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21 January 1986

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

GROUP CLAIMS TO HAVE KILLED, ABDUCTED DASHNAK LEADERS

Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 18 Nov 85 p 1

[Communique by the Lebanon Central Committee of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation]

[Text] To the Armenian people:

On 9 October 1985, the Lebanese press carried a communique signed by a so-called "Federation of Armenian Revolutionaries--Revolutionary Movement" claiming responsibility for the criminal acts of killing two Dashnak Party [Armenian Revolutionary Federation] comrades, Sarkis Aznavorian and Tatul Sahian (formerly Surian), and kidnaping a third comrade, Sarkis Zeytlian. The communique accuses the ARF of treason in general and working for the interests of the United States, Turkey and Israel in particular and threatens new killings.

A second communique carrying the same signature appeared in the Lebanese press on 4 November 1985, this time accompanied by a picture of Comrade Zeytlian who has remained captive since 28 March. The communique said nothing about Garo Kolanjian who had accompanied Zeytlian. After leveling allegations against our organization, the communique stated that the said organization will soon publish Comrade Zeytlian's written and audio and video recorded "confessions."

During its 95-year history, the ARF, a vanguard and a defender of the Armenian nation and its interests, has encountered similar conspiracies which have generally been simply ignored. Our response would have been the same in this instance, had it not been part of a general, government-sponsored anti-Armenian conspiracy which has intensified in recent years to block the successes achieved in the promotion of the Armenian Cause and to end the rightful struggle of the Armenian nation led by the ARF.

The conspiracy aimed at weakening and undermining the Armenian nation's struggle for its rights--which took on new life with the 50th anniversary of the genocide and grew stronger with the 60th anniversary--focuses primarily on attempts to strike at the ARF in order to halt the victorious progress of an independent Armenian struggle. This is a conspiracy which features a coincidence of great power interests and multiple shades of collaboration.

The claims of responsibility for criminal acts through communiques by the so-called "Federation of Armenian Revolutionaries--Revolutionary Movement" and allegations against the ARF fall within the framework of this anti-Armenian and anti-ARF conspiracy and are aimed at creating confusion and a fratricidal atmosphere in Armenian political life.

We cannot accept that an organization that calls itself Armenian could have committed these Turkish-inspired criminal acts against three selfless Armenian compatriots. An Armenian organization cannot and must not allow itself to undertake such actions which may result in the weakening and undermining of the vigorous work being carried out to promote the Armenian Cause because such acts can only serve the interests of the Turk and can only be committed by foreign hirelings. An organization which is involved in such activities can under no circumstances be an Armenian organization even if it carries an Armenian name.

During its 95 years of activity, the ARF has added glorious pages to Armenian history. In critical as well as ordinary times, the Armenian people has always embraced the ARF, which is dedicated to the realization of the nation's goals, and lauded its work and will probably do so in the future. Furthermore, history hands down its own verdict on this issue.

We believe that those who want to exploit and to blemish the ARF's name, who have committed criminal acts against the sons of the Armenian nation, who desire to sow discord among the Armenian people and who want to alter the destiny of the Armenian nation will be brought before the court of justice of the Armenian people and history no matter who they are.

9588

CSO: 4605/15

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

TURKISH PAPER: KHOMEYNI REGIME 'OFFICIALLY' HELPS ASALA, PKK

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 22 Oct 85 pp 1,4

[Text] The YENI ASIR correspondent reports that the Khomeyni regime in Iran has been providing direct assistance to anti-Turkish terrorist organizations inside and outside Turkey, including the ASALA [Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia] and the PKK [Kurdistan Workers' Party] which is also known as the Apoists. It had previously been reported that assistance to these organizations came from the anti-government "People's Fighters" [Mojahedeen] organization in Iran, but Iranian official circles have confirmed that it is they who provide this assistance and that they have recently been handing over to these organizations arms seized from anti-government movements.

Iran's current rulers reportedly decided at a recent secret meeting to help all organizations which do not oppose the Iranian Islamic Revolution. Meanwhile, it is reported that although Iran is on the narcotics traffic route from Afghanistan and Pakistan Iranian authorities are unable to halt these activities and that, as a result, terrorist organizations transport their narcotics through Iran onto Europe where they sell them and buy weapons.

During an international conference in Tehran last month the head of the Iranian delegation admitted that the means at the government's disposal are inadequate to combat effectively against drug smuggling because the traffickers are virtually all terrorists and when intercepted they attack government forces with rocket launchers.

Although the present Iranian regime has secretly agreed to help anti-Turkish separatist movements and terrorist organizations, Hosseyn Maranaki, a political officer at the Iranian embassy in London, declared recently that "those who help the ASALA and the PKK are the People's Fighters." An official who served as a captain in the Iranian army under the monarchy told the YENI ASIR correspondent that the People's Fighters are currently fighting a crucial battle against the Khomeyni regime and that they want to take over the government at any cost. However, their resources are reportedly limited and therefore, they cannot afford to help ASALA and the PKK in their present circumstances because they are fighting for their life with all the means at their disposal. Consequently, it is the government which is helping the said organizations, because it is the regime's policy to create unrest in neighboring countries. It is already known around the world that the three primary centers of the said organizations is Damascus, Athens and Tehran.

Furthermore, it has been determined that the Iranian government hands over to these organizations all weapons seized from the People's Fighters or other separatist organizations in the course of military operations.

Meanwhile, Turkish authorities are seriously concerned about the incidents that have been taking place on the Turkish-Iranian border as well as the activities of separatist groups and drug smuggling. It is also reported that ASALA and the PKK have unfortunately found sanctuary in two neighboring countries and that they infiltrate into Turkey and commit criminal acts with the hope of achieving their well-known cursed objectives. Information obtained by Turkish authorities and their implications generally do not agree with Iranian allegations and reassurances, and it is believed that events expected to happen in the near future will once again refute their statements and confirm Turkey's suspicions.

9588

CSO: 4605/16

EGYPT

REPORT ON NEW TOWN

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 1 Nov 85 p 2

[Text] Work on waterworks projects in the new town of el-Obur which lies on the Heckstep-Belbeis road, 25 km from Cairo, has already started, said Mr Hassaballa el-Kafrawi, the minister of reconstruction, new communities and land reclamation. The new town will be provided with potable water through pipes that will carry 2,600 cubic metres daily, from the Ismailia canal.

As regards electricity, the feed-network will be completed within the coming weeks, so as to provide the required power for the construction projects in the town pointed out the minister, who added that the design of the new town aims to accommodate the employees of the factories already existing in the town and its environs. The number of these workers is about 12,000 and this is increased daily by 8,000 craftsmen who travel from Cairo to work in the new town. Houses and workshops which have already been set up in el-Obur, will also relieve the burden on Greater Cairo.

The minister further said that among the most important projects in the new town is the wholesale market which will replace the old market of Rod el-Farag. The new market will soon be ready for receiving the agricultural products of east-Delta governorates and those coming from the new harbour of Damietta.

Mr Hassaballa el-Kafrawi stated that the new town is an independent city, including its utilities of water, sewerage and other services which do not have to rely on Cairo utilities. About 1,700 parcels of land have been allocated for housing cooperatives and individuals. GSS

/8309

CSO: 4500/45

EGYPT

NEW VILLAGES IN SINAI

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 25 Oct 85 p 2

[Text]

A NUMBER of projects will be carried out in North Sinai governorate so as to develop 32 villages there, said Dr. Ahmed Rashid, the Chairman of Village Development Authority. An amount of LE 6 million has been endorsed for this purpose. These villages have already been erected and a network of roads and utilities are currently under way. The aim of these projects is to convert Sinai into a population attraction spot and to settle Bedouin in modern urban communities. An agreement was recently reached between the Authority and the Governor of Sinai, according to which, committees will be formed to follow up the progress of these projects within a fixed schedule, added Dr. Rashid.

/8309

CSO: 4500/44

PLAN TO COUNTER CANAL POLLUTION REPORTED

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 12 Nov 85 p 3

[Text] A SYMPOSIUM on "environmental problems and floating reception facilities", was held earlier this week in Ismailia by the Suez Canal Authority in collaboration with the Greek "Vera Shipping Company". The Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, Mr. Mohamed Ezat Adel, said that a project will soon be started to protect the Suez Canal against pollution resulting from tankers passing through the canal.

Mr. Ezz Eddin Mokhtar, Secretary of the symposium, said that studies conducted by the Egyptian and Greek experts recommended the use of floating units to combat pollution in the sea,

Members of the symposium also witnessed a practical experiment to deal with oil tankers by the use of the floating separator "Abu Ahmed", which is an old Greek tanker, converted by Vera Company to serve one of the ports of the Arab Gulf. Abu Ahmad was anchored at

Lake Tamsah for the demonstration.

Mr. Denis Yatras, an expert in the Vera Company, said that the most important pollutant attributed to land and maritime pollution is oil. "It is estimated that nothing less than 3.5 million tons of oil are wasted in the sea every year including 1.5 million tons from oil tankers and other ships", he said.

Oil-discharge into the sea attributed to maritime activity is caused either accidentally or is due to normal tanker operations. "Normal tanker operations".

The "International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution by Ships 1973/78" better known as MARPOL 73/78, tackles the problem of marine pollution in a number of ways. A main point is the prevention from operational pollution in the way of providing for the ships, adequate reception facilities in all the main ports to enable them to discharge their residue.

Floating reception facilities

become nowadays the best and sometimes the only solution to the burden for a number of good reasons, such as:

- Speedy construction in the way of appropriate conversion of an existing tanker to a floating separator. The time required for such conversion is at minimum 20 times less than the time taken to erect a similar shore installation.

- Investment required is less than 1/5th in comparison with that required for a shore facility.

- Flexibility on capacity and easy movement from one port to another makes them fit the actual needs of the port they are servicing. Thus, huge cost is saved for building shore installations with provision to service a specific port over, say, a 10-year period.

- They create no environmental problems at all, of whatever nature, since they are usually anchored at a distance.

- They require no land. — GSS

/8309

CSO: 4500/44

EGYPT

REPORT ON NEW POWER STATION

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 25 Oct 85 p 2

[Text] Two power transformer stations at Ayyat and Dahshour, Giza Governorate, were inaugurated yesterday by the minister of energy, Mr. Maher Abaza, accompanied by the governor of Giza, Dr. Abdul Hamid Hassan. The total cost of the two stations amounts to LE five million.

Mr. Abaza said that the transformer station of Ayyat will help provide 11 villages with electricity and will help boost the power grid of Ayyat. He added that the station will, moreover, provide electricity for investment and food self sufficiency projects in the district.

As regards Dahshour station the minister said that it will provide Dahshour military base and [word illegible] villages with electricity and will boost the power grid of the area, which includes several industrial and agricultural projects.

Meanwhile, Mr. Abaza, earlier this week, inaugurated al-Shawabsa power station in Fayum Governorate. The station's capacity is 25 megawatts and will help provide 10 villages with their requirements of electricity, and will also provide power for tourist projects along the coast of Lake Karoun. The total cost of the station was LE five million.

Dr Wali and Mr Abaza also laid the foundation stone of a new power distribution unit in Kom Oshim region to cover increasing requirements of the industrial and agricultural projects. It will become operational by the beginning of the coming year.

Dr Wali also said that six agricultural mechanisation depots will be set up in various parts of Fayyum within the framework of a plan to build 150 such stations throughout the country. Work is currently under way for the implementation of a project to make Cairo-Fayum road a two-day highway as this road is the main link between the two cities.

A study on the possibility of building a plant for ice production near the lake of Wadi el-Rayan has been completed, said Mr Abaza. The plant will produce 4 tons of ice per day for preserving fish. GSS

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CSO: 4500/44

EGYPT

REPORT ON SOLAR HEATER PROGRAM

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 3 Nov 85 p 2

[Text]

FLATS in new communities will be provided with solar heaters and their prices will be added to the price of each flat, said the Ministry of Energy, Mr Maher Abaza.

He said that solar heaters will save the country millions of pounds, now paid out as subsidies on electricity and butane gas. He pointed out that 1,000 solar heaters have been installed by the Power Distribution Company, in the course of three years.

At the present time there are five companies in Egypt involved in the production of solar heaters. He said that an Egyptian-French company

has recently started production and its factory will operate at full capacity next July. He said that among the merits of a solar heater is that it does not need any sort of maintenance.

The Chairman of the Company, Mr Helmi Ismail, said that the Ministry of Energy owns 60 per cent of the capital. At the present time it produces 5,000 heaters per year, which could be raised to 15,000. When the factory is moved to Ramadan 10 City, next April, the initial capacity will be 30,000 heaters per year, said Mr Ismail.

. GSS

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CSO: 4500/44

EGYPT

SEA LINK WITH USSR

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 14 Nov 85 p 3

[Article by Ahmed Sabri]

[Text]

The Soviet Union has expressed its wish to resume the operation of the joint navigational line between the Egyptian ports of Alexandria and Port Said and the Soviet ports on the Black Sea. The line was cancelled in 1974 after the departure of Soviet experts from Egypt in 1973.

Sources at the Ministry of Transport, Telecommunications and Maritime Transport said that the Soviets sent a message in which they said that it is time to hold a meeting of the Egyptian-Soviet joint committee to discuss amendments suggested by the Egyptian side on regu-

lations related to this navigational line.

These amendments aim at reconsidering the transport tariff between the two countries in the light of changes in international prices, in order to cope with the freights of other navigational lines.

The Soviet side expressed its willingness to consider these suggestions and a Soviet delegation comprising a number of maritime transport experts is expected to arrive in Alexandria soon for talks with Egyptian experts before holding meetings of the joint committee.

Mr. Ahmed el-Salami, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Transport, said that the Egyptian side has agreed to receive the Soviet delegation which is expected to arrive within a few weeks and that amendments which will be discussed during the delegation's visit will be approved by the Egyptian-Soviet joint committee.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian-Polish joint committee for maritime transport will hold a meeting in Alexandria on December 11 to discuss maritime transport relations within the framework of the agreement signed by the two countries to this effect.

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CSO: 4500/45

EGYPT

SUBTERRANEAN WATER ON SUDANESE BORDER

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 21 Nov 85 p 2

[Text]

PICTURES taken by space shuttles reveal the existence of subterranean water on Egyptian-Sudanese borders at depths ranging between eight and forty metres which could be used in cultivating 100,000 feddans of arable land.

Dr Faruk el-Baz said that the pictures also indicated the existence of valleys obscured by sand on Egyptian and Sudanese territory which could be directed towards agricultural development.

He pointed out that studies confirmed the ending of the drought in the Sudan and other African countries, and that the coming seven years will be fertile, due to the

expected rainfall. He said that drought is a natural phenomenon to which the world is repeatedly exposed.

He said that the High Dam is not jeopardised by earthquakes, the occurrence of which are natural, due to slight changes in surface reliefs. Dr el-Baz said that a delta has been formed behind the Dam covering 130 kilometres, which could be taken advantage of to the benefit of Egypt and the Sudan. The large amounts of water reserves in the Dam could be kept for drought periods which occur every eleven years, he said. — GSS.

/8309

CSO: 4500/45

EGYPT

HYACINTH PROBLEM IN NILE DISCUSSED

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN MAIL in English 2 Nov 85 p 3

[Text]

THE presence of hyacinth in the Nile River, its tributaries and lakes, is responsible for the loss of approximately three billion cubic metres of water annually. This amount of water would be sufficient to irrigate 500,000 feddans.

In addition to the loss of water, the presence of the hyacinth contributes to the inefficiency of the irrigation systems. Dr. Ahmed Fakhri, the Director of the Research Institute for Maintaining Canals, indicates that the growth of the hyacinth in the waterways accumulates in dense amounts near water irrigation pumps, thereby hindering the performance of the pumps, curtailing the supply of irrigation water to the land and blocking the irrigation openings.

Additionally, the Chairman of the Authority for the Development of Fish Wealth, Dr. Yehia Hassan, states that due to the evaporation of the water caused by the hyacinth covering large areas of the water's surface, the amount of fish in the Nile is declining.

The First Under Secretary of the Ministry of Irrigation, Mr. Tharwat Fahmi, said that the hyacinth uses approximately two per cent of the Nile's water for growth purposes.

Hyacinth cannot be removed by either cutting or any other manual methods, as these methods promote the growth of the plant. Additionally, during its stages of decomposition, hyacinth causes environmental pollution.

The Minister of Irrigation, Mr. Essam Radi, indicates that the Ministry has prepared a comprehensive programme for combating the growth of hyacinth and other such plants in the waterways. He further indicated that the irrigation canals are now clear from hyacinth and the programme will soon be extended to the drainage canals. Furthermore, an additional campaign to control the growth of the hyacinth will commence in January, at which time the dormancy period of the hyacinth ceases.

The hyacinth are now covering an area of approximately 10,000 feddans of the surfaces of the waterways and the cost of its removal will be approximately LE 100,000.

Due to the dangerous effects of the growth of hyacinth in the waterways of Egypt, the government should determine the methods necessary to destroy the plants, not merely clear the waterways. One method, which has proved successful in other parts of the world, is the spraying of the affected waterways with herbicides which prohibit the initial growth of the plants and do not adversely affect the fish in the waterways. This method should be considered, together with other possible solutions. This problem must be given immediate attention due to the water loss incurred, the effects on the country's irrigation systems, the diminished fish wealth and the rapid growth factor of the hyacinth. These problems have already been encountered in the Tal El-Dahab area, located between the Damietta and Dakahlia governorates. Delay in the formulation and implementation of a plan to completely eliminate such growth, as opposed to merely clearing the waterways, will result in an increase in the foregoing problems.

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EGYPT

BRIEFS

NEW BEDOUIN SETTLEMENTS--Within the framework of the Ministry of Reconstructions plan to encourage bedouin to settle in stable productive communities, the Ministry of Reconstruction decided to erect twenty new villages for bedouin communities. Six new villages have already been built for them in the Red Sea governorate, said Minister Hassaballa el-Kafrawi. Five of these villages are on the Red Sea coast and the sixth village is on the Quena-Safaga road. Another village is currently being built adjacent to the Egyptian-Sudanese borders. [Text] [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 20 Nov 85 p 3] /8309

TRADE WITH ROMANIA--Agreements will be drawn up between Egypt and Romania, Italy, and Turkey, with the object of exporting 100,000 tons of charcoal. The total value of the exported quantities is 10 million dollars. About 55,000 tons is to be exported to Romania, said the Director-General of the Board of Directors of Nasr Company for Charcoal and Chemical Industries, Mr. Adel el-Mosi. He added that another agreement has been signed for Greece to be supplied with ammonium nitrate which is used in manufacturing explosives. [Text] [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 28 Nov 85 p 2] /8309

NEW ELECTRICAL GENERATOR--South Sinai governorate has already completed the first and the biggest station for generating electricity through the use of gas at Sharm el-Sheikh town. The new station which costs LE 6 million, consists of two units with a productive capacity of ten megawatts, said Mr. Abdul Moneim Abdullah, the Chairman of Sharm el-Sheikh Local Council. This station will be inaugurated before the end of this month, he added. [Text] [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 9 Nov 85 p 2] /8309

CSO: 4500/44

TUNISIA

DISSIDENTS REPORTED TO BE AIDING QADHDHAFI

Tunis REALITE in French 4 Oct 85 pp 20-22

[Article by Samir Abdellah: "Qadhdhafi's Tunisian Collaborators"]

[Text] The attempt to assassinate Hedi Nouira, the former Tunisian prime minister, the attack in Gafsa and the launching of a radio station called "The Voice of the Tunisian Revolution" represent the high points in the activism of Tunisian dissidents based in Libya and promoted by Qadhdhafi.

Dissidents? The adjective is not very well suited to an unusual situation. Of all the Tunisian dissidents living in exile, of which group one important member has returned to Tunisia in recent years, only those in Libya have this characteristic--total enslavement to the political apparatus in power. This dependence is seen on all levels--organizational, financial, human and doctrinal. Thus it would be more suitable to call them direct collaborators, instead.

The court inquiries undertaken of their actions which we have just listed have established, with supporting evidence, that they were sponsored by the Libyan authorities, on the highest level. A generally well-informed source has told us that the majority of these dissidents were sentenced or prosecuted by the Tunisian courts for common-law crimes committed while they were still in Tunisia. These crimes ranged from murder to rape, from fraud to aggravated theft. Certain of these individuals, in flight from the authorities, were tried in absentia and sentenced to heavy penalties, even including hard labor for life.

The Libyan authorities have plainly profited from this situation of frustration and despair to make of these dissidents hostages at their mercy.

REALITE has investigated the identity and activities of these dissidents. We are now able to report that they are members of four movements, which in order of importance are The Revolutionary Movement for the Liberation of Tunisia, the Free Unionists Movement and the League of Tunisian Workers.

The Revolutionary Movement for the Liberation of Tunisia

This organization dates back to the events which occurred in Tunisia following the Arab defeat in June 1967. It was then called the Nationalist Front for the Liberation of Tunisia. The sponsors of this movement are Mohamed Rhouma Houazi (who is 35, has taken Libyan nationality and has become an officer in the Libyan army), Amara Ben Dhaou Ben Naiel (30, a native of Ben Guerdane), Amara Dhaou Manita (40, also originally from Ben Guerdane), Hedi Ben Youssef Bettaieb (31), Bechir Ben Ali Ben Maatoug (28, a native of Zarzis), Mohamed El Gafsi (born in Gafsa in 1948), and Said El Ouerchafani (a native of Ben Guerdane, now 60 years old).

This group, which is credited with the Gafsa operation, led by Ahmed Merghani, has no autonomy of decision in relation to the leading Libyan political bodies. It is therefore a mere tool for the execution of the plans ordered from above for implementation in Tunisia.

But of all sponsors of this movement, Amara Dhaou Ben Naiel seems to be the most influential individual and its intellectual head. He has twice been sentenced to death, the first time for a common-law crime involving a murder, and the second for his involvement in the planning of the Gafsa strike.

The experts on Libyan affairs have not failed to recognize the leading political position he occupies within Libyan leading circles. Press reports which have been confirmed say that he is Qadhdhafi's number one adviser for "Tunisian affairs." But there is every indication that Mr Dhaou, who lost all touch with the reality in Tunisia decades ago, drafts distorted pictures of this reality for his patrons. A simple strike at the Tunisian University or one launched by the trade unions is represented as being a revolt or rebellion. Qadhdhafi, who has always nurtured the widest range of covetous desires with regard to Tunisia, lends a willing ear to his "Tunisian adviser"!

The Movement of Tunisian Revolutionary Committees

This second movement, it has been reported, is a development out of the first. It was established by the Libyan revolutionary committees, of which the members are the vanguard Libyan individuals under the direct orders of Qadhdhafi.

Our investigation showed that the Tunisians recruited by this organization undergo military training with a view to carrying out terrorist actions. In Tunisia.

The reports we have indicate that a camp was built especially for this training. It is said to be named the (Mouaskar) Chanouh Camp, and to be under the direction of a Libyan officer named Belgacem Chebli.

These Tunisian revolutionary committees are headed by a Tunisian born about 1937 in Ben Guerdane. He was sentenced to hard labor for life by the Tunisian courts for the commission of common-law crimes, among others a premeditated murder and aggravated theft.

The slogan of this group reveals its ideology. It follows the Green Book, which urges the establishment of committees throughout the Arab world for "the abolition of the existing reactionary regimes."

The Movement of Free Unionists

This organization was only recently established. Founded in January 1984, the goal it urges is the achievement of Arab unity via the path of armed revolution. The majority of its Tunisian members come from the south and are wanted by the Tunisian court authorities. The leader of this group is a Tunisian born in Enfidha about 1948 and said to be named Mohamed Riahi Zitouni. Confirmed reports indicate that this group has the ideological and financial support of a Libyan body which is working for the propagation of Mu'ammarr Qadhdhafi's Third World theory. We believe that this body is known as the Libyan World Representation.

League of Tunisian Workers in the Jamahiriya

Following the events which occurred in Tunisia on 26 January, the Libyan authorities established an organization made up basically of Tunisian workers employed in Libya and known as the Libyan section of the UGTT [Tunisian General Federation of Labor]. Its stated objectives are to support the legitimate leadership of the UGTT and to regularize the situation of the Tunisians who have emigrated illegally to Libya. But following the protests of the UGTT, which has denounced this puppet section, the authorities in Tripoli changed the name of the organization to the League of Tunisian Workers in the Jamahiriya. The union facade of this organization ill conceals its activities designed to subvert the Tunisian regime.

5157

CSO: 4519/25

TUNISIA

LIBYA TARGETS JOURNALISTS, POLITICAL FIGURES

Tunis LE TEMPS in French 29 Sep 85 pp 1, 3

[Text] It has finally become possible to learn the names of certain journalists working for the Tunisian press, radio and television to whom the Libyan government sent letter bombs. There are 34 names on the list.

However it is not complete, because it should further include, it has been suggested, between 60 and 70 political figures, whose names it has not been possible to obtain.

It should be noted moreover that the two letters which did explode, the first in the PTT [Postal, Telephone and Telegraph] office in El Menzah, and at least 10 or so in the letter box on Mustapha M'barek Street justify the assumption that there were other addressees whose names are not known because the envelopes were destroyed. It is also possible that there are other envelopes which have not yet been discovered.

A reading of the list of the journalists' names now known shows that DAR ASSABAH had the lion's share, with seven of those to whom the letter bombs were sent. It should also be noted that some newsmen were to receive two envelopes, the first addressed to the office and the second to the home. This was the case with our colleagues Abdeljelil Dammak and Abdellatif Fourati of DAR ASSABAH.

The list now available includes:

ASSABAH--Abdeljelil, Dammak, Abellatif Fourati, Abdessalam Haj Kacem, Slim Karrai, Mohamed Bousnina and Salah Hajjah; LE TEMPS--Mustapha Khammari; AL AMAL--Ahmed Kedidi, Abdel Kader Guezguez, Abdesslem Lassila, Mohsen Jelassi and Hichem Karoui; LA PRESSE--Abdelwahab Abdallah, Mohamed Mahfoudh, Slah Maouia and Chadli Laifa; AL ANOUAR--Amor Touil, Hassan Hamada and Slaheddine Lamri; LES ANNONCES--Abdelhamid Riahi and Jamaledine Karmaoui; AL BATAL--Mohamed Moncef El Mouaddhen; Tunisian Radio and Television--Mohamed Dammak, Hamed Dabbabi and Hedi Ben Khamsa; L'ACTION--Hammadi Ben Hammad, Moncef Chihi and Naceur Ben Cheikh; ERRAI--Hassib Ben Ammar and Boubaker Sghaier; REALITE--Bourguida Ben Rejeb, Laroussi Lamri, Samir Abdallah and Moncef Ben M'rad.

Thanks to the skill and the courage of the security services, the letter bombs addressed to the journalists were able to be collected and dismantled by yesterday. They also drafted a list of the approximately 100 individuals to whom these artifacts of death were sent.

OFFSHORE BANK MERGER PROPOSED

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 23 Nov 85 p 26

[Text]

BAHRAIN—A proposed merger of five Bahrain offshore banks with part Kuwaiti ownership into a single institution makes sense in view of the contraction in the Gulf economy and the international banking market, bankers here say.

But they say that the merger, proposed in a letter to the banks from the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA), is far from a foregone conclusion. Agreements between shareholders of banks in the region have in the past been difficult to achieve.

Chairmen of the banks meet next week to discuss the proposal, banking sources say.

The five banks are the Bahrain and Kuwait Investment Group, Bahrain International Bank (BIB), Bahrain Middle East Bank (BMB), Kuwait Asia Bank and United Gulf Bank (UGB).

Bankers say they have combined capital of some \$770 million and none is in financial difficulty, although most suffered from lending which soured in Kuwait after the 1982 stock market crash.

The banks, whose offshore or investment bank licences exclude them from a local commercial bank base, have struggled to find a role in the region not adequately filled by others.

All were formed late in the oil boom. The regional economy has now shrunk in a weak oil market, and the international banking system contracted after the Latin American loan crisis.

Concurrently, loans to Saudi Arabia—the traditional major business area for Bahrain offshore banks—started to turn bad and domestic commercial banks there grew more sophisticated.

Saudi Arabian monetary authorities went on to forbid joint syndications of riyal credits among Saudi and foreign banks and issued negotiable instruments which stemmed the flow of riyals offshore to the Bahrain market.

As a result, the asset to capital ratios of the banks are very low. In the case of BIB for instance, its paid-in capital of \$180 million drove assets at the end of 1984 of \$295 million.

Bankers say however that while they consider a merger a good idea, the problems will remain of finding direction for a big institution based in Bahrain.

"Where does it go then?" asked one Bahrain banker. "ABC and GIB are asking themselves the same question," he said, referring to Bahrain's Arab-owned offshore banking giants Arab Banking Corp (ABC) and Gulf International Bank (GIB).

Both these banks, owned jointly by Arab governments, muscled into the syndicated credit market backed by their big capital. Since most of their lending was sovereign risk, sophisticated credit analysis was not necessary and the business could be run with a few skilled people here working by telephone and telex.

But since then the growth of the international securities market has eclipsed international bank syndications, and the two banks do not have the customer base to sell notes and bonds.

ABC has decided to insulate itself from the Gulf economy and the oil market by ploughing capital into acquisitions of mature banks overseas—in West Germany, Hong Kong and Spain.

"As yet it's not clear whether ABC will try to develop some synergy and run the whole show from Bahrain, or whether the Bahrain bank will become

a holding company," commented one outside observer.

GIB's strategy has been harder to detect. Some bankers believe one plan could be for it to use acquisitions to find good customer deposit base in the Gulf market.

Three of the banks which Bahrain would like to see merged, BIB, BMB, and UGB, talked about combining in 1983 but nothing came of it. BMB said it sees no compelling reason to join the merger. Its chairman Abdul Rahman Salem Al Ateeqi said in a statement that because the bank had diversified globally and made sound investments, it had no overriding need to merge.

"We see no compelling reason to participate in the proposed voluntary merger, and no discussions have taken place to date between ourselves and any other institutions in this regard," he said.

BMB general manager Katch Katchadurian said on Wednesday a merger would probably be acceptable, but not one across the board. "You have to be selective about your partners," he said.

In June BMB bought a 40 per cent share in the Geneva branch of Anlag and Kreditbank AKB, and Mr Katchadurian has said the bank is looking for further acquisitions abroad.

Bankers say it is possible that the governments of Kuwait and Bahrain may inject money into a new bank, possibly more as an inducement to shareholders than out of need for more capital.

Bankers say foreign banks have scaled back to cut costs.

They have redeployed resources elsewhere and one or two have pulled out. Many foreign bankers say their prime role now is that of a loan collection agency in Saudi Arabia and one senior banker said, "The number of professional bankers in Bahrain has fallen sharply since the market started to turn down in 1983."

Until this year, offshore bank assets held up fairly well. But the latest BMA figures showed them at their lowest level in September since early 1982, \$55.5 billion, down from a peak of 63.5 billion in March 1984.

/9274

CSO: 4400/75

BAHRAIN

BRIEFS

CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH INDIA--Manama, 8 Dec (WAKH)--A cultural agreement was signed in Manama between Bahrain and India by Education Minister Dr 'Ali Muhammad Fakhro and Mr Bhatnagar, Indian ambassador to Bahrain. The agreement provides for educational as well as cultural activities such as arts, theater, archeology, et cetera. The signing of today's agreement renews a previous agreement between the two countries. [Summary] [Manama WAKH in Arabic 0942 GMT 8 Dec 85 GF] /6662

BAHRAIN ALUMINUM PLANT--A multi-million dinar extension programme may be shelved by Alba [Aluminum Bahrain] because of the depressed state of the metals market. The company's board has set up a committee to investigate the plan's feasibility and a decision will be made at the next board meeting in May. A spokesman said Alba had second thoughts on the project, which includes extensions to two potrooms and provision of added power through a waste heat recovery scheme. "However, the decision does not affect a BD24 million retrofit programme, which has already been given the go-ahead," the spokesman said. The retrofit, or modernisation, will see pots controlled by latest technology. Testing of the present phase will be completed in 1986, with the whole project finished by 1989. The Alba spokesman refuted a report in the Arabic weekly, AL ADWAA, which said the Alba plant would undergo a \$150 million (BD56 million) development programme. Meanwhile, he said, Alba's efforts at reducing production costs have received a big boost. "We expect that in 1986, the cost of production will be the lowest since 1975." [Text [Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 24 Nov 85 p 1 GF] /6662

DROP IN TRADE DEFICIT REPORTED--Bahrain's trade deficit shrank in the first half of 1985 as exports and imports both fell, figures published yesterday by the Bahrain Monetary Agency showed. The country's trade gap closed to BD65 million (\$172.4 million) from BD104.7 million (\$277.7 million) in the first half of last year, the agency's quarterly bulletin showed. The trade deficit for the whole of 1984 was BD145.9 million (\$387 million) against a deficit of BD57.2 million (\$151.7 million) in 1983. Imports fell to BD581.5 million (\$1.54 billion) in the first half from BD721.1 million (\$1.91 billion) a year earlier. Exports fell to BD516.5 million (\$1.37 billion) from BD616.4 million (\$1.64 billion). [Text] [Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 11 Dec 85 p 1 GF] /6662

CSO: 4400/76

IRAQ

MINISTER ON PROMOTING TIES WITH EGYPT

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 28 Nov 85

[Article by Sabah Y. Younan]

[Text]

Minister of Local Government, Mr Adnan Dawoud Salman said that he found the Egyptian government and people very keen on promoting relations with Iraq.

"The Egyptians are as enthusiastic as the Iraqis about creating stronger ties between the two countries. They closely follow developments in Iraq", Mr Salman said in an exclusive statement to *"The Baghdad Observer."*

Mr A.D. Salman who recently concluded a 10-day visit to Egypt, said that President Hosni Mubarak received him warmly. The Minister conveyed President Saddam Hussein's greetings to the Egyptian President and people.

Mr Salman said that the Egyptian President directed the authorities concerned to cooperate fully with Iraq in every way.

"Our hearts embrace Iraq," the Egyptian leader said. Mr. Mubarak told the Local Government Minister, Mr Hassan Abu Basha to provide Mr. Salman with a detailed review of Egypt's current situation.

Mr Salman said that he also had a cordial meeting with the Egyptian Prime Minister, Mr Mohammed Lutfi. The Iraqi Minister said that he conveyed First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Taha Yassin Ramadhan's greetings to Mr Lutfi who called for more bilateral cooperation. He expressed Egypt's readiness to provide Iraq with expertise gained by Egypt's long experience in Local administration.

Mr Salman said that he agreed with the Egyptian Minister of Local Government, Mr Hassan Abu Basha, that four Iraqi cities should become sister towns to four Egyptian cities: Cairo and Baghdad, Alexandria-Basra, Port Said- Meisan and Gezira-Saladdin.

An Egyptian delegation will be visiting Iraq in the near future to sign the protocol of two sister cities in Baghdad. Later, an Iraqi delegation will visit Cairo to sign the protocol for the other two sister-cities.

The sister-city agreement will include exchanging views on planning and periodic visits between officials.

The agreement will be a base for strengthening bilateral as well as inter-Arab relations.

During his visit, Mr Salamn visited Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, Port Said, Ismailiya, Tanta and Fayyoun provinces and acquainted himself with Egypt's system of Local administration and people's councils.

Mr Salman said that the Egyptian government has drawn up ambitious plans for a system of local administration. The Iraqi minister was told of decisions taken during a recent local government conference when it adopted resolutions to promote the system.

The Minister of Local Government and his Egyptian counterpart have agreed to continue exchanging views and visits by officials at ministerial and other levels. The two sides also agreed on an exchange of information between the Administration Institute in Iraq and the Training Institute in Egypt.

Mr Salman expressed the hope that a protocol of cooperation between Iraq and Egypt will be signed during a future visit to Iraq by the Minister of Local Government, Mr Hassan Abu Basha.

The Iraqi leadership intends to establish local government administration based on a strong foundation of democracy. Elected councils will be set up in every province, district and subdistrict which will have a direct role in drawing up and discussing development plans as well as in administering local affairs.

IRAQ

TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY COURSES

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 2 Dec 85 p 6

[Article by Basil M. Al-Hadithi]

[Text]

University of Technology(UOT)started, since the beginning of the new academic year, an extensive series of important courses dealing with various scientific fields.

The courses were organized by Life-Long Education Centre at the university in cooperation with many government organizations, offices and educational establishments.

The Centre aims at coordinating scientific efforts between the University and the staff of government establishments. Subjects of these courses are planned according to the requirements of each establishment concerned.

During December there will be six courses which will deal with various scientific subjects. The first one week course (7-12) is to discuss "different approaches for solving production problems by operations research".

This course is organized by the Centre in cooperation with the Production and Metallurgy Engineering Department and the Iraqi Engineers Society. Theoretical lectures will be on the procedures to solve problems.

Some 35 engineers will attend the course, most of them from production plants or administrators.

The programme of the course will include mainly the used O.K. techniques in production fields and case studies.

The second one-week course which will be organized by the Centre in cooperation with the Computer Science Department at the University and the Iraqi Engineers Society, will discuss PASCAL algorithm design and PASCAL programming language.

The aim of this course is to enrich the participants' experience about the algorithm design of PASCAL and on the use of PASCAL language in programming of computers. 30 participants are expected to attend the course.

PASCAL language is very important since it and other high level languages, such as BASIC, PL/M, FORTRAN, COBOL languages have been developed to facilitate the development of microprocessor programmes. Use of high level language can in many cases, greatly reduce programme development time, usually at the expense of memory space required for the programme, and speed of execution of the programme.

PASCAL, named in honour of the French mathematician, is one of the most recent high-level languages developed for microprocessor systems. PASCAL is carefully structured language designed both for systems programming and applications programming. The structure nature of PASCAL language is also designed to facilitate both programme development and maintenance.

The programme of this course will include the following subjects:

-Algorithm definitions and design, introduction to PASCAL

-PASCAL -1

-Practical session

-PASCAL -2

-Practical session, and

-PASCAL -3

Lecturers of this course are: Dr Waseem al-Hamdani from the Computer Science Department, Mr Adnan Abd al-Ameer from the National Centre for Computers and Mr Ahmed Hussein from the Computer Science Department.

The third course will be on "maintenance and replacement in industrial firms.

It aims at increasing the practical experiences for the applications of maintenance and replacement in order to reach the optimization in determining maintenance teams, repair or maintenance time for various equipment.

The programme of this course includes maintenance management and definition, productivity and maintenance, maintenance in Iraqi industrial firms measuring the efficiency of maintenance work, statistical rules for replacement, replacement models, Queuing theory in maintenance and case studies.

Lecturers of the course are Dr Abd al-Mu'az I., Mr S. Rafik, Dr M. Kamil A. and Mr Jamil Hana from Production and Metallurgy Engineering Department at UOT.

Another one week extensive course is to discuss "spread spectrum communication system", the course will also cover spectrum systems concepts for digital communications it also aims at acquainting the participants with the performance of these systems in presence of disturbances comparing with old communication systems, it also aims at covering another important subject that is " frequency hopping system" in detail.

The programme of the course includes many different subjects related to the spread spectrum communication systems such as direct sequence system, frequency hopping system, the frequency hopper, chirp (or linear-FM) system, time hopping system, features of spread spectrum systems, selective addressing, code-division-multiple access, low density output signal, message privacy, security, interference rejection and processing gain and jamming margin. The second day of the course includes another set of subject.

At the beginning the course there will be an introduction of electronic support measures (ESM), electronic counter measures (ECM), electronic counter-counter measures (ECCM) and frequency hopping as an (ECCM) technique.

The programme also includes lectures on processing gain for (frequency hopper) FH, comparison between direct sequential DS and FH, hybrid forms of spread spectrum systems, applications and advantages of (FH) codes for spread spectrum systems, synchronization of spread spectrum systems, frequency synthesis and modulation and demodulation techniques for (FH). Lecturers of this course are Dr Wassem W.J. from UOT and Dr. H.T.Zabon.

The University of Technology, which was established in 1975 is now the main centre of technological education in the country. Conferences, seminars and researches in this sphere are usually organized by the University's departments.

Training in the University got off to a good start in 1982. In that year the university set up the Life-Long Education Centre which organizes round the year specialized scientific and development courses.

ISRAEL

NETUREI KARTA LEADER INTERVIEWED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 7-13 Dec 85 pp 19-21

[Interview with Rabbi Moshe Hirsh by 'Ali al-Khalili in Jerusalem: "Occupied Palestine: Jews Who Do Not Recognize Israel, Do Not Use its Currency, Do Not Eat Its Food"; date not specified]

[Text] "Neturei Karta," which means the "city guards" or, more specifically, the "wardens of the temple," is the name of a Jewish group living in Jerusalem in the "Mi'at Sho'arim" ("Hundred Gates") neighborhood in total harmony with Palestinians living under the occupation.

This group has been struggling against Zionism since before 1948. In this struggle, it is not satisfied with reaffirming that Judaism and Zionism are conflicting opposites, but goes so far as not recognizing Israel and demanding the destruction of the Zionist state. Furthermore, it demands total recognition of the PLO under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people while it considers itself to be part of the Palestinian people themselves. To consecrate such recognition in defiance of Israel, the members of this group raise Palestinian flags and publicize in national Palestinian newspapers published in the occupied territory, AL-FAJR particularly, their political positions which clearly and distinctly support the PLO and express their agreement to be under the command of this organization.

The caretakers of this society share administrative and political responsibilities among themselves as a way of declaring their independence of the Zionist establishment. These responsibilities include the position of foreign minister, which is assumed by Rabbi Moshe Hirsh with whom AL-TADAMUN met in occupied Jerusalem to get a first-hand view of this group's principles and positions. Following is the text of the interview.

[Question] What is the "Neturei Karta"?

[Answer] We are Jews who found ourselves in a violent confrontation with Zionism, which wanted to return to the Holy Land against God's will. "Neturei Karta" was born to prevent the Jews from falling into the Zionist trap. This was after World War I when Zionism began raping the Jewish religion and exploiting it for its own political ends. "Neturei Karta"

established its first base in Jerusalem. Today it is spread out in many parts of the world. It is funny that Teddy Kollek (the Zionist mayor of Jerusalem which has been unified by an Israeli decree as Israel's eternal capital), in a recent interview he had with the LOS ANGELES TIMES correspondent, set the number of "Neturei Karta" at about 60,000 members, or 1.5 percent of the Holy Land's inhabitants, while our number is actually much higher than that. Perhaps Kollek failed to understand that our group does not own passports or identity cards, but is a mental concept, a concept that the creation of Israel was a sin and an act against the will of God and that its existence is totally forbidden. On this basis, we believe that we represent at least over 3 percent of the population. Our number abroad is close to half a million, particularly in the United States, Western Europe, Australia, and South America as well as in other parts of the world, for Orthodox Jews are found in any community and some of them belong to Neturei Karta.

[Question] What is the difference between you and the Orthodox Jews: the devout, the strict, or the fanatic?

[Answer] Many people find themselves deceived by the attributes affixed to the devout Jews here in the Holy Land, in Palestine. Anti-Zionist Neturei Karta and Zionist Gush Emanuim, for example, find themselves depicted totally differently. Here we find that a term such as a strict or fanatic orthodox is an invention of the racist Zionist mass media. It is very important to explain this statement. Judaism has always been aware throughout the ages that it is an entity built on the basis of a belief in God and in His teachings as expressed in the Torah. The Zionist movement came to reformulate this definition on the basis of a national conception based on territory and language, even if it is stripped of holiness. Neturei Karta is against this definition and against this Zionist identity. Therefore, we say that the identity of a Jew is not determined by his living in a certain area with known geographic boundaries, as is the case with the people of other countries, but rather by his beliefs. The Torah came down from heaven in the desert when the entire Jewish population consisted of no more than 600,000 souls who were on Mount Sinai where the Torah came down. Jewish belief provided for giving the Holy Land to the Jews under certain conditions to fulfill the commandments of God. When these conditions were not met, the Jews were exiled and scattered all over the world. Any attempts to regain the land by force or against the will of God by means other than soldiers bristling with arms is a capital sin. It seems that Menahim Begin or Meir Kahane or any Zionist leader considers himself to be the Messiah. This is unadulterated blasphemy because any attempt to do the work of God, or for man to undertake what God must do, will result in "your flesh being a reed for deer and gazelles (Song of Solomon)." Thus the Zionists have usurped the holy name "Israel" and have exploited the Jewish religion, the Jewish nation, and the Holy Land to reinforce their unholy goals. They refuse to separate religion from the state for such a step means their end. They are using a group of Eastern and Western Ashkenazi and Sephardic rabbis to adorn their public meetings with a religious portrait while in fact the opinions of these rabbis are not accepted as official Zionist policy.

Hence, Gush Emunim, as an example, is a bunch of gullible nouveau riche described as orthodox with their own rabbis. They have joined the ranks of the expansionist, occupationist, power-hungry Zionists who cite holy books to perform unholy and unorthodox acts. The same thing goes for the KAKH group of racist Meir Kahan who needs the Zionist state to advocate his dubious racist program.

[Question] Does this mean that your "identity" is the only truly Jewish one even though you settled in Palestine in the "Mi'at Sho'arim" neighborhood before the creation of Israel and before the settlement activities undertaken by Gush Emunim, Kakh, and Hathiya in the occupied territory?

[Answer] Ours is the true identity. We do not recognize Israel, do not use its currency, do not speak its language--our language is Yiddish--do not eat its food, do not go to its schools and hospitals, do not pay taxes to it, and do not accept any assistance or social security from it. Consequently, we are the original Jewish settlers, the Palestinian Jews who made their way to the Holy Land with the clear intent of worshipping God in "his back yard." We never had and will never have any political ambitions. Our chief rabbi, Yusuf Haim Zonfeld, visited Sharif Husayn at his palace in Amman in 1924 to present to him a memorandum explaining Neturei Karta's desire to be under the authority of the host country. The Jews are bound by a sacred oath to be loyal to the host government. Had the Jewish exodus to Palestine not taken place, the struggle would not have occurred and the dispute of "you are Jewish and you are Arab" would not have existed.

[Question] What do you mean by "the back yard" for worship?

[Answer] The Wailing Wall. We wrote to Yasir 'Arafat asking for his permission to pray at the Wailing Wall. Our chief rabbi, Joel Teitelbaum, had encouraged the Jews to leave the Holy Land so long as it was under the control of those who defied the will of God. He wrote a dissertation after the 1967 war saying that everyone must abstain from visiting Jewish holy sites occupied by the Zionist aggressors, including the Wailing Wall.

[Question] What is Israel's official position toward you?

[Answer] They recognize us but we do not recognize them at all. During the early days of their state, Israel, we raised the white flag and went out in demonstrations demanding peace and the abolition of this state. They killed some of our young men. Every now and then we express our actual existence by demonstrations, slogans, and messages sent to international organizations and institutions.

We have imposed some of our conditions on this occupationist state, Israel, including Saturday as the holy day. Every Saturday we forbid any car to pass through our streets and we have kept adorned women out of these streets. We have clashed with their police several times, and have been subjected to repeated arrests.

[Question] Since you do not deal with the Israeli police, how do you solve your problems?

[Answer] Crime does not exist in the Neturei Karta community. We do not have a police officer and we solve problems through our special bodies. If an outside criminal makes his way to our community, we call the Zionist police.

[Question] Does this mean that you are a closed society?

[Answer] On the contrary. We are open to the whole world. We want to emphasize, however, that Israel does not represent the Jews. The Talmud tells us that the world was created to last 6,000 years and each 1,000 years is equal to 1 day of creation. The seventh 1,000 years, equivalent to Saturday, shall be purely spiritual without any materialism. We are now in the year 5744 according to the Jewish calendar, which is based on the entire creation. Consequently, we have 256 more years of God's word to be revealed to all humanity (!)

[Question] Last May you raised Palestinian flags at one of your demonstrations. Why?

[Answer] We do not recognize the Israeli flag and have no right whatsoever to have a flag of our own. That is why we raised the Palestinian flag because it is the flag of the state we consider as our own. As you know, we have written to Yasir 'Arafat asking to be part of the proposed Palestinian-Jordanian confederal state. We asked that the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation include a representative from Neturei Karta because we have a common enemy, Zionism.

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ISRAEL

DRUZE SHAYKH JAMAL MA'DI INTERVIEWED

Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI in Arabic 9 Nov 85 pp 25-27

[Interview with Shaykh Jamal Ma'di, head of the Druze Initiative Committee, by Salman Yusuf: "AL-BAYADIR Opens File on the Druze in Israel"; at the shaykh's home in Yirka, time not given]

[Text] Darkness and the Thief

We were more and more impressed as AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI met dozens of members of the Druze sect, listened to them, and recorded what they had to say in their villages and homes. We experienced their glorious Arab traditions and customs, their authentic Arab character, and their way of life from which they never deviate in the least, holding to it as they hold to their Arab nationalism and their commitment to and feeling for their Palestinian people. They experience the events affecting this people day by day and hour by hour, and they work together with the Palestinians. To mention just one episode which does not tell the whole story, there were the funeral processions that overflowed the Druze villages in the wake of the Sabra and Shatila massacres committed by fascist Phalange gangs under to eyes and ears of Israel, if not with Israel's planning. The police raided the Druze villages on that day to block the processions or prayers for the victims of Sabra and Shatila and for other members of our Palestinian Arab people. The police arrested dozens of free Druze youths on that day from al-Buqay'ah, Yirka, Bayt Jann, and other Druze villages. In al-Buqay'ah, the police arrested six Druze and two Christian youths, among them the poet Nayif Silm. But in Yirka the police were defied, and the procession climaxed with the raising of the Palistinian flag.

These are some views of the true picture of the Druze. Whenever we penetrate the darkness of media blackout imposed by the Israeli government for reasons which we know, we see the shining picture in its fullness. Darkness, however, does not always help the thief; Israeli newspapers occasionally carry reports about the ferment of the Druze, their lack of quietness, and their adherence to their Arab identity, even if these reports are stamped with a provocative anti-Druze, racist character. Anyone who follows the Hebrew press on a regular basis notices the unconcealed style of provocation, especially against the Druze of the occupied Syrian Golan--those whom Hafiz al-Asad's regime and

cohorts have forgotten. It is no accident that the president of Syria is called "the lion ['asad' means 'lion' in Arabic] of Lebanon, and the ewe of the Golan."

To throw more light on this sect, we met with the religious leader, Shaykh Jamal "Abbas Ma'di, head of the Druze Initiative Committee. His profession is the teaching and education of the younger generation.

We met Shaykh Jamal at this home in the village of Yirka. The conversation was long and wide-ranging. We bring you some of what was said.

Druze Nationally---a Baseless Claim

[Question] Many of our readers do not know who the Druze are. Are you a people, a nation, or...?

[Answer] (Interrupting) Friend, the Druze are a religious sect who belong first and last to the Arab people in general and to the Palestinian people in particular. The Druze are therefore not a people or a nation; they are a religious sect. Their nationality is Arab. Within Israel, their affiliation is with the Palestinian Arab people, of whom they are an integral part.

[Question] Then why do you serve in the army, the Border Patrol, and other organs of oppression?

[Answer] The dilemma of mandatory conscription has a long background. The government has sanctioned it and has carefully set down its details ever since the creation of Israel. The government never recognized the existence of an Arab minority. It set out to create different nationalisms and to infect them with a spirit of mutual antagonism. The aim was to carry out the policy which the government had inherited from British imperialism, a policy of "divided and rule." Also well known is the fact that the government imposed military rule on all the Arabs, thus preventing their meeting with each other. This caused the isolation of the Druze, since they live in remote mountain villages. In 1956, the Israeli government imposed the compulsory military service law on the Druze. On 1 April 1956, our young people were compelled by force to be drafted. This served Israel's policy of creating conflicts among Arab brothers inside the country and outside, by which I mean the slandering of the Druze reputation in Syria and the other Arab states.

[Question] Notwithstanding what you have said, the Israeli claim is that the Druze themselves asked for military service, and that Israel responded to their request. The question is whether Israel compelled you by force or did you compel Israel to draft you?

[Answer] These allegations by the authorities are not new to us. We have heard them many times. My comment on them is that they are completely devoid of truth. They are unfounded Israeli allegations that rest on not an atom of truth. The Druze were drafted on the orders of the minister of war at that time, David Ben Gurion (he was both prime minister and war minister). He relied upon Israeli law, which imposes compulsory military service on all

citizens of the state. Perhaps you are wondering why de did not impose this law on Muslims and Christians. It was because there is a paragraph in the law stating that the minister of defense has the right to exempt whomever he wishes. Again I stress that the Druze did not ask for military service. It was imposed on them by force and with the backing of certain paid supporters of the government, such as the traditional leadership and other self-interested opportunists.

"The Winds Bring What the Ships Do Not Desire"

[Question] One notices how the Israelis are trying to crystallize the Druze nationalism that, as you just told me, they created. Their attempts take place on all levels, beginning with the media, which constantly promote them, and ending with the separation of the schools in your villages from the other Arab schools and the preparation of special curricula for you. How, one asks, do you explain your silence in the face of this?

[Answer] In reality, the struggle of the Druze masses did not begin today or yesterday; it is a continuing struggle to frustrate this policy and these allegations. But the authorities reply with force to every initiative that the members of the sect take in opposition, and the responses of the government are very forceful. To illustrate: I have already told you how they imposed compulsory military service, thinking that by this step they would cause differences and religious conflicts among the Arabs in Israel. But our masses defeated the attempt. The Israeli reaction came in 1957. They forced every Druze to register on his identity card that his nationality was "Druze." Those who refused were severely punished by being prevented from working. That is to say, they tried to use a man's daily bread as a means of imposing this factitious nationality. The method failed completely. So they made a third attempt, the establishment of a committee of local Druze authorities. But "the winds did not bring what was desired " by the Israeli ships [alluding to a verse by al-Mutanabbi]; Druze devotion to Arab nationalism and the Palestinian affiliation stiffened. If you asked any child in our villages about his nationality, he will raise his head high and say; "I am Arab." We are Arabs, our nationality is Arab, and our language, customs, and traditions are purely Arab. We cherish them and take pride in them.

Our heritage is an unadulterated Palestinian Arab heritage. It is still alive in our villages and shall remain so. Another example of the attempts and reactions of the government: in 1974, the Druze Initiative Committee organized a huge demonstration in which thousands of idealistic Druze youths participated. It set out from the tomb of the prophet Shy'ayb to protest the visit of Ytzhaq Rabin (minister of labor at that time in Golda Me'ir's government). Our fundamental demands were that our holy places and the tomb of our prophet not be turned into a political pulput, which is what Israel had forced upon us since its inception. A violent clash with the police took place, and dozens of Druze youths were imprisoned. The affair lit up a red light in government circles, and they began to review the divide-and-rule policy they had been following. The Zionist mentally refuses to acknowledge reality, but there was increased questioning of whether a break in the Arab

ranks had been achieved. The government escalated its discriminatory policy. In 1975 or 1976--I do not remember exactly--a Druze from the village of Julis was shot by the Border Patrol during the Qiryat Shemonah operation of the Palestinian resistance. A quarrel broke out between Druze and Jewish soldiers, and the Jews resorted to attacks and violence. The incident caused a strong reaction in Druze circles. As a countermeasure, late in 1976 the government created the novelty of a Druze Education Committee and appointed a large administrative apparatus for it.

Intensive Brainwashing

[Question] We see that this committee is engaging in intensive activities in your Druze schools. Why, one asks, did you describe it as a novelty (something alien)?

[Answer] Basically, this committee was set up to misrepresent the real identity of the Druze and to make the Druze religion appear to be a separate nationality in itself, all in the service of carrying out the government policy we have mentioned. This government is not fearful or inhibited in its actions, which include interference in our religious affairs. For example, the authorities cancelled the Feast of Breaking the Ramadan Fast because they did not recognize it as a Druze holiday. Vacation days were designated at the Feast of the Prophet Shu'ayb, in spite of the fact that the latter feast consists of only a ceremonial visit by the clergy to the Prophet's tomb.

[Question] Let us focus the discussion a bit on the activities of the Druze Education Committee. Up to now it has issued numerous textbooks and courses of study for your schools, including books on the cultural and literary heritage. Is there a heritage that is specifically Druze?

[Answer] I repeat to you once again that the Druze or Islamic or Christian heritage in Israel is the Palestinian heritage. Anyone who asserts the contrary is making lying and unfounded assertions. I challenge any expert or specialist, whatever his cultural background or education, to refute what I say and to prove the isolation of the Druze heritage. You ask what the meaning of "heritage" is. Is it not what is handed down from grandfather to father and from father to son--customs, traditions, and general culture? Do you want me to repeat to you for the thousandth time that our customs, traditions, and history are inseparable parts of the Palestinian Arab heritage? How do our clothes differ from those of our brothers in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip? How is a Druze woman's dress different from that of any woman in any Palestinian village? We live the same overall pattern of life that the members of our people live in Hebron, Nabulus, and al-Duhayshah, in any of the refugee camps, or whatever they may be. Anyone who claims otherwise is prejudiced and engaged in provocation.

To go back to the subject of the Druze heritage, a subject invented by the Druze Education Committee: their purpose is to blot out the facts. Their attempts rest on no sound basis, either from a scientific point of view or from a realistic social one. I challenge the committee and ask on what basis it is constructing courses of study. I would point out that educational

programs ought to be prepared after lengthy study, not as the result of pure chance. Social studies curricula aim only at what a society requires or demands. Who among the Druze, I ask, has demanded that his children be taught this "heritage" that has been imposed on us? This step was taken by a group of government agents, with the so-called "Druze" Education Committee at their head. Please put the word "Druze" in quotation marks!

Heritage? or Racism Sanctioned?

[Question] What, then, are the hidden aims behind what you call the "novelty" of a Druze heritage that you say is being imposed on you?

[Answer] The aims of the government and of the committee in question are as clear as the sun. They are to instill in our children an absence of Arab nationalism and a racism after the fashion of Zionism, which seeks to develop racial conflict, xenophobia, and esteem for oneself above others. This method is followed in the curricula of the Jewish schools, and it has led to an increase of racism and to the appearance of fascistic Kahanism. I think it no accident that large sums have been earmarked and many position--over 30--devoted to publishing a series of books and imposing them on schools in "a Druze milieu." To make the real aims hidden behind this suspicious activity clear to you, let me cite you some examples from the contents of these books. "Stories from Our Villages," for example, contains thin and worthless stories which, while neither benefiting the student nor serving as a model for him, distract him with silly diversions. Similar in nature are the books "From the Venerable Ancestors," "From the Wells of the Heritage of the Banu Ma'ruf" (two volumes), and "Eminent Druze Personalities." The list is long. Also, the committee overstepped its limits and composed "Chapters from Druze History" (two volumes) and "Selections from the Arabic Literature of the Druze." You would wonder whether the history of the Druze, wherever they are, is not an inseparable part of the glorious history of our Arab people. Even craftier are the books "Homeland and Geography" (third grade) and "Features of the Druze Village" (fourth grade, elementary school). Instead of teaching the child about his geographical environment and the state, the instruction concentrates on narrowing the child's horizons and shutting him within the perimeter of his village. The list goes on and on; the examples are many. An essential point that has to be mentioned is that Salman Fallah, head of the so called Druze Education Committee, is the man who oversees the preparation of the books or writes them. He then imposes them on the schools. The procedure is forbidden by the law that prohibits the education inspector from imposing books he has drafted or in whose drafting he has participated, in view of the financial interest that would result from the sale of assigned books. Somehow, Mr Fallah is carrying on his activities under the very eyes of the Education Ministry, and it remains silent.

[Question] Since you have said that the Druze heritage is an authentic Palestinian heritage, what harm is there in teaching this heritage under the heading if "Druze"? Why do the overwhelming majority of members of your sect oppose this?

[Answer] It is clear that the aim hidden behind the teaching of this purported [Druze] heritage is to instill an absence of [Arab] nationalism and to sow and nurture the seeds of racism. I will give you examples so that you will be fully aware of the true state of affairs. But first it must be pointed out that the process of instilling an absence of nationalism is not limited to the Druze schools alone; it included all the courses of study in all Arabic schools. It is nothing new. Israel has been trying since its inception to form Arab generations that do not know their national affiliation or their legitimate rights, generations that will remain docile tools in the hand of Israel.

Confiscation of the Lands of the Prophet Shyu'ayb Waqf

From this point of departure, we can see the nature of Israel's generous support for the activities of this suspicious Druze Education Committee. More than 80 men and women teacher have been assigned just to teach the Druze heritage. The goals and characteristics of this generosity become clear in the "Druze" Arabic-language textbook. On page 12, we find the following: "The Arab residents of Hittin desecrated the tomb of the prophet Shu'ayb." One should know that this is a deliberate distortion of the reality, which is that in the forties Mr Ahmad Shuqayri, the first chairman of the PLO, was the first to defend the waqf of the prophet Shu'ayb (the first prophet of the Druze). He confirmed its ownership of 7,000 dunams of land. The other glaring fact that the book overlooks is that the Israeli government confiscated the same lands, so that today a large part of the tomb stands on land owned by the state. Even more crafty is what we find on page 173 of the book "From the Wells of the Heritage of the Banu Ma'ruf." In a glaring falsification of Druze religion and beliefs, it is stated--falsely--that the prophet Shu'ayb married this daughter to Moses. I think the purpose of the assertion is to permit marriage between the Druze and the Jews and to give it the color of legitimacy.

To give you an example of instilling racial chauvinism: in the book "Values and Traditions," under the heading of "honesty," we find the following poison, which ignores human values and proposed that "the Druze alone are people who tell the truth." Thus one implants racism in the soul of the students and makes them deal with others as if they did not know honesty.

In another lesson, under the heading of "care for brother," we find blatant attempts to mislead, such as: "The Arab Mountains in Syria used to be called the Druze Mountains." Here is more proof: on page 24 of the same book, the student is asked to give examples of "families who emigrated to Israel because of persecution by other sects." Before we discuss this, one asks why they have not taught the students why the Palestinian people emigrated from their homeland! It is clear that the aim of this and other lessons is to portray the Druze as newcomers or settlers. In all these books, they speak about "Druze settlers" and "Druze settlements," thereby denying our connection with this land and denying that our ancestors in it go back to prehistoric times. It is clear that the aim hidden behind these lessons is the removal of love of country from the children's hearts and preparation to banish us from our homeland--as the Kahane people and the stupid Israeli fascists demand. It

will make it easier for them to put through their programs if they can make the younger generation live in a whirlpool of fantasies, dreams, and tall tales, far from reality. Another example of intentional misleading and deception: there are lessons called "Shilah," [an acronym for] "land, nation, and society." In Jewish schools, children are taught how to revitalize their land, their people, and their society. For us it is different; they take the students for volunteer work in Jewish settlements and Kibbutzim. At best, they are given a few military drills.

Backwardness Holds Sway in the Schools

[Question] You have concentrated a great deal on the curriculum and have not gone into the conditions of the schools in your villages. How would you describe them to us?

[Answer] School conditions among the Druze are much worse than in our other Arab villages in Israel. To give you an example, take the school of Dabburiyah, a relatively small village of 5,000 inhabitants. In it there is a large secondary school that offers 10 branches of study. Comparing it to the comprehensive secondary school in Yirka, serving the people of Yirka, Julis, and Abu Sinan, one finds that the latter school is limited to only five branches of study. In short, our schools are more than 10 years behind the other Arabic schools, and the future does not promise well, since conditions are becoming worse day by day. This is mirrored in the percentage of university graduates; among the Druze their ratio is the lowest in the world-- 2 per 1,000. This is a result of the low level of school conditions and of the direction of students from an early age toward compulsory military service.

[Question] Shaykh Jamal, notwithstanding the fact that you are a teacher and in spite of my respect for those who work in the educational system, do you not think that the teachers may be at fault to some extent? How would you describe the conditions and the level of teacher in your schools?

[Answer] This is an embarrassing and sensitive question. I respect all my teacher colleagues; yet my duty obliges me not to deny that there are appointments of unqualified teachers, appointments made to gratify someone or through influence, with the appointee in question having no teaching certificate or college degree. The majority of these people are teaching the heritage course or other such things. This does harm to the students' future and leads to the low level of instruction and education.

80 Percent of Druze Lands Confiscated

[Question] Let us move the conversation to another subject. When was the Druze Initiative Committee founded? What are its goals and aspirations?

[Answer] The committee was founded in 1972. Most important among the goals it set for itself is the repeal of the compulsory military service law that was imposed on the Druze. The second goal is to oppose every attempt to confiscate land to seek to have what has been confiscated returned to its

rightful owners. The third goal is to prevent the authorities from interfering in our national and religious affairs and to seek full equality, since we are citizens, not subjects. In fact, the committee arose against the background of an increasing struggle by the Druze against compulsory military service, a struggle that had reached its climax, albeit on the individual and personal level, not on the level of organization and unity ranks. In 1977, when Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (HADASH) was founded, the committee joined it. At that time, we gathered the signatures of 7,000 Druze youths opposed to compulsory military service. We turned to Tawfiq Tubi, a member of the Knesset, who put on the agenda of the Knesset a bill to exempt the Druze from military service. However, the majority of Knesset members voted against the bill and defeated it.

[Question] What is the extend of your influence on Druze youth, and what is your activity?

[Answer] Our influence today is increasing because young people perceive and are conscious of the facts. We have branches in the majority of Druze villages, and they are active branches. We also have representatives in some local agencies and a representative on the Workers' Council, Galilee District. The secretariat takes part in the Druze meeting at the beginning of each month. We follow events among the Arabs within Israel and in the occupied territories and respond appropriately. We organize forums, lectures, and debates in Arab villages to explain how negative and harmful compulsory military service is. We make public the extent to which our villages suffer from such things as land confiscation. I would point out here that 80 percent of the lands belonging to Druze citizens have been confiscated, and the plundering is still going on. To give you an example, in a document drawn up by the local council in my village, Yirka, it was stated that the village once possessed 65,000 dunams; only 15,000 remain. I would estimate the lands remaining today as much less. It is no secret that the government deals with us with malice and impudence. It considers us as Druze solely for conscription; otherwise, we are Palestinian Arabs.

[Question] Throughout the conversation, you have concentrated on the Druze as being part of the Palestinian Arab people. Have you undertaken activities to strengthen our brother's steadfastness, particularly in the occupied territories, and have you condemned what our brothers suffer abroad?

[Answer] We strongly support the struggle of our brother Palestinians inside [Israel], in the occupied territories and abroad in the refugee camps. Everyone remembers how most of the Druze villages announced a strike and a period of mourning and how they organized displays, processions, and prayers in memory of our martyrs in Sabra, Shatila, and elsewhere. In Yirka, for example, a funeral procession was organized in which thousands of Druze youths participated, and the Palestinian flag was raised. We have visited and held conversations with our brothers in the occupied territories, explaining to them our situation. We have promised to support them in their struggle. Among these visits, I would mention that a delegation from the committee visited al-Duhayshah camp during the racist Levinger provocation. We held a meeting with them, explaining our own situation and our unconditional support

for them in their struggle. We believe that any attack on any Palestinian anywhere--in Israel, the occupied territories or the camps in the Arab states--is the equivalent of an attack on us personally. We condemn and denounce it, and will try to stop it to the extent of our ability.

[Question] These things you are saying are quite different from what is widely held about you, especially in the occupied territories, but also generally among the Arabs within [Israel]. The question is: As long as you have such a sincerely nationalistic feeling, why do your young people join up for service in the Border Patrol and in other agencies of oppression?

[Answer] We see the individuals in question as representatives of the occupying authority. They are neither our representatives nor delegates from us. They are a group of mercenaries. The means of support were closed before them, so they took these jobs. I would go further and say that we consider any of them who is killed as the result of operations by the Palestinian resistance inside [Israel] or in the occupied territories to be a victim of the government. His blood is on its hands. We hold no other group but it responsible. We have already explained our stand to our Palestinian brothers in the occupied territories, stressing over and over again that the group in question does not represent the Druze sect and that the sect is not responsible for them. I say again that anyone who puts on an official uniform represents not the Druze but the government of Israel. The subject was brought up when a delegation in al-Duhayshah camp visited Shayka Amin Tarif, the spiritual leader of the Druze sect. He assured them that the sect in general, and its religious leaders in particular, neither show indulgence toward, nor excuse, nor encourage the shameful actions of a group whose members can be counted on the fingers of one's hands, mercenaries who do not represent even themselves and whose actions misrepresent the true feelings of the members of the Druze sect. Perhaps I am revealing a secret to you by saying that we have definite information indicating that more than one fight and conflict has occurred between Jews and Druze working in the same Border Patrol unit. When the Jews mistreated or harassed our brother Palestinians, the Druze rushed to defend them, and this aroused the Jews against them. Reality obliges me to say that the overwhelming majority of Druze working in the Border Patrol and other forces of oppression were forced to join because of their bad economic situation, lack of education, or unemployment. This is the result of the blockade imposed by Israel on this mistreated sect. As evidence, let me say that although the population of Yirka is over 8,500 persons, the number of youths from here working in the Border Patrol does not exceed the number of fingers on my hands. This is the result of the presence of the Qadmani Brothers factories which absorb workers. If the factories absorbed the rest of the Druze from the remaining villages, the number of those who join the Border Patrol would be no more than a few dozen. However, the Druze villages are industrially backward, their lands have been confiscated, and the factories--on orders from above--refuse to hire Druze labor. This means that all ways to earn a living have been shut in their faces, and it forces them to keep quiet about conditions.

[Question] There remains a question that needs to be asked: What is your stand on the PLO?

[Answer] We give our complete and unconditional support to Palestinian legitimacy and independent decision-making, emphasizing that the PLO is incontrovertibly the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people. This is the case notwithstanding the fact that I personally have a few reservations because of the Palestinian leadership's having bet on the American card or on certain Arab cards after the Beirut evacuation. This is a personal reservation. Generally, we are saddened by the calm and detached stand of the Arab states during the siege of Beirut, the first evacuation, and the seige of Tripoli. Nevertheless, I am optimistic, for I believe in the cause and the right of my people and in the inevitability of its victory in its just cause.

It is truly saddening that the Palestinian factions are aiming their guns at each other, rather than joining ranks to resist the real enemy. My great hope is that the factions will review their positions again, look at things from the point of view of Palestinian welfare, and set plans and programs for the future on the basis of the objective conditions now prevailing in the Middle East. These conditions make it the duty of the PLO to gather all its factions under its banner. What is really saddening is that during the seige of Tripoli the dissident factions turned their guns against their brothers and kin, instead of aiming for the desired goal, the defense of their just cause; for our Paleststinian people has proved to the entire world that it is the holder of a right that cannot be renounced.

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ISRAEL

EDUCATION IN GAZA SURVEYED

Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI in Arabic 17 Aug 85 pp 29-30

[Article by Muhammad Salim al-Mashukhi: "The Problems of Education in the Gaza Strip"]

[Text] The education is being conducted in accordance with Egyptian curricula, but the doors of Egyptian universities are closed to Gaza Strip students.

Al-Hajj Rashad al-Shawwa says: "We have the right to demand that Egypt revise its position with regard to our students."

Egypt should pay attention to the people of the Gaza Strip.

If only the often repeated promises were kept!

The Gaza Strip consists of a small land area, inhabited by half a million persons, and from 1948 till 1967 it was directly and totally under the administration of Egypt. Even after being occupied by Israel, the Gaza Strip's inhabitants are still clearly under Egyptian influence. This is evident in a number of areas, the most important of which is that of education. The educational system of the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip completely follows the Egyptian system and uses Egyptian curricula. The same can be said of the Gaza Strip's nurseries, kindergartens, and even its 5-year public secondary schools. When the Islamic University--the Gaza Strip's only university--and the al-Azhar Religious Institute were established, those in charge of these two institutions took into consideration the courses studied in the universities of Egypt--especially at al-Azhar University.

At the present time in Egypt there is an agency responsible for Gaza Strip affairs which is called the Office of the General Governor of the Gaza Strip, and this agency is supervised by the Egyptian government. The agency issues Palestinian travel documents and also certifies various types of certificates. In addition to this, the Gaza Strip is closely bound to

Egypt in many other ways. For the natives of the Gaza Strip, Egypt represents the window through which they view the other Arab nations. Furthermore, Egyptian television transmissions reach all of the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip, especially after the Egyptian government set up relay stations south of the city of al-'Arish, after the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, in order that television transmissions reach all of the areas of the northern Sinai. The inhabitants of the Gaza Strip began to see Egyptian television programs on Channels 1 and 2 of their TV sets, and they began to watch Egyptian serialized programs, films, sports programs, and even the educational programs broadcast by Egyptian television for Egyptian students in elementary and secondary schools since the students in the Gaza Strip have the same courses as the Egyptian students do.

When we take a look at the situation with regard to education, we discover that thousands of the Gaza Strip's university graduates received diplomas from Egyptian universities both before and after 1967. Furthermore, the number of graduates from Egyptian universities began to increase after 1970, and this was true in all the university departments and schools such as those of medicine, engineering, pharmacy, etc. The groups of students who had enrolled in Egyptian universities--and whose grade averages were at least 60--were leaving the Gaza Strip and going to Egypt by the hundreds. In fact, as many as 2,000 male and female students were going in busloads to Egypt. The International Red Cross supervised the process of transporting these students to Egypt. All of this continued until 1979 when the International Red Cross ceased its go-between operations between Egypt and the Gaza Strip and direct communication and transportation arose between Egypt and Israel. The last group of students from Gaza accepted by Egypt totalled 750 male and female students. Thereafter, the doors of Egypt's universities were completely closed to students from the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, supervision of the 5-year secondary school exams was placed directly in the hands of an Egyptian educational mission as of 1980, and this educational mission comes to the Gaza Strip, supervises all of the examination committees, takes all of the examinations back to Egypt and corrects them there, and then the final results are sent back by the Egyptian Examination Administration.

Every year a total of 5,000 male and female students pass the public secondary school exam in both the liberal arts and sciences divisions. If we use simple arithmetic to find out the number of persons who have received 5-year secondary school diplomas in the Gaza Strip since 1979, we end up with the figure of 30,000 male and female students. We should add to this figure those persons whose circumstances prevented them from continuing their education before 1979. In this case, the total number of graduates holding 5-year secondary school diplomas from the Gaza Strip would amount to at least 40,000 male and female students. Of this total, the universities of the occupied territories--that is, the Islamic University in the Gaza Strip and the universities in the West Bank--together with the European universities have accepted only 25 percent as students. As a result, the total number of holders of public secondary school diplomas who have not been able to pursue their university education has amounted to at

least 30,000 students--people who have been transformed into cheap labor and who work as day laborers sent on assignments, as laborers in companies, factories, and construction, and even as laborers working in the vegetable business. Those among these people who are unemployed constitute a burden for their families because these families are in desperate need of providers, especially in view of the adverse economic circumstances suffered by the inhabitants here.

When we consider that the above has been the initial result and finding of the total in terms of the losses and disadvantages suffered by the Gaza Strip's holders of public secondary school diplomas due to the fact that the doors of Egypt's universities have been closed to them, we then understand why the hopes and aspirations of our students in the various phases of education below the secondary school level have been destroyed. This has resulted in such students dropping out of school and going to work. These students also have an attitude of indifference toward school and even when taking examinations. This has constituted the second consequence which the Gaza Strip's students have suffered from.

Many prominent persons in the Gaza Strip have been aware of the dangers which threaten the future of the Gaza Strip's holders of public secondary school diplomas as a result of the policy of closing the doors of Egypt's universities to them. These persons have undertaken great efforts and made both group and individual visits to Egypt in order to explain to Egyptian officials how harmful the situation has been for Gaza Strip students for whom a university education has been denied and for whom it is impossible, because of circumstances, to study in Europe or the U.S. However, the efforts undertaken by these prominent personalities have clashed with political considerations, and the result has been that Egyptian officials have made numerous nice-sounding promises to them which have not been kept.

In 1980 an effort was undertaken by a group of personalities to convince Egyptian officials to accept the Gaza Strip's students in Egyptian universities, and another such attempt was made in 1982. The third and last such attempt was made on 18 August 1984, and it consisted of a delegation being sent to Egypt on the basis of an invitation by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This delegation included the following individuals:

Shaykh Muhammad 'Awwad, head of the Islamic Supreme Court of Appeals and dean of the Palestine Religious Institute of al-Azhar in Gaza; Mr Fayiz Abu Rahmah, head of the attorneys' organization and spokesman for the delegation; Mr Muhammad al-Jadi, director of education in the Gaza Strip; Mr [al-Hajj] Raghīb Murtaja, head of the Chamber of Commerce of the Gaza Strip; Mr Ahmad Hasan al-Shawwa, member of the Islamic University's Trustee Council and head of the Association of Friends of Sick Persons; and Mr [al-Hajj] Sulayman Zari' al-Astal, mayor of Khan Yunis and member of the Islamic University's Trustee Council.

The members of this delegation brought along numerous demands, and they can be summarized as follows:

1. Acceptance of more Gaza Strip students in Egypt's universities and institutes, as was the practice in the past.
2. Acceptance of Gaza Strip students for graduate studies in Egypt's universities, and exempting them from tuition payments.
3. Acceptance by Egypt's universities of Gaza Strip students from the Palestine Religious Institute (al-Azhar).
4. The demand to appoint some instructors for the Islamic University and to have this university become a recognized university.
5. Facilitation of the transportation of Palestinians to Egypt and making it easier for them to enter Egypt, and facilitation of some procedures having to do with the process of issuing travel documents.

After the delegation was warmly received by Egyptian officials, a number of meetings were held with the following persons in the Egyptian government-- Dr 'Abd-al-Majid, minister of foreign affairs; Dr Taha al-Farnawani, director of the Office of Palestine Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and his assistant, Mr Nabil Badr; and the general governor of the Gaza Strip. The delegation was accompanied by Ambassador Hasan Ghazi on a visit to see the Supreme Imam, the Shaykh of al-Azhar University, and the delegation also met with Dr Muhammad Sa'd, rector of al-Azhar University. This delegation returned to the Gaza Strip full of high hopes for the success of its mission after having spent a week in meetings with Egyptian officials, but the results were as follows:

1. With regard to acceptance of Gaza Strip students in Egyptian universities and institutes, and in spite of the promises made by Egyptian officials, only 20 students whose grade averages were 90 or above were accepted by Egyptian universities--and this was out of a total of 1,000 applications which had been sent to Egypt!
2. As for the matter of Gaza Strip students being accepted in graduate study programs and being exempt from tuition, and the acceptance of students from the Gaza Strip's Palestine Religious Institute, promises in this regard remained mere promises and these matters are still under study!
3. As for having the Gaza Strip's Islamic University be recognized as a university and having instructors be sent to this university, nothing happened in this regard even though the Egyptians demanded that the university send its course catalogues and schedules to Egypt in order that they be compared with those being used in Egypt. These course catalogues and schedules were actually sent, but nevertheless, even after the passage of a whole year, the Islamic University has not been officially recognized as a university.

4. Concerning issuing travel documents and making it easy for Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to travel to Egypt, the problem has become more complicated and only a limited number of persons from the Gaza Strip are now entering Egypt. We hear a lot about the fact that permission is not being granted to people to cross to and from the Gaza Strip and Egypt. The most famous incident of this sort which has happened recently was the case of the visiting lecturer at the Islamic University, Mahmud Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman. His period of residence in the Gaza Strip ended at the beginning of August of this year and when he was leaving the Gaza Strip to go to Egypt at the end of last July, the Egyptian authorities sent him back and did not allow him to enter Egypt, and the Israelis also, in turn, refused to let him come back to the Gaza Strip. The result of this was that he had to spend a whole night out in the open between the two border demarcation lines even though he was a resident in Egypt, had obtained his education from the University of Alexandria, had received an MA degree in physics, and had spent 10 years in Egypt before coming to the Islamic University in Gaza. Finally, after three days of hesitation between the border authorities of Israel and Egypt, the Israelis allowed him to return to the Gaza Strip until his period of residence was to end five days later. As we know, visitors leave the Gaza Strip when their period of residence expires until they obtain another new visiting permit which is good for at least two weeks, and then they can go back to the Gaza Strip.

When we look at the results achieved by the delegation which went to Egypt, we find that they are not at all like what was printed by the official Egyptian press which covered the news and results of the efforts undertaken by the delegation from the Gaza Strip as well as the response by the Egyptian authorities. For example, on the morning of the delegation's meetings with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on 20 August 1984, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published an article under the following headline: "'Abd-al-Majid meets with the Palestine delegation from the Gaza Strip, and 'Abd-al-Majid assures the Palestinians of Egypt's support." The article then said: "Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, minister of foreign affairs, confirmed the fact that the government, leaders, and people of Egypt reaffirm their support for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. 'Abd-al-Majid told the Gaza delegation, which was received yesterday, that Egypt looks forward to the day when the Palestinian people exercise their established national rights and when peace is brought to all of the nations of the Middle East."

The article goes on to say: "The members of the delegation expressed their appreciation for all of the sacrifices which had been made by both the Egyptian people and their government in order that the people of the Gaza Strip stand their ground, and they expressed their appreciation for the fact that Egypt is continuing to provide aid to them."

On the same day, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR published an article headlined as follows: "Egypt reaffirms its desire to support the Palestinians in the occupied territories." The article went on to say: "Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, minister of foreign affairs, yesterday received a Palestinian delegation from

the Gaza Strip. He listened to their demands and assured the members of the delegation that their demands were legitimate. He also reaffirmed the desire of Egypt's leaders, government, and people to support the Palestinians in the occupied territories, both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Egypt looks forward to the day when peace and harmony prevail in the Middle East. This will be achieved when the [Palestinian] people exercise their established national rights as a part of the process of bringing peace to all of the peoples of the Middle East. The members of the delegation expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the enormous sacrifices which the Egyptian people have made in order to support the steadfastness of the people of the Gaza Strip. They also expressed their gratitude for the fact that Egypt is continuing to provide them with aid and assistance. The members of the delegation were Shaykh Muhammad 'Awwad, head of the Islamic Law Court; Ahmad Hasan al-Shawwa, rector of the Islamic University; Raghib Murtaja, head of the Chamber of Commerce of the Gaza Strip; Sulayman Zari' al-Astal, mayor of Khan Yunis; Mr Fayiz Abu Rahmah, head of the attorneys' organization; and Muhammad al-Jadi, director of education."

This was what was said in the official Egyptian press concerning reaffirmation of Egypt's support for the people of the Gaza Strip. I have quoted the articles in full in order that we see a sample of the promises and hopes with which the delegation returned to the Gaza Strip, and in order that we see the extent to which these promises were kept. Concerning the delegation's visit, Mr Fayiz Abu Rahmah had the following to say:

"Everyone had promised us that the largest possible number of students from the Gaza Strip would be accepted [in Egyptian universities]. There were numerous repeated promises to this effect. But later on, after our return, we were surprised when they accepted only 20 students."

He went on to say: "There are indeed very special ties between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. Our educational program is identical to the Egyptian educational program from nursery school all the way up through the public secondary school level. The Gaza Strip is the only place in the world outside Egypt where the Egyptian educational program is followed in full. Closing Egyptian universities in the face of students from the Gaza Strip is a very grave matter. This is something which should be revised by the Egyptian authorities in order that the steadfastness of our people and our students be supported, especially since our economic conditions are quite bad and most of our people are too poor to send their children abroad to be educated. Only 30 students from the Gaza Strip are educated for every million Egyptians. Most of the 100,000 Palestinian university graduates are graduates from Egyptian universities. They are the ones who have helped our people, during the course of many years, to overcome poverty and to support their families. We hope that continued support will be given to the steadfastness of our people--a people who are subject to continued destruction every day."

Mr Muhammad al-Jadi, director of education in the Gaza Strip, had the following to say: "We hope that the doors of Egypt's universities will once again be opened to our students as they were in the past, because Egypt, whose universities accept more than 120,000 new Egyptian students every year, will not suffer by adding another 1,000 students from the Gaza Strip. We should bear in mind that the number of those who graduate every year from public secondary schools totals at least 5,000 male and female students who complete their studies in accordance with Egyptian courses and curricula. They have studied from Egyptian textbooks, with all the modifications that have been made in them, and this means that it is not easy for them to study in foreign universities or even in the universities of the West Bank unless they make some additional effort. We are not expecting Egypt to accept most of them, as is the policy that Egypt follows with its own secondary school graduates who pass the secondary school exams. We are only asking Egypt to accept 2,000 Gaza Strip students from among those whose grade averages are between 70 and 90. We feel that this is not an unreasonable request."

Mr Ahmad Hasan al-Shawwa had the following remarks to say: "We were counting on Egypt and the degree of the importance of the future of our sons and daughters is what urged us to turn to Egypt--because Egypt is the patron who is responsible for the Gaza Strip. Ever since 1948 Egypt has had a moral obligation to the Palestinian people, especially the people of the Gaza Strip. The moral incentives for having our sons and daughters enroll in Egyptian universities, especially in those schools dealing with applied studies, have been a stimulus for our students to continue their education, especially during the first phase, and have enabled our sons and daughters to maintain their steadfastness in the Gaza Strip. The fear has been that they would drop out of school and be forced to go to work because they would lose all hope of being able to enroll in Egypt's universities. The young people of the West Bank, for example, have Jordan's universities to enroll in, but [now] the young people of the Gaza Strip have no university in any Arab country to enroll in."

Shaykh Muhammad 'Awwad said: "We held a number of meetings, all of them resulted in promises, and we returned to Gaza with high hopes. But so far we have not seen any response to our demands. We were really counting on Egypt, especially since Egypt is a pioneering nation in the field of knowledge and culture. We certainly hope that Egypt will continue to provide material, moral, and academic backing and support to the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip. The close ties between the Gaza Strip and Egypt make it incumbent upon Egypt to do its duty in this regard. We do not deny what they have done for us in terms of establishing the Palestine Religious Institute of al-Azhar, which has developed into becoming the Islamic University which is academically linked to al-Azhar University in Cairo, and we do not deny Egypt's role in establishing centers for teaching memorization of the Qur'an and centers for discussing Islamic thought and the Sayings of the Prophet Muhammad [dur al-fikr wa al-hadith] in the Gaza Strip."

"Moreover, our efforts do not represent the only attempts to reopen Egypt's universities and institutes to the young people of the Gaza Strip. They have been followed by numerous contacts based on continuous individual efforts undertaken by some of the prominent persons of the Gaza Strip.

"But whatever might be the considerations or reservations which cause Egypt to prevent the students of the Gaza Strip from completing their university education, it is Egypt's duty to continue to look out for the people of the Gaza Strip who, all during the various phases of their education, have used only Egyptian textbooks and taken only Egyptian courses. We are not asking that Jordan's universities be opened up to the students of the West Bank [as published]. We are only asking that some Egyptian laws relating to the Gaza Strip continue to be applied.

"Finally, no one can deny the role that education has played in serving our people on all levels. Any attempt to put a barrier in front of the process of our sons and daughters obtaining their education, under any pretexts, is a serious matter which will negatively affect the development and accomplishments of our people. All we are asking is that the education and future of our students here not be limited to the number of universities [presently] open to them. We are only asking that a decent percentage of them receive the education for which the sons and daughters of our people have been well-known, and we are asking that Egypt once again give priority to the young people of the Gaza Strip in terms of their being educated in Egyptian universities and institutes."

Al-Hajj Rashad al-Shawwa also added: "I feel that it is our right, as people of the Gaza Strip, to demand that Egypt, in the person of its president, orient Egyptian officials responsible for matters concerning universities and students so that they change their policy and accept the largest possible number of both male and female students from the Gaza Strip in Egypt's universities. This is something that constitutes one of the pillars of resistance by our citizens in the occupied territories."

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CSO: 4404/70

QATAR

NEW OIL COMPANY CHIEF

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 8 Dec 85 p 4

[Excerpt]

DOHA—A major change has been made at the top level at the Qatar General Petroleum Corporation, an institution that is the backbone of Qatar's economy. A new managing director has been appointed. He is Shaikh Rashid bin Awaida Al Thani, 32 who had joined the QGPC as deputy managing director in 1981.

Mr Ali Al Jaidah, who was until now the top man at QGPC, has left and will presumably concentrate on private business activities. He was for some time secretary-general of Opec, and is a respected figure in the oil industry.

The decree promoting Shaikh Rashid was issued by the Amiri Palace, which also appointed Mr Ajlan Al Kawari as deputy executive manager of QGPC (Offshore). Until now Mr Kawari was head of the petroleum engineering department.

Shaikh Rashid comes to the top at a time when QGPC is tightening its belt because of the dull oil market. It has been reducing staff and some of the staff perks for over a year now. Qatar has adhered to the Opec ceiling of 280,000 bpd, whereas it needs 450,000 bpd just to keep its associated gas-fed industries fully supplied. Attention is being concentrated on developing the country's ample reserves of natural gas.

Shaikh Rashid, a graduate of the Central Michigan University, has been associated with the North Field gas development project. He is a member of the project steering committee headed by the Minister of Finance and Petroleum, Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Khalifa Al Thani. He is also on the board of directors of the Qatar Liquefied Gas Company.

/13046

CSO: 4400/69

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

PDRY-USSR JOURNALISM COOPERATION--A cooperation protocol between the PDRY journalists organization and the USSR Union of Journalists for the years 1986-1987 was signed today. Representing the PDRY, the protocol was signed by Faruq 'Ali Ahma, member and deputy secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and vice president of the PDRY journalists organization. Representing the USSR, the protocol was signed by Professor (Shiberia Piyev), head of the delegation of USSR Union of Journalists, which is participating in the eighth meeting of the rehabilitation and training committee of the world journalists organization held in Aden. The protocol provides for the exchange of media material, journalistic expertise, and delegations. It also provides for cooperation in training journalists and for the exchange of views between the PDRY journalists organization and the USSR Union of Journalists. [Excerpt] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Dec 85 GF] /6662

OPEC LOAN--Deputy Minister of Installations Muhammad 'Awad Dubbah has returned to Aden from Vienna after signing an agreement with the OPEC Fund under which the fund will grant a \$4 million loan to PDRY to finance a 160 kilometer long road that will link the Bayhan rural area to the country's main road network. [Excerpt] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Nov 85 GF] /6662

OIL 'IN COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES'--Abu Dhabi, 6 Dec (WAKH)--Press reports in Abu Dhabi stated today that the exploration for oil in the PDRY has heralded good results and confirms the presence of oil in large commercial quantities. The newspaper AL-ETTIHAD reported that new wells have been dug in the Shabwah Governorate as part of the exploration for oil which began 2 years ago. The results of this exploration will be announced shortly. [Text] [Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 26 Dec 85 GF] /6662

CSO: 4400/76

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

ARAB FUND LOAN--Sanaa, 4 Dec (WAKH)--North Yemen will receive loan of \$16.2 billion from the Arab Monetary Fund. The money will be used for a number of projects in North Yemen. [Text] [Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 4 Dec 85 GF] /6662

AGREEMENT WITH FRG--An agreement was signed between YAR and the FRG Government at the central planning organ today. According to the agreement, the FRG Government will donate DM25 million to supply the cith of Ibb with water. The agreement was signed by Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, and head of the central planning organ; and by the FRG ambassador in Sanaa. [Summary] [Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Nov 85 GF] /6662

GRAIN IMPORTS AGREEMENT--An agreement was signed today between the YAR and the Australian Wheat Council providing for the facilitation of importing nearly 400,000 tons of Australian wheat by the YAR. [Summary] [Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 85 GF] /6662

CSO: 4400/76

AFGHANISTAN

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ANTI-SOVIET GUERRILLA STRUGGLE REVIEWED

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 Nov 85 pp 46-51

[Article by 'Afaf Zayn: "The Commander of the Afghan Resistance to AL-HAWADITH: Unity Is Harder Than Liberation!"]

[Text] Can the Soviets leave Afghanistan, in preparation for entering the Middle East?

The two superpowers have not been able to solve the problems presented for discussion at the Geneva summit conference, especially the ones crucial to each, such as Star Wars and the limitation on nuclear weapons. However, there are signs which indicate an understanding, or appreciation, concerning some of the world's hot issues.

American circles have said, with complete frankness, that any step the Soviets venture on to withdraw from Afghanistan, or to schedule such a withdrawal, will make it possible for the United States to agree to have the Soviet Union participate in proposing solutions to other regional problems -- specifically, to accept the notion of an international conference to discuss possible solutions to the problem of the Middle East. This American proposal would not have been made had it not been for early signs of hope and a gamble on important new interpretations of Soviet foreign policy that inspire the prediction that there is some flexibility in its position on the Afghanistan problem, which is weighting it down with economic and military losses burdensome to its economic situation. In addition, there is the Mojahedin's constant struggle, which is escalating, to defend the Afghan people's freedom and their beliefs, traditions and ideas.

For all these reasons, AL-HAWADITH is starting to publish a series of reports on actual conditions from within the ranks of the Mojahedin in Afghanistan.

"Would that we could go to my mother in Kabul and drink green tea in the garden of her home, which is planted with myrtle and cinnamon trees." Doesn't Qotbollah, the Mojahed with the eyes painted with the embellishments of the people of paradise, know that the road leading to Kabul passes through Geneva, not the Khyber Pass?

We covered 3 miles after Qadem, the village of brick houses, whose only windows are small peepholes from which rifle muzzles peer. As we immersed ourselves further in the majesty of the Khyber Pass, which opened up before us as a mythical cathedral, Fort Jamrud appeared before us, harsh as a child's game thrown into the silence of an evening after the care of a long day with its features.

As we advanced the rhythm of our steps kept us company. We were proceeding along the road which Alexander the Great, the conqueror of the world, and Genghis Khan, the destroyer of civilizations, who dyed the great Tigris with the bloody color of the ink dissolved from the books in stationers' stores, had gone along before us. We were proceeding with the rhythm of the fable, the echo of the clashing of swords, the clatter of carts and the chanting of horsemen. We were advancing with Obeydollah, returning as a blue dawn from the fire of the first of the united struggles on the plain of Patia as our guide and the leader of our caravan. The more the stones of forgotten places receded, the more Obeydollah's relaxed eyes narrowed, and his features became more harsh and vicious than those of a barbaric, vicious, solitary cat.

At the sharp turn where a massive boulder almost sealed off "the pass of conquerors," the road once again became narrow in front of us and 'Ali's mosque rose up on a great boulder in the midst of the passageway. We proceeded single file, stepping carefully and feeling joy "because God loves only the joyous," although the road passing through Geneva is narrower than the eye of a needle, since the lord is testing the obedience of his servants and the bravery of the people fighting holy war in his behalf out of longing for the mother's garden planted with myrtle and cinnamon trees in Kabul.

We went up hills covered with thorns toward a high spot, at the summit of which a house had been erected surrounded by walls which we entered by way of a wooden doorway of great stature open to a dirt courtyard whose corners shone with pots colored green with wild tobacco shoots. In the midst of the courtyard, the fighting men were leaning on the cracked walls, resting their bodies which were tired from the burden of the harsh battles they had been waging for 7 years against Kabul's military forces reinforced by the levianthan of Moscow with its power, equipment and material. Nonetheless, the plains spread out, the hills rose up and the sand dunes shook under the rhythm of their feet which were working their way toward Babrak Karmal's troops with the dawn prayer. The Kabul government, which Moscow installed after its invasion of Afghanistan, controls only the big cities. The popularity of the Afghan war is declining domestically and young people going into it are afraid of it in spite of themselves. The Panjshir Valley and the Khyber Pass often bear witness to caravans of Soviet troops sparing themselves and joining the ranks of the Mojahedin, bringing everything they have in the form of arms and ammunition with them.

"In Geneva, Moscow or the major capitals, these facts may appear to be tinged with an air of exaggeration, but here domestically they share our provisions with us and we exchange aspects of discussion with them, and we and them have been pushed into a dirty war which only God knows how it will end."

"The red old man of the hill" was preoccupied with some urgent business within his headquarters, and we spent the time making inquiries about the course of the Islamic Federation which came into being 4 months ago, bringing the various forces of the Afghan resistance together. Everyone confers respect on Molla Mohammad Yunos Khalesi, the "red old man of the hill," who looks out over his 70 years and is almost the only person among the leaders who infiltrates into Afghanistan, takes part in the fighting and makes plans for future battles. "He has the agility of a lion and the elegance of a sword."

Mohammad Yunos Khalesi, leader of the Islamic Party, was concerned over the progress of the union and strove for it until it came into being, and as long as the goal is liberation, nothing will stand in the way of the common holy war. The force of conviction in the old man of the mountain prompted the other leaders to return from major capitals, and they brought their children to take part with the rest of the Mojahedin in the liberation process.

The Islamic Party, under the leadership of Molla Mohammad Yunos Khalesi, comprises a unified command, along with seven other parties, which came into being a few months ago. Alongside the old man of the hill stand Shaykh Borhanoddin Rabbani, leader of the Islamic Society, Abdorrasul Sayyaf, chairman of the Islamic Federation for the Liberation of Afghanistan, Sebghatollah Majudi, leader of the Islamic Front, Golboddin Hekmatyar, who split off from the Islamic Party, Mohammad Bani Sayyan, commander of the Islamic Revolution Movement, and Sayyed Ahmad Gilani, leader of the "Combatants of Islamic Mollas."

The most prominent ideological premise that brings these seven together is concentrated about the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan which will be careful not to fall into the orbit of the major countries and will be a neutral country. The model of the Islamic state they are aiming to establish in liberated Afghanistan did not become apparent in the course of abundant discussions with the most prominent leaders of the newly-created Islamic Federation. They have not been embarrassed to state that they have no intention of emulating any of the models of Islamic governments that exist now.

Before the process of uniting the various forces of the Afghan national resistance was completed and a unified leadership appeared on the political and military levels, it was noted that some of the forces viewed the Islamic republic in Iran as a model and pattern to be emulated and with which to effect coordination. Foremost among these was Golboddin Hekmatyar, who split off from the Islamic Party under the leadership of the old man of the mountain, Molla Mohammad Yunos Khalesi.

Molla Khalesi, who studied the science of Islamic Law in the University of Kabul and practiced journalism for years before the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, believes that the Islamic experience in Iran has affected the struggle of the Afghan Mojahedin, because the world imagines that the Mojahedin of Afghanistan want to establish an Islamic government in the pattern of the Iranian state.

Molla Mohammad Yunos Khalesi spoke warily at length about the experiment in united action and the difficult labor pains of coordination in reviewing the reasons for the failure which had thwarted action on behalf of unity. It appears that the new Islamic Federation which has preserved only the name of the first experience is trying to strengthen the distinctiveness and pluralism among all the forces of the resistance while observing the broad lines which constitute the charter of the federation.

The most prominent aspect of the new experiment in unity is its insistence on the preservation of absolute independence among all forces. The political leadership is mobile and not fixed; each of the 7 parties takes turn assuming the task of leadership for a period of a month. The military leadership within the consultative council is collective and the decisive word concerning the theater of operations belongs to the force with the most knowledge, awareness and perspicacity concerning the circumstances of the region from which the military operation against Afghan forces reinforced by Russian battalions is to set out. "Each of us has his own method, his own tactics and his own way of thinking about the form which is compatible with his ideology. The essence is the same. Therefore we are careful not to resemble one another, out of concern for diversity and pluralism, with the goal of enriching our struggle and the course of our combat, and we do not want what befell the Palestinian brothers to befall us."

It amazed me that Palestine should be a concern casting its heavy shadow, the hundreds of thousands [sic] of miles notwithstanding. Qotbollah, Obeydollah and Kheyrzadeh picked up various aspects of the similarity as we climbed the mountains covered with wild plants of harsh thorns. In Peshawar, the Khad, secret Soviet agents, are active in spreading biased, serious propaganda which stirs up strife between the people of the border region in Pakistan and the Afghan refugees. "Yesterday Lebanon and tomorrow Pakistan. The Russians will come and overrun northern Pakistan with the goal of evicting the Mojahedin's leaders from these areas." It is not just a matter of spreading propaganda. The stillness of the night is usually disrupted by a violent explosion in the Peshawar market, while wierd stories circulate about a village whose inhabitants died after a strange poison had been poured into the groundwater wells whose water they drank from. We were crossing the Pera market which sells weapons and bottles of powdered dye alongside spare MiG airplane parts when we heard the story of the Saudi businessman who preferred to spend the tithe he owed by himself, on Afghan refugees. When morning came, shepherds stumbled upon his corpse, his limbs severed, in a sack of hemp tossed into an abandoned well. The terrifying stories repeat themselves and Russian airplanes reappear every day over the Karakum mountains connected to the Himalaya mountains in the middle of the Khyber pass.

People coming from the Panjshir Valley talk about a real war of extermination against the inhabitants of the well-protected Afghan villages: "They are exterminating livestock, burning up what has been planted in the fields and ruining crops, and they do not shrink from killing women, old men and children. Meanwhile, Khad is actively distributing booby-trapped games among the children of the religious schools and poisoning water wells." The war is experiencing a serious escalation. Will the formation of the unified Islamic Federation of all the resistance forces lead to a qualitative change in the holy war the Afghan resistance is waging?

Does the leader of the Islamic Federation, Molla Mohammad Yunos Khalesi, imagine that military unity among the forces of the Afghan resistance will change the type of combat they are waging and take a stand against the war of extermination they are talking about? "Of course, when all the forces of the Mojahedin attack the Russian occupation forces in all areas where they are located, they can occupy them and leave them no opportunity to rest, and can come to the aid of the other offensive points. In the past, however, when a group of fighting men attacked a single point, the Russian forces deliberately supported the besieged battalion and helped it inflict maximum losses on our holy warriors' ranks."

What the old man of the mountain, the current commander of the Islamic Federation, had said was told to us by Sayyed Ahmad Gilani on a hill overlooking the Paktia plain. The leader of the Combatants of Islamic Mollas, who twice met President Reagan, aspired to consummate the stage of military coordination in the post-unification stage: "When the process of the establishment of harmony among our fighting men was completed, we embarked on unified military training and exchanged experience and opinions with the goal of embarking on a broad military war of liberation embracing all lines of combat."

The process of establishing harmony was not an easy matter. The labor pains of unity were more difficult than those of liberation. All the political parties whose fighting men participated in the tough battles inside Afghanistan received their revelations outside Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion. Most of their leaders lack experience in political action and combat because of the recent nature of their exposure to this area. Molla Mohammad Yunos Khalesi admitted that the recentness of the exposure to combat experience among these parties threatened to deflect their course, "which is obvious and expected -- the Afghan government, in the period before the Soviet occupation, did not allow the formation of political parties inside Afghanistan. There was a destructive Communist movement which flourished covertly in the ranks of educated people and intellectuals, matched by a broad, extensive Islamic movement under the name of the Islamic Society, which one could consider the parent movement of all the parties currently constituting the Islamic Federation. Therefore, the process of becoming united and returning to the embrace of the parent movement was permeated by the pains of twisting of joints which for some time were distant from their normal focal points. We continue to be optimistic that good will come, because we are engaged in a just, fair war and believe in the cause for whose sake we are fighting."

The Patia battle last month was the first unified one the fighting men had engaged in under the leadership of the old man of the mountain, under the banner of the Islamic Federation. The following day, the skies of Peshawar witnessed overflights of Soviet fighters which bombed the television building and inflicted major damage on it. As the process of unification was on the verge of being consummated, the Kabul government realized the serious nature of this achievement, which was expected to change the course of operations in the holy war, and it deliberately sowed discord in order to blow up bridges of mutual understanding and cooperation between the Pakistani government and the leaders of the Islamic Federation.

Molla Mohammad Yunos Khalesi, Sayyed Ahmad Gilani and Mohammad Bani Moham-madi acknowledge the magnitude of the facilities the Pakistani government has offered the Afghan Mojahedin it hosts, along with 3 million refugees, most of whom are women, old men and children. "In spite of this, the Pakistani government is subject to major psychological pressure. It is helping us now, but takes one foot forward and one foot back, out of fear that what happened to Lebanon when Israel invaded it in the excuse of evicting the Palestinian resistance from it will happen to Pakistan." As well as hosting 3 million refugees and all the political parties' military combat personnel and leaders, the Pakistani government offers the Mojahedin major facilities and allows military operations to be launched across its borders. Kabul Radio incessantly spreads panic through daily bulletins whose transmission reaches Peshawar and almost goes to Islamabad. "Yesterday Lebanon and tomorrow Pakistan: beware of these Pathans (meaning the Mojahedin), who will take over your country, expel you from your homes and establish their own country steeped in extremism and blind fanaticism."

Inside a Moghul fort erected with striking elegance atop one of the hills overlooking the pass of conquerors, the men returning from holy war theaters stand and exchange various discussions on how to resist the 6,000 Khad agents who are scheming to blow up houses and engage in assassinations. "We are not committing the blunder of occupying an independent, fixed military command position, so that we can be spared the counterattacks the Kabul government agents, who are Soviet spies, are planning for." Golboddin Hekmatyar said, "We endorse the idea of mobile, unsettled headquarters. The headquarters of the military command are chosen by consultation within the federation and in the context of the revolutionary council, which is currently preoccupied with establishing common media and foreign policy committees. Circumstances alone define the site of the main military operations room. At each combat site, there is a peripheral military command which is in charge of carrying out the orders issued to it."

The features of the federation's foreign activity program have not yet become clear in the context of the Islamic Federation's foreign policy. The most important broad outlines of this foreign policy have not yet been announced. "In spite of this, we have appointed someone who has travelled to attend the activities of the General Assembly, which discussed the Afghan issue, so that a series of contacts may be made to explain the just, equitable struggle of the Mojahedin of Afghanistan."

We asked the leader of the Islamic Federation, the old man of the mountain, for his view on what is going on in Geneva and whether he was optimistic that good would come in "the talks between the two superpowers who have closeted themselves to divide up the piece of cheese." He said, "These efforts might be fated to succeed if they offer benefits and satisfy the colonial interests of the East and the West together over their division of the spoils. As to total, full liberation of Afghan soil, only the Afghan Mojahedin's struggle will achieve that. To the extent that the Mojahedin exhibit valor, conviction and capability, they will be included in the calculations in the negotiations taking place over Afghanistan."

Molla Mohammad Yunos Khalesi resumed his discussion concerning the diplomatic war of liberation of elegant rooms behind closed doors by stating "I

would like to say, in the name of the federation, that I am not optimistic about all this noise which they call diplomatic efforts and negotiations; their goal, in reality, is only to make time pass, weaken the cause and create a blackout concerning our Mojahedin's struggle. We rely on our own strength to bring about liberation. We must achieve greater organization and coordination. To the extent that organization prevails and the spirit of concord is widespread, the struggle will have its effective, damaging influence."

Concerning Geneva and the discussion peculiar to the heads of the two super-powers, the old man of the mountain said "That is a play, a diversion to draw the attention of observers who study the struggle of downtrodden peoples with cold murderous detachment and are not affected by every drop of blood that flows in martyrdom for the sake of the liberation of the nation. Therefore I do not expect anything worth mentioning from all this empty noise. They are meeting at a media festival to divide up shares, and Afghanistan will not be a piece of cheese on the monkeys' table."

We asked the "old man of the mountain," who was pessimistic about the big powers' conference, for his opinion on all the things the United States was circulating concerning its solidarity with the Afghan people's struggle and its allocation of more than \$300 million to it in aid this year. He said, "I tell everyone, Afghan or otherwise, who believes that America stands alongside us, I tell them that America wants to extend the duration of the Afghan war. If Washington wanted the opposite, it would have severed its diplomatic relations with Moscow after the invasion, as Moscow did with Tel Aviv when the latter invaded the Arab countries in the 1967 war. America wants to divert the Soviet Union and keep it preoccupied with a war of extermination against us so that it will have a more extensive period in which to swallow other areas of the world. Therefore America is exploiting the Afghan cause and using it as a Trojan horse against the Soviet Union with the goal of condemning it internationally. America claims that it is helping the Mojahedin, acting not so much out of love for them or conviction in their cause as for the sake of deceiving the Soviet Union. We tell the whole world, especially our brothers in the Islamic world, that America's aid will not distort the form of our national struggle and diminish its integrity. The world's people say that the Afghan people's holy war is not a national one nor an Islamic one but an America war in Afghan guise!"

All Islamic Federation leaders agree with the "old man of the mountain" that the United States' claims give legitimate justification for Moscow to intervene in the affairs of the Afghan people on the pretext of protecting its strategic hinterland: "The American propaganda and aid in kind it gives us harm us more than they benefit us, and in exchange for that it gets many times more than that from us. Let it leave us and our own business and let us depend only on the aid of our brothers in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the other areas of the Islamic world."

"Oh mother of graceful mien, take me into your hands' repose, I am tired and I want to sleep," one of the Mojahedin keeps repeating in a faint voice, echoing the folk song which shepherds in the Kandahar pastures where herds of sheep graze sing. The fighting men's throats are passionate with longing

and the song is repeated somewhat faintly and rises in sorrow, asperity and viciousness as relief in Obaydollah's eyes. They bring a martyred Mojahed through the remote valley where the rock of Ali's Mosque stands. The men perform the ritual ablution and prepare themselves for prayer. The call to evening prayer is made from a doorway from which a small youth with graceful features looks out, and the men cease singing when the old man of the mountain comes out to recite the "prayer of the dead." The molla "divides up the labor," mourns the martyrs and settles disputes among tribes residing in the areas under their influence.

In the dirt courtyard, the men fight fatigue and brush off the dust of the latest combat. They expect this war to last 100 years, and are preparing for it and "making what arrangements" they can. From a distance, the narrow aperture of Ali's mosque shines within the Khyber Pass and the pass of conquerors turns into a small pass of no more than a few meters. The road to Kabul wends its way with stubborn insistence. A fighting man who recently returned from Oxford University to join the ranks of the Mojahedin asked his friend, "Which is narrower, the narrow pass of Ali's mosque or the entrance to Geneva?" The other added, "Which is narrower, Qotbollah, the entrance to Geneva or the eye of the needle that...." Silence dominated everyone, the sounds of joy diminished and the men bowed their heads to the ground once again. Obaydollah started to sing a sad song of yearning for the lake of the kings' sword in Kandahar in the shade of the myrtle and cinnamon tree.

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CSO: 4604/12

AFGHANISTAN

YOUTH RECEIVE TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 28 Jul 85 pp 1-2

[Text] The third session class bell rings and I step into a workshop of a prefabricated home construction school. In a long hallway with newspapers on the walls and stands on both sides, I encounter a young teacher who introduces himself as Ahmad Shah Sakhizi. I tell him the reason I have come, and then I ask to observe a class being taught before talking with the principal.

The teacher shows me into the classroom and I observe the class and talk with the young students who, realizing their historic mission, are busy learning the course and vocational material with the utmost seriousness.

Wahhab, a young student in this class, who has demonstrated skill as a calligrapher as well as mastering theoretical and practical instructions, has written an abridged copy of the armed forces charter in the military work room. Concerning the worker's classes, he says: The establishment of technical and vocational classes was a positive step, and this will train cadres to help the economy grow. At centers such as this hundreds of the country's youth are receiving technical and vocational training and being returned to society with the greatest possible know-how.

Hedayatollah, a young worker in another class, who was able to produce more than called for in the planned schedule and who will be participating in the 12th World Youth and Student Festival in Moscow, concerning his trip to Moscow said: Traveling to the Soviet Union and seeing the lives of friends who have rushed to our aid under the most difficult conditions will be interesting and memorable for me. A trip to the Soviet Union by someone like me, a person born in a toiling worker's family who has tasted only the bitterness of life, reveals more than ever the humane essence of the party and the government. As long as I can remember, in my life there has only been pain, sadness, poverty, sickness, and thousands of insurmountable problems. I lost my father years ago, but today I feel the affectionate shadow of the party and the government in my life.

The principal of the school, who notes the interest and pleasure the students display in their theoretical and practical work, discusses the school's establishment and its methods of instruction. He says: The prefabricated home construction school was established in 1362 [21 Mar 1983 - 20 Mar 1984] and

went into operation with 70 students. It now has 180 students. For this class, students who have completed the sixth to the ninth grade and who are at least 15 years old are accepted for instruction in electrical assembly, handling of construction crane and machinery repair. In addition to these courses, foreign languages, sociology, physical training, religious sciences, and patriotic military training are also taught. Classes are taught from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Classes are practical and theoretical. Since the school is run by the Home Construction Department, lunch is also provided for the students and personnel except on Thursdays. The school has a party organization, a youth organization, and a guild union, and most of the students have the honor of membership in these organizations.

Theoretical and practical instruction is provided in the relevant subjects by 29 Afghan teachers and Soviet specialists. After a year of study, while practicing in the house fabrication shops, the students will receive the pay of a grade 10 laborer by the Home Construction Department. So far four outstanding students have now been sent to the Soviet Union on worker scholarships to gain as much practical experience as possible. Likewise, it is intended for assistant instructors who have previously studied in the Soviet Union on scholarships to be sent back again for further study. In the year 1363 [21 Mar 1984 - 20 Mar 1985] the school graduated 78 students, who were hired by the house fabrication plant in view of the need for prefabricated houses.

When necessary, students of this school make use of the Home Construction Department's health clinic and the Vazir Akbar Khan hospital.

The period of study in this school differs in the various fields, two years for electrical assembly, and one and one-half years for handling of construction cranes and machinery repair.

The recess bell rings and I leave the school. Once again I look at the students, these young workers who are even now capably assuming the burden of rebuilding their society. Their faces show that the revolution has given them life and a great gift. They have clearly realized that in the warmth of the sun of the revolution, the living conditions of workers are departing from the life of yesterday. Prosperity increases every step of the way as a result of the persistent and fruitful efforts of the party and the government, not only providing vocational and educational instruction for the children of the workers, but also sending them abroad to gain the greatest possible practical knowledge.

9310/13045
CSO: 4665/2

AFGHANISTAN

OVER 600 THOUSAND ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 31 Jul 85 p 2

[Text] The new educational system has announced the equal availability of knowledge and learning for all citizens without discrimination with regard to race, language, nationality, religion, sex or social position. After proper planning, the program of instruction began its progressive and advancing course in earnest. The work is being directed by the Ministry of Education and Training of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, following guidance from members of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and orders from the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for accomplishing specific tasks in order to strengthen the material and cultural foundations of education and training. In less than two years the number of schools increased from 959 to 1,086. In the same period, 254 schools which were in disrepair were duly repaired and revitalized with the expenditure of 187 million afghanis.

The number of primary and public school students increased to 646,000. In view of the level of education in the country, the mandatory period of primary education was made to include five years of instruction, in order to prepare the students for future growth with a logical and academically-oriented background.

Instruction in mandatory primary schools is simple and elementary. All subjects are taught by a single teacher covering some principal guidelines. Each teacher is required to teach between 26 to 29 hours, and students graduating from this program are required to be able to write, read, and perform the four mathematical functions and also they should have had studied biology.

Mandatory public primary education is one of the education and training principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. It is a response to the requirements of the country's new economic, cultural, and social system, and provides the country's toiling masses with the hope of gaining an education. These principles are the chief guiding light in the Ministry of Education and Training's charter. However, an evaluation of the subsequent growth in the education and training system made by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has clarified the direction taken in this operation. Article One of the sanctioned charter says:

"The Ministry of Education and Training, the social organizations, and local government organs are required to establish conditions for universal mandatory primary education, and to make serious efforts to make the transition to the new system of education and training feasible.

"The provincial committees and the local government organs together with the provincial education departments must make specific plans for the growth of the country's education and training system during the year 1364 [21 Mar 1985 - 20 Mar 1986]. They ought to make practical arrangement for the transition to the new system of education and training. Further, they must make serious efforts to strengthen the material and technical foundations of the schools and create normal and desirable conditions for education and training children.

"The party committees must strive as much as possible to strengthen the co-operation between social organizations, government organs, the workers' collective offices, the armed forces and each of their units for the sake of balanced growth of education and training in the country. As a first step, serious, aware, and goal-directed concern must be directed to accepting the children of workers and to improving and expanding education and training among the country's tribes and nationalities."

The proper, precise, and specific implementation of the guidance thus provided will ease the educational development process in the country, train young cadres for social-revolutionary changes, relieve economic backwardness, and develop the culture.

9310/13045
CSO: 4665/2

AFGHANISTAN

RURAL COMMITTEES RENDERING SERVICES TO PUBLIC

Kabul ANIS in Dari 31 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] As a result of persistent revolutionary efforts on the part of employees of the Provincial National Fatherland Front Council of Badakhshan, during the first quarter of this year [21 March - 21 June 1985] 36 individual and work groups from municipal, district, subdistrict, ward, and village councils cooperated to organize volunteer work for cleaning streets and alleys, building bridges, grading and surfacing secondary roads, cleaning gutters and rivers for villagers, repairing and painting mosques, gathering crops, and carrying out other public interest projects. The projects were carried out by 9,500 persons, and produced 855,000 afghanis in earnings.

A source from the Provincial National Fatherland Front Council of Badakhshan, while explaining the above, also said: Employees of this council have carried out extensive propaganda concerning the cultivation of their land in meetings and gatherings of groups and individuals at the municipal, ward, and district councils. During these meetings their requests and proposals concerning the procurement of fertilizer and improved graded seeds, were taken and turned over to the proper authorities.

Likewise, in order to ensure the just distribution of water for landowners, 72 chief water distributors and their assistants, 42 of whom are members of the National Fatherland Front, were appointed and elected.

Therefore, as a result of the activities of employees of the Provincial National Fatherland Front Council of Badakhshan, and for the sake of just water distribution in the province of Badakhshan, 42 rural water consumer committees were formed, each of which has two participant members of the National Fatherland Front.

In addition, employees of the councils of the Provincial National Fatherland Front Council of Badakhshan and the rural councils and committees have consistently cooperated with land and water reform operational groups at the centers and districts of Ashkashem, Wakhan and Baharak, and the subdistricts of Badakhshan, and they continue to do so.

The source added: In the first quarter of the year 1364 [21 March - 21 June 1985], in the Provincial National Fatherland Front Council of Badakhshan 12

commissions to resolve family disputes and four counseling councils for parents of students were formed in the pertinent schools.

Similarly, six volunteer groups on the level of this council were formed to serve the patients, the needy, and the families of martyrs of the revolution, and in the first quarter of the year 1364 these groups cooperated consistently with the patients, the displaced, and families of martyrs of the revolution in more than 46 cases.

The source added: As a result of the organization of employees of the relevant councils, in the first quarter of the year 1364, more than 230 individuals eligible for help were referred or sent to the Red Crescent, rescue units, the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs, and the Ministry of Public Health in order to receive help and medical care.

Employees of the permanent propaganda council and other provincial councils of the Provincial National Fatherland Front of Badakhshan, have consistently helped propaganda sessions according to plan in the mosques, schools, and public gathering places concerning the humane goals of the party, the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, and the National Fatherland Front, the government's economic plans, and the valuable decisions made by the Historic Grand Assembly.

9310/13045

CSO: 4665-1

AFGHANISTAN

OVER 1000 VOLUNTEERS PERFORMING VARIOUS TASKS

Kabul ANIS in Dari 1 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] In the first quarter of the current year [21 March - 21 June 1985], the Provincial National Fatherland Front Council of Ghowr has accomplished fruitful tasks according to plans. A pertinent source said: According to plan, this council was required to organize volunteer and collective plans five times during this period, but actually in this period seven volunteer projects were organized by the Provincial National Fatherland Front Council of Ghowr. In these mass volunteer projects more than 1,000 members of the National Fatherland Front and toiling patriotic and zealous citizens participated with revolutionary fervor. Accomplished work included cleaning and digging two kilometers of the Dahan Kasi gutter, cleaning and digging one kilometer of the gutter serving the families in the western part of the city of Choghcharan, masonry, water pump installation, regulating water distribution, collecting and harvesting of crops for the villagers of Kandiwal, and other things, resulting in great savings for the villagers and the people.

Likewise, five volunteer projects were organized in the National Fatherland Front Council of the District of Tulak, with direct cooperation from employees of the district council and the honorable residents of that area. In these projects, 3,000 fruit-bearing and non-fruit-bearing saplings were planted and waterways for agricultural lands were repaired and cleaned.

This council introduced a propaganda group to the land and water reform operational group, which went to the village of Sheikh al-Mand with them and organized extensive propaganda concerning the goals of land and water reforms for residents of that village, and as a result, they were able to survey the lands of the villagers and prepare them for land reform, and soon land deeds for that village will be distributed to villagers with little or no land.

The source added: The Provincial National Fatherland Front Council of Ghowr located 600 needy persons and referred them to the Nationalities and Tribal Affairs Administration, and they were issued sugar, wheat, and tea by this administration. However, no aid from friendly countries was sent to this council to be distributed to poor families and the families of martyrs of the revolution.

Likewise, 42 individual members of this council were referred to the Provincial Public Health Office to receive treatment and free medicine.

Similarly, 4,000 afghanis from donations received in honor of welcoming the fourth anniversary of the National Fatherland Front were given as aid to the families of martyrs of the revolution.

With regard to the needs of the people of Ghowr, the source said: The Provincial National Fatherland Front Council of Ghowr has prepared a list of materials required by the patriotic citizenry of this region and sent it to the northwest office for appropriate action. It is hoped that the responsible officials will give an affirmative answer to the needs of the people of the area.

The source also added: In the first quarter of the current year three literacy courses have been established, attracting 60 students.

Further, 40 volunteer persons for service in the armed forces were introduced to the said organ and 50 persons were formed into revolutionary defense groups.

9310/13045
CSO: 4665-1

AFGHANISTAN

ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, CULTURAL TIES WITH INDIA SOUGHT

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 12 Aug 85 p 3

[Text] The specific measures which were adopted in the seventh session of the joint Afghan-India Commission for Economic, Commercial and Cultural Cooperation to strengthen relations between the two countries serve the purpose of peace and stability in the region, a region that is one of the most agitated areas of the world. This topic was mentioned in yesterday's edition of PRAVDA, which pointed out that the two parties discussed a broad spectrum of issues whose solutions will benefit the people of both countries and the cause of peace in the region, a region in which the forces and joint enemies of Afghanistan and India are carrying out their dangerous destructive activities.

During the three day round of talks, plans which were aimed at expanding foreign trade and determining new paths for the transfer of goods in light of the current situation on the Afghan-Pakistan border and the Iran-Iraq war were discussed.

PRAVDA noted that several facilities for light industry and foodstuff industry are to be built in Afghanistan, and it is also planned that India will aid Afghanistan in delivering equipment and machinery needed by new electrical power plants.

An agreement was reached on expanding cooperation in the health area, such as the project for expanding a large hospital and a child care center in Kabul was signed.

The cultural exchange program planned for the 1985-1987 period contains a long list of exchanges of scientists, artists and athletes. India is also providing scholarships to Afghan students in speciality fields.

PRAVDA writes that the work of the session in New Delhi shows that despite the difficulties arising from the undeclared war against the DRA launched from Pakistan's territory, traditional cooperation between neighboring countries is strengthening. Apart from this, the strong contacts between Indian and Afghanistan will aid the Afghan government in its efforts to peacefully solve the regions's acute problems.

9597/13045
CSO: 4664/137

AFGHANISTAN

LAND REFORM IMPLEMENTATION CONTINUES

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 30 Oct 85 pp 1-2

[Text] SHEBERGHAN, (BIA) -- The implementation of the second phase of the just and democratic land and water reforms is in full swing in our country. In this series recently 1,043 landless and smallscale land-holding peasantry families of Santiz village of Faizabad sub-district of Aqcha district, Jauzjan province received land-ownership documents.

The document distribution ceremony was attended by a lot of the peasants of that village. Abdul Qudus, one of the peasants speaking on behalf of others said, "We peasants have fully realised that the April Revolution has become victorious for the benefit of the workers of the country, in particular in the interests of peasants and toilers. Today, we all see that thanks to the Revolution, the peasants who have for many years been under the oppression of feudals and big landlords, have now become the masters of their own land and make use of the fruits of their own labour. Therefore, defence of the Revolution and its gains means defending our own interests. So it is incumbent upon us to support the glorious April Revolution with all our might.

The peasants participating in the function who have received land ownership documents expressed their readiness for the implementation of the aspirations of the party and the state by chanting slogans like: "Victorious be the April Revolution", "Long live the PDPA", "Long live esteemed leader of the workers of Afghanistan, Babrak Karmal".

Faiz Mohammad, head of operative group No. 42 of the democratic land reforms in Jauzjan province, reported that so far in the villages of Faizabad sub-district of Aqcha district 2,049 landless and small scale land holding peasants have received land ownership documents.

In the first two quarters of the current Afghan year (begun March 21, 1985), 942 land ownership documents have been distributed to the deserving peasants of the subdistrict, 20,910 hectares of land have been clarified and documented about 93 hectares of surplus land, and an area of 171 hectares of state land have been distributed to the peasants.

Right now there are five peasantry councils and eight peasantry committees for water distribution in the villages of Faizabad sub-district of Aqcha district.

At present, two operative groups of the democratic land and water reforms in co-operation with the peasantry councils and peasantry committees are engaged in the implementation of the second phase of the democratic land reforms in Faizabad sub-district.

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CSO: 4600/146

AFGHANISTAN

ARTICLE LOOKS AT VARIOUS IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 15 Aug 85 p 3

[Text] As we all know, the climatic condition of our dear country Afghanistan possesses special characteristics, namely the amount of annual rainfall in most regions is very small and that this limits the possibilities for irrigation, which is carried out in an unsystematic fashion.

The great portion of our country's land is irrigated by primitive methods through the diversionary dams constructed from local materials in traditional and out-dated form, from rivers and in part from springs and qanats, and a tiny portion of it by large dams and modern networks, and thus put under cultivation.

So as to improve the state of the country's irrigation and better control water affairs, this national wealth, and also in order to make more effective and desirable the use of irrigation, and prevent damage arising from sudden seasonal floods, the government in its national irrigation development plan, has incorporated the construction of large and small irrigation reservoir dams, diversionary dams, the construction and renovation of irrigation networks, the construction of recreations areas, the implementation of the Water Law, and just distribution of water to benefit the farmers and Afghanistan's honorable people.

In order to achieve the above goals, the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources has aimed its activities on the study, development and greater use of water resources in the country through survey, planning, construction, maintenance and supervision of irrigation projects and hydrotechnical construction, founding of state agricultural farms on newly irrigated lands, the effective and comprehensive use of water resources, the supervision of industry and preservation of water against pollutants, the renovation of irrigation systems, and the fair distribution of water among farmers on the basis of scientific planning.

Our beloved land of Afghanistan possesses enormous resources for agricultural production. The total of known cultivatable land in the country is 7.8 million hectares, of which 5.3 million hectares are irrigable.

Of these, 1,320,000 hectares are irrigated traditionally, 1,150,000 hectares are irrigated by seasonal flooding, and only 331,000 hectares are irrigated in a technical and modern way, thus bringing the total area under irrigation as mentioned above to 2.8 million hectares. This in itself is proof of the wretched inheritance from the past despotic regimes, namely that while the country's total annual water volume is more than 55 billion cubic meters, and that if the necessary measures to organize irrigation and water flow in the country had been adopted and implemented during the past regimes, then this amount of water would have, in itself, been sufficient for the greater part of the country's irrigated land area.

On the whole, dams are damaged several times a year by floods and parts of canals close to the dams are filled with silt. Furthermore, a great deal of manpower is used annually in irrigation affairs in order to transport water, to supply water from rivers to the canals by construction diversionary dikes, and the cleaning and repair of the irrigation system and the qanat system as well.

It should be noted that due to the failure to hold water in reservoir dams, a great portion of flood water is not used in agriculture and goes to waste.

As can be observed, the resources exist to bring 1.5 million hectares of new land under irrigation, and thus for this purpose 30 billion cubic meters of water will be required annually.

In the country's northern regions there are one million hectares of irrigable land, from which one can expect one million tons of cotton crop in addition to other crops--the sale of which will certainly provide a strong trade currency. It must be noted that from each hectare of irrigated land, after deducting production and manpower costs, the national income will increase by a minimum of 500 dollars and the gross national product by 1,200 to 1,500 dollars. In other words, the gross national product will double when the area of land under irrigation expands by 1.5 million hectares.

Through the construction of reservoir and diversionary dams, the existing land under irrigation will expand from 2.6 million hectares to 4 million hectares.

Economic computations show that the period of yield for capital investment in most projects is estimated between 10 and 15 years.

It is obvious that the implementation of these sorts of large projects call for carrying out a series of detailed studies, surveys, area research, technical and economic analyses and more evaluation. Furthermore, before starting such studies, it is first necessary to identify projects and ascertain their priority.

The projects mentioned below are part of the development plan of the DRA's Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources.

Sardah Irrigation Project:

The Sardah irrigation project is located 40 kilometers from the city of Ghazni. Its basic goal is to control and store water from the Jalghah River in order to irrigate an area of 15,340 hectares of existing and new land.

In order to make effective and extensive use of the land included in the project, the grading of a large portion of the land has been completed and the land has been put into use.

Gorgan and Char-Darrah Irrigation Project:

The Gorgan and Char-Darrah irrigation project is located in the provinces of Baghlan and Konduz. Its aim is to renovate and improve the irrigation system in order to transport sufficient water for 1,320 hectares of existing land in Gorgan, to irrigate 3,100 hectares of new land in Lar-Khabi by pump, and to improve the irrigation situation for 16,060 hectares of existing land in Char-Darrah.

The Khanabad Irrigation Project (First Phase):

This project is located near the Chugahabad village. Its goal is to control and transport sufficient water for 30,000 hectares of existing land on both sides of the Khanabad river. The construction work on this project is 90 percent complete.

The Parvan Irrigation Project:

The goal of this project is to control irrigation of a 15,300-hectare area of existing land and 9,500 hectares of new land in Parvan and Kabul Provinces. Of the new land, 2,700 hectares will be irrigated by pump and the remaining 6,800 hectares by gravity.

Project to Buttress the Banks of the Panj wa Amu River:

The Amu (Oxus) River is Afghanistan's largest border river. Every year, as a result of floods that change the course of the river, a great portion of agricultural land and adjacent villages on Afghan soil are damaged, and sometimes farming land and villages are destroyed.

The goal of this project is to buttress and supervise the dams on the canals in the cities of Van, Yatim Tappah, Kaftar'ali, Torkeman and Aq Masjed and to protect the cultivated land in the areas of Qarqin, Khamab, Barzangi Afghani, and the highway between Shirkhan Bandar and Qonduz, which are threatened every year by the river, and thus protect them from damage.

The Kamalkhan Diversionary Dam Project:

The Kamalkhan dam is being constructed 80 kilometers south of the city of Zarnaj on the Helmand River. Through the construction of this dam, the extra flood water from the Helmand River will be guided to the Biaban and Khashak

Rivers and eventually to Gudarzi. In addition, it will provide sufficient water to irrigate 20,000 hectares of land in the environs of Qal'ah Fath and Khabgah and 45,000 hectares of land in the area of Taraku and Kong. Currently, due to water loss in the area of Chakhansur, 61,590 hectares of land are cultivated intermittently. Upon completion of this project, 174,400 hectares of land will be put under cultivation.

In addition, through the construction of this dam, 8,000 kilowatts of electricity will be produced to electrify Nimruz Province. The Kamalkhan diversionary dam is 22 kilometers long, and includes the main dam, diversionary dikes and control dams.

Nahr-e Lashkari Irrigation Project:

This project is located near the city of Zarnajh. Its goal is to irrigate 14,000 hectares of old land and 6,000 hectares of new land.

The Nahr-e Lashkari irrigation project includes public canals 46 kilometers long with a capacity of 20.6 cubic meters per second, which receive water needed for irrigation from the Helmand River and supply the areas of Khabgah, Shahi, Nad-e 'Ali, Nimruz, Sarangay and Jaruki. The major construction work on the public canals has been completed.

The Sang-e Mehr Project in Badakhshan:

The goal of this project is to irrigate a total area of 1,270 hectares of new land on the plains of Sang-e Mehr, Khamchaq and Farugh on both banks of the Kokchah River in Badakhshan Province, and to supply drinking water for 2,000 families in new city of Fayzabad.

Kokchah Project:

This project is located in the Khajaghar Subprovince of Tokhar Province. Its aim is to transport sufficient water for a 25,000 hectares of existing land next to the Archi Stream (Nahr-e Archi), 5,000 hectares of new land in the Nowabad area on the left bank of the Kokchah River, and 12,000 hectares of new land and 7,000 hectares of existing land on the right bank of the Kokchah River.

When the construction is completed and the project begins operation, the overall irrigation situation of 32,000 hectares of existing land will be improved, and 17,000 hectares of new land will be irrigated. Furthermore, in the future it will be possible to irrigate 32,000 hectares of land in Shir Mahi.

Solely 38,000 tons of extra cotton will be produced from the newly irrigated land.

Shahravan Irrigation System:

This system is located on the northern plains of the DRA in the Tokhar Province, and it is one of the largest areas irrigated by the Shahravan Canal from the Panj River.

his canal's dam on the left bank of the Panj River is located 15 kilometers below the confluence of the Kokchah and Panj Rivers.

The Shahravan public canal has a length of 75 kilometers, a capacity of 50 cubic meters per second, and irrigates a 40,000-hectare area. The Shahravan canal and dam are damaged annually by floods, and the canal fills up with silt, which necessitates continuous repair, renovation, maintenance and supervision in order to strengthen the dam and clean the silt from the canal. The implementation of the above will revive the supply of continuous water to 40,000 hectares of land, and can stabilize the wheat and cotton crops.

Salma Project:

The Harirud Valley is located in the west of the country, and has special significance for the development of agriculture and stock raising in the growth of national industries. The basis of the Harirud project is the construction of the Salma reservoir dam. The Salma dam, located 170 kilometers from Herat, has a height of 104 meters, and is under construction from local materials on the upper Harirud River. The capacity of the Salma generators includes three 13.3 megawatt turbines. Thus, there will be an active capacity of 40 megawatts upon project completion.

The basic goal of the project is the development of new lands and the improvement of the irrigation of the existing land.

There are favorable conditions for the irrigation of over 73,000 hectares of land in the Harirud Valley, but due to the lack of water control, only 40,000 hectares are used intermittently every year.

The later phase of the project includes construction of a diversionary dam in the Marv section and the improvement of the irrigation network covering 73,000 hectares.

Installation of Kajaki Gates:

This project is being built to increase the water in the Kajaki dam reservoir, prevent damage from floods in the course of the Helmand River, raise the irrigation capacity of the reservoir and increase the production of electricity through the installation of 8 gates at Par Chavah.

This project will increase the holding capacity of the Kajaki dam reservoir from 1.7 billion to 3 billion, and increase the dam's irrigation potential from 103,000 hectares to 179,000.

Similarly, it will increase the production of electricity from 33 megawatts to 150 megawatts.

The completion of this project will not only improve the irrigation situation for the existing lands but will also make it possible to develop irrigation of new land.

Helmand Valley and Arghandab Projects:

The main goals of this project are the control of floods on the Helmand and Arghandab Rivers, improvement of the state of irrigation of cultivated lands, the dependable supply of water for new land and the production of electrical energy. This project is located in two of the DRA's hot-weather provinces, namely Helmand and Qandahar Provinces. The project is tasked with the control of water for irrigation, improving and modernizing traditional irrigation systems, maintaining and supervising of the irrigation systems, and developing and improving the yield of agriculture and stock raising on an area over 140,000 hectares.

Based on its five-year plan for 1365-1369 [21 Mar 1986-20 Mar 1987 to 21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1991], in the future the DRA's Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources will give priority to transitional irrigation construction and that group of projects whose design and construction work began several years ago and which have not yet been finished. This plan calls for the complex project design, planning and implementation of water projects, continuation of the organizational evolution in surveying, planning and hydrological services, as well as the creation and support of the further development of productive institutions in the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources and its related departments. The basic thrust of the plan is to arrange, organize and standardize the period of construction work, realizing policies in hydro-technical projects, and the necessity of capital investment and material and technical resources, while bearing in mind the practical performance of these pressures, particularly during the first phase of the struggle under difficult conditions to strengthen the bases of the glorious Sawr revolution.

The greater part of this capital investment will be devoted to completing and speeding up transitional projects under construction and that group of projects possessing productive characteristics, such as the Kokchah project, the Sardah irrigation systems, Parvan, Gorgan, Char-Darrah, Khanabad and the Helmand and Arghandab Valley irrigation system. Ten percent of the capital investment has been slated for survey, planning and design of projects. This plan gives deep attention to the development of repair, maintenance, supervision and renovation by means of which 750,000 hectares of land will be supplied with water annually, improvement of the condition of land from the yield standpoint, and increasing the effectiveness of land use under existing irrigation. In order to improve the use of construction and transportation equipment and tools, serious attention has been given to the creation of productive facilities in the irrigation and water resources offices. For this reason, 12 percent of the financial resources have been allocated to the aforementioned goals.

As a result of fulfilling the development of irrigation and water resources during the period of the plan's implementation the irrigation of 5,500 hectares of new land, improvement in the irrigation condition of 24,600 hectares of existing land, improvement of the yield of 7,500 hectares of irrigated land, and the supply of water to a 600,00 hectare area of grazing land will become possible.

Furthermore, during this period construction of the following projects in various provinces will be completed and operation will begin: A vehicle

parking facility with a 300-vehicle capacity, a facility producing metal tools with a 3,000 ton annual capacity, a repair facility for construction and transportation equipment with an annual capacity of 300 basic repairs, and three production facility units for the water departments.

The creation of state farms on state lands of 5,500 hectares is under consideration. It is predicted that in the basic directions of this process during the first three years the growth rate of capital investment, construction affairs and assembly work will be 5.17 percent, and in the following years 17.18 percent. This growth during the later years is attributed to construction work on some projects which will recommence due to an improvement in working conditions. The main problem in achieving the basic thrust is the completion of cadres of experienced and skilled engineers, technicians and workers.

The Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources, in cooperation with the Polytechnic Institute and Kabul University, has planned and prepared a course of education for hydrotechnical engineering cadres and other fields in order to supply and secure employees for its projects during the years 1986 to 1990-91.

In order to provide cadres for irrigation and water resource projects, the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources has created relevant courses in various zones, and is carrying out the training and education of cadres by the "brigade" method and technical professional workers' schools in the provinces of Kabul, Mazar-e Sharif and Jalalabad.

Noting the above issues, in every stage one of the main problems is to continually keep active the irrigation systems which belong to the state and the farmers, because during the irrigating period water must flow continuously in the systems.

In order to solve this major problem, not only carrying out the repair, maintenance and supervision of irrigation systems is a serious matter, but the most extensive reconstruction of irrigation systems, particularly dams and public canals and their related equipage with control facilities becomes an urgent necessity.

Without adopting complex agrotechnical policies, the necessary progress in the field of irrigation and landholding, which are the basis of agricultural production, will be impossible.

Then again, the reconstruction of irrigation systems is the only way to create the necessary condition for the just distribution of water among water users in accordance with the Water Use Plan.

Bearing in mind the guidance of the PDPA Central Committee and the esteemed DRA Council of Ministers and that which was noted above, the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources plans to apply more emphasis during the five-year plan on the following projects--which include new and newly revived ones:

- 1 - Completion of the plans for the construction of the Nahr-e Shahi diversionary dams, and the reconstruction of the diversionary dams on the canals

of the Nahr-e Shahi, Siah Gard, Balkh and Imam Sahab. Through the construction of the abovementioned diversionary dam, a dependable supply of water will be provided to the above canals, and the irrigation situation of the lands watered by the above-stated tributaries will be improved to some degree. There are 4,600 hectares of land with pertinent irrigation systems which are watered by the aforementioned canals.

As a result of constructing the diversionary dam, there will be a continuous flow of water in the canals and water losses will be insignificant; moreover the loss of manpower for the construction of four dams every year will be prevented, and furthermore, conditions will become ripe for performing work on the later stages of renovation and reconstruction of the irrigation systems.

2 - Project planning and start of construction of the second diversionary dam on the Balkh River (below the first dam), and reconstruction of the dams on the Moshtaq, 'Abdullah, Dowlatabad and Chamtal canals. The effectiveness of this project will be similar to that of the first diversionary dam mentioned before.

There are 97,000 hectares of land with irrigation networks supplied by these canals. The work on the aforementioned projects will proceed according to the first phase of the scheme to revitalize the irrigation systems in Afghanistan's northern plain over a one million-hectare area.

3 - Construction of a diversionary dam at Char-Darrah on the Qonduz River in the Qonduz Province and reconstruction of the Char-Darrah public canals for improving the irrigation situation for 16,000 hectares of existing land. The technical plans for this project were prepared previously and are ready.

The initial work on this project began in 1981, but later it came to a halt due to a lack of suitable conditions. In the near future, upon approval by the DRA Ministry of Interior, the relevant irrigation diggers will be transferred to this area to carry on the construction.

4 - Preparation of a technical and economic report, technical and work plans, and startup of construction of the Gat reservoir dam project on the Lowgar River in the Lowgar Province. In light of the studies on the Kabul River watershed scheme, the Gat reservoir dam which has a capacity of 275 million cubic meters (the dam's useful capacity is 215 million cubic meters) will control the flow of the Lowgar River and create better conditions for the storage of underground water to supply drinking water to Kabul City by the year 2000. Furthermore, it will revive the possibility of transferring water to the Kabul River, and improve the irrigation situation for existing lands in the vicinity of Kabul City--an area of 12,000 hectares.

The solution to the problems mentioned above possess great importance for the development of Kabul city, although it will not completely solve the country's economic problem.

5 - Installation of a pump and construction of an irrigation system for 'Aliabad, in an area of 3,600 hectare in Konduz Province.

The technical plans for the project are available and the electrical consumption of the pump must be verified. The construction of this project is being proposed since in the fourth quarter of 1986 a 110-kilowatt high voltage line will be extended to Dusti Shir Khan in Qonduz from the USSR. On the land encompassed by this project state beet and cotton farms can be created.

6 - Reconstruction of the Asqalan diversionary dam and public canal on the Khanabad River in Qonduz Province and installation of a pump at Elchin in order to facilitate irrigation of a 1,200-hectare area of new land (10 kilometers north of Qonduz city). The project's feasibility report is available, and the project's technical work will be prepared by the Water Resources Development Project Survey Institute of the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources.

The construction of this project will supply sufficient water to the Asqalan and Minfareq canals, and improve the irrigation situation on 6,300 hectares of existing land. Furthermore it will irrigate a 1,200-hectare area of new land

The Elchin water-collector will be built with a capacity of 1.8 cubic meters per second to irrigate 1,200 hectares of new land above the Asqalan Tributary. A pump will raise the water 15 meters, while a second-stage pump with a capacity of 0.46 cubic meters will raise the water 5 meters per second to an area of 300 hectares.

A state farm will be created on this land to plant wheat and cotton.

It should be noted that the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources possesses the necessary production capacities for the construction of these projects, which have a major and valuable role in strengthening the DRA's national economy.

9597/13045
CSO: 4665/137

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

USSR ACCUSED OF SABOTAGE--London, Dec. 11, IRNA--Prominent Afghan mujahideen leader Gulbadin Hikmatyar has blamed the Soviets for engaging in sabotage activities in Pakistan and cited the recent clashes between the tribesmen in Khaybar agency as a proof [as received]. According to AFGHAN AGENCY PRESS, Hikmatyar addressing a press conference in Islamabad, accused the Soviets of distributing arms and money on a massive scale, through saboteurs in Pakistan. He added, that the move which is aimed at sowing hatred between mujahideen and tribesmen, would never succeed since the tribesman have handed over most of the arms and ammunition to the mujahideen. Dispelling Soviets claims of the likelihood of the eruption of a civil war in the event of Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan, he said in reality the civil war has already started in Afghanistan as a result of the Soviet presence there. The Afghan leader said that if the Soviets feared that in the sake of their pull-out members of the Khalq and Parcham parties might be killed by the revolutionaries they (the Soviets) might as well take members of the two members [as received] back with them to the Soviet Union since those people "are hardly 15,000." On the Geneva talks, he said that since the mujahideen were not a party there, they could never be held responsible in that regard. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 11 Dec 85 LD] /6662

TROOPS REPORTEDLY KILLED--London, Dec. 6, IRNA--Eleven soldiers from the combined Soviet and Afghan Government troops were killed and 34 taken prisoner by Afghan mujahideen in attacks on them north western Faryab Province bordering the Soviet Union. [sentence as received] AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS here said also that a total of seven joint soldiers and one Soviet advisor were killed in separate attacks on their security posts in Rastak area on 12 Nov. Another AAP report said 34 Afghan Government troops were captured as mujahideen stormed their concentration centers around Shirin Tagab town. Meanwhile Soviet occupation authorities are said to building [as received] another airport in Kheyra area of Paktia Province near the Pakistan-Afghan border. A large number of joint troops from Zareh Sharan and Ghazni have been dispatched to the area where the new air base is being built, AAP reported. Work on the airport reportedly started last June, but was stopped due to military operations in the province. The air base will be the third largest of its kind after Bagram and Shindand, AAP said. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 6 Dec 85 LD] /6662

MUJAHIDIN COUNTEROFFENSIVE REPORTED--London, Dec. 11, IRNA--Afghan mujahidin foiled a major Soviet-Karmal joint offensive killing 18 soldiers, besides damaging a fighter plane and destroying four tanks in the northern provinces of Balkh and Takhar near the Soviet border. According to AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS the Soviet forces, attacked a mujahidin stronghold near Mazare Sharif, in Balkh Province on November 16 and were forced to retreat, leaving behind 14 dead, as well as the wreckage of 4 tanks and several vehicles. A Soviet plane providing aerial support operations for the invading troops was hit by anti-aircraft fire and flew back towards Qila Gai [IRNA spelling]. Three mujahidin were martyred during the clash. While in Takhar Province, the mujahidin ambushed a military convoy near Taloqan city on November 12, destroying a tank along with its crew by rocket, the report added. Meanwhile 15 Karmal troops defected to the mujahidin, bringing with them 22 Kalashnikovs, 2 rocket launchers and a heavy machine gun, the report said. The report also said that three mujahidin were martyred by mines explosion which were dropped by the Soviet planes in Maydan area of Vardak Province. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 11 Dec 85 LD] /6662

GOVERNMENT TROOPS SAID KILLED--London, Dec. 10, IRNA--Afghan mujahideen launched an attack on two army posts on the outskirts of Kabul killing seven Soviet and Afghan joint forces, including their commander, Mohameven Zahir. According to AFGHAN AGENCY PRESS the mujahideen also attacked an army camp in Chahar As'ab area, with rockets and destroyed an ammunition dump. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 10 Dec 85 LD] /6662

CSO: 4600/134

BANGLADESH

'INCONCLUSIVE' GARMENT TALKS WITH U.S. REPORTED

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 30 Oct 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The garment talks between Bangladesh and the United States ended yesterday without any agreement on the proposed quota of four categories of apparels and a comprehensive deal on garment exports to the American market for the next three years.

Talks started on October 26 and was scheduled to conclude on October 28. It was stretched till yesterday as it entered into rough waters after the US side tabled a new proposal for a package deal involving a dozen more items in addition to the four quota calls.

The package deal lasting upto December, 1988 also sought to impose restriction on more items.

Negotiators from both the sides tried till 12-25 p.m. yesterday to reach a deal at the talks held at the conference room of the Commerce Ministry since 8-30 a.m.

However, they agreed on principle to sign a 'visa agreement' to regulate the flow of garment exports to the United States market. The agreement will be signed in Washington, it is learnt.

Sources close to the talks told the The New Nation that Bangladesh declined to agree on the American proposal limiting Bangladesh export for the next three years. They said it would not be congenial to the growth of its garment industry.

The US negotiators also tried to convince their Bangladeshi counterparts that if they

agreed on the package deal they would consider releasing over three lakh dozens of shirts declared as distressed cargo.

The sources said that Bangladesh might take its case to the Textile Surveillance Body (TSB) in Geneva to settle the issue through negotiations on item by item.

Although the talks ended without a consensus the American side said that doors for further negotiations were open to sort out the garment export issue.

The nine-member American delegation headed by Mr Robert Sorini, deputy chief textile negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, left Dhaka for Bangkok in the afternoon. They were seen off

at the Zia International Airport by Mr Abu Sayeed Choudhury, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, who led the Bangladesh delegation to the talks. The team came to Bangladesh on October 25.

Garment industry sources, meanwhile, claimed that the failure to arrive at an agreement would be beneficial to Bangladesh. They said that if not fresh quota calls were issued by November 2, and negotiations took place on 16 categories, item by item, Bangladesh's garment export would rise by two crore pieces, and its estimated value would be Taka 120 crore covering a major portion of the export target set for the garment sector during the 1985-86.

On two items like category 341 (ladies blouse) and category 331 (hand gloves) the rise has been forecast to the tune of 14 lakh pieces.

However, the official sources did not express similar optimism and declined to comment immediately.

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CSO: 4600/1197

BANGLADESH

ERSHAD SPEAKS AT NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DAY FUNCTION

Summary of Speech

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Nov 85 p 1

[Text]

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Saturday asserted that he was bent on bringing politics out of the captivity of cities and clutches of urban interest and taking it to the rural Bangladesh where vast multitude of the population live, reports BSS.

Speaking at the 14th National Cooperative Day function at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in Dhaka Saturday morning, the President regretted that the larger segment of our population neglected and deprived for ages, languished in a state of total frustration. They had lost all confidence in the society, in the leaders and resigned to their fate.

The President questioned how

the vast multitude of people without association or involvement in the socio-economic activities were expected to feel for the country.

At the same time there is another section in the society which lives in luxury in the cities and takes fancy to give sermons in seminars and parties and to media on politics, economy, society and other aspects of life having no respect to what they profess.

There people forget history on knowingly try to by-pass the historical facts may be history of the country is yet to be written, but historical facts and incidents cannot be erased, he observed.

President Ershad in this context, said, when such people speak of democracy, they tend to forget that there were directly associated with the process of strangulation of democracy. And when they speak of economy with ulterior motive, they forget that economy of Bangladesh was mortgaged to other country when they were at the helms of affairs, when they speak of law and order situation they forget that hundreds of innocent people were annihilated during their time.

President Ershad referred to a former President of the country who has now been trying to portray himself as the conscience keeper of the society by giving sermons on fundamental rights, democracy and law and order.

The former President did not say that he accepted the post of roving Ambassador under the same government of which he was the President. He even worked as Minister at a later stage under that Government.

Were there human rights fundamental rights and freedom of speech when he joined the Government under one party system as a Minister? Did he not consider it beyond the dignity for a former President to accept a job under the same government at the time? Did not he feel any prick of conscience when he joined one party system government? Rather he on government account moved around the world speaking in praise of the system of government in power at that time.

That champion of democracy did not even stop at that point. The day after the killing of Bangabandhu, he did not hesitate for a moment to join the next government as Foreign Minister. What type of democratic behaviour and consciousness was that, he questioned.

President Ershad said if such is the role of some intellectuals in the society, then what the teeming millions could expect of them.

Turning to the Cooperative Day, the President reminded the cooperators that they are directly linked in organising the economic strength of the common man and they should by their sincere work, earn their love and confidence.

He said during last year's observance of the Cooperative Day, he presented the cooperators with wreath of "shull" flowers made by his little daughter. "Today my present to you is the hopes and aspiration of the teeming millions who are looking up to you to find a new meaning of life," he said.

Mobilization of Cooperators

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said in Dhaka Saturday that success of the cooperative movement lies in the total mobilisation of cooperators for achieving the objective of national welfare, reports BSS.

Addressing a conference organised to observe the 14th National Cooperative Day at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium, he said the basic principle of the cooperative movement is to put in united endeavours for improving the condition of the people.

He said it is a matter of regret that despite the realisation by all quarters that there is no alternative to cooperative movement for emancipating the country's crores of unfortunate people, the movement could not achieve the desired success during the last one hundred years of its existence.

The President said cooperative movement is the best weapon for the neglected and deprived masses to improve their living condition. "Hence, we must find out the causes of failures for which we could not reach our cherished goal" he said.

President Ershad said weak village level organisations are mainly responsible for not being able to bring about desired success in the cooperative movement. A section of self-seeking people are taking advantage of the illiteracy, poverty and backwardness of the village people, he said.

He said now the time has come to bring about a change

in the situation and build a people-oriented cooperative movement in the country. "We must not forget that Bangladesh means working people, its peasants, workers, fishermen, weavers, blacksmiths and potters" he said.

Referring to women who constitute 50 per cent of the country's total population, the President said they must be given the opportunity of playing their due role in the development of the country. "We cannot achieve progress keeping women out of the mainstream" he said.

He said keeping this in view the present Government has for the first time took up the programme of setting up cooperatives for poor women and brought two lakh and 56 thousand women under nine thousand 78 such cooperatives spread all over the country.

President Ershad said the Government is aware that the cooperative movement can play a very effective role in bringing about economic emancipation of the landless poor people. In this connection he mentioned about the setting up of cooperatives of poor, landless and oppressed women and the additional facilities provided to the milk producers cooperative societies.

He said amendments have been effected in the cooperative laws of the colonial time to make them up to date and if necessary they can be amended further he referred to the committee set up to make recommendations for removing the problems of the Upazila Central Cooperative Societies and said it had already submitted its report and the government has decided on principle to implement the recommendations after due consideration.

He called upon the cooperators to take a fresh vow to put in their sincere efforts to emancipate the country's 10 crore people from economic backwardness.

The President said the Government has already fulfilled the demands of the cooperative officers. Now it is their turn to work with honesty, dedication and devotion to make the cooperative movement a success.

The Minister for Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives, Major General Mahmudul Hasan among others, spoke on the occasion.

Ministers and high civil and military officials were present.

Earlier, the President distributed national cooperative awards for 1984 and 1985.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1198

BANGLADESH

PRESS GIVES DETAILS OF ERSHAD MALAYSIA VISIT

Arrival, 4 Nov Banquet

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR Nov 4:—President Hussain Muhammad Ershad tonight expressed his firm belief that the existing fraternal ties between Bangladesh and Malaysia would further widen and diversify the scope of mutual cooperation in economic and commercial fields reports BSS.

Speaking at the banquet given in his honour by the Malaysian King Sultan Iskander Ibne Al Marhum Sultan Ismail at the Istana Negara Palace here the President said 'We must make full use of our expertise and technology available to us' for the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

He said the days when South-South Cooperation was no more than a political slogan were over and Bangladesh-Malaysia relations could serve as a shining example of many splendoured things that could be accomplished between two countries bound by close political ties and common aspirations.

The President said 'We warmly welcome the Malaysian pledge to work together in furtherance of this noble objective and what was required to give it a concrete shape was to translate the reservoir of goodwill and political understanding between our two countries into concrete economic programmes of action'.

President Ershad said the interaction between the people of the two countries goes back to many centuries. 'We are bound together by ties of religion and culture common history and background and shared hopes and aspirations'.

He said both Bangladesh and Malaysia have identical and close similarity of views on major international issues like the

Middle East Kampuchea Afghanistan the Iran-Iraq War Apartheid and Disarmament. In this context he recalled cooperation between the two countries in various international fora.

The President lauded ASEAN for its many achievements and said 'We are confident that the ASEAN efforts to find a peaceful solution of the Kampuchean problem on the basis of the principles of non-interference non-intervention and self-determination would eventually prevail'.

He said Bangladesh has been looking forward to continue to work closely with its ASEAN neighbours in their common quest to promote regional peace harmony and cooperation.

President Ershad referred to the South Asian Regional Cooperation summit to be held in Dhaka in December and expressed the confidence that this would open a glorious chapter in the history of regional cooperation in South Asia and promote mutually beneficial advantages for the nations of the region.

He said both Bangladesh and Malaysia were committed to give better life to their peoples for which peace and stability were essential. He said strict adherence to the UN Charter can ensure peace and stability a necessary pre-requisite for progress and prosperity.

The President commended the achievements made by Malaysia in various sectors of its economy and said it was possible because of political stability and high quality of leadership as well as spirit of accommodation and tolerance which are characteristic of the Malaysian people.

Referring to the efforts being made in Bangladesh during the last three and a half years to improve the lot of the commonman he said that with bold determination and in due course these efforts would be duly rewarded.

Another report says: President Hussain Mohammad Ershad was given a red carpet reception when he arrived at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport by a special Bangladesh Biman flight this afternoon a five day state visit to Malaysia.

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad received the Bangladesh leader as soon as he alighted from the aircraft amidst

drizzle.

President Ershad was accompanied by a 25 member entourage including the Foreign Minister Mr Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury. A 24 member cultural troupe also accompanied the President.

The Malaysian King Sultan Iskander Ibne Al Marhum Sultan Ismail received the Bangladesh President at the Parliament Square where the President along with Dr. Mahathir Mohamad drove in a ceremonial motorcade from the airport.

The President was given a guard of honour by the 11th Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment.

The ceremonial battery boomed 21 gun salute in honour of the Bangladesh President. The national anthems of the two countries were played.

President Ershad and the Malaysian King then took position at the ceremonially decorated dais where the Bangladesh President received a "royal

salute" given by the smartly turned out contingent of Malaysian Armed Forces.

The King then introduced President Ershad to the Malaysian Ministers dignitaries and members of the diplomatic corps, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and the Foreign Minister of Malaysia, Tunku Ritha-uddin, were also present on the occasion.

A large number of Bangladesh citizens living in Malaysia also assembled there to greet their President. President Ershad exchanged greetings with them.

The royal welcome ceremony

over, the President drove in a ceremonial motorcade to the "Rumah Malaysia" (Malaysian State Guest House) accompanied by King Sultan Iskander.

On arrival at the guest house the President was also accorded royal salute as National Anthems of Bangladesh and Malaysia were played.

The 18 kilometre route from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport to the Parliament Square was decorated with national flags of the two countries. A number of welcome arches were also erected on the route to mark the occasion.

Kuala Lumpur Talks

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Nov 85 pp 1, 10

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR Nov. 5.—Bangladesh and Malaysia today reiterated their commitments to foster greater cooperation between the two Muslim countries in all possible fields as a means of effective contribution to the South-South Cooperation cables BSS Special Correspondent Haroon Habib reports BSS.

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and the Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohammad who led their countries delegation to the formal talks held at the latter's office here discussed wide ranging subjects covering bilateral regional and international issues.

Official sources said that the two leaders had exchanged their views especially on how to widen the scope of bilateral relations in pursuance of the principles of South-South Cooperation. The sources said that the subjects covered in an hour-long talks included the co-operation in the fields of trade shipping manpower and joint ventures in the industrial sector.

During the official talks President Ershad was assisted among others by the Foreign Minister Mr. Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury High Commissioner Farooq Sobhan Secretary External Resource Division Mr. M.K. Anwar and Mr. A M A H Siddiqui Director-General Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training.

The Malaysian Foreign Minister Tunku Ahmed Ritha-uddin country's Ambassador to Bangladesh Zainul Abedin Sulong and other top ranking Foreign Office officials assisted the Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohammad in the talks which was described by officials as "very fruitful".

At the beginning of the formal talks President Ershad who earlier held exclusive talks with the Malaysian Prime Minister hoped that his visit to Malaysia was fruitful and would conri-

bute further to the promotion of friendly relations and allout cooperation between the two Asian neighbours.

During the talks the two leaders also apprised each other the situation in their respective countries and shared the views that internal stability was the prerequisite for the progress and prosperity of any nation.

Following the formal meeting a protocol on cultural cooperation between the two countries was signed.

President Ershad and Premier Mahathir Mohammad were present during the signing ceremony.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia Farooq Sobhan and Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Zainul Abedin Sulong signed the protocol envisaging exchange of cultural programme between the two countries.

Briefing the newsmen Director General of Malaysian Foreign Office said that the talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and would pave the way for further cooperation between the two countries. He said that during the formal talks the two leaders discussed the ways and means to reduce the trade imbalance between two countries. The possibilities of exporting manpower to Malaysia was also discussed during the talks he said.

Earlier, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury and his Malaysian counterpart Tunku Ahmed Ritha-uddin held informal meeting for an hour.

Although their discussions were 'informal' the two Foreign Ministers covered issues of bilateral relations as well as regional and international subjects officials said.

Later in the afternoon the President visited the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia about 25 kilometres from here.

Kuala Lumpur Press Conference

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR Nov 6.—President Hussain Mohammad Ershad today expressed his determination to hold the presidential and general elections of the country on schedule whenever he announces the dates, reports BSS.

Addressing a Press conference here at the Rumah Malaysia (state guest house) this afternoon the President said that he was optimistic that the political parties of the country would now participate in the polls.

By boycotting the elections the political parties have lost their credibilities. Now they (oppositions) have realised that they did wrong, he asserted.

Referring to political situation obtaining in Bangladesh the President told the newsmen the people of Bangladesh had expressed their overwhelming confidence in my policies and programmes. The people of the rural areas who constitute the overwhelming majority in the population are now participating enthusiastically in the all round economic and social development activities we are happy our objectives are being realised he added.

The President also told the newsmen that his visit to the friendly country of Malaysia had been very fruitful and the relations would develop further in the near future. He expressed his gratitude to Malaysia for its being the first Muslim country to recognise the sovereign country Bangladesh soon after the independence.

Expressing his thanks to the Malaysian leaders and the people for according him a fraternal reception since his arrival here three days ago President Ershad said during the past three days of our stay in this brotherly country we have seen simple

demonstration of love and affection that the people of Malaysia have for the people of Bangladesh.

President Ershad pointed out the relations between Bangladesh and Malaysia have developed "steadily and satisfactorily" over the years to the "mutual benefit of both the countries."

Economic relations

Referring to the growing socio-cultural and economic relations between the two countries the President said that the joint economic committee which so far held two meetings has provided a "framework of regular annual consultation" he said it has given impetus to "widen the bilateral cooperation covering many areas of common interest including trade industry and manpower sector."

The two countries he said have concluded a number of agreements "as a manifestation of our determination to consolidate our friendship and intensify our cooperation further." During the visit President Ershad said beside signing a biennial cultural cooperation protocol two other agreements have also been signed.

The Federations of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the two countries have also decided to set up standing committee in each other's capital for economic cooperation he said. The Malaysian International Trading Corporation (MITCO) and the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) have already concluded a special trade agreement for an initial period of two years envisaging exchange goods worth 10 million U.S. dollars each way he added.

Referring to the Association of South-East-Asian Nations (ASEAN) President Ershad said, "We have noted with admiration the achievements made by the ASEAN in consolidating friendship and promoting cooperation

among the countries of the region". Bangladesh was the foremost in forging a 'similar structured regional cooperation in South Asia in the framework of South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC)' he pointed out.

SARC meet

About the first summit meeting of the seven-member SARC in December next the President said, "we sincerely hope the summit will herald a new era of friendship understanding and cooperation among these nations having a total population of more than one billion".

Answering to a question President Ershad said there is an ample scope for establishing stronger ties in economic sector between the two countries. He said the investment climate is favourable now and there is enough scope for the Malaysian investors both in public and private sector to invest in Bangladesh.

He said during his talks with Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohammad they have discussed the possibility of exporting Bangladesh manpower to Malaysia. "We have enough skilled manpower and Malaysia has expertise so it is good for both of us to exchange" he added.

On the situation in the Gulf, President Ershad said that as the members of OIC, both Bangladesh and Malaysia sincerely want the early end of Iran-Iraq war. "There has been enough blood shedding between the two brothers" he said.

Earlier in the afternoon, the President was briefed on the economic achievements and policies of Malaysia by the Chief Secretary of the Government. The development projects of Malaysia were also explained to the President.

Private Sectors To Cooperate

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 10 Nov 85 p 8

[Text]

A memorandum of understanding towards promotion of bilateral economic cooperation between the private sectors of Bangladesh and Malaysia was

signed on November 5 in Kuala Lumpur by Mr. M. A. Kashiem, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry

(FBCCI) and his Malaysian counterpart Dr. Nawawi Mat Awai, President of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM). Understanding on a number of points of mutual interest

were reached between the two friendly Muslim countries at a meeting held in Kuala Lumpur. Mr. M. A. Kashem was a member of the entourage of President Ershad during his recent visit to Malaysia.

Text of Communique

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 10, 11 Nov 85

[10 Nov 85 p 3]

[Text]

The following is the text of the joint communique issued simultaneously from Dhaka and Kuala-Lumpur at the end of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's five-day state visit to Malaysia:

At the invitation of His Majesty the Yang di Pertuan Agong, his excellency Lt. General Hussain Muhammad Ershad, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh paid a state visit to Malaysia from November 4-8, 1985. The President was accompanied by his excellency Mr Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, Minister of Foreign Affairs and senior officials of the Government of Bangladesh.

On his arrival his excellency President H. M. Ershad was received by Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. The President was given a warm welcome by his majesty the Yang di Pertuan Agong at a ceremony held at parliament square.

The President and his entourage were accorded a warm and fraternal welcome by the people and government of Malaysia reflecting the close bonds of friendship and cordiality existing between the two brotherly countries and peoples.

During the visit, the President paid a courtesy call on their majesties the Yang Di Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong. Earlier Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohammad paid a call on the President. Their majesties the Yang Di Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong hosted a state banquet in honour of his excellency the President.

During the visit, the president was briefed on Malaysia's socio-economic development plans and projects at the prime ministers department. The President visited the Malaysian national car factory, a palm oil project in Negri Sembilan and the Malaysian liquified natural gas project as well as the Asean fertiliser project in Biatulu Sarawak. The President also met and addressed the members of the Malaysian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The President attended a cultural show presented by a cultural troupe from Bangladesh in Kuala Lumpur.

President Ershad and Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad held talks on bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern. The talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality and mutual understanding.

The two leaders expressed confidence that the exchange of views during the president's visit would make lasting contribution to the further promotion of understanding and cooperation between the two countries. They recognised that Bangladesh and Malaysia, as developing countries, shared similar outlook and common aspirations. The

In the talks the President was assisted by H. E. Mr. Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, the Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as senior officials of the Bangladesh government. The Malaysian Prime Minister was assisted by H.E. Tengku Ahmed Rithauddeen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Dato' Shahrir Samad, the Minister in attendance, Hon. Dato' Khalil Yaakob, Minister

at the prime minister's department, and other senior officials of the Malaysian government.

[as published]
two leaders also noted with satisfaction the existing brotherly relations between the two countries and emphasized their common desire to further promote, consolidate and widen the areas of cooperation on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

The president explained the steps of the government of Bangladesh to introduce various reforms in civil administration and judiciary as well as to accelerate the pace of economic development in the country.

He particularly referred to the measures taken to encourage private sector economic activities and introducing liberal provisions to attract foreign investment. He also outlined his initiative to promote peaceful, friendly and cooperative relations with neighbouring countries.

The prime minister highly appreciated the important role Bangladesh had been playing for the stability of the South Asian region and conveyed his admiration to the president for his personal efforts in this regard. The president commended the remarkable progress made by Malaysia and the active role taken by the Prime Minister and the Malaysian government in various for a on regional and international issues particularly those relating to the third world.

Both leaders emphasised the need for greater interaction and contacts between the private

sectors of the two countries to further expand and diversify trade as well as for the consolidation of direct trade.

Towards this end the two leaders welcomed the agreement to establish a mechanism between National Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia and Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The two leaders also welcomed the agreement reached between the Malaysian Investment and Trading Corporation (MITCO) and the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).

In pursuance of the two leaders' desire to promote and increase the volume of trade, Malaysia agreed to reduce tariff on jute carpets. Malaysia would also explore the possibility of direct purchase of jute goods to meet the requirement of the public sector, while Bangladesh would explore the possibility of purchasing palm oil direct from Malaysia. Malaysia expressed its readiness to continue assisting Bangladesh in the efforts to promote her products in the Malaysian market.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the current effort made by the governments of Bangladesh and Malaysia to expand the areas of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries. They expressed their confidence that the proposed visit of the minister of trade and industry to Bangladesh would provide the opportunity to further promote and expand trade and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

The President and the Prime Minister agreed that direct and regular shipping services are necessary in promoting trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. To this end the two leaders decided that the concerned parties of Bangladesh and Malaysia would examine the ways and means to achieve this purpose as early as possible.

The two leaders agreed that the relevant authorities of the two countries would intensify their efforts on the establishment of a financial institution on a joint venture basis to promote trade and economic cooperation. They also agreed on the need

for identifying areas of joint venture cooperation in the agricultural and industrial fields.

The President expressed appreciation to the prime minister for the decision to recruit Bangladeshi workers in the agricultural and plantation sectors of Malaysia. Both sides agreed that the process of recruitment should take into account the interest of the parties involved.

In conformity with the cultural cooperation agreement signed in 1978, Bangladesh and Malaysia signed the protocol for the cultural exchange programme for the calendar years 1986/87. The protocol which covers cooperation in the field of education, science and technology, art, culture, sports and tourism would give further impetus to the existing excellent state of bilateral relations between the two countries.

The two leaders reviewed the international situation and noted with deep concern that threats to world peace had become more serious. They hoped that the forthcoming summit meeting in Geneva between the superpowers would promote detente for peace, stability and progress in the world.

They expressed their belief that it was necessary for the international community to join hands and work tirelessly for relaxation of tension in all parts of the world. The two sides expressed their conviction on the need for making all efforts to promote world peace and security and to uphold the fundamental principles of international relations based on respect for sovereign equality, national independence and territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, non-use of force and settlement of international disputes by peaceful means. They reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of the UN charter, the NAM, the OIC and other international organisations.

The two leaders expressed their deep concern over the sharp deterioration of the international economic situation. Many factors such as low rate of economic growth, high unemployment, insufficient development finance, reverse flow of resources from developing nations, depressed primary commodity

prices, high interest rates, volatile exchange rates and heavy debt burdens are among those which have given rise to such concern.

They deplored especially the rising tendency of protectionism and urged upon the developed countries to make their markets more accessible to the developing countries. They recognised the need to alleviate the special problems and plight of Bangladesh as a least developed country.

The president and the prime minister recognised that the inter-dependence of the economies of the north and south makes it imperative to adopt an integrated and coherent approach towards the global economic issues. They emphasised the need for South-South cooperation for, among others, the urgent restructuring of the existing world economic order.

The leaders expressed their concern over the Kampuchean problem which constituted a serious threat and obstacle to peace and stability of South East Asia. They called for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Kampuchea and reaffirmed their support for a comprehensive settlement of the problem on the basis of the exercise of the free will of the Kampuchean people. In this connection the President of Bangladesh commended the initiatives of the Asean and the proposal for the proximity talks.

The two leaders reaffirmed their common position for the attainment of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem, and the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination in accordance with the United Nations charter, including their right to establish a sovereign state. Both the leaders strongly condemned the Israeli air attack on the PLO headquarters.

11 Nov 85 p 3]

[Text]

Following is the remaining part of Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur Joint Communiqué published yesterday :

The president and the prime minister while expressing concern over the situation in Afghanistan, emphasised the need for a total and unconditional withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan enabling the people of Afghanistan to decide their own destiny free from outside interference and intervention. The leaders expressed their appreciation and support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General in search for a settlement of the problem.

The two leaders expressed their deep concern over the continued fratricidal conflict between Iran and Iraq and called for immediate cessation of hostilities and restoration of peace. They reiterated their desire to continue their efforts in the framework of, among others, the Islamic peace committees.

The president and the prime minister expressed their common commitment to the concept of Indian ocean as a zone of peace.

The president explained to the prime minister the steady progress achieved by Bangladesh and her six Asian neighbours in forging constructive and mutually beneficial cooperation within the framework of South Asian Regional Cooperation. They expressed the hope that the first summit meeting of the seven member countries of SARC in Dhaka next month would lay the foundation of a new era of friendship, understanding and cooperation among the seven South Asian nations. The prime minister expressed his best wishes

for the peace, progress, and stability of the region and the welfare of the people.

Both leaders exchanged views on the latest developments in South Africa and reiterated their government's strong support to the struggle of the non-white people of South Africa for equal political rights and majority rule. They called on the Pretoria regime to abandon its apartheid policy not only in the interest of the future well-being of South Africa but also world peace and stability. They fully supported the latest initiatives of the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Nassau, Bahamas recently.

On the question of Namibia both leaders reiterated their support to the UN initiatives to end the South African occupation of that territory and called on South Africa to comply with the UN Security Council Resolution 435.

On Antarctica, both the leaders noted an increasing international interest in the continent and reaffirmed their conviction that Antarctica is a common heritage of mankind which should be used only for peaceful purposes and for the benefits of all mankind. They were also of the conviction that the interest of the international community as a whole in the continent should be realised and protected.

The two leaders viewed with deep concern the immensity of the problems of drug abuse and illicit trafficking as representing not only a threat to society, but also to national security and stability. Both leaders reaffir-

med their conviction that the problems could only be effectively tackled through the adoption of a multi-disciplinary programme of action at the international level aimed at combating all forms of the drug problem including the eradication of the problems at the source, greater harmonisation of the legislations relating to adequate punishment against drug traffickers and greater coordination in the drug campaign at the inter-governmental and inter-regional level.

As one of the sponsors of the International Islamic University, Bangladesh indicated its decision to make a token contribution, in cash and kind, to the IIU and would also extend the services of a Bangladeshi lecturer to the IIU at the government of Bangladesh's expense. Malaysia expressed its appreciation to Bangladesh for the assistance.

The president expressed his profound appreciation to his majesty the Yang Di Pertuan Agong, the prime minister, the government and the people of Malaysia for the cordial reception and warm hospitality accorded to him and the members of his entourage during the visit.

The president extended cordial invitations to their majesties the Yang Di Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong, and to prime minister Dato'seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and Dato'seri Datin, Paduka, Dr. Siti Hasman to visit Bangladesh. The invitations were accepted with pleasure. The dates of the visits will be determined through consultation between the two governments.

Remarks to Dhaka Newsmen

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad on Sunday hinted that the Government's tentative thinking on holding general elections in March or April might further be shifted if the Opposition who boycotted the polls last time requests the Government to hold it sometimes later. "If they tell

us that they are not prepared to join the elections during those months I shall consider their request", he assured the Opposition.

Addressing a Press conference at the CNLA Secretariat at Old Sangsod Bhaban, the President said that though he had indicated earlier to hold the elections in March or April he would fix the polls date in consultations with the Opposition. He ruled out any necessity for holding "national dialogue" with the Opposition now. But, he added that the consultations with the Opposition for fixing the election date would be done informally.

Blaming certain parties in the Opposition for boycotting the elections early this year the President asserted that this time the elections would be held at any cost once the date was fixed after the SARC summit. He said that the parties who boycotted the polls last time committed wrong and they had no right to deprive the electorate of their franchise right. He observed that there were now more than 72 parties in the country and the 15-party, seven-party alliances and other parties were not the only forces to decide about the future of the democracy. He reiterated that his Gov-

ernment was sincere in handing over power to the elected representatives and the Opposition, he hoped, would realise their mistakes and participate in the elections this time.

Referring to the demands of certain parties and alliances the President ruled out any possibility of allowing open politics before SARC summit. "My Government would not allow any disturbance before the summit" he asserted.

In reply to a question the President reiterated that the five-party National Front under his leadership would be turned into a strong united party. The announcement on this would be given after the SARC summit he indicated. The name of the new united party was yet to be decided he added in reply to a question.

When his attention was drawn to resolutions taken by Shah Aziz's BNP and Justice Siddiqui and Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury's Muslim League who are partners of the National Front which said that they will now join the proposed new united party by dissolving their present existence President Ershad replied "They are welcome to leave". He said that the five parties joined his National Front to strengthen his hands.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1206

BANGLADESH

ERSHAD 13 NOVEMBER SPEECH TO DHAKA MILITARY REPORTED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad commended the members of the national Armed Forces who have been discharging their responsibilities towards the nation standing by the side of the people at their hours of crisis as well as protecting national independence and sovereignty, reports BSS.

Addressing the officers and troops at the Dhaka and the Mirpur Cantonments on Wednesday the President said the Bangladesh Army which was born in the battle fields fighting for the independence has not only discharged its national responsibilities, but also given the nation the battlefields fighting for the nation a lot during the last three and a half years through effecting various socio-economic reforms suiting the needs of an independent state.

President said by their services, the Armed Forces have won the love and confidence of their fellow countrymen. He told the officers and troops to uphold this glorious tradition by serving the cause of the people.

President Ershad reminded them that there is no time to waste for the nation, but to strive hard by every one in one's respective field for the accelerated pace of development and progress. "We have to make the independence meaningful to the vast majority by ensuring minimum basic necessities of life like food, shelter, clothing, medicare and education", he said adding: uplift in the economic condition of bare few does not mean development and no progress will be meaningful unless the vast majority be assured of basic necessities of life.

He said with the aim of attaining this objective, his Government has implemented certain basic reforms in various socio-economic fronts like decentrali-

sation of judiciary, realignment of economy, giving stress on the development of free economy, land reforms and creation of upazila system by instituting elected representatives to head the Local Government at the lowest tier of administrative machinery. These reforms have already yielded positive results in accomplishing the national objectives by providing a sense of participation and involvement of the commonman in national affairs.

Social discipline stressed

The President said in order to carry forward the new development thrust initiated by his Government, it is required to maintain social discipline at all levels. In this context, he referred to a Quranic dictate which said Allah helps those who help themselves and said Allah will always help us in our national endeavour for balanced development.

President Ershad said newspaper statements and speeches did not bring us independence and, similarly irresponsible behaviour in the political arena can not help in attaining progress.

He said the independence of the country was not won by speeches only. The people and the members of the Armed Forces had shed their blood for it.

Referring to the activities of a section of politicians regarding his Government's efforts to hold elections and establishment of democracy, the President said to these people democracy should be tailored to their convenience.

Sense of direction given

President Ershad said when these politicians tend to forget that it is the present Government which gave a sense of direction for progress to the

nation, they in fact try to conceal their past misdeeds and plunders. When they speak of legality, may we ask them whether bungling of Independence War Fund with John Stonehouse, mortgaging of national economy to other country, selling of relief goods in foreign markets, death of thousands of people due to starvation, overnight changing of Constitution to one-party rule, gagging of the Press giving shelter to murderer in the official residence of a Minister and not holding of trial of those responsible for the killing of President Ziaur Rahman were legal.

President Ershad said the politics of the country should be positive and aimed at unabated development of the country and building of national institutions in different spheres of national life.

Any deviation from this will not be acceptable by the people who want to see development and no more destruction, he said.

The President said politics of division and attempts to destroy any institution will be resisted by the people. He said the negative politics inherited from the colonial era has to be done away with making accommodation for younger educated and new leadership. He said in upazila elections such trend has been set in.

The President told about the Jagannath Hall accident and said the people and the members of the Armed Forces had always demonstrated their unity at such hours of crisis inclu-

ding natural calamities like cyclone and floods.

Bid to exploit tragic incidents

He regretted that a section of political leaders even tried to exploit such tragic incidents and spoke against national institutions with ulterior motive. Those who speak against national institutions and fan divisions cannot be friends of the nation, he maintained.

President Ershad referred to those politicians who take a fancy to giving sermons to the people while they themselves do not follow them in their personal life and said many of them talked of nationalism but quietly send their children abroad for education.

These people do not utter a single word about the deteriorating situation in the educational institutions due to politicking by a section of students rather they give encouragement to the unacademic behaviour of these students causing damage to the academic career of children other than their own.

The President said only criticisms cannot help develop the country. For this every one of us has to strive hard unitedly to create more resources brushing aside petty differences and interests for the sake of progress and prosperity of the country.

The Principal Staff Officer to the CMLA, Major General M. Atiqur Rahman was present at the meeting held at Dhaka Cantonment.

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CSO: 4600/1208

BANGLADESH

PAPERS REPORT VISIT OF BRITISH MP DELEGATION

Meeting With Foreign Minister

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The visiting four-member delegation of British parliamentary sub-committee on Race Relations and Immigration and Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury on Sunday discussed Bangladesh-UK relations reports BSS.

The discussions, at the Foreign Office, included security of Bangladeshis living in Britain and the problems of divided families of the immigrants, a Foreign Office spokesman told Bss. He said, the discussions were held in "extreme cordiality".

The delegation which arrived in Dhaka on Saturday on a four-day visit is headed by John Wheeler, MP. Parliamentarians Tony Lloyd, Jeremy Hanley, and John Hunt, are the other members.

The Foreign Minister, during the discussions reiterated Bangladesh's request to Britain to solve expeditiously the problem of the divided families of the immigrants. Mr Chowdhury requested for opening a British consulate general at Sylhet to cater to the special needs of the Bangladeshis living in Britain.

According to British High Commission sources here, about 12,000 applications of dependants of the immigrants for entry certificates are awaiting disposal at the immigration section of the High Commission. About 150,000 Bangladeshis live in the UK.

About the security of Bangladeshis in the UK the spokesman said the delegation informed the Foreign Minister that the British government was alive to the problem to give protection to everyone living in the British Isles.

When the question of visas, between the two Commonwealth countries, came up at the discussions, Mr Chowdhury told the delegation that if Britain went ahead to introduce visa system for the Bangladeshi visitors, Bangladesh would also be obliged to do the same requiring British nationals to obtain visas for visiting Bangladesh.

They also discussed the forthcoming first SARC summit Dhaka will host next month. The British delegation showed keen interest about the South Asian forum for regional cooperation the spokesman said.

Foreign Office Director General Kazi Anwar Masud and British High Commissioner TG Streeton were present during the discussions.

Calls on Home Secretary

Meanwhile, the British team led by Mr Wheeler, MP, and Home Secretary Kazi Azhar Ali on Sunday discussed the security and welfare of Bangladeshi living in the UK.

A Home Ministry spokesman said that they held the discussions at the Ministry of Home covering housing, cultural and educational problems faced by the Bangladeshi immigrants.

They touched the difficulties the dependents of the immigrants faced in obtaining entry certificates especially the problems faced by the newly weds.

The spokesman said that the Home Secretary requested the British delegation to make the procedures for issuance of the entry certificates simpler so that it was easier for the relations, especially the newly married, to join their families in Britain without having to wait for a long time.

During the meeting the Bangladesh side also requested the British delegation to consider reducing the newly introduced fees for entry certificates and for opening a consular office at Sylhet which would greatly reduce the troubles of the entry permit seeking dependents.

An overwhelming majority of the Bangladeshi living in the UK are from Sylhet.

Mr Ali also requested the visiting delegation for a solution of the housing problems of the immigrants and to make easily available credit facilities so that they could undertake self-employing trades.

The British delegation will go to Sylhet today (Monday) and on Tuesday it will visit the immigration section of the British High Commission to set it working.

Bangladeshi in UK

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The four-member delegation of British parliamentary sub-committee on race relations and immigration said on Tuesday that the British government would form a new enquiry committee next year to see how the Bangladesh immigrants integrated themselves with the British society report BSS.

Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport before departure for London concluding a four-day visit the leader of the delegation John Wheeler

MP said that the British government was also concerned about the unification of the families of the immigrants in Britain.

Dependants of many immigrants after applying for entry certificates, are waiting for long to join their families in Britain.

Mr Wheeler said that his delegation went to Sylhet, from where most of the 150,000 Bangladeshi immigrants to Britain come, to see the socio-cultural background of the immigrant families.

He said that the delegation could see the wide differences between the socio-cultural situation in Sylhet and London.

Asked what his delegation would suggest as a solution for unification of the immigrant families in London overcoming the socio-cultural differences, Mr Wheeler said that his committee was embargoed not to make the recommendations public before placing them to the House of Commons.

Mr Wheeler said that his delegation was very much aware of the families and the contrast between the societies they lived in and they wanted to immigrate to.

He added, we are concerned what happened to them in UK. Our main concern is unification of the families.

Mr Wheeler said that his delegation would look into the differences to see what they were well-established.

Mr Wheeler said that the purpose of the new enquiry committee to be set up next year by the British government, would see how Bangladeshis integrated into the British society.

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CSO: 4600/1207

BANGLADESH

DETAILS OF NEW BANGLADESH-DPRK TRADE PROTOCOL NOTED

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 28 Oct 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Bangladesh and North Korea have signed a new trade protocol fixing up trade volume at 10 million dollars each way for the period of September 1985 to September 1986.

The barter trade protocol was signed a week ago in North Korean capital in accordance with the Trade and Payment Agreement concluded by the countries in August 1977. Bangladesh Commerce Secretary Sayed Hasan Ahmed and North Korean Vice Minister for Foreign Trade signed the protocol on behalf of their respective governments.

Under the new trade protocol Bangladesh will export jute products amounting to 5.5 million dollars and raw jute worth two million dollar to North Korea. Other important commodities to be exported to North Korea under the new agreement are: hides and skin amounting to two lakh dollars, finished leather worth two lakh dollars, newsprint, paper and paper

products worth five lakh dollars, wires and cables worth four lakh dollars and soap and detergent worth six lakh dollars.

On the other hand, import from North Korea will include cement amounting to 1.5 million dollar, sugar of 2.75 million dollars, pig iron of 2.4 million dollars and raw cotton of one million dollars.

Beside fixing up the trade volume, some amendments have been made in the Trade and Payment Agreement to the mutual benefit of the two countries. Both the countries agreed to switch over to dollar from pound sterling in determining the value of the commodities to be exported from either side. And to protect the value of dollar it has been linked with SDR.

The new trade protocol also envisages that the quality of the goods to be exchanged must be of internationally recognised standard and the prices should be of world market level.

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CSO: 4600/1196

BANGLADESH

AGRICULTURE MINISTER SPEAKS AT COMMONWEALTH MEET

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 10 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Agriculture Minister Major General M. A. Munim said yesterday Bangladesh has achieved an average growth rate of 3.60 per cent in food production during the Second Five-Year Plan period despite recurrent natural disasters like drought, floods and cyclones, reports BSS.

Addressing the biennial meeting of Commonwealth Ministers of Agriculture Food and Rural Development in Rome, Italy, the Agriculture Ministers said Bangladesh in order to attain self reliance in food has accorded highest priority to agricultural and rural development sector for raising farm output yield and per capital food availability.

According to a message received in Dhaka, Maj Gen Munim said while the pressure of a hundred million people concentrated in an area of 55,000 square miles had made our path to economic development very steep, our endeavours to build our technology and improve management capability in agriculture sector have been continuing.

He said despite resource constraints and severe competing demand upon the available land, the country has been channelling considerable funds to agricultural research and irrigation technologies.

General Munim said on the question of irrigation expansion which has grown at the rate of 9.30 per cent per annum during the second five year plan period, we recognise that

in the long run the cost is going to increase rapidly and the achievement of the goal of optimum utilisation of our total water resources has to be a long drawn process.

This will still leave parts of our arable land outside the scope of irrigation coverage, he said adding: So in the Third Five-Year Plan, as an immediate measure, we are going to reorient and strengthen agricultural research on rainfed and dry land crops for finding appropriate varieties and technologies to improve yields.

The Agricultural Minister said the proposed future Commonwealth programme with its emphasis on dry land farming would prove beneficial not only for Bangladesh, but also for similarly placed countries in Asia and Africa.

In this context, General Munim offered to share experiences of Bangladesh with other Commonwealth countries to mutual benefits.

Turning to the serious effects of rapid deforestation and degradation of tropical forests on the environment, General Munim said this is a crisis situation which seriously jeopardises food production and food security and also minimises the population bearing capacity of the land.

The delicate and fragile ecologies and eco-system will be in

jeopardy if this rapidly deteriorating situation is not halted, he observed.

General Munim said, recognising that in a country like Bangladesh where it is difficult to successfully protect natural or custodial forests because of heavy pressure on land, we have shifted our policy and programme to social forestry. The broad spectrum objective of this policy is to enhance the tree and man ratio to a safe level.

CALL TO COMBAT POVERTY

The twenty-third session of the 156-nation FAO conference opened in Rome yesterday with a call by its Director General to put in more vigorous efforts by the member nations to combat poverty, hunger and malnutrition, reports BSS.

According to a Foreign Office press release received in Dhaka yesterday a nine-member delegation headed by the Agriculture Minister Major Gen M A Munim is representing Bangladesh at the conference which is held once in every two years. Mr Kamaluddin Choudhury, Secretary, Ministry of Food, Mr. Reaz Rahman, Ambassador and Permanent representative to FAO are among the other members of the delegation.

The inaugural session yesterday unanimously elected Cameroon as Chairman of the 23rd session and Australia, Barbados India and Libya were elected Vice-Chairmen of the conference.

The 23rd session this year which also coincides with the 40th anniversary of the FAO will discuss among other things policies regarding international agricultural adjustment, agricultural pricing, world food security compact and international code of conduct on distribution and use of pesticides.

BANGLADESH

THIRD PLAN MAY EXPAND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Oct 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Third Five-Year Plan (TFYP) will make a fresh attempt to arrest the 'worsening unemployment problem in the country. The Planning Commission has set the target for creating 5.5 million new employment opportunities over the TFYP period (1980-85). If the target is fulfilled, the estimated level of unemployment will be around 22.5 percent of total labour force in 1986-90.

Over one-third of the country's labour force is unemployed now. Chronic unemployment problem has deteriorated over the past 15 years. The problem as the planners admit is an acute manifestation of 'the syndrome of poverty'. The number of unemployed persons which stood at 8.6 million at the beginning of the Second Five Year Plan (SFYP) in 1979-80 will increase to 13.4 million by the year 2000, if the current trend in unemployment is not reversed.

The failures of the three development plans--First Five Year Plan (FFYP) Two Year Plan (TYP) and SFYP--to make any effective dent into the unemployment situation have aggravated the problem in the post-independence period. The FFYP had the target of creating 4.10 million new job opportunities but only three million jobs could be created during the plan period. TYP had its target at one million new jobs but not even half of this target according to a rough estimate, could be achieved. The revised SFYP targetted to create 3.65 million new employment opportunities. Official estimates are not available to show how far the actual achievement was nearer this target. Indications are there that unemployment situation has worsened further over the SFYP period. The strategy of the Second Plan to alleviate unemployment problem has not worked at all.

One obvious reason for the steadily deteriorating unemployment situation has been the failure to expand employment opportunities faster enough to absorb the growing labour force. Low investments, poor growth performance, induced technological aberrations etc. have been identified by the Planning Commission as the key factors responsible for this situation. The country's population has grown from over 70 million in 1973 when the FFYP was launched to about 98 million people at the terminal point of the SFYP period. The number of employed persons inclusive of under-employed persons has been estimated at 24.8 million people in 1984-85. The current magnitude of unemployment problem in the country can be assessed from the size of the annual Food for Works

Programme. In terms of man-year, this programme, though seasonal in nature, employs about one million people every year.

The reduction of unemployment constituted the basic theme of all the three development plans in post-independence period. But the problem has showed no signs of abatement. The economy has been "in a fragile state" over the last twelve year period because of what the planners say the overwhelming dependence of its predominantly agricultural sector on weather.

According to official estimates, about 90 per cent of the country's population are still directly and indirectly dependent on land with a declining landman ratio. Scarcity of land and lack of investments have restricted avenues for new employment opportunities. The share of manufacturing sector which can alone provide expanding outlets for new employment opportunities has not recorded much of any increase over the recent years. The contributions of manufacturing to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased from 7.28 percent in 1973 to 9.5 percent in 1985.

The Planning Commission under its new employment strategy for the TFYP, now under preparation, has recommended for reducing unemployment by expansion of productive employment opportunities. It has stressed the need for more action-oriented programmes for expanding economic activities in the non-farm sector. Under the new employment strategy, improved labour-intensive technologies would be used for increasing labour productivity and wages. Local technologies would be improved along with product development and skill at training. Besides, productive groups or cooperatives of the poor farmers and the landless would be organised effectively to make best use of modern agricultural technology. Rural Industrialisation will be the prime focus of the TFYP for creating new employment opportunities.

During the TFYP period, employment in full man-year term on an average. The sector wise break-down for this annual employment generation has been envisaged by the Planning Commission in the following manner: agriculture--4.5 lakh, manufacturing--1.8 lakh, utility and service--1.7 lakh, construction--40 thousand and transportation--70 thousand.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1195

BANGLADESH

WORLD SUPPORT IN NATURAL DISASTERS SOUGHT

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 14 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Bangladesh has called for international support to the government efforts in tackling the problems of natural disasters on a durable and long term basis, reports BSS.

Ambassador Khwaja Wasiuddin, permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, participate in a debate on special programme of economic assistance in the UN economic Committee spoke of large-scale destruction of life and property in Bangladesh caused by cycle of floods cyclone and other natural disasters which visit Bangladesh seriously affecting national development efforts.

He said the government of Bangladesh seriously intended to undertake comprehensive measures to enhance the disaster preparedness on the country and to effectively pursue building up of an infrastructure aimed at providing greater security to life and property of its people against natural disasters. He referred to the high level permanent national coordination

committee of the Bangladesh government for an overall supervision and better handling of emergencies arising out of natural disasters.

Ambassador Wasiuddin told the committee that the management of this problem could not be confined to merely providing disaster relief to the affected people adding that a well-defined new cyclone shelters and afforestation of the coastal belt were also envisaged. He further informed the committee that the coastal embankment programme was also being expanded to save the areas from the tidal surges.

Ambassador Wasiuddin hoped that member states, relevant Organisations of the United Nations system and other Multilateral institutions would come forward to assist and support the efforts of the government of Bangladesh in this endeavour. He said the support to Bangladesh for its disaster preparedness and prevention programmes, particularly the assistance of the office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordination in preparing time-bound plan in this regard would be of great importance.

The Bangladesh representative informed the committee that Bangladesh would soon submit a draft resolution to the current General Assembly session relating to the solution of the problem of natural disasters in Bangladesh on a durable and long term basis.

/9274
CSO: 4600/1209

21 January 1986

BANGLADESH

SOVIET TEAM IN KHULNA TO STUDY BRIDGE SITE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Nov 85 p 8

[Text]

KHULNA, Nov. 13:--A six-member Russian technical team headed by Mr. Alferev is now in Khulna to survey and study the site and technical aspects of the proposed rail-cum road bridge across the river Rupsa at Khulna to connect Chalna port with the rest of the country by rail and roads.

The team is likely to stay in Khulna for a few weeks before submitting their final reports to the Government on the proposed project which would roughly cost Taka over 200 crore.

A railway source connected with the team said that the technical team will work on the feasibility report of the bridge framed earlier by their predecessors as far back as in 1968. It may be mentioned here that a team of Russian experts had submitted a feasibility report on the bridge to the Government after conducting a thorough survey over the river Rupsa in 1968.

The feasibility report favoured the construction of four-lane bridge across the river for railways and road communications between Khulna and Chalna port. A railway source indicated that the proposed bridge is likely to be 40 feet in height from the waterlevel and 44 in breadth having a rail road and two-way surface road. The source said that after the receipt of the final report from the Russian team, the Government will decide the future course of action in the matter particularly in respect of financing the project by foreign countries or any international aid agency. The construction of this project is essential to make the Chalna port fully operational and bring in development expeditiously in the hinterland of the port, the source said.

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CSO: 4600/1208

BANGLADESH

DOUBTS ON GANGES WATERS SETTLEMENT PERSIST

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 7 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Ahmed Fazl]

[Text]

The thickening mist over the Ganges water dispute between Bangladesh and India has cleared considerably following an announcement that the two neighbours would be signing a fresh memorandum of understanding on the question of sharing the river in New Delhi Nov 18-20. But doubts still persist whether the two countries will be finally able to work out a long-term sharing arrangement or an agreeable strategy for augmentation of the flow.

The new memorandum of understanding which will be formally signed in the Indian capital by Bangladesh Irrigation Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and his Indian counterpart B. Shankarand is essentially a stop-gap measure taken by the leaders of the two countries in Nassau to improve the climate of relations before the first SARC summit in Dhaka on Dec 7.

President Ershad and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during their meetings in between the recent Commonwealth summit in the Bahamas agreed to revive the old memorandum of

understanding on the Ganges that expired last year 18 months after it was signed in 1982, October.

The leaders also agreed to undertake a joint survey of the common rivers of the two countries. This study, officials here hope, will include the crucial question of augmentation of the dry season flow of the Ganges.

The question of augmentation has always been a stumbling block, because while Bangladesh stressed a regional approach to augmentation including Nepal in the joint efforts, India insisted on digging a link canal across northern Bangladesh to transfer surplus water from the river Brahmaputra to the Ganges.

It is apparent that the absence of any formal understanding on the river was vitiating the climate of relations between the two countries and with the approach of another dry season the situation would have worsened.

But analysts have pointed out that an agreement to revive the old memorandum of understanding without any modifications only shows the two countries are still unable to move an inch

away from their earlier positions on the question of sharing.

The two neighbors are even more uncertain as to how they should proceed with the more knotty issue of augmentation of the Ganges.

The Augmentation question is crucial for Bangladesh because India has been withdrawing water from the Ganges not only at Farakka but at several points in the upper reaches of the river.

Analysts point out that Bangladesh ought to press more firmly on the augmentation issue because, if the available water in the Ganges rapidly declines due to withdrawals, there would be very little to share at Farakka during the critical dry months.

The Bangladesh side must also ask from New Delhi guarantees of protection against sudden floods due to discharges of excess water by the Indian authorities at Farakka during the rainy season. This year such man-made floods had caused immense damages to life and property in Bangladesh's bordering districts.

BANGLADESH

PAPER REPORTS REACTION TO ADAMJEE JUTE MILL INCIDENT

Description of Incident

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

At least one person died and over a hundred were injured, 12 of them seriously when police opened fire on Adamjee Jute Mills workers after clashing twice with them in the mills premises Thursday.

Eleven policemen were also injured in the clashes. The volatile situation due to strike since November 3 in the world's biggest jute mill, employing nearly 40 thousand workers, flared up Thursday morning when they refused to join their duties from 6 a.m. as demanded by the mill authority.

After the clashes police took into custody 28 persons, two of them students of the Adamjee High School. The students were let off and 26 workers were forwarded to court yesterday.

Among the injured 12, including an 11-year old, Haroonur Rashid were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet injuries. All of them were operated upon.

The situation in the jute mills, 12 miles off Dhaka which had been put under lock-out since Thursday, was said to be calm.

Most of the workers had left the mills and had gone home. However, some workers remained in their colonies with strong police pickets guarding the Adamjee mill complex.

According to sources, police had fired 45 rounds. 24 teargas shells and grenades were also used. Workers representatives said that at least 70 rounds were fired.

The condition of three of

the injured, particularly that of Manjur Alam 25, was said to be critical. Eight of the injured were brought aboard a mini-truck from Victoria Hospital, Narayanganj. Doctors amputated the left leg of mill worker Selim, 25. The other workers who were admitted to the DMCH were Tofael Uddin, 25, Yaruddin, 35, Nur Mohammad, 50, Abdul Gafur, 40, Abdul Malek, 28, Mujibul Haq, 35, Abdus Shahid 25, Abul Quasem, 28 and Shafiuillah, 28.

A number of people including political and trade union leaders visited the injured at DMCH. They included Begum Khaleda Zia, Abdul Malek Ukil, Shahjahan Siraj, Mirza Sultan Raja, Mohammad Farhad and A.S.M. Abdur Rab. The members of the Chhatra Sangram Parishad donated blood and the Red Cross also provided 49 bags of blood for the victims.

The mill authority earlier on Wednesday night broadcast an announcement over the public address system that if the workers failed to resume work the mills would be closed.

The workers who had stopped work from November 3 after the management started deducting the advance paid to them on the basis of arrears on account of new wage scales.

Thursday's trouble began after the workers started demonstrations in different parts of the huge mill premises. Official sources said they began attacking a camp of the armed police at the Adamjee High School near Dhaka Baju colony at 7-30 a.m.

The sources said that the agitating workers allegedly ransacked the camp and set afire to the belongings of the police. They also allegedly assaulted at least six policemen and also took away rations.

The workers said that they were subjected to a massive lathi-charge and tear gas as they were demanding withdrawal of police and protesting mills closure. Police here also opened fire, they said. However, the official sources said that these were blank shots to disperse the mob.

As more workers gathered near the high school pelting stones, five policemen including an ASI were injured, the official sources said.

Finally, the violence spread and agitated workers gathered in strength demanding removal of the police and other law enforcing agency personnel. They also demanded payment of weekly wages. Police opened fire at 10-05 a.m. again and clashes continued for about 15 minutes. During police charges a number of workers were injured while trying to escape from the three-storied Dhaka Baju colony, eye-witnesses told the New Nation.

The workers while leaving the mills set up barricades in two places on the road in front of the main gate of the mills. These were later removed by BDR.

When a group of newsmen including the representatives of foreign media reached the Adamjee Nagar Thursday the workers claimed that at least 5 were killed and scores were lying injured inside the mills. But the Assistant Security Offi-

cer of Adamjee Jute Mills Mr Sekander Ali at the main gate of the mills refused entry to the journalists. He told them quoting the Superintendent of Police, Narayanganj that a curfew was clamped inside the mills and no one including the newsman would be allowed.

But the SP or the General Manager of the mills who had declared lock-out were not available for their comments. The SP who had ordered 'curfew' was not also available yesterday.

The names provided by the workers said to be killed and remained unaccounted so far were Shahjahan, Liaquat, Golam Hossain Phool Mia and Kanchan Ali. But police sources denied that such persons were killed or missing.

Our Narayanganj correspondent adds: Earlier, the management reached an under-

standing with the workers of mills number 1 and 2 about stoppage of deduction of the advance as per understanding with the Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) Mr Saidul Huq Sadu. This was objected by the rival trade Union Centre leaders who demanded equal treatment for all workers.

Finally the understanding collapsed and all went on strike. A tense situation had been brewing up gradually and reached its peak with the management's announcement to close the mills unless the workers started work. It happened to be the weekly pay day and the workers demanded that they should be paid. The management said that they could not since the workers were abstaining from work.

All these contributed

to the violence on Thursday morning leading to the death of Shahabuddin, 25 a permanent worker. He succumbed to bullet injury on way to Victoria Hospital of Narayanganj at about 11 a. m. His body was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue with strong police escort. Later it was sent to his village home at Munshirhat, Noakhali.

Meanwhile, the Gaibana Janaza was held near the Narayanganj Press Club premises by the 15-party alliance. Earlier, they were prevented from holding a Gaibana Janaza on the road in front of Daimond Cinema. Another Gaibana Janaza was held at Adamjee Nagar outside the mills premises.

Government Press Note

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

An enquiry on the firing by police at Adamjee Jute Mills Thursday had been ordered, said a government Press Note yesterday, reports BSS.

The Press Note said that one person was killed and 12 others were injured in the firing.

Following is the full text of the Press Note: "Adamjee Jute Mills was closed down by the authority from 06:00 a m of November 7, 1985 due to an illegal strike called by its workers. In the morning of November 7, thousands of workers and other people armed with lathis and lethal weapons began to assemble near the mill gates. In their attempt

to force open the mill gates they started brick-battling the members of the law enforcing agencies."

"For protecting public properties police on duty tried to prevent them, but the mob became more violent and continued to attack the police on duty. At one point a police camp was attacked and government properties were looted. To protect public properties police resorted to lathi charge and shot teargas shells."

Some police personnel were also caught hold of by the mob and assaulted mercilessly. Failing to bring the situation

under control by all other means, the law enforcing agencies on duty had to open fire which resulted in the injury of 13 persons. One of them later succumbed to his injuries.

A good number of members of the law enforcing agencies were also seriously injured. The injured workers were rushed to the hospitals at Narayanganj and Dhaka. The body was sent to his village home accompanied by his wife and near relations. Injured persons are being given proper treatment in hospitals. An enquiry on the firing incident has been ordered.

Rally Protests Firing

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The 15-Party and the Seven-Party alliances and the Jamaat-e-Islami have announced a six-hour simultaneous and nationwide programme beginning at dawn on November 11 in protest against police firing on workers of Adamjee Jute Mills on Thursday.

According to a Press Note, one person was killed and 12 others were injured when police opened fire on a group of mill workers who were trying to damage government property.

The mill workers had been abstaining from duty from November 3 protesting deduc-

tion of the money given to them as advance from their wages. The two alliances announced their programme at two separate press conferences yesterday at the National Press Club.

The press conference of the 15-Party alliance was held at noon where Awami League Leader Abdul Malek Ukil read out a written statement on behalf of the alliance. It was also attended by Abdus Samad Azad, Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Mohammad Nasim and Motia Chowdhury of Awami League, Mohammad Farhad of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Kamal Haider of National Awami Party, Shajahan Siraj and Hasanul Haq Inu of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Haider Akbar Khan Rano and Rasheed Khan Menon of Workers Party, Moyeenuddin Ahmad Badal of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and Suranjit Sengupta of Ekota party.

The press conference of the Seven-Party Alliance was held in the evening where Afsar Siddiqui read out a written statement on behalf of the alliance. BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia who was scheduled to attend the press conference did not do so due to illness. Mr. Shamsul Arefin Khan of United People's Party, Principal Ershadullah of Democratic League and Abdul Matin and Tipu Biswas of Bangladesher Communist League were present.

Both the alliances condemned the killing and demanded a judicial probe into the incident, compensation for the dead and the injured, treatment facilities for the wounded, release of all political and trade union leaders including Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Siddiqur Rahman and Muklesar Rahman of Sramik-Krishak Samajbadi Dal. They also demanded immediate resumption of full scale political and trade union activities.

The Seven-Party combine blamed the government for the police firing at Adamjee.

The 15-party Alliance said

that the government was responsible for aggravating the crisis to find a plea to deprive the people of the limited political rights they were now enjoying.

It called a discussion meeting at the JSD office today while the seven-party extended its support to the 24-hour action programme by the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad, and the programme of the Jute Mill Sramik-Karmachari Sangram Parishad for November 10.

After the 15-party alliance leaders announced their decision a group of students belonging to the Chhatra Sangram Parishad brought out a silent procession at Topkhana Road in front of the Jatiya Press Club. As the procession was heading towards Baitul Mukarram some students started raising slogans and at this stage they were chased and dispersed by police.

In a joint statement, Abbas Ali Khan, acting Ameer and Maulana Abul Kalam Muhammad Yousuf, Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami condemned the police firing and announced a dawn-to-noon-programme on November 11.

They said the government could not escape the responsibility of the killing at Adamjee.

Earlier, a gayebana janaza for the killed was held after the Juma prayer at Baitul Mukarram Mosque. Abdus Samad Azad, member of the Awami League Presidium, conducted the janaza.

Meanwhile, political, trade union and student organisations have protested the police firing at Adamjee and prayed for eternal peace of the killed in the incident.

The Awami League Working Committee held an emergency meeting at the party central office with Abdul Malek Ukil in the chair. Later, a workers rally was held at the same venue also with Abdul Malek Ukil in the chair.

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CSO: 4600/1204

INDIA

MIZORAM BORDER AREA TERRORIZED BY INFILTRATORS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Nov 85 p 9

[Article by Seema Guha]

[Text]

AIZAWL, November 1.

TENSION is building up in the border areas of Mizoram where clashes have taken place between the Chakma settlers and local Mizo villagers.

According to highly-placed government sources, the Shanti Bahini is aiding the Chakma Buddhists in the border villages to drive out Mizo families.

The Shanti Bahini is believed to have infiltrated into the South Bungkawn villages falling under the Chakma district council area of Chawngte. The Mizos living there say the Shanti Bahini, in collusion with the district council authorities and the active connivance of the Chakmas, is terrorising the Mizos many of whom have reportedly fled from seven villages.

The Mizoram government has sent armed police to the troubled zone and is opening three new police outposts within the Chawngte district council region to protect the villagers.

CALL TO MIZOS

Meanwhile, there are reports that Mr. Vanlalhraia, president of the Mizo Convention (a minor regional party) and former vice-chief of staff of the banned Mizo National Army is planning to raise volunteers to fight the Chakmas.

In a signed statement, which was widely circulated in the state, Mr.

Vanlalhraia said: "Since we feel that the government is still silent on this important issue and has not taken action, we are calling all young Mizos to come out and be prepared to act violently, if necessary, to ensure that we do not lose even one inch of our land to the Chakmas."

About 1,000 volunteers are reported to have already enlisted. A partial bandh was called on October 28 by the student action committee to protest against the attacks by Chakmas.

Chakma infiltration from neighbouring Bangladesh has been going on for some time. Last year, there was a furore when around 4,000 Chakmas penetrated into Mizoram. The Mizos have nothing against Indian Chakmas settled in the state but what is worrying them is the constant influx from across the border.

Last week's attacks on the Mizos were seen as an affront and consequently emotions are running high on the issue. While the state government has not yet been able to clarify the situation and tell exactly how many villagers have fled from their homes, rumours are adding fuel to fire. The ruling party has sent some of its volunteers to the area for a first-hand account.

Meanwhile, the organisers of the youth festival here on Monday and Tuesday are worried about the security for the Chakma delegation which is expected to take part in the celebrations. Arrangements for extra security, however, are under way.

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CSO: 5650/0041

INDIA

TRIPURA REGIONAL PARTY IN CONTACT WITH EXTREMISTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Nov 85 p 5

[Text]

Agartala, Nov 2 —The leaders of the Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti, a regional party are in regular contact with the underground TNV extremists, it is reliably learnt. This has led to a thaw in its relation with the Congress state unit.

The two parties have been contesting elections in Tripura as political allies since the 1983 Assembly polls.

A recent "operational communication" between two TNV hit groups, intercepted by security agencies, clearly reveals the regular contact between TNV extremists and the TUJS leaders though the latter, constantly deny the charge and blame the CPI-M for patronising the undergrounds.

The letter written by self-styled TNV 'leader' Kujib Marak, currently operating around Gandechera in northeastern Tripura to TNV 'General' Kartick Kolo, active in South District refers to "a recent meeting" between Kujib Marak and TUJS general secretary Nagendra Jamatia.

Marak says Jamatia handed him a copy of the party memorandum recently submitted to Tripura Governor K V Krishna Rao. He clarified that the memorandum is reflective of tribal grievances and highlights the "maltreatment of tribals by Bengalees".

He also says many TNV demands find place in the TUJS memorandum.

Intelligence sources told Patriot that the interception of this "operational communication" was a major breakthrough insofar as "it throws light on the modus operandi of the TUJS".

They confirm that the TUJS general secretary is involved in a tight rope walking between the TUJS hardliners and the party moderates led by Shyama Charan Tripura. Mr Nagendra Jamatia who was the founder secretary of the militant Tribal Students Federation, the TUJS student affiliate gained prominence within the TUJS with the active backing of the party hardliners enjoying the blessings of TNV supreme B K Hrangkhawl who resigned from the TUJS just before taking over the TNV leadership in 1982.

Mr Jamatia has since then balanced the pro-Hrangkhawls and pro-Shyama Charan supporters within the party to retain his grip.

Intelligence sources confirmed that Mr Jamatia had been repeatedly meeting TNV leaders to ensure his control over the TSF which looks up to Hrangkhawl and not the TUJS moderates for inspiration and political direction. The intercepted letter only confirms this trend which may sharpen the rift between pro-extremist factions of the party. Recently the anti-extremist faction led by Mr Shyama Charan Tripura, party's advisory committee chairman succeeded in ousting TUJS joint secretary Jadu Mohan Tripura for alleged links with TNV rebels and extortion of funds on their behalf.

The TUJS general secretary took serious offence when asked by Mr Shyama Charan Tripura to visit the Chamanu area, where Mr Jadu Mohan Tripura resides. The ouster of Jadu Mohan who enjoyed close links with the TNV was not a consensus decision. The rift may still widen as Shyama is known to strongly resent Mr Jamatia's refusal to issue categorical statement against the TNV activities.

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CSO: 5650/0045

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT DEDICATION OF BABHA RESEARCH REACTOR

Bhabha Chief Briefs Press

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Nov 85 p 5

[Excerpt]

Bombay, Nov 11 — India is not a nuclear weapon country and has set an example by using the plutonium for peaceful purposes.

This was asserted by Dr Raja Ramanna, head of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, while briefing newsmen on the eve of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the nation's prestigious nuclear project.

Dr Ramanna said "Ours is a wide programme on peaceful uses of atomic energy and we are concentrating on technology which could be passed on to industries. Even Pokhran explosion in 1974 was aimed at acquisition of capability to change the course of rivers, building dams, etc".

A newsman drew his attention to the report of syndicated US columnist Jack Anderson that BARC is developing hydrogen bomb. Dr Ramanna replied that Mr Anderson is not interested in scientific truth as he is out to sensationalise issues.

On another question over Pakistan's capability to acquire Islamic bomb, Dr Ramanna said that he knew about the developments in this regard in that country only from newspapers. Pakistan has one reactor and if the one at Kahuta is really big, then it may have weapon's capability.

He said the year has been good for India as Dhruva has gone critical and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi would soon rename Kalpakam after Mrs Indira Gandhi.

There was a touch of poignancy when Dr Ramanna made a reference to Mrs Indira Gandhi who he said was at the BARC on 8 October last year.

During the seventh Plan, Dr Ramanna said India would go in for building two more reactors of 500 MW capacity each. Tarapur is one of the sites where expansion is being considered, he said.

Dispelling the belief that the nuclear power was more expensive, Dr Ramanna said that the cost of nuclear power per unit is 42 paise whereas thermal power generation in Karnataka costs 75 paise per unit.

Replying to a question whether India proposes to export reactors Dr Ramanna said it was a difficult thing as it needed a lot of experience. He also revealed that more than 200 women scientists were busy in research work at the BARC.

Dhruva is the fifth 100 MW heavy water moderated and cooled thermal research reactor completely designed and built in India. The design of Dhruva incorporates a number of new features.

Gandhi Speaks, Further Details

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Nov 85 p 7

[Excerpt] Bombay, Nov 12--The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that India has no plans at present to build an atom bomb. Nor did India possess the bomb, but it had every capability and was fully prepared to meet any eventuality, Mr Gandhi told reporters after dedicating to the nation the "Dhruva" research reactor at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre here.

Asked if he felt it necessary for India to exercise the nuclear option, the Prime Minister said, "We could have made it if there had been a necessity."

In reply to a question about India's relations with Pakistan, Mr Gandhi said, "We are prepared to talk to them on everything including a friendship treaty."

Call to scientists: At the function to dedicate "Dhruva," the country's fifth research reactor, Mr Gandhi urged scientists to see that the nation became self-sufficient in nuclear energy, thereby reaching the level of the advanced countries. He told them that all the programmes envisaged by Pandit Nehru and Indira Gandhi in the nuclear field would be carried out.

Mr Gandhi said impressive strides had been made by the scientific community in the country in the field of nuclear science. Indian scientists had met all targets so far--"Dhruva" had gone critical and next month, he said, he would be visiting Kalpakkam, where the country's first fast breeder test reactor had gone critical at the nuclear research centre which would be renamed the Indira Gandhi Memorial Centre.

"We should take the spirit of the nuclear scientists to other scientific and industrial sectors and record similar successes," Mr Gandhi said.

Mr Gandhi said India wanted to make progress in all fields, and "we have to look ahead to identify the difficulties and to the past to isolate our mistakes."

He said tremendous progress had been made during the Sixth Plan in removing poverty. There was a 15 percent drop in the number of people living below the poverty line. This in turn created more demands and called for more infrastructure in power, communication and transport.

Complimenting the BARC personnel for helping the country to accelerate its economic development, the Prime Minister said they would have to work full force to achieve the targets in the nuclear field. He also called for optimum utilisation of the power plants, particularly the atomic energy plants which have a major role to play in meeting the country's power requirements. Researches in BARC and also in the new reactor would help India meet its power requirement.

The Prime Minister was received at BARC by the Atomic Energy Commission Chairman, Dr. Raja Ramanna, the BARC Director, Dr. P. K. Iyengar, the Chairman of the Nuclear Power Board, Dr. M. R. Srinivasan and the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Dr. A. K. Dey.

Tool for research: "Dhruva", a 100 MW heavy water moderated and cooled thermal research reactor, will produce a number of radio isotopes of high specific activity and serve as a tool for research in frontier areas in nuclear science and technology. When it is made fully operational, BARC will become one of the most extensive research reactor complexes in the world. With a maximum thermal neutron flux of 180 trillion neutrons per sq cm per second, "Dhruva" carries the distinction of being one of the high flux research reactors in the world.

With its new facilities, "Dhruva" is expected to give increased impetus to basic and applied research and to the production and application

of radioisotopes in medicine, agriculture and industry.

Speaking to newsmen before the dedication ceremony, Dr. Ramanna said there was no plan to conduct any more nuclear tests like the one conducted at Pokhran in Rajasthan in 1947. "Our nuclear programme is entirely for peaceful purposes and we are not proposing to conduct any test explosion", he added.

Dr. Ramanna said the Pokhran test was done to experiment whether nuclear implosions could be used for peaceful purposes like building dams and deepening canals. "Now it appears that such implosions may not be an economical proposition for such purposes."

Asked about the reported move of Pakistan to make a nuclear bomb, Dr. Ramanna said India need not worry about Pakistan's programmes as "we are well advanced in the entire nuclear technology." He added "We have already six power reactors working, and another four under final stages of construction, while Pakistan has just one reactor functioning."

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CSO: 5150/0034

INDIA

BRIEFS

TRIPURA REBEL CHIEF--Agartala, Nov 13 (PTI)--Dhruba Sadan Jamatia, self-styled chairman of the "Lama Koutal" (New Path) underground outfit, was today killed in a brief encounter with a police patrol at Kaskubari village in south Tripura, officials said. Jamatia succumbed to his injuries after he was captured by the police patrol engaged in a combing operation there. The officials said the police party was first fired at by two tribals on the edge of a hillock. The police recovered two shotguns, but the accomplices of Jamatia fled. Jamatia, known in the hills as "Ithabi" (Key), was wanted in connection with the murder of the former chairman of the now-dissolved All-Tripura Peoples' Liberation Organisation. The Tripura chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborty, today praised the policemen for their efforts in neutralising Jamatia. Meanwhile, a police spokesman told newsmen today that with the death of Jamatia, the Lama Koutal had been "practically exterminated." [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 14 Nov 85 p 4] /9317

CSO: 5650/0051

IRAN

INCREASING VOLUME OF PORTUGUESE ARMS SALES CRITICIZED

Lisbon TEMPO in Portuguese 8-14 Nov 85 p 35

[Text] While some countries even forbid the sale of weapons to Iran, Portugal, which curiously affirms its neutrality in the conflict which opposes the two neighboring countries, continues to sell more and more arms to the Khomeyni regime which everyone knows does not participate in dialog and peace nor in international mediation to put an end to the war.

Quite recently, some Portuguese and foreigners located in the United States were condemned in that country for trying to sell sophisticated arms to Iran. The United States forbade the sale of weapons to the regime of Khomeyni's Iran.

Also recently, the secret supplying of British arms to Iran was revealed in London, although it is known that Great Britain forbids such exports.

Nevertheless, in Portugal, the exporting of weapons and ammunition to Iran amounts to more than 10 million contos in 1985.

Portugal affirms its neutrality and gives its total official cover to the sale of weapons and ammunition to the tyrannical regime of Khomeyni to maintain and continue the war to which the United Nations is trying to put an end.

The cargo manifests are clear and testify to the truthfulness of the facts. The freighter "Atlas", commanded by Petros Psistakis, has been coming to load weapons and ammunitions with regularity at the Portuguese port of Setubal since March. These weapons and ammunitions are destined for the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. Fundicao E Construcao Mecanicas and INDEP (Defense Industries) appear as exporters which have the respective banking guarantees from Iranian institutions.

Although the simultaneous Portuguese exports at times to the two countries involved in war may not have been a secret to anyone, Portugal and its weapons and ammunitions manufacturing firms have had no let-up in the manufacture and shipment of its deliveries now almost exclusively with fabulous--and duly authorized!--contracts for the Khomeyni regime.

What Neutrality?

Arms sales to countries at war should be banned, as is the case, for example, in Austria. And it is even worse to sell arms to a regime like that of Khomeyni which refuses peace and practices a ferocious domestic policy which moreover discredits the exporting country.

Whoever is permitting the continuation of exports of Portuguese arms and ammunition to Khomeyni's Iran must have very little sense.

If Portugal aspires to sell weapons, and it is natural for it to sell them, it has many normal countries and situations in which it can do so.

Portuguese Neutrality

The continuous and increased exports of Portuguese weapons this year to Iran obviously concern some Arab circles which are questioning Portugal's non-neutral neutrality in the face of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

And Portuguese arms exports to Khomeyni's Iran and also to Syria (which then supplies Iran) are so regular that the cargo manifests are no longer hidden and they are the target of jokes.

It seems that the offices of the Aeronautical Materiel of the Portuguese Air Force at Alverca have not yet been bribed by the agents of Khomeyni, Syrians and Iranians who travel to Portugal regularly. But other industrial units continue, as incredible as it may seem, to be sensitive to the appeals of Khomeyni's men and his embassy in Lisbon.

Official Portuguese neutrality should not permit the uncontrolled "about-face" of exports of arms and ammunition now massively headed for Iran's war against Iraq.

9895/7051

CSO: 3542/30

IRAN

SAUDI ARABIA'S REFUSAL TO ADMIT AFGHAN PILGRIMS PROTESTED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] In a meeting with the Saudi charge d'affaires the interior minister protested Saudi Arabia's refusal to admit Afghan pilgrims.

KEYHAN Political Service - In his visit with the Saudi charge d'affaires, the interior minister, while blaming the Marxist government of Afghanistan for preventing Afghan pilgrims from going to Mecca, said: "How can Saudi Arabia, which calls itself the servant of the two holy sanctuaries of Mecca and Medina, refuse to admit Afghan refugees who must make the pilgrimage to these holy shrines?"

Following the previous negotiations by our country's minister of foreign affairs with Saudi Arabian officials and their approval to allow one thousand Afghan Muslim refugees to travel to Mecca, in the last stage of their departure, the Saudi embassy refused to grant them necessary visas. This was done at a time when all the necessary steps were taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the pilgrimage of the Afghan refugees and when even their lodging accommodation had been prepared.

With regard to this matter, yesterday the interior minister met with the Saudi charge d'affaires in the Ministry of Interior. While noting the above, the interior minister referred to the previous approval of the Saudi Arabian government and requested the reasons for denying the Afghan pilgrims admission to Mecca.

The interior minister also referred to the sufferings of Afghans and their struggle against their country's occupiers and said: "It is the duty of all the oppressed countries and Muslim nations not to deny assistance to this Muslim nation. Definitely the Haj (pilgrimage) season is the most appropriate time for Muslim nations to establish relations and become aware of each other's conditions. This action of Saudi Arabia, in light of the fact that the Marxist government of Afghanistan in the current year has prevented the pilgrims from visiting God's house (Mecca), is not justified at all."

The interior minister added: "Since Saudi Arabia calls itself the servant of the two holy sanctuaries, how could it prevent the refugee pilgrims from Afghanistan who must observe their religious duty? This action will prevent a group of oppressed Muslims from executing their religious duty. It is the duty

of Saudi Arabia to accept with pleasure all those who can financially and physically afford to participate in the Haj precept and to provide the necessary facilities for their comfort."

Thereafter, the charge d'affaires of the Saudi Arabian embassy in Iran in response to the interior minister said: "I have not been informed about the decision of my country's officials. I will try to inform them about this matter promptly and will deliver the necessary answer to the Iranian officials before the deadline of the Haj pilgrimage."

Then in a discussion, the interior minister informed all Muslim Afghan refugees that the Islamic Republic government has used all its efforts in order to send up to 1000 Afghan brothers to Haj and has made the necessary arrangements for doing so. It is the Saudi Arabian government which has not yet agreed to admit the pilgrims.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq Noori expressed hope that the Saudi officials would eliminate the obstacles as soon as possible and facilitate the conditions for the trip of the Afghan Muslim pilgrims.

9815/13045

CSO: 4640/733

IRAN

MIDDLE EAST STILL REMAINS MOST VALUABLE MARKET FOR FRG

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Aug 85 p 20

[Text] A glance at West Germany's trade with Middle East countries.

A number of Middle East countries still remain an important market for German goods.

Despite the decline of the Federal Republic of Germany's exports to the Middle East, some of the countries of this area still remain a very important market for this country's merchandise. In announcing this matter, the monthly magazine "MIDDLE EAST", published in London, in its August 1985 issue states: "Last year, the Federal Republic of Germany's exports to its trade partners in the Middle East reached 37,484 billion marks (12.9 billion dollars)."

According to this report, the Federal Republic of Germany's exports to Iran and Saudi Arabia decreased 16 percent and 17 percent respectively in 1984. The decline of construction activities in the Saudi kingdom is one of the main reasons for the decline of the Federal Republic of Germany's exports to this country, since in 1982. FRG's exports to this country amounted to 8.5 billion marks. This figure decreased to 6.3 billion marks in 1984. The Federal Republic of Germany's exports to Iraq during 1984 reached 2.4 billion marks which is the lowest amount since August 1979--since the value of such exports in 1982 was 7.6 billion marks.

The above-mentioned publication adds: "Germany's exports to Iran in 1983 reached 7.7 billion marks, which is nearly twice as much as in 1982. However last year this figure decreased to 6.4 billion marks."

During 1981-84, the value of imports of the Federal Republic of Germany from Middle East countries decreased 35 percent. MIDDLE EAST adds: "Based on a strict austerity plan, the Federal Republic of Germany's oil imports from the Middle East have declined. Also, during the first five months of the current year (1985), this country has only imported 27.8 million tons of oil which indicates a 5.5 percent decrease compared to the same period of last year. During the same period, some very important changes are quite noticeable in the pattern of securing oil imports since England exported more crude oil to the Federal Republic of Germany than any other country in 1984. During the same period, Germany imported crude oil from other countries like Nigeria

(4.3 million tons). Libya (4.3 million tons), Venezuela (2 million tons) and Algeria (1.7 million tons). Also during the first five months of the current year, the Saudi kingdom exported 1.2 million tons and the Soviet Union 1.3 million tons of crude oil to Germany. For this reason, the decline of German crude oil imports from Middle East countries has had an absolute effect on German imports from this region."

This report indicates that total German imports from Middle East countries in 1983 reached 24.4 billion marks, which compared to 32.9 billion marks in 1982 and 38.4 billion marks in 1981, shows a noticeable decline.

MIDDLE EAST also writes: "Last year, West Germany succeeded in having a 16 billion Mark surplus in its trade balance with the Middle East countries, whereas this surplus in 1983 alone was equal to 20 billion marks. Also, Germany's imports from Iran in 1984 increased 18 percent compared to 1983, from Iraq 37 percent, from Egypt 78 percent, and from Syria 132 percent.

WEST GERMAN TRADE EXCHANGE STATISTICS WITH MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES
(million Mark)

Countries	Exports			Imports		
Years Studied	1982	1983	1984	1982	1983	1984
Algeria	3281	2478	2491	3826	3167	2797
Bahrain	323	384	328	58	22	24
Egypt	2774	2952	3214	1053	767	1364
Iraq	7610	3684	2450	562	1002	1368
Jordon	974	576	526	13	20	53
Kuwait	1977	1771	1789	517	931	986
Libya	2835	2142	2285	7232	6317	6166
Morocco	522	485	516	535	550	580
Oman	395	434	608	1072	140	59
Saudi Arabia	8541	7606	6305	10568	4001	2828
Syria	886	822	677	250	322	747
United Arab Emirates	1755	1307	1224	1573	1143	785
South Yemen	42	42	66	53	44	45
North Yemen	256	265	226	5	6	6
Iran	3403	7720	6469	1739	1571	1749
Turkey	2414	2970	3390	1560	1837	2485
Total Middle East	42687	40717	37484	32926	24454	24849

9815/13045

CSO: 4640/733

IRAN

BRIEFS

REPORT ON KHOMEYNI'S HEALTH--An Iranian opposition religious figure has stated that Khomeyni has reached the stage of near-death politically, physically, and intellectually. In statements to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, Dr (?Musa) Musavi added that reports from inside Khomeyni's house prove that the people around Khomeyni have used the services of the Austrian physician (Lusinger) to treat him several weeks ago. The doctor recommended the following: Let him die. Medications will not extend his life. Musavi stated that Khomeyni is instructed on the issues on which he speaks by his son Ahmad, yet in spite of this, it is noticeable that the statements he recently made to his followers are incoherent because he cannot concentrate on what he is instructed. Iranian radio and television are broadcasting the contents of Khomeyni's statements instead of reporting them verbatim. He added that the situation has made it necessary to decide the issue of who will succeed him. Had it not been for Khomeyni's physical ailment and the political setbacks inside his regime, the choice of Montazeri would have been postponed till after Khomeyni's death, he said. [Text] [Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Dec GF] /12913

SALE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS--Tehran, 14 December IRNA--The Government in Amsterdam [as received] is to take a Dutch company to court Saturday on charges of selling phosphor chloride to Iraq for production of lethal gasses, reports an Iraqi dissident publication here. The "RAHE-E KARRBALA" said that the company has acknowledged the sale of the chemical substances to Iraq. The publication said the Dutch company is not the only European organization selling substances for the production of chemical weapons to Iraq. Recently a West German company built a factory in Iraq for the production of nerve gas. International organizations and medical experts have confirmed Iraq's use of chemical weapons in its war against Iran. International conventions prohibit the use of chemical weapons. ["Iraq Reportedly Buying Toxic Chemical Substance From Dutch Co"--IRNA headline] [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 14 Dec 85 LD] /12913

FORMATION OF 'MOSQUE ARMIES'--Mullah Mohtashami, the regime's interior minister, acting upon orders from Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, has taken control of the office of Friday imams which had up to now been in Qom, next to the office of Montazeri. This office was moved to Tehran as of last Wednesday. According to a new plan devised by Mohtashami, new groups of armed men will be deployed in mosques throughout the country. The organization of these mosque-armies will be totally separate and different from the Islamic Revolution

Guards Corps, revolution committees, and the mobilization movement. The executive responsibility for these groups of urban armed men will be up to the Friday imams of the mosques involved and will not be connected to the Interior Ministry. [Text] [(Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Dec 85 GF] /12913

GHARAZI'S ASSOCIATES REPORTEDLY ARRESTED--Thirty-seven associates of former Oil Minister Gharazi, the current posts, telegraph and telephones minister--all of whom are directors and managers of government and private organizations and were involved in transactions for oil sales, the purchase of smuggled arms, or misappropriation--have been arrested. The state prosecutor has warned Mohammad Gharazi that he is not permitted to leave the country until further notice. [Text] [(Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Dec 85 GF] /12913

DESERTION OF SERVICEMEN REPORTED--In a recent letter to the regime's defense minister, Department-2 of the Iranian Army headquarters has reported figures on the number of officers and expert military personnel who have thus far deserted from the Army and the Armed Forces and who have taken refuge outside of the country. These figures show that so far 84 fighter pilots, 47 tank officers, 95 officers expert in operations, 37 naval officers, 28 officers of military intelligence and security matters, 110 officers expert with computers, 11 officers expert in strategy and planning, and 40 officers of the airborne division and connected forces have left Iran because of oppression in Khomeyni's regime. The report also indicates that a majority of Iranian servicemen have taken refuge in the Gulf Sheikdoms and two other countries neighboring Iran, and are working in their various capacities. [Text] [(Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 14 Dec 85 GF] /12913

DISPATCH OF 'YOUTHS'--Once again the Guards' Corps festivities are in full swing in various areas, as they busily solicit youths to their offices and dispatch them to the barracks. The youths are 16-30 years old. This activity has sparked a spate of nightletters against the war and the Islamic Republic and families are preventing their offspring from going to their places of work and even schools. [Text] [(Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Dec 85 GF] /12913

INCREASED PAKISTANI IMPORTS--The ambassador of Iran in Pakistan, Mir Mahmud Musavi Khamene, said that his country would like to increase imports from Pakistan to the maximum possible extent and hoped that Pakistan would try to balance it. He suggested more meetings between the businessmen of the two countries to help promote the trade, says an LCCI [Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industries] press release, issued yesterday. He expressed his views during a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday. Mian Misbah-ur-rehman, vice-president of the chamber, presided. The Ambassador was accompanied by the Iranian Consul-General in Lahore. He was of the view that there should be exhibitions to introduce the products of each country to the other. About the difficulty in getting visas for Iran at the Consulate in Lahore, the ambassador said that it was due to the shortage of staff. Efforts were being made to have more staff, he added. He said that Iran wanted to have best possible relations and trade with the Muslim countries in preference to other countries. [Excerpt] [Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES (Commerce and Industry Review Supplement) in English 5 Dec 85 p 4 GF] /6662

PRODUCT QUALITY CONTROL--Rasht, Gilan Prov. Dec. 15, IRNA--The Institute of Standards and Industrial Research of Iran (ISIRI) has issued 3,000 export-permits during March 21st-September 21st in a bid to enhance the quality of home products. According to an ISIRI official here Sunday the figure shows an increase of 33 percent as compared to the same period last year. A total of 1,500 production units throughout the country are now under the supervision of ISIRI for their quality control. Stressing ISIRI's successful tackling of quality control tasks in its 60 laboratories the official said that the institute has so far published 22 books relevant to various industrial research and quality control standards. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 15 Dec 85 LD] /6662

BIRRI SAID PRAISING STANCE--Beirut, Dec. 12, IRNA--The leader of Lebanon's Amal movement, Nabih Birri, here Wednesday stressed continuation of the struggle of the Lebanese Muslims against Zionist forces. Speaking in an interview with IRNA he praised stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards Lebanon and added that Islamic resistance is the main force in crushing the Zionist enemy. Prior to their struggle, the Zionist regime was considered the unbeatable force of the region. However, through their brave resistance, he stressed, the Muslims have turned the Zionist regime into a paper tiger. Other Islamic and Arab forces could learn from the experience of the Lebanese Muslims, he told IRNA. The Zionist regime, in retaliation has launched attacks against people of southern Lebanon and so far some 90 percent of the area's population have become homeless. However, the U.S. Administration is trying to portray the Zionist regime as a civilised system and the Lebanese Muslims as terrorist, said Birri. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 12 Dec 85 LD] /6662

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES ABROAD--Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA--Speaking in the last day of a three-day cultural seminar held at Tehran University, the chief justice, Ayatollah Abdulkarim Musavi Ardabili Monday said that due to important and crucial status of the role of universities in the Iranian society, the cultural revolution was launched from the universities. He further told the seminar that sending Iranian students abroad for higher education had negative effects on the Iranian culture. Therefore, he added, rather than sending students abroad, foreign professors should be hired to meet the country's needs. The session was also attended by the Minister of Culture and Higher Education Dr. Mohammad Farhadi, Minister of Ershad-e Eslami, [Islamic Guidance] Mohammad Khatami, Minister of Education Kazem Akrami, members and head of the Cultural Revolution Council, as well as other education officials. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 10 Dec 85 LD] /6662

SHIP REPAIR YARD--Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov, Dec. 8, IRNA--The Bandar-e 'Abbas ship repairing and manufacturing yard, the largest of its kind in the Persian Gulf, is nearly 65 percent complete. The yard, which has a 40,000 tonnage ship manufacturing capacity and 400,000 tonnage ship repairing capacity, will be put into operation in three year's time. A capital of rials 46 billion (Dlrs. 535 m) was allocated for the project, out of which three billion rials (Dlrs. 34.8 m) have been spent on construction works. An official in charge of the plant said that several breakwaters as well as roads

have been built and 23 million cubic meters have been dredged. The official added that the yard is expected to be the most important base for repairing of trade ships in the Persian Gulf and besides will have a valuable effect on the country's economy, especially the fishing industries. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1827 GMT 8 Dec 85 LD] /6662

SHOOTING REPORTED IN TEHRAN--In the Aryashahr area of Tehran on Sunday, 15 December, the mobilized personnel of the Revolution Guards opened fire on passengers in a car. During the incident, which took place opposite the Saheb az-Zaman Mosque, a woman and a child traveling in the car were killed. On Thursday, 12 December, at Lavizan Military Base in Tehran, due to a lack of safety precautions during a grenade-throwing class, a grenade exploded and two NCO's were severely injured. They are reported to be in critical condition. /Text/ /((Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian GF/ 12228

NATIONAL BANK ASSETS--Tehran, Dec. 11 IRNA--Total assets of the National Bank of Iran (Melli Bank) amount to 3,323 million rials (Dlrs. 39 billion) at the end of Mehr (October 23) according to ETTELA'AT newspaper. The said figure represented an increase of 33 percent over the same balance the previous year. Total deposits of Melli Bank amounted to rial 2,306 billion (Dlrs. 27 billion) at the end of the said month, an increase of 23.3 percent compared with the same month last year. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 0754 GMT 11 Dec 85 LD] /6662

CSO: 4600/132

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