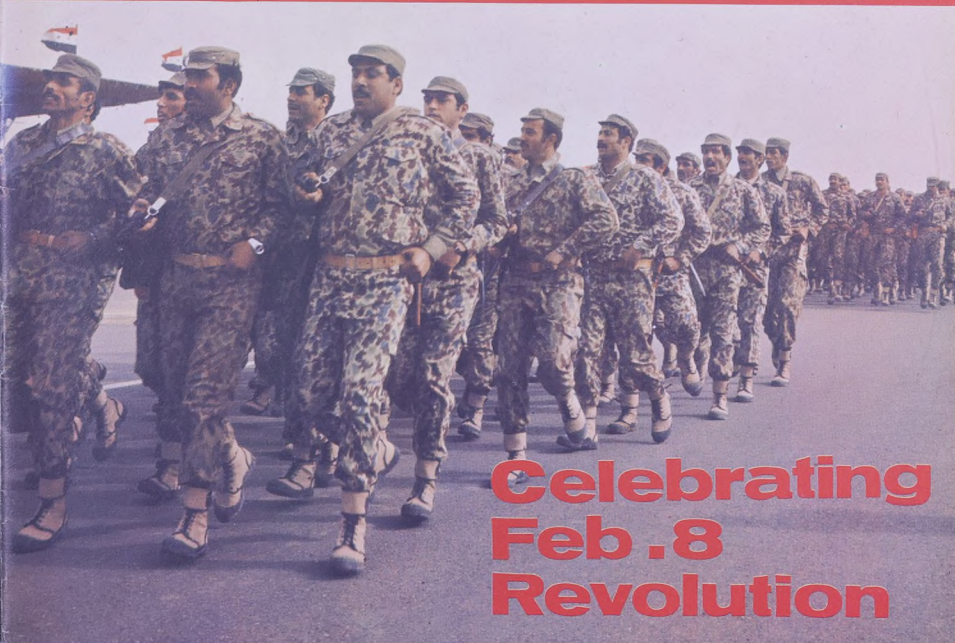


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**Celebrating
Feb. 8
Revolution**



Al-Hadba'a Minaret at Mosul



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EDITORIAL

**IN MEMORY OF
THE FEB. 8 ROVLUTION**

The Revolution of February 8, 1963, was the first revolutionary movement that succeeded in the Arab homeland under the leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP). For the first time in this part of the world, a revolution takes place by a doctrinal party with a nationalist orientation and specific social concepts.

One of the consequences of that Revolution was the fall of the secessionist and regionalist regime in Syria, coming only a month after the Ramadhan Revolution.

However, reactionary and renegade powers, within and without Iraq, lost no time and missed no opportunity to stifle that Revolution which they found, because of its young experience in government, easy to infiltrate.

But if the 14th. Ramadhan (8th Feb.) Revolution was not enabled to complete its march, it was able to prove a fact that the ABSP is the party historically competent to lead Iraq and the Arab masses throughout the Arab homeland.

That Revolution was not a sudden action but the result of a plan deeply studied by the ABSP.

The personal rule of Kassim had, through the use of the machinery of the government, attacked all the national forces without exception. It also committed costly mistakes in the economic and social fields and never succeeded to establish a positive policy either on the Arab or on the international level.

Before the collapse of the Kassimite regime in February, 1963, the ABSP was leading the nation-wide strikes of transport drivers and the students of the universities and secondary schools. Those strikes paved the way for the participation of the masses, under the leadership of the Party, in the Ramadhan Revolution.

The fact that the ABSP is the party assigned by history to lead the nation was given its final proof in the success of the 17 July Revolution which achieved such great feats on the way of liberation as to enable Iraq to become the revolutionary model in the whole Arab homeland. In the economic field, Iraq has restored to the people all the wealth that was controlled and exploited by the imperialists for a very long time. Internationally, Iraq's stand is recognised as siding with the emancipation of the oppressed peoples. It has made breakthroughs and has taken initiatives for this end and it is hoped that the forthcoming years will increasingly accentuate their impact on the area.

Saddam Hussein exposes Zionist - imperialist conspiracies

Mr. Saddam Hussein, Deputy Secretary of the Regional Leadership (RL) of the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) and Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), was warmly received by Moscow, which he recently visited for the fifth time since 1970. Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin, who happened to visit Baghdad twice since 1972, and top Soviet leaders greeted him at the airport that was bedecked with Iraqi and Soviet flags. Posters welcomed Saddam Hussein as "our dear friend" and hailed the flourishing Iraqi-Soviet relations.

SADDAM-BREZHNEV MEETING

Mr. Saddam Hussein conferred with Mr. Leonid

Ilyich Brezhnev, Secretary General of the Soviet Communist Party (CPSU) and held talks with Premier Kosygin on the promotion of bilateral relations, the current developments in the Arab region and international issues of common concern. Political observers attached great importance to these deliberations and described their outcome as positive and fruitful.

In conforming with the comradely spirit that marks Iraqi-Soviet relations, Mr. Saddam Hussein frankly expounded Iraq's attitude towards the domestic and global pressing issues of the day. In a state luncheon given in his honour by Soviet leaders at the Kremlin, he touched on the following questions:



In Moscow: Mr. Saddam Hussein and Mr. Leonid Brezhnev



ZIONIST-IMPERIALIST SCHEMINGS

On the dubious developments unfolding in the Arab homeland Mr. Saddam Hussein warned:

The imperialist, Zionist and reactionary forces are now attempting to intensify their conspiracies against the progressive forces in the Arab region. Their obvious aim is "to usurp our hard-won successes and progressive gains". But despite their temporary success, "they will never be able to tame our people or attain their ultimate goals". This is because history tells us that the Arab nation does not surrender to capitulationist settlements such



Mr. Saddam Hussein being received by Mr. Alexei Kosygin

Iraq, Soviet Union pledge total support to Palestinians

as those now being dished up by imperialism, reaction and the powers trailing behind them. But vigorous support need be rendered to the progressive forces in the Arab World — "not as a necessity dictated by principles" but as a prerequisite for facing imminent dangers.

Mr. Hussein emphasised that the ABSP and the revolutionary government of Iraq stood behind national liberation movements and progressive forces anywhere on earth. They also strive for the maintenance of world peace and stability, consider-

ing them indispensable for progress and international co-operation. "But we flatly reject the kind of schemes designed to impose on our people sur-realist solutions depriving them of their fundamental historical rights".

EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

On the need for equitable international relations, Mr. Saddam Hussein said:

We are engaged in a form of struggle for maintaining our rights in our national resources so that we may utilise them in a manner beneficial to our own people and to the peoples of the world at large. We are convinced that the settlement of the problems of the world must be based on equal relationships and on a just and balanced international



Talks in Moscow between the Iraqi and Soviet delegations

order that safeguards the interests of all, rather than the interests of monopoly concerns alone.

TOWARDS A NEW IRAQ

Optimistically turning at domestic affairs, Mr. Saddam Hussein told his Soviet hosts:

We, in Iraq, are maintaining unflinching struggle for cementing our national independence, building our revolutionary socialist experiment, reinforcing our national home front, achieving democracy for the broadest masses and for realising prosperity and progress for all citizens.

Under the leadership of the ABSP and with the full support of all progressive forces in the country, our people are marching ahead towards the attainment of their national and pan-Arab goals and the building of a better future.

In conclusion, the Deputy Secretary of the ABSP and Chairman of the RCC expressed gratitude to the continuous support rendered by the Soviet Union to the Arab nation in its just struggle for liberation and progress.

KOSYGIN LAUDS IRAQ'S REVOLUTION

Speaking on the same occasion Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin paid tribute to the genuine efforts exerted by Iraq's revolutionary government for building a new progressive country. Expressing

satisfaction over the steadily growing relations between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Iraq, he said:

We wish you success in developing the profound social and economic transformations now taking place in Iraq. The successes you have so far achieved do enhance the international prestige of Iraq and broaden the prospects of its contribution to the cause of national liberation, progress and peace in the Middle East. The people of Iraq may rest assured that they can count on the solidarity and support of the Soviet Union in their advance along the road of economic and social progress... We will go on rendering overall support to the Arab

countries that have been waging a just struggle for national independence and social progress.

In the course of the visit, formal talks were conducted between the Iraqi delegation headed by Mr. Saddam Hussein and the Soviet delegation led by Mr. Kosygin. A joint communique said in those talks, conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality, bilateral relations and pressing issues related to Arab and international affairs were discussed.

MORE FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION

The two sides expressed deep satisfaction that friendly relations between their countries are constantly developing on the solid foundation embodied in the Iraqi-Soviet Friendship and Co-operation Treaty. They underlined the importance of deepening and broadening co-operation in the political, economic and other fields. Noting with satisfaction the growth of the volume of economic, technical and trade exchange between the two countries, they attached special significance to co-operation in Iraq's main economic fields, such as oil production, energy, machine construction and irrigation.

Both parties stressed preparedness to maintain co-operation to enhance the defensive capabilities of the Republic of Iraq, considering this as an important factor to bolster the country's independence and sovereignty.

The Soviet side highly appreciated the revolutionary experiment of the people of Iraq under the leadership of the ABSP. The two parties noted that contacts between the ABSP and the CPSU were being successively developed and that useful experiences were being exchanged in the fields of the building of both party and state in the two countries.

CONCERN OVER SITUATION IN ARAB REGION

Iraq and the Soviet Union expressed deep concern over the continuing state of tension in the Arab region. They attributed it to the aggressive expansionist-settler policy of the Zionist entity and the imperialist policy that ran squarely against the basic interests of the people of the region.

In their efforts to safeguard and consolidate their footholds in the region, these forces have been

endeavouring to sabotage the anti-imperialist gains scored by the region and stir up internal disputes among the Arabs.

THE TRAGEDY OF LEBANON

The two sides held that the recent happenings in Lebanon were part of the imperialist-reactionary conspiracy aimed at undermining the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese progressive forces and at diverting the Arab people away from the struggle for remedying the main problems of the region. While welcoming the cessation of military operations, both sides were of the opinion that the Lebanese crisis is to be resolved by the Lebanese themselves — without outside intervention — on the basis of preserving the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

SUPPORT TO PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE

The two sides declared solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian resistance movement against Zionist aggression and for the national independence of the Arab people of Palestine. They reaffirmed their resolve to go on rendering total support to the Palestinian resistance that forms an inseparable part of the Arab and the international liberation movement.

LIBERATION OF OCCUPIED ARAB LAND

The Soviet Union and Iraq expressed their conviction that an equitable and lasting peace in the Arab region could not prevail without the liberation of all occupied Arab territories and without the full realisation of the inalienable and legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

The two sides believed that the attainment of the above mentioned Arab objectives necessitated the welding of efforts on progressive anti-imperialist bases and the fostering of friendship and co-operation with the progressive forces of the world including, in the forefront, the Soviet Union and the other members of the socialist community. They also declared their intention to work for promoting Arab-Soviet friendship, which they consider as a historic gain for both the Soviet Union and the Arab countries.

IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Iraq and the Soviet Union signified their resolve to contribute to the consolidation and development of international detente in a manner conducive to the consolidation of peace and guaranteeing the rights of peoples to independence and self-determination.

Considering disarmament as one of the most important issues of the world, the two sides called for the reduction of the military budget of the permanent members of the Security Council by ten per cent and the channeling of the funds so saved for rendering assistance to developing countries.

They voiced solidarity with all people engaged in struggle against imperialism, neo-colonialism, Zionism and racial discrimination. They pledged support to all freedom fighters in southern Africa.

They announced their backing to the Non-aligned countries in their struggle to resist imperialist interference.

Iraq and the Soviet Union declared their support to the efforts made by developing countries for the creation of an international economic order based on justice and equality.

KOSYGIN INVITED TO VISIT IRAQ

The joint communique said Mr. Saddam Hussein extended an invitation to Mr. Kosygin to visit Iraq. The invitation was gladly accepted and the date of the visit will be fixed later.

Mr. Saddam Hussein arrived in Moscow on January 31 heading a delegation on a 4-day official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Soviet Government. His accompanying delegation consisted of Mr. Izzat Ibrahim, RCC member, RL member and Minister of Interior; Mr. Adnan Hussein, RL Member and Minister of Planning; Mr. Tareq Aziz, RL Member and Minister of Information; Mr. Flayeh Hassan, RL Member; Mr. Saadoun Hammadi, Foreign Minister; the Chief of the General Army Staff;

and Mr. Saad Qassim Hammoudi, Member of the National Information Office and Chairman of the Journalists Union.

IRAQI-SOVIET RELATIONS

In the wake of the triumph of the July Revolution of 1968, when the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) rose to power, Iraqi-Soviet relations entered a new phase of genuine understanding and co-operation. These relations were given a vigorous impetus by the conclusion, in April, 1972, of 15-year Iraqi-Soviet Friendship and Co-Operation Treaty that laid the foundation for long-term co-operation in all vital spheres of common interest.

Other than serving the bilateral interests of its signatories this treaty proved to be of international importance because of the increasing impact of the joint co-ordination and action of Iraq and the Soviet Union. Of particular importance here is the role played by the revolutionary government of Iraq in the Arab region, in championing the cause of the developing countries and last but not least, in the fight against imperialism and Zionism.

Based on noble ideals and common interests, Iraqi-Soviet relations have been quite fruitful. Since the signing of the treaty in 1972, trade exchange has quadrupled, economic co-operation has greatly expanded — more than 100 important development projects, covering oil, energy, industry, irrigation etc. have been completed or nearly completed, cultural and technical co-operation has bloomed, and the defensive capabilities of Iraq have been enhanced.

The relations between the ABSP and the CPSU, marked by candid dialogue and continued consultations, are both cordial and comradely, which will continue to open up new vistas for more fruitful co-operation.

For all these reasons Iraqi-Soviet relations came to be considered as exemplary, particularly among Third World countries struggling for a better future.

The visit of Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of Revolution Command Council, to Turkey which lasted two days from February 3, has added a new dimension to the fraternal relations existing between the two neighbourly countries and expanded the spheres of co-operation between Iraq and Turkey in the different vital fields.

It was a proper occasion for both sides to review their bilateral relations, issues of common interest and the situation in the region and the world.

The visit which was in response to an invitation by Turkish Premier Sulaymann Demirel came in the wake of a series of visits exchanged by the leaders of both countries. It has deepened the determination of both countries to strengthen their ties in a manner serving the common interest of their peoples.

During their talks Mr. Hussein and Mr. Demirel reaffirmed that "no just and durable peace and stability could be maintained in the region without the liberation of all occupied Arab territories". At the same time both sides agreed that the "Cypriot issue should be solved by means of negotiations between the Turkish and Greek communities of Cyprus on the basis of equality and within the framework of the independence, territorial integrity, national sovereignty and the non-alignment of the state of Cyprus and equal footing in the matter of national rights between the two communities".

No less important was the declaration by the two sides as outlined in the joint communique, that they "support peoples' struggle against colonialism and racial

contacts between their respective countries on all levels. Special mention was made of the inauguration of the joint Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline.



Mr. Saddam Hussein being received by Mr. Sulaymann Demirel. Mr. Hussein presented Mr. Demirel with a silver replica of date-palm.

RCC Vice Chairman's visit to Turkey strengthens relations between neighbours

discrimination" and that both sides devoted particular attention to the problems of the developing nations and confirmed the necessity of "exerting active efforts to implement the resolutions of the two special sessions held by the UN General Assembly over the question of building up a more just world economic order". They hoped that such an order would guarantee to the developing countries fair dividends from their national resources.

The two sides also stressed the importance of maintaining

During the visit Mr. Hussein held a series of talks with Turkish Prime Minister, Mr. Sulaymann Demirel. The talks were marked by cordiality and understanding of the interests of both countries.

The delegation which accompanied Mr. Hussein to Turkey included RCC member end Minister of Interior, Izzat Ibrahim; Planning Minister, Adnan Hussein; Information Minister, Tareq Aziz; ABSP Regional Leadership member, Flayeh Hassan al-Jassim; Foreign Minister, Dr. Saadoun Hammadi; Chief of the General Staff and other senior government officials.

Struggle for Unity, Liberty, Socialism

ABSP MAKES A DARING ATTEMPT ON FEB. 8

Peoples of the world, throughout contemporary history, have been waging a relentless struggle for their full liberation from foreign imperialist domination and for the establishment of a socio-economic system of their choice. But the forms of their struggle are different due to the difference in their specific conditions.

The birth of the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) has been a living embodiment of this reality. The Arab Nation is a nation fragmented into many countries. Imperialism has and is still colluding with Arab feudalism and Arab reactionary forces for perpetuating this fragmentation and disunity, and for striving to prevent the national unity of the Arab Nation; and also for subjecting the toiling masses to the combined exploitation of the foreign imperialists and local feudalists and bourgeoisie.

The Zionist settlers have intensified this exploitation by the occupation of Arab Palestine and the eviction of her indigenous people, thus imparting to Arab reality an abnormal state in the Twentieth Century, represented in the expulsion of the people of Palestine and the liquidation of their historical, regional and national rights.

This peculiarity of the Arab reality required a deep revolutionary comprehension capable of defining the general strategic course, on the other.

The Arab Baath Socialist Party was founded with emphasis on its historical slogan: Unity, Liberty and Socialism, which stressed the need for unifying the struggles

of achieving national unity and social justice.

The struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction cannot proceed along the correct path without a unitarist struggle capable of achieving the unity of the Arab Nation which is suffering from fragmentation.

With the proclamation of the ideological tenets of the Baath Party, as embodied in its slogan, the Arab national liberation movement entered a new stage which grasped the peculiarity of Arab reality within the scope of comprehending the general trend of the era, namely, the trend of transition from capitalism to socialism.

The theoretical precepts of the Party express the general conception for the radicalisation and extension of the vistas of the Arab national liberation movement in knowing that the Party was the first movement in the Arab homeland to link up the national and socialist struggles and stress their interconnection; thus turning the struggle of the Arab national movement from just a traditional bourgeois slogan into people-oriented mass struggle. The practical outcome of this link-up was that the call for Arab unity was turned into an overwhelming mass trend where unity ceased to be just a dream, and was turned into an actual reality of wide horizons and deep dimensions.

In keeping with all this, the ABSP embodied this theory directly on the organizational level. It did not establish itself in each Arab country separately,

but set up its organisational apparatus along the level of the Arab homeland, as it regarded the Arab countries as one indivisible unity. Thus, the party was from the beginning a historical movement which proceeded from a genuine concept of Arabism, which completely rejected regionalism.

The militant practices of the ABSP were materialised in an exemplary manner in the execution of February 8, 1963, revolution in the Iraqi region. This revolution was a concrete proof of the militant vanguard role of the Party in the Arab national liberation movement, and of its available potentials for escalating the revolutionary process along the Arab homeland.

The July 14, 1958, revolution, in which the ABSP participated, was basically a progressive and democratic one. However, the then revolutionary regime deviated and changed course into a dictatorial, rightist and regional outlook while keeping the facet of nationalism. The ABSP made a daring attempt on February 8, 1963, to re-establish a revolutionary, democratic and popular regime which would work for Arab unity. The attempt was short-lived and soon failed in achieving its objectives due to imperialist and reactionary conspiracies. Consequently, the Party had its ups and downs but was able on July 17, 1968, to assume power in Iraq and realise the progressive and democratic tasks which it had no chance to accomplish in 1963.

People's Army Marks 7th. Anniversary

In the graduation ceremony of the first course of the People's Army in May, 1972, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr said, "The Revolution is in need of mobilizing all sons of the people to the battle. It is in need of you and of every noble citizen to defend its gains and uphold freedom of the countrymen and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. The People's Army is not only a backing force to the regulars, but it has also to assume its holy tasks when our armed forces obtain the honour of entering the national battle inside and outside our country".

In the wake of the celebrations of the 14th anniversary of the glorious February 8 Revolution led by the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) against the dictatorial Kassimite regime in 1963, the People's Army marked its seventh anniversary.

Founded in 1970, the People's Army has now attained an advanced position in the course of socialist transformations led by the ABSP.

On this occasion the Iraqi Television made a special interview with Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan, Commander-in-Chief of the People's Army. He recalled that the idea of training and arming the citizens was first offered by President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

Mr. Ramadan said that the People's Army enjoyed special attention of the President. Its regiments were being trained to fight under different circumstances and for unlimited spells. He pointed out that there was an integrated coordination between the regular armed forces and the People's Army.

"The People's Army is ready to encounter the ferocious imperialist attack to which our Arab nation is exposed", Mr. Ramadan declared.

Mr. Ramadan said that the strugglers who enrolled in the ranks of the People's Army were

now on the alert "to protect the achievements of 17 July Revolution under the leadership of Arab Baath Socialist Party".

The Commander-in-Chief of the People's Army further said that this army intended to enlist women also, because the contribution of women to the defence of the nation and revolution's gains is of significant importance".

Concluding his talk to the television viewers Mr. Ramadan said, "The People's Army is for the whole people and will be the general frame which will include all citizens, men and women, proceeding from the belief in people's role in defending the revolution and its achievements".

Mr. Ramadan greeted the members of the People's Army on this occasion.



Solution of Palestine issue will have to be Satisfactory



SADDAM HUSSEIN SPEAKS AT ENGINEERS' CONFERENCE

"Any solution to the Palestinian issue will have to be radical and to the satisfaction of the people... The favourable changes in world public opinion and international politics did not take place because it has been discovered that the Arabs were right. They came to face developments expected to arise from the new positions of power and influence acquired by the Arabs". This was stressed by Mr. Saddam Hussein, RCC Vice-Chairman, in his speech at the Engineers' Conference held in Baghdad on January 22.

Mr. Hussein emphasised that unless flexibility in political work was accurately calculated to serve the strategic goal, the masses would regard it as a cover for retreat.

Mr. Hussein emphasised that the Arab nation would never yield to any decision or solution that failed to accomplish the liberation of the occupied Palestine for which the Arab nation had been fighting since 1948. Any attempts at "taming" the nation and dictating upon it formulas of fait accompli would have no supporting ground from history or from the existing conditions, Mr. Hussein emphasised.

Opened by Oil Minister Mr. Tayeh Abdul Karim, the 13th Conference of Engineers was held under the theme of "All Energies Should be Mobilised for Stepping Up Production and Improving Quality". The conference continued until January 28.

In his opening address the Oil Minister Mr.

Tayeh Abdul Karim expounded the achievements of 17 July Revolution in the field of nationalisation of oil and Revolution's keenness to create the united socialist democratic Arab society. Mr. Falah Jaber, Secretary General of the Arab Engineers Federation, also addressed the conference.

The conference discussed a number of research papers on national development plans, the waste of time in engineers' performance, integration of advisory work, and the consultative engineering work and its promotion.

Following is the text of Mr. Saddam Hussein's address:

Brother Falah Jaber has kindly introduced me as engineer. While thanking him for his compliment, I should like to point out that I regard myself an engineer under probation. To my mind all Arab rulers and leaders are probationers. Our nation has taught us over the years that it grants its confidence to those who deserve it only after a prolonged evaluation. Engineers are also subjected to the same trial. Here one might wonder how many engineers have dropped out after a certain period of time.

Perhaps the remarks I am now making are not purely technical. They stem from two considerations: The first is the question of probation and appraising. The second is the fact that this nation boasts of a good number of competent engineers who can contribute to nation building in political, intellectual, engineering and other spheres. Hence our confidence in a bright future, regardless of how gloomy the picture might now appear to be.

In this context, I should like to deal with the crucial issue that preoccupies every Arab citizen. This is, of course, the Arab-Zionist conflict.

In a meeting with a high ranking foreign official, who advocated limited peaceful solutions as conceived by him and others, I happened to pose this question to him: "How many prophets appeared outside this (Arab) region?" Naturally, he was surprised by the question that abruptly transferred our talk from international politics to prophetic affairs. As he was struggling for an answer, I hastened to provide the reply. I affirmed that not a single prophet had ever appeared outside this region. This fact, I inferred, means that the peoples of the region have traits all their own.

I added: Chief among the qualities peculiar to them is that they do not recognize material factors as the sole governing factors. Accordingly, the present factors that suggest to you the possibility

of taming the Arab people and dictating de facto formulas on them are without substantiation in either remote or contemporary history.

Turning from the lessons of history to present-day conditions, I told him this:

"We have not come to power through traditional democratic means as practised in the West. Pray do not rely on statistics usually announced after an election. For, anybody can claim higher figures of support than any hitherto proclaimed. But just how true such returns are?

"The fact that the rulers of the region have not assumed power through the conventional democratic pattern should remind you to expect their downfall — by the same pattern — once they betrayed the central issues, including the Palestinian issue, which they had used as a lever to come to power.

"You should take into account that the Palestinian issue was the principal moving force in setting the stage — the stage for all Arab rulers who seized power by means of coups or revolutions. Therefore, any solution to the Palestinian issue must be radical and to the satisfaction of the people. Even if you had obtained an absolute mandate from all Arab rulers, sooner or later you would have to face the disappearance of this or the other ruler. Needless to say any new ruler will have to outbid his predecessor. And here the Palestinian issue cannot be escaped. Away from principles, it has to be stressed even as a political expediency.

"With this in mind, we do not believe that the Arab nation would ever submit to any decision contrary to the ultimate good for which it kept fighting since 1948".

The reality that can be deduced (from the developments of the Arab-Zionist conflict), without any exaggeration or outbidding any Arab brothers in any position of power is this: The Zionist enemy would certainly not agree to the proposals tendered by certain Arab rulers.

Here it might be argued: Being so sure of the enemy's stand, what is wrong with submitting proposals unacceptable to him, thus embarrassing him, winning over world public opinion and getting ready for the next move?

This merits a pause. The present array in the conflict is 140 million Arabs against 3 millions making the population of the Zionist entity (in "Israel"). Once poor, the Arab nation is now rich. Once debared from science and technology, the barriers



are now lower, thanks to current international circumstances and the petroleum factor. Therefore, there is bound to be an accelerated rate of progress towards the targets of the Arab nation connected with the conflict with Zionist entity.

International politics are developing with the time towards the emergence of more than one polarisation centres. At present there are only two polarisation centres, which means that manoeuvrability for the attainment of national objectives is limited. Given six polarisation centres, you can envisage the scope open to Arab manoeuvrability for accomplishing its national aims. The day this is apt to happen is not far off. Over the next twenty years more polarisation centres are bound to emerge, rivalling the two present centres.

These basic factors encourage us to have an optimistic view of a smiling future, without recourse to resonant speeches or rhetoric. This is how we ponder things and how we come to conclusions. And in the light of all this we chart our policy. We see no reason for dismay. Nor does our optimism spring out of a political expediency or sentimental reason. It is based on the aforesaid and other reasons.

Yet some brothers accuse us of resorting to outbidding, of political immaturity and of confusing tactics with strategy. We think that all Arab rulers — without any exception — would agree to any offer for restoring Palestine effortlessly. But, is this conceivable? Of course not. Thus the difference is clearly on the volume of efforts and the pertinent requirements for realizing our aim. And all these are connected with basic attitudes over which we have already expressed our opinion.

Now let us return to the question we have previously touched upon, namely, if the Zionist enemy would certainly reject the proposals, which are far below our central target, what is wrong with hammering them, simply to embarrass the enemy before world public opinion?

In our opinion, the changes taking place in the attitudes of international powers are not due to any appreciation of the principles of right. They are rather the outcome of the new position assumed by the Arab nation in two major spheres: its readiness to give battle as demonstrated by the October War (of 1973) and, secondly, the employment of oil as a weapon plus other influential factors.

In 1971 and 1972, we were looked upon as men who did not understand politics. During the October War, some Iraqi officials visited certain Arab brothers and raised the idea of using oil as a weapon. But our efforts bore no fruit. Some years earlier, Iraq submitted, at a meeting of the Arab Defence Council, a plan for the employment of oil as a weapon. But our proposal was met with veiled derision and the plan was shelved.

However, the plan was invoked years later during the October War though not to the extent we aspired for. The important thing is that oil has been employed as a weapon. This means it can be used again, and to the maximum. And this is a matter that alarms certain international powers influencing the process of our struggle against the Zionist entity.

The favourable changes in the world public opinion and international politics did not take place because it has been discovered that the Arabs were right. They came to face developments expected to arise from the new positions of power and influence acquired by the Arabs.

Hence, gaining more positions of power and consolidating and promoting the pre-requisites for victory are essential for shaping and influencing international public opinion and politics and canalising both in the direction of tactical targets serving the strategic goal in the end.

However gentle and excellent our diplomatic talk might be considered by others, you can rest assured that this would not lead to any change in the situation. The realization by the parties concerned that the Arabs are daily gaining an advanced position in the field of using both force and oil is the prime factor in bringing changes.

As I have just said, we are regarded as engineers under probation. As a matter of fact, the Arab people rightly view rulers with a degree of suspicion. The volume of such suspicion varies from one case to another, depending on the record of the ruler, his conduct towards the masses and on his accomplishments.

This means that the general standard has not reached the desired degree of political and intellectual maturity. Accordingly, unless flexibility in political work is accurately calculated to serve the strategic goal (which is quite clear to the masses rallied behind it), the masses would regard it as a cover for retreat. As recent history testifies, an Arab ruler who starts to talk of flexibility simultaneously begins to retreat and usually withdraws from the arena of struggle. Nothing in our modern history clearly indicated that a ruler who had once resorted to flexibility was later able to make a leap forward.

Consequently, talking of 'peace' without mobilization for war and without reinforcing the other factors that enhance relations and confidence between rulers and the masses make the people vulnerable to weakness.

When calling for keeping the question of fighting alive, we do not overlook the impact of international factors. Herein lies our difference with those who enjoy global influence but ignore the self-power of the people and the people's role in transformation and progress.

We should not imagine that the U.S. and the Soviet Union can alone sit together and decide the destiny of the world the way they please. With such a vision we sacrifice the people's role in effecting changes. Such an understanding of international relations is wrong and ill-advised. Equally wrong is the other extreme stand that totally ignores international factors and calls for relying on our private potentialities solely. It is also ill-advised and might lead to defeat.

In this setting, the first thing we ought to do is to reinforce the self-power of our people — to enable it make bold strides in all spheres. Next we should understand international politics without permitting ourselves to be drowned into the game and without ignoring their impact.

Our understanding of international politics differs from that of some of our Arab brothers. And that is why it is said that we do not understand international politics. This allegation is not true. We do understand international politics; but we are careful not to overestimate their impact lest we demoralize our own people. Meanwhile we do take the importance of understanding international politics into account, and we do make use of international politics in escalating our struggle.

We are quite aware that international politics at the present juncture do not permit the destruc-

tion of the Zionist entity. This might compel some people to ask: If that is how you see things, why bar us from engaging in political activities harmonious to this truth?

This is our answer: We should not deal with this truth as if it were the final fact. In international politics, facts are relative and subject to development by the act of the elements of change. The ability of the Arab nation plays a crucial role in the evolution of present truths. It follows that what is recognised as fact today might cease to be so tomorrow. According to our calculations, facts are continually evolving in favour of the Arabs.

International politics, read in the light of the force acquired by the Arabs and the other factors previously referred to, permit the wrenching of the Arab land occupied on June 5, 1967. Therefore, we say: let us attain this and then raise the question of the land occupied prior to June 5, 1967. In other words, we do not confine the talk to the West Bank (of river Jordan), Gaza and Golan as is the case at present.

We are not against political activity. But flexibility becomes a cover for reversal unless it is tied to a central strategic target. It constitutes a step forward once it becomes part of the process leading to the attainment of the central strategic target. The basic point is to mark the strategic target clearly and to work for its fulfilment.

We should not close the doors for further advancement. It is incompatible to say that we, the Arabs, are not in disagreement about the liberation of Palestine and shut all political, military and popular gates leading to the attainment of the strategic target. This means that we are in disagreement over the strategic target. Thus, we shall practically attain results other than those proclaimed.

Any part of Palestine we manage to liberate must not be taken as a final goal in itself. The factor arising from such a triumph should be promoted for the liberation as other parts. International politics are bound to develop accordingly; the attitudes of friends and foes alike also evolve with the development of our capabilities.

We are sure of the accuracy of our calculations. After all, they are not at all sentimental calculations. The Arab nation will always find additional energies for creating new national and international factors helping its forward advance.



The Historical Imperatives of Feb. 8 Revolution

by our Political Commentator

The Revolution of July 14, 1958, was acclaimed by the people, because, it overthrew a monarchy that did not enjoy legitimacy to rule. The leaders of the revolution, therefore had to establish revolutionary legitimacy for themselves to run the affairs of the new Republic. This they could do only by responding to the expectations of the people. When that response became inadequate and unfavourable, the ground for another revolutionary change was prepared. More so, because, in the wake of the anti-monarchy revolution people's expectations rose high and their age-old belief in the infallibility of the power that be was completely shattered. Therefore, the new authority of the state had to justify its coming into being. In other words, the rulers came under the watchful eye of the ruled who assumed the role of the ultimate arbiter of their own destiny. As a result, when the leaders of the 1958 revolution began faltering, the will of the people found expression through the organized resistance put up by the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP).

The 1958 regime came under public criticism primarily on the following counts: (a) failure to solve the agrarian question; (b) failure to solve the question of industrial ownership, control and management; (c) failure to solve the question of oil resources; and (d) failure to solve the questions of Palestine and forge national unity.

On agrarian question the 1958 regime issued Law No. 30 to limit the ceiling of land holdings. As

a result small and medium sized ownership increased; but the reform failed to break the backbone of feudal relationship of production. The cunning and ruthless feudal elements, taking the advantage of the loopholes of the law and winning over to their side the rulers who were not motivated by any ideology, retained their hold on the land by securing amendments to the law. They also received huge sums of money as compensation. The man behind the plough remained as poor and enchained as ever before and agricultural productivity remained at a low level.

On the question of industrial management the 1958 regime took a number of progressive steps. It brought under state control some vital sectors of economy. But no effective measures were taken to develop socialist cadres with socialist consciousness who would run state-owned industrial enterprises. As a result bureaucratism perverted the otherwise progressive measures and industrial maladministration brought stagnation to national economy. The working class, instead of becoming the willing partners in socialist construction, ended up as wage-slaves of state capitalism.

The most vital sector of national economy of Iraq was oil and the 1958 regime took a number of bold steps in this regard. But the regime failed to face up to the conspiracies of the foreign oil cartels represented by the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) with revolutionary zeal and stamina. The government submitted a number of demands

to the oil cartels for redressing the injustice meted out to Iraq during the past decades. The oil companies, ignoring the government pleadings, continued to reduce the production and lower the price of oil unilaterally in the interest of their optimum profit and with a view to bringing the government to its knees. Declining oil revenue, stagnant non-oil sectors of economy and extravagant unproductive spendings made the situation worse. In the compelling circumstances the government enacted Law No. 80 in order to bring the foreign oil companies under the arm of an Iraqi law which defined the areas of exploitation of oil by the foreign oil cartels and the Iraqi National Oil Company (INOC). But, as the credibility of the government reached the lowest possible level, the oil cartels plotted to subvert the Law No. 80 and continued to reduce production. The net result was that the regime lost further ground in respect of the confidence of the people who wanted to see a government capable of bringing the oil cartels to their knees and liberate the precious black gold from their clutches.

On pan-Arab level the 1958 regime failed hopelessly in its task of forging national unity and taking effective measures towards realizing the national aspirations of the people of Palestine. The regime under people's pressure pulled Iraq out of the imperialist military alliance of the Baghdad Pact; but it could not follow it up. The time was favourable for bringing about greater unity of the anti-imperialist Arab ranks. But, the personal ambitions of the person in authority came in clash with the imperatives of building national unity. Self-glorification and regional chauvinism blinded the vision of the leadership. The battle for realizing national unity of the fragmented Arab homeland and liberating occupied Palestine from the aggressive hands of the Zionists was considered less important than the battle for survival of the regime that degenerated into one-man rule. The people wanted unity and liberation. A regime that failed to take any positive steps in that direction made itself redundant in the eyes of the people. In the process the regime lost all its legitimacy.

And, hence the Revolution of February 8, 1963. Although shortlived, it helped the ABSP gain valuable revolutionary experience, identify its shortcomings, overcome them and prepare the masses for jealously fortifying the Revolution of July 17, 1968.



NEWS IN PICTURES



President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr visiting the Museum of the Arab Baath Socialist Party in Baghdad on the occasion of the February 8 Revolution.



During his visit to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research on February 7, President Bakr discussed relevant matters with the Minister, Dr. Mohammed Sadeq al-Mashat.



Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice Chairman of RCC, received Mr. Marcelino Oreja, the Spanish Foreign Minister, during the latter's recent visit to Baghdad.



Yugoslav Foreign Trade Minister Mr. Emel Lodirkar (first on right) holding talks with Mr. Hassan Ali, the Internal Trade and Acting Foreign Trade Minister of Iraq (first on left) in Baghdad on February 2.

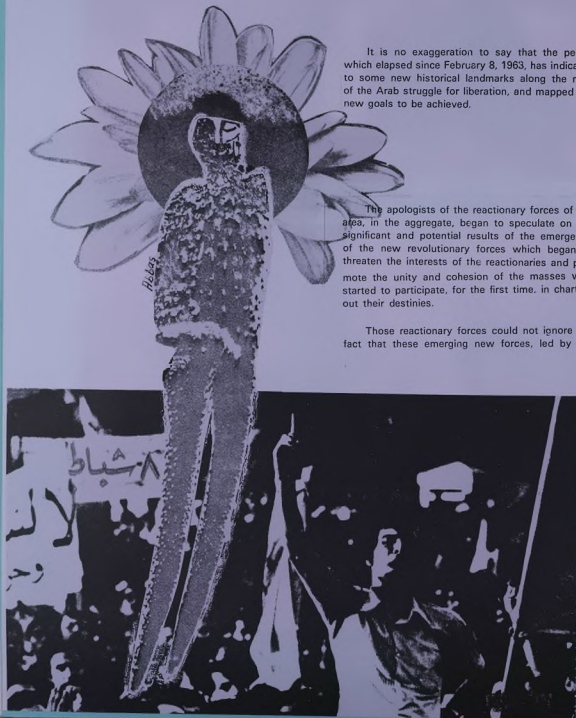
A Lesson From Feb. 8 Revolution

by Moheyeddin Ismail

It is no exaggeration to say that the period which elapsed since February 8, 1963, has indicated to some new historical landmarks along the road of the Arab struggle for liberation, and mapped out new goals to be achieved.

The apologists of the reactionary forces of the area, in the aggregate, began to speculate on the significant and potential results of the emergence of the new revolutionary forces which began to threaten the interests of the reactionaries and promote the unity and cohesion of the masses who started to participate, for the first time, in charting out their destinies.

Those reactionary forces could not ignore the fact that these emerging new forces, led by the



Arab Baath Socialist Party, have a new approach and programme to reconstruct the whole system of the society.

However, the counter-revolutionary "Novemberists" tried to distort grossly the real meaning of this new experience, in order to terminate the hopes of the masses in such experiences, and consequently in this specific emerging revolutionary force.

In the course of the development of events, since the black tragic setback of November, 1963, it was evident that the reactionary elements, through their apologists, unaware of the deep real aspirations of our nation, did their utmost to destroy all hopes and eradicate the very conception of revolution, weaken the resolution of the people and portray all the revolutionary forces as wayfarers and passersby in our life. But nobody would dispute that what happened in February 8, 1963, was a substantial event and a great achievement accomplished by conducting a bitter and difficult struggle in one mind and one will in accordance with the revolutionary traditions of the party and the people.

The February 8 Revolution at which we look back with pride and citation as one of the first pages in our revolutionary heritage, has proved, during its very short span of time, many facts which are the peculiarities of the revolution as such.

It has confirmed that the ascent of the revolutionary forces to the political arena could not be retarded for ever.

- It has confirmed that no authority whatsoever can oppress interminably the revolutionary potentialities of the people and impose capitulation on the masses.

- It has irrefutably proved that the cabals and groupings isolated from the masses, such as the "Novemberists" cannot rule out the revolutionary activities from life of the masses.

It was a great lesson, but was not the end of the struggle against all deterrents and enemies of progress. This revolution could, during its short span of life, put the masses to their mettle and guide them under the banner and leadership of the ABSP to hold persistently to the revolutionary practices which had culminated in the glorious Revolution of July 17, 1968.

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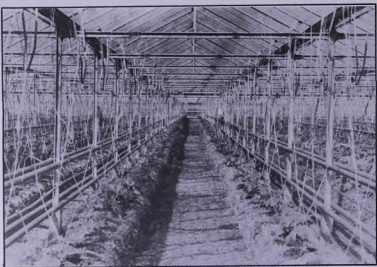
Now when we view the historical process during the relatively brief period between the black tragic setback of November, 1963, and the triumph of July 17, 1968, we can recognise that there was all the time a sort of interpenetration or rather a continuous osmosis between the ABSP and the masses. During this period the party forged and re-organized itself according to the prerequisites and conditions throughout the country.

The political leadership studied with creative insight and mobilised all forces and factors to the fullest extent. It could by exerting the utmost effort, taking into account all the specific conditions and probabilities to realise the conditional principles of the party in order to score a decisive victory on all fronts. With unwavering determination the political leadership carried out in a brief space of time the glorious Revolution of July 17, 1968.

The revolutionary political leadership with its destructive vitality traversed the uphill road, overcoming all the difficulties and obstacles during that intervening period after the tragic breakdown of the February 8 Revolution.

The lesson given by February 8, 1963, is: that a revolution ought to fortify itself against all the enemies within and without.

It is the consensus now that a great lesson indeed has been given by February 8 Revolution which is a brilliant page in our revolutionary heritage.



s.m) of land with agricultural crops in the flow and rain irrigated areas north of the rain line. This would include six million donoms of wheat in state farms, one million in pioneer farms and five million in other fertile flow-irrigated and rain-irrigated lands, four million donoms of barley, one million three hundred thousand donoms of fodder and legume crops, five hundred thousand donoms rice, seven hundred fifty thousand donoms summer and winter vegetables, three hundred fifty thousand donoms cotton.

AGRICULTURAL OUTLINE FOR 1977

Higher net yield Improved quality Better coordination

The 1977 outline seeks to improve the quality and increase the quantity of production of agricultural and animal resources. The aim is to ensure a more efficient response to the requirements of the people, particularly in respect of foodstuff, and to provide bigger quantities of raw materials for the national industry. This calls for increasing the net yield of agriculture and directing substantial parts thereof to productive accumulation and expansion of reproduction. Changing the present set-up of agricultural production in a planned manner with a view to increasing the proportion in which the industrial production contributes, both volume and value, to the gross product, is also essential to achieve the aim.

The countryside in Iraq, where some 40 per cent of the population live, is constantly being the subject of thorough and deep studies by all concerned. The political Report of the 8th. Regional Congress of the Arab Baath Socialist Party has laid down the basic rules for the development of the agricultural sector in the country. It is in the light of these rules that the guidelines for developing this sector during 1977 have been drawn up.

The 1977 plans envisage the cultivation of a minimum of 14.5 million donoms (a donom is 2500

The selection of land for each crop is done according to geographical specialization, and the nature of the land. The selection of the crop is in each area, based on preference according to yield of each production unit (donum) by selecting the area with the high productivity for five years at least.

ANIMAL RESOURCES

The increase in animal resources, and the improvement of their breed are also envisaged in the 1977 outlook. This may be best achieved by developing irrigated pastures, providing potable water in the desert areas and other areas of range lands. For this purpose, new water wells may be dug, and present ones well maintained, and rain water stored. Concentrated fodder production should also be increased.

More specifically, the following measures may be stated as essential in the process of developing animal resources:

1. Attending more to the question of increasing the number of females, encouraging twins, and preliminary selection.
2. Expanding the veterinary services and intensifying preventive measures, and conducting a general disease survey.
3. Spreading artificial insemination especially in areas of live-stock concentrations.
4. Completing the construction of slaughter houses included among the major projects.
5. Expanding breeding improved cows in state farms and collective projects.

6. Preparing a scientific plan to build artificial hatcheries on water surfaces such as lakes and rivers, and spreading modern fish breeding in specialized farms, and using marshes to increase fish quantities. The target is to provide a minimum of 50,000 tons of river and sea fish for local consumption.

7. Maximum utilization of the production potentiality available at the poultry, animal production and fodder projects belonging to the state sector.

8. Expanding the building of collective schemes for breeding and fattening sheep chicken, calves and for honey collection, and utilizing their production potentiality.

9. Encouraging breeding useful insects, and laying down the bases for their improvement.

HORTICULTURE AND FORESTS

The 1977 plan includes the growing of a minimum of 10,000 donoms of orchards in state farms, and in those of the cooperative sector. Other targets include planting a minimum of seven million trees for fruits, 22 million for forests, developing the growing of olive trees, increasing artificial forests, promoting existing ones, building oases, terraces, planting trees on road sides, and building up green belts.

On the question of agricultural cooperation and guidance it is pertinent to mention here that the second Iraqi conference on Agricultural Cooperation held in mid 1976 decided to combine efforts, avoid duplication and scattering of potentialities, and to have a cooperation coordination council with a view to developing the machinery responsible for cooperative awareness and training. The conference, inter alia recommended that balance between animal and plant production within the framework of the states' agricultural policy should

be realized and collective ownership of animal resources encouraged. These recommendations also stressed the significance of developing rural industries in the agricultural cooperatives and collective farms and establishing cooperatives specialization in cattle breeding.

MARKETING AND LOANS

In respect of marketing and loans the 1977 outline aims at the following:

1. Developing the existing wholesale markets and supplying them with scales, land, building and other requirements.
2. Building new convenient wholesale markets in governorate centres, and building a number of delivery centres in the important areas, and providing them with all the necessities.
3. Providing sufficient packaging facilities in time.
4. Organizing the activities of the agents (relations).



5. Ensuring the quality of the agricultural commodities supplied to the market, and eliminating their scarcity and prices loading, and providing the required stores and godowns.

6. Stressing the significance of the role of the agricultural co-operatives in the marketing process of the agricultural products.

7. Fixing reasonable prices for the agricultural commodities according to season and quality.

8. The easing of loan procedures for the agricultural co-operatives and the collective farms.

9. Training administration and vocational staff in the field of agricultural marketing.

LAND AFFAIRS

The aims of the 1977 outlook in respect of land affairs may be summed as follows:

1. Working on the distribution of land among farmers, especially the cultivable land, and the termination of the interim administration of such land.

2. Tackling the question of instituting land proprietary rights in 500 plots of lands at least.

3. Accomplishing the necessary activities and the printing of the land map.

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

The 1977 outlook aims at adopting a general plan for the irrigation, drainage and land reclamation in coordination with the Ministry of Irrigation and the State Organization of Soil and Land Reclamation on the one hand, and between them and the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform on the other, in such a way so as to ensure the responsible and planned coordination in executing the work and accomplishing the integrated projects. It may be recalled here that 1977 will witness the completion of a 30,000 donum irrigated land project in al-Rashdiyah being only a part of the ID. 71,000,000 lower Khalis giant agricultural project. The contracts for the two other parts of this project have already been signed in January, 1977, with two large international firms. These would cover 120,000 donums at Bani Sa'ad, and 85,000 donums at Hibhib Ares.

HARMONY AND COORDINATION

The entire agricultural policy of Iraq is based on harmony and coordination which should prevail in all spheres and phases of the agricultural process, notably among the following:

1. The production units in the various agricultural sectors, and the public sector and between

agricultural production and animal production.

2. The machinery of the agricultural sector, and that of the various other ministries, and in particular the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, the Ministry of Internal Trade, Ministry of External Trade, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance.

3. The machinery of production and of service in the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, with a view to ensuring smooth and reciprocal flow of information and of mutual relations.

The agricultural outlook in Iraq in 1977 aims also at raising the standard of living and the conditions of work of the farmers and the agricultural workers, and increasing the income both in cash and in kind, also rendering them all the services required by them.

Attention is also to be paid to develop modern scientific means and processes, to introduce modern technology suitable for agriculture for the purpose of intensifying production to secure its mobilization at a high economic efficiency rate leading to increased and continued productivity, average yield, and decreased costs.

Zionist - imperialist plot to strangle Eritrean revolution

The United States and "Israel" are playing a dangerous role in the aggressive war waged by the Etheopian military regime against the Eritrean people and revolution. This role is based on the military-economic weight of the US and the Zionist enemy in both Eritrea and Etheopia. The apparent aim is to strangle the Eritrean revolution that presents a direct menace to imperialist interests in the strategic oil-rich Red Sea area where a crucial confrontation between the Arab nation and the imperialist-Zionist alliance is taking place

US base at Kanio poses dangerous threat to Red Sea

American Presence

Kanio, an American military base situated in the outskirts of the Eritrean capital, Asmara, is regarded as one of the most important US military bases in the world. 4,500 American military experts are stationed in this base that costs the US treasury nearly \$ 13,000,000 annually. Concerning its activities with other US military establishments, the main functions of Kanio include: secret space research; spying over African liberation movements; and deciphering messages transmitted through an area covering the Arab homeland, Africa and parts of the Soviet Union. This base also serves as a centre for secret communication by a good number of similar American military establishments in the Indian Ocean, the Philippines and the Arabian Gulf. Kanio enjoys many advantages, such as high altitude (7600 feet and proximity from the Equator).

In co-operation with "Israel", the US has military bases of lesser significance in the ports of Assab and Massawa' where the American navy harbours high speed boats. Fleets of the American naval force in Diego Garcia pay regular visits to these ports. Furthermore, American firms are busy prospecting Eritrean mineral wealth. Uranium tops the list of such exports.

"Israeli" presence

Kanio is placed in the service of Zionist military activities in the Red Sea area — offering "Israel" all necessary facilities. Yet the Zionist enemy occupies other important positions in Eritrea.

Foremost of these is its military weight in the ports of Massawa' and Assab, where it maintains military barracks, missile boats and an institution for espionage and training of terrorists.

In the dawn of 1969, contingents of Zionist soldiers, trained in counter guerrilla work in Tel Aviv and attending special courses with American forces in Vietnam, landed in the isles of Dahlak and Shobeir, near the Eritrean coast. In these isles deep water training institutes were established by the Zionist enemy. Following its connection by a railway line with Kanio military base the Massawa' Canal has already become a "purely" American-Zionist water-way.

On the other hand, the Zionist enemy is well entrenched in the Eritrean economy. It has a network of companies dealing in important commodities, such as Inkud for meat, Bratlu for vegetables

and Haroun Brothers for textiles. The fishing trade is also dominated by Zionists. Two faculties in the Addis Ababa University, the Blood Bank, the housing and road building and other institutions are all run by Zionist experts.

It is obvious that the aims of this American-Zionist presence go beyond the Eritrean borders to endeavour to tighten in an imperialist siege around the Arab region from Sharm al-Sheikh to the port of Djibuti, which is still under French colonial rule. Herein lies the reason why the US offered the Addis Ababa military junta a 30-million dollar arms deal of M60 tanks and M16 machine guns. And that is why Zionist pilots take part in the war of extermination launched by the Etheopian military regime against the Eritrean revolution, foreign monopolies.

By creating a maritime military line extending between Iflat and the Eritrean coast, the Zionist enemy drives at serving a dual purpose: isolating the Arab peninsula from the rest of the Arab homeland and intimidating the Red Sea littoral Arab states — Egypt, Sudan, Democratic Yemen, the Yemen Arab Republic, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Such a policy fully concurs with American plans for imposing military and political control over the states of the area with the ultimate aim of perpetuating the plundering of Arab oil wealth by foreign monopolies.

M. Salama

FACTS ABOUT PALESTINE

A Fabulous 50852 Torture Victims

Even the "Israelis" let it out sometimes. They might be bent on cowing the rest or, perhaps, they say it because they no longer care. Anyhow, reports of this kind are best regarded as very serious, especially when somebody like Ha'eem Levy, the chief of official Zionist executioners, explicitly states them.

Ha'eem Levy, known as president of all "Israeli" jails, recently admitted that the exact figure of the Arab detainees in occupied Palestine is 50852, at least, up to the 2nd of February 1977. 3227, he added, were the "hunt" achieved last year.

It might be imagined that since the Zionists — from 1948 on — have taken to the habit of constructing jails in such rash — even more than settlements — the Arabs who "live" in those jails are well off and have some moving space. As a matter of fact, it appears otherwise: the "Israeli" calculations in this respect proved a complete failure, at least they did not expect so many detainees. Thus what Levy said straightforwardly enough was that the average space given to each Arab detainee by no means exceeds 2.2 s.m. This, as we know, is much less than 9.9 s.m. allowed for any prisoner anywhere in the world. However, all Arab detainees who were not unfortunate enough to be 'residents' of Asqalan jail (nearest to occupied Gaza and confirmed by Red Cross to be the most overcrowded prison as yet known) should also feel better than their fellow detainees in that very jail. Ha'eem Levy even said this, that in Asqalan jail less than 1 s.m. is all that is there for each detainee!

We might now believe that for more than 70 days now a hunger strike in Asqalan — whose receiving capacity does not exceed 700 prisoners — has been going on nonstop and that this, the longest hunger strike ever announced, has spread like fire to cover the endless number of jails which are a commonplace sight in the "democratic Israel" (sic) of the Western world.

Though it has been a common run practice of Arab detainees to protest against 'Israeli' brutality,

the current hunger strike which started on 5 January, 1977, has come to be the most violent and most persistent of all. Therefore, the forms of repression the 'Israelis' had resorted to ranged from the ordinary transferring of detainees to other places to the sometimes extra violent shock sessions and



other forms of brutality. Of course as expected, the result was death, blindness and paralysis of tens of Arab detainees. A most notorious way to end hunger and similar strikes in 'Israel' is to strip both the detainee and one of his relatives — usually a female — and to start degrading her, in his presence, through sexual perversion. (This method proved successful in some individual cases, however, with the majority and whether to end strikes or not, torture is so customary that unless the 'Israelis' invent something new thousands of Arab detainees are bound to die of hunger).

In fact, the problem of space in 'Israeli' jails is one of the major causes for the detainees' uprising. However, knowing that if more than ten underfed persons were kept together in the most insanitary conditions ever, the occurrence probability of rheumatism, ear, eye and skin diseases becomes invariably high. Stomach ulcer due to bad food and health conditions is nearly the most common malady; and the extremity of cold and heat together with the several-times-a-day "inspection raids" leading to the torture rooms, are some of the factors which instigated the detainees to announce their strike.

The 'Israelis', on the other hand, instead of partially improving some of these miserable conditions reacted in cold blood by increasing them. Of course, some transfers took place, yet the receiving capacity of "Israeli" jails with the ever-increasing number of Arab victims unalterably worsens the situation.

Sit-ins declared by mothers and relatives of detainees especially outside Asqalan jail were met with hail of bullets on the part of the "Israeli" forces who recently took to surrounding jails as extra precaution measures for fear of a general and sweeping Arab revolution breaking out.

Reports confirm that the number of detainees who die of hunger and are being killed either of plain heating or by other sophisticated torture means is virtually increasing. The latest victims were one Omar al-Shebli and Abu Ahmed. On 12 January Hassan Mohammed Swarsa mercifully did not survive a torture session. In addition, there are Abdul Kader Abu Fahm and Karrib Dowayl who had their legs cut off during torture. Those who are in a critical condition like tens of others are: Dr. Nasser Allam, Nasser al-Hayitat, Khamis al-Hanajerah, Mohammed Harara and Nadeem Amin.

The "God-Almighty" Syndrome

Unconsciously, people have always associated evil and ugliness with certain forms of sickness, especially those of the spirit.

There seems to be some sort of justification for such a view in the case of the Zionist mentality. There is no doubt that certain behaviour patterns and fixed mental attitudes bespeak an ingrained sickness of the spirit. Such a sickness could be easily discerned in the "God-Almighty" attitude the Zionists adopt towards others, even certain categories of non-European and, consequently, "inferior" Jews.

Recently, Yediot Aharonot (8.7.6) quoted a Mr. Victor Tayer, chairman of the so-called Black Panthers (outcast "Israeli" Jews of oriental origin), as saying at a press conference in Tel-Aviv that his group will appeal to the High Court of Justice to ban the use of a textbook on recent Jewish history from all secondary schools. The book, written by Dr. Shimon Kirschenbaum (obviously a German Jew) says, among other things, that oriental Jews do not "have what it takes" to participate in the workings of the "Israeli" society on the same footing as European Jews.

Naturally, the good German Herr Doktor could not come out and state openly that the oriental Jews do not qualify for full citizenship because they are

oriental Jews, so, in a typically clever twist he said that "there were no suitable conditions for free Jewish development in the Islamic countries" and that because of the "political oppression" oriental Jews were not given the opportunity for economic activity and because of this "they did not play an active role in Jewish history". In short, the Herr Doktor blamed this particular type of Zionist racial bias on the "Islamic countries", that is to say, the Arabs in particular.

This, of course, is absolute nonsense as the oriental Jews themselves know. A great majority of the Arab Jews who were lured to "Israel" were professionals and highly qualified people at that. In Iraq, and other Arab countries, the Arab Jews attained the post of Minister. They operated their own schools and were highly qualified well-trained people. So their real handicap in "Israel" cannot be their lack of proper education or training, but the fact that they are not of the "God-Almighty" breed of European Jews. It is quite obvious that, were it not so, any lack of training to bring these people up at par with the European Jews was no impossible task, even if we concede Doktor Kirschenbaum's point for the sake of argument.

Once more, the Zionists reveal their inherent racialism even vis-a-vis the Jews themselves.

(M.M.)



FREE FORUM

Mick Ashley's Open Letter to British Chief Rabbi

Mr. Mick Ashley, the renowned British Jewish writer and Executive Member of the Labour Middle East Council, wrote to us on January 3 last and enclosed a copy of the previous, published open letter addressed to the British Chief Rabbi. Below we print his letter to us and reproduce the open letter:

Dear Sir,

I read with great interest the editorial in your issue of December 1-15, and the article by Kazhim Jawad on Zionist racism. As a life-long anti-Zionist of Jewish parentage I consider the main strength of Zionist propaganda has been the ability to sell Zionism as a progressive force while at the same time presenting the indigenous Palestinians as intruders bent on disturbing the peace. There is therefore a profound need to open the ears of my countrymen (and the rest of the world) so that they may listen to an objective presentation of the rights of the Palestinians and the Arab states whose territories are at present occupied by "Israel".

It is racism and a denial of human rights for an indigenous people to second class citizens in their homeland; it is infamous that the Palestinian exiles should be denied the right to return home by immigrants who have settled there.

I am enclosing a copy of an Open Letter I had published last year in the Middle East International, April, 1976 in which I challenged the British Chief Rabbi on the question of Zionist racism and aggression. He did not reply.

I must take this opportunity to say how interesting I find your magazine, and I am most grateful to the Press Attache's Office in London for sending me copies". Incidentally, I am an Executive Member of the Labour Middle East Council.

Yours faithfully,
Mick Ashley.

Dear Rabbi,

You were recently interviewed on the BBC programme Newsday, during which you said that it was almost impossible for a Jew not to be Zionist. Unfortunately you did not make it clear whether you were speaking as a religious teacher or a layman making a political observation. The distinction is important because I believe there is little doubt that modern Zionism is a political doctrine, although it has been clothed in a religious



The gagging of Arab voice in occupied Palestine

top coat. The late Chief Rabbi Adler said that a Jew is the same as his compatriots except for his religion, which is, of course, our legal position in Britain. But your contention that a Jew must be a Zionist, which to the non-Jew could have appeared as a religious fact, places the Jew in the unique position of being denied the right to his own political judgements and, in the case of a British Jew, implies some automatic loyalty to "Israel". It is a view which has inhibited many non-Jews from expressing an opinion on Zionism because of the mistaken belief that to be anti-Zionist was to be antisemitic. I would hope therefore that you would clarify your statement, making it clear that there

is no religious teaching which compels a British subject of Jewish origin, like myself, to accept the current political Zionism. If you were to do so you would free both Jew and non-Jew to exercise their democratic right to an objective view of Zionism without incurring the infamous slander of antisemitism, which anti-Zionism is not. I am sure that we are both aware that it was Theodore Herzl, at the end of the last century, who proclaimed the goal of a Jewish state in Palestine. And it was achieved by a combination of political intrigue and the use of force rather than any spiritual dispensation.

I hope that you will agree with me that justice must be universal if it is to provide the world with a solid foundation for co-existence. In my view this means that if Jews outside of "Israel" insist on their right to equality when they are in a minority, they must be consistent and expect the same standard for non-Jews when there is a Jewish majority, as in "Israel". Unfortunately then we see discrimination so blatant that it has earned



Military coercion against young Arabs

"Israel" the title of a racist state, a thoroughly deserved title. How else can we describe a state which, through the Law of Return, gives any foreign Jew the right to enter "Israel" but continues to deny the Palestinian exiles their legal and moral right to return home? The discrimination is made more infamous because their claim to return to their homeland is not a terrorist plot but a lawful right underwritten by the United Nations.

I understand your concern for the welfare of the Israeli Jews. But I would like to suggest to you that this would be best served if they were advised to seek an accommodation with the

Arabs based on justice rather than a military superiority which must diminish with time. Absolute justice for the Palestinians may be impossible as this would mean the eviction of the Jewish immigrants who have replaced them. But it must surely be their right to return home to a State where they can enjoy equality with the "Israeli" Jews, in the same manner that we enjoy equality with non-Jews in Britain. Do you not think that the "Israeli" Jews need to be told also that they can hardly expect friendship from the neighbouring Arab states whose land they illegally occupy?

I am told that there is a religious teaching which says: "The World rests on three things: on Justice, on Truth and on Peace". I hope that we can agree that Justice is the only sound basis for peace between the "Israeli" Jews and the Arabs. Respect for truth must lead us to acknowledge the injustice done to the Palestinians, who have paid such a heavy price because of Western antisemitism. It also means finding the will to remedy this injustice, because this will lead the "Israeli" Jews to a peace that force of arms has not and will not give them. "Israel" must also find the will to return to her neighbours the land she acquired from them by war. The alternative to the peaceful return of this territory is another war, for there is no reason why the Arab states should voluntarily give up land which is theirs beyond dispute. Unhappily, during the Newsday interview you gave me the impression of supporting the concept of Greater "Israel", and I hope that I was mistaken. Any attempt by "Israel" further to expand her borders must lead to war. We are all entitled to our religious beliefs and the mythology which inevitably accompanies them. It is another matter, however, to ask those of another faith to accept them as a legal justification for depriving them of their homes and land.

I would suggest to you that real friendship for the "Israeli" Jews means advising them that they cannot expect friendship from people whose human rights have been disregarded and are not allowed to return to their homeland; nor can they expect peace from neighbours whose land they occupy while at the same time they covet more land belonging to them. I believe that you have a great opportunity of helping British Jews to play an important role in the search for peace in the Middle East. I hope it will not be too long before the Holy Land is once again a place where Jew and non-Jew exchange peaceful greetings instead of bullets.

Yours respectfully,
Mick Ashley

The Emigrant Moon

by Shafeeq el-Kamaï

Yesterday you came into my mind.
Night loosened its plaits, and the bluish ebony
flowed down,
On the shoulders of our garden raising, in
silence of wishes,
Reanimation waking what slumbered under the
ashes left by passion.

Here, you are divided between the two extremes...
"Why does the charming damsel of sham flee while
in love is deliverance?"

"They say gazelles of the desert are confused by
fear to come,

That roses doze, disappointed, dreaming of water...
While on your lips resources to water
The desert of life extending to vaults
Of non-return... where salty water
Melting in the eye of the Dead Sea,
Scorching the eyelids of the fish abated into time...

O, you... whom I saw brooding at the tongue of the
shore like a deserted cottage,

Yesterday was fading candle.
Sorrow passed like birds...
flags...

I said I love you...
The roods of sham uproared,
And flowed with poisoned milk...
My weariness descended.

O, Willows of Kufa, the moon of merriment has
emigrated from our vale,
The caravan of night has laid anchors by the Gates
of Damascus...

Had the light fallen from the window of passionate
love,

Flowed like whisper until the sun rises in your eyes,
The Vales of Hanifa would have flooded, and the
drought clinging its claws into the heart of al-
Ghour returned...

But the light froze on Mount al-Sheikh heights
And the night flowed down like locusts...
O, Home of water, we've been thirsty.

O, Home of water, we've been thirsty;
And the souls of the Uthrites haunted our balcony,

Who said wormwood
Has interwoven by our homes,
And the neighing of ponies blocks the paths
Of Sana'ah?

When, Tower of Ramlah, will mint grow and
the desert sun raise?

In Karkh a woman, was once
the ascension of dreams, died out... fell down
withered dates, and the palms grew up
lofty pillars

Combining God and Man.
I asked the sailing cloud about the Arab Homeland
horizons, when will Kufa land grow grass?

The story-teller said:
And Baybers left for Sinai;
We wept, deeply ashamed.

The people said:
"Time when wind falls down in torrents
While water is hills of scorching sands";
"Who will feed the ponies of our tribe?"

"What is dust blown by the wandering wind in
Metlah,

And al-Taff is a fountain of tears bursting in pay-
ment for the blood of him departed in thirst",

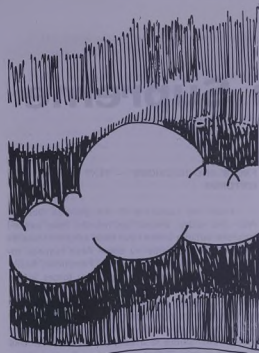
O, Sinai, the Western great wall has declined and
the water of the Nile is puss,
Gathering into sulphur burning the lineage of the
people.

When, Tower of Ramlah,
Will mint grow, and vales of Dhufar
Grow grass?

We wept for the honour of lasses offered by the
Pharaoh to the earth-worms,
And Sana'ah a bride horrified by the Abyssinians...
The conquering army standard was covered with
dust,

The Arabic face, the Arabic colour,
The Arabic sand.
Behind the great wall dogs howl, frightened by
moonlight

That is running in God's field... and you are a
woman frozen



By fear to come.
I'll dance in Thikr circles
Swaying my body with distraction
Taken by sanctified narcotism... I rove...
And you are a woman
Not knowing the meaning that all parts unite in the
shade of sanctified flames... I call out...
Will the gate of favour open before me?
The date-palms elevated,
But the snow creeping through the night cracks
freezes
The skirts of my call.
Had our lass known that all keys of
Bewitched rooms are in her breasts, she wouldn't
have locked the door and said:
"It's forbidden to touch the apples of our garden".
The children of our Vale are still
Fascinated by the story of the Mother's Heart:
And you fear the dust of days.

Heed... arrogant wind is known by none
But those who waded through desert sands
and lived in the land of wind. The flowers of the
desert sleep on the sand like lips opening
with distraction to water coming down.

O, Woman frightened by passing by thunder...
These are sand sea beaches,
Come, bathe... I've associated with storms
Of sham Desert as a child... and accompanied
Al-Dahna raised dust to
The Greek land... got alien for long.
While the way to you was too long,
"Do you remember the lass in Karkh who was
extinguished,

When we picked up the pomgranates and melted
the myrtle leaves with breaths

That came out
Like hissing of wind on the sand
Of the shore... the tide so strong... rising up... up
up...? You may not remember,
But grapes spread on earth are written lines
Telling the story of the lass who was
The ascension of dreams

For a time... and fell down withered hollow dates
Trodden by feet.
A stranger passed by... leaving a bereaved song
and a cloak.

Translated from Arabic by
Kadhim Sa'adedin

Only Truth Shall Reign Supreme

In treating the Arab central issues the Party and the Revolution were always starting from balanced evaluation which cannot be swept away by casual currents, irrespective of their velocity and cannot be blurred by storms of dust or mist, no matter how dense. The Party and the Revolution were always in the heart of the march of Arab history, feeling its throbs and signalling its genuine procession.

This is not ostentation, but we lean on a wide base of tests and evidences. In the example that we shall give to the Arab reader, there is an affirmation that he will realize, before anybody else, the extent of its applicability to what we are stating.

The Arab arena is witnessing now events, activities and trends abounding in declarations and interpretations. The information media in some Arab countries hasten, by their well-known clamour, to publicize, about these events, activities and trends, atmospheres and impressions which they attempt to imprint in the minds of the masses. We do not deny that the masses may be influenced and that the real picture may be shaken in their eyes, but in the end "only truth shall reign supreme".

Two years and five months ago, some Arab ruling circles were living in the atmosphere of specific choices and expectations. Their information media were instilling broad hopes concerning these choices and expectations. That time we made declarations from which many might have considered that we were far away from the "tangible realities" and the "actual fact", etc. But today we find that what we said then, because it was true and stemmed from penetrating vision, is also true of the events of today just as it was true of past events. Here we will only reproduce to the reader the editorial of the 5th-Thawra appearing on 25.7.1974 under the title, "Facts and Illusions" in which we certify the Arabic aphorism: "Only truth shall reign supreme".

FACTS AND ILLUSIONS — TEXT OF THE EDITORIAL

Since the cease-fire of the glorious October War until today, almost ten months have passed for those options which have been adopted towards the central Arab issue by some Arab regimes together with some quarters in the Palestinian Resistance and some other Arab political forces in the critical present circumstances through which the region is passing as well as in the perspective of the tremendous momentum that the October War had generated on the levels of the region and the world. Ten months is a long period of time. One cannot but ask: "What are the results that these options unveiled after ten months?"

In this course, we do not strive to give a complete and detailed evaluation, but we will try to arrive at fundamental indications.

Cease-fire and the application of long range policies of liberalization with America, even opening the doors wide before it and forging close co-operation with the Arab reactionary forces have now been resorted to.

On the domestic levels in the regimes concerned, there developed a clear tendency towards the right and tangible change in the political and economic trends and positions which prevailed in the previous stage. There was, sometimes, extreme enthusiasm towards these policies such as the way in which American President Nixon was received in Cairo and the roaring propaganda attacks against Socialist principles and applications and against the bases and concepts of Arab nationalism. These attacks were organised by specific circles in some Arab information media and other well-known positions.

These options which were adopted by the regimes and circles referred to rested on betting that they would lead to:

1. The withdrawal of "Israel" from all the Arab lands occupied in June, 1967.

2. The setting-up of the so-called Palestinian State in the Western Bank and Gaza.

In return for that, the regimes and circles referred to within the resistance and some Arab forces were prepared to cede the Arab right to that part of Palestine which was occupied prior to 1967. Likewise some of them were prepared to go even as far as recognizing the Zionist entity and dealing with it normally and to institute very strong relations with American imperialism, extending to all fields of politics, economics and culture, in addition to close co-operation with Arab reaction and reaction in the area, and reinforcement of the rightists' positions within the regimes concerned.

To sum up, there was, according to the indications of the successive political positions after the cease-fire, a great preparedness, on the part of the aforementioned circles, to change the basic political trends within the regimes concerned and in their internal political and economic structures for the sake of achieving the above-mentioned two objectives — "Israeli" withdrawal and setting up of the Palestinian State — a matter which those circles consider as a final solution "to the crisis".

In certain stages during the past ten months, the regimes and circles which adopted these options seemed as if they were conducting their steps with the "eye of reason", as if all the "objective truths" and all the "international considerations" stand on the side of these options and justify them, and even render other options unattainable and depict them as irrational "extremism".

Simultaneously, and under the very difficult conditions that the area and particularly some of its regions are passing through, the choosers of options surmised that their policies would earn them massive "popularity".

This last point requires a pause. Let us take, for example, the big demonstration which was staged at the reception of American President Nixon in Cairo and in which great numbers of the masses participated. This demonstration was considered by some quarters as a "popular" endorsement of all the policies followed after the cease-fire, including

the policy of the long range liberalization, even that which is unbounded towards America. Other quarters considered them as a serious disappointing collapse in the Arab position; since how could it be possible to collect energy for struggle against imperialism and work for liberating the occupied lands while the masses, and not only the rulers, have come out on the streets rejoicing and clapping for the American President, the representative of American imperialism, which only a few months ago was showering bombs on our army, people and cities?

The phenomenon of the reception of the American President in Cairo is abnormal and requires close study. But the two deductions, derived from them and to which we referred, do not constitute, in our estimation, a correct analysis. In the framework of very complicated circumstances such as those under which the Arab regimes concerned lived, imbalance occurs in many things. An example of that is the disposition of the masses and their behaviour. In Egypt, for example, where the masses lived for many years in conditions of intense economic privation and in the shadow of absence of democratic freedoms and under the pressure of bitter disappointments such as that of June 5, 1967, being only fed on unfulfilled slogans — under such circumstances, some quarters among the masses, because of their lack of political consciousness and because of their being under the influence of wide-spread deception exercised by the local rightist circles and the imperialist forces, these masses sometimes adopt some wrong trends in search of "salvation" whatever the cost. These masses who went out to receive President Nixon in Cairo, and some of them did it "willingly", were under some extraordinary conditions of giving up all hopes from those previous conditions and in an abnormal state of "hope" in creating better conditions. Under the spell of a widespread well publicised illusions these masses were expecting that this "hope" would be realized by the policies of economic liberalization and co-operation with America whose men are generously giving away "milk and honey" here and there.

Yet as some sections of the masses wrongly behave in search of "hopes" which are actually false hopes, they rush in the opposite direction when time runs out, and when the policies upon

which they pin their hopes cannot realise what they aspired for.

These masses, as expected, may not rationally evaluate the course of the policies or they may assess them primarily instinctively, for the reason that in supporting such policies they look for "milk and honey" promptly. Yet if such policies fail to provide them "milk and honey", the masses turn against the makers of these policies and become a massive force of destruction.

After a pause, we may conclude that the policies under discussion do not enjoy such popularity as those political leaderships think of. They are merely temporary stands of the masses expressing some morbid state and attachment to false hopes. Therefore, to rely on such policies does not provide the leaderships concerned with a solid base to march forward in their policy making for a long period without proving that they are capable of redeeming the promises and pledges that they had already given.

The question which poses itself in this context is: Is it possible for these regimes and political circles which opted for such policies to realize what they had hidden for and promised?

As regards the question of economic welfare, this matter is not one of the obtainable matters which could be achieved in the same speed during which the masses were deluded, not to mention the economic facts which indicate that all loans and "aids" offered by the United States and Arab reaction which are of limited and of long-term nature for being utilised in non-productive targets, are mere drops in the sea of tremendous economic wants of the recipient country.

Concerning the "complete withdrawal" all indications conclude that the only thing that has been guaranteed is the disengagement of forces on the Egyptian and the Syrian fronts which is now in hand while the "complete withdrawal" from "all" occupied territories is something which could not be guaranteed by any Arab or non-Arab party.

As regards the questions of "Palestinian state", though it implies flagrant, disgraceful relinquishment of the right of a nation and of the struggle of the Palestinian people, it is in fact more

"unattainable", despite the biddings of certain quarters and their preparedness to give further concessions for this end.

From this quick review of events one may conclude that the options, over the past ten months, have not been proved successful; they have remained far from being up to the definitions bestowed on them by their advocates such as "rationalism" and "objectiveness". It has also been proved that the promises given following the October ceasefire agreements and considered as "secured" matters, were not in fact "secured" by any international circle.

Even the hopes pinned on Geneva conference, though the presence means a recognition to the usurping Zionist entity and self-relinquishment of basic principled stands from the Arab Party, today seem to be shrouded by the fog of ambiguity and uncertainty.

These are some quick remarks we put forward in the hope that we will return to them with more details on some other occasions. As we find them, had the holders of these options been actually proceeding from the principle of "rationalism" and "objectiveness" and from the precise assessment of the actual situation of the region and of the world, these descriptions themselves, more than any others, would have been fit to be a cause calling for sharpening the political, economic and human resources of the Arab nation to commence a decisive confrontation with the enemy and to prepare themselves to the fullest extent on the national basis under which the more advanced forces in the Arab arena shouldered the greater part and the pioneering role. This option is not the one which is only stemming from the pure and principled stand, but even from a will dictated upon by reason, logic and deduction of the tangible results of the present misplaced options.

Had the above-mentioned holders of options been beguiled over the past ten months, they would have exhausted by these options' positive elements that had emerged as a result of the October War. We believe that the time has arrived for them to turn them down and to follow the righteous path, the path of serious struggle, of unity of Arab national forces, and the path of safeguarding the rights and interests of our homeland.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO ARMED FORCES

On the occasion of 14th anniversary of the February 8, 1963, (14 Ramadan) Revolution, President Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr addressed the following cable to the members of the armed forces:

"On the occasion of the 14th anniversary of 14 Ramadan Revolution it pleases me to congratulate all members of our armed forces in their different ranks wishing them all the best.

"I implore the Almighty Allah to bestow success upon all of us so that we can bring about well-being of the people and enable them to lead a free and dignified life. We also pray to Him so that we can achieve the sublime objective of liberating all occupied territory of our great Arab homeland and materialise our goals of Unity, Liberty and Socialism.

The 14 Ramadan Revolution against dictatorship and anti-Arabism has restored to Iraq its genuine Arab character and increased the revolutionary cohesion between our armed forces and the revolutionary vanguards in the process of revolutionary changes."

BAKR VISITS MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

President Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr has reaffirmed that 17 July Revolution under the leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) has adopted cultural know-how and scientific research as a medium for developing the spirit of creativity and change in the process of building up the prosperous, socialist and democratic society.

Speaking during a visit to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research on February 8 last the President emphasised that the revolution endeavoured to see that university learning attains its distinctive position within the development and guidance of the society. The President hoped that this sector of education would be more responsive to the requirements of the country's industrial, agricultural and economic renaissance.

Speaking to the Ministry's staff members, the President said persistent efforts should be made for raising the standard of higher studies and scientific research — both applied and theoretical. All scientific and intellectual capabilities should be

geared to building up the homeland and fulfilling pan-Arab assignments."

PRESIDENT LAUDS BLOOD DONORS

President Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr has highly praised the family members of Mr. Hickett Mustafa who have donated 142 bottles of blood to Baghdad Blood Bank.

In appreciation of his benevolent and valuable gesture the President sent to the family a substantial gift through Mr. Latif Nassif Jassim, the Director General of Iraq Radio and Television Organization.

JAPAN WINS ID 110 M. CONTRACT

A contract was signed in Baghdad on January 28 last between Iraq, Ministry of Industry, and Minerals and Japanese Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Corporation for building the Hartha (thermo-electric station in Basrah, south Iraq, at a cost of 110 million (\$11,684,000 US dollars) Iraq dinars.

The project which will use natural gas and oil fuel for operation consists of four turbo-units of 200 megawatts each and two sub-stations, one of a high tension (HT) with 132,000 volt capacity and the other an extra-high voltage (EHV) station with 400,000 volt capacity. The project, to be linked with the national network, will supply power to the major industrial projects now under construction in the southern part of the country including the chemical fertilizers plant No. 3, petrochemical complex, gas liquefied plant, Basrah oil refinery and the iron and steel complex.

Under the contract the Japanese firm will undertake the designing and building of the project on turn-key basis.

YUGOSLAV MINISTER VISITS IRAQ

Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. Brko Lutviger left Baghdad on February 6 winding up a friendly official visit to Iraq during which he had talks with Iraqi officials concerned on the expansion of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

In an airport statement before departing, Dr. Lutviger increased satisfaction over the outcome of his visit to Iraq and, avoided the big efforts exerted by the Arab Baath Socialist Party for the welfare of the Iraq people.

