

Iraq Today

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Liberation Struggle is the Road

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EDITORIAL

A Foreign Policy with Dignity

When President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr gave his speech on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the July 17 Revolution, the Arab nation was long passing through a critical period of its history. The harmony among the Arab regions has been diminishing while some of them are trying hard to seek harmony with the enemies of the nation. Certain regimes are pursuing the mirage of getting the support of some big powers whose support, if it is ever forthcoming, is given for ulterior motives unlikely to serve the Arab cause. How saddening it is to see those whose regions are about to be swallowed up by the Zionists side-step the issue and try to ingratiate themselves with the very powers that created the Zionist entity.

As President al-Bakr said, Iraq's relations with the countries of the world are based on reciprocal respect and mutual interests. The attitude of Iraq — as led by the ABSP — has proved its worth. Other regimes have degraded themselves by putting the Palestinian issue in a secondary place of their priorities, forgetting that it is in Palestine that the future Arab destiny is shaped.

Anniversaries are occasions to take stock of the successes and setbacks. This anniversary is different in that we are facing a concerted effort, on the part of Arab regimes colluding with foreign powers, to belittle the magnitude of the Arab potential and work out a capitulationist solution to which some so-called Arab leaders have already given their assent.

If such a solution is enforced on the Arab masses it means that the struggle of more than thirty years, the blood of countless martyrs, and the hopes of scores of millions, were all in vain.

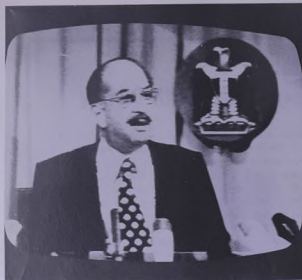
The Arabs, however, are known to be resilient and their capacity for regeneration has astounded many a keen observer. What is being cooked in the corridors of power will certainly taste sour for those who prepare it. Nothing short of the complete liberation of Palestine will usher the Arabs into their unity which is their future. Any other future, without Palestine, the heart of the Arab homeland, will be spineless and lacking viability.

The principled foreign policy that Iraq has been pursuing since the ABSP came to lead the country on the way of Unity, Freedom and Socialism, is restoring to the whole nation a sense of purpose.

Much as Iraq desires peace, it and all the conscious Arab masses cannot accept it at the price of fragmenting for which there will be no remedy. Should the capitulationists have their way, the dismemberment of the nation will be perpetuated. No crime is more heinous than the continued balkanisation of the Arabs.

The President's speech is a warning to the defeatists and it is always timely to remind the nation that getting satisfaction with the crumbs thrown away by any big power is no healthy nourishment.

A dignified foreign policy cemented by an internal planning that aims at the prosperity of the whole populace, these are the salient points of the President's speech. Those who are crawling for meagre credits and negligible favours will end up by being treated as negligible quantities easily swept away by the people when it realises how much harm their repugnant concessions will inflict on it.



July 16, 1977, President Bakr addressing the nation over Baghdad T.V. and Radio networks

LIBERATION STRUGGLE IS THE ONLY ROAD

President Bakr Denounces Deviationists

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr affirmed that the masses, under the leadership of their militant vanguard party, the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP), and in cooperation with all patriotic forces, have managed, within the few years of the Revolution, to build a new Iraq — a free, advanced, powerful and united Iraq that views the future with confidence and optimism and that constitutes a centre of radiation for the masses of the Arab nation who are currently struggling to restore their usurped rights and attain their legitimate aspirations.

In an important national address marking the anniversaries of the two July Revolutions (of 1953 and 1968), President Bakr dealt with the situation in Iraq and the Arab area and touched on international politics.

He pointed out that the course is difficult and hard and demands sacrifices, endurance, objectivity and consistency. Praising the spirit of national concord prevailing in the country and reviewing accomplishments and future plans, he pointed out that the socialist line was indispensable to the development of the country and to assuring affluence to the population.

Referring to the situation in the Arab area, President Bakr deplored the continuation of deviation-

ist trends and erroneous policies on the part of certain Arab regimes. "Ten years have been wasted since the June 1967 aggression. Arab lands still remain under occupation", said President Bakr. He exposed the hazards and futility of relying on imperialist-sponsored humiliating settlements and pointed out that usurped Arab territories cannot be recovered without resorting to a hard-line liberation struggle.

President Bakr stated that southern Lebanon is now exposed to Zionist danger. He called for the withdrawal of the occupation forces of the Syrian regime from Lebanon and the reconstruction of a sovereign, safe and united Lebanon. He stressed the importance of brotherly relations between the Palestinian Resistance and Lebanon.

President Bakr condemned the regime ruling in Syria, describing it as an untrustworthy regime occupying Lebanon and negating its will.

Touching on international affairs, President Bakr explained Iraq's foreign policy, which is based on sovereignty, independence, equality and mutual benefit. He called upon Arab states to adhere to the policy of Non-alignment and to promote that policy and enhance its effectiveness in world politics.

TEXT OF ADDRESS

Following is the English rendering of President Bakr's address to the Arab nation:

Our present celebrations of the anniversaries of the two glorious July Revolutions come at a time when the July 17 Revolution is steadfastly and resolutely stepping into its 10th year. This offers us an opportunity to stress an important point: The anniversary of the July 17 Revolution, which we observe year after year, is not merely a significant domestic and pan-Arab occasion so dear to us. It is rather an anniversary of a revolution that has proved to be a great historic event of paramount impact on the life of our countrymen and nation as well as a characteristic transition from one stage to another. Both time and experience are witness to this impact.

Under the leadership of their valiant vanguard party, the ABSP, the masses, thanks to the support and participation of the faithful patriotic forces of this country, have managed to build, during the years of the Revolution, a new Iraq — a free, advanced, powerful and united Iraq that views the future with confidence and optimism and that constitutes a centre of radiation for the masses of the Arab nation who are currently struggling to attain their legitimate rights and to resolve crucial issues.

The Revolution, led by your Party, the ABSP, kept advancing along the road it believed to be the right one and for which sincere patriots have always longed. Thereby it managed to realize a great deal of the domestic, national and social hopes and aspirations for which we all struggle and offer great sacrifices. Year after year, the Revolution marches on the road to progress displaying indomitable resolve and unwavering faith in the credo that the path of rectitude and triumph is the path of adherence to principles, to national and pan-Arab values and to the interests of the people and the nation.

This course, which the Revolution adopted in pursuance of the principles of its Party and in fulfillment of the ideals of the people and the nation, is a difficult and arduous course that demands sacrifice, endurance, objectivity and consistency.

The hardness of this course and the responsibilities and sacrifices it entails become all the more greater because the Party and the Revolution have been boldly pursuing it after the country has suffered for long years from deterioration and deviation at the hands of despotic regimes hostile to the people. The militant pursuit of this course also coincides with Arab conditions dominated by deviation-

tionist and defeatist tendencies, by weak dedication to principles and by poor faith in the masses of the people and the creative potentialities of the Arab nation and the great meaning of its original ideals of struggle.

The historic values of what has been accomplished under the Revolution may be clearly brought forth through a comparison between the pre-revolution and present-day conditions of our area. This is apart from the soundness of the Revolution's line and the wholeness of its advance — two characteristics from neither of which will it ever be alienated. Conversely, the Revolution, and the leadership of its revolutionary Party, are now mobilizing more and more capabilities and energies for promoting this line and accelerating its advance.

GUARD THE ACHIEVEMENTS

What we managed to achieve during the Revolution's nine eventful years is an article of faith for whose conservation we are all held responsible. It is a national and a pan-Arab achievement which we must preserve, defend and perseveringly develop. It goes without saying that our revolutionary experiment, taken within its full dimensions, stirs the anger of the imperialists and the reactionary forces who seek to impose darkness, capitulation and counter-revolution on the entire Arab area. For, these forces do realize the immense danger presented by a patriotic, national and progressive regime capable of facing imperialist designs and counter-revolutionary trends while holding high the banner of principles, rights and national values in a persevering spirit replete with seriousness and determination.

The masses, from whose midst this Revolution has sprung, and who carried the banners and protected the achievements of the Revolution, are now required to stick closer to the Revolution, defend its gains and deepen the sense of responsibility towards all matters pertaining to sovereignty, unity and the prosperity of the homeland.

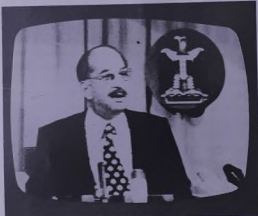
PRODUCE MORE, PROTECT MACHINES

The current stage demands from every citizen a special conduct. The peasant in his field, the worker in his factory, the engineer, the physician, the teacher and, for that matter, all others are required to do their utmost to better their performance and, promote their production in quality and in quantity — and to render proper care for machines and other public property. Now that the Revolution has fulfilled our dream in making the country a com-

mon ownership of all citizens where everything is devoted to their well-being, it behoves everyone to discharge his responsibilities in full, with high zeal and persevering seriousness.

STRONG IDEOLOGICAL SHIELD

The present stage in the development of the Revolution demands strong ideological shield in theory and practice — on the part of every citizen and every segment or institution of this society. The imperialist forces have been, and still are, devising various ways and means for infiltrating progressive regimes and experiences in order to weaken their ideological moorings and to spread thoughts, values and practices that lead to the isolation of such regimes from the masses of the people and to the severance of their ideological and popular roots. Their ultimate goal is to manoeuvre



such regimes and experiences into situations facilitating their destruction or their dragging backwards when the opportunity comes. When confronted with an original revolutionary experience such as ours — a creation of the masses under the leadership of their vanguard Party — the forces of imperialism and reaction can only become wild in their search for ways and means to undermine the Revolution and prevent it from spreading its national ideals and standards in the Arab area. This is because the spreading of such ideals and standards will lead to exposing counter-revolutionary and defeatist elements and to menacing imperialist and reactionary interests and machinations.

As we have often stated at times of triumph, what we have so far accomplished is but a step forward. The national tasks that lie ahead are numerous and immense; and the ambitions of our nation, which remain a target of aggressors, are

unlimited. Consequently, it is imperative to keep alive the spirit with which we have gained our victories and attained our progress so as to ensure the preservation of the pre-requisites for continuity.

The spirit of national concord that characterizes our life under the Revolution as reflected in our firm national unity, the participation of all progressive forces in the responsibility and the realization of the equality of all citizens in rights and duties is a fundamental gain that we must preserve, promote and turn into a living example.

NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY

During your victorious march, the achievements of your Revolution struck deep roots and effected basic transformations in your life. While all this serves as a positive indicator reinforcing our confidence and enhancing our pride in our Revolution, we need to warn against the danger of falling a prey to conceit or complacency or to permit ourselves to sit on our laurels. This calls upon you, fellow countrymen, to arm yourselves with maximum vigilance and care, a high sense of responsibility and a courageous determination to continue the Revolution and defend it.

Guided by the official report of the 8th Regional Congress of the ABSP, we made extensive efforts during the past year to studying errors and negative aspects relating to performance in the various sectors. We conducted a very broad public debate. Many sections of the people joined in the deliberations in a democratic and lively manner. They freely dealt with all issues impeding the development of production and the proper functioning of state organs.

That was indeed a rich experience. It enabled us to detect many aspects of defects. On the other hand, it bore witness to the Revolution's progress, the confidence it has generated in itself and in the masses and its determination to better its advance and increase its achievements.

In the 10th year of the Revolution, we need to continue our advance with increased seriousness and consciousness so as to attain the desired targets in full.

LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The leadership of the Party and the Revolution has charted out broad lines of the development plan for the forthcoming years. Naturally, the implementation of this plan demands assiduous

and expensive efforts on the part of the organisations of the leading Party, the state organs, the forces of the National Front, the popular organisations and, indeed, all citizens — each from his own position and according to his responsibility. This plan, which is the cream of years of extensive work, rich experiences and careful research, represents our course to progress in all spheres and interprets our scientific method for building a modern developed society, precisely the society promised by the 8th Regional Congress of the Party.

SOCIALIST ROAD

During nine years of unremitting efforts to lay the foundation for socialist construction in the country, the Revolution succeeded in realizing fundamental transformations in all spheres along the road to socialism. Despite the difficulties coming in the way of socialist transformations (natural difficulties, which the Party has diagnosed and for which it prescribed remedies), the experience and its net results clearly indicate that the socialist line is the right and inevitable line for developing the country and assuring happiness, dignity and prosperity to the population.

AGAINST DEVIATIONIST POLICIES

As we, in this country, move from one victory to another, and as the vitality of this Revolution and its fateful association with the life of the masses assert themselves day after day through turning the people's legitimate aspirations into an uninterrupted series of revolutionary accomplishments, the deviationist and erroneous policies and tendencies, against whose perils to the Arab nation we have repeatedly warned, still continue to govern many aspects of Arab policies. Unfortunately, these harmful policies and tendencies still prevail, notwithstanding the lessons taught by facts and experiences regarding their negative outcome that is contrary to the interests of the nation and notwithstanding the need to renounce them and follow the right national path.

Ten years have been wasted since the June aggression: Arab territories still remain under occupation and Arab rights continue to be violated. Worse still, dangers are mounting more and more and losses are increasing more and more. In sister Lebanon fresh complications have been added to an already deteriorating situation, presenting a great deal of hazards to the Arab nation.

AGONY OF LIBANON

Imperialist, local and certain Arab quarters first colluded to inflame sedition in this Arab country and to destroy the Palestinian resistance camping therein. Now Lebanon is being subjected to occupation and to the negation of its will by the Syrian regime — the untrustworthy regime whose national intentions and twisted methods that conflict with the nation's interests and morals, have been proved time and again.

Likewise, southern Lebanon is now facing a grave conspiracy. The old Zionist designs for occupying this part of Lebanon (and of the Arab homeland) are now offered wide opportunities and favourable circumstances to materialize first in an indirect control and ultimately in direct occupation.

HANDS OFF LIBANON

We should like to reiterate our firm call for the withdrawal of the forces of the Syrian regime from Lebanon and for the refunctioning of state organs there. National unity should prevail and all traces of the futile conflict should be removed so that Lebanon can remain a safe, united and prosperous Arab country. Further, we call for the establishment of healthy brotherly relations between Lebanon and the Palestinian Resistance — relations capable of preserving the unity and sovereignty of Lebanon and of ensuring to our brother Palestinians freedom of struggle for their cause.

WHAT PRICE NATIONAL BETRAYAL?

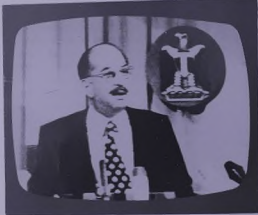
The blame for the current deterioration of Arab conditions lies at the door of those who deserted the course of national struggle and betrayed the national rights, opting for making concessions and dragging themselves behind the schemings of American imperialism.

We ask, and the entire masses of the Arab nation share our question: what did we reap from such policies ten years from the June defeat and four years from the October War? Was our harvest anything other than more losses, more setbacks and more tearing and deterioration?

The Arab area continues to revolve in a vicious circle. Zionism remains in control of our territories it occupied in 1967. And with undisguised arrogance and conceit, Zionist leaders boast that they would not withdraw from these territories unless the Arab nation yielded to their humiliating terms. At

the same time America proceeds along with its set role to break the Arab will for struggle, divide the Arab ranks and draw the Arab parties from one concession into another. In this, it pursues various methods leading to the perpetuation of Zionist occupation year after year.

The Arab parties responsible for this state of affairs failed to take a courageous pause for evaluating the past experience and choosing a sound national line. Contrarily, they persist in following the same erroneous and unsuccessful line, which they have been adamantly following regardless of past lessons. Facts of life show beyond any doubt that our rights, which had been usurped by brute force, intimidation and treachery, cannot be regained through such futile methods and policies. Only through an honest and firm renunciation of the policy of concessions and bargaining and the adoption of a hard line struggle based on truly national



foundations can we regain our despoiled rights. Iraq kept warring against the consequences of those futile policies, but many responsible Arab quarters continued to indulge in them.

Certain Arab quarters, such as the Syrian regime, which are deep in the mud of their deviationist and unational policies, and which committed unspeakable crimes against the Arab nation are now trying to avoid judgement. To achieve this end, they are vainly trying to spread rumours, circulate false information and pursue crude manoeuvring. By doing so, they think they can grant themselves an extended lease of life and cover up their crimes and acts of national betrayal.

NO COOPERATION WITH DEVIATIONISTS

We publicly announce that we will never stretch our hand to those who deviated from the

line of national struggle, conspired against their brothers in the meanest manner and slaughtered Palestinian and Lebanese countrymen in the same way as the Zionist kept doing. We believe that whoever stretches his hand to such people or covers up their crimes does a disservice to the Arab nation and its cause and encourages the deviationists to persist in their stand and to inflict more harm on the interests and rights of the Arab nation.

The Arab cause is not a game for the amusement of the ruler of this or that Arab country. Quite fantastically we see them hurling themselves up for policies involving concessions and dubious settlements when they figure out that their schemings are feasible; then we see them ostensibly retreating when their cards are uncovered and their plans go away. As Arabs, we must uphold recognized values and principles when dealing with fundamental national issues, leaving no room for wavering, fumbling and tightrope walking. We have already lost a great deal and it is unbecoming of us to tolerate more losses. The road for recovering lost land and rights is crystal clear and quite straight to whoever truly wants to put up a genuine and courageous fight. It is the road of firm and final repudiation, in both form and content, of the line of capitalist settlements and deviationist policies. It is the road of adopting the line of liberation struggle, mobilizing the masses, lending support to the Palestinian Resistance and allowing it to struggle against the enemy from all fronts and steadfastly and firmly confronting imperialist interests and designs. This is the right road contrary to the road of the concessions and the changing of veils and faces.

INTERNATIONAL EQUATIONS

The struggle waged by the Arab nation and the eminence of its political, military, economic and cultural potentialities have led to an important change in its international stature.

In the light of the principles of its leading Party, your Revolution has endeavoured to adopt a consistent line of policy in international relations — a line based on full independence, equality, mutual benefit and the service to common human issues of freedom, peace and progress.

In this way, Iraq managed to maintain fruitful and balanced relations with its neighbours and a great many states of diverse political systems

and inclinations. And in all this, Iraq set before its eyes the promotion of national and pan-Arab interests as well as common interests.

The soundness and fruitfulness of this line of policy have been borne out by time. It is this line of policy that is enhancing our international prestige and augmenting our ability to contribute positively to international affairs.

As stressed in the Political Report of the 8th Regional Congress of the ABSP, we are entrusted with a double responsibility: maintaining this pattern in international relations and challenging any deviations detrimental to healthy relations that might appear in the Arab area.

Many aspects of relations between certain Arab and international quarters are marked with defects and deviation. They place foreign imperialist interests above the interests and rights of the nation, be that in regard to territorial sovereignty, national resources or other rights, which no people who have their free will and know their right way will ever do.

The Arab nation must beware of, and warn against, such deviationist tendencies. It must keep the national and pan-Arab interests in mind when conducting international relations. It is in this way alone that we can protect our rights, consolidate our sovereignty and gain a powerful, respectable and effective presence on the international scene.

NON-ALIGNED POLICY

One of the key-stones of our national interests is to consciously stick to the policy of Non-alignment and to seek to develop and promote its effectiveness in international affairs.

The Non-aligned policy is the only alternative for independent countries aspiring to achieve progress. This is the only policy by which effective international relations based on freedom, equality and justice can be maintained. The Arabs, who played a fundamental role in building and defending this policy, need to discard flimsy and hesitant stands towards it and strive for regaining their vanguard role in this movement.

An essential point underlined by the Party and the Revolution is to draw a principle and practical distinction among the friends who range sides with us in many aspects of our struggle and interests,

the powers that do not assume a clear-cut position in support of our right and our just struggle against aggressive Zionism and the powers which stand squarely by the side of our enemies. Confusion and lack of distinction between the above quarters are bound to invite great losses, erode the respect of other states for us and weaken the position of those who support us.

Doctrinal criteria in the international policies, far from being a luxury, are an essential need to every nation struggling against aggression and usurpation.

IRAQ: BASTION OF ARAB REVOLUTION

Your Revolution enters its 10th year fully confident that it is steering in the right course and that a bright future opens up before it. The example we are setting here in Iraq is not only a useful experience for ourselves alone. It belongs to the entire Arab nation, to help it choose the right road and to open before it spheres of productive work.

Iraq, whose Revolution led by the ABSP, the Party of the Arab nation, has been, and will always remain, a mighty base for defending the rights and honour of the nation, for shouldering major national responsibilities and for wholehearted dedication to the glory, dignity and progress of the Arab nation.

I greet you, fellow countrymen, from the depth of my heart and wish you more and more success and progress in your work and struggle. I ask of you to keep up the struggle and productive work in all fields for serving your people and your nation.

My greetings to workers, peasants, soldiers, students, engineers, intellectuals, officials and to every citizen sharing in building new Iraq, preserving its unity and protecting the achievements attained by the people and the Revolution in all spheres. While reaping the fruit of victory in this country, we must not forget our martyrs and all martyrs who offered supreme sacrifices for the progress and success we are enjoying and for the realization of our crucial cause. Homage to those martyrs who dutifully served their nation and gallantly contributed to paving the road of freedom and victory.

Once more I extend to all of you militant greetings and wish you all success.



Saddam Hussein, Deputy Secretary of the ABSP's Regional Leadership (middle) with Dr. Riadh Hussein, Minister of Health (right) and Mr. Nadeem alYasien, Director General of Information at the Ministry of Information (left) at one of the houses which had been used as a hideout by the Party.

Lest We Forget

bute to the unknown soldiers who risked their necks to bring about the triumph of the Revolution. Illiterate mothers silently and devotedly playing their hazardous roles and inflaming the zeal of militant Baathist workers, rightminded by unemployment, peasants crushed under semi-feudal relations, students facing a dark future — such were the people who dwell those cradles of the Revolution that have rightfully become part of the contemporary history of Iraq.

At one of the visited houses, the Vice-Chairman once escaped arrest by resorting to his pistol. At another he first met his 2-year-old son Udai after escaping from prison. But "this house arouses in me special feelings connected with many returns to prison. At the time the Party suffered a hard blow at the hands of the Arifite dictatorial authorities", recalled Mr. Saddam Hussein.

Wanted and hunted, yet undaunted, the militant Baathists gathered the storm. In those houses printing machinery, weapons and, sometimes, Party members were hidden. Old, rather primitive, equipment! Yes, but the sacred word they are speaking is modern, guiding and inspiring. They preach the Revolution — and the next day the streets are covered with revolutionary leaflets, and the secret cells are reading the Party's internal paper, The Socialist. Old weapons, and some of them locally made! That is true; but they are charged with a strong will that is armed with the noblest ideals, they will do — and they did it.

Mr. Saddam Hussein was received with beaming eyes. Those who saw the visit on TV must have felt how he was quite at home. And the souls of thousands of those who contributed to the Revolution must, at that moment, have made a pilgrimage to holy spots linked in their memories with the ABSP's historic rise to power in Baghdad on July 17, 1968.

The Revolutionary meaning of Mr. Hussein's visit is best expressed in his own words: "Baathists should always keep in mind that the assumption of power is but a means for transforming the Party's principles into living realities... We did not seize power to become rulers... We should continue our struggle in the same persistent spirit to serve the cause of our people and nation. We do well to remember the hard days as an impetus and launching pad for future progress..."

A human and revolutionary gesture as it is, Mr. Hussein's visit stirred wide reminiscences of blood, tears, sweat — and victories. It was a tri-

Message to Dr. Waldheim

International Federation of Human Rights Revises its Stand on Kurdish Question

Mr. Denis Payot, Secretary-General of the International Federation of Human Rights, in a message recently addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General, expressed his satisfaction at the present economic, political and cultural situation of the Kurdish Autonomous Area of Iraq.

Mr. Payot who recently visited the area, felt that "in the context of the geo-political conditions of the region, the allegations of certain Kurds have certainly been agitated or abetted by external forces".

Following is the text of the message:

Geneva June 17, 1977.

Dr. Kurt Waldheim,
United Nations Secretary-General,
New York.

Ref. Kurdish Question

I would like to inform you in this message that very recently I paid a short visit to the Iraqi Kurdistan.

Denis Payot
Secretary General

On the Kurdish Question

Mr. Mick Ashley, the British journalist, forwarded the following letter to the 'Tribune' to clarify a misquotation on the Kurdish question.

I FIND it rather sad that H. Barustan (Tribune, June 24) should descend to misquoting my Report on Iraq, along with some wild assertions that the Iraqi authorities were aiming at the "destruction of the Kurdish identity".

We illustrated this with the "information" that the Law of Autonomy was described "for the North and not Kurdistan because of the refusal of the Iraqis to give the area its proper name. This is absolute nonsense. It is the "Law of Autonomy for the Kurdish Region", and it makes Kurdish the official language of education for all Kurds. In addition, it provides for a separate

budget for the Region within the framework of the Iraqi state.

The chairman of the Executive Council of the Kurdish Region, Hashem Hassan, recently announced a record sum of about £1,200 million to be spent on development in Kurdistan, which is about one-quarter of the development budget for the whole of Iraq. Since there are something like 2 million Kurds among the 12 million population of Iraq, the figures suggest that Kurdistan is getting a fair share of development funds. There is also an administrative budget for the year of £300 million.

I consider that I wrote an objective article on the opportunities that appeared to be opening up for the Kurdish people, and I did suggest that the main objections to the current developments might come from those

During my visit I was able to meet the authorities of the Autonomous Area. I noticed that a considerable economic development has taken place in the area. Besides, the political situation there appeared to be quite normal to the extent that a general election is going to be held in the forthcoming days.

Our Federation which always backed the demands of the Kurdish people has to revise its stand in the light of the aforementioned facts. We have reason to believe that in the context of the geo-political conditions of the region the allegations of certain Kurds have certainly been agitated or abetted by external forces.

However I have found that the Kurdish cultural characteristics are being maintained and the Kurdish language is the basic working language in schools. It is one of the two official languages in the area.

I am duty bound to convey to you that the Iraqi government has made extraordinary efforts to safeguard the rights of this minority.

Please, Mr. Secretary-General, accept my highest considerations.

who dislike the dismantling of a backward feudal structure.

There can be little dispute that past Iraqi authorities have been guilty of mishandling the Kurdish question. I believe, though, that most socialists would welcome the current regime's attempt to find a reasonable degree of independence for the Kurds within Iraq.

Brighton Mick Ashley
Courtesy: 'Tribune', July 7, 1977





Vice President Maarouf after laying the wreath at the Unknown Soldier Monument.

Snaps From July Celebrations

The month of July marked the anniversary of two glorious revolutions, the first was the 19th anniversary of the July 14, 1958, Revolution which toppled the monarchy in Iraq, and the second was the 9th anniversary of the July 17 Revolution which ended dictatorship and rightist rule.

On this occasion, on behalf of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Vice-President Taha Muhyeddin Maarouf laid a wreath at the Unknown Soldier's Monument. The ceremony was attended by mem-

bers of the Revolution Command Council, Ministers, senior government officials, heads of diplomatic missions and military attachés accredited to Iraq.

To mark the occasions the Iraqi officials in Baghdad and other governorates inaugurated a number of projects. The foundation stones of several development projects were also laid. The cost of these projects was estimated at about 250 million Iraqi Dinars (840 million US dollars) covering various industrial, agricultural, health, educational and public services fields.

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr and RCC Vice-Chairman Mr. Saddam Hussein received a host of congratulatory cables from heads of states and govern-



Mr. Izzat Ibrahim, RCC member, Minister of Interior and Chairman of the Supreme Agricultural Council inaugurating the first stage of the general estuary system.



Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member, and Minister of Works and Housing laying the foundation stone of one of the housing projects in Baghdad.

ments. Cables were also addressed to President Bakr and Vice-Chairman Hussein by political, popular and vocational organizations in Iraq.

A cable from the chairman of the executive Council of the Autonomous Area lauded the achieve-

ments of the Revolution for "the Iraqi Arab and Kurdish people". The Iraqi Communist Party in its cable expressed high confidence in the potentials of the Iraqi people and the national forces for

for defeating all suspicious schemes worked out by imperialist, Zionist and reactionary forces against stability and sovereignty of the Iraqi people.

Marking the anniversary of 14 and 17 July revolutions the 3rd Arab Youth festival took place in Iraq from 5 to 15 July.



The general estuary



Dr. Najib Mohammed Khalil, Minister of Industry, inaugurating the woollen cloth and baskets mill in Baghdad.

safeguarding and promoting the revolutionary gains realized in Iraq under the leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party.

The telegram of the Kurdish Democratic Party expressed determination to continue struggle



Mr. Leif Noussef, Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform inaugurating the poultry project in Khalis District.

Youth Activities to Promote Arab Unity

The 3rd Arab Youth Festival which was attended by some 3500 youths from 15 Arab countries concluded on July 15.

In a special ceremony held at the gardens of al-Mustansiriyah University, Baghdad, the festival

and members of the Arab Diplomatic Corps in Baghdad.

In his concluding address Iraqi Youth Minister Mr. Karim Mahmoud Hussein said the festival reflected the unity of the youth of the whole Arab nation at the present delicate phase in which

exchange expertise". The ceremony was also addressed by Mr. Ass'ad al-Ass'ad, Arab League Assistant Secretary General who said the festival "has asserted the unity of the Arab nation. Hence in the name of the Arab League and the participating delegations I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr and the Iraqi authorities for the great efforts they have made to successfully host this Pan-Arab mass demonstration".

At the conclusion of the ceremony Mr. al-Ass'ad presented the flag of the festival to the

on July 16. It was opened by Vice-President Taha Muhyeydin Maarouf on behalf of President Bakr.

In his opening address Mr. Maarouf pointed out that the atmosphere of understanding and dialogue is an important factor for strengthening the bonds of brotherhood and struggle among the Arab youth. This requires the combination of efforts and firm alliance to encounter the conspiracies against "our Arab nation and its causes for which it stands".

1. Establishment of a permanent council for Arab Youth and Sports Ministers.

2. Creation of an Arab fund with a capital of 100 million dollars to subsidize athletic activities.

3. Creation of an institute for training the leaders of youth and sports.

4. The importance of coordination between Arab athletic federations.

5. Promotion of Arab-African cooperation in the field of sports and youth.

"Arab Fund for Sports and Youth Activities" and appointed a seven member Ministerial Committee to decide on the contribution of each member-state to the Fund. It also decided to organize three courses next year to train coaches and athletic supervisors.

In one of its recommendations, the conference called on the Arab countries which still have no youth and sports ministries to establish the same in appreciation of the importance of the role of youth.



Mr. Karim Mahmoud Hussein, Iraqi Minister of Youth and Sports, participating in the conference of Arab and Sports Ministers in Baghdad

wound up 10 days of continuous artistic, literary, athletic and cultural activities presented by the participating delegates.

The ceremony was attended, among others, by a number of ABSP Regional Leadership members, Cabinet Ministers, visiting Arab Youth and Sports Ministers

the Arab people are facing imperialist-Zionist conspiracies aiming at perpetuating the division of the Arab homeland. The Minister added, "We in Iraq hold that this splendid national tradition represents an important occasion for examining the conditions of our greater homeland and for getting acquainted with one another to

representative of Morocco which will play host to the Fourth Arab Youth Festival.

The Fifth Arab Youth And Sports Conference

On the other hand the Arab Youth and Sports Ministers held their 5th conference in Baghdad



Arab delegates to the 3rd Arab Youth Festival

Mr. Maarouf said that the leadership of the Arab Baath Socialist Party and the Revolution in Iran regarded the national education of youth as of prime importance for the national struggle.

The four-day conference had on its agenda the following topics:

The conference adopted all these proposals. First it decided to establish a permanent council for the Arab Youth Ministers within the framework of the Arab League and approved its statute. It further decided to set up a special fund under the name

The conference also recommended that the Arab League secretariat general prepare a study on the promotion of Arab-Asian cooperation and draw up a programme for Euro-Arab cooperation in the field of youth and sports.

by Our Political Analyst

Begin's Multi-million Dollar "Peace" Proposals

Three major news items emanated from the US capital recently regarding the prospects of Middle East peace. These are:

a) Mr. Cyrus Vance, the U.S. Secretary of State, will embark on another round of shuttle diplomacy in the area.

b) Mr. Jimmy Carter, the U.S. President, expresses the hope that the Geneva Conference could be reconvened by October next.

c) Mr. Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister of "Israel", wants to conclude separate peace treaties with Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and "if need be, with Lebanon".

These pieces of news were put out to mark the successful conclusion of the "Irgun" terrorist godfather Begin's mission to the White House. On the eve of his trip to Washington, Zionist propagandists tried to cover up his past activities and project him as a "legalist" (Newsweek, July 11) and after the Begin-Carter talks, the "Israeli" Premier was described as a moderate, persuasive and flexible man who "only strongly objected to PLO participation at Geneva talks" (Voice of America, July 21). The VOA news analyst was at pains to muster support for Begin's stance: how can Begin agree to talk to a party that does not recognise "Israel's" right to exist? At the same time the analyst claims that Begin is ready to go to Geneva without any pre-conditions. As if the pre-condition to exclude the PLO, the organisation of the rightful owners of usurped Palestine, is no pre-condition at all!

Mr. Begin is not satisfied with his cast-iron pre-condition for the exclusion of PLO. He also likes to dictate how the Arabs should form their delegations for Geneva. He suggests, according to VOA, the inclusion of Palestinians in the Jordanian delegation.

Begin has also spelled out his plan for legitimising the occupation of Arab lands and territories. His plan reads as under:

a) The Zionists will remain in perpetual occupation of whole of Palestine including the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

b) In Sinai, the "Israelis" will not withdraw from the strategically important Sharm-al-Sheikh port at the mouth of the Red Sea.

c) In the Golan Heights area, the "Israelis" may be persuaded to make some tactical withdrawals without jeopardising their defence requirements.



Begin: divide and tackle



Carter: hoping against hope

d) The West Bank and the Gaza strip will remain out of the purview of talks.

In other words, Begin plan envisages making the second disengagement line, both in Sinai peninsula and Golan Heights, a permanent boundary with minor adjustments.

Mr. Begin also suggests that if the Arabs find it difficult to go to Geneva without the PLO, some other venue may be decided upon for holding talks without the presence of the PLO. And these talks may be conducted under U.S. mediation.

It is evident that Begin has reproduced the Allon Plan in a new letterhead, the purpose remaining the same, namely, to effect a peace settlement on the basis of victorious-vanquished relationship between the "Israelis" and the Arabs.

The Dark American Thursday

NEW YORK, Thursday:

"Looters sacked streets of New York today in the pitch darkness of a city-wide power black-out caused by a blot of lightning. Police made 2000 arrests. Much of the biggest American city remained calm. But in the slum areas of Brooklyn and Manhattan people systematically looted shops and arsonists started hundreds of fires after the light went out."

The above is a brief quotation from a news item. This item of news was the lead story of Thursday night, July 14, 1977, of all world radio services and news media.

The Arabs have never accepted this relationship despite many setbacks. All previous efforts for Middle East peace went in vain because of this determination of the Arabs on the one hand, and the intransigence of the Zionists on the other. No new development has taken place that warrants a second shuttle of Mr. Vance to the area. Nor does the situation give rise to any fresh optimism which should encourage Mr. Carter to try Geneva in two months time. As for Mr. Begin he will understandably try for isolating the Arab confrontation countries from one another and that is why he seeks to strike separate deals with each one of them. This has always been the Zionist tactic and some Arab regimes fell for the trap during Kissinger's step-by-step diplomacy. The old trick may not work for the third time.

However, one should give the devil his due. Mr. Begin has been able to win the Zionist lobby in U.S. over to his side. That lobby is now projecting him as a "moderate" and "persuasive" person. And on its part the Zionist lobby has succeeded in muzzling the "loud-mouthed" Carter and Begin; none of them, during the Zionist leader's visit to Washington, said a word publicly about the future of West Bank and Gaza Strip. But, it is highly unlikely that their calculated silence on the issue will help solve the problem. Silence is golden when ulterior motives do not cry out from behind the screen.

As we have said on many other occasions, a just and meaningful peace in the Middle East is dependent upon the capability of Arab liberation forces to score decisive victories, and not on the faces that periodically show up at Washington and Tel Aviv. Twenty nine long years have passed since the illegal occupation of Palestine by the Zionists. During these years the Zionists have only proved themselves to be intransigent aggressors, system-

atic persecutors and racist colonialists irrespective of who ruled at Tel Aviv. The U.S. Administration, on its part, has dutifully been strengthening the hands of the Zionist war lords, no matter who has been occupying the White House.

In the present case Mr. Begin has obtained a multi-million dollar arms aid from U.S. for manufacturing Chariot tanks and other military utilities. Besides, Mr. Carter is reported to be actively considering the sale of 90 F 16 aircraft to "Israel". The U.S. President's self-imposed ban on shipment of aggressive weapons to sensitive areas did not hold him back in this case. The reason is simple, "Israeli" aggressive designs are perfectly in conformity with U.S. self-interest.

In these circumstances, the Arabs are left with only one option: to persevere in liberation struggle until total victory. President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, in his July 17 Revolution Day message, once again reminded the Arabs of this inescapable option. He said:

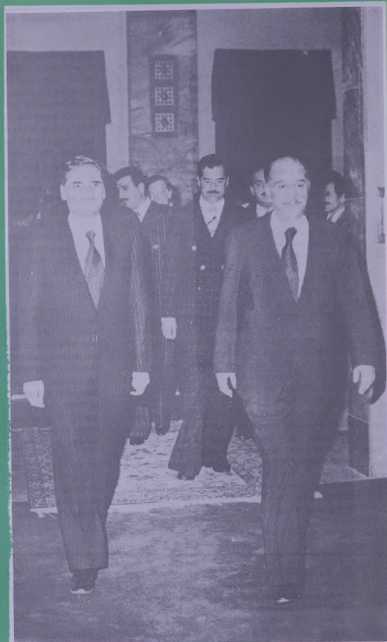
"The road to recovering lost territories and usurped rights is crystal clear and quite straight to everyone who genuinely wants to put an honest and courageous fight. It is the road of final and resolute repudiation, in both form and content, of the line of capitulationist settlement and deviationist policies. This is the road of adopting the line of liberation struggle, mobilising the broad masses, leading support to Palestinian Resistance and all fronts and confronting the imperialist interests and schemings firmly and steadfastly.

The people of the Arab homeland who could not be cajoled into submission during the last three decades, cannot be browbeaten today when time is in their favour. Begin is not an unknown quantity to the Arabs. Neither can Washington fool all the Arabs all the time.

These acts reflect the terrible gap between the American haves and have-nots, a gap created by the complicated monopoly capitalist system that is keen on plundering the poor by every open or hidden way. The sacking and looting which took place on such a large scale may be taken as a sort of protest of the poor against their poverty, or as rejection of poverty.

The Thursday events show the indignation of the poor at their lot, for they cannot afford to buy the things which their fortunate compatriots can. They also show the poor's helplessness and weakness in an exacting and highly demanding society. Needless to say that the American capitalist society provides tremendous chances to the haves and the have-nots remain outcast in the same society. The so-called affluent society is a ghetto which is out of bounds to the poor.

NEWS IN PICTURES



1.

1. Mr. Shibly al-Ayyasni (left), Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab Baath Socialist Party National Leadership, attending the banquet hosted by President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr (right) on July 17 in honour of the guests who attended the celebrations of July Revolutions.

2. President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr receiving the Special Envoy (centre) of the Shah of Iran on July 19. Also present is the Acting Foreign Minister (right) of Iraq.



4.

3. Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council, receiving on July 19 the Sudanese Minister of Youth, Mr. Zainal Abedin Mohammad Ahmed (left) and Jordanian Minister of Culture and Youth, Mr. Fawaz Sharaf (right).

4. Mr. Adnan Hussein, Minister of Planning (right) receiving the Minister of Energy of Somalia, Mr. Mohammad Sheikh Othman (left) and the accompanying delegation on July 19.

Report by
Mick Ashley

Oil prosperity lubricates the drive towards a domestic socialist goal

Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of Iraq's Revolution Command Council, has summarised the aims of the country with the declaration that "we want an independent, liberated, socialist Iraq".

The successful 1968 Revolution, led by the Arab Baath Socialist Party, created the political conditions for a planned development leading to a socialist society, and the 1972 and 1973 nationalisation of all Iraq's oil resources has provided the financial resources to take plans off the drawing board.

The moral basis for this Iraqi attempt to find an Arab road to socialism is found in the use of the name "Baath", which can be interpreted as "renaissance", implying that the Baath Party has the belief that a modern socialist society can be built on traditional Arab values.

The women of Iraq, however, must be pleased that some traditions have been discarded. They seem to be in control of most of Baghdad's petrol stations and also form a sizeable proportion of the medical profession. Equal pay for the same work is guaranteed by law, and the young women I saw working alongside male student engineers in a vocational training college suggested that they were branching out into many new fields.

Except for the more remote

country areas, polygamy is the exception rather than the rule. And, if there is any discrimination in industry, it appears to favour women. The Labour Law No. 151 of 1970, which governs conditions of work, etc., declares that "women may not be employed in jobs the conditions of which are hard and harmful".

The trade union movement is organised within the framework and leadership of the General Federation of Trade Unions, which co-operates with the authorities in the preparation of laws to safeguard and improve working conditions. There is already in existence the comprehensive Law No. 39 of 1971 which safeguards "Workers Pensions and Social Security". The unions also involve themselves in social activity, and the trade union movement has its own theatre and weekly magazine and also publishes material of a general educational nature, all printed on its own press.

The authorities appear to maintain a fairly tight rein on prices of essential foods, with current prices being publicised on television, and radio and in the newspapers. There appears to be no shortage of food, although one woman did tell me that there were occasional difficulties which meant a little more shopping around to get what she wanted.

The authorities are also trying to stop the drift into the towns by improving the social facilities for

The new refinery built at Basra



Workers at the Uthmaniyah train



Architecture receives special care

the country's five million rural population, who are needed to farm Iraq's 23 million donum (1 donum equals 2,500 square metres) of arable land.

The 1975 collapse of the "Kurdish insurgency" led by Mustafa Barzani has brought a stability to Kurdistan which has freed the whole of Iraq to concentrate on constructive plans for the future. It has also meant that the authorities have been able to implement the 1974 Law of Autonomy for the Kurdish Region, which gives the Kurds a great deal of independence within the framework of the Iraqi national structure.

The Law of Autonomy provides for a separate budget for the region, makes Kurdish the language of education for the Kurds (Arabic is also taught), and gives the Executive the authority for independent planning. The chairman of the Executive Council of the Autonomous Region, Hashim Hassan, assured me that money from the central authorities was not given for specific projects but was freely put at the disposal of the region.

I saw ample visual evidence of rebuilding to confirm his claim that they were engaged in a massive rebuilding campaign, and that the authorities were coping quite well with the thousands of Kurds returning home. The scores of Kurdish families I saw enjoying a holiday picnic in a former battle area underlined the general impression of a return to normality.

Kurdistan has been a backward rural area. The record 1977 budget announced by Mr. Hassan appears to confirm his statement to me that ample funds were being made available for developments in the region. In addition to this budget there is also revenue from local taxes, etc.

He outlined plans for the replacement of the feudal structure by a more socialist one, able to modernise farming, encourage industry and expand tourism, all on the basis of a more equitable educational system which will allow Kurdish talent to develop.

The degree of independence and executive responsibility now enjoyed by Kurdistan should make it difficult for an obstructive opposition to find a political basis for separating the Iraqi Kurds from their Arab compatriots, particularly as the Kurdish Democratic Party is involved at all levels with national planning. The end of the insurgency and the implementation of the Autonomy Law has given the Government the freedom to concentrate on internal developments in the whole country.

Sabah Kachachi, the Adviser for Industrial Affairs at the Ministry of Planning, told me that, by 1980, about 80 per cent of Iraq's economy would be in public ownership, leaving only the service industries in private hands. This would, of course, provide the Government with the economic base for a socialist Iraq. That this was the intention of the Baath Party was underlined by Zuhair al-Kaderi, Director of the Baath Party's Foreign Relations pan-Arab Leadership, when he made it clear to me that "Iraqi socialism is not for export, but we intend making it work here".

Since Mr. Kachachi had already assured me that Iraq could maintain the current production of oil for the next 100 years, it seems that there will be enough finance available to lubricate the wheels of change as Iraq moves towards its socialist goal.

Courtesy: 'Tribune'
June 17, 1977

by Marion Woolfson

The Great Disillusionment

A large headline on the front page of the Jewish Chronicle of March 18 said: "Soviet Jews fear pogrom". The following week, the Jewish Chronicle announced that "Services on behalf of Soviet Jews were held at a number of churches in London and the provinces... including Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral. The services were first suggested by the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry".

Practically every week, the Jewish Chronicle writes about "the persecution" of Soviet Jews, yet in an article headed "Jew tipped to take over from Kosygin", the London newspaper, The Guardian, on June 28 last year that "Mr. Benjamin E. Dymshitz, the only Jew in the Soviet leadership, was involved in a minor government reshuffle today which could put him in line for succession to Mr. Kosygin as Prime Minister".

Also, on July 9 last year, the Jewish Chronicle reported that "The Soviet Union's only Jewish cosmonaut, Colonel Boris Volynov is in command of the two-man Soyuz-21 spacecraft launched on Tuesday... The Jewish Chronicle was the first Western newspaper to point out that Colonel Volynov is a Jew in January, 1 1969, when he made his first space flight in command of Soyuz-5 which took part in the first link-up in space".

On the one hand, the Zionists cannot resist pointing out the achievements of Soviet Jews, and, on the other, they feel it is their duty to pretend that Jews are being "persecuted" in the Soviet Union.

The reason for this is that the Zionists are desperate to find Jewish settlers for a state from which more and more Jews are emigrating each year. Western Jews refused to emigrate to "Israel", the Arab countries (Iraq was a pioneer in this field) are beginning to invite their Jews to return, and so the Zionists have been using the most extreme methods to "persuade" the Soviet Jews to emigrate. All kinds of pressures are put on Western governments and expensive press and publicity campaigns are carried out.

A large number of Jews have left the Soviet Union, it is true, but what is worrying the Zionists is the number of Soviet Jews who are leaving "Israel" or refusing to go there.

On January 7, 1973, the British newspaper, the Sunday Express, published a report on "The Russian Jews who say they want to go back". This quoted Abraham Getz, a 46-year-old Soviet Jew in Vienna who said: "I have been a fool, just a dumb fool". The report added: "Leaving his wife and child in Riga, Abraham paid £ 600 to emigrate to 'Israel'. That was 12 months ago. But after nine months in Jaffa, he decided that life in the Soviet Republic of Latvia was much sweeter than anything Israel could offer him..."

The Guardian of April 30, 1973, reported that "eighteen Russian Jews who emigrated to 'Israel' but later sought to return to the Soviet Union, have left Vienna for home after waiting in some cases nearly two years for re-entry permits, Jewish sources said today. About 100 Soviet Jews returning from Israel are still in Vienna waiting for permission to re-enter Russia..."

"About 140 Soviet Jews who emigrated to 'Israel' but changed their minds are living in Rome..."

"The returning Jews stranded in Vienna are living close to subsistence levels... They complain that, Jewish welfare organisations have ignored them."

Similar stories were told by the London Daily Telegraph ("Soviet Jews beg to go home after disillusion with life in 'Israel'. January 15, 1973), The London Times ("Road back is story for Soviet Jews who rejected 'Israel': Vienna's 80 odd men out", February 13, 1973), The London Sunday Times ("Scandal of the Jews who want to return to Russia," February 4, 1973).

The Jewish Chronicle of September 13, 1974 under the heading of "Hundreds of Soviet Jews pour into Belgium" reported from Brussels that "some 30 Soviet Jews have been arriving in Belgium every day from 'Israel', some of them direct and others from France, West Germany and Italy. The more than 600 already here are being accommodated in the seaside resort of Westend by a Roman Catholic charitable organisation".

Nine Soviet Jews who attempted to enter Britain after having left 'Israel' were refused permission to enter by immigration officers at London's Heathrow Airport in October, 1974. According to the Jewish Chronicle of October 18, 1974, "Jewish relief and welfare organisations in London refused

to help any of the families on the ground that they could not be classified as refugees, their original place of refuge being 'Israel'..."

On November 30, 1974, The Guardian reported that there were "500 Soviet Jews in West Berlin." On January 9, 1975, The Guardian said that: "The West Berlin Senate has taken steps to deter any more Soviet Jews from settling in the city. By the beginning of December about 500 had arrived in West Berlin with the intention of staying there".

On June 20, 1975, the Jewish Chronicle reported that "1,800 Soviet Jews arrived in United States".

"Almost nine out of every ten Soviet Jews to emigrate to 'Israel' end up wanting to return to the Soviet Union, Russian authorities claim", said The Guardian of February 7, 1976, adding that "only a very small proportion of Soviet Jews were taken in by Zionist propaganda — and that even they eventually realised the truth". The report concerned seven Soviet Jews 'who all said they had returned to the Soviet Union from Israel disillusioned by what they had seen'.

On February 12, 1976, The Guardian reported from Brussels that "four Soviet Jews who had intended to emigrate to 'Israel' told a press conference here today they had been duped by 'Zionist propaganda' and wanted to return to the Soviet Union."

"Soviet Jews spurn Israel" was the heading of another article in The Guardian of May 3, 1976 which stated that the proportion of Soviet Jewish emigrants who "dropped out" in Vienna instead of going to Israel rose, the previous month, to a record 80%.

Another British newspaper, The Daily Telegraph reported, from New York on June 4, 1976, that a Jewish group had complained "that other world Jewish relief organisations were ostracising Soviet Jewish refugees who had been unable to settle in 'Israel'".

"The refugees were now in 'dire straits' in Ostia Lido near Rome. Thirty of them have begun a hunger strike to press for visas to travel to the United States. The Jews were allowed by the Soviet authorities to travel to Israel two years ago but they left 'Israel' and went to Italy seeking United States visas.

"Rabbi Chaim Stauber, chairman of the New York group, the Rav Tov Committee, said: 'These unfortunate human beings are being ostracised by the established Jewish relief organisations...

because they have first tried and made a genuine attempt at settling in 'Israel' but, for reasons beyond their control, failed."

He added: "If such organisations, who raise millions of dollars in America to aid Soviet Jewish refugees, continue with this misguided policy, is it any wonder that more than 60 per cent of Russian Jewish emigrants arriving in Vienna are now refusing to continue on to Israel?"

Yet another British newspaper, The Observer, reported from Jerusalem on September 26, 1976, that "The 'Israeli' Government and leaders of American Jewry are considering ways of making it harder for Soviet Jewish emigrants to drop out when they reach Vienna and fly to the United States instead of Israel... anything from 40 to 80 per cent of them never intend to come to 'Israel'. As soon as they arrive in the West, they seek entry to the United States... A committee set up in July by the 'Israeli' Government, the Jewish Agency (which encourages and settles immigrants in Israel) and American Jewry, is due to report next month. It is expected to recommend withdrawing assistance from those who want to go to the U.S."

On February 2 this year, The Guardian commented from Rome on the colony of between 500 and 600 Soviet Jews who "did not like Israel and came to Rome about 18 months ago under the illusion that Rome would be the gateway to America for them..." The report added that "Rome's Jewish community, a well-organised group of about 20,000 Italians, wants nothing to do with them".

Yet another British newspaper, The Sunday Times reported on February 20 this year that "A group of Soviet Jews, who emigrated to Israel, and are now stranded in Vienna hoping to return home, issued an appeal last week... They say their misfortunes began when, moved by our petty-bourgeois psychology, we emigrated to 'Israel'... They found class struggle, human relations warped by the power of money and an inefficient government... and they were expected to become 'cannon fodder'. They realised that their true homeland was the Soviet Union."

The fact that the Soviet Jews who left 'Israel' are refused any assistance by the Zionist organisations and are only helped by Jewish groups such as Rav Tov, which are strongly anti-Zionist, surely proves just how "humanitarian" Zionism is. It is not the least bit interested in destitute Jews who have been duped by Zionism and is only concerned with Jews who are prepared to carry out a programme of settler-colonisation in Palestine.

FACTS ABOUT PALESTINE

Settlement and Land Expropriation

COLLECTIVE DETENTION

Resistance in Palestine

The general Arab uprising in occupied lands has taken a new turn. Just one month ago the whole West Bank was raging. As usual, more settlers were flocking from abroad. Lands were being confiscated. In Nablus, Genein and Tol Karem in the occupied lands the Arab masses have declared their rejection to the continuous expropriation onslaught that seems to have no end. They met with Israeli army units face to face. The more the enemy was resorting to suppression, the more the Arab resistance was gaining momentum.

Last year, the number of Arab detainees in Israeli prisons reached 6000, the majority of whom were kept with no charges or trials. 27 prisoners did not stand the savagery of Israeli torture and were reported dead. This year collective detention has remarkably increased in number. Only since last month large numbers of students who participated in the late uprising were arrested and kept until after their exams were over. All other sectors of Arabs are also being arrested and subjected to torture.

It is not to be imagined that Israeli prisons are the same as in any other countries where fascism rules. In occupied Palestine prisons are particularly macabre. To cite names like Ramallah, Tol Mond, Asqalan, Kfar Yuna, Tol Karem, Beer Sheba, Masquba and Sarfand is citing some of the prisons in which Red Crescent Agents are never allowed. Partly because in these prisons institu-



Palestinian detainees in one of the Zionist torture prisons

tion after June 9, when the announcement came from New York that the terrorist Maer Cahan and his Gush Emunim were prepared to go back to occupied Palestine to continue the "redemption of the land" (Sic) and throw out more thousands of Arabs, the resistance was stepped up. The rabid Rabbi is (fixed) this time on Nablus city. It is also known that the Gush Emunim terrorist organization has a "strong initiative" to add 20 more settlements to the 100 already established in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

However, in occupied Palestine itself more donoms are being confiscated and more houses razed. On June 11 last, 400 donoms in Genein and 1000 donoms in Shweika village nearest to Tol Karem were evacuated, being chosen as a good location for settlers. Similarly, in Akka the judaization of the city has kept on a steady pace. It was confirmed that hundreds of Arab houses were also evacuated and demolished, building new houses to be inhabited by Israelis' alone.

tional torture is the common thing, partly because they are made to receive treble their capacity. Nonetheless, in there very few people succeeded in going out again.

ON HUNGER STRIKE

On 5 January last a small hunger strike started in Asqalan prison, extended to neighbouring prisons and then covered the whole occupied lands. It lasted for nearly 3 months. This month a similar strike has already started on July 2. The Israelis' however, having witnessed what troubles these strikes can give rise to, are now declaring a state of emergency. Reports coming from occupied Palestine are confirming that all Israeli security people, in addition to armoured cars and tanks have been called out to cow the expected demonstrators who are sustaining the prisoners.

MORE SETTLEMENTS STILL

But prisons and torture are not only the direct



The Zionist morality. Build more Zionist settlements and force the Arabs to live in tents.

Palestine Revolution triumph in the face of strong repression inside and vicious scheming outside? It is self-evident that it will. It is true the Arabs suffer what no other people could have suffered under Israeli liquidation plans. However, it is equally true they have come to realize that their survival rests on their determination not to give in to the repeated attempts at their extermination. Whether or not the Israelis' realize that the Palestinians would never give up is of no importance. The Palestinians themselves know very well that the Israelis' have gone too far to realize this. They stick to their guns as the only alternative left. In fact, it is not only now that the Palestine Revolution is aware of the inevitable gun as the solution. It has been so since 1948, despite setbacks. And so it will last either in the form of actual armed resistance or the violent mass demonstrations that never subsided for long years.

Countdown on Peace

An example of how the Israelis' are working for peace is Galilee! Simple, out of 900 donoms, Galilee's total land area, the Israelis' are planning to get 750 donoms for themselves. What is even worse is that these 750 donoms are virtually inhabited, which means that tens of thousands of Arabs are now preparing to 'clear out'. Galilee, however, is only a tiny example of the largest and cruelest settlement campaign (or peace, in Israeli terms) in modern times.

Perhaps chattering about Israeli settlement at present has become 'outdated'. Although the theory lying behind settlement is sufficient to demonstrate that the Israelis' never have peace in mind when they set out to proclaim it against the "Arab desire to annihilate the Israelis" (Sic). And even in case the Arabs want to do such a thing — however ridiculous to think about — they would better stop Israeli expansion up and down Arab land, lest they eventually, regardless of their number, should come up against the real threat (if things keep in this line), of having Israel's becoming capable of "annihilating the Arabs"! In all cases, it is quite clear who has the upper hand at this moment, who is fast building tens of new settlements and cities on the other's land, who is being driven out.

Nonetheless, start the count.

Peace is very appealing the world over. "Who wants war?" Like anybody else both Israelis' and Arabs would stop to ask. However, if peace is the only alternative to war, then it should be achieved on a just basis: no one wants to throw the Jews into the sea as claimed, but also no one will have his land presented to foreign occupiers. Hence a democratic solution seems to be the only way. The Israelis' talk peace all the time but in reality they are working on 150 new settlements (on 1967 occupied Arab territories) to be complete before the end of 1978.

Putting southern Lebanon on one side we find that by means of the 112 settlements already established since 1967 (an announcement made by Mr. Rabin himself) in addition to the 150 new ones and the unspecified number of cities under way, the Israelis' are putting the world face to face with a fait accompli! Naturally any attempt at just mentioning the possibility of undoing these 262 settlements verges on a suicidal attempt at bringing all the anti-semitic accusations of all time to bear on the Arabs: "My God where would the poor Jews go?" for example.

It is quite clear what kind of peace the Israelis' are after.

ARTS

Ata Sabri is one of Iraq's leading painters. During a trip to the neighbourhood of Mosul, northern Iraq, he was shocked to see the traditional handicrafts disappear in a place where they had been flourishing even 15 years ago. The idea of setting up the Institute of Popular Arts and Handicrafts occurred to him. Ata Sabri had the necessary competence and influence to make this task a success.

He opened some sort of a training centre for carpet weaving with the aim of producing

teachers in that art. Starting with terms of two months, these sessions, within a very short time, extended to four, then to six months, and finally to a complete academic year.

In 1962, a second centre was opened for the teaching of pottery and ceramics. Then followed a third centre for sculpture and a fourth one for graphic arts.

These four centres were scattered all over Baghdad. Attempts were made to amalgamate them into one complete unit where all the different disciplines would be

Training Facilities for Popular Arts and Handicrafts



Embroidered blanket



Pottery jar



Carpet weaving



Arab rural costume

brought together. The newly constructed school buildings in West Baghdad area were made available by the Ministry of Education to the amalgamated "Handicrafts Training Centre", (now attached to the Ministry of Information).

Handicrafts Training Centre

In 1970, on the occasion of the July 17 Revolution celebrations the Handicrafts Training Centre was inaugurated. The Centre comprises the following sections:

- Pottery and Ceramics.
- Tapestry (carpet and hand-weaving).
- Drawing and Graphic arts.
- Sculpture and metalwork.
- Arabic calligraphy and designs (decorative script).
- Traditional and regional costumes making.

Right from the beginning, this centre was open to all. No limitation in respect to age or qualifications was set. This in fact shows how revolutionary the concept was.

In this newly populated area, the Centre could play, to a cer-

tain extent, the role of a popular cultural centre, which in fact was the intention of its founder. This role was further enhanced by the possibility of using premises of the Centre for film-projections and social contacts.

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr showed great interest in the Centre. He visited the Centre twice and also donated 28,000 dinars for the purchase of equipment, particularly electric kilns and wheels.

The teaching staff of the different sections are graduates of the Academy of Fine Arts Institute of Baghdad. Some of them graduated from European Institutes. The number of students varies according to the sections. Drawing and calligraphy attract a greater number of students, whereas in the wood-carving section there is only half that number. These sections are open to both boys and girls, but they are mixed only in the graphic arts sections. The dress (costume-making) section is exclusively feminine.

Institute of Popular Arts and Handicrafts

After achieving success in setting up the Handicrafts Training Centre, Sabri took the initiative for establishing the Institute of Popular Arts and Handicrafts. In 1972 the authorities seconded 50 master-craftsmen specialised in the various handicrafts to impart training to young students at the Institute. The craftsmen brought their tools and weaving-looms with them for working in the Institute. The Institute is housed in the premises of the Handicrafts Centre.

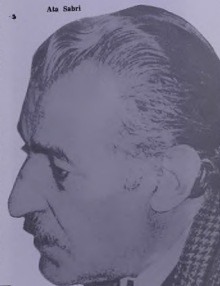
Most of these craftsmen are weavers; some of them are weaving silk, others wool. The linen-cloth is woven and then used for traditional costumes, but may also serve modern purposes, such as napkins, for instance. The coarse wool is used for the weaving of carpets or blankets; this varies according to the tradition of the different parts of Iraq where the artisans hail from.

The Institute also utilises the skill of an old craftsman who does fine brickwork. He is very good at decorative designs and inscriptions which usually adorned the frontage of ancient Islamic monuments. The same tools have remained in use from the period of the Abbasid Caliphate. All this evidently shows a conservative spirit. But the director of the Institute intends to encourage the artisans to work in their own social environment, so that the transformation caused by modern life will be in harmony with the whole environment. The Government also gives great importance to the preservation of the national cultural heritage.

The Institute has been able to arouse keen interest of Iraqi as well as foreign personalities, and visitors there are always numerous. The Institute maintains a permanent exhibition at its headquarters and a shop at Sa'adoun Street of the city. The products were exhibited in Bari, Italy, and also at the University of Martin Luther in Halle, in the German Democratic Republic. A project for a mobile exhibition is now under study.

B. Aubré

Ata Sabri



by Sa'adi al-Hadithi

To understand folksongs and enjoy them, it is necessary to know the song in its original form, before it is touched by the hand that moves it far away from its spirit. By doing so, we put a sound foundation for creating the true

The Jouza, a version of the Rababa



national song that holds the spirit of our people.

The Iraqi folksong, the legacy of the oldest culture of the world, has not been properly known. Here I intend to point out the factors that affect its shape. I found some of these songs performed in a certain style in the marshes of southern

The Iraqi Folk song

Iraq and in a different style in the north-west part. This made me reflect seriously on the causes of this change in the songs' modes.

Iraq is divided into three main parts topographically. The mountainous area, in the extreme north, the desert and the hilly lands in the northern half, and the southern half which is almost flat whether it is a dry land, marshes, or vast water stretches. The flow of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers in the southern part is very slow. The sluggish flow of the waters in this area, the blue-green colour of these waters, the dark colour of the dry land and the yellowish green colour of the vast areas of lands covered with reeds, all these elements combine together to produce a gloomy atmosphere that affects and moulds the tastes of the individuals in the area. The north-west of Iraq is different. The whole area is covered with sand except for a narrow strip which is the Euphrates valley. There, the river happily flows southward. The rocks are white and clear, the trees on both sides are green and luxuriant and everything is going quickly and joyfully. The contrast between these two environments has affected the character of the people in both areas. Besides, the ups and downs of the land in the northern half are clearly

reflected in the way the inhabitants of these areas sing. (I am talking about the Arabic song only).

In addition to the climatic factors that affect the shaping of the folk song, there is another equally important factor — the social environment. The economic structure in the southern

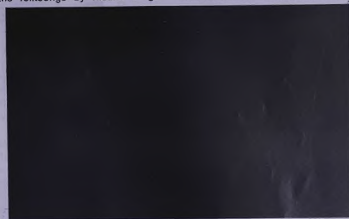
part was based on semi-feudal relations. The peasants were obliged to stay on the land and if they wanted to leave the land they had no other alternative but to work for another feudal lord. While in the north-west the rela-

tion is a tribal one, the sheikh had no direct influence on his tribesmen. There were no economic obligations tying the peasant to the land. Thus the individual was not obliged to stay in one spot. The tent, being light and easy to carry around and repitch makes it more easy for the inhabitant to change his dwelling abode and move to another area whenever he is exposed to any pressure. This explains the fact that the inhabitants of the north-west are more high-spirited as compared with the inhabitants of the southern parts. The severe life the Iraqi peasants had lived in the southern part produced a continuous moaning that is apparent in the way they sing. The style of the

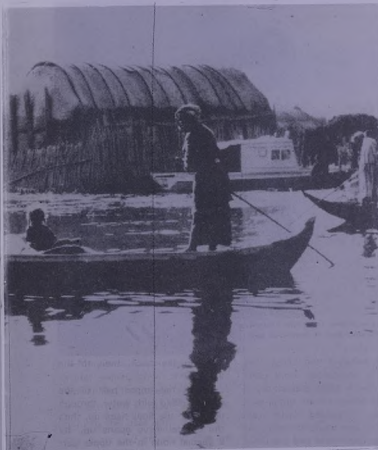
peasants' songs was imposed even on the feudal lords themselves, who in their turn contributed to refining and developing the folksongs by means of ga-

thering the best among the folk singers around themselves.

All these factors combined to stamp the Iraqi folksong with a sad tone. Besides, all those pion-



Scene from the marshes



eer singers who presented their songs on radio and T.V. were from the southern part of Iraq. Thus, their style became a standard for the Iraqi folksongs due to the fact that singers from the north had not been interested in presenting their songs through these media until the last ten years or so.

To explain with examples. The marshes are vast water areas. People live on hunting or fishing. The only means of transportation is the "Mashhoof" which is a long narrow boat like the "Gondola". People sometimes move from house to house by this mashhoof which is pushed by a long stick with a swinging movement of the body. Thus the songs go in accordance with this movement.

In the towns or in the suburbs they become faster and more complicated as is the case with the life of the towns. (People have definite time to reach their offices).

In the north-west the songs are rendered with folk dances. The rhythm of the river, the topography, and the pastoral life are quite shown here.

HISTORY

During the Abbasid times the Arabs had their own inventions and discoveries in medicine, geography, chemistry, physics, practical mechanics and other scientific subjects. This article deals only with a particular branch of mechanics invented by Ismail Abul Iz Ibnul Razzaz al-Jazari.

In the 6th-7th century of Hijra this remarkable scientist came to be known to his people as an inventor. It is understood from his family name "al-Jazari" that he belongs originally to al-Jazira, to the north-west of Iraq, near the Iraqi-Turkish borders. He invented his devices in Diar Bakir. Although his book, in applied mechanics, is regarded one of the best of the Islamic works of science, he was not mentioned by historians. However, in the introduction of al-Jazari's book one can find a few lines concerning the author's life. It is mentioned that he had served the Royal Urtuq family since 570 Hijra, and King Mahmud had asked him to write the book. Al-Jazari finished his work in 602 Hijra (1205 A.D.). Besides the scientific value of that book which contains fifty devices, it is regarded as an important source to study the Islamic drawing of the author's time.

Of the fifty devices mentioned by al-Jazari, only one device will be drawn in this article.

AL-JAZARI'S ROBOT

Ibnul Razzaz in his third example of simple robots, divided the subject into two chapters; in the first he gave a general idea of the device, while in the second the inside parts were explained.

As fig. (1) explains, the general form of the device, it takes the shape of a standing youth holding a ewer, topped by a bird. In the right hand, while its spout made in a shape of serpent's head. In the youth's left

How Arabs Thought of Robots

By Majid al-Shams

hand there is a towel, a mirror and a comb. The well dressed youth is made of copper; the head made movable. The ewer is also made of copper.

Al-Jazari explains in detail how to make each part of the device, but here only a short description of the internal parts are being given.

In the place of the head there is a cone placed on a fine tube that passes water to the inside

ing them makes sharp angle with the plate. When the valve opens up, the water flows into a lower vessel, then comes into the ewer. The conical valve, provided on top, with a projection that lets a float to move sliding on it. On the sliding float there is a ring with which a string is tied. The left hand is made movable and its rear part is provided with a float. The load is tied to a string that passes on a fine pulley, fixed



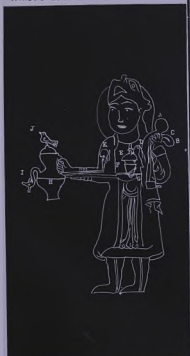
Fig. 1 — Al-Jazari robot: after a manuscript was written in the same year, he finished his book

in the place of the chest. The chest is separated from parts below by a plate pierced by a conical valve of an outer part (female) provided with two holes — one made to be above the separator plate and the other below it — so that the line join-

ing them makes sharp angle with the float. When the valve opens up, the water flows into a lower vessel, then comes into the ewer. The conical valve, provided on top, with a projection that lets a float to move sliding on it. On the sliding float there is a ring with which a string is tied. The left hand is made movable and its rear part is provided with a float. The load is tied to a string that passes on a fine pulley, fixed

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through the valve and the lower vessel then to the ewer. The ewer is provided with a plate to separate the inside horizontally, into two parts. The spout is made in the shape of a bent siphon. So, when water flows to the upper part of the ewer and reaches certain height the siphon empties it wholly — when water flows one can use it to wash. Al-Jazari makes his devices functional; he provides the right hand with a tube that ends with a whistle and the tube passes into the neck of the ewer. So, when water comes to the upper part of the ewer, it sucks the air away to flow through the tube as the whistle sounds like a bird.



More over, when the level of water comes down the sliding float pulls the string and makes the left hand to move down presenting the user with the towel, the mirror and the comb after he washes.



Kurds performing a musical recital at the Iraqi Cultural Centre in London.

How desert music invaded Europe

Lynn ten Kate
(Observer, London)

FIVE thousand years ago, harps, lyres and lutes were buried with the dead in the royal cemetery outside Baghdad. They were already sophisticated instruments, and were the early ancestors of instruments brought to London recently by a group of Iraqi musicians who came to celebrate the opening of their new cultural centre.

Music from the Middle East has had an influence on our own classical music, and can be traced to three main historical events.

Among the court musicians in Baghdad in the eighth century was Ziryab, perhaps the greatest master of the lute. But intrigues at court forced him and his large family into exile in Andalusia in Spain, which had been captured by the Arabs. His influence can still be heard today in Spanish music.

The Crusaders were very impressed with the martial music they heard in the East and so they brought back to western Europe kettle-drums, tambourines, cymbals and trumpets.

When the invading Turks reached Austria in the sixteenth century, they brought the sanitar, a zither that eventually developed into the harpsichord, and so is the forerunner of the piano. Even bagpipes, associated now mainly with Scotland, originally came from the Middle East.

The joy and excitement of the Iraqi musicians playing in their cultural centre bubbled over. They erupted onto the street outside, and people shopping were treated to a concert of music normally heard by Bedouins in the deserts and Kurds in the mountains of Iraq.

Comoro: Target of Destabilisation

by M. Salama

Once again the tiny state of Comoro has attracted attention of political observers.

The aftermath of the abortive coup staged in June this year has added to the growing interest in this strategic archipelago.

Situated in the Indian Ocean, midway between African mainland and Malagasy, the archipelago is composed of four islands (Grand Comoro, Angiwan, Mohili, and Mayot) and stretches over an area of 2171 kms. Its population of 300 thousands persons is of Arab, Chinese, Malagasy, Persian, Indian and African origin. A French minority also lives in the islands.

The majority of the population is Moslem. Arabic is the lingua franca, while Swahili is the business language.

The word Comoro may have been derived from either the Portuguese or the Arabic language. When the Portuguese first came to the islands, the Karta volcano there was active. "Kamamur (fire) they exclaimed! The other explanation is that the first Arabs who landed at the archipelago were fascinated by the beauty of the land that excels the splendour of Tahiti and Markiz islands. In appreciation, they called the islands "Qamar" (moon).

The location of the Comoro Islands in the middle of the Mozambique straits gave the archipelago a strategic importance. In the 19th century, Britain, France and Portugal tried to occupy these islands which served as a communication centre for major maritime states. Finally, France occupied Mayot island in 1841. By 1909, all the islands came under French occupation. In 1958, France declared the entire Comoro archipelago as a French overseas province.

In a historic session in Moroni, the capital, the Comoran Parliament unilaterally proclaimed

the independence of the Comoro islands on July 6, 1975. The unilateral resolution came as a rejection of the French plan for "independence", because that plan ensured territorial concessions to the capitalists and feudal lords of Mayot island. Other than being unfair, those privileges sought to undermine the territorial integrity of the archipelago.

There are seven political parties in this little state. These parties, which range from the right to the centre to the radical left, are: The People's Party, The Democratic Grouping of the Comoran People, The Patriotic Movement for the Liberation of the Comoran Islands, The Socialist Party, The Mahuria Popular Party and the Democratic Union Party.

The Mayot island, which is rich in minerals and inhabited by a French majority, poses the thorniest problem to the state. It is led by the Mahuria Party which regards the island an integral part of France. Mayot is still outside the framework of the Comoro state and maintains indirect relations with France. It is administered by a local government controlled by the Mahuria Party. The Comoro state demands the incorporation of Mayot into its sovereign jurisdiction.

The abortive coup of last June is the second of its kind since the independence of the islands. Two weeks after independence, Ahmed Suweilih led an unsuccessful coup. Imperialists are constantly exerting pressures to destabilise the government and the state.

The strategic importance of the Comoro archipelago became greater with America's growing interest in the Indian Ocean. America particularly wants a foothold in the Comoro islands to threaten Mozambique and the entire east African coast.

IRAQ AGAINST NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

In a message to the international symposium on the devastating aftermath of atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in the Second World War, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr expounded Iraq's stand towards the use and stockpiling of nuclear weapons.

President Bakr said: "Iraq is living up to its responsibility in warding off the consequences arising from the use of nuclear weapons and is actively defending the causes of freedom and peace in the world".

The President emphasised that Iraq was firmly supporting the efforts conducive to the prohibition of use and stockpiling of nuclear weapons.

The message was read by Mr. Amer Abdullah, member of the Presidium of the Iraqi National Council for Peace and Solidarity and Minister of State. The symposium was recently held in Japan.

SYMPOSIUM ON INFORMATION COOPERATION

Mr. Taha Yassin Hassan, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Information, led Iraq's delegation to the meetings of the Arab Information Permanent Committee held in Tunis, Tunisia, on July 26.

The Committee whose meetings lasted for four days, discussed means of promoting the information media and a uniform plan for Arab information cooperation with Latin American countries. It also examined ways and means of further promoting the cooperation in the field of information between Arab and African radio and television establishments.

ARABIAN GULF TELECOM. CONF.

Mr. Saadoun Ghaidan, RCC member and Minister of Communications, opened in Baghdad on July 24, the first conference of telecommunications for Arabian Gulf countries.

During its 5-day sessions, the conference dealt with topics related to channelling of the telecommunications system so that all member countries can pass on their calls automatically. Telegraph and telephone tariffs and certain other technical matters were also discussed.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DELEGATION VISITS MOSCOW

An Iraqi delegation led by Mr. Mohammed Nayif Abdul Rahman, chairman of General Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce, arrived in

Moscow on July 20 on a visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Federation of Chambers of Commerce.

The delegation which also includes representatives from the Iraqi trade establishments was due to conduct talks with the Soviet officials concerned for promoting economic relations between the two countries and discussing means of increasing volumes of trade exchange.

333 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ARAB AND FOREIGN STUDENTS

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has offered 333 scholarships to students from fraternal Arab and friendly foreign countries to study in Iraqi universities during the forthcoming academic year.

The countries covered by the allocation are Egypt, Uganda, Bahrain, Yemen Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Mauritania, Nigeria, Jordan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Central Africa, Mali, Malaysia, Guinea, Ghana, Tanzania, and People's Congo.

PEASANT DELEGATION OFF TO GDR

A delegation from the General Federation of Cooperative Peasants Associations left Baghdad on July 22 for Berlin on a three-week visit to the German Democratic Republic at the invitation of its German counterpart.

While there the delegation will acquaint itself with German experiments in the field of agricultural cooperatives and will hold talks with the officials concerned on bilateral relations and exchange of expertise.

IRAQ ATTENDS SHIPBUILDING MEETING

Dr. Atwi Shakir Hamadi, Director-General of Foreign Relations and Investments at the Ministry of Oil represented Iraq in the recent 3rd extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly of the Arab Company for Shipbuilding and Maintenance held in Bahrain on July 22.

The meeting was arranged for discussing the possibility of raising the ceiling of the company's capital from 300 million to 340 million dollars so as to enable the company to build a dry dock.

The company is a joint venture of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

