to expounding the significance of the uprising and to the condemnation of the acts of terror and oppression perpetrated by the Zionist occupation authorities against the Arab masses in occupied Palestine.



On another level, the Progressive Patriotic and National Front (PPNF), in a statement issued on the occasion, described the day as "a glorious national day of the Palestinian masses and the Arab nation and an escalation of the heroic struggle against the Zionist occupation".

The statement sternly denounced the Zionist policy of plundering Arab land and perpetuating the Zionist occupation of Palestine. The PPNF reiterated its all-out support for the Palestinian masses in their just struggle to regain their homeland.

HUMAN FACTOR: KEY TO DEVELOPMENT

The realisation of Iraq's sovereignty over its oil resources, complemented on 8 December, 1975, provided the necessary pre-requisites for the attainment of the political leadership's aspirations as embodied in the investment programmes, and the ambitious current 1976-80 National Development Plan.

Undoubtedly, the experience of last year's investment programme has provided enough evidence to the fact that the crash development, involving a rapid and comprehensive implementation of numerous projects in line with the necessities confirmed by the Political Report of the Eighth Regional Congress of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, has become a concrete reality. The Report maintained that "the forthcoming five years should represent a period of achieving a big leap in the development of the country's economic and social conditions, with a view to anchoring firm foundations for a prosperous national economy; this is bound to provide conditions for the realisation of modern society based on the pre-requisites of social welfare for the people as a whole".

Therefore, it can safely be said that the figures of the Five-Year NDP (1976-80) involved great and exceptional attention to the consolidation of economic infrastructure without which the big development leap can never be achieved.

The Baath Party has been giving due attention to the human element in any progress expected to be achieved — whether in the political or economic domain. This outlook has been genuinely reflected in the Party's ideological literature and practical implementation since assuming power in Iraq following the July 17, 1968 Revolution which it led. Thus, the Party maintained that the realisation of a balance in human resources constitutes a fundamental task in comprehensive planning, as this aims at creating equilibrium in the economic variables and overall economic and social structure.

The balance of human resource totally depends on the development and promotion of vocational and technical education and training in

such a way as to provide appropriate utilisation of human resources. This education is also a fundamental source of skilled labour, specialised manpower and trained personnel to meet NDP's requirements.

In view of the current phase of construction, skilled and specialised manpower constitutes an urgent necessity, as its absence has always created one of the major bottlenecks in the NDP's pre-requisites.

So long as any development plan represents a homogeneous part of a long-term planning policy, the Party found it necessary that the general infrastructure should devote due attention to training.

It is believed that investment in human resources results in much higher returns than in capital goods because, with due consideration to constant labour productivity, investment in education, health, technical training and management development plays a significant and decisive role in the betterment and increase of productivity.

In Iraq, education represents a highly significant factor, because the progress of its developing economy and the transformation of its economic structure require a highly qualified manpower to cope with the new development in the utilisation of sophisticated equipment and devices. Hence, scientific research is a fundamental factor in this respect.

On the other hand, the ABSP maintains that education constitutes a fundamental infrastructure for any cultural revolution or evolution. For without education, expansion of various services becomes impermissible.

In order to eliminate a major bottleneck in the NDP, represented in the acute shortage in skilled and specialised manpower, the current NDP gave attention to the development of educational system and expansion of training centres. In this connection, preliminary estimates indicate that the number of new students in the industrial schools and institutes will increase from 3360 in 1974-75 to 12,940 in 1979-80, i.e., an an-

nual rate of increase of 56 per cent. Likewise, graduates of industrial schools will rise from 1373 in 1974-75 to 7354 in 1979-80.

As to agricultural education, there will be an increase from 1680 in 1974-75 to 5304 in 1979-80, with the number of graduates expected to rise from 1200 to 3396 respectively.

Vocational training and rehabilitation centres play an important role in the preparation of the skilled manpower needed in the development process. Thus, decentralised initiatives have had exceptional significance, as the objective of vocational training is represented in the transforma-

tion of productive centres into educational ones for the enhancement of technical standards of personnels. Therefore, training courses and seminars in various fields of specialisation were so versatile as to cover all professions and careers in addition to due consideration to political orientation.

The formula of the planning process drawn up by the ABSP on the regional and pan-Arab levels is a sure guarantee for every economic or social programming, and a definite relief from the domination of chaotic conditions then prevailing in the country.

REPORT



ing eye diseases; malnutrition and its effect on the eye; oculist's part in protecting the eye from various diseases which affect the sight of the man were introduced for discussion. Topics on the dimensions, problems and causes of blindness in the world were also part of the lengthy debates.

Addressing the conference on behalf of the Health Minister Dr. Saadoun Khalifa, Director General of Preventive Medicine, pointed out that the revolutionary government in Iraq was devoting considerable attention to the question of eye diseases and their common causes.

The loss of a man's eye-sight, Dr. Khalifa explained, is a great social and economic loss to the nation and a tragedy to the person involved. Consequently, he stressed, "our meeting here is of significant importance in relation to the protection of the eye from different diseases".

The conferees, at the conclusion of their meeting, took a number of recommendations and resolutions dealing with the causes and prevention of eye diseases.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMBATTING BLINDNESS

Representatives from 40 countries attended the International Conference on Combatting Blindness recently held in Baghdad. The four-day conference, organised by the Iraqi Ministry of Health in cooperation

with the World Health Organisation (WHO) began its deliberation in the Iraqi capital on March 29.

20 research papers on the role of health education in eradicat-



The new teaches the old

ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS SOCIALIST COUNTRYSIDE

Peasant culture in Iraq has become a necessity for effecting the socialist transformation which is now taking place in the countryside in line with the ambitions of the July 17, 1968 Revolution and its Leading Party, the Arab Baath Socialist Party, in achieving an agricultural revolution with a progressive and democratic content.

The process of popularising socialist culture among the peasants will inevitably lead to the establishment of new production traditions and relations substituting the prevailing backward relations which the Iraqi countryside inherited from the colonial and feudal past in addition to the dialectical relationship between the education of



Students participating in cultivating a farm

FEATURES

peasant masses and the socialist transformation as well as the increase in agricultural production.

In view of the prevailing circumstances in the Iraqi countryside, the orientation towards educating the peasants constitutes one of the tasks in effecting the required change, and a step towards opening broad horizons for the peasants who form the majority of the country's population.

It can safely be said that popularising culture among peasants is a prerequisite for achieving the agricultural development sought and building the advanced socialist countryside.

Taking into consideration the revolutionary and socialist practices and legislations introduced in the agricultural sector in the post-revolution period, the creation of an establishment for po-

pularising culture in the countryside has become a necessity dictated by the existing changes in the rural economic, social and cultural structure.

Proceeding from the Revolution's aims in raising the political, social and economic standards of the peasants and enabling them to effectively participate in laying down and supporting the foundations of the socialist transformations in the country and accomplish the comprehensive agricultural revolution, the State Organisation for Peasant's Culture, was formed. The task of this cultural establishment in cooperation with other competent authorities, is to direct and lead the peasant masses, enlighten them through cultural centres, seminars, lectures, bulletins, periodicals, etc., and prepare qualified cadres from among the peasant.

The Organisation's aims and ambitions are diverse. It strives to promote peasant consciousness in the spheres of patriotism, nationalism and socialism, and to prepare them intellectually to positively participate in the Arab revolutionary movement with emphasis on the organic attachment between unity, freedom and socialism.

The Organisation also aims at creating advanced production relationships in the countryside in order to do away with all forms of exploitation and domination.

The creation of State Organisation for Peasant's Culture is yet another demonstration in deepening the agricultural revolution now in full swing in Iraq and a step necessitated by the revolutionary transformations in the countryside, side by side with other sectors, along the path of building the unified democratic socialist society.

Expansion of Fish Industry To Meet Growing Demand

Iraq is now drawing up studies and plans for establishing an advanced fish industry by utilising the numerous rivers, marshes, water reservoirs, lakes, etc., etc., that are available in the country.

To materialise the long-sought after project the State Fisheries Company was established in 1973. The company faced many problems upon the commencement of its tasks. There were no efficient cadres, no scientific studies on domestic water nor the circumstances in which this industry could take the right prospective and flourish.

It was always considered that the development and promotion of fish resources was a necessity dictated by the actual and speedy development taking place in all sectors of the country's national economy. Thus, scientific centers and specialised departments, research laboratories, fish-breeding lakes and ponds were established to constitute the nucleus of this vital industry.

Later, the company worked on obtaining its own fishing fleet of boats and ships which began to operate in the Arab Gulf and the Indian Ocean; in addition to constructing modern cold storages in various parts of the country.

Due to the importance of

this industry, the government allocated \$ 467 million in its 1976-80 Development Plan to promote the company's works and enable it to meet the demand of the domestic market for fish and to export a considerable amount to foreign markets.

Towards the end, Iraq and the Soviet Union have agreed on establishing a joint fishing company named "Rafidain Company" as a subsidiary of the State Fisheries Company. This joint company will have five ships, four of which have small fish plants which include the production of fish-powder used in fodder; the fifth 1500-ton ship will be used to transport the catch to Basrah port, to be later transported to the cold storages prior to marketing.

Within the plans laid down for the promotion of the company's efficiency, the storage capacity will be increased to 13,000 tons in three years time after providing it with 42 trucks, the tonnage capacity of each ranging between 5 to 20 tons. Some \$ 23.8 million has been allocated in the 1976 Investment Programme for maritime fishing, and \$ 10.2 million for the promotion of fish resources in the country's inland waters; in addition to other amounts for industrial purposes, establishment of fish colonies and laboratories for artificial insemination.

UNHOLY ALLIANCE UNMASKED

By Gora Ebrahim

On April 8, 1976 the racist Prime Minister of apartheid South Africa arrived in occupied Palestine on a supposed "official" visit. He was, needless to say, the "guest" of the Zionist usurpers of Palestine.

Herr John Vorster, however, is the second South African racist Premier to visit the Zionist entity. The first was Dr. D. F. Malan who made the visit in 1948 — soon after the illegal establishment of the Zionist entity on Palestinian soil.

The visit, understandably, is neither surprising nor unexpected. This is because the South African racists and the Zionists in occupied Palestine are birds of the same feather!

There exists close ideological, political, economic and military links between them, so much so that it prompted a former South African Premier to categorically state that, "the Jews took Israel from the Arabs after the Arabs had lived there for a thousand years. In that I agree with them, for Israel, like South Africa, is an apartheid state", (Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg, November 23, 1961).

Equally it is no state secret that ideologically the South African racists and the Zionists seek 'inspiration' from the same source and, consequently, view the world through the same ideological spectrum. Both claim "privileged positions" for themselves by erroneously invoking the Old Testament. Both claim that they are the "chosen peoples" and, therefore, superior to all other peoples.

The apartheid rulers of South Africa claim that the African veld, which they usurped from the indigenous African people, is their Biblical "promised land". As a result the Whites in South Africa, although they only account for one-fifth of the total population, occupy 67.3 per cent of the total land area!

Their ideological counterpart in the Zionist entity, not surprisingly, peddle the same myth. They claim that Arab land lying between the Nile and the Euphrates is their mythical "promised land". Hence it was not entirely accidental that Herr Vorster's "visit" coincided with Zionist attempts to confiscate more Arab land in Galilee...

The concept of a "chosen people" as propounded and practised by the South African racists and the Zionists can only be termed rabid

racism. In fact it is nothing else but racism. To them they are the "chosen people" — the rest of mankind they categorise as either drawers of water or hewers of wood. In other words the supposed "condemned Children of Ham"! While the universal trend today calls for recognising that "all men are born equal" and that "all are equal before the Lord", racist and Zionist propaganda would like the world to believe that racism and self-proclaimed race superiority enjoy Holy Sanction!

In apartheid South Africa the indigenous people, who constitute four-fifths of the total population, have been despicably robbed of all their political, economic and fundamental human rights — ALL ON THE GROUNDS OF COLOUR. For instance an African may not sit on a bench in a public park if it is marked: "FOR EUROPEANS ONLY". Africans cannot live in so-called "White areas". In short the indigenous African has been "declared" an "alien" in his own native land.

The situation in occupied Palestine is similar. The indigenous Arab people have been stripped of all political, economic and even fundamental human rights. Their land has been confiscated — often at gun point — to make room for Zionist settlers. Arabs cannot live in so-called "Jewish areas". The Arab Palestinian, too, has been declared by the Zionists an "alien" in his native land!

In addition to discriminating against the indigenous Arab people, Zionist racism has not spared the Jews themselves. The Ashkenazi, or the western Jew, looks at a Sephardim, or oriental Jew, with contempt. The former regards himself superior to the latter, in other words his considers himself "more chosen from the chosen".

Jews from Africa, Asia and the Afro-American Jews, however, are subjected to the worst kind of racial discrimination in the Zionist entity — AND MOSTLY BECAUSE OF THEIR COLOUR! In fact the Zionist rulers make no secret that Black and Oriental Jews are simply not wanted in their "promised land".

Another common factor between the apartheid rulers of South Africa and the Zionists is that while the former has herded four-fifths of its population (the Africans) into fenced "Bantustans"; the latter has driven the Arab Palestinian people into the Middle East's equivalent of the "Bantustans" — THE UNRWA REFUGEE CAMPS!

Hence, with so much in common the two international representatives of modern day racism have, no doubt, much to discuss. But given the present day international climate it would have been much more useful for them to mutually discuss their impending collapse and subsequent disintegration. It would have saved all concerned so much time, trouble and agony...

FACTS ABOUT PALESTINE

What Zionists Want

Behind the 'bright' picture which Zionists represent about "Israel" in countries where public opinion is regarded as captive, the truth of occupation resounds deep down in the statements of Zionist officials who either confront the world with unprecedented audacity or exceed the limit in going too far in their mania of racialism.

Zionists indifferently write in others' papers terms like 'peace', 'protection' and 'persecution'. But in their own papers they write: "The objective that will justify the present bloodshed (perpetrated against Arabs), not only to protect the present, but also to secure the future, is: to break them, to strike at them till annihilation, to smash, exterminate, destroy and kill — so as to break the backbone of their national will. We must shatter the psychological shell that protects the Arabs from accepting the presence of Israel". (Yosef Lapid, Maariv 9 October 1973). Hence the Zionist plan at present has become too difficult to camouflage.

Facts and Propaganda

Repetition sometimes becomes dangerous, especially when it is employed for a definite purpose. Zionists built their propaganda on this fact, they kept answering the protesting voices of humanity by repeating that Palestine was a desert when they came to establish a "state". Undoubtedly, any person with common sense would categorically refuse to believe that a country in the 20th century called Palestine and inhabited by Arabs was a desert waiting for Zionists to "make it bloom". Nevertheless, Zionists disregarded the incredibility of their claims and overconfidently carried on, underestimating the danger of reactions which would subsequently arise.

They, however, went too far, to the extent that some of their officials made contradicting statements, thinking on their part that as long as their myths were continuously propagated, they were in no danger of being refuted. So it reached a stage amounting to challenge and confrontation with the whole world when Moshe Dayan in a report to "Yediot Aharonot", January 10, 1974, said: "We should ultimately say that the state of Israel was established at the expense of the Arabs and on their land, we did not come to an empty space. Here Arabs used to live and



we are settling Jews in places where Arabs lived. We are transforming an Arab state into a Jewish one".

Dayan, it seems, was thinking that the whole world supported him and his gang of killers. In 1968 he stated the real aims behind the existence of a Zionist entity. He said, "everywhere we get a new piece of land, we necessarily dispose of its real inhabitants, the Arabs. Certainly, the Arabs don't agree to our actions; therefore, if we want our actions to continue in Palestine, there is no alternative to waging a war of EXTERMINATION against the Arabs".

(Jerusalem Post, September 30, 1968).

Afraid of 96-Year-Old Woman

It seems that a 96-year-old woman constitutes a threat to the Zionists, or at least they think so. A short while ago, a military court announced an incredible sentence. A woman aged 96 was sentenced to one-year hard labour in a Zionist prison! The reason behind her "conviction" is indeed interesting. Zionist police allege they caught the

old woman "red-handed" possessing an old dusty pistol which she forgot in one of her drawers, but the "alert" Zionist police found the pistol during one of their arbitrary searches, consequently they took the old woman and sentenced her. However, the "clever" Zionist police forgot to clarify whether the pistol was really in order!

Breaking Children's Hands

Zionists always use the word "children". No doubt, they know what this word suggests to a western mind. They realize that the word and its connotations are an adequate evidence to prove that Zionists respect human rights and consequently they are "civilized". But regardless of propaganda and theatrical shows, in which Zionists are known to be very efficient, news from the occupied territories give an entirely different picture.

In Nablus, the "Qadri Touffan" school was besieged because pupils inside decided to partici-

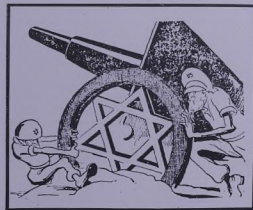
cate in the current uprising taking place all over the occupied Arab territories. This resulted in the pupils throwing stones at the 300 soldiers who surrounded the place, and when the Zionists retreated, the pupils continued with their classes. Later on Zionist forces attacked the school, entered it and ordered the pupils at gunpoint to stretch out their hand on their desks. They started a violent wave of punishment with their heavy truncheons which resulted in 80 pupils having their hands broken!

Zionist Police Break The Law

"Dafar", a Zionist paper, recently mentioned a little row which took place between a member of the Knesset (MK) and the Zionist police minister. The MK said that Zionist police were distributing a great amount of weapons among a group of Zionist terrorists known as "Gosh Amniem". Of course the police had ready answers. They claimed that the terrorists needed protection while making their rounds in the west occupied territories! The real purpose, however, behind this suddenly became obvious when something was mentioned about "expansionism".

The MK during the row, modestly told the police minister to licence the weapons given to those who want to settle down on confiscated Arab lands, so as to complete all the requirements of settlement according to the "law".

(Medhat Magar)





Palestine Question And The Japanese People

by Masao Abe,
Lecturer at Tokai University, Japan

Immediately after October 1973 and the application of the oil weapon strategy by the Arab countries towards securing a just solution of the Palestine question, Japan shifted its foreign policy from hitherto rather "Israel-leaning" diplomacy into so-called "pro-Arab" diplomacy. Since that time, the economic relations between the Arab countries and Japan have been rapidly expanding, and a large number of Japanese politicians, businessmen and technicians have been flowing into Arab countries especially oil-producing countries. Such phenomena are not bad; it is indeed desirable steps for Japan to approach the developing countries and offer its technology and receive in return natural resources. But are we to call this shift a "pro-Arab" policy?

As for the word "pro-Arab" policy, one Arab Ambassador in Tokyo once told me in an interview for a monthly magazine in 1974: "I was astonished at the word 'pro-Arab'. This word should be replaced by the word 'pro-justice', because Japan should support the Arab cause for the sake of justice". Another Arab diplomat said in another interview: "I quite agree w. this. If Japan wants to become a great country i., the true sense of the word, she must stick to justice. Therefore, the so-called 'pro-Arab' policy should be nothing but 'pro-Japan' policy. Isn't it?" This is true.

I firmly believe that if Japan or any other industrial country wants to be sincere to the economic construction of the Arab countries, they

must work for the solution of the Palestine question based on justice. Because, the human, being of flesh and blood together with and the question of national sovereignty, is more important than any natural resources. It is also an undeniable fact that this conflict is severely hampering the economic construction of Arab countries and its constituting heavy burdens for the armaments of neighbouring Arab countries at the expense of the welfare of their people. Further, suppose the world community fails to solve this conflict based on justice, another disasterous war might break out again, which will demolish the results of the efforts of the Arab nation and the fruits of the economic cooperation offered from industrial nations.

It is true that the knowledge of Japanese people of Palestine question has been fairly improved recently, but it cannot be denied at the same time that their understanding still remains very superficial and has not reached the root of the Palestine question. But why have the Japanese people been indifferent to this tragedy for a long time? The answer to this lies in the fact that the issue of such international importance has been hidden for a long time from the Japanese people as well as many other nations through the deliberate efforts of the world-wide "Israel" inclined international information media.

But needless to say, "Israeli" propaganda, however trustworthy it may pretend, is artificial patchworks of falsehood and, therefore, destined

to crumble easily in front of stark reality. To cite one example. Just before 1967 June War, Mr. Ryuchi Hirokawa, a young Japanese university graduate, volunteered to go to a kibbutz in "Israel", an agricultural cooperative farm much idealized through the Zionist propaganda machine. Having witnessed the horrors of the June War and racist social structure of "Israel", he was much disillusioned and came to contact and work with the members of MATSPEN to fight against the Zionist entity.

After returning to Japan he published, in 1971, a book entitled "Jewish State and Palestinian Guerrilla" and reported vividly about the real situation of the military and war-like Zionist state and daily occurrences of racial discrimination there. The book sold well and was highly recommended in book-reviews. It is said that "Israeli" embassy thereafter was very "careful" in sending Japanese students to "Israel" after Mr. Hirokawa's case. This shows clearly the fact that truth is far stronger than any intensified propaganda of falsehood.

I think that the reason why a number of Japanese people, especially young people, have been showing deep sympathy with Palestine Liberation Movement is that they are not forgetting the grave sufferings inflicted on the Japanese people during the Second War and the occupation by American forces in the post-war period. It must be remembered that due to this irresponsible militarism of Japan, our fatherland was devastated by air-raids, and at the same time ten million Chinese people were killed and three million Japanese people lost their lives.

In August, 1967 just after the June War, when the World Conference against A. & H. Bombs was organized by Japanese Socialist Party, SOHYO (General Council of Trade Unions) and peace loving forces in Japan, two representatives of Mafai party of "Israel" arrived in Japan and tried to participate in the conference, alleging that they were also for peace. But Japanese delegates to the Conference refused their participation on the grounds that "Israel" is the aggressor on Arab territories.

After the dramatic emergence of PLO into the UN and its admission into various other international communities as full member, the World Organisation has now branded "Israel" a racist entity enjoying the protection of the USA. It is, however, a fact that there still exists the fear that "Israel" will resort to another war to defend

its racistist entity — a child born from twentieth century fanaticism. Above all, we cannot overlook the fact that "Israel" is still occupying vast areas of Arab territories, and it should not be forgotten that even at this moment the Palestinian people's hardships are continuing and other Arab people too are suffering economically.

As I have already mentioned, it is true that there are still many Japanese people who do not know the real nature of anachronistic zionism; but the Japanese who were victims of fanatic militarism of the pre-war days will sooner or later become aware of the danger of such neo-zionist zionism. I am sometimes amazed at the similarity between pre-war Japanese militarism and zionism. During the war Japanese militarism, under the "beautiful" slogan of "Greater Asia Co-prosperity Sphere" tried to dominate the neighbouring Asian countries. At that time we Japanese people were brought up since childhood by ultra-militarists with the notion that Japan was the land of God and Japanese people were the most superior race in the whole of Asia. Our history of that period reminds us of the innocent Jews in "Israel" who are caged in the anachronistic expansionism and who are indoctrinated with superiority complex and are compelled to fight against the neighbouring Arabs. They should be regarded as the victims of a theocratic racialistic entity and must free themselves from this doomed zionism.

Therefore, the Japanese people gradually came to know that zionism is another kind of nazism whose ally is world imperialism headed by the US and remnants of fanatic ultra-nationalists only. There are only a handful of Japanese intellectuals who are called "friends of Israel". But coincidentally almost all of them are notorious ultra-nationalist and pro-American writers, musicians, academicians and so on, advocating the necessity to restore the pre-war Japanese militarism and chanting the artificial glory of imperialistic Japan of bygone days. Their efforts to reverse the current of history will end in failure, because an absolute majority in the Japanese nation is determined to make Japan a peaceful and democratic country not to be dragged into dangerous militarism again. In this sense, the Palestine question is not the problem of far distant area across the vast seas, but it is our own problem closely linked with the human dignity and sovereignty of the Japanese nation.

The oil strategy of Arab countries has awakened Japan about the existence of the aspirations of the peoples of developing countries to

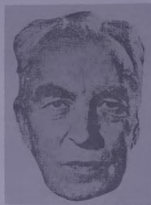
wards Japan. Really, this is a precious chance for the Japanese people to ponder on the future path for Japan to follow. Whether Japan will rediscover its own hidden potentiality and will be able to change as a country to win confidence among the peoples of the world thereby contributing to real peace and welfare of the peoples of the world, largely depends on the Japanese people's determination to work for the establishment of justice in the international sphere. Japanese people should re-read their own peaceful constitution expressing the Japanese nation's wish to get respectable position in the world community and urging them to respect the sovereignty of other nations and admonishing them not to concentrate only on their own affairs.

Lastly I want to emphasize the necessity of disseminating the Palestine question through mass media — especially literature, poems, movies, folk-songs, TV programmes, exhibitions, etc., because these media will give far-reaching influence on the people. We should remember that in the past our sympathy for persecuted Jews by nazism had been fostered through the flood of books, movies such as "Anne's Diary", "Tragedy of Auschwitz", "The Dictator" by Charlie Chaplin and many spectacular widescreen movies based on biblical mythology of Hollywood.

So, when I met Mr. Ghassan Kanafany together with Japanese TV Team in 1972, just ten days before his tragic assassination, I asked him to give me his novels for translation into Japanese.

It was one of his novels "Returning to Haifa" which was translated into Japanese by Mr. Mutsuaki Nutahara and published in 1973, that gave a deep impression to Japanese intellectuals to know the agony of Palestinian people and noble spirit to fight on to defend human dignity in defiance of tremendous adversity.

To sum up, we should not overlook the present-day tragedy of innocent peoples of various countries who are compelled to fight. Let us fight together against barbaric zionism so that we may establish real and eternal peace in this area and reap the fruitful harvest of our cooperation.



TOYNBEE AND ZIONISM

by Moheyeddin Ismail

The history of any community is always a reflection of its ethos which is a product of a great number of factors and social reactions. But in the case of the Jews, there is only one prominent factor that is intelligible in itself. The reason is the evil passions and apocalyptic visions through which the elders of the Jewish communities painted the aspirations of those communities.

The product of this, is the "egocentric illusion" which is traced by Prof. Arnold Toynbee along the history of the Jewish communities which may prove to be a confused heap.

This "egocentric illusion" — as it is traced by Toynbee — is due to the misconception of the unity of the Jewish history from which the Jews suffered, and suffered more because of their "sub-illusion" that they are not "a" but "the" chosen people, and all other "natives" in any land are "gentiles", or "barbarians" in the ancient Greek sense.

This led the Jews — as Toynbee noticed — to live in acute contradictions with the other nations, or the "gentiles".

Well... it is true that contradiction is the main characteristic of the human life, but the contradiction which the Jews experienced along centuries, due to this "egocentric illusion" and fabricated by the Elders, was a unique one.

This acute contradiction — out of the egocentric illusion — is the dominant and permanent characteristic of the "Israeli" Zionist society.

In this society we may easily notice the psychological barrier between this "chosen people" and the world, or the "gentiles".

There is always something dark and ambiguous in this society. Is it a society based on the religious values of Judaism or a society based on some other modern values? Even Toynbee could not give a final answer to this question, and he admitted that not he nor any other thinker may give the final answer.

In the unhappy relations between the Jews of the diaspora and the gentiles, and the unhappy relations between the Jews of the Zionist settler-state lies the acute contradiction. This contradiction is given clearly and sharply in this statement: "... the desire of one Jew to send another Jew to Palestine by the money of a third Jew...". This acute contradiction turned the "settler-state" into a mere confined community in the Middle East. This "settler-state" is imposed by the Zionists and mainly by the American Zionists, who planned for this entity to be a central focus that may attract the scattered Jews in the world. But the Zionists learnt nothing and forgot nothing.

They are "fossils" in the cultural sense (Toynbee stresses much on this) and because they are fossils they react today as they reacted

during their exile in Babylonia. And because they are "fossils" they did not believe in immediate first hand experience, but in a "political god". This political god of the Zionists of today is the same political pre-exilic and post-exilic god who built the psychological and spiritual barriers between the Jews and the gentiles or rather pushed the Jews to the ghetto. Their hope was always with this god to carry out and complete for them their plans and schemes. And here is the answer to the false ambiguity we notice in zionism.

Through inward and outward development of personality that human beings are able to perform creative acts in the outward field of action that cause the growth of human societies and promote the human progress. But zionism proved again and time again for the world that it is an "ideological fossil" when it tried to seize a "Lebensraum" for the Jews by force in the ghettos of yesterday or the "International Ghetto" of today i.e., the Zionist settler-state in Palestine.

By imposing this "International Ghetto" in Palestine the Zionists failed, in building up for the immigrant Jews a full personality as that of any other nationality.

Toynbee concluded, by tracing the tragic story of imposing this "International Ghetto" with all its fossil values and concepts, that they imposed this Ghetto or the Settler-State with all its psychological barriers in the area without distinguishing between "home" and "state". Here Toynbee, comes to the final conclusion that this sort of settler-state with all its egocentric illusions which is not really a "home", will come to an end, under the pressure of the challenges against which it cannot give the proper response.

Fossil societies are unable to give such a response.

Anyway, Toynbee does not accept the arguments of the Jewish assimilationists as a whole. He is nearer to the Arab concept of creating a new real Palestinian state not a settler-state, a democratic state and home — not an "International Ghetto".

This is the only solution.

Signposts To Destruction

by: Michael Adams

Published by The Council for the Advancement
of Arab-British Understanding pp. 14

Reviewed by: Medhat Magar

"Truthfully", quotes Mr. Michael Adams a Jewish woman in a booklet entitled "Signposts to Destruction", "what is nicer: a nationalist Arab village or a Jewish national park?" Certainly the author would never think of asking the same question, because he believes that what has befallen the Palestinian Arabs is an unprecedented barbarity in a civilized world.

Mr. Adams, no doubt, is a free-minded thinker who defends the oppressed wherever they are. What prompts us to call him brave is this very stand in his booklet and other books — despite pressure and threats — with the just side in questions that have been internationally misunderstood and misinterpreted.

To begin with, the booklet reviews the continuous process of Zionist colonisation of Arab territory since 1967 until the October War of 1973, and concludes with a note which, reasonably enough, puts forward any prospect of peace in the area as an impossibility if the aggressive land-grabbing policy of the Zionist entity continues unchanged.

However, although the Zionist occupation is so eye-opening even to the most ignorant of all, or to the most passionate supporters of Zionism, we find that between the lines of the booklet, Mr. Adams poses the question of how could it be possible for an audacious Zionist prime minister to declare that "Israel" is seeking peace and cooperation with its neighbours while it is establishing 60 settlements in occupied territories.

Still, in spite of the fact that "the Israeli occupation is a defiance of UN resolutions and of the spirit of the UN Charter, the particular obligation of the Fourth Geneva Convention (of which "Israel" is a signatory) on the occupying power: not to deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies" (Article 49), the Zionist entity "took every precaution to ensure that they (the Zionists) would never return" and leave the 60 settlements established in

the occupied territories. Of course the purpose is clear, as Mr. Adams says; but what about world opinion? It seems that this remains a question to be answered.

Under two titles called "International Reaction" and "publicity given to Israel's Colonisation Policy", Mr. Adams briefly explains that apart from two or three intellectuals like Bertrand Russell and Arnold Toynbee, and a publication like "The Middle East and North Africa", world opinion remained apathetic amidst the US hysterical fervour of financial and military support to the Zionist entity, amidst the expulsion of Palestinian Arabs, the destruction and dynamiting of villages, the seizure of property and the butchering of women and children. Apart from two or three protesting voices which were quickly silenced, the conspiracy of silence continued unaffected and the term colonisation was replaced by euphemisms like "pioneering" making the desert bloom!"

Indeed, this is possible to believe, if Moshe Dayan can stand up like a cowboy to say over Tel Aviv radio: "I have proposed the establishment of Yamit (a city to hold quarter of a million Zionist settlers on Egyptian territory) ... so that it may serve as one of the factors enabling us to establish the border further to the west", and he used to proceed like the tarters of Genghis Khan: "this is not the time to fold up the Zionist banner". If it is possible to believe that reactions to such statements were nearly non-existent, then it is also possible to believe that "Israel" seeks peace in the Middle East.

In fact, whether it is the establishment and support given to the Zionist entity, or the total ignorance feigned by officials in the countries which always stand beside "Israel" despite the inhuman crimes committed against the Palestinian Arabs, it implies a state of terror in public opinion in these countries. It comes as no surprise then to hear the British Foreign Secretary saying: "I have no particular knowledge of settlements" in reply to a question in the House of Commons. Journalists, thinkers and all those who suddenly spring out of the blue to defend the oppressed, drew a curtain of silence on the sufferings of human beings in occupied Palestine.

At the end of his objective booklet, Mr. Adams puts forward an equation to the effect that: the more Zionist colonisation policy increases, the more the Zionist entity becomes alienated from the international community. For its situation as a whole, the author is clear in his condemnation of the colonisation process as being morally, juridically and politically wrong and unjustified.

POETRY

Baghdad

Extracts from a poem by Ali Al-Hilli

O! Flame, unleash thy wings,
And let our tender word shed
The fires of the crucified duk.

Ye! Pleasant bird of glee,
thy naps would fill thy sphere,
were thy plumes plucked.

O! Bird of the Sun,
Hard is the birth of love,
Flowing blood is the birth of burning battle.

Ye! The flap of the sacred female,
Dashing in the main of galaxies
To grip the high throne.

Bird of the Sun!
Shall we grieve,
while from thine eyes the fertile land gleams?

Thou fill the air,
the rivers with thine sweet fragrance
The aroma of the ancestors.

On to Baghdad thou hast vivid,
To embrace her,
Yon Aleppo will tomorrow embrace the coming fate,

Over the stars of Baghdad
Flattered the resurrection banners,
And gleamed the sunny morn.

An epic burning with will
Embraced the coming comrades,
And doubts divorced their wedding.

Ye! The resurrection — the Baath Revolution,
The torch ever shining on the peaks,

Assassinated by sterility,
And enlivened by triumph.

From the veins of immortality
Shines our magnanimity,
Our glorious history abounds with brilliance.

O! Baghdad, the citadel of history,
Lofty with resurrection,
And the Arabs sing to her wedding.

Ye! Baath, Bird of Resurrection,
Hard is the birth of love
And flowing blood is the parched moment.

(trans. by M. al-Najjar)

ADD TO YOUR
KNOWLEDGE

IRAC:

Arab Republic (area 169,240 sq. miles.) pop. about (12,000,000) capital; Baghdad. The fertile centre (ancient Mesopotamia) is watered by the Tigris and Euphrates, which join above Basra to form the Shatt-el-Arab which flows into the Arabian Gulf. The mountains have snow in winter. Rainfall 30-45 ins. in the mountains, 17 ins. at Mosul, 11 ins. east of the Tigris, 7 ins in Baghdad and west of the Euphrates. Live stock, sheep, goats, donkeys, horses, mules and camel. Agricultural products: wheat barley, rice, dates (80% of world production) cotton, maize, millet sesame, figs, nuts, grapes and tobacco. Chief industries: oil industries (totally nationalised), textiles, bricks, cement, milling, tanning. Exports: oil, cereals, dates, wool, cotton, hides and skins. Monetary unit: Iraqi dinar (1,000 fils). History: Iraq is the cradle of the Sumerian civilisation, (4th millennium B.C.) and the Empires of Babylonia, Assyria and Chaldea. As the centre of the Abbasid Caliphate (750-1258) Baghdad became renowned for mathematics, astronomy, geography, medicine, philosophy, poetry, literature and arts.

IS THE ATLANTIC GETTING BIGGER?

According to the Danish Expedition in the beginning of this century (1906-1908) America is moving extremely slowly westward away from the continent of Africa, while Greenland is moving north towards the pole at the rate of 9 metres per year.

(M.I.)

MODERN ART IN IRAQ ON A HIGH LEVEL

by Dr. J. Beekmans,
Member of the Netherlands
Parliament

Most likely, most Dutchmen will, in connection with art in Iraq, think of Sumerian or Assyrian art. Few will realize that Iraq in the past tens of years has produced a number of



modern artists, who can compare brilliantly with their European and American colleagues. Since Arabic music sounds somewhat strange to most Western ears, it is much more difficult to judge, although the great success of e.g., the lute-player Muneer Bashir in the West

should not be forgotten. It is above all the art of design which is very comprehensive to us.

Cradle:

The cradle of our civilization lies in old Mesopotamia, contemporary Iraq. Only think of the place of Paradise, the birthplace of Abraham or the laws of Hammurabi, king of Babylon. Almost everybody will link the name of Baghdad to the famous stories of "Thousand-and-one Night". Archeological connoisseurs will have much to enjoy in Iraq. The monuments are magnificent and the muses unique. Such in spite



of the fact that many of the historical treasures have been removed to Europe in the last century. One only needs to think of the gate of Babylon in Berlin and the huge statues of the Babylonians and the Assyrians in Paris and London.



Modern:

Modern art in all its manifestations is stimulated by the Iraqi Government. Since the Second World War many artists had the chance to orientate themselves all over the world. In the art of design one can clearly recognize influences of Gauguin, Matisse, Picasso, Rodin or Henry Moore. Yet, most modern pieces of art radiate quite a charm of their own.



In 1974, the first Biennale of Arabic art was held in Baghdad which was a great success. The works of Iraqi artists were clearly superior to the rest. Also exhibitions of European modern art are organized, there was a fascinating exposition of modern art from the Federal Republic of Germany. In another exposition room three young Iraqi designers showed very impressive work.

Perhaps an exchange of artistic manifestations between Iraq and the Netherlands can become a reality in the near future. Many of us would like to acquaint ourselves with objects from Biblical times or with modern art from this country, which is not too well-known to us.

(*) This article was published in "The Gelderland" of Netherlands of February 13, 1976.

ATH-THAWRA (Iraq)

**Anniversary of Signing Iraqi-Soviet Friendship
And Cooperation Treaty**

In its editorial marking the fourth anniversary of signing the 15-year Iraqi-Soviet Friendship and Cooperation Treaty of April 9, 1972, "Ath-Thawra" daily said: "The subject of the Iraqi-Soviet Treaty and relations is not a new one. It is one of the special and important subjects which was treated in the major documents of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, especially the Political Report of the Eighth Regional Congress.

It was also dealt with by the Party's Leadership in its press on many occasions.

On the Arab-Soviet relations the editorial said: "The Arab Baath Socialist Party has stressed the necessity of establishing strategic relations of alliance between the movement of the Arab revolution and the Soviet Union on the basis of struggle against imperialism and Zionism. At the same time it also stressed the necessity of maintaining an independent national stand and preserving the principles and policies of Non-alignment to which the Party and the Revolution in Iraq are committed".

"From the outset, there were perfectly clear central points in our orientation enabling the establishment of such level of relations with the Soviet Union. However, we did not overlook that there are differences on many questions, some of which deemed as essential by us, like the question of treating the Palestinian cause. Nevertheless we truly found that the common points linking the movement of the Arab revolution on one hand, and the Soviet Union on the other, were so many and important that they justified the necessity of forming firm and established relations between them. We also believed and still believe that it is perfectly possible to solve many of the differences, converge the viewpoints of the two sides

through joint dialogue and work seriously and continuously for this. At the same time this should not preclude any side from maintaining a stand in which he believes in or is convinced of, whether in the framework of a certain stage or circumstance, or permanently", the editorial went on.

On the question of the differences the daily said: "We have striven and still strive to ensure that such differences do not reach the level of conflict and contradiction, because there is a basic rule in the strategic concept which makes the two sides meet on one hand, and because their interests make it imperative for them to meet, cooperate and work jointly on the other".

"Today, we do not conceal our deep concern in respect to the deteriorating relations between the Soviet Union and some Arab parties, particularly the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Although we do not want to interfere in the internal affairs of any Arab country, — and we perfectly understand the difficulties Egypt is experiencing, including the difficulties in her relations with the Soviet Union — we deem the deterioration of relations between them as a great loss to the Arabs and a danger threatening the basic aspects of the nation's struggle in confronting the Zionist usurpers and maintaining the march of economic and social progress on the basis of the interests of the majority of the people", the daily explained.

"The interest of the Arab nation, which lies in liberation, progress and the elimination of the Zionist aggression, necessarily means opposing imperialism, in this or that way. Whatever negativism and difficulties have loomed in the relation with the Soviet Union, it still remains a great international friendly power of the Arab nation and a support to her struggle. Hence it makes it necessary to maintain the continuity of relations of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union in all fields and on distinct and firm principles", the editorial concluded.

AL-JUMHURIYAH (Iraq)

The Iraqi daily, al-Jumhuriyah in its editorial of April 7, saluted the 29th anniversary of the Arab Baath Socialist Party saying: "29 years ago the arena of Arab struggle witnessed the birth of first Arab revolutionary movement that succeeded in leading the toiling masses from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf towards a better future". "Since its inception", the paper went on, "the Party raised the banner of unity and denounced the artificial boundaries drawn by the colonialists".

"The creation of the ABSP was not a continuation of the political movements that preceded it, but a turning point in the movement of Arab struggle and a qualitative change from the then existing ideologies", the paper concluded.

AL-ALAM (Morocco)

In an article devoted to the 29th founding anniversary of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, al-Alam, the Moroccan paper, said: "The wise leadership of the ABSP and the revolution in Iraq has succeeded in linking the national interest with the pan-Arab interest within a progressive outlook". Commenting on the Iraqi oil policy the paper said, "Iraq brought the slogan of 'Arab Oil For Arabs' into reality".

IZVESTIA (USSR):

The Soviet daily 'Izvestia', in a comment on the Iraqi-Soviet Friendship and Cooperation Treaty appearing in its issue of April 10, 1976, said: "The four years which have passed since the signing of the treaty between Iraq and the Soviet Union confirms that the overall development of relations between the two countries has been responding to the national interests of both sides and serving the cause of peace in the world".

The paper added that the warm and cordial relations existing between the peoples of Iraq and the Soviet Union, well embodied in the treaty, have set a good example of solidarity between the socialist and national liberation forces.

THE CENTURY (India)

Under the heading, a dynamic revolutionary foreign policy, the Indian fortnightly "The Century" published the following article:

"In the context of the imperialist intrigues that are going on in West Asia to divide the nations and thus weaken Arab resistance to Zionism, the dynamic revolutionary foreign policy being followed by Iraq becomes a pillar of progress and strength, not only for the people of Iraq, but for all Arab peoples. The success of Iraq's foreign policy is being daily vindicated by visits to Baghdad by leaders of various countries and the visits to various countries by the leaders of Iraq. Agreements are being signed by Iraq with many other countries on economic, cultural and scientific cooperation. The latest is the recent agreement signed between India and Iraq.

One of the crowning achievements of Iraq's foreign policy was the Algiers agreement signed with the Shah of Iran. This agreement brought to the fore the dynamism and sense of purpose that inspire the revolutionary government of Iraq. A number of steps have been taken in accordance with the agreement to normalise the relations between Iraq and Iran.

The basic political programme of Iraq's revolutionary government has its fundamental elements in the determination to carve out a socialist society in Iraq, the total commitment to the causes of Arab nationalism and national liberation movements throughout the world and steadfast opposition to imperialism in all its forms. Iraq has been consistent in its stand that Zionism is an instrument of imperialism.

AL-IRAQ (Iraq)

In its issue of April 7, al-Iraq daily, carried an editorial titled, "Uphold the march of the Iraqi people under the leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party" in which it reviewed the victories of the Party. It went on to say that the ABSP has adopted progressive, national and socialist principles and gave the Arab national liberation movement a revolutionary content. Al-Iraq said that the ABSP has linked the national struggle for unity with the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reactionary regimes in order to realise political and economic freedom.

"On the international level", the paper added, "the ABSP always called for the establishment of strong alliances with friendly and socialist countries while giving support to national liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America".

NEWS IN BRIEF

PRESIDENT BAKR AND SOVIET LEADERS EXCHANGE CABLES OF CONGRATULATIONS

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, has sent a cable of congratulations to Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Nikolai Podgorny, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and Alexie Kosygin, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the signing of the 15-year Iraqi-Soviet Friendship and Cooperation Treaty.

In his cable President Bakr said: "The Friendship and Cooperation Treaty has played an important role in elevating the relations between the two friendly countries to a higher level in the political, economic, cultural and other fields".

In their cable to President Bakr the Soviet Leaders said: "The experience gained through the Soviet-Iraqi cooperation in all fields has proved that the promotion of multi-sided relations between the USSR and the Republic of Iraq, on the basis of the treaty, is responding to the interests of the Soviet and Iraqi peoples and provides an outstanding contribution to strengthening the Soviet-Arab friendship".

RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN VISITS SAUDI ARABIA

Revolution Command Council Vice-Chairman, Mr. Saddam Hussein, on April 13 left Baghdad for Riyadh on a 3-day official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in response to an invitation from His Highness Prince Faisal bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud, Crown Prince and Deputy Premier of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Hussein was accompanied by a high level delegation composed of Mr. Saadoun Ghaidan, RCC member and Minister of Communications, Dr. Saadoun Hammadi, Foreign Minister, Mr. Tareq Aziz, Information Minister, Mr. Hikmat al-Azzawi, Foreign Trade Minister and a number of senior officials.

RCC VICE-CHAIRMAN MR. HUSSEIN RECEIVES HABIB BOURGUIBA JR.

RCC Vice-Chairman, Mr. Saddam Hussein, received on April 12, Mr. Habib Bourguiba Jr., son of Tunisian President.

Mr. Habib Bourguiba Jr. who is Director General of the Tunisian Economic Development Bank and member of the political bureau of al-Doustour Socialist Party had arrived in Baghdad on April 11 on a three-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of Iraqi Finance Minister Dr. Fawzi al-Qaisi.

MRS. HUSSEIN FELICITATES MRS. BOURGUIBA

Mrs. Hussein, wife of RCC Vice-Chairman Mr. Saddam Hussein, on April 5 gave a luncheon in honour of Mrs. al-Majida Wasila Bourguiba, wife of President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia.

Mrs. Bourguiba arrived in Baghdad on April 4, on a few days visit to Iraq and was accompanied by the Tunisian Minister of Justice and a number of journalists.

IRAQ PARTICIPATES IN LONDON ISLAMIC FESTIVAL

Iraq is participating in the World Islamic Festival opened in London by Queen Elizabeth II on 8th April.

A delegation headed by the Minister of State Dr. Ahmed Abdul Sattar al-Jawari, represented Iraq at the festival. Meanwhile Iraq had lent the festival 20 pieces of priceless Islamic antiquities among which were a number of decorations belonging to the Islamic era of Omayyad.

IRAQ-INDIAN TALKS IN NEW DELHI

The joint Indo-Iraqi Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation concluded its sessions in New Delhi on April 6 with the signing of an accord for further cooperation in this field.

Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Mr. Ghanim Abdul Jalil, and Indian Oil Minister, Mr. Keshav Dev Malaviya, led the delegations of their respective countries to the joint committee talks.

IRAQI-SWEDISH ECONOMIC COOPERATION TALKS

Swedish Minister of Commerce, Mr. Carl Lidbom, paid a six-day visit to Iraq at the head of an official delegation during which relations and economic cooperation between the two friendly countries were discussed. Prior to his departure Mr. Lidbom described his talks in Iraq as "important and fruitful".

LAND OWNERSHIP TITLE-DEEDS TO EGYPTIAN PEASANT FAMILIES

The hundreds of Egyptians families who have arrived in Iraq under the Iraq-Egyptian bilateral agreement to work as farmers on Iraqi agricultural projects have been received with an enthusiastic welcome. On April 11, the Iraqi Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Dr. Hassan Fahmi Juma distributed land ownership title-deeds to 85 Egyptian families. The area of each piece of land ranges from 12 to 18 donoms. (2,500 square metres in a donum).

SPORTS

25TH STUDENTS GAMES ENDS

Under the patronage of Mr. Majid Abdul Sattar Fadhel, Governor of Muthanna, the 25th Students Games in which students from Thiqr, Baghdad, Kirkuk, Babylon and Muthanna took part, ended on March 25 at the Youth Stadium.

In the track field events, Thiqr came first with 89 points followed by Baghdad which scored 83 points.



TUNISIAN MINISTER RECEIVES IRAQI DELEGATION

Mr. Muhammad Mezalle, Tunisian Minister of Public Health and President of the National Olympic Committee of Tunisia, received on March

24, the Iraqi delegation which is taking part in the friendly Iraqi-Tunisian Week in Tunisia.

During the meeting, Dr. Amir Esmail Hakki, Director-General of Sports in Iraq and head of the delegation, extended an official invitation to the Tunisian Minister to visit Iraq.

IRAQI WEIGHTLIFTERS FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The Iraqi weightlifting team will take part in the second Under-20 Weightlifting Championship which will be held in Warsaw next June, the Iraqi Weightlifting Federation (IWF) announced.

IWF sources also announced that the Iraqi team, which will be headed by Mr. Thamer Abdul Hassan al-Amiry, includes 3 weightlifting champions. The team will leave for Warsaw on June 1.

SUDAN WINS SECOND BASKETBALL MATCH

The Khartoum basketball team defeated the Iraqi armed forces team by a margin of one point in the second match played in Sudan on March 25.

The match which was won 63-62 by the Sudanese, was a tending by Muhammed Khair Abdul Rahim, Under Secretary of the Sudanese Ministry of Youth and members of the Iraqi Embassy in Khartoum.

The Iraqi Team won the first match against the Sudan Army Team 99-83 points.

CSKA VOLLEYBALLERS ARRIVE

CSKA, the volleyball team of the Soviet Union's Central Sports Army Club arrived in Baghdad on March 27, to play several friendly matches with local Iraqi teams.

IRAQ IN AWC MEETINGS

Iraq participated in the Arab Wrestling Confederation's annual meeting held in Casablanca, Morocco, on March 29-30, the General Secretary of the Iraqi Wrestling Federation said.

The Secretary also said that the Arab Wrestling Confederation (AWC) has discussed various subjects concerning the organisation of the Arab juvenile wrestling and the formation of a high committee for coaches and referees.

12 countries took part in the meeting. The Iraqi delegation was headed by Mr. Samir Al-Kettaby.



