


Iraq Today

No. 33, Vol. II

January 16-31, 1977

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Programming
Oil
Production



Adam's Tree At Qurna, near Basrah
Date-palm plantations at Qurna where
the Tigris and Euphrates converge



Fortnightly Magazine
 Vol. II No. 33
 January 16-31, 1977
 Published by the
 Ministry of Information,
 Directorate General of
 Information
 Baghdad, Iraq

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 Depository number at the National Library — 226/1973
 (al-Hurra Printing House — Baghdad, Iraq)

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 Information,
 Baghdad, Iraq
 Designer: Waleed Sheet
 Photos: INA

EDITORIAL

An Expanded Leadership for an Ever Expanding Base

Three years have elapsed since the 8th. Regional Congress of the ABSP was held. During these years, as before them, the party has made breakthroughs in many fields and has relentlessly combated imperialism wherever it rears its head in the Arab homeland. With the steadfastness of a revolutionary party that it is, it has been able to overcome the numerous difficulties inherited from the past and open new paths for the liberation of the people.

With its responsibilities becoming ramified and with its base enlarged as a consequence of the huge number of the masses embracing its principles, the party has found it necessary to re-structure its regional leadership.

The Secretary General of the Regional Leadership, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, said while addressing the recently held extraordinary session of the party, "The revolution led by the ABSP shoulders immense responsibilities both on national and pan-Arab levels, particularly in these critical conditions through which our nation and its revolutionary movement are now passing, faced with imperialist, Zionist and reactionary conspiracies and designs as well as the policies and tendencies of appeasement and bargaining... By reason of the party's mass activities and the widespread revolutionary gains it has achieved, the party's organizational base has greatly expanded. Large numbers of militants of various classes have joined the ranks of the party".

Adhering to the principle of collective leadership, the party has added new members to the Regional Leadership, increasing their number from thirteen to twenty-one.

Since its inception, or to put it more correctly, since it was an idea not yet incorporated in an organization, the party has been thinking and acting in terms of the whole Arab homeland. It has fought regionalism as much as it fought imperialism, but the region that it leads at the moment must be a model of how progress and liberation could be achieved by the other regions should they view their problems and resolve them the way the ABSP in Iraq is doing.

To give such an example, and steer Iraq on the way of further progress and consequently, for attaining further ability to serve the Arabs, the party has entrusted men of proven capacity and loyalty to their nation with the added responsibilities of the Regional Leadership.

The appointment of the members of the Regional Leadership, who do not have defined Ministerial responsibilities, as State Ministers aims at strengthening the relation, in a qualitative way, between the political leadership and state activities. This will allow all the members of the political leadership to participate effectively in leading the state activities.



**ABSP Holds
Extraordinary
Session**

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ENLARGED

The 8th Regional Congress of the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) held in Baghdad on January 10 an extraordinary session attended by Mr. Michel Aflaq, ABSP Secretary General, Mr. Shibly al-Aysami, ABSP Assistant Secretary General, President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Secretary of ABSP Regional Leadership, Iraq, Mr. Saddam Hussein Deputy Regional Secretary and Member of the National and Regional leaderships of the party.

Opening the session President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr said, "As a result of the conditions of the revolutionary work and the national and pan-Arab responsibilities of the party, the whole party and its Regional Leadership are shouldering heavier assignments — something that prompted the Regional Leadership to propose to increase its membership from 13 to 21. This proposal has been approved, according to the constitution of the party, by the National Leadership".

The election of the 8 new members was conducted through open candidacy, secret ballot and according to the democratic principles and traditions usually followed by the ABSP conferences.

The newly elected members of the Regional Leadership were: Messrs. Saadoun Shaker, Jaafar Qassim Hamoudi, Abdullah Fadhil, Flayeh Hassan al-Jassim, Tareq Aziz, Adnan Khairullah, Hikmat Ibrahim and Mohammed Ayesch.

Three of the newly elected members were candidate members of the ABSP Regional Leadership, namely Messrs. Shaker, Hamoudi and Aziz.

The Regional Leadership is now composed of the following:

Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Regional Secretary,
and Saddam Hussein, Deputy Regional Secretary.

Members:

Izzat Ibrahim, Izzat Mustafa, Taha Yassin Ramadanhan, Na'eem Haddad, Tayeh Abdul Karim, Mohammed Mahjoub, Adnan Hussein, Ghanem Abdul Jalil, Taher Tawfiq, Abdul Fattah Mohammed Amin, Hassan Ali, Saadoun Shaker, Jaafar Qassim Hamoudi, Abdullah Fadhil, Flayeh Hassan, Tareq Aziz, Adnan Khairullah, Hikmat Ibrahim and Mohammed Ayesch.

The following persons have been elected, in the same session, as candidate members of the ABSP Regional Leadership: Shafiq Abdul Jabbar, Zuhair Yehyia, Mohammed Hamza, Burhaniddin Abdul Rahman and Kamil Yassin.

New Ministers: Reshuffle of Portfolios

Three Republican Decrees were issued on January 23 last appointing a number of Cabinet Ministers and Ministers of State and relieving one Minister of his portfolio.

In the first decree, the following cabinet appointments were made:

1. Dr. Izzat Mustafa as Minister of Municipalities.
2. Hassan Ali as Acting Minister of Foreign Trade in addition to his original portfolio as Minister of Home Trade.
3. Dr. Najeh Mohammed Khaleel as Minister of Industry and Minerals.
4. Dr. Mohammed Sadeq al-Mashat as Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
5. Babakr al-Beshdari as Minister of Labour and Social Affairs.
6. Burhaniddin Abdul Rahman as Minister of Youth.
7. Hamed Alwan as Minister of State in charge of Foreign Affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

In the second decree, eleven Ministers of State were appointed. They are:

1. Na'eem Haddad.
2. Ghanem Abdul Jalil who is to assume the chairmanship of the office of the R.C.C. Vice-Chairman.
3. Taher Tawfiq.
4. Abdul Fattah Mohammed Amin.
5. Saadoun Shaker.
6. Jaafar Qassim Hamoudi.
7. Abdullah Fadhil.
8. Flayeh Hassan al-Jassim.
9. Staff Lt. Col. Adnan Khairullah.
10. Hikmat Ibrahim.
11. Mohammed Ayesch.

In the third decree, Anwar Abdul Qader was relieved of his portfolio as Minister of Municipalities and appointed Ambassador at the Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Pak Sung Chul, member of the Politbureau of the ruling Workers' Party and Prime Minister of Democratic Korea, and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad on January 24 after paying a 12-day official visit to Iraq in response to an invitation from the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP). The Korean leader arrived here on January 15, was received and seen off by Comrade Shibly al-Aysami, Assistant Secretary General of the ABSP National Leadership.



Korean people firmly Support Arab struggle

Party-level talks were held between the Korean Worker's Party and ABSP delegations on January 16. Mr. Shibly al-Aysami, ABSP Assistant Secretary General led the ABSP side to the official talks, while the Korean side was led by Premier Pak. The talks were frank and cordial and reflected agreement on the issues dealt with.

Mr. Shibly al-Aysami expressed gratitude for the Korean support to the ABSP and the July 17 Revolution. He also appreciated Korea's backing for the Arab just struggle against imperialism and Zionism. Stressing the importance of co-operation and solidarity between the two countries, Aysami reaffirmed Iraq's stand for the re-unification of Korea. He explained why Iraq firmly rejects the tabled capitulationist settlements pointing out that they aimed at nothing but the liquidation of the Palestinian issue.

Mr. Pak spoke of the Korean democratic and just struggle against imperialism and pledged his full support for the Palestinian people's right to restore their homeland.

During its stay in Iraq, the Korean delegation was also received by President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, Secretary of the Regional Leadership of the ABSP. They also met with Mr. Saddam Hussein, the Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and held official talks that covered matters of common interest. The delegation visited various parts of the country to acquaint itself with the progressive efforts exerted by the July 17 Revolution for building a new prosperous socialist Iraq.

During the audience given by the President to the delegation, Mr. Pak handed President Bakr a written message from President Kim Il Sung and views were exchanged on the situation in the Arab region and the world at large. Matters relating to common struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction were also touched upon.

In a joint communique, released on January 25, the two countries demanded the full and unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist occupation forces

from all occupied Arab territories and the restitution of the Arab Palestinian people's historical and national rights. Realizing the expansionist aggressive nature of Zionism they reiterated support to the United Nations resolution branding Zionism as a racist movement and a form of racial discrimination.

The Communique said the people and government of Iraq "support the revolutionary cause of the Korean people for achieving durable peace in Korea. They support the demand for the dissolving of the command of the UN forces and withdrawing United States forces from South Korea as ruled by the resolution on Korea adopted in the UN 30th session".

Iraq and Korea noted with satisfaction the development of their mutual relations and expressed their intention to bolster their economic and technical co-operation. The Korean side lauded Iraq's effective contribution to the Arab struggle for national independence, justice and peace in the Middle East and the world.

The two sides proclaimed full support to the struggle of the peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America against imperialist colonialism and racism. Praising the Non-aligned Movement as a positive factor in international relations, the two sides expressed satisfaction for the results of the 5th. Non-aligned Summit Conference of Colombo.

Iraq and Korea called for the withdrawal of US military bases and forces in Asia, stressing the need to keep the Indian Ocean as a peace zone free from military presence.

They urged closer economic co-operation among Third World countries and demanded the creation of a just International Economic Order.



Vice-President Taha Muhyiddin Ma'arouf presenting a replica of silver date-palm to Pakistani President Fazl Elahi Chaudhry

Ma'arouf Visits Pakistan, Japan, Indonesia

Towards strengthening Iraq's cooperation with the South-Asian and Far-Eastern nations in the political, economic and cultural domains, in addition to contributing to the efforts for the realization of world peace and security, and for the establishment of a new economic order and the attainment of just and legitimate rights of peoples the world over, Vice-President Taha Muhyiddin Ma'arouf undertook an extensive tour on January 17. His delegation comprised, among others, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Planning. He arrived in Pakistan on January 17 and began his tour of Japan from January 19. On the conclusion of his tour of Japan, the Vice-President left for Indonesia on January 24.

Vice-President Ma'arouf arrived in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, on January 17. During his

Strengthening Relations with S-Asian, Far-Eastern Nations

2-day official visit, he conferred with Pakistani President Fazl Elahi Chaudhry who re-affirmed his country's full support to the Arab cause and its serious desire for furthering friendly relations and genuine cooperation with Iraq.

Official talks were held between the Iraqi delegation, headed by Vice-President Ma'arouf and the Pakistani delegation led by Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. These talks, which were marked by a spirit



Iraqi and Pakistani sides holding talks on 18 January in Islamabad.

of cordiality and understanding, covered bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab homeland and international affairs.

To strengthen mutual co-operation, Iraq and Pakistan signed an agreement on trade, economic and technical cooperation. They also signed a protocol providing for the creation of a joint Ministerial Committee for preparing plans and proposals for the promotion of co-operation in trade, agricultural and industrial fields as well as in the training of technical cadres and the utilization of manpower.

In a joint statement released at the end of Vice-President Ma'arouf's visit, Iraq and Pakistan re-affirmed their conviction that no just and durable peace could be realized in the Arab region without the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist forces from all occupied Arab territories and

without the full restitution of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine. The two sides expressed deep concern over the explosive situation arising from the continued violation of human rights by the Zionist occupation authorities and their ceaseless efforts to Judaize Jerusalem. Hence their appeal to the international society to prevent the continuing displacement of the Arab population who suffer economic and social discrimination as well as physical coercion.

The Pakistani Premier outlined the steps taken by his government to normalize relations with India on the basis of the Simla Agreement and gave a picture of the development in his country's relations with Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The Vice-President of Iraq welcomed the progress made in the achievement of harmony and reconciliation in Southern Asia.

The two sides hailed the victories of the liberation movements in Southern Africa, reiterated their condemnation of the racist regimes and reaffirmed their determination to render full support to the peoples' struggle for the elimination of racism and colonialism.

The communique said the two sides called for the attainment of a new equitable economic order and underlined their resolve to maintain peace and stability and devote all their efforts for the eradication of poverty and deprivation.

VISIT TO JAPAN

In the second leg of his Asian tour, Vice-President Ma'arouf and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tokyo on January 19. He called on Emperor Hirohito of Japan and conducted official talks with Japanese Premier Takeo Fukuda. He told pressmen that his visit, which was a response to an invitation from the Japanese government, had realized its aims and would contribute towards enriching and strengthening the friendly relations between the peoples of Iraq and Japan. "Our economic relations with Japan are constantly developing", Mr. Ma'arouf pointed out. Mr. Fukuda expressed satisfaction over the progress of Iraqi-Japanese relations, which he said, have been steadily growing". He hoped that Mr. Ma'arouf's visit would help further developing "our mutual friendship and cooperation".

The bilateral relations dealt with during the official talks covered: the developments now unfolding in the Arab region; the important projects of the current investment programme and of the Iraqi general economic strategy to which Japanese firms might contribute; the balancing of trade relations and the oil relations within the framework and resolutions of OPEC. Iraq also expressed its view point on the international situation and its demand for ensuring

that the Arabian Gulf and the Indian Ocean be declared as peace zones. Iraq's support for the Non-aligned movement and for the creation of a just economic order were also elucidated.

Iraq and Japan signed an agreement covering an easy-term loan for the former by the Import-Export Bank of Japan. This loan, together with other Japanese credit facilities, is to be utilized in financing a number of major development projects in Iraq undertaken by Japanese firms.

A number of instruments exchanged between the Iraqi and Japanese governments were also signed and appended to the Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement concluded by the two governments in 1974.

Vice-President Ma'arouf held a press conference on January 21. Presenting Iraq's identity he said, "We are a Non-aligned Arab country that believes in the socialist system. Iraq is part of the Arab nation for unity. Hence the Palestinian issue is Iraq's central issue; and we see no solution to it other than that the Palestinian Arab people regain their legitimate right to their homeland — Palestine... We are for peace, provided it is a peace with justice and dignity".

The Vice-President of Iraq outlined the country's conception of international relations. He said, "The Iraqi Republic, which is led by the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP), believes that equitable relations based on mutual respect and common benefit and non-interference in the affairs of others is the ideal form of international relations... Perhaps our relations with Japan are the best incarnation of such principles".

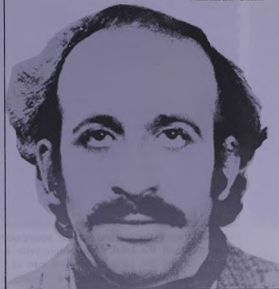
Reaffirming Iraq's dedication to the Non-aligned movement, Mr. Ma'arouf pointed out that Iraq offered to play host to the seventh Non-aligned Summit in 1982.

He also reiterated Iraq's support to freedom fighters and its determination to combat racial discrimination.

The Vice-President addressed the Japanese Industrialists Federation, explaining Iraq's stand on economic relations. He said: "We have the energy upon which you rely and you have the expertise and skill for which we aspire". He referred to the increasing rate of inflation and the rising prices and showed that the oil exporting countries did not exaggerate in increasing oil prices. The new increase, he said, was actually not sufficient to off-set the rate of inflation exported to developing countries, including OPEC countries.

The Vice-President called for a new and just economic order. He also stressed the responsibility of the advanced countries for granting aid providing technical know-how to developing countries.

Mahmoud Saleh



The Lessons of Paris Episode

By our Political Commentator

Once again the Zionists have shown themselves in their true colours. On January 3 last, they murdered in Paris a leading Palestinian intellectual and fighter, Mr. Mahmoud Saleh. He was the fourth Palestinian leader to be assassinated in Paris by the Zionists in four years. A top-ranking leader of the Palestinian resistance movement, Abu Daoud, who arrived in Paris to discuss the grave situation with the French authorities, the Zionists masterminded his arrest on January 7 and sought his detention pending the finalization of extradition formalities. Though the French court, before which the Palestinian leader was produced, did not accept the plea for his detention and ordered his deportation on January 11, Abu Daoud's mission was all the same sabotaged successfully by the Zionist lobby.

Abu Daoud's mission to Paris had two purposes: to participate in the funeral arrangements of Mahmoud Saleh and to urge the French government to invigorate the investigation into the murder of three other Palestinian leaders besides Saleh. Daoud was officially representing the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and travelling on valid documents.

It may be recalled that Mr. Mahmoud Saleh took over the PLO office in Paris after Mr. Mahmoud al-Hamchari, a high-ranking leader of the Palestinian resistance, was assassinated in the French capital in December, 1972. Two other Palestinian strugglers, Basil al-Koubaisi and Mohammad Budia, also fell victim to the Zionist assassination campaign in Paris subsequently.

One may argue that by refusing to hand Abu Daoud over to the Zionist super-terrorists, the French court has done a commendable job both legally and politically. The argument has certainly lot of force in it, no doubt. And that is why the decision of the French court has widely been acclaimed. But how can one ignore the fact that an accredited leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) which is recognized by the UN as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, could not perform his official and urgent



Kamal Nasser



Abu Daoud

duties in Paris although his travel documents were perfectly in order and although the French people and the government were not unfriendly to the Palestinians?

The whole episode, beginning from the assassination of Mahmoud Saleh up to the deportation of Abu Daoud, looks like a New Year's gift of the Zionists to those who, in their wisdom, have discovered a genuine change of heart among the Zion-

ist terrorists with whom, these wise men consider, a peace settlement can be worked out. The Zionists, on their part, did not try to hide their intentions. They will murder the Palestinian leaders if and when they get them and they will stop any government or authority from looking into the crime by resorting to intrigues, blackmail, propaganda and even blatant interference. This is exactly what the Zionists are doing in Paris and elsewhere. The outrage they perpetrated at the Entebbe Airport of Uganda on July 3 last year was but another example.

It is really shocking to see the imperialist circles raise a hue and cry over the decision of the French court. They are not satisfied with sabotaging Abu Daoud's mission; they are after his blood. In their utter desperation they are even interfering with French sovereignty and national dignity.

The righteous section among the French people have reacted sharply against what they think to be the increasing influence of Zionist agents on their security administration and the international secret police operating on their soil. They have reasons to feel perturbed, because, their memory is not so short as to allow them to forget what the national quings can do. They paid the price with blood and tears at the time of Hitler's invasion for the misdeeds of these people. However, they are capable of taking care of themselves. But, to the Arabs the Paris episode points to the need for reassessing the entire Middle East question which is characterized by Zionist counter-revolutionary violence and intransigence. Here are a few well-known examples which deserve to be pointed out a thousand times:

About a million Palestinians were forced to leave their homes and lands and live in refugee camps in Gaza strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.



- a. The "Israeli" authorities who are nothing but the political embodiment of Zionist terrorism, continue to ignore the call of the United Nations and other forums of international public opinion to evacuate from the territories they had occupied during their successive wars of aggression.
- b. In flagrant violation of the resolutions of UN and other international conferences of immense significance, the Zionist authorities continue to consolidate their forcible occupation of truncated Palestine by building racist ghettos, changing the demographic features of the country by transferring population and grabbing land of the indigenous Arabs.
- c. The Zionist occupation authorities are systematically destroying the cultural pattern, both past and present, of the local Arab people with a view to turning the sons of the soil into virtually aliens in their own motherland.
- d. In utter disregard of the world public opinion and the call of the United Nations, the Zionist authorities refuse to allow the displaced Palestinian people to return to their homeland. On the contrary, their campaign of terror, intimidation and suppression force the remaining Palestinian Arabs to flee the land of their birth.

Besides, the vicious role that the Zionists played in Lebanon is also quite well-known. In the renewed series of criminal offensives they sprayed ninety bullets into the chest of the illustrious Palestinian poet, Kamal Nasser, on April 10, 1973, in his Verdun apartment of Beirut. Since then innocent



What future for this Palestinian child?



children in the Palestinian refugee camps around Beirut, Sidon and Tyre have been falling victim to the systematic annihilation campaign of the Zionists. And in the latest onslaught against the Palestinian and Lebanese patriotic people the Zionists are providing the killers with arms, ammunition and expertise. Air raids and naval bombardments on Palestinian camps have become a regular exercise.

And above all, the Zionists are working as the spearhead of imperialism, racism and reaction in the implementation of their counter-revolutionary conspiracies aimed at undermining the revolutionary transformation of the whole region.

In view of all these facts the Arab Revolution, which has set before itself the task of liberating Palestine as the central issue, has hardly any other options open before it than to continue to struggle to achieve final victory against the enemy. There cannot be any half-way-house between liberation and subjugation. The latest events of Paris further strengthen the arguments in favour of arriving at this inescapable conclusion.

The broad masses of Arab people in general and the Palestinians in particular are prepared for continuing the struggle and making further sacrifices. Neither the temporary setbacks in the Lebanese scene nor the vacillation of certain Arab ruling circles alter this basic position. Arab revolution cannot rely on those who serve the interests of the enemies of the Arabs. And the success of the Arab revolution is not dependent on them either. After

all, the supreme sacrifice for the cause of revolution has been made and will be made by those who are not born with a silver spoon in their mouth. They are the workers, peasants and soldiers of the Arab homeland and their Palestinian compatriots who are living the life of refugees for the last 29 winters and who have been braving the Zionist jackboot everyday since the occupation of their motherland in 1948. To them it matters little if a new President takes over in Washington. They saw half a dozen of such Presidents come and go during their ordeal, but their lot did not change. They weathered many a storm in the tea cup of "Israeli" leadership. They are not going to be deceived by these superficial developments. The fundamental contradictions between them and their enemy has not changed. So, they are aware, the strategic objectives of their struggle cannot also change.

There is no denying the fact that defeatism has blurred the vision of the top echelon of certain Arab quarters. Some of them seem to have lost confidence in the might of the people in view of the fact that three decades of struggle did not yield the desired result. They now prefer conference table to battleground. They are not even prepared to learn from the history of their own time. Before their very eyes the five-hundred-year-old Portuguese empire in Africa crumbled down. The most powerful imperialist power on earth had to withdraw ingloriously from Indo-China. Two hundred years of British rule ended in the victory of the forces of independence in the Indian sub-continent. And both the Axis and Allied powers had to concede defeat in China. These are not mere history but living examples.

Certain sections of well-meaning people also, at times, become victims of adverse situations and tend to lose confidence in the victory of the people's cause. Some ten years ago many such persons wondered if the Vietnamese could fight jets with only pistols in their hands. As late as in 1973 even top-ranking personalities visualized three Vietnams including one under US hegemony. Only in three years time since then the whole of Vietnam emerged as a united socialist republic. They persevered in struggle and ultimately won victory with whatever they had in their hand, and the earth did not shift from its axis as some extra cautious wise men thought it would as a result of global conflagration.

In the background of these revolutionary victories, the thinking of a negotiated settlement with such a vicious enemy as the Zionists seems unrealistic. The people of the Arab world are not defeatists. Even at the hour of the gravest of reverses in the June War of 1967, they came out in the streets in their thousands to proclaim their readiness to carry the struggle forward. The conditions are much better today. The Arabs now have superior military hardware and organization, stronger economic base and a much more determined vanguard of fighters among the Palestinians. Both subjectively and objectively the entire Arab



Demonstrating against Zionist racial discrimination

world can now be turned into frontline battle-grounds so far as the people are concerned, and the peace and freedom loving peoples of the world are there to provide defence in depth. These conditions are favourable for building up a fresh revolutionary upsurge against the Zionist enemy who has proved once again that the only language he speaks is the language of weapon. And that language is no Greek to the Arabs.

Was Entebbe a Remarkable Work

To go ahead in ridiculing world public opinion by turning aggression into a heroic feat is a thing which none should allow to happen.

Of late, world zionism, using the film-making industry at its disposal, especially in America, released a film titled "Victory at Entebbe" which is now being shown in some European and American cinemas.

The story of the film is built on the aggression committed by "Israel" on the sovereignty of Uganda when Zionist airborne troops attacked Entebbe airport on the claim of releasing Jewish hostages of a French hi-jacked airliner. The attack resulted in killing many Ugandan citizens and damaging the airport, and it was showered with an ugly appreciation and admiration by some western interested quarters for the "military efficiency and precision of the "Israeli rescue", as the British Daily Telegraph has put it.

It is quite evident that the mere intention of releasing such a film, actually meant the glorification of aggression and brute force. Marvin Chomsky's "victory" at Entebbe reflects the mentality of a person who considers aggression a legitimate act which should be performed by "Israel" to keep her strong and "respected", a mentality not different from that of the Nazis and fascists.

We need not recall to memory the horrible and most barbaric acts committed by zionism in occupied Palestine, such as the massacre of Dier Yassin, when hundreds of women, children and old people were butchered in cold blood; and when Zionist terrorists belonging to the Hagana gang used to hang Arab babies on barbed wire in the city of Jenin in Palestine. Surely, Marvin Chomsky could have found enough material for shooting a more popular film and title it "victory in occupying Palestine".

These hypocritical gestures which are meant to deceive and ridicule world public opinion did not find a listening ear in Europe and America. The reports being published about bombing and burning cinemas showing this film is a deserving answer to those who want to turn black into white.

I just wonder if a film produced by an Arab showing the ill deeds and criminal acts committed everyday by "Israel" in occupied Palestine, and in a "popular" form, will ever be allowed to be shown in some western and American cinemas!

K.B.

Production Programming

by Dr. Nezar M. al-Amin



The idea of production planning, as a means of preserving the price level, emerged with the setting up of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The idea was not put into effect until 1965 when the Ministerial meeting of the OPEC agreed on the necessity of production planning. In that meeting the Ministers affirmed that "the increase in production should be reasonable and economic to meet the needs of world demand on crude

oil". In 1967 the OPEC emphasized that the only means for reaching its ends and goals depended on production programming.

However, it was not until 1970 when the Ministerial meeting of the OPEC agreed on a production plan submitted by the OPEC Economic Committee to cover the period 1971-75, and with it the Organization began to consider, now and

Preserve real price of oil and foil machinations of monopolies

then, the subject of production programming as a means for preserving the price level. But all attempts in this regard failed because of the disparity existing between the member countries of the OPEC in terms of their political and economic relations.

The purpose of production planning is not only to preserve the price levels, but also to preserve the running-out wealth — oil — and control the



revenues within the requirements of economic development.

The negligence of the idea of production programming will certainly lead to creating a heavy burden which will be shared unequally by the OPEC members — a thing which encourages some countries to step up their production at the expense of others and subsequently affect the oil revenues of other countries, whereas some will be forced to lower prices in order to increase their production to meet their financial needs. The negligence of production programming will become a hindrance standing in the way of price increases which must

occur in crude oil markets; therefore, the OPEC has to take this fact into its consideration in order to work for putting into effect the programming of production.

Means of Production Planning

The subject of production planning has two basic problems: the first, assessing the prospects

of world demand on crude oil, detecting the markers which point out the demand on crude oil being increasing or decreasing and investigating the percentage of increases or decreases within these markers. The second is associated with each country of the OPEC and its quota in the expected world demand on crude oil. In order to rationalize each country's quota of crude oil production, studies based on scientific rules are required with a view to easing the disparity existing between the OPEC members. The following variables cannot be overlooked when a study is made on the subject of programming:

1. Oil reserves of each country, 2. Production capacity of each country, 3. Each country's need



of oil revenues, 4. Requirements of national development plans of each country, 5. Size of population of each country, 6. Per capita average income in each country, 7. Nature of production policy.

If we assume that the aforesaid variables are taken as rules for production programming, a set of primary and secondary problems will soon appear; the following are the most important:

1. Weight of each of the abovementioned variables and its importance in specifying the quota of production of each country and whether the aforesaid variables bear equal weights or not. We will face a difficulty as to how to assess each variable, for it is rather difficult to measure the production capacity of each country, especially if this capacity is continuously increasing, and avert the same difficulty when assessing the other aforesaid variables.

2. The degree with which OPEC member-countries will accept adopting the cited variables as infrastructures for planning their oil production. Even if these variables are accepted entirely, still there will be some difficulty in defining the importance of each variable. There are states which adopt

the size of population and give it priority, e.g. Indonesia; others give much importance to the oil reserve, like Saudi Arabia. These and others are the difficulties, which may stand in the way of accepting the idea of production planning and make the efforts exerted in this connection fail. If we can overcome these difficulties, then we shall reach the goal for which the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries was created, i.e. preserving the real prices of oil and preventing oil depletion by creating an equilibrium between supply and demand in the world oil market. This aim can only be realized by production programming.

Schemes of Oil Monopolies

If we make a comparison between the OPEC and the monopoly companies and their role in creating an equilibrium between supply and demand in the world market, we shall find that those companies have, notwithstanding the measures and restrictions like competition and pressure restrictions in terms of stepping up production imposed on them by the governments of producing countries, been able to create an equilibrium in the world oil market between supply and demand with a view to hitting huge profits and eliminating mini and national companies of some oil producing countries.

These companies succeeded in creating such an equilibrium because they had already maintained an integrated oil industry as from the oil-well to oil-terminals and known perfectly the world oil market.

The monopoly companies did possess many crude oil resources and many qualities of oil; therefore, they were able to produce quantities which would be appropriate with demand in the places they would be consumed. They were also able to deposit the surplus oil supplied in the place of consumption or re-export this surplus to other places where there is a shortage in the supplied crude oil. By this way the monopoly companies maintained an ample flexibility and high competency in terms of creating the required equilibrium.

As we have said, the monopoly companies maintained an ample flexibility and a high marketing power (they indeed, dominated the market of crude oil and oil products). They also played the role of a buyer and seller, or to put it more accurately the MONOPOLIST MONOSPONIST, simultaneously. Many times these companies resorted to cutting back oil production in some producing countries as a means of exercising pressure on those governments in negotiations without affecting the oil market — they did so by injecting into the market other energy resources. In the meantime they exercised pressure on consumer countries in the oil-product market in order to make increases in oil-product prices by reducing the capacity of refining and creating a deficit in oil-product supply without creating a large oil surplus.

However, in 1970 the OPEC began to score victories over the companies until it completely put its hand on crude oil pricing; furthermore, some OPEC countries fully controlled their production rate.

The monopoly companies and consumer states try to encompass the gains realized by the OPEC and split the organization by purchasing crude oil from countries which give them better marketing facilities and by co-ordinating oil imports of the consumer states (hence the International Energy Agency) from certain sources at the expense of others just to affect the latter.

On this ground the OPEC countries faced an urgent need to co-ordinate production policies and create co-operation between their marketing bodies, otherwise the monopoly companies, in collaboration with consumer countries, would seize the opportunity to split the OPEC and steer the world oil market according to their own interests.

We have explained the role of the monopoly companies and the flexibility they use in the programming of production and showed the difficulties faced by the OPEC in terms of production programming under the aforesaid methods. But here we should say that the present proposed solutions are no more than academic methods which do not conform to the nature of oil industry and the dynamic feature which characterizes the market, especially when these solutions consider the aspect of supply and completely neglect demand. In other words, these solutions can only produce a confusion in the equilibrium existing between demand and supply, because they were built on bases independent of demand. Let us imagine what happens in a market in which the wanted qualities decrease and the unwanted qualities increase, and what happens to the relative disparities, because the differences in demand on various types of oil are not in the same degree. By changing the sold quantities according to the quotas based on the aforesaid infrastructures will require changing the relative disparities or floating them to be determined by the market. In the meantime the consumer will face a problem in obtaining the wanted oils and how to obtain other oils in their stead. This replacement of one type of oil by another will not confuse the crude-oil market only, but will also overpass it to the oil-product market. To speak more accurately, any programming which does not take demand into consideration will lead to creating an un-equilibrium in the market; therefore, oils should be categorized according to their qualities and thereby each quality be programmed and produced taking into consideration that this aspect of demand is, as we believe, a natural thing, since the structure of present prices is built on the basis of qualities.

by courtesy of Oil and
Development Arabic-language
monthly
(Trans. by Majed al-Najjar).

by Masao Abe,
Lecturer of Tokai University, Japan

The nationalization of energy resources by some Arab countries ushered in an era of "direct deal" of oil between Arab countries and Japan. Then, isn't it high time now for Arab and Japanese people to make "direct deal" of cultural exchange between

moved my heart. Japanese TV film won the 2nd Prize in the Festival.

I must confess my irritation at such prevailing situation that we, Japanese and Arabs, are being

A Plea for Arab-Japanese Co-operation

us, not through the Western publications and films? Considering the rapid advance of Japan-Arab economic relations, this is very important, because mutual understanding through cultural exchange is a pre-condition for the furtherance of concrete and effective cooperation.

From this point of view, the tireless efforts of Iraqi Government to organise many international festivals and conferences in Baghdad should be highly appreciated. Needless to say, such international gatherings serve to exchange knowledge and experiences and promote personal contacts among many foreign delegates for the acceleration of their concrete cooperation. For instance, in cultural field only, during the period from Autumn 1975 to March, 1976, Japanese delegates participated in the International Conferences on the 11th. Centenary Anniversary of al-Farabi's Birth, International Music Conference, Afro-Asian Writers' Federation Executive Committee, the 2nd International Festival of Palestinian Films and TV Programmes. It was very lucky for me to have been able to attend the 2nd Palestinian Films Festival.

When I seated in the Festival Hall, I was very glad, being conscious to feel directly, from projected films, the vibration of the hearts of Palestinian people struggling for regaining their human rights. Zainab Sathah's and Fayrouz' songs also

introduced each other through the foreign film and in most cases American films. Whenever I visited Arab capitals — Cairo, Beirut, Rabat, Algiers, Damascus, Baghdad and other cities, together with TV Team in recent years, we used to be surrounded by curious Arab youths and boys who shouted to us, "Hello! Japanese! Karate, Karate! Bluce Lee is wonderful. Show us your Karate!" Unfortunately, many of them, it seems, not know that Bluce Lee is from Hong Kong, not from Japan.

Bluce Lee's films are permissible because his popularity is based on his heroic stance to fight in defence of the weak and oppressed, but most American films are harmful and only be helpful in creating misleading idea on Japan. Why we are obliged to see only Western films in our big theatres? Many Zionist-engineered films like "Exodus" and cheap Hollywood entertainment films seem to defame and distort the image of Arab countries. We smell malicious intentions of these films trying to separate us, peoples among Asian countries. Although some good Japanese films directed by eminent Japanese film directors such as Akira Kurosawa and Kobayashi Masaki who won international prizes are being shown at cine-clubs of certain Arab capitals, the number of spectre is quite limited.



January 1, 1976: Talks in Baghdad between Iraq and Japan on economic co-operation

NEWS IN PICTURES



President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr (centre), and RCC Vice-Chairman Saddam Hussein (second from left) visiting Secretary General of Absp National Leadership, Mr. Michel Aflaq, (second from right) at party headquarters in Baghdad on January 23. Also in the picture Mr. Shibly al-Aysami, (extreme right), Assistant Secretary General and Mr. Ali Ghannam (extreme left), member of the National Leadership of the party.



Mr. al-Rashid al-Tahrir (left), Sudanese Vice-President, during his visit to Iraq, called on RCC Vice-Chairman Mr. Saddam Hussein on January 17.



Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), signing the Condolence Book at Yugoslav Embassy in Baghdad on January 20, to mourn the death of Mr. Dormal Bijedic, Prime Minister of Yugoslavia.



President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr receiving Mr. Abdul Aziz Khalifa Al Thani (in traditional outfit), Minister of Finance and Oil of Qatar, at the Presidential Palace on January 20 during the Qatari Minister's visit to Baghdad.



Mr. Joshua Nkomo (came in hand), President of Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), conferring in Baghdad on January 22 with Dr. Zaid Haider, Head of Foreign Affairs Bureau and member of Absp National Leadership. Mr. Nkomo was visiting Iraq at the invitation of Absp.

FOOD FOR MILLIONS

Such being the case, it was quite significant that the showing of "al-Mummiya", Egyptian film directed by Shadi Abdel Salam was quite successful when it was shown in Japan in August, 1974. All leading newspapers applauded the film, commenting as "high standard film with superb technique, full of fresh energy". We remember that in 1966 "The Battle of Algeria" too, impressed us deeply with heroic struggling spirit of Algerian people.

I don't think that I need to reiterate here about the importance of such cultural exchange including reciprocal visits of delegations in various genres of cultural fields, because it has been so many times emphasized in numerous resolutions passed in the conferences since Bandung Conference in 1955. We have a large stock of such resolutions, and the only important thing for us now is to just positively try to find the ways and means to implement them.

It is imperative now for us Japanese to introduce ourselves properly so that we may carry on Arab-Japan cultural cooperation effectively. The friendly feeling that exists in Arab countries towards Japan should further be strengthened.

In this respect, it is quite noteworthy for us, the Japanese, that Japan is referred to in the political report adopted by Eighth Regional Congress of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, Iraq, January 1974, as under:

"It is necessary to pay attention to economic and technical relations with Japan. It is true that Japan is closely connected to the U.S., but the basic character of Japan's relation with the world is commercial. Japan consumes immense quantities of energy. It is a very advanced country in industry and technology. Co-operation with Japan would therefore be very useful and not out of line with our anti-imperialistic cause".

This brief sentence defines Japan in a very appropriate manner. But allow me to make comments on this so that the image of Japan becomes a little bit clear. It is true that there is a large number of pro-American politicians who are busy now in trying to hide Lockheed Scandal affairs. But it is a fact, at the same time, that Japanese Government is starting to support PLO in UN and various other international conferences. On the other hand, it is the industrious Japanese people as a whole who are advanced in technology and who sustain the commercial character of Japan, resisting the move of persistent reactionary powers in Japan to convert our country into military superpower because of their bitter experiences and horrible devastation in the Second World War. I am convinced that the Japanese people should be regarded basically the members belonging to the Third World, although regrettably many of them are ill-informed about

the developing countries, and not getting rid of the disease of collective egoism fostered in the post-war period. Frankly speaking, it was the Arab oil strategy of October, 1973, that shock the economic foundation of our society to let people awaken about the existence of the peoples in the Third World and that some Japanese came to reflect seriously on the Japanese economic structure to mind our interests only. In short, the Japanese must face the problems of the developed and developing countries more sternly.

Therefore, I want to say that "cooperation with Arab countries would be very useful" from our side.

As I said before through such cooperation with Arab people, the Japanese will become more conscious with the aspiration of the peoples of developing countries towards Japan and will discover the hidden possibilities of Japanese people to offer their experiences in technology and industry for the development of the Third World and fulfill the true mission of Japan.

In this sense, strange it may sound, it seems to be the Arab leaders who evaluate the dormant Japanese people's ability more highly than the conservative Japanese politicians who are usually emphasizing meagre natural resources of Japan and who are not trying to well out the energy of Japanese people as human resources. We can learn much from Arab people, because Arab people are advocating and trying to implement the justice and welfare of the whole mankind at large.

So, it will be very fruitful for us, the Arabs and Japanese, to know each other better. The more we deepen our mutual understanding, the more we can expand our concrete cooperation. Therefore, I wish that there emerge many young people who will specialize the various phases of Japan — its language, history, society, politics, economy, education, technology, arts and so on. I am sure that Japan can offer its rich experiences — success and failure — in its process of modernization. It is encouraging that now in Japan there arises a healthy move to introduce ourselves positively to the world through publications, films etc., discarding the attitude to look to the Western civilizations alone. And contemporary younger generation are paying more attention to Afro-Asian countries and the aims of the historic Bandung Conference.

We are not living in the age of our great forefathers like Ibn Batuta. We are now in Jet age. Let us redouble our efforts to work for the bright future of our cooperation. Let us contribute to the renaissance of humanity through our consolidated struggle to realise the just solution of Palestine question and to establish the real peace in the Middle East.



Irrigation projects: Plenty of water

by Kamal Butt

Ancient Iraq used to be called the "granary of the world" because of its fertile soil, meeting the need of its over forty million inhabitants and the people of the neighbouring countries with food. But during the dark age, the soil lost its fertility, and Iraq turned from an agricultural-products exporting country into an importing one. This was attributed to the declining area of arable land and the evergrowing increase of soil-erupting factors.

The decline in agricultural production affected more negatively the small landowners than the

feudal lords who owned large areas of land and could afford to keep parts of their land for one or more years to rest; moreover, these feudal elements were backed by the then governments and were able to get whatever amount of water they needed for irrigation.

Following the July 14, 1958, Revolution, an agrarian reform law was enacted on September 30, of the same year. But the loopholes in the said law and the collusion between the reactionary figures in the successive governments with feudalism turned the largest part of the productive

land barren and infertile. This situation forced thousands of farmers to migrate to the towns. This migration led to increasing the problem of congestion in the cities, especially in Baghdad, reduced the number of agricultural workers and turned large sectors of the productive forces into consumer ones.

Emphasis on agriculture

Realising the impact of this grave phenomenon, the July 17, 1968, Revolution gave the attention to the agricultural sector to assume its proper place in the country's economy. Hundreds of

millions of Iraqi dinars were allocated in the development budgets for big and urgent agricultural projects. Hard work was put in on freeing land from barrenness and fallowness and on restoring its fertility after liberating the land from feudal exploitation.

The challenge which the agricultural revolution is confronting

A fertile land



at present is the continuous decline of the area of arable land because of the soil's growing salinity. The area of arable land in Iraq is 23 million donoms (donum = 2500 sq.m.); out of this, 13 million donoms are saline and the rate of increase in such saline areas is 100 thousand donoms a year. Government's endeavours are concentrated at present on stopping the growing rate of the spread of salinity in the arable land through undertaking desalination operations, land reclamation and soil-preparation for intensive and semi-intensive cultivation.

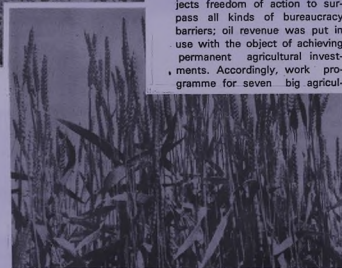
Difficulties overcome

One may ask how this situation developed. In fact, such a situation could well be attributed to the negligence of the land for a long period, lack of proper irrigation and drainage networks and other agricultural services, the rise of the level of subterranean water which caused the surfacing of salt, and the excessive

the common agricultural method of cultivating each alternative year part of the land and leaving the other part fallow. This method helps in increasing the degree of salinity in the soil.

To overcome this crippling situation, effective measures are currently being taken, viz, provision of modern means of irrigation drainage, fertilisers and improved seeds, reclamation, encouragement of the counter-migration of farmers by means of raising their economic standard and providing them with advanced means of social life in the rural districts, houses, electricity, potable water, roads, means of communication, education, hospitals, and other means which would attract those who live in towns back to the land. This fact gave rise to the idea of big projects.

The idea went into action. Law No. 157 of 1973, was enacted granting the big strategic projects freedom of action to surpass all kinds of bureaucracy barriers; oil revenue was put in use with the object of achieving permanent agricultural investments. Accordingly, work programme for seven big agricul-



Abundant harvest

use of water by the farmers in irrigating the land in the absence of irrigation canals and drainage systems. Yet, another cause is

tural projects was drawn up in the light of their importance to national economy and the realisation of rapid development. The

projects are: Abu Ghrab, Saqlawiya, Yousifia-Latifia, Al-Ishaqi, Dujaila, Nahr Saad Animal projects, Himreen Dam and the Poultry Project.

Abu Ghrab Project

To give a brief idea of what is happening in these projects, we selected Abu Ghrab project to depict the efforts being undertaken in this respect.

The land of Abu Ghrab project covers an area of one million donoms where 300,000 persons live. This vast area of land is being reclaimed by intensive ploughing mixing the soil with organic fertilisers. A well-integrated network of irrigation and canals drainage is being constructed along with desalination and reduction of the level of the subterranean water processes. Strongly-banked irrigation canals are being constructed.

As a result of all these efforts, it is safe to say that Abu Ghrab land will be considered permanently and regularly irrigated partly by aqueducts built over the Euphrates river conducting water to a main canal. The recently completed Tharthar-Euphrates Canal assists in irrigating most parts of the project. The Haditha Dam in the governorate of Anbar, upon completion, will also assist in irrigating the said area.

According to specialists, Abu Ghrab land is very good in quality and can grow a variety of crops. It has enough water and is near to the capital, Baghdad, and linked to it and other places by modern means of transport. The land will be cultivated with wheat, barley, vegetables, fruits, industrial and fodder crops, and will be used for animal husbandry. Of course the project will produce favourable social effects

as it will provide the inhabitants of the area with 1000 billion calories and 44,000 tons of protein, in addition to producing food-stuff enough to meet the needs of one million persons.

Record output

It is worth mentioning that the country's output of vegetables last year amounted to two million tons, which allowed a surplus for export, particularly to the Arabian Gulf markets. Some 44,000 tons of vegetables were exported last year at a daily average of 120 tons.

Dr. Hassan Fehmi Jum'a, the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, attributed the rise in vegetables production to the introduction of hot-house farming. He said that 9,000 donoms in southern governorates yielded last year 20,000 tons of vegetables; and it is expected that 14,000 donoms more will be cultivated this year to yield 45,000 tons.

The Minister revealed that as a result of the introduction of pricing system, farmers' productivity increased and farmers are now receiving handsome profits.

Another factor which played an important role in production increase is the wide use of chemical fertilisers and improved seeds.

According to the latest data released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, average rice production in 1973 did not exceed 545 kg. per donum. In 1974 productivity dropped to 534 kg, and continued dropping to reach 481 kg in 1975. But a leap in rice production took place when the yield per donum in 1976 rose to 789 kg.

Total area of rice cultivation in 1976 amounted to 213,000 donoms in southern part of the

country; the output amounted to 164,000 tons at an average of 789 kg per donum. This record output was achieved, according to the Minister, because of better application of agro-mechanism, improved seeds, and the use of phosphatic and nitric fertilisers. To achieve further leaps in rice production and attain the envisaged target of 450,000 tons, a foreign firm was contracted to build a factory for improved seeds production at a five thousand tons capacity.

Iraq is now considered the third country in the world in terms of rice production per donum. This production has increased from 600 kg to 789 kg per donum.

Self-Sufficiency

Maize cultivation was, until very recently, not a favourable crop. Farmers refrained from venturing in this particular field due to lack of demand. But following the implementation of a comprehensive programme drawn up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and side by side the acceleration of land reclamation process, yellow maize production hit fantastic figures. A record 1000 kg per donum was achieved, a figure attained by very few European countries.

Maize production prior to 1976, in the country, did not exceed 400 tons all in all; whereas production in 1977 is expected to surpass 45,000 tons. Plans have been drawn up to effect a production of 80,000 tons in 1980 when the country attains self-sufficiency in yellow maize.

A few minutes meditation at the meridian among the green, golden land of either Babylon, Basrah, Wasat or Diyala governorates in central and southern parts of Iraq, will put one in the picture of new Iraq.

Kurdistan Is No Longer Wild

Mr. Wolf Schenke, Chief Editor of the Neue Politik magazine of Hamburg wrote an article, in the January, 1977 issue of his magazine, about the Kurds in Iraq after visiting the Northern areas.

He begins his article by comparing the lot of the Kurds in Iraq with their brethren in other parts of the area and comes to the conclusion that they have been granted in Iraq the kind of autonomy and respect for their nationality which are lacking in other places.

Solution through Autonomy and Economic De- velopment

The writer says that Iraq was for long an area for experimentation by the big powers and their intelligence apparatus. He says that it was Britain which mounted the first campaign against the Kurds with a view to driving them away from the oil fields, but when Iraq nationalised the foreign oil companies, the Kurds were considered by the big powers as destabilisers, and were used to dislodge the development plans of the country. Arms as well as money began to flow to the Kurdish area, particularly from the USA and finally from "Israel".

He says that the Arab Baath Socialist Party, when assuming power in 1968, had recognised the importance of the Kurdish question. It adopted the policy

Kurds in their national costume



of resolving this question peacefully and in brotherly co-operation within the framework of the Iraqi state. The Party's ideology and its realistic policy had made taking that course imperative. Thus the Law of Autonomy for the Kurdish area was born in 1974. The greater number of the Iraqi Kurds found their hope realised in it. The others followed Mustapha Barzani who tried to impede the implementation of the Law of Autonomy. He had for many years kept in touch with the Iraqi government in order to gain this or that benefit, believing that he was secure in the Kurdish mountains and depending on the American aid. After three years of procrastination on his part, the Iraqi government put the Law of Autonomy into force. Thereafter began the final stage of armed conflict. It was not a conflict, as the writer maintains, between the Kurds and the Arabs. The Kurdish Democratic Party was split. Barzani no longer remained the symbol of the Kurdish national aspirations. His actions and conducts were governed by his personal as well as his tribal interests. He had no understanding of the Kurds. They could not follow him for social and political reasons, but he thought that he would, with help from abroad, be able to wage his personal battle with a view to strengthening his influence and command.

He failed in 1975 when both Iraq and Iran had decided to bury their age-long differences. Kissinger and the CIA withdrew their support to him when they came to the conclusion that he was no longer of use to them as a troublemaker. A later report of the American Congress, dealing with the activities of the CIA, has

proved beyond any doubt that Kissinger and the CIA had supported Barzani in his last insurgency only as a destabiliser but not to bring him or his cause to success.

taking advantage of the amnesty declared by the government.

The potentialities for development in the area, after peace has been restored, are vast, as the

Scene from northern Iraq



The journalist then goes into the details of the Law of Autonomy, giving an elaborate analysis of the salient points in that legislation.

Then the writer gives a vivid account of a journey he made to the Kurdish area and the people he met and enquired from as to the conditions of life at present in the Kurdish area. He is satisfied that the area is living peacefully and that many Kurds who had left the country are coming back to their farms and business,

writer correctly observes. Huge amounts of money have been earmarked for the rebuilding of the area and for construction of various projects in it. Apart from the natural wealth of the area, being one of the most fertile lands, the prospects of making use of its mild climate and beautiful scenery for tourist purposes are unlimited. The government has allocated ID. 50,000,000 for developing the area of Hajji Umrani and twice this amount for Duhok and Sulaimaniyah governorates.

BOOK REVIEW

Readings for a Critique of Zionism
Edited by Uri Davis and Norton Menzvinzky
Published by Ithaca Press, London 1975
Reviewed by Medhat Magar

One has to be on one's toes in this world. Especially so when it has to do with the Zionist Flim Flam people of whom there is no shortage. It works this way: The Zionists, lest someone escapes and

The Zionist Flim-Flam People

stays awake, have a finger in every pie. Extreme right, extreme left, centre, left of centre, right of centre, and what have you. They are so versatile.

In 1975, in the fair city of London, there was a great con game going. A rash of "progressive" publications that purported to conduct a dialogue and contain a critique, covered the brain.

One of those books is Mr. Uri Davis's "Documents from Israel". True, he only edited the book, put it together and set it loose on people's minds with the unequivocal message that it is the present "Israeli" establishment and its bureaucracy that are bad, the rest could be set right with a dash of progressiveness and a more tolerant attitude towards the Arabs.

This sort of pleas is being heard now-a-days quite often. So, you see, the toil of Mr. Davis, Ithaca Press and the many friends of the Arabs in London has not been wasted. It hears this poisonous fruit.

The publisher of Davis's book calls it an expose. In reality, it is a clever juxtaposition of carefully selected texts from the establishment press and Mr. Davis's own useful brand of progressive press. The purpose of such an exercise in persuasion is not too difficult to unravel. Through the juxtaposition of the "baddees" (the establishment's fogies) and the "goodies" (the bright-eyed clean-cut kids who are full of ideals and humanitarian zeal) anyone who falls prey to the book (one of many which are being spewed by the presses in the West) is brought to the point where he starts mumbling to himself that all those "Israeli" chaps need a bit of time, then they will come up with a fabulous sort of formula... if only the Arabs let them be and give them the time (to kill more Arabs) to work it out for "Israel", for the Arabs, for the World and the Universe. By Jove!

You see, the image the "Israelis" project must not be all tough and domineering. The kaleidoscope must be kept churning, projecting an infinity of

Documents from "Israel" 1967-1973

changing shapes and colours, to bemuse, confuse, and to each his pet illusion. One of those hallucinatory illusions is Mr. Uri Davis and his little stage productions in progressive-intellectual legerdemain, such as the book we have in hand.

So, let us traipse along in Mr. Davis's shop:

"We can take some encouragement for positive change from the humanistic voices within the state of 'Israel' itself. Some Israelis-Jews as well as Arabs — are rising above the discriminatory ideology of Zionism and are calling for a humanistic and democratic — often socialist — restructuring of their own country". (Introduction).

"One of the important justifications of the establishment of the Jewish State, was the desire to raise in this country a young generation of Jews who will hear of anti-semitism only from books... such a generation must prove to itself... that it has no intention of turning from a generation of hated people, to a generation of concealed haters(!)" P. 169.

"So far as we are concerned the Arab national movement is more dangerous than the German socialism. The Nazi movement grew out of feelings of national frustration and vengeance after a military defeat... the defeats of the Arabs in their wars against the Israelis are shameful defeats indeed... (they) will desire for many years to come to wash their stained honour with rivers of Israeli blood, and such ocean of blood is the desire of their souls more than any territorial gain". (pp. 191-192).

These, with the exception of the quotation from the introductions, are not Mr. Davis's. However, they are his carefully selected quotes from the words of others which have been cleverly juxtaposed in his well thought-out and oh! very humane book. What is more, they are only a tiny drop in a brimming bucket of well-selected and well-placed strings of words which slowly, slowly, but surely, wash the brain and instill their poisoned message.

In order for the whole thing to work, it is flooded with noble and humane sentiments. The book, indeed, is an austere critique of the spawn of Zionism! A plan, by far more dangerous and damaging than the direct and blatant anti-Arab propaganda.

ARTS

A painting by Shakir Hassan



IRAQI ART MOVEMENT-II Twenty-five years of search and achievement

by Jabra I. Jabra

Shakir Hassan

In Shakir Hassan al-Said's work, as in Jewad Selim's and Fayek Hassan's, we see the progress of a similar spirit of search, theorization, and love. No Iraqi artist has written about art in general, and about the artist's reflections on his own work in particular, as much or as profoundly as Shakir Hassan al-Said. A younger friend and disciple of Jewad Selim, he was one of the more active members of his Baghdad Group, supplementing

his paintings and drawings with a great deal of written enunciation of the Group's main ideas — which were often mostly his own. His writings over the last twenty-five years have come to form a sort of a body of doctrine which, though not easy to define, has had a considerable influence on the direction the Iraqi art movement has sometimes taken.

Basically, there has always been a religious streak in his work which has now assumed the proportions of a mystical vision. He

started with the world as seen, and gradually developed towards a concept of the world as felt and thought: it has been a slow agonized shift from the concrete to the abstract, but always with an emphasis on the local, the Arab, the popular. This has carried him through a succession of styles which first stemmed from folk-motifs, in form as well as in content. After six years in Paris, and having gone through a period of powerful expressionism in depicting the life of the poor in Iraq, he first developed a traditional popular Arab style in iconography into a style of his own, incorporating child-like calligraphy with primitive drawing. Soon later, accepting the old Moslem injunction against human representations, he abandoned any drawing that had the slightest figurative suggestion and devoted his entire attention to calligraphy. It was not, of course, the highly-stylized and rule-ridden calligraphy of Arab tradition, but a break-

down of writing to its simplest, freest form of individual letters as such. The letter, for him, is not only charged with possibilities of free form, but with mystical connections bordering on magic. The scribe on an old derelict wall, with hints of graffiti and the patina of time and oblivion becomes a means of exciting a state of mind akin to an intense vision. He has called this kind of painting on-dimensioned, meaning the one dimension that connects man with God. The result has been

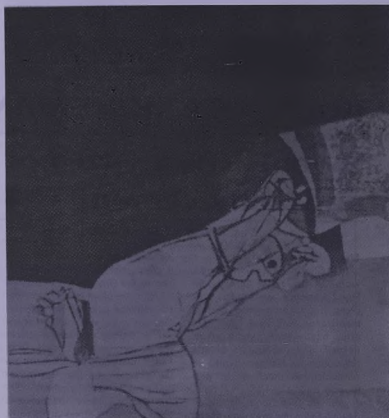
works of originality and strange power. Also, a great influence on many artists, each of whom adapts the new letter-trend to his own technique and style.

Dhia al-Azzawi

There is a great deal of Islamic spirit in this, dynamically conceived and treated. Dhia al-Azzawi is another artist who, even in his mid-twenties, ten years ago, had already found in Islamic signs and symbols a springboard for his imagination. In recent years he has treated Arabic letters creatively, but with greater 'formalism' than al-Said. However, his historical consciousness (as he has studied both art and archaeology) goes as far back as the Sumerians, in whose sculpture he found an idiom to be profitably employed in his painting, often to a startling effect. In love, also, with popular art, with the Arabian Nights, with modern Palestinian poetry, his prolific work — ranging from small delicate drawings to vast multiple canvases — has been a gradual resolution of a problem: how to use Islamic signs and symbols without seeming precious or merely folkloric, how to hark back to Sumerian sculpture and Babylonian myth without seeming to be merely an illustrator, how to merge all these with the spontaneity of a dreamer in whose visions emerge shapas and figures of an almost inexplicable power. His painting thus functions on a multiplicity of levels: historical, literary, religious, all subjected to the severe discipline of a modern sensibility. Whether inspired by the ancient Mesopotamian epic "Gilgamesh", the passion and martyrdom of Hussein at Karbala, the love-intrigues of the Arabian Nights, or the tragedy and heroism of Palestinian freedom-fighters, he is first and foremost a superb colourist



A painting by Kadhem Haider



A painting by Dhia al-Azzawi

A painting by Su'ad al-Attar



and draughtsman whose visions, rooted as they are in the psyche of his people, materialize in forms suggestive of allegories for our times. His recent work, at its best, sustains an elegiac tone of great depth.

Kadhem Haider

A similar elegiac tone has marked the work of Kadhem Haider for some years, ever since he painted a large number of pictures on the martyrdom of Hussein at Kerbala, but in a manner quite different from that of Azzawi. For him the religious inspiration of Islam comes through a sense of tragedy, in signs and symbols that are entirely his own, horses, helmets, swords, spears, men, women, tents, conspiracies, treacheries — the whole phantasmagoria of ancient battles in a peculiarly personal idiom. Man defiant though prisoner, though martyred and quartered: such has been his theme for a long time. But Kadhem Haider has also employed his style in telling of man in search of himself, in search of love, in search of wonder. He unabashedly mixes the figurative with the abstract, but having devised a vocabulary of distinctly personal forms, the mixture serves his purpose well,

when figure and abstract seem to exchange function and complement one another.

Rafa al-Nasiri

Less obviously emotional, but no less aesthetically charged, is the work of Rafa al-Nasiri who in recent years has also come under the spell of Arabic calligraphy. For centuries, calligraphy for the Arab artist was a major outlet of creativity: he employed it inventively and in endless modulations to express a powerful aesthetic impulse often associated with 'spiritual' feelings, largely because most of the phrases thus written were of a religious nature. Although Nasiri did in the beginning employ such phrases as a basis, or a pretext, for his lovely configurations, he was soon to seek the formal values of individual letters for his new kind of plastic variations. The relation between his original graphic skill, heightened by his study of Chinese Art, and his novel manipulation of the alphabet, has thus been emphasised. Having mastered the distribution of balances, extensions, and empty planes, he achieves a harmonic lightness, a sheer visual delight, which once marked his earlier non-calligraphic work. More recently he has taken

even greater liberty with his forms, and words, haphazard numbers, crosses and circles, become symbolic graffiti, suggestive of repressed agonies: the poetic undertones thus join forces with the purely visual sensation.

Hashim al-Samarchi

Hashim al-Samarchi is perhaps the one artist among all his colleagues who deliberately limits himself to the purely visual. He was an abstract painter right from start, and later became the most prominent Op artist in Iraq, perhaps in the whole Arab world. With his great love for delicate lines, geometrical forms and contrasting colours, it was a short step for him to adopt Arabic calligraphy as a base for his inventive graphics. Mixing letters, words, phrases — sometimes a whole short poem — with Op figurations and colours, he gives one a feeling of surprise, of wonder, of opening up to an unexpected sense of beauty. In Samarchi's art there is a suddenness of impact like that of an arrow flying in a dazzling curve: an impact of freshness, delight, amazement. It is the nearest thing to pure music. Upon closer examination one is struck by the discovery that a great deal of this actually derives in spirit, however imperceptibly, from the old illuminated manuscripts of the Koran. It is the artist's gift to make it so much a part of 20th century experience.

Suad al-Attar

In Iraqi art, traditional influences come under all kinds of disguises. The guiding spirit has often been the artist's desire to join a consciousness of time — forms and themes associated with old Arab and pre-Arab art in Iraq — with a consciousness of place (folk mo-

tifs, customs, scenes), subordinating both to the needs of his own creative impulse. In Sudad al-Attar's work all three forces are at play in various degrees of intensity in the different phases of her work. Having made good use of folk forms and symbols in her pictures of the mid-sixties, she gradually shifted to much older sources of influence: Abbasid and occasionally Assyrian. The emphasis the artist seems to have acquired from certain types of linear modulation in Arabic illuminations or in Assyrian bas-reliefs, released an unexpected energy in her paintings of the early seventies, which she has channeled into expressing a private vision of great lyricism and delicacy. Rooted as it may be in old Abbasid art, her work goes through intensities and stresses

of its own, where dream and reality intercross in a style that, finally, unmistakably, is her own.

Other artists

With Nuri al-Rawi, the content of his better work is mainly houses in old villages. These obscure shapes may be no more than signs for the recordings of a dreamlike memories, heavy with nostalgia for one's childhood and lost innocence. Nevertheless, for the artists they embody the local roots which nourish his imagination and seem to determine the qualities of his individual style. For men like Saleh al-Jumei and Rakan Dabdub the ground patterns of archaeological sites, in which Iraq is particularly rich, have provided the original im-

pulse in shaping the ground pattern and texture of their work, each in his own way: Jumei is concerned with the darkensses of the soul, while Dabdub immerses his images with sensual joy. For Ghazi al-Saudi, the thirteenth century illustrations by Baghdad's great painter al-Wasiti of Maqamat al-Hariri have been a major inspiration, not only in his smaller canvasses and ceramics, but also in his large frescoes where he employs the old Arab gold, blue and red with black outlines in the representation of spacious city scenes translated into a contemporary idiom.

The artists who may be discussed in this context are indeed numerous. One would like also to mention Tareq Madhloum, a well-known archaeologist whose

work, both in content and in style, is full of the ancients and often remarkable for its old epic spirit. Hameed al-Attar's work, a mixture of painting, collage, and bas-relief, is a reevaluation of Babylonian sculpture and myth through a twentieth century magnifying lens, perturbed, and grandiosely heroic. Fuad Jihad revives the bright colours and gold of the Byzantines or, more accurately, of the Syrian and Iraqi church paintings of the 13th and 14th centuries, bestowing a seeming "holiness" on the countless figures that fill his canvases.

Sculptors: Khaled and Mohammad Ghani

Among sculptors, the consciousness of roots is most intense in Khaled al-Rahal and Mohammad Ghani, to name only two of the several top sculptors busy working in Baghdad. What I said about Khaled al-Rahal some years ago still applies: he recaptures the element of joy in ordinary life more than any other. His knowledge of the older alleys of Baghdad (which goes back to the earlier part of his life) is firsthand, and having gone himself once through the agony of the gutter he has come out with drawings, paintings and sculptures mostly related in theme to this basic experience, but suffused with power and existential joy never plagued by sentimentality. Although in his earlier sculpture Assyrian influences were dominant, he has brought to his best work the passion and vigour of the traditional image of the care-free lover glorying in sexual abundance: the women, especially, vibrate with the intensity of being alive in the flesh. His large stone sculpture of an Iraqi woman and child, in Baghdad's Zowra Park, has the sensuous qualities he portrays best: a seeming flight expressive of the relish and love of life. He is now working on a

monument in celebration of the Revolution, which has much of the vividness and force of his dynamic personality.

Emotionally more restrained, Mohammed Ghani is also formally more deliberate: there has been a studied, consistent growth in his style over the last twenty years. In a formative period of his life, his style was influenced by his scrutiny of Sumerian sculpture and ancient cylinder seals (with the succession of elongated figures they left in an impression), which is detectable in a large number of smallish figures of standing women in their traditional *aba* that he once carved in wood. A main theme for him was the life and pursuits of simple people, which for some time he captured in stylized low-reliefs done in wood or, on a smaller scale, in bronze. A later interest in old arabesque spurred on to a novel treatment of it mostly in the carvings of large wooden doors, using much freer and more inventive forms where fantastic convolutions replace the traditional repetitive floral patterns. But even these uneven, almost surrealist convolutions are so devised as to suggest calligraphy and arabesque. When actual words or phrases are used, they are subjected to the same distinctive treatment.

This tendency, in return, has had its effect on Mohammed Ghani's figure sculpture: the anatomy, the clothes, the general construction, all assume a free calligraphic form. Whether it is a single nude or a multi-figured frieze telling the story of medicine in Iraq, the sinuous lines and planes multiply, disperse and gather with the force of this peculiar logic. In his well-known fountain of Murjana, the "Arabian Nights" young woman who foils the stratagem of the forty thieves hidden in their enormous

jars, in the famed Ali Baba story, the sculptor gives this concept of his a monumental structure. In popularity, Murjana now ranks only next to Javad Selim's Monument of Liberty.

In Ghani's latest sculpture, Schahar and Scheherazade (another homage to the "Arabian Nights"), monumentally achieves even greater dimensions. The artist worked for nearly four years on these vast figures that caused him a great deal of worry and heart-search. What a far cry from the old small statues in teak wood whose subtle plasticity one discovered by exploring them by hand, to these towering brick structures in which the artist still hopes not to have lost the feeling of intimacy he likes to establish between his work and the viewer. But the sense of his own style, with roots thus deeply implanted in Iraqi soil, never really falters.

In conclusion, having considered the importance of roots in Iraqi art one must emphasize that (a) painters and sculptors in Baghdad are not mere perpetrators of local folklore, since their individual creative vision is in fact their most precious prize, and that (b) many of them have accomplished works of power and significance completely unrelated to the question of roots as here discussed, whose explanation lies elsewhere. An overall Arab spirit is dominant, nevertheless. The old Arab love for mathematics, for some kind of symmetry, for order in concept and creation, seeps however unconsciously into the works of these artists, as they try to make their voices heard in a world noisy with confusion. This is part of their inheritance, and some of their contribution to the civilization of our times.

(Concluded)



The sculpture of Scheherazade by Mohammed Ghani

Baghdad distinguished itself from the rest of historical cities by being the most attractive and the richest in civilization, science art and literature. It was built on the western bank of the Tigris river by the Abbasid Caliph Abu Ja'far al-Mansour (762 A.D.) and then expanded eastward of the river. It reached its glorious age under Caliph Harroun al-Rasheed.

Being a centre of learning and trade, a unique school was built in Baghdad, namely the renowned Mustanssariyah School which came into being under Abbasid Caliph al-Mustansir Billah (1226-1242 A.D.) Side by side commercial and vocational markets like shourja, textile and copper market also flourished in the city.

The Mustanssariyah school attracted many scholars and students from all over the world; and so did the copper market, which still exists in the centre of old Baghdad along Rasheed street between the North Gate and Tahrir square. The market was built some seven centuries ago and was crowded with shops out of which only forty remained. Moreover, of the hundreds skilled coppersmiths who hammered and crafted copper into exquisite decorative articles, only fifteen remained practising this vocation. The market went through a struggle for existence throughout the past centuries competing with machine made goods, and succeeded to remain in business despite this strong competition.

Coppersmithery is an old vocation in Iraq, as old as man's existence in the Garden of Eden, which is believed to be in the southern part of the country. This vocation came into being when man needed household utensils, when he needed various types of trays, plates, pots, flower vases, candle holders, etc. Every single item had its own specifications, design and decoration. Some items required en-

The Copper Market: where genuine art glitters

gravings and enamels, others mere tapping and moulding.

Baghdad's copper market won its fame mainly due to the variety of articles sold and genuine craftsmanship. The coppersmith here did not learn his craft in

after buying genuine oriental souvenirs and where everybody seems happy about it. But some old craftsmen do not sound so. They complain that this kind of art is vanishing nowadays as their children are attending school, es-



Copper handicrafts

schools, rather, inherited the vocation from his ancestors while together and excelling in the trade. Some of them cannot call themselves "masters" of the trade unless they had spent over fifteen years in the business.

Some of the present smiths still employ very primitive methods in smelting copper accompanied by folkloric songs sung by his seven assistants who systematically and rhythmically hammer the red-like piece of copper. The hammering is so loud that the whole copper market is turned into a machine-beating-like workshop which runs for hours.

The 300-meter long market is always congested with tourists and visitors who are usually

pecially when schooling became free from kindergarten to university levels. Moreover, the past and present generations are of different characteristics which often prevent the children from proceeding along the same path of their fathers. Still, there is the machine which began to compete with craftsmanship in terms of duplicate mass production.

In order to preserve this craft, the government of Iraq opened a number of training centres for coppersmithery at industrial institutes. Some of these trainees have already found their proper place in the copper market, and the noisy hammering continues there indicating the survival of this trade.

(Isam Mahmoud)

CULTURAL BRIEFS

ARAB HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The idea of holding a festival in the summer of 1978 in Spain on "The Arab Heritage" has been welcomed by the Spanish Minister of Education and the President of Granada University; this was announced by Mr. Hussein Amin, Secretary General of the Arab Historians Federation.

Dr. Amin said that the Federation's Secretariat was currently making contacts to realize this project which includes the holding of exhibitions of Arabic antiquities, drama and cinema activities, as well as lectures and studies on history of Arabs in Andalusia.

YOUNG POETS

The last issue of al-Aqlam, the monthly cultural journal published by the Ministry of Information, carried in its issue of January a special report on young Iraqi poets such as Amjed Mohammed Said, Ra'ad Abdul Kader, Sajeda al-Mussawi and others, together with two studies written by Tarad al-Kubbaisi, "First reading in the young poems" and "An introduction of young poets" written by Abdul Jabar Dawood.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY AT BABYLON

An Iraqi archaeological team working at Babylon discovered last season two drum-shaped clay prisms with cuneiform inscriptions that will probably shed light on the history of the largest castle in Babylon.

The leader of the archaeological team believed that the castle belonged to the era of Nebuchadnezzar



who ruled Babylon before Nebuchadnezzar. This castle is believed to be the largest historical castle so far discovered in Iraq.

GIFTS TO SANA

The Ministry of Awqaf (religious endowment) presented a valuable collection of the Holy Quran in various sizes, and a number of religious and cultural books and publications to the Ministry of Awqaf of the Arab Republic of Yemen.

Religious and Arabic heritage books were presented also to Islamic associations and schools in Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana and Kenya.

SHANKER COMPETITION

Iraq won eight medals in the International Shanker Competition on children's paintings which was held in Delhi. Some 134 countries participated in the competition along with Iraq. The Iraqi Press Attache in New Delhi received the medals.

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



The Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra held a concert presenting many musical parts from Oberon Opera and Fegaro Wedding, Mozart, Symphony J. George Bizet. It also presented a soprano singer Miss. Selwa Shamelian.

On the other hand a musical evening was held in al-Khuld Hall on January 15, by the musical "Wesdweh Tripartite" composed of horn player, Kostav Naderk, violin player, Alfred Braith and piano player, Mekail Brownfils. This visit came within the group's international tour of Asian and Arab Eastern countries.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS ABROAD

The Ministry of Education decided to open Iraqi primary schools in Ankara, Turkey, and in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for Iraqi and Arab community children.

IRAQ IN CISM COACHING COURSES

Iraq will take part in three coaching courses which will be organized by the International Council for Military Sports (CISM) in Doha, Qatar, from February 8.

Seventeen countries including Iraq will take part in this 5-day course. Each country will participate in football, track and field and sports-medical.

ARAB FENCING CHAMPIONSHIP

Iraq will stage the first Arab Fencing Championship next July to commemorate the 17 July Revolution.

Invitations have been sent out to Egypt, Libya, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to send their men and women's teams to take part in the championship.



ERITREAN SOCCER TEAM IN IRAQ



The Eritrean select football team played a number of matches with the Iraqi soccer teams.

The Eritrean team which underwent training in Iraq intends to make an athletic tour covering a number of Arabian Gulf countries.

STUDENTS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

The Iraqi Chess Federation has fixed February 8 next as the date for organizing country's chess championship for students.

The championship will be apart of the national celebrations marking the 14th anniversary of Ramadhan Revolution.



NEW BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The College of Physical Education, University of Baghdad, has received the approval for the construction of new modern and integrated buildings over an area measuring 250,000 square meters. A sum of about ID. 5,000,000 (\$ 17,000,000) has been earmarked for the buildings which will include all requirements of a complete athletic city plus specious halls for the theoretical and practical studies of physical education.

Meanwhile a sum of more than one million Iraqi dinars will be spent for the purchase of most up-to-date athletic equipment and laboratories which will be used for the first time in Iraq.

BAKR AND HUSSEIN CONDOLE DEATH OF PREMIER BIJEDIC

President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr on January 19 sent to President Josip Broz Tito a cable of condolences on the tragic death of Mr. Dzemal Bijedic, the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia. Mr. Bijedic was killed in a plane crash on January 18.

In his cable President Bakr said, "I received with great sorrow the news of the death of Mr. Dzemal Bijedic, the Chairman of the Federal Executive Council and Prime Minister of the friendly Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia. While offering you and the deceased's family the deepest feelings of condolence and consolation for Yugoslavia's painful loss of such a remarkable personality, who was a dear friend of ours, I wish you continued health and long life".

Mr. Saddam Hussein, RCC Vice-Chairman, on January 20 called on the Yugoslav Embassy in Baghdad and wrote in the Condolence Book his "deepest condolences for the loss of a sincere friend who worked truthfully and honestly to develop relations between Iraq and Yugoslavia and who played a key role in shaping international policies in defence of the interests of peoples looking forward to securing their rights and self-determination".

FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS IRAN

Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr. Saadoun Hammadi paid a two-day visit to Iran on January 11-12 as the head of an official delegation.

While there Dr. Hammadi held a series of talks with Iranian officials for the further development of bilateral relations between Iraq and Iran.

Dr. Hammadi was received by the Shah of Iran and Prime Minister Amir Abbas Hovaida. He also held meetings with the Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Ali Khatlari.

In a joint communique issued following the visit of Dr. Hammadi the two sides stressed the importance and necessity of continued contacts on all levels between the two countries with a view to

bolstering bilateral relations. Reviewing the current international situation the two sides stressed their common stand in backing up the peoples struggle against imperialism and racial discrimination.

IRAQ PARTICIPATES IN A WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM IN CONAKRY

The General Federation of Iraq Women will attend a symposium on the Role of Women in Society scheduled to be held in Conakry, Guinea, on February 6.

The four-day symposium, organized by the Revolutionary Women's Union in Guinea, in cooperation with the International Democratic Women's Federation, will discuss the experience of women in African independent countries, their struggle against imperialism and the role of women's organizations in the battle against neocolonialism, racial discrimination and Zionism.

IRAQI-INDIAN JOINT COMMISSION TO MEET IN BAGHDAD

An Iraqi-Indian economic and technical cooperation committee is scheduled to meet in Baghdad on February 8 to work out a plan for trade exchange between the two countries in 1977.

Six working sub-committees are expected to branch out of the main committee to deal with trade, industrial cooperation, consultative service, agriculture and irrigation, transport services, oil and petrochemical and cultural and technical cooperation.

The committee has been formed under an agreement concluded between the two countries in 1974.

ERRATUM

In issue No. 32, Volume II January 1-15, 1977 of Iraq Today, page 12 column 2 — 2nd paragraph, line 3 should read:

"tivity decline did not rule out".

