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25 May 1984

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ASALA ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY--Tehran--A Turkish businessman shot by Armenian guerrillas here on Saturday died yesterday, wire copies reported. Long-time resident of Tehran Turkish businessman Isik Yonder, was hit in the head by a bullet fired by a gunman on motorcycle as he was driving to the Turkish Embassy with his wife Sadiye, who works at the Turkish mission. She escaped serious injuries. IRNA said that the 45-year-old Turkish businessman died in a Tehran hospital at 12:30 hours (0900 GMT). The IRNA quoted informed sources who said that "the businessman was shot at by terrorists who had been frustrated in their attempts to attack the Turkish diplomats here." The Iranian news agency also said that the terrorists have so far made several unsuccessful attempts against Turkish diplomats in Iran. The Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) claimed responsibility for the attack, the latest in a decade-long campaign against Turkey by Armenian guerrillas in which nearly 40 Turks, mostly diplomats, have died. [Text] [Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 1 May 84 p 1]

CSO: 4600/549

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN BOUIRA GOVERNORATE EXAMINED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8, 9 Apr 84

[Article by Abdelatif Malem]

[8 Apr 84 p 16--I. A Real Change]

[Text] In days of old a straggling village located on the edge of national highway no. 5, the city of Bouira, just like the governorate as a whole, is preparing actively for change.

Signs of the future here and there can be seen immediately within the boundaries of the governorate. Traveling from Algiers, a visitor cannot fail to be interested in the landscape and the panoramas provided by the lush green pasturage of Beni Amrane, Lakhdaria and Aomar. Stretches of grain farms and olive orchards at the edge of the city of Bouira already give a glimpse of the highly agricultural occupation of the governorate.

The imposing Djurdjura Mountain chain mounted by national highway no. 5 about 20 kilometers to the north further accentuates the diversity of the topography and climate of the governorate.

To the surprise of the automobile driver, entry into the capital of the governorate is almost prohibited to vehicles. Sign boards point to a detour around the heart of the city.

In fact, for almost 6 months now, the authorities have been implementing a broad plan for the total modernization of the city. The sewage networks have been rebuilt and the surfacing of the roads has now been undertaken.

This activity, which is paralleled by various construction operations undertaken in the city of Bouira and the rural zones, reflects the desire of the local authorities to bring this region out of its "lethargic situation."

Is Bouira underdeveloped? The governorate shies away from limiting concepts, and no contradiction is seen in the dynamics of current development.

Today, opening up the rural zones by means of road construction, electrification and in particular this encouragement of road building are all activities on which the entire complex problem of governorate development rests. It is

a question of developing farm activity, which is the source of income for more than 80 percent of the population, to a maximum, just as it is a question of guaranteeing this population what it needs in order to pursue an activity which is sometimes carried out under very difficult conditions.

The sanitation effort in the large urban centers has really made it possible fully to reveal the capacity of each of the governorates which lie at the origin of the rural exodus. Obviously, this exodus can be indicative both of the economic and social situation of the governorate and of the level of assimilation where employment, education and housing are concerned.

For Bouira too, one fact may be significant: the rural exodus is practically nonexistent there. Excluding some families living here and there in somewhat precarious housing, the city has escaped this scourge thanks to the rural housing operation. Moreover, the authorities assure us of their imminent resettlement, in Bouira among other localities, where the first ZHUN will accept the families in the first group on a priority basis beginning this month. The distribution of the city slums into groups each containing some 50 families shows the strict approach which has been made to this problem. "Their relocation depends on the speed with which the work is carried out," the chief of the Bouira district told us. Twenty families have already been resettled, and their dubious housing was demolished to facilitate the approaches to the city as much as possible.

Housing Priority for Algiers Families

It is true that priority was granted to the families on whom the "return to the native governorate" operation focused. In fact, among these 860 families who came from this governorate, the Bouira district has some 110 families to relocate. The resettlement operation has now been undertaken, and the new housing premises have been allocated within the framework of the 200 housing unit program located at the approach to the city.

Emphasis is also placed, moreover, on the modernization campaign the work and scope of which have put their mark on the city. In fact, this campaign is proceeding at a steady rate. The people worked day and night at the beginning of the campaign, as the media reported in the past month of Ramadan. Three enterprises went to work, with the assistance of small private participants, to put the sewage network and the AEP, previously nonexistent, in place. Groundcover will be in place before the month of June, the deadline established for giving the city an attractive appearance first of all. Mention is made of the laying of sidewalks, sports areas, banks of flowers and fountains. The officials pointed out to us that for all practical purposes, the city of Bouira "will have a very different urban aspect as of this coming June."

We were also given an opportunity to attend a meeting of the governorate coordination committee with all of the members of the commission for preparations for the 30th anniversary and International Youth Day (5 July).

The problem of completing the work was the heart of the discussion. "Decoration or superficial cleanup is not the issue. It is a question of finishing the work undertaken with regard to sewage and repair of the sidewalks," the governor said. In view of the lack of progress made in this operation in recent days, it was decided to appoint a commission responsible for further encouragement of the sanitation committees already established and in charge of following up this campaign.

On the other hand, the Sour El-Ghozlane district in the southern part of the governorate has experienced some problems with the resettlement of families from Algiers.

An Adequate Rural Housing Solution

In this district, which has received the largest contingent of the 860 families, temporary structures (schools and a farm village) were made available to them at the beginning of the operation. It develops that these 550 citizens, firmly settled, are reluctant to be transferred. Self-construction, a method given priority in the governorate, does not seem to interest these citizens, despite the fact that materials, plots of land and technical aid have been made available. A 1,000 housing unit program has been planned.

In addition, this operation was marked by some imperfections, we were informed in the district. More than 820 families, instead of the 550 to be relocated, had to be counted within the framework of this transfer operation. The travel warrants on departure from Algiers were designed in principle for a single family. In fact, two or even three families were transferred in a single convoy. Nonetheless, the satisfaction noted with regard to their initiative in the matter of employment and education of the children has reduced this problem to its simplest form.

In fact, all of the heads of families and all those of working age benefitted from jobs consistent with their skills and profiles. The partial commissioning of the El Hachimia cement plant located 10 or so kilometers from the capital of the Sour district last November "absorbed" every trace of unemployment. The ETB enterprise (formerly the ECOTEC [National Office for Economic and Technical Studies]) and the communal enterprises also contributed to the resolution of this problem, although one enterprise responsible for the construction of 500 housing units in Sour is suffering from a shortage of manpower. It is true that firm instructions were given by the local authorities to give priority to hiring citizens tested somewhat as of the time of their transfer.

The aid provided to these families was such that the markets of the fellaheen, after investigation, granted them credit facilities "so as to help them psychologically," the secretary general of the district told us.

The 100 percent enrollment of school children is another source of satisfaction. Classes were even taught on a triple shift basis in many cases. The authorities in Sour made a special application to the Academy for a transfer of funds for the building of new schools.

The Means Available

This region dedicated primarily to agropastoral activities has the means for "reintegration." The structural base made up of poultry raising and bee keeping sectors and a sizeable dairy cooperative in Sour, among other things, offers a real prospect for the development of this locality. Some "ventures" in industry should also be noted: the terrazzo plant, the detergent plant and plaster kilns. The tourist industry of this region, which experienced moments of grandeur in the Roman era (the ruins of Rapidi 40 kilometers from the capital bear witness to this) have been brought to the fore. A motel was built on the western approach to the city, while a hotel of even greater importance is under study. The tourist potential has been somewhat affected by the diversion of national road 8 and trade activities have also borne the consequences.

To speak the truth, the concern of the authorities is focused to a greater extent on the imminent transfer of families planned for this coming May. The Bordj Khriss commune, which alone has accommodated more than 500 families, expects to receive greater consideration (meaning on the financial level) in order to cope with any difficulties. Among other things, it is believed that the individual allocation of about 3.5 million centimes for each housing unit under self-construction is inadequate.

The similarity is clear when it comes to the difficulties encountered by all of the localities within the region. In Ain Bessam, orders and summonses were even issued to citizens with a view to completion of their self-construction projects, dating back to the first transfer in the month of April of last year.

The dynamism of the new team of officials noted where this locality is concerned is reassuring to more than one citizen. The 143 housing units to be built within the self-construction context for families transferred from the large urban centers are in fact on the way to completion.

Some 50 families willing to work the land have been allocated plots and construction materials and are benefitting from two schools. Great happiness is visible in their faces. Well-developed plots of land have been made available to them within the self-construction context in Ain Bessam, Birgh-balou and El Hachimia.

The difficulty of guaranteeing speedy employment, however, appears to be real. "The farm sector is staffed, units of an agroindustrial nature are saturated, and only such categories of workers as masons and cofferers can readily find work," the district chief told us, while the specialities of machinists and welders, for example, pose problems. The prospects in the medium term, on the other hand, seem reassuring to the officials. It is a question of creating the industrial zone planned for El Hachimia with agroindustrial units. The same is the case for the railroad line linking El Asnam and Sour El Ghozlane, on which the work began last September, and the SNIC [National Chemical Industries Company] unit, on which 40 percent of the work is done. And there is tremendous reliance on the industrial units currently set up,

such as the El Hachimia cement plant, the SONITEX [National Textile Industry Company] unit, the OMYD, which is responsible for producing spare parts for farm equipment, and the Ain Lekhal dam. All of these projects give reassurance and provide a glimpse of how things are developing in Bouira.

[9 Apr 84 p 16--II. The Agriculture-Industry Symbiosis]

[Text] Since the main concern remains the overall balance, the development of Bouira has taken into account the practical methods used in many other governorates. This is reflected in the massive concentration of investments and industrial projects in a given region. This is something which could have been done in view of the situation of the governorate, which constitutes a major road traffic junction, and one, in addition, served by the railroad.

In the final analysis, the overall problem of governorate development is not a matter of investment volume in absolute terms or figures.

It has much more to do with their distribution in time. It is agreed that the governorate of Bouira may be assigned a very large number of industrial projects, but it would be well to follow the establishment of such projects today in terms of the balances existing in terms of agriculture, water resources, and, not to dodge the issue, the social fabric. This is why this solution of promoting the rural sector to the maximum was devised, in order to be ready to face up to the problems of development on "bases which are much healthier and more serious" and much more consistent with the reality and the potential of the region.

This is why the governorate of Bouira proposes ever better adaptation to the socioeconomic realities, without denying the necessity for "comparable contributions" within the framework of central project planning.

The Industrial Contribution

In truth, industrialization made a "timid" appearance with the administrative reorganization in 1974 and the advancement of Bouira to the rank of governorate. Its distance, like that of the district of Lakhdaria, from the capital of the former governorate of Tizi-Ouzou, on the one hand, the same being true for Sour El-Ghozlane and Ain-Bessein, which were attached on the other to the former governorate of Titteri, had the effect of preventing the "industrialization" of the governorate. Today the farmland area is estimated at more than 170,000 hectares, or about 40 percent of the total area of the governorate, which is considered a priori as a high level. The industrial zone was established in a somewhat marginal region, that is to say on land with a low farm potential in the southern region of the governorate, where an industrial zone was established in the area of the Hachimia commune, some 40 kilometers from the capital of the governorate.

On 260 hectares allocated for the industrial zone, about 40 are devoted solely to farming. The two other large industrial projects, the Sour El-Ghozlane cement plant and the SNIC plant, and the SONATRACH pneumatic unit in

Ain-Bessam, as well as small industrial units, do not really affect the predominance of agriculture.

It goes without saying that the governorate derives tremendous profit from this kind of existing project. For example the Sour El-Ghozlane cement plant, a project of great size, has a capacity vastly exceeding the needs of the governorate, with more than 1 million tons per year. Since its partial commissioning last November, it is believed to have practically resolved the employment question in the region.

Five hundred and fifty workers were hired there, the majority from among citizens who were brought back to their native governorate after the campaign for the improvement of the large urban centers. About 2,500 workers have already participated in the completion of the cement plant, which is today supplying the 6 neighboring governorates.

The desire to strengthen the farm activity of the governorate further seems to be succeeding thanks to the dynamism of the officials responsible for this sector. Almost 120,000 new hectares are planned within the framework of a development program. But the officials have no doubt that this is a long-term project which will require vast resources. Already an experiment has been launched on a limited area of 14,000 hectares in El-Kseur. Sustained effort was needed over several years to make of it farmland. It is true that it is easier to "massacre" farm areas than to create new ones, a farm official is said to have remarked.

In addition, farming is capricious. For example, grain cultivation. Last year, a crop of 17 or 18 tons per hectare was expected a few days prior to the harvest. Two days of the sirocco sufficed to override these estimates and reduce the harvest to less than 9 tons per hectare.

Poultry breeding, the speciality of the region, has become a tradition in the rural sector of the governorate. It was introduced some years ago into the Bouira and Lakhdaria district thanks to the distribution of pullets free of charge and the installation of hen houses for demonstration purposes. The aid given by the state to small operators was a determining factor. In 1982, an average of 12 kilograms of white meat per capita per year was achieved at a time when the national production average was 7 kilograms per year. Similarly, in egg production, an average of 62 per capita per year was reached, a particularly high level.

Poultry Breeding--A Tradition

Today nearly 2,500 poultry breeders are functioning throughout the territory of the governorate, whether for egg production or chickens for slaughter, and 1,500 poultry houses were established in the course of last year.

It goes without saying that the poultry industry has experienced problems, particularly last year when production dropped and some breeders went back into other activities. The shortage of feed, for which the raw material for production remains in the import sector, was the sole cause of this abandonment.

At the beginning of the year in progress, the problem was taken up and general satisfaction was noted among the small poultry breeders in Lakhdaria, Beni-Amrane and farther to the south, in Bordj Khriss, in particular. The reason is that two new structures were established in timely fashion: a governorate cooperative specializing in poultry breeding took over all of the matters pertaining to feed supply, chicks and poultry raising equipment, on the one hand, and this was done in close coordination with the departments in charge of central planning on the level of the Ministry of Agriculture.

On the other hand, the establishment of a chicken feed production unit in Ain-Bessem, which will have a capacity of 25 tons per hour, was undertaken.

These two structures made it possible to maintain and to ensure a proportional increase in the production capacity of the governorate in the poultry breeding sector. Aid in this connection was provided by the establishment of the Specialized Supply Cooperatives (CASAP) resulting from the reorganization of the 19 CAPCS [Communal Multi-Service Agriculture Cooperatives] in the governorate.

Self-Sufficiency in Eggs

The importance of poultry breeding, which has taken on proportions never before equalled in the governorate with more than 5,000 poultry breeding units, has not however reduced the desire of the officials in charge to advance. The orientation is focused today on the production of eggs, that rare commodity in such short supply on the domestic market. An ambitious program, mainly having to do with the state sector, has been put in operation. The production of broilers, moreover, is rather well-developed, thanks to the contribution made by the private sector, with 2,200 poultry units distributed throughout the territory of the governorate. This is why the inadequacies noted in the raising of laying hens will be corrected by the state farm sector. In addition, the introduction of the modern so-called "battery-rearing" method will favor this activity. Ten units or areas with a poultry unit for each of 10,000 laying hens will now be installed, and six units are operational.

In the medium time range, it is a question of doubling capacity, we were told again by the farm officials. With 60,000 eggs today from this operation alone, the needs of the governorate have been met. And egg marketing problems have been noted to the point that certain commercial units are obligated to take preestablished quantities.

It has been said that on the basis of the above-mentioned program and within two or three months, the governorate is likely to have to take steps for the marketing of eggs on a national scale.

By way of illustration, the departments in charge of marketing were forced to limit the entry of imported eggs into the governorate last year, in order to step up local production to a maximum.

The national authorities were alerted in this connection. The governorate also has 500 [travicoles] intended in principle for the production of layers, and temporarily shifted to the production of broilers. A reversal in this situation in the near future will make it possible to undertake egg production with this governorate ranking first on the national level.

We might also mention the rather ambitious program undertaken by the ORAC, involving an incubator for the production of eggs to be hatched, two breeding farms for layers and a major and sophisticated poultry slaughtering unit with a capacity of 1,500 birds per hour. This is more than sufficient to meet the needs of the people, in addition to which the private sector, equipped with everything necessary, is participating.

Thus poultry breeding has become a traditional occupation of the population.

Olive growing is also a specialty of the people here. An olive plantation, which is very large "and old," it was explained to us, occupies the largest area (14,000 hectares), in the private sector above all. Sizeable renewal operations have been undertaken for the state farm sector.

This specialty has lagged somewhat because of the prevailing operational conditions, which have been particularly difficult because of the fact that harvesting is done in winter.

The pertinent departments have nonetheless devoted concern to this activity, with the strengthening of the 100 traditional oil mills distributed throughout the northern part of the governorate in particular, as well as 3 modern oil mills established by the former ONAPO [Algerian National Olive Products Office].

As a result, the interest devoted to agriculture has not been unproductive. The governorate is self-sufficient for the majority of farm products, white meat, eggs, vegetable oil and fruit tree products (with a surplus of peaches, pears and apricots) and even citrus fruits. What is in short supply in the governorate is market garden crops, because of the limited irrigated areas there.

Development is expected with the creation of the 2,000 hectare M'Chedallah irrigated area and the Oued Lakhel dam, which is planned for 1986 and will irrigate an additional 2,700 hectares.

In conclusion, the governorate of Bouira seems to enjoy favorable conditions for real and balanced development, although the southern part, centered on the districts of Sour El-Ghozlane and Ain-Bessem, are somewhat arid. This area nonetheless includes extensive grain plantings, in particular on the plain of Arib, lying all along the road linking the capital of the governorate with Ain-Bessem, which seem to meet the food needs of the population of the governorate. And this is in addition to substantial pasture land, which also is used for sheep breeding, a supplementary occupation in the region.

Be that as it may, Bouira has retained its more or less rural occupation in the noble sense of that term. The people are closely linked with its development, with the new phase of priority for agriculture, consistent with the recommendations of the sessions of the Fifth Congress.

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CSO: 4519/149

EGYPT

PROGRESS OF 5-YEAR ECONOMIC PLAN ASSESSED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 50, 24 Mar 84 pp 62-63

[Article by Usamah Ghayth: "5-Year Plan in Its 3rd Year: 400,000 Job Opportunities, Higher Wages, Stable Basic Commodity Prices"]

[Text] For the first time since 1965, the Egyptian government has announced that it will proceed with implementing the 5-year plan for social and economic development without modification or change. More important are the continued commitment to the plan's programs and policies, without interruption or consideration of what has already been accomplished merely as annual development plans, and the announcement concerning the initiation of a new 5-year plan.

Ever since 1965, when the first and only 5-year development plan to be fully implemented (1960-1965) was completed, not one 5-year plan has been implemented in full in Egypt, despite successive announcements about the start of a 5-year plan which always falls back in the face of negativisms and problems in the plan's first year, which is considered a preliminary stage. In the early seventies, officials were convinced not to announce any medium-term plans and they candidly announced a need to implement flexible annual plans to treat the basic ills of the Egyptian economy. Only then can one talk about the possibility of commitment to the goals, policies and programs of a medium-term plan whereby everyone will be held responsible in accordance with the plan's rates of completion, which will be used as a criterion for success or failure.

In its announcement on continuing the implementation of the 5-year development plan, which will enter its 3rd year next July, fiscal year 1984/85, the Egyptian government was aided by actual success in several fields of economic life. Most important are the government's success in carrying out reform measures at the Egyptian economic structure level in the field of reducing the general budget deficit and lowering the balance of trade and balance of payments deficits and government announcements concerning achievements in connection with bringing inflation under control and putting a stop to high inflation rates which peaked during the second half of the seventies and the first year of the eighties.

The Egyptian government announced through Minister of Planning Dr al-Khanzuri that the development plan in its 3rd year (84/85) is aimed primarily at facing any increases that may occur in basic commodity prices, which it intends to stabilize. It is also aimed at bringing incomes of the various classes closer together by increasing the income of the toiling classes and raising the standard of living of all citizens by 3 percent.

This was followed immediately by an announcement by President Husni Mubarak, in his interview with MAYU, the ruling party newspaper, about an integrated project to raise the standard of workers and retirees in Egypt, aimed at granting all government employees an "additional" severance pay equal to one month's salary for every year of service. Moreover, President Mubarak announced that wages would be raised by between 10 and 20 percent as of next July with the beginning of the plan's 3rd year and this will be completed by July 1985.

The Egyptian government, in its continuation of the 5-year plan, is depending on the success of the plan's 1st year in achieving a growth rate of 7.5 percent in 92/83 when agricultural growth was 3 percent, industrial growth 9 percent and oil 14.5 percent. This raised the local gross product to 19.3 billion Egyptian pounds for that year. The local gross product is expected to go up to 20.7 billion pounds during the current 83/84 year and is planned to reach 22.2 billion pounds in the plan's 3rd year.

The total value of investments for the plan's 3rd year is 6.690 billion pounds, 5.365 billion of which is for the public sector and 1.625 billion for the private sector. Private sector investments of 2.9 billion will be allocated for completing existing projects and 1.1 billion for replacement and modernization, in addition to 637 million pounds allocated to start new projects. It is noted that the investment rate between the private and public sectors has maintained its declared average since the 1st year of the plan, whereby 77 percent of investments belongs to the public sector and 23 percent to the private sector.

It is also noted that dependence on the foreign sector remains high with regard to the plan's financing investment inasmuch as the foreign component of the plan's investments is estimated at 43 percent of its gross investments, 16 percent of which is in free currency available to Egypt and 27 percent in foreign fiscal facilities in the form of loans, aid and grants.

In its 3rd year, the plan aims to continue its line of providing an average of 400,000 job opportunities annually to absorb the work force entering the job market every year, although economic indicators still confirm the need to raise the level of the current labor force, to wipe out veiled unemployment, particularly in rural areas and government agencies, and to carry out vocational training programs at a cost of 500 million pounds annually, as requested by the Egyptian economic conference.

It is expected that during the 3rd year of the plan, the gross domestic product will rise at a rate of 3.4 percent in agriculture, 8.7 percent in industry and mining, 11.3 percent in electric power and 15.8 percent in the construction sector.

The planned increase in the oil sector is limited to 7.2 percent, as compared to a 14.2 percent in the plan's 1st year, in an attempt to conserve Egypt's oil wealth and operate old and existing oil wells at safe recovery rates that do not pose any dangers, despite the announcement of new oil discoveries last year. There are projections, however, that indicate that the plan's 4th year may witness a jump in the oil sector's growth rates with expectations for a number of discoveries that may enter the actual production phase.

All the good indicators and various successes of the 5-year social and economic development plan notwithstanding, the main problems of the Egyptian economy, particularly the low efficiency in the field of utilities and public services, the defective economic structure and the weakness of the production structure compared to the growth rates in the fields of services, trade and business, are considered huge challenges that must be faced. Of course, this will not occur through one 5-year plan, but requires that 5-year plans be implemented in an organized and clear framework of long-term planning which has become an economic necessity in our modern world which does not distinguish between a capitalist and advanced communist society, but rather is a main criterion for distinction between progress and backwardness.

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EGYPT

BAN ON ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREIGN BANKS CONTINUED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 50, 24 Mar 84 p 66

[Article by 'Abd-al-Qadir Shuhayb: "While Ban on New Foreign Banks in Egypt Continues, Egyptian Central Bank Has Not Finished Studies, Refuses to Consider 15 New Applications"]

[Text] The Egyptian government has decided to keep the ban it imposed 3 years ago on the establishment of foreign bank branches or new joint banks in Egypt in effect for this year as well. Egyptian Minister of Investment Dr Wajih Shindi announced that the study undertaken by Egyptian economic authorities about the foreign bank experience in Egypt will not be completed before this year's end. It was decided to conduct this study to evaluate the foreign bank experience in Egypt during the past 10 years before granting licenses for more foreign and joint banks in Egypt. Accordingly, the Investment Agency will not approve any new licenses for any such banks for this year as well, although its board of directors has 15 applications for new joint and foreign banks.

Egyptian economic authorities in 1981 imposed a ban on new joint and foreign bank licenses, be they commercial, investment or business, at the insistence of the Egyptian Central Bank after the number of banks operating in Egypt increased to 75, only 4 of which belonged to the public sector. Central bank advisors saw that this number exceeded the needs of the Egyptian money market; and added to that is the fact that the private, joint and foreign bank experience in Egypt did not achieve the desired objectives of making tangible efforts to attract money from abroad. Rather, it gathered Egyptian savings from inside the country and invested it abroad and concentrated on diverting commercial activities within and import operations from abroad while not paying proper attention to financing Egyptian investments.

Following the ban they imposed on the establishment of additional foreign banks in Egypt, the Egyptian authorities decided to undertake a comprehensive study aimed at evaluating the whole experience so as to formulate new rules governing the establishment of more joint and foreign banks.

The Egyptian authorities have not yet completed the study they began in 1981 and have not approved any licenses for such banks since that time

except for the Hong Kong Bank branch which received prior approval in 1981 for its establishment and another approval from the Central Bank in 1982 to start its operations.

During this period, the Egyptian authorities came under increasing pressures to lift the ban on new joint and foreign banks on the pretext that it might lead to freezing the Egyptian market, thus giving the existing banks a chance for a monopoly, plus the fact that it hinders the flow of Arab investments to Egypt and deprives Egyptian investors of the chance to participate in the establishment of banks. These various pressures were led by Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hijazi, former prime minister and former chief of the commercial workers' union in Egypt, who took every opportunity to ask the Egyptian government to lift the ban, the most recent of which was the Islamic Faysal Bank in the Egyptian capital 2 months ago.

This notwithstanding, the ban imposed on the establishment of new joint and foreign banks continued at the request of the Egyptian Central Bank which, by virtue of the investment law, is vested with the power to authorize the establishment of new banks.

Hence, pressures to lift the ban were to no avail and so was the opposition to such a ban by some ministers in the Egyptian government itself, most notably the minister of finance, and also the reservations of other ministers led by Dr Wajih Shidhi, who asked that the ban be confined to commercial banks only, with the exclusion of investment and business banks.

A year ago, the Egyptian Investment Authority prepared a number of proposals, including a number of rules and regulations governing authorization for new banks in Egypt. However, the Egyptian Central Bank did not approve these proposals, but requested in its last report the continuation of the ban so as to guarantee the success of special government plans to restrict and guide credit in order to control inflation in Egypt, a policy enthusiastically supported by Egyptian Minister of Economy Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id.

At the same time, a new study prepared by the National Specialized Councils in Egypt under the supervision of Dr Hamid al-Sayih revealed that the open-door policy banks are marked by relative weakness in investing their monies in long-term investment projects. Investments by commercial banks established in accordance with the investment law in Egypt amounted to only about 75.5 million Egyptian pounds, or 1.5 percent of their total use [of capital] as of the end of the last fiscal year (June 1983), while the total share of investment and business banks was about 178.5 million pounds, or 3.9 percent of their total use [of capital]. Thus, the total share of joint and foreign banks in Egyptian investments in the last 10 years was only 254 million Egyptian pounds, a very small amount compared to actual Egyptian investments for this period and even smaller compared to what Egypt hopes to achieve in coming years.

The strange thing is that these banks refrained from financing Egyptian investments at a time when they relied on the deposits of Egyptian clients to build up their basic resources. The study conducted by the National

specialized Councils attributed this drop in the contribution of open-door policy banks to Egyptian investments to a combination of factors, notably that the investment and business banks operating within the scope of the investment and business banks operating within the scope of the investment law still do business the same way as the commercial banks in that they invest their money in short-term gain projects with sufficient guarantees such as hotels, tourism, luxury housing and some consumer industries.

The study, which was supervised by the former economy minister, believes that the meagerness of investment financing by open-door policy banks in general and their failure to play an effective role in securities investment do not serve the general objectives of the new economic policies well. Therefore, the Investment Authority proposes, as part of the proposed rules and regulations governing the establishment of new foreign banks, increasing the bank's capital and prescribing a certain percentage of bank revenues for investment in Egyptian projects.

However, these rules and regulations are no more than proposals not yet approved by the Egyptian Central Bank. Therefore, the ban on the establishment of new foreign banks in Egypt will continue until the end of this year.

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EGYPT

COMMERCIAL WORKERS' UNION ELECTIONS DISCUSSED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 50, 24 Mar 84 p 20

[Article by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Tawwab: "Elections Held 8 Months Ago, Result Still Unknown. Disengagement of Forces in Commercial Workers' Union, Disputing Parties Await Total Solution."]

[Text] Just a few months before the Egyptian People's Assembly elections, for which five other parties, besides the ruling Democratic Party, are running--the New Wafd Party, the Socialist Labor Party, the NPUG Party, the Socialist Liberal Party and the al-Ummah Party--a raging battle in the Commercial Workers' Union is casting its light and shadows over the democratic experience in Egypt. A furious dispute is going on between the supporters of each of Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid, former deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Dr Hasan Tawfiq over the results of the elections for the position of Commercial Workers' Union president while Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hijazi, former prime minister and former Commercial Workers' Union president, stands behind Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid who is supported by almost the entire union board as the winner of the union president position.

The dispute basically revolves around the election results in one governorate, al-Sharqiyah, which Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq supporters claim to be falsified, while Dr Hasan Tawfiq says that it was only a flaw. If the results of al-Sharqiyah Governorate are included, Dr Tawfiq would win; if they are dropped, Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq would win.

Although 8 months have passed since the Commercial Workers' Union (the newest professional union in Egypt) elections were held, no one knows yet who the new union president is. The problem has become more complex and has entered a vicious cycle of conflicts between jurisdictions and powers despite the fact that it has been turned over to the judiciary.

Objections and contestations over election results and union boards represent a phenomenon worthy of notice. The board of the bar association, for example, was dissolved by late president al-Sadat in 1982, but re-emerged a few days ago by force of a ruling handed down by the Supreme Constitutional Court. In the Press Syndicate, the results of the elections won by union president Salah Jalal by three votes over former union president Kamil Zuhayri about

2 years ago are still the object of an appeal under examination by the Egyptian judiciary.

The ordinary man in the street wonders whether such behavior by the elite that represents public opinion, that does not willingly accept election results and that violates the rules of the democratic game in limited professional elections represents a healthy phenomenon brought about by the open democratic climate in Egypt in President Husni Mubarak's regime or whether it is an indicator of the immaturity of the democratic experience?

The dispute over the Commercial Workers' Union president position developed to a degree that Dr Hasan Tawfiq broke into the union and occupied the union president's office by force while the union board was holding in a side hall a meeting in which it decided to disqualify the al-Sharqiyah Governorate votes and declare Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid the winner of the union president's position. The board then issued a decision to bring Dr Hasan Tawfiq before a union disciplinary board. The Council of State Administrative Court had handed down a negative decision to declare the results as they were something that Dr Tawfiq's supporters interpreted as a judgment in his favor. The situation at the Commercial Workers' Union called for police and public prosecution intervention to question the disputing parties and bring the situation under control.

Mr 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Shadhili, Commercial Workers' Union representative and general overseer of the elections, who chaired the session in which Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq was declared the winner, said that after the elections, the union board reviewed reports on the run-off elections between Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq and Dr Tawfiq and when it came to the al-Sharqiyah election report, it found an inconsistency in the deposition of the al-Sharqiyah Union president, who told police investigators that he had 1,000 ballots printed while the union election report said that the number was 1,500 ballots because the ballots he received were not enough. He also said in his report that the total number of voters in al-Sharqiyah was 2,450 while police reports showed that the number was 2,698. Accordingly, there are three tendencies: either drop the election results in al-Sharqiyah Governorate, or repeat the elections nationwide, or repeat the elections in al-Sharqiyah alone. The first tendency won the support of the majority of board members in application of a precedent in previous elections and as a result of fraudulent acts and unsound practices in the al-Sharqiyah elections. Hence, Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid was declared the winner.

While Dr Hasan Tawfiq interpreted the ruling of the Council of State court as being in his favor, the union saw that the court's ruling did not necessarily mean that Dr Tawfiq was the declared winner, therefore, "we sent," the union representative said, "a message to the Council of State court asking for clarification. The court affirmed that it did not declare Dr Tawfiq the winner, but rather handed down a negative decision, not a decision declaring the results in his favor, asking the union to declare the results as they were. This prompted the union board to adopt a resolution to discount the al-Sharqiyah votes and declare the election of Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid."

Thus, the Commercial Workers' Union board held an emergency session in which it reviewed the election watchdog committee's report which showed the invalidity of the al-Sharqiyah Governorate results which should be dropped from the general results in application of a previously-adopted principle when the Aswan Governorate elections were cancelled and the actual results coming in from the other governorates were announced.

Whereas the total number of actual votes Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid received, after discounting the invalid al-Sharqiyah votes, is 6,837 votes, as opposed to 5,572 votes for Dr Hasan Tawfiq, the board declared Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq the winner of the union president position.

But Dr Hasan Tawfiq sees the dispute differently. He affirms that the Council of State last August passed a ruling in his favor, confirming that the union board should announce the results as received from the sub-committees in the governorates and that the board had no right to hold back the results, delay the declaration of his victory or repeat the elections nationwide.

The union law stipulates two ways for appealing the results: either via the minister of finance within 15 days of the elections or at the request of 100 members who can prove they attended the general assembly of the union president elections within the same time period also. Hence, the only side with jurisdiction to settle the dispute in the Commercial Workers' Union, the Administrative Court, did not see that it had the power to announce the results as it asked the union board to announce them.

While Dr Hasan Tawfiq is levelling an indirect charge at former union president Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hijazi's supporters for obstructing the announcement of the results in his favor and supporting Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq, Dr Hijazi's supporters emphasize that there is no dispute between them and Dr Tawfiq. They say that Dr Tawfiq called the union board to session three times and each time no more than 5 out of 39 members responded. But Dr Tawfiq insists, however, that Dr Hijazi's supporters were behind the union board's decision to declare Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid the winner.

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CHARACTERISTICS, ORIENTATIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES EVALUATED

Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic No 390, 15 Apr 84 pp 12-13

[Article by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad: "Guide for Intelligent Youth in Upcoming Elections"]

[Text] Most of the political parties have announced their election programs to enlighten public opinion, to familiarize it with what they promise the voters in case they gain power, to please the voters with promises of realizing all hopes and aspirations and to confuse the voters with promises of the possible and impossible, and at times with promises of something and its opposite. Some of the parties' propaganda is founded on personalities and not on principles and programs. The most evident proof of this is that a number of the opposition papers never stop publishing daily the names of some known or unknown persons who have joined their party from the street or from other parties. Some propaganda is also founded on the past and on searching for roots, if there are any roots. The phenomenon we have already underlined is that the roots may be the same but the branches have multiplied and are entwined. It is normal for many branches to shoot up from the same root or stem. But the problem here is that the branches have not grown on a sound biological basis but rather in a haphazardly manner that cannot be included under the laws of natural growth. Thus, the roots, branches and leaves have gotten mixed up. As for the fruits, they are awaiting their turn and nobody knows what shape they will take, if they are destined to emerge.

This is why the youth, and perhaps even old people, are perplexed. It is possible that you may like some points embraced by one party and other points adopted by another party and that you may know how to focus your attention on this or that party. Besides, words are deceptive and it is impossible that all that a party says about itself is the whole truth. This is why it is necessary to have a guide that leads the intelligent youth who are eager to go to the ballot box to cast their vote and perform their duty. This guide is difficult because it is a purely personal and interpretive guide that is not above bias or partiality and youths have to be cautious insofar as this guide is concerned and must discuss it among themselves and with others, even though I swear that I will do my best to tell the truth sincerely and objectively. If I am influenced by a personal motive that might be inspired in my mind by the past that I have experienced since the day of al-Wafd and until these days, then I will tell you frankly of such a motive and will say that it is a purely personal influence which you may accept or reject.

To start, I would like to present to you the easy option and then proceed gradually with you to the details and the complexities. The easy option projected now is, as I see it, the single option either of supporting the ruling party, namely the Democratic National Party headed by President Husni Mubarak and founded by the late President Anwar al-Sadat, or of opposing this party. If you support it and believe that it is more capable than the others of confronting the problems, managing affairs, establishing security, insuring the citizen's freedom and dignity and respecting the law and the constitution, in addition to meeting numerous other moral and material requirements whose priorities vary from person to person, then go and elect this party's lists. But if you oppose this party for reasons which you deem demand such opposition, then look for one of the other five remaining parties. You may choose from among them whichever one you wish and vote for its lists, if it has enough lists to cover the election districts throughout the republic or at least to cover the district to which you belong.

These words are not, obviously, addressed to those with whom words are futile because their minds have been made before reading these words. The members who are determined to join a certain party do not need a guide and will not listen to anybody's advice. There are members who belong to a certain party but who think of breaking away from such a party and joining another one. These also are beyond the scope of listening to these words because their leaving one party and joining another, whether from pro-government to an opposition party or from one opposition party to another, are dictated by their private interests. Words are useless with such people also.

Thus, I want to speak to the youth because they are really perplexed and because most of them do not dream of attaining power in the near future. Therefore, they are not moved by personal motives to achieve private interests that are easy to achieve.

These youths have to think first and foremost of their position toward the majority party and of whether they agree or disagree with this party. They do not need to read principles or programs because they have before them internal and external political, social and economic actions and practices and tendencies which they can examine carefully and make their judgment for or against them. But beware of two things: The first is the natural general desire for change, even if only for the sake of change, keeping in mind that a change in faces is what is most often sought. The second is the normal general desire to oppose the government, any government, by virtue of the deeply rooted residues of doubt on this part of the Egyptians toward any government and by virtue of their being wary of any government. It is time to free ourselves of this suspicion.

If you find, as some people say, that this government is static and does not move from its position, then you may demand a dynamic government. If you find that it is a government that is moving backward, that it is causing relations with the world and with Arabs and Muslims to deteriorate further and that the gap between this government and the Egyptians themselves is widening, then you may demand a government that moves forward, not backward.

But if you are unbiased and you do not make your judgment on the basis of rumors and of preconceived opinions and if you find that the National Party government is moving rationally, though slowly, that its movement is a constant forward movement, that it is trying to repair what was damaged in the distant or recent past and that it is employing all its capabilities to solve the problems, to alleviate the hardships, to spread security and safety and to subjugate all to the authority of the law, then you should elect it with satisfaction even if you desire change. Change is possible, or rather inevitable, whether sooner or later.

Then comes your turn if you are determined to be in the opposition. Herein lies the problem. The opposition has five parties entitled to compete in the elections. As long as you want to be first and foremost a positive citizen who performs his election duty, you have to examine, scrutinize, study, listen, read and meet others in order to develop the right idea about whom to select and whom you believe to be stronger than others in achieving your demands or reflecting your opinions and tendencies.

Before you muddle through the twisted and intricate paths and lobbies, I would like you to select by means of the method of exclusion and elimination before comparing what you do not decide to exclude and eliminate. The path before you is easy insofar as al-Ummah Party is concerned. I personally am not biased or prejudiced against this party because of its weakness, of the small number of its supporters and of the scarce news reports published to the people about it. On the contrary, I sympathize with this party and smile when I read its program. I try my best to show people the true nature of this party, even though I have failed so far to find this truth. You have, therefore, to read its program which is printed, even though it contains some fatal typo mistakes--some of which I have already pointed out in this magazine. It is not difficult for you to meet Ahmad al-Sabahi, this party's chairman, and you will be delighted with meeting and talking to him. His conversation will not be boring or silly. Most probably, it will be an extremely pleasant and entertaining conversation. After this conversation, you will have to join it or turn to another party. Your decision in this regard will be easy because you will not need much effort to judge for or against this party.

If you are not pleased with al-Ummah Party, I advise you to go to the Liberal Party. Even though Mustafa Kamil Murad, this party's chairman, was one of the Free Officers and thus belongs fundamentally to the 23 July Revolution, he has a clear program with no ambiguity or vagueness. Generally, Murad calls for an open-door economy and urges bolstering the private sector and the free circulation and trading of foreign currency. This party is the party of economic liberalism which is founded on the law of supply and demand. It is, as they call it, the party of the right. But the problem is that you will not find among its leaders prominent names that will tempt you to join it. The party's supporters are few, even though its principles and programs are clear and distinctive. The party's only weak point is, as I have already pointed out, the meager number of the prominent names in its leadership and the small number of its supporters throughout the republic. As a result, the party has been weakened generally, even though it could have played a significant role.

You then have to head to the Socialist Labor Party. Here, you will cross a jungle of trees and grasses and paths with twisted origins and sources. The obvious characteristic of this party is that its chairman and most of its leaders belonged to the Young Egypt Party and are loyal to their leader, the late Ahmad Husayn. Considering that I am addressing my words to the youth who do not know much about the past of this party and its chairman, except for the articles published recently in the party's paper, I advise the youth to refer to history's sources and documents and to the words of their older contemporaries. The youth will find themselves perplexed if they try to evaluate the past of this party and its past and present leaders. What makes them more perplexed is that the Labor Party leaders are not confined to the followers of Ahmad Husayn and that the party opens its doors to the Nasirists and to the few remaining supporters of the old National Party, along with the abundant dust and opposition this party kicks up for reason and for no reason. What distinguishes this party is that it is one of the parties most strongly critical of and arousing confusion around the National Democratic Party, even though many of the Labor Party leaders--whose old roots go back to the Young Egypt or the old National Party--did participate in the 23 July Revolution and in the Nasirist are in particular. This is why they are a mixture from three sources. If we add their endeavor to snare some of the Islamic groups, we reach a strange mixture whose sole concern is opposition. As for principles and programs, you can look them up yourself because I have not been able, at least so far, to determine their features precisely.

Even though Fathi Radwan, one of the party's prominent leaders, is not yet a member of the party, he participates with his colleagues Ibrahim Shukri and Dr Hilmi Murad in editing AL-SHA'B newspaper and in launching heated attacks on the government and the National Party. All three leaders participated in the Nasirist rule. Despite this and even though the ruling party opens its doors to the Nasirists, these leaders are more hostile toward their old Nasirist colleagues than toward any other party. This is why I have advised you to be very careful and to find out on what basis are the bonds between this party's members founded.

You then have to go to the Grouping Party, and you will find out that it is a grouping and not a party. It is a grouping of Nasirists, Marxists, Ba'thists and some religious people. They have answered this contradiction with detailed answers. If you ask them what binds them together, you will get only one answer, namely that none of the factions in the Grouping can stand on its own feet. This is why the link exists. Add to this the fact that they are all in one camp that seeks nothing except opposition, with all the weapons available, to everything including religion, the economy, social affairs and both internal and external policies. The party's program has been announced to the people and it contains promises and hopes that please the heart and delight the eye. If you ask them about the resources to crystallize all these promises that will cost thousands of millions, you will be faced with a deep-buried secret similar to the secret of Shweppes which Hasan 'Abidin does not want to reveal.

At the party headquarters, you will find yourself compelled to listen to statements that contradict each other and you will meet people working

underground and above ground. You will find atheists reading the Ratiyah [opening verses of the Koran] and religious people who believe that Marxism is broad enough to accommodate religion. You will find Nasirists who believe in the single-party system and others who believe in the multi-party system as a tactical phase toward the monopolization of power by a single party, namely the working class party, regardless how much their program opens its bosom to national capitalism and the private sector.

The Grouping leadership includes intellectuals, men of letters, philosophers, theoreticians and former ministers. Their voices are loud and their paper contains more farce than serious substance. Their plans abound with national hopes but are totally devoid of practical solutions. If you find yourself in this maelstrom and cannot find in it a place where you can settle down, then the only thing left for you is the New Wafd.

I do not think you will be able these days to meet Muhammad Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din, the party chairman; Dr Wahid Ra'fat, its vice chairman; or Salah Abu Isma'il, the representative of the party's religious current. The effort you will have to exert to dig up the roots of this party will undoubtedly be a double effort because you will need to examine the roots of the Wafd affiliated with Sa'd Zaghlul and you will also need to examine the roots of the Muslim Brotherhood which is affiliated with Shaykh Hasan al-Banna, may God have mercy upon the souls of both men. Hundreds of books have been published about the Wafd and about the Brotherhood, some supporting and some opposing the two organizations and some--extremely rare--trying to be objective. In these few lines, I cannot offer you a key with which to open the chests of the secrets of these two old parties or of the new party that has joined them together unexpectedly. If you talk to the Wafdists alone nowadays, they tell you that they are containing the Brothers and if you talk to the Brothers, they tell you that they now are in control and forever will be in control of the newborn party.

You will find numerous young faces going and coming and if it occurs to you to ask them about the real reasons for their joining al-Wafd Party, you may hear from them varied and conflicting arguments, such as the desire for change, disavowing the 23 July Revolution in its entirety, restoring Egypt's old green flag with its three stars, the better the chances this party offers to gain a parliament seat or the dream of restoring the open-door liberalism that is prepared to reconsider all the laws issued since July 1952.

If you are a Nasirist, look for the National Democratic Party, the Grouping Party, the Labor Party or the Liberal Party. If you are a Sadatist, then you have available to you the National Democratic Party, the Liberal Party or even perhaps a place in al-Ummah Party because most of its seats are vacant. If you are a Marxist, then you only have the Grouping Party. If you are a religious man, then you have any of the six parties to choose from.

I do not believe that after this modest advice there are many with such a degree of intelligence as to define their position precisely and with a high

degree of confidence. This is the problem because these undecided people, who are far from maneuvers, cliques, groupings, relatives and from people working under or above ground, will be so absorbed in thinking of the choice that their thinking will prevent them from choosing and they will sit in coffee shops instead of heading for the ballot boxes.

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PRESS TREATMENT OF JUDICIARY ASSESSED

Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic No 390, 15 Apr 84 pp 28-29

[Article by Muhammad Najm: "Press, Judiciary and Lawsuits"]

[Text] The issue of the press treatment of judicial activity is arousing public disagreement and a legal debate. Some oppose the press treatment of the affairs of the judiciary and the judges and some support the press publication of judicial news. What is the nature of this issue, what are the reasons for the disagreement engulfing it and what is the position of the law toward all this?

Subjecting this issue to discussion is a difficult task immersed in perils because of its importance and sensitive nature, especially in the wake of the spread of the phenomenon of making comments on sentences. To start with it can be said that this is not an issue of the permissibility of impermissibility of dealing with judicial activities. The only proven facts and decided issues are birth and death. Anything else is debatable and subject to disagreement. The question thus becomes: When and how can judicial issues be published and subjected to comment? The opinions are divided between support and opposition. Some believe that the press should not comment on, or even publish, judicial activities under the pretext that those doing the commenting and the publishing do not possess the serious legal education that qualifies them to do so. Even if they do, the press is not the authority concerned. Examination of judicial issues is the jurisdiction of the courts and of the judges only. Moreover, what some journalists write about judicial affairs creates confusion and discord in public opinion because these journalists are often moved by personal motives or political considerations that steer them away from impartiality and objective opinion.

Finally, the press is not a control authority over the judicial authority in order that it may condemn or praise the judicial authority's activities. Others believe that the statement that the information media, especially the press, should be prevented from commenting on the judiciary's sentences and activities is an unsound statement conflicting with the principles of free and innocent criticism and expression. If such a ban is made for some issues on which the judiciary have not said anything for fear that their comments may influence the sentences, it contradicts at the same time the real situation in Egypt because the word of the judiciary in Egypt is influenced only by justice, right and the law.

If there is disagreement on this issue, then there is a basic legal rule which says that "there is no disagreement with the text," meaning that when there is a legal provision regulating a certain issue, then this provision must be applied immediately and without any disagreement.

Considering that the basis of government in the state is the law and that the law is no more than a number of rules agreed to by the people to regulate their affairs and to punish those who violate these rules, then the provisions of the law must be examined to find out how the law regulates the publication of reports on judicial activities and must then review the various aspects of the issue.

First, the constitution, which is the basic document, states that the judicial authority is independent and is controlled by the courts with their various types and levels which issue their sentences in accordance with the law. The constitution also states that the judges are independent and are subject to no authority other than the law and no other authority may interfere in lawsuits or in judicial affairs.

The penal code, which is the criminal law, prohibits the press from discussing investigations or trials being handled by the courts in any manner that affects the interest [integrity] of the investigation or of the trial or that affects the status of those being investigated or tried. The press is required to abide by the publication of the statements of the public prosecution and the text of the sentences and decisions on the cases during the investigation or trial, along with an adequate summary of the causes on which the sentence or decision is based in case the decision is a suspension of the case or a not-guilty decision.

The law also stipulates certain penalties for anyone who publishes things likely to influence judges entrusted with making the decision on any lawsuits being examined by any of the country's judicial authorities, judges, prosecution or other circles.

On the other hand, the constitution states that insofar as the press is concerned, it is an independent popular authority that exercises its message freely and independently to serve society with the various means of expression, to reflect the tendencies of public opinion and to contribute to forming and guiding public opinion. The constitution also states that journalists have the rights to obtain news and information in accordance with the conditions set by the law and that their activity is subject to no authority other than the law.

Moreover, freedom of expression is guaranteed and every citizen has the right to express and declare his opinion verbally, in writing, in pictures or in other forms of expression but within the bounds of the law and engage in self-criticism and constructive criticism so as to insure the soundness of the national structure.

The press code of honor has come to state that the journalist's mission is to underline the supremacy of the law and to bolster justice in whatever

investigations or trials are handled by the judiciary by reporting with impartiality toward defendants and opponents the statements, data and opinions connected with an open investigation or an ongoing trial. All this must be done without undermining the journalist's right to comment on an incident from the public viewpoint.

These are the provisions of the constitution and of the law insofar as the judicial authority and the fourth estate--the press--are concerned. How, what are the aspects of the issue?

In fact, the matter pertains to two intertwined issues, the first concerning the publication of reports on investigations and trials and the other concerning the phenomenon of making comments on judicial sentences.

Insofar as the first issue, on which the disagreement is old and has not been settled yet, is concerned, there is an opinion that says that the press is entitled to publish the public prosecution's investigation and the trial proceedings as long as the court sessions are open, considering that the papers render the reader a press service. But this should be done on the condition that the papers abide by what takes place in the investigation and trial lobbies because crime and trial reports are press material in demand by the readers, so much so that specialization in this sphere has reached the point where there are papers that publish nothing but reports of incidents and crimes.

There is also another opinion which urges that the press refrain from crime reports and that it confine itself to publishing reports of the judicial sentences because a defendant is innocent until he is proven guilty by a fair legal trial. But what happens in some cases is that the papers publish successive reports and hold imaginary trials for the defendants on their pages. This makes the public believe that the defendant will be inevitable convicted whereas this defendant may later be found not guilty. So what will the paper's position be before its readers and who will compensate the defendant for the moral damage inflicted on him as a result of exaggerated reporting, not to mention the impact of this exaggerated reporting on shaking confidence in the judicial sentences?

In any case, the disagreement is present and the papers continue to publish. The law has regulated this process, beginning with the public prosecutor's right to ban altogether the publication of certain cases and ending with the requirement that the papers refrain from publishing any reports that may influence the judiciary or the defendants involved in the cases. Moreover, the press law and the press code of honor demand that when publishing reports concerning investigations or trials, an editor must rise above bias for or against defendants or a litigant. Rather, the law provides a stiff penalty for anyone who violates this requirement or publishes reports conflicting with the truth.

From a position of practical experience, we can assert that what the press is doing insofar as these issues are concerned is mere press coverage and that

in most cases, the journalist gets his information and data from people in charge of the investigation or trial and publishes reports obtained from their legitimate sources. At times, the investigation or trial authorities themselves request the publication of certain statements or hold press conferences on some issues.

It is regrettable that we do not have the "investigative reporter" who uncovers wrongdoing, gathers evidence, publishes this evidence and presents the defendants to the courts. What we have is the "press correspondent" who publishes whatever statements he is given and whatever information he obtains from the sources he frequents.

What is being said about the papers expanding in the publication of reports on trial cases in a manner that harms the position of the defendants is incompatible with the truth. Why? Because there are some cases of a special kind by virtue of the defendants' personality or of the sensitivity of the issues involved. Such cases provide ample publication material that forces the reporter to follow up on its details so that he may perform his duty toward the reader who is interested in this kind of case.

The best proof of what we are saying is the case of 'Ismat al-Sadat. Because it was a public issue, the papers continued to publish the socialist public prosecutor's statements and whatever reports the prosecutor's office permitted to be published. We can state emphatically that whatever was published on that case was published with the permission of the public prosecutor's office or to cover the trial sessions.

The other case is the one concerning the importation of iron from abroad. The papers have been faulted for reporting extensively on this case, especially since the trial of the defendants involved ended with a not-guilty sentence. We wonder: Were the papers the authority investigating the case or were they just reporting news of the investigations? When the not-guilty sentence was issued, was it the press that pointed out that the defendants' counsel was the brother of the president of the court which examined the case or was it the public prosecution which included this information in its appeal of the sentence, with the papers obtaining the contestation report and publishing it for the benefit of their readers?

Finally, the law empowers the judge, in order that he may maintain public order or public morals, to prohibit the publication of court trials or sentences. If the courts impose such a ban, the papers will refrain from publication. We wish the courts would do so.

As we have already pointed out, publication of the prosecution investigations and of the court litigation is still a disputed subject on which viewpoints vary. What is new and what constitutes the crux of the issue we are discussing is the widespread phenomenon of commenting on judicial sentences.

When did this phenomenon first emerge? It started when the Criminal Court absolved Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Sulayman, an ex-president of 'Ayn Shams University,

who had been previously convicted by the Court of Ethics for the same evidence. Some people wrote articles criticizing the sentence of the Court of Ethics and wondering about how creditable this court's sentences were.

The phenomenon emerged again when the Court of Ethics convicted ex-ministers 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'abd-al-Majid and Hilmi 'Abd-al-Akhir and then referred the crimes and the defendants to the public prosecutor which ended by suspending the case and filing it as an administrative complaint. The press noted the sentence of the Court of Ethics, pointing out that in criminal issues, sentences must be based on certainty and apodictic judgment, not on guessing and conjecture. Lawyer Dr Hilmi Murad published a lengthy article in AL-AHRAR in the form of a complaint to the president of the republic against Counselor Salah al-Rashidi, an ex-public prosecutor, accusing him of violating the duties of his position. Dr Murad also discussed and objected to the prosecution's decision. Thus, the phenomenon is a new one which emerged with the creation of the Court of Ethics. Now, what are the dimensions of this phenomenon?

In commenting on the sentences, some papers cite as a justification the constitutional provision stating that "the people contribute to the establishment of justice." Even though the context defined this as done in the manner and within the bounds specified by the law, some people use this provision as a pretext to discuss the prosecutor's decisions and to comment on the sentences of the courts. What is meant by the provision is that the citizens contribute to establishing justice by observing the law and following the procedures it prescribes for litigating, for attending trials, for testifying and for reporting on crimes and not concealing criminals.

What has encouraged some people to misinterpret this constitutional provision is that the law of shame, which set up the Court of Ethics, relied on this provision to include public figures in the membership of the court. However, is it permissible to comment on sentences issued by the judiciary? With reservation, we can answer this question negatively. Why?

First, because the Egyptian judicial system adopts the principle of the multiple degrees of litigation, beginning with the lower courts and ending with the Court of Appeals and Court of Cassation and even with appeals to the president of the republic. Moreover, every citizen is entitled to sue directly before any court in accordance with the law.

The judge has all the judicial guarantees to examine cases with complete impartiality, and the cases are judged by extremely capable people. The defendant is also entitled to express, either personally or through his defense counsel, anything he wishes in his own defense. If a decision is issued against him, he is entitled to contest or appeal it. Therefore, there is no place for transporting the details of cases to the pages of the newspapers and magazines.

However, the above applies only to the ordinary judiciary, i.e., the ordinary non-appellate judiciary or the specially formed judiciary. The ordinary

judiciary is the judiciary consisting of the lower, criminal, civilian and administrative courts. In this judiciary, sentences on lawsuits or cases presented are issued by skilled and specialized judges. These judges and their courts are the only original authority with the jurisdiction. This is stipulated by the law and the constitution.

But in the Court of Ethics, the matter is different. We believe that it is permissible to comment on the sentences of this court. What happened in some previous cases is not far away. In the ordinary and normal courts, charges are based on proven evidence and serious investigation, aided by modern scientific methods to verify the certainty of the charges.

But in the Court of Ethics its judgment is based on the mere presence of evidence or suspicion that a person has committed so-called "acts of shame" said to pose a threat to the country's political and economic life. They are not crimes. The defendant is interrogated for his political, not criminal acts. In case he is found guilty, some measure is taken against him, but not a criminal penalty.

As one specialist has put it, the Court of Ethics is an "administrative committee" with judicial power. In stating the reasons for the sentence it issued in the case of 'Ismat al-Sadat, the court described itself as a court with popular membership and a political character!!

Thus, politics has become involved with the judiciary and it is always said that politics and justice are antithetical and do not mix. If politics enters through the door, justice departs through the window!

Having the people participate in establishing justice through inclusion of public figures in the membership of courts is a misinterpretation because the emotions and movements of public figures are often influenced by political motives or personal positions, in contrast to the specialized judiciary.

For the above-mentioned reasons, we believe that the papers are entitled to comment on the sentences issued by the Court of Ethics, regardless of the statement that this court consists of two levels and that who is done an injustice in the first level can appeal to the second level, considering that the Higher Court of Ethics is also formed in the same manner as the Lower Court of Ethics. Moreover, its judgment is also based on the mere presence of evidence that the defendant has committed certain acts. There is no difference between the first and the second court. To sum up, the papers are entitled to publish the prosecution's investigations and what goes on in the court lobbies, provided that their reporters adhere to conveying a true picture of what takes place in these investigations and these lobbies.

We also believe that the papers should refrain from making comments on the sentences of the ordinary courts in which justice is dispensed by skilled specialized judges, considering that their sentences are "titles of the truth."

We further believe that the press should perform its message of guiding public opinion and trying to clarify the truth by discussing and commenting on the sentences of the Court of Ethics. And God knows best.

CANDIDATES FOR DOCTORS UNION POST COMMENT ON ISSUES

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 19, 26 Mar 84

[Article: "Young Doctors are the 'Card' in Elder Doctors' Election"]

[No 2910, 19 Mar 84 p 19]

[Text] People are surprised if they hear that doctors have problems, concerns, and diseases. People do not believe that there is a doctor in Egypt whose fee just to "walk in the door" is less than 10 pounds. Despite everything the young doctors say about the "old" doctors treating them unjustly, the people still do not believe it.

For the 13 April elections, in which 11 senior doctors are competing to win the post of union chairman, the issues of the "young" doctors in each platform are main selling points.

The doctors competing, in alphabetical order, are Dr Ahmad Amin al-Jamal, Dr Usamah 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Dr Hasan Hamdi, Dr Husayn al-Ahmadi, Dr 'Abbas Zaki Thabit, Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Atif, Dr Fayiz 'Abduh, Dr Muhammad Shahatah, Dr Muhammad Sidqi, Dr Mamduh Jabr, and Dr Yahya Tahir.

Doctors note that this year there are differences in the qualifications of the candidates and their levels of education. Most of the candidates are well-known luminaries and some of them have histories of national, public and union activities. Some have occupied senior leadership posts at universities, in the ministry, and in health organizations.

All of this is reflected in the atmosphere surrounding the battle, which has taken on a heated quality that has made it difficult to predict who will win the chairmanship.

In addition, campaign advertising is different from one candidate to the next. Some have used scientific conferences and medical symposiums to advertise their platforms, whereas others have printed and distributed brochures. It has sufficed some to hold private meetings and gatherings, relying on the high level of awareness among doctors.

We will begin with Dr Mamduh Jabr, the former minister of health, and ask him why there is such a crowd running for the post of chairman. He says, "The large number of candidates for the various union posts is a healthy phenomenon, and this is attributable to the democratic atmosphere prevalent in Egypt and the importance of union responsibilities in the upcoming phase. At the same time, this reflects the current freedoms available to hold proper elections."

Meanwhile, Dr Usamah 'Abd-al-'Aziz attributes the enthusiasm over the elections to the problems doctors are suffering from. These problems have worsened recently and some are nearly impossible to remedy, such as the problem of compensation for medical treatment, the decreasing salaries and material rewards, the lack of opportunities to specialize, and the absence of health care for doctors and their families.

Programs...Demands

By way of contrast, while problems were the first priority in the pharmacists election, demands and benefits have occupied the first place in the doctors elections.

Whereas taxes were foremost in the platforms of the pharmacists, the problem of treatment for doctors has topped the platforms of the doctors.

The issue of the rising costs of private medical treatment, which currently dominates public opinion, does not enjoy the slightest concern from the candidates. In fact, their programs do not include any mention of it. Concerns focus on private interests and demands and calls for increased benefits for doctors. Despite the different motives of the candidates, their campaign platforms are similar.

Dr Mamduh Jabr, professor of pediatrics at Qasr al-'Ayni College of Medicine, says, "I announced my candidacy for the post of chairman because, through my work at the university and in the Ministry of Health, I have noticed the growth of both professional and social problems, especially for young doctors. My experience in public work has given me an idea of the possibility of participating in raising the level of doctors and the honor of the profession. I have also established a number of contacts in official circles. In addition, my current job allows me sufficient time for union work. Union work is an extension of public work and service to society because it serves the medical profession. Medicine is basically a profession that serves society. I will work to find a job for every doctor who wants to work unrestrained, within existing limits. I will also work to develop educational programs to facilitate the acquisition of non-clinical specializations without complications in order to meet the need for various specializations in the medical profession, and to raise the level of doctors.

Compensation

The problem of compensation is highlighted in the platform of Dr Usamah 'Abd-al-'Aziz, professor of coronary medicine at Tanta Medical College, acute care advisor to al-'Ajuzah and Shubra Wish hospitals, and health insurance advisor, and member of the management council of the Egyptian Heart Society. He considers higher compensation to be a general demand of doctors, especially the young ones.

He says, "The motive behind my candidacy for the chairmanship is my sensitivity, through my work as a member of the union for 4 years and then secretary general of the union for 2 years, to the problems of doctors. I will work to solve these problems. A doctor must be treated like any employee in the country, in accordance with the hours and overtime that he works, just like a nurse or a factory worker. The doctor works 24 hours and is on call 24 hours, especially those in specializations that hospitals need.

"The deputy and assistant specialists, and the doctors in rural hospitals... the country needs their services as does the citizen. Their pay must be calculated on the basis of their devotion, and the clinic's income must be distributed among all the doctors and should represent 100 percent of their salaries. This would encourage them to work hard. In addition, the fees for treatment should be fixed so that the salaries of hard-working, diligent doctors can be raised to afford them a respectable living. All doctors should have the opportunity to specialize without preconditions and university classes should be available to them. Each year about 2,000 doctors, or 50 percent, are denied the opportunity to pursue a specialization."

Dr Usamah 'Abd-al-'Aziz adds, "Also, the doctor's needs for treatment must be provided for. Recently, through my work in the union, we announced a society for the treatment of doctors, but despite my efforts to pursue it, it was canceled. I have announced my candidacy specifically to defend and revive this project.

"The society will build hospitals and clinics to employ the greatest number of doctors possible. The public can participate in these hospitals as long as they have special medical insurance. This is the system used in Germany and England."

Tax Problem

Dr Muhammad Shahatah, vice chairman of the Public Authority for Health Insurance and chairman of the General Medicine Department at the Suez Canal College of Medicine, says, "I will work to implement a new wage system that solves the tax problem plaguing doctors. The system would limit what doctors would pay in a way that is fair to both the tax system and the doctor. This would be done on the basis of the time elapsed since graduation, the degrees earned, the number of hours and place of work, and the number of cases and operations.

"I also hope to raise the material and social level of the doctor. I consider this the main idea in my program. I will do this by raising the level of health services through the implementation of several insurance schemes--some comprehensive, some not comprehensive--in which the level of service is confined to the hospital or the specialist, depending on what the citizen wants.

"At the same time, this would bring doctors higher salaries--reaching 500 to 1,000 pounds per month--without being a burden on the state or the citizen. I would also like to establish a cooperative housing company in which the Federation of Medical Professions and the Doctors Union would participate in building residential units and clinics. The houses would be distributed to doctors, especially the young ones with less than 10 years of practice, for monthly installment payments. The participants in the company would share the profits. In addition, I would like to establish a tourism cooperative that would offer its services to doctors at attractive prices. I would raise pensions by establishing a strong apparatus for collecting proceeds from the Federation of Medical Professions."

Pension Problem

Dr Amin al-Jamal, the first deputy minister of health and former chairman of the Ciaro Doctors, says, "The motive for my candidacy goes back to my familiarity with the problems of the vast majority of doctors and their true situation. The fact is that the doctor is not usually the great specialist or the university professor who has a large income from his professional practice. He is usually fighting epidemics and contagious diseases in silence. He suffers from a low income and a lack of employment benefits.

"The crucial factor is finding practical solutions for problems and ways to implement such solutions. We must avoid excesses and flashy solutions that are impractical. The solution to doctors' problems can be summarized as follows. A sufficient income must be provided to the growing doctor so that he can meet the demands of life. Opportunities must be made available for higher education. Health care must be provided for doctors and their families in all governorates. The doctor can contract with hospitals of his choice. The Federation of Medical Professions and the union would pay 75 percent of the health care costs. Pensions paid to doctors on retirement or in the case of incapacitation, or paid to their families in the case of death, should be reviewed and made to be commensurate with the revenues of the Federation of Medical Professions."

Health Care Problems

Dr Yahya Tahir, neurology professor, former dean of the Qasr al-'Ayni College of Medicine, and deputy chairman of the General Doctors Union, centers his program around the issue of health care for doctors since it is a common complaint and a demand made by all doctors. He says, "There is no health care plan for doctors and their families as there are in other unions. For this reason I established the society for the treatment of doctors

and their families, which will begin work immediately if I am elected chairman. It will work independently to implement a health care plan for doctors and their families and to build a private hospital for them. In addition, it will study the problem of advanced education in order to find a way for all young doctors to have access to further education."

The file of problems and solutions remains open until next week.

[No 2911, 26 Mar 84 pp 18, 60, 61]

[Text] This week ROSE AL-YUSUF continues presenting the programs of senior doctors who are candidates for the chairmanship of the union and membership in its council.

Last week, the young doctors "card" was the most important in the race. We wonder, what are the other cards?

Dr 'Abbas Zaki Thabit, retired doctor, secretary general of the Egyptian Society of Intestinal Surgery, and former deputy director of medical services for the armed forces, claimed that it is necessary to provide doctors and their families medical treatment. He said that he had conducted a study and would implement the results.

He called for strengthening the ties between doctors and the union--ties that only appear during election time. He called for raising the qualifications of the general practitioner, who is truly considered the nerve center for treatment in the various hospitals, and urging experienced doctors to work in the governorates. He also called for finding uniform methods of treatment and opportunities to lend doctors to Arab and African states, opportunities which would be distributed by the union.

Cadre of Judges to be Formed

Dr Fayiz 'Abd-al-Salam says, "The reason for my candidacy for the chairmanship is that I am better than others in representing the hard-working doctors or the young doctors who work much and profit little. The time has come for the chairman to be one of them, to represent them, and to defend their interests."

"I will work to solve their problems, provide them [the opportunity] to study for their master's degree, and provide them with housing and automobiles at moderate prices and with monthly installment plans. I will sell them plots of land now owned by the federation and worth no less than 8 million pounds. I will build a profit-making hospital to treat them and their families. I will organize travel abroad so that the value of the Egyptian doctor is not diminished in the international market. Ownership of hospitals and private clinics will revert to the doctors and promotions to the level of department chief will be available to industrial doctors. A cadre of judges will be formed from doctors now working in forensic medicine."

Illegal Committee

Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Atif, general manager of medical administration in al-Shurbaji Company, began discussing his program by denouncing the union's election methods. He demanded that violations not be ignored and that those who had not paid their 1983 dues not be permitted to vote. He stated that it was necessary that organized records be kept in the branches as is done in Cairo, and that ballot boxes sealed with red wax be sent to Cairo to be examined in the presence of the candidates.

He also demanded that election day for members be different from election day for the chairman. He said that it was necessary to change the elections committee, which he described as illegal because its president and most of its members were from the Social Security Administration as are some of the candidates. He demanded the closure of all clinics that are attached to mosques and that are built with society donations because these clinics sap the blood of doctors, who only receive 30 percent [of the proceeds] while the societies receive the rest. In addition, they appoint recently graduated doctors and this detracts from their time to study a specialization. He said, "Personally, I did not go to work until I had received three degrees which were the equivalent of three master's degrees in intestinal diseases, industrial medicine, and heart diseases respectively. The doctor's degrees should be conspicuously displayed and he should be adequately qualified."

Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz added, "The union has not offered anything to doctors but it has received money from them by applying different kinds of pressure. I will work to provide them with apartments and clinics with convenient installment plans, and I will build a club and a hospital where they and their families can receive treatment."

Dr Husayn al-Ahmadi, a retired doctor, says, "The reason for my candidacy is that I feel that I have sufficient time to work to solve the problems of my doctor colleagues and sons. I will work to raise the standard of medical education, as did the late professor Dr al-Mufti, and I will support preventive medicine and combat smoking. I propose a 10 centime increase in the price of a pack of cigarettes that would go to the Ministry of Health to subsidize medicine and health clinics. I would form a consultative council of former chairmen who could share their experience in union work. I would increase the union's revenues by increasing dues for those who have been members for 15 years. I would also increase pensions and make higher education more widely available."

Dr Muhammad Sidqi, who is in retirement, says, "Doctors suffer from a low level of income, education, and treatment. This is what has prompted me to run for the chairmanship. There are 20,000 doctors living below the poverty level--10,000 of them don't even own a suit. Their income must be raised and their standard of living improved. Gradual changes must be implemented, the nature of their work must be changed, they must be given the opportunity to specialize without restrictions or conditions, and they and their families must be provided medical care."

Should the chairman be given executive and legislative powers? The candidates opinions differed.

Dr Usamah 'Abd-al-'Aziz says, "The chairman cannot simultaneously have executive and legislative powers. For this reason we have demanded that the union law be amended and that there be a separation of the chairman's union work and his leadership jobs in the medical profession."

Dr Muhammad Shahatah says, "The chairman must not be restricted by employment duties. If I become chairman, I will work hard to eliminate the duties of government employment."

Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Atif says, "This should not be permitted. Law number 73 for 1973 concerning the representation of workers in the management councils of companies corrected this. An article of that law stipulates that senior managers and those entrusted with signing the paychecks of workers cannot be candidates. It is not permissible to hold both executive powers and disciplinary powers."

Dr Mamduh Jabir says, "The chairman must be freed from his government duties."

Dr Amin al-Jamal says, "I have no objection to the chairman having both powers. Under the law, the union has the power to discipline doctors, not the chairman."

Dr Yahya Tahir says, "The chairman has executive powers. The union council sends him resolutions and he has various committees, including the disciplinary committee headed by the vice chairman."

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DEVELOPMENT OF SAHARAN PROVINCES REVIEWED

Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA in French 28 Feb 84 pp 3-7

[Article by Abderrahmane Chahbi]

[Excerpt] Laayoune--A Region With Vast Potential

"The Moroccan is the heir to history," His Majesty Hassan II said.

It is a fact that only education, training, instruction and thus the gaining of awareness make profound understanding possible.

In fact, as the great expert in the humanities, Roger Mucchiclli, said, "Each adult's picture of the universe is the result of his childhood and his adolescence. And what is called his personality is but the interaction of institutional factors and reactional conduct dating back to certain stages in his distant past."

Aware of the importance of this crucial phase, childhood, immediately after the liberation of Sakiat El Hamra, the Moroccan officials dispatched a major delegation to study the real needs of the people in education, as well as the means to be put to use to meet them. The task was a sizeable one, since the overwhelming majority of the young people were illiterate, for several reasons.

--First of all, parents rejected colonial education for their children for cultural and religious reasons. They vastly preferred the native education system.

--Also, the children of the region did not feel entirely comfortable in the colonial schools, because the education they received in no way corresponded with their aspirations. Worse still, it was in flagrant conflict with their deep convictions.

--Lastly and most important, there were few who were selected among them. In fact, to qualify, it was necessary to meet criteria which had nothing to do with education.

On the other hand, the infrastructures left behind by the colonials really left much to be desired. As a result, as soon as the region was liberated, a great effort was needed to speak to the real needs of the young people of the region.

In the infrastructure sector, it was necessary to develop certain premises, to equip them, and to provide them with competent teachers and administrative personnel.

Through the Ministry of National Education, the state had to undertake the planned construction.

Thus, the following were built in 1977:

- the military zone school: 20 classrooms.
- the Ird Tafal School: 20 classrooms.
- the ONEP [National Drinking Water Office] School: 10 classrooms.
- the Hay Ramla School: 20 classrooms.
- the headquarters of the regional office and the housing for its head, at a cost of 8,300,000 dirhams.

In 1978, the following were built:

- the Hassan II Secondary School: 30 classrooms, with a six-room scientific wing, an administrative wing, a 240-bed boarding facility and five housing units for administrative personnel. The total cost for this establishment was 16,812,329.99 dirhams.

In 1980, the following were built:

- the Souk Lamkhakh School: 10 classrooms.
- the La Plage School: five classrooms.
- the Daoura School: five classrooms.

In 1981, the following were built:

- Polco School: 10 classrooms.
- Colomina School: 10 classrooms.
- Laayoune Plage School expansion: three classrooms.

Only 630 young people enrolled in secondary schools were allowed to continue their studies with the Spanish Cultural Mission. But as soon as the region was liberated, young people hastened to enroll, filling the school benches and happy to learn their own language.

Thus in 1976-77, there were 3,061 students, including 831 girls.

In 1977-78, there were 3,739 students, including 1,124 girls.

In 1978-79, there were 5,573 students, including 1,699 girls.

In 1979-80, there were 6,269 students, including 2,164 girls.

In 1980-81, there were 7,712 students, including 2,939 girls.

In 1981-82, there were 9,225 students, including 3,770 girls.

In 1983-84, there were 11,733 students, including 5,214 girls.

In secondary schools, there were:

In 1977-78: 56 students, including 18 girls.

In 1978-79: 138 students, including 37 girls.

In 1979-80: 237 students, including 62 girls.

In 1980-81: 524 students, including 117 girls.

In 1981-82: 1,258 students, including 324 girls.

In 1982-83: 1,803 students, including 543 girls.

In 1983-84: 2,842 students, including 861 girls.

With regard to cadre training, a teacher training institute was established in September of 1979.

Thus, the following were trained:

In 1979-80: 28 teachers.

In 1980-81: 40 teachers.

In 1981-82: 57 teachers.

In 1982-83: 47 teachers.

Currently, the center has 47 students in teacher training who are pursuing their studies in Arabic and French.

Vocational Training

There is a proverb which says: "If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. But if you teach him to fish, you feed him for life."

In fact, in order to live in honor and dignity, a man needs a vocation or profession.

In this connection, as soon as Sakiat El Hamra was liberated and returned to the motherland, the Vocational Training and Labor Advancement Office inaugurated a center in Laayoune for training in three sectors:

1. Construction sector--masonry, carpentry and plumbing sections.
2. Industrial sector--steel work-welding, engine mechanics and basic electrical sections.

3. Secretarial sector--typewriting section.

After 1976, all those deprived and prevented from pursuing their studies by colonialism turned to the center, where they were able to obtain scholarships while learning a vocation they themselves had chosen.

Thus in 1976, the center accepted 98 apprentices.

In 1977, it accepted 127; in 1978, 110; in 1979, 78; in 1980, 113; in 1981, 156; and in 1982, 248.

Moreover, within the continuing education program, night courses are provided for the citizens who are already engaged in active work.

Last year, 306 workers benefitted from this opportunity.

Currently 202 young people are learning various vocations in this establishment.

Equipping the Saharan Provinces

The Saharan provinces had an infrastructure in a very mediocre state of development when they were returned to the motherland in 1976.

The activities of the Ministry of Equipment were initially oriented toward meeting the most urgent needs for roads, ports and drinking water, and then to develop infrastructures and effect their integration in order to promote the economic upsurge of the southern part of the country.

Thus very quickly, a paved road link with Laayoune was provided. The road network in the southern region is continuing to develop, toward the double goal of serving the Saharan provinces and completing the North-South axis which is a part of the liaison project leading through the Strait of Gibraltar.

The African part of this axis leads from Tangiers to Lagos, through Nouakshott, Dakar and Abidjan. Within this framework, the construction of the Tan-Tan-Smara road is currently continuing.

Beyond Smara, and as far as the Moroccan-Mauritanian frontier, the layout study has been done and the work is planned for the near future. The building of the roads in the Saharan provinces was the occasion of innovations on the technical level and the adaptation of techniques to the special conditions in these regions.

The role of the road network is supplemented by the port infrastructure established or in the process of being completed.

The creation and development of ports in the Saharan provinces comes within the plan to establish ports and protected areas for fishing, coastal and pleasure craft along the Tangiers-Lagouira route: one site about every 100 or 200 kilometers.

These ports are also intended to channel industrial activity toward the southern provinces and to lead to the establishment of a major fishing fleet as well as the creation of related industries for canning or processing fish byproducts.

The road and port infrastructures have made the development of urban centers possible. Intensive prospective and drilling campaigns have been undertaken to meet their drinking water needs. This work has made it possible to serve almost all of the centers which experienced a chronic lack of water at the time when the Saharan provinces were recovered.

We can give an overall assessment of these three axes and sectors: roads, ports and water resources.

It is nonetheless important to note that although the overall investment made to date in the provinces comes to a total of 345 million dirhams, this effort does in fact fall far short of the medium-term goals established for these regions. It is in order to prepare for future investments that the sponsoring department is pursuing the study programs planned within the current five-year plan. Above all, for the future five-year plan, it expects to cover more than 1,800 additional kilometers with a study with a view to completing the road equipment of the Saharan provinces.

These general considerations, which are but an outline of the efforts made or planned by the Ministry of Equipment in the roads sector, are only a part of the vast program of activities being pursued or planned for the general transportation infrastructure in these provinces.

The Infrastructures

The Saharan and South Saharan network inherited from the colonial days could not serve as the basis for the economic infrastructure with which the Moroccan state wanted to provide these provinces.

As of the dawn of the liberation era for the region, the Ministry of Equipment undertook a vast program of road construction covering the entire extent of the Saharan network and its standardization and modernization, including:

1. Linking the southern provinces with the Souss Plain following the development of the North-South axis formed by Primary Road 41.
2. Providing North-West, South-East and West-East links in the Saharan provinces, to make possible the essential trade between the coast and the continental areas of these provinces.

We will examine the development effected with a view to these two goals.

Primary Road 41 has its original kilometer point in Bouizakaren and it ends at the Moroccan-Mauritanian frontier, passing through Guelmim, Tan-Tan, Tarfaya, Laayoune, Boujdour, Dakhla and Lagouira.

The first goal set for this axis was to make it a first-class road (6 meters wide) within the national classification, as far as Dakhla.

This goal has now been almost achieved over a length of 4,000 kilometers, with an investment totaling 130 million dirhams.

South-East axes:

Providing access to these regions obviously involves road links between the coastal zones and the Saharan regions. The zones to the south of the Anti-Atlas located farther to the north can more advantageously be linked with the Souss Plain.

Major projects are currently under way to provide links with these regions. In this connection we might mention:

--Primary Road 44 between Tan-Tan and Smara, 220 kilometers long, with a planned investment of about 65 million dirhams; and

--Secondary Road 904 between Guelmim and Mahbes, which passes through Assa and Zag, 230 kilometers, costing a total of 55 million dirhams.

The East-West axes: In this connection, two routes seem to have special priority. They are Primary Road 42 between Laayoune and Smara and CT 7085 between Bouizakaren and Tata. This latter road has already been built and provides the only current access to the province of Tata. It is 200 kilometers long and the cost was 74 million dirhams.

In addition, studies for the modernization of the link between Laayoune and Smara have been undertaken. Work has already been begun on 15 kilometers of road near Laayoune costing 5 million dirhams. The balance of the route is currently entirely usable.

Port Installations

The port infrastructures which are of capital importance to any country working toward a modern economy have an essential role to play in the development of the Saharan regions, where they will make possible:

--the establishment of centers for economic development within the framework of the territorial improvements, thus attracting and eventually settling population groups; and

--better utilization of the fishing reserves in the region that is very fortunate in this sector, and as a result creating numerous jobs, most of them related to fishing activity, but including coastal shipping as well.

The Port of Laayoune

In a first phase, currently under construction, a main dike 850 kilometers long and a strengthening dike 235 meters long will be completed.

Safeguarded by these protective works, 755 meters of wharf at -6 and -7 hydro, as well as an inclined track for the towing of vessels, will be built.

In the longer range, the transverse jetty and the jetty to protect the earth embankment extending into the sea will be built.

The cost of the work in progress is estimated at 250 million dirhams, and the corresponding credit has been allocated under the 1980 to 1984 Finance Laws.

The port of Laayoune, thus equipped, is expected to handle 100,000 tons of fish per year and 300,000 tons of miscellaneous goods in coastal shipping.

The port of Tarfaya, for its part, was created by a main dike 1,140 meters long and a strengthening dike 270 meters long.

Within the sheltered basin thus established, a -6 wharf and an earth embankment of 8 hectares were built. The work in this first phase cost 172 million dirhams, and these expenditures were distributed over the years 1978 to 1981.

The installations in use make it possible to meet the needs. Trade activity involved the handling of nearly 3,000 tons in 1980 and 1981. Fishing activity has also developed. The superstructure projects are currently under way. A second phase of the work will be planned later, based on the volume of the traffic handled. In a subsequent phase, the port of Tarfaya will be equipped to handle 100,000 tons of fish per year and 200,000 tons of coastal shipping per year.

Drinking Water Supply

I. Knowledge of Water Resources

The Saharan provinces lie between the latitudes of 21°20' and 27°50'. Their climate is characterized by extreme aridity, since the average annual rainfall does not exceed 100 millimeters, and the average annual temperature is relatively high (20.2°C in Dakhla, and 20.4° in Laayoune).

No wadi is the source of any regular flow. Only the Sakiat El Hamra Wadi and those leading into it occasionally have a flow of water following heavy rains, every 6 or 7 years.

From the geological point of view, the Saharan provinces are a part of two distinct areas:

In the East and the Southeast, there is an area of crystalline soil with its primary Precambrian sedimentary cover. This area represents the northern end of the African shield. It includes no aquifer of any great extent. Numerous water layers of limited extent lie in the fissured and weathered areas of the rocks in the substratum and its cover.

The potable water potential here is very limited, barely sufficing to meet the need for drinking water. The water is generally of a chemically acceptable quality.

Secondly, the Laayoune-Dakhla sedimentary basin is made up of a Secondary and Tertiary fill (Cretaceous, Pleiocene, Eocene, covering several superimposed aquiferous levels attributed to the Lower Cretaceous and to Tertiary and Quaternary formations).

The Lower Cretaceous layer is the most important, based on its water potential and its quality. Its depth increases from the South to the North and from the East to the West (400 to 500 meters in Dakhla, 150 meters in Aguerguer, 50 meters in Bir Anzarane, 1,000 meters in Jerraffia, 800 meters in Boucraa and 1,100 meters in Laayoune).

The water prospecting efforts in the Saharan provinces began in 1976, on the basis of skimpy documentation inherited from the colonial era. The work was oriented toward obtaining underground water to satisfy the consumption needs of the population of major centers.

In connection therefore with the supplying of the town of Laayoune, a study involving electrical and other drilling and wells led to the discovery of a phreatic layer of good chemical quality in the Quaternary formations of Foum-El Ouad, fed by the floodwaters of the Saguia El Hamra Wadi. Its potential was estimated at 45 l/s, of which 31 l/s is currently being exploited to supply Laayoune with water and to irrigate Foum Eloued.

In Laayoune itself, the potential of the two left- and right-bank collection fields were discovered and assessed at 50 l/s for each. The water is relatively salty (3.5 to 7 g/l).

In all, 20 wells and 48 prospecting and operational drillings were carried out within the context of supplying the town of Laayoune with potable water, producing 200 l/s, of which 45 l/s was sweet water, the balance having a relatively high salt content, thus additionally needing demineralization, as is the case with the drilling at the port of Laayoune.

II. Potable Water Supply

The province of Laayoune has two different qualities of water.

--Brackish water in the periphery of the town, and

--Sweet water, in the Foum-Elouad region.

A) The brackish water. To supplement the 17 drillings along the left bank of the Sakiat El Hamra (carried out by the Spanish administration), the condition of which left much to be desired, the water resources division drilled four wells of an average depth of 50 meters, with a total yield of 54 l/d.

Since the water column in the wells is relatively weak, their rational use requires a deepening operation. The usable debit following this operation will be about 80 l/s.

A fifth well is being drilled to replace one located in the Baracimentaro section. The total usable debit is about 130 l/s, which should be able to meet the needs of the town of Laayoune for brackish water until about 1990.

On the other hand, the water resources division has also drilled six wells about four kilometers to the northeast of the town of Laayoune, with a view to providing the town with the necessary support in the medium and long range. The total yield of these wells is about 43 l/s.

B) The sweet water. The supply of the town of Laayoune with sweet water currently comes from the phreatic mantle in Foum-Elouad located 17 kilometers away. This water is transported by tank trucks which travel back and forth between the pumping station and the neighborhoods to be supplied. The Foum-Elouad supply system put into service in April 1981 provides a flow of 21 l/s which will cover the needs of the town until 1985.

The distribution of this water is carried out by tank trucks from the 800-cubic-meter reservoir located in the town. The volume distributed daily is currently about 1,000 cubic meters.

III. Achievements

The main aspects of the effort made by the ONAP in this town are seen in:

1. The completion of a system carrying 20 l/s of sweet water from the three Foum-Elouad wells involved the following:

--the electrical and hydromechanical equipping of three pumping stations and one relay station;

--the laying of 20 kilometers of 150 and 250-meter diameter pipe; and

--repair of the 800-cubic-meter reservoir in the town of Laayoune.

The overall cost of this project was 5,750,000 dirhams.

2. The development and equipping of the briny water resources located on the left bank of the Sakiat El Hamra. The total cost of these operations was 1,300,000 dirhams.

3. The main distribution network for the town of Laayoune. This required the laying of 15.8 kilometers of pipe of diameters ranging between 100 and 400 millimeters. The cost was 3,780,000 dirhams.

4. The secondary and titular network. It has a length of 30 kilometers of pipe with diameter varying between 60 and 150 millimeters. The cost totals about 10,400,000 dirhams. It should be noted that this operation includes

completing branch pipes for 5,000 customers, of which 350 have already been completed.

5. Extension of the network to the Khat Ramla and Moulay Rachid neighborhoods. Total cost 6 million dirhams. In general, the distribution network for the town of Laayoune required an investment of about 20,180,000 dirhams.

6. The establishment of a 75 cubic meter-per-day desalinization unit, to serve the locality of Laayoune-Plage, at an estimated cost of 2,500,000 dirhams.

The total cost of these projects comes to 29,730,000 dirhams.

As to the town of Tarfaya, it has three wells and a drilling with a total debit of 7 l/s.

One well and one drillhole are equipped with motor pumps to provide a debit of 3 l/s which goes into a 250-cubic-meter raised tank, from which the people are supplied by means of excellent fountain.

The town's sweet water supply is provided by a 75 cubic meter-per-day desalinization unit.

The town also has three well desalinization units with a capacity of 8 cubic meters per day each for emergencies. The total for these projects comes to 3,200,000 dirhams.

The total amount for the projects in the province of Laayoune has now reached 32,980,000 dirhams.

The allocations planned for the next five-year plan come to 24 million dirhams.

Public Health

In this realm, the battle began immediately following the liberation of the region, for the situation inherited from the colonial era was of the most critical sort. Illnesses of all sorts ravaged the people, who refused to accept the care of the colonials and above all, nonbelievers. There was no infrastructure worthy of the name. Local cadres lacked any real competence. They were simply agents carrying out orders. But since that time the Ministry of Public Health has made unceasing efforts with a view to correcting this deplorable situation, and a real hospital was established and put into use. In addition to a perfectly up-to-date medical staff, it has among other things:

- a pediatric department;
- a rehabilitation department;
- a male medical care department;
- a female medical care department;
- a surgical department; and
- an operating wing.

Everywhere health centers and dispensaries were built to provide care to the citizens. Consultations and certain types of care and medicines are provided free.

Consistent with the higher directives of the king, the Ministry of Health is in the process of building a magnificent hospital in Laayoune. This is certainly one of the greatest achievements in the sector in this region. Covering an area of 22,400 square meters, it will have cost the state 23,392,254.05 dirhams. It includes the following departments:

--Pediatric, male medical care, female medical care and maternity departments, an operating wing and a surgical department.

The capacity of this establishment is 274 beds, distributed as follows:

--Surgery--59
--Maternity--65
--Pediatrics--70
--General medicine--53.

In addition, the province has:

--a health center in Laayoune Plage
--a health center in Laayoune
--a health center in Tarfaya
--a rural dispensary in Daoura.

Among the projects being studied we might mention:

--a 30-bed hospital in Tarfaya
--a dental surgery center in Laayoune.

The Advance in Smara

Smara, the holy city and spiritual capital of the southern provinces, continues to take great strides in its socioeconomic and cultural advance.

In fact, since its return to the mother country, it has benefitted from special state concern. Grandiose projects have been carried out in all sectors.

For example, more than 1,000 housing units were built by the Ministries of Housing and National Development.

In the public health sector, laudable efforts have been made. The province has a hospital with sophisticated equipment and a perfectly up-to-date medical staff. In the realm of social affairs, the battle against the scourges continues. Training and labor centers and women's institutes have enabled the women in the spiritual capital of the South to become aware of the reality of their role as mothers, wives and full citizens.

In the educational sector, the province has two schools and a superb secondary-level establishment. The equipping of the province is continuing under excellent conditions.

The young people who embody the future of the region are the focus of interest for the regional and national authorities.

In the road sector, Smara is linked with the rest of the kingdom. One can travel there by bicycle, since security is complete.

Health

The health problem arose with all its implications as soon as the region was liberated. It was necessary to dispatch a medical corps supplied with all the necessary equipment and resources there.

Currently the province has a hospital in good functioning. Patients are admitted and cared for free. The doctors, state-certified personnel of both sexes, as well as nurses, see day and night to the health and well-being of the individuals in their care.

In addition, another hospital with a 60-bed capacity is under construction. It will occupy an area of 3,000 square meters and will have numerous departments.

Housing

Two ministries have been very active in this sector.

First of all, the sponsoring ministry, that is to say the Ministry of Housing and Land Management, has devoted unceasing effort to resolving the delicate problem of housing: 202 units have already been assigned to the most needy citizens, while 200 others are under construction and will shortly be completed. In the short run, work will be begun on 200 other housing units.

Also, the Ministry of National Development is building an average of 50 housing units per year. If we add these together, the total slightly exceeds 1,000 housing units.

Moreover, the private sector is playing a role which could not be more important. Thus the urban perimeter of the town of Smara has been quintupled in comparison to what it was in 1975. This is important. And there is no shortage of projects. Quite the contrary, the province is a permanent building site.

Education

Education, which was nonexistent during the colonial era, is developing under good conditions. In fact, the young people of Smara do honor to its reputation as the spiritual capital of the southern part of the kingdom. In the

course of the first secondary school year entrance exams, they have always achieved the highest passing percentages. The sponsoring ministry, for its part, has provided the region with all the necessary infrastructures. Thus it has built two schools, with 35 and 20 classrooms, respectively, to date, as well as a superb secondary establishment with 10 classrooms. It has a scientific wing (two classrooms), an administrative wing, and a boarding facility with 120 beds.

In addition, another 20-classroom school is under construction, as is a new secondary establishment.

As to the student enrollment, the figure is 1,069 for primary education, while the secondary schools currently have 251 students.

We should note that during the colonial era, no young person in Smara was enrolled in school.

Advancement of Women

Previously neglected by the colonials and left to themselves, the women of Smara are the focus of special attention from the local and national authorities. In fact, the colonial era condemned them to an illiterate and absurd life. Today, there are three kinds of centers for the advancement of women in Smara:

- education and labor centers
- social centers
- women's institutes.

These socioeducational establishments have as their basic tasks:

--First of all, combatting illiteracy. In this connection, courses are offered by trained teachers competent in their subjects. After initial training in reading and writing, those benefitting from these establishments gain a general cultural education: moral and civic training, history, geography, the art of education and hygiene.

--Training women to become an active and productive element through apprenticeship in certain vocations and household work: knitting, embroidery, weaving (zarbia) and dressmaking.

--Training women to play their roles as wives, mothers and full citizens.

The women instructors give advice and thus guide the women of the region along the path of family happiness and social well-being.

Currently, the women of the region who began their education early are teaching their sisters. The work is developing in an atmosphere of complete seriousness.

Drinking Water

To a problem as serious as in the desert zones, a solution has been found in Smara, which received its water supply from brackish wells with a low output which dried up completely in periods of severe drought.

Work was therefore focused on the development of local resources while awaiting the commissioning of a water supply network from the Sidi Ahmen Laaroussi collection field 35 kilometers away. A number of exploratory drillings led to the establishment of limited underground water with some salt content (4 grams per liter) in the primary formations immediately adjacent to the town.

The intensive exploitation of this water to meet local needs (civilian and military) led to a drop in the productivity of the site being used.

The lack of deep local phreatic aquifers led the officials in charge to seek a solution involving piping water from a distance. This was why studies were pursued toward the west, revealing the existence of sweet water in Oum Chegag (located about 80 kilometers to the west of Smara), in the Lower Cretaceous formations. The reserves of this sweet water layer are limited to about 700,000 cubic meters, and they are currently being used at the rate of 600 cubic meters per day to supply Smara with water by tank trucks.

In Sidi Ahmed Laoroussi, a debit of 10 or so liters per second of brackish water has been established at the current stage of survey work. A study of this collector field is being continued in the hope of finding new resources. The network for piping water from the Sidi Ahmed Laoroussi collection field is being built.

In addition, the prospecting for deep water in the Cretaceous formation is currently being pursued about 100 kilometers to the west of Smara in geologically hopeful areas.

Equipment

The equipping of the province, begun immediately after its return to the motherland, is continuing.

The town of Smara, like all the others, is a continuing construction site.

Among the major projects completed or in the process of completion we might note:

--The new and magnificent provincial headquarters, including a number of offices, a meeting hall, and also two homes for the governor and the secretary general of the province, as well as 13 employee housing units. The overall cost of this completed project was 9,180,160.70 dirhams.

--The building of two schools, with 35 and 20 classrooms, respectively.

- The building of a hospital.
- The building of employee housing.
- The building of a new secondary school.

However, road construction seems to predominate among the achievements in this department. For example, the following were undertaken:

- Study and inspection of Primary Road 44 leading from Smara to Abattih, at a cost of 542,477.60 dirhams.
- The purchase of hydrocarbon binding materials for Primary Road 44, at a cost of about 1,669,533.80 dirhams.
- Correction and reinforcement of Primary Road 42 linking Smara and Laayoune from Kilometer Point 215 to Kilometer Point 230, at a cost of 5,417,138.71 dirhams.
- The geotechnical study and inspection of Primary Road 42, at a cost of about 56,761.60 dirhams.
- Topographical survey and study work on Primary Road 44, at a cost of about 1,283,866.64 dirhams.
- The study and construction of Primary Road 44, 30 kilometers, at a total cost of 11,768,847.69 dirhams.
- The geotechnical study of Primary Road 44 from Kilometer Point 114 to Kilometer Point 190, at a cost of about 312,99.20 [sic] dirhams.
- Inspection of the work on Primary Road 44 from Kilometer Point 114 to Kilometer Point 160, at a cost of about 378,473.66 dirhams.
- Construction of Primary Road 44 from Kilometer Point 114 to Kilometer Point 190, which work should have been completed on 16 February 1984.

Total cost--30,400,000 dirhams.

For the information of the reader, we might note that Primary Road 44 is that which will link Europe, through the Strait of Gibraltar, with Black Africa. The route is the following: Tan-Tan, Abbattih, Smara, Amgala, Guitat-Zemmour, Mejjik, Aguinite, Nouakchott (Mauritania), Dakar (Senegal), Conakry (Guinea) and Libreville (Gabon).

The work on the sector linking Smara and Amgala, local officials say, is expected to begin very soon.

In addition, we might mention among the major projects under construction:

- The building of a sports complex in Smara including team sport fields and facilities (track, areas for jumpers and throwers) for individual sports.
- The building of a 60-bed hospital including a number of centers and wings.
- The building of a cultural center.
- The building of a new mosque.
- The building of premises for the resident judge.

There is no shortage of planned projects.

Quite the contrary, the economic advance is now following the advance of liberation.

National Advancement

In the socioeconomic sector, the Ministry of National Development has contributed to the progress of the region.

For example, the following have been built in Smara:

- 270 housing units
- a Turkish bath
- a women's institute
- a public market
- 12 shops
- a Red Cross dispensary
- a dispensary in Rbeib
- a provincial storage facility
- a national development office (headquarters in Smara)
- home for the regional national development representative
- five water reservoirs
- a vocational training center
- a travelers' depot
- a communal building
- a basketball court
- an enclosing wall for the municipal park
- an enclosing wall for the provincial garden
- a public garden
- sidewalks and street paving
- an enclosing wall to preserve a cemetery
- an enclosing wall for two centers in the social affairs sector
- an animal pound
- expansion of the governor's mansion
- an enclosing wall for the Hassan I school
- a cold storage facility
- an enclosing wall for a mosque.

All of these achievements have enabled hundreds of citizens of Smara to find work.

The Crafts Sector

A traditionalist and truly Moroccan holy city, the spiritual capital of the southern part of the country is also a crafts center. Since its liberation and return to the motherland, the sponsoring ministry has made unceasing efforts to promote this aspect. Today, there is a crafts complex in which citizens of the town work.

Two centers seem to predominate:

--The weaving (zarbia) center, where the quality of the art of the women of Smara stands out.

--The leather industry center. Numerous craftsmen work daily at their chosen art.

The town of Smara also has two nationally recognized craft cooperatives, and the beneficiaries of these centers enjoy state subsidies.

Posts and Telecommunications

There was no legacy from the colonial era. As soon as the province was recovered, speedy action was needed to enable the residents of these places to establish relations and communications with their compatriots in other regions. In the postal sector, a fifth category post office was built.

In the communications sector, construction included the following:

--A tropospheric station, thanks to which it is possible to have numerous lines linked with the national network.

--The number of subscribers increased from 0 to 97.

--The number of telephone sets increased to 150.

--A study was submitted with the view to the building of a land station in Smara.

Among the projects planned, the following should be noted:

--Providing the province of Smara with automatic telephone service accommodating 1,000 subscribers.

The estimated cost is about 874,000 dirhams.

--The station will be enlarged to accommodate a maximum of telephone lines, at an estimated cost of 500,000 dirhams.

--Extension of the telephone network to Amgala, Tifariti and El Haouza, with a budget estimate of about 600,000 dirhams.

Youth and Sports

It can never be reiterated too often that any nation desirous and hopeful with regard to its future must focus on the youth.

In Smara, the young people are enthusiastic about physical activities despite their reputation as born intellectuals. The state has built youth establishments where they can engage in cultural, artistic and athletic activities according to their own tastes and talents.

Moreover, there are currently six soccer teams in Smara, playing in the third division.

The best of these teams will participate in playoff matches to win acceptance in the second division. The officials seem to be attacking their task with seriousness and altruism.

A magnificent sports complex is under construction.

Boujdour--Land of Challenge

The province of Boujdour occupies a special place in the history of the Sakiat El Hamra and Oued Eddahab region.

Termed the "land of challenge" by Hassan II, it is faithful to this distinctive image.

In fact, the recent history of these places teaches us that the first clash between the men of the resistance and the Liberation Army, on the one hand, and the Spanish forces, on the other, ended in one of the most praiseworthy events: the sons de Boujdour, with their great tact and courage, took all of the Spanish soldiers stationed in the region prisoner. It is the land of "Ahl Zriba," in other words the area endowed by divine will with such verdure that it contributes greatly to livestock breeding in the region.

Since its return to the motherland, this region has fought mercenaries on all sides with fierce resistance when they have attempted in vain to threaten its safety.

In 1975, the residents of Boujdour totaled 15 men and their families. These included 14 Spanish soldiers living in prefabricated housing, while the 15th was a civilian in the international navigation service, entrusted with inspection work. The real inhabitants of Boujdour had fled the town, where there was no longer any housing for them.

Since that time, efforts have been made to contribute to social, economic and cultural development. In every sector, the results achieved are satisfactory, since the local officials had to begin at zero. In addition, special regional development funds were allocated for the purpose.

Equipment

I. The Port of Boujdour

The sheltered port currently under construction will include a jetty 556 meters long (the beginning of the eventual main dike), and behind it an earth embankment will be built to allow vessels to come alongside.

This sheltered area will later be expanded as a function of the needs which may develop.

The cost of the work in progress is estimated at 18 million dirhams.

In a later phase, the port of Boujdour will include the following projects:

--Jetties--1,600 meters + 350 meters and 175 of strengthening dike.

--Wharf--1,545 meters from -4.0 to -7.0 hydro.

Once all of the facilities are completed, the port of Boujdour will be able to handle 100,000 tons of fish per year and 300,000 tons of coastal shipping.

II. Road Activity

Town intersection. Boujdour is linked with Laayoune by Primary Road 41. Certain improvements have been completed and others are in progress.

II. Public Construction Projects

In 1975, the only construction in Boujdour was the signal light tower serving as a reference for international maritime navigation.

Today, Boujdour has some 2,000 housing units, public and private establishments, schools, youth establishments and a number of socioeducational centers. All of this has been produced out of nothing.

Education

Immediately after the liberation of the province, the Moroccan state turned its attention to the problem of educating the young people in the region. Thus in 1976 it was decided to build two prefabricated school buildings, with 20 and 15 classrooms, respectively. Then, in order to allow the young people of the region to pursue their studies under proper conditions, a permanent school was built. At present 343 young people are pursuing their studies there on various levels (from the elementary course to the primary study certificate).

The beginning of this school year was marked by the inauguration of a secondary school in Boujdour.

Vocational training will soon be launched in the province. In fact, Boujdour has just equipped itself with a very fine vocational training center, for which a number of branches are planned.

Housing

A town without unemployment, Boujdour has been able to provide housing for all of the families in the region.

In fact, the real inhabitants of the province lived in the brush, engaging in their preferred activity, which is favored by the weather conditions--live-stock breeding.

But as soon as the region was liberated, they returned to the capital of the province and the problem of housing in all its aspects arose. State and private sectors undertook a joint effort to deal with the crisis. In this connection, the Ministry of Housing built 100 units. The Department of National Development, moreover, built more than 200 others.

In addition, the citizens were authorized to build their own housing to suit their tastes, and ground plots were made available to them free of charge.

Currently, the town of Boujdour is seeing its urban area grow day by day.

Drinking Water

Immediately after recovery of the region this problem arose. Since then, two wells have been drilled. They yield 28 liters of brackish water per second, a part of which is demineralized so that it can be used as a potable supply for the town.

Plans call for the drilling of a well more than 1,000 meters deep in the Boujdour region in order to see if the deep Cretaceous layer may yield spring water.

Projects Carried Out Within the Framework of the Special Regional Development Fund

In this connection, we can point to the following achievements:

--Construction of two eight- and 12-room motels and housing for cadres at a cost of 1,933,219.45 dirhams.

--Construction of a youth establishment at a cost of 1,131,246.56 dirhams.

--Construction of a work center for women at a cost of 1,334,348.39 dirhams.

--Construction of two schools, with 20 and 15 classrooms, respectively, at a cost of 4,813,624.56 dirhams.

--Study of a plan to develop the downtown sector of Boujdour--200,000 dirhams.

--Study for the building of a mosque and Koranic school.

--Construction of the provincial general secretariat, with housing for the governor and employees--7,242,857.50 dirhams.

--Construction of a health center at a project cost of 5,818,523.45 dirhams.

In addition, certain projects were carried out within the framework of the general budget, including in particular:

--The construction of a 10-classroom school.

--The construction of housing for the chief of the cercles, the Arab chiefs, the heads of the Islamic brotherhoods and two secretaries at a cost of 1,026,558 dirhams.

The following came within the framework of the provincial budget:

--Construction of two villas in Boujdour at a cost of 898,880 dirhams.

--Construction of two villas in Boujdour at a cost of 815,423 dirhams.

National Development

This sector is developing very actively and usefully in the four Saharan provinces. In Boujdour, it has measured up to the reputation of the region. In fact, it has been possible to put an end to unemployment in the province. Better still, some citizens have come from the North in search of work. As to the projects completed, they include the following:

--Construction of a mosque.

--Construction of four water towers.

--Construction of 38 housing units in the Moulay Rachid neighborhood.

--Construction of 74 housing units in the administrative quarter.

--Construction of 70 housing units in the Green Market group.

--Construction of a villa to house the regional national development representative.

--Construction of the headquarters for the regional national development office, with two housing units and a warehouse.

During 1982, the achievements included:

--Costs of the local collectives' work sites--1,226,466 dirhams.

--Ten shops--92,534 dirhams.

--Location of brackish water--230,000 dirhams.
--Road to the interior of the town--42,000 dirhams.
--Five water reservoirs--380,000 dirhams.
--A commercial establishment--79,000 dirhams.
--A community hall--200,000 dirhams.
--A slaughterhouse--10,000 dirhams.
--A Turkish bath--140,000 dirhams.
--A vehicle repair shop--50,000 dirhams.
--PN [National Development] storage projects--951,252 dirhams.
--Observation posts--250,000 dirhams.
--Port depots--725,548 dirhams.
--A slaughterhouse--100,000 dirhams.
Making a total for this year of 392,882 dirhams [sic].

1983 projects included:

--Costs for collective work sites--1,226,466 dirhams.
--A provincial storage facility--464,436.25 dirhams.
--A children's nursery--560,530 dirhams.
--A hospital--332,326 dirhams.
--A vocational training center--440,133 dirhams.
--A women's institute--209,131.57 dirhams.
--A students' home--807,217.10 dirhams.
--Four Koranic schools.
--Establishment of a work site on the beach--476,110 dirhams.

Posts and Telecommunications

Beginning with nothing, Boujdour established communications with the rest of the provinces in the kingdom. Thus the efforts made in this sector following its liberation and return to the motherland are reflected in:

--The establishment of a switchboard serving 50 subscribers.

--The establishment of radioelectric links with Laayoune.

--The establishment of two radioelectric links with Rabat.

--The establishment of a telephone network in the town.

Thus Boujdour is in communication with the capital of the country and as a result, with other nations and states.

The Advancement of Women

"Intelligence, that miserable little thing on the surface of ourselves. We are above all affective beings," the memorable Mr Barres said.

In fact the role and importance of women in the building of society and in the unit which is the family have been barely sampled, whatever may be said about it.

Islam has been and remains very clear on this problem. Women are living beings to be educated, trained and respected, because they hold the key to the future of any nation. The first words heard and the reactions most deeply felt by a baby or a child are those of its mother. Aware of this reality, the officials have made the effort necessary to contribute to the training, education and advancement of women. As a result, an educational and labor center provided with full equipment and socioeducational staffing opened its doors as soon as the region was liberated. On the other hand, a women's institute began operation.

In these two socioeducational establishments, women and girls who were not able to attend schools at the proper time (forced colonialism) have been accepted. There they learn to read and write initially, before undertaking general cultural education.

Later they take classes in education, child development, hygiene and medical consultation.

Traditional Activities

These are of two sorts:

1. Fishing. The coast off Boujdour is one of the richest in fish in the region. In fact, there are bream, lobster and goldfish for the taking, and this is true all along the length of the coast from Ahl Zriba to Dakhla, in other words some 400 kilometers.

Many fishing enthusiasts and professionals have established themselves in the region to exploit this wealth.

In addition, the coast is dotted with beaches with beautiful golden sand. The moderate climate, which is healthy because it is at a distance from any pollution, is another asset for the development of tourism in the region.

2. Livestock breeding. The Ahl Zriba "chorfas," whose tombs can be seen in Lemsied, guaranteed to their children and grandchildren, when they settled in the region, a worthy life safe from need.

In fact, in this region where livestock breeding can develop easily, there have been families owning hundreds of camels, calves, cows, sheep, etc.

In the future, professionals in the sector will settle in this area where total peace reigns.

Health

"Health is the best of assets: beauty comes second and wealth third," a maxim says.

In Boujdour, health and physical well-being have always dominated the concerns of the officials.

Therefore in accordance with the higher directives of His Majesty the King, it was decided to establish a medical province and to assign to it a medical and administrative staff.

Soon another hospital will be commissioned. It will have numerous departments: medical care for men, medical care for women, pediatrics, maternity and surgery and an operating wing.

The hospital will have a capacity of 40 beds, and according to Dr Mohamed Khallouki, the medical staff will be strengthened.

Oued Eddahab--A Jewel in the Heart of the Ocean

On 14 August 1979, the Moroccan nation was celebrating.

In fact, on that day, representatives of the various tribes in the province of Oued Eddahab had traveled to Rabat to carry out a national duty to their fatherland, Morocco, and their king, Hassan II.

Throughout the country, the citizens were congratulating themselves on this happy and so long-awaited event. The return of this region to the mother country was the more vaunted since it was effected without bloodshed and in accordance with the traditions and customs of the country.

Since that time, the reunifier of the nation has paid a personal visit to Dakhla, thus also satisfying the desire of a whole people, whose attachment to this region is equaled only by the patriotism and nationalism of the natives of Oued Eddahab, which date back to the most distant times.

Since 14 August 1979, the Moroccan state has been unceasingly engaged in planning, building and construction with a view to contributing to the social, economic and cultural development of the province.

Almost 5 years later, an assessment of the situation is vastly satisfying from more than one viewpoint. In all sectors, achievements equal to the aspirations of the local population have been brought forth. These people are benefitting from them greatly, and they are manifesting their joy and their gratitude to all their compatriots. But before going into detail, let us introduce the reader to the province of Oued Eddahab.

The Province

Spreading over an area of about 100,000 square kilometers, with a population of 21,496, the province of Oued Eddahab is located in the southern part of the kingdom, with the province of Boujdour just north, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and to the south and east, Mauritania.

On the administrative level, the province includes two municipalities, Dakhla and Laayoune, and four cercles:

--The Bir Anzarane cercle includes the rural districts (caidats) of Bir Anzarane, Gleibat Elfoula, Oum Draiga and Mijik.

--The El Argoub cercle includes the rural districts of El Argoub and Imlili.

--The Aousserd cercle includes the rural districts of Aousserd, Aghoninit, Zoug and Tichla.

--The Bir Gandouz cercle.

On the electoral level, the province includes two urban communes:

--The commune of Dakhla, with 21 electoral districts.

--The commune of Lagouira, with nine electoral districts and 11 rural communes, distributed as follows:

- Aousserd cercle--36 electoral districts;
- Bir Anzarane cercle--36 electoral districts;
- Bir Gandouz cercle--nine electoral districts; and
- El Argoub cercle--nine electoral districts.

Housing

Immediately after the province was recovered, the Ministry of Housing dispatched a high-level delegation to study the needs of the province in the sector and the resources to be used to meet them at close hand. The inherited premises and housing facilities were in a pitiful state. It was necessary to proceed immediately to effect improvements by radical means.

In addition, short- and long-term planning was needed. Thus 300 housing units were built and allocated free of charge to families with modest incomes. In addition, 644 plots of land were made available to the citizens.

The regional development office, for its part, built 100 other housing units.

Equipment

Port Construction

The Port of Dakhla

This port currently includes a jetty with a landing stage of 600 meters, with a 320-meter breakwater as its extension. It has 450 meters of wharf with a draft of between -4 and -6 hydro, and in addition has a hauling slip and earth embankments.

The studies on the work of reconstruction and extension of the port were completed recently. Also, the state plans to build another port at a total cost of about 300 million dirhams.

The long-term prospects justify the expectation of an annual catch of 100,000 to 150,000 tons of fish. Coastal traffic is estimated at 300-400,000 tons per year.

The Port of El Argoub

Studies with a view to the development of a fishing port in El Argoub were undertaken at the same time as those for the port of Dakhla. These studies are currently continuing.

The goal at this port is to have facilities which can accommodate fishing and coastal vessels in the medium time range.

Road Activity

The current effort is designed to put the road linking El Argoub and Primary Road 41--that is to say the road segment which is a part of the North-South axis, running successively through Guelmim, Tan-Tan, Tarfaya, Laayoune, Boujdour, Dakhla and Lagouira--into operation.

Moreover, the state has made available to the local officials all of the equipment necessary for the improvement and maintenance of the few secondary roads inherited from the colonial era.

Drinking Water Supply

In the Dakhla region, there is a profound artesian water sheet in the Cretaceous formation. All of the drill holes existing in Dakhla, Rguiba, Tawarta and Tiniguir have been repaired with a view to halting the leakage of artesian water. The completion of three new deep drill holes made it possible to

strengthen resources for the water supply of Dakhla. This is being done on the basis of two artesian wells providing water of relatively good quality, but with a heavy sulfur content such that the water is processed by aeration.

The underground water is also used for irrigating the areas in the periphery of Raguiba and Tawarta (25 hectares). Plans call for an irrigated area in Tinguir, in the El Argoub zone, using the underground water.

In addition, we should note that there was nothing praiseworthy about the situation inherited from the colonial era. Quite the contrary: local officials had to set to work beginning in 1979. As a result, the supplying of the rural and urban zones was undertaken, two wells were drilled in Bir Anzarane, and five existing wells were cleared. Then it was necessary to undertake the drilling of wells for prospecting and extraction in the following zones: Dhar El Houli, Msilifa and Glib Jadiane.

In order to supply the town of Laayoune, it was necessary to rebuild all of the nine existing wells. In this connection, it was necessary to plan for:

- the drilling of a new well in Dakhla;
- the drilling of a well in Tawarta; and
- the drilling of six wells in Tinguire.

The total debit of these wells is 400 liters per second.

Youth and Sports

Effort was made in this sector to provide the province with infrastructures and cadres. In this connection, work on a superb athletic area will be completed soon.

Currently the young people in the region are using a municipal stadium and handball, basketball and volleyball courts. For swimming enthusiasts, there is a pool as well as a beach which extends to infinity. In addition, the province has 30 cadres, including 20 natives of the region. These latter have taken training on various levels and are currently contributing to the staffing of young people's activities.

On the activities level, there are sports schools for volleyball, handball, soccer, basketball and acrobatics. In addition, neighborhood teams vie for a local championship, the final matches in which are generally held on 9 July of each year.

The young people of Oued Eddahab participate in national and international activities. They also benefit from organized foreign tours. Some young people from the region have already paid visits to brotherly and friendly countries (Tunisia, Europe).

National Development

In this sector, the battle against unemployment has been reflected in the establishment of labor campaigns to carry out projects of a socioeconomic

nature, for farm development and the development of the rural environment. Moreover, some citizens prevented from pursuing their studies or learning a vocation in the colonial era have been recruited to carry out these projects. More than 850 jobs have been made available to this category of citizens each year. Since 1979, this sector has contributed unceasingly to the socioeconomic development of the region. In this connection, we might note the following achievements:

--Modernization of the road between Dakhla and Tawarta.

--Construction of a hundred housing units, a women's institute, a mosque, and headquarters premises for the local collectives in Dakhla.

--Planting of trees in public squares.

--Building of a market in the Moulay Rachid neighborhood.

--Building of a headquarters for the Bir Anzarane commune, 10 shops, 20 housing units in the Almasjid neighborhood and a vocational training center.

In 1982, 245,184 labor days were put in to achieve the following:

--Construction of 10 shops in the Bir Anzarene neighborhood.

--Modernization of the central market.

--Construction of an enclosing wall for the municipal stadium.

--Construction of 10 housing units in Tawarta.

--Construction of a dispensary in the Moulay Rachid neighborhood.

--Construction of women's institute in the Al Massira neighborhood.

--Work site for local collectives.

In 1983 there were 219,665 labor days put in to achieve the following:

--Construction of a post office branch in the Gilbert El Foule neighborhood, a fish market and 10 shops in the Ksiksate neighborhood, a livestock facility, housing units in Tawarta, and public toilets.

--Construction of a public market in Tawarta, a sports complex in the Bir Anzarane neighborhood, two Koranic schools, five housing units for employees in the Moulay Rachid neighborhood, and an enclosing and protective wall in Tawarta.

--Tree planting in Tawarta.

--Construction of a youth club in the Al Massira neighborhood.

--Completion of premises for the Aoussred rural commune in the Al Matar neighborhood.

--Work site for the local collectives.

--Work site for vocational training.

Agriculture

With regard to farming, the province of Oued Eddahab has three areas: Tinguir, Tawarta and Rguiba.

--The Tinguir area, with more than 600 hectares, seems to have the greatest potential for the coming months.

--Where the Tawarta area is concerned, the colonials left a regrettable situation.

Since the province was recovered and returned to the motherland, 13 hectares have been equipped, improved and allocated to 23 farmers.

This experiment was successful, since local production meets 30 percent of the need for tomatoes, onions, carrots, turnips, peppers, watermelon and cauliflower.

The farmers benefit from technical, material and human assistance. For example, seed, fertilizers, processing and other equipment is provided to them free of charge as an incentive. The prospects for farming in the region are the more promising since the local authorities are persuaded that with the utilization of the Tinguir area and then that in Tawarta (two phases of 28 hectares), production will greatly exceed the local needs.

Within the framework of farm activity expansion, the general office has established:

--A water and forests nursery. In this connection, production has reached 10,000 plants per year. They are distributed to the farmers.

--An experimental agronomical research station. The initial tests made seem convincing.

--A farm labor center, which is properly supplied both with equipment and cadres.

--A dipping station for animal parasites, which concerns itself with livestock care and hygiene.

The Advancement of Women

After the recovery of the region, the women in Oued Eddahab were the focus of special interest on the part of the local officials.

As a result, extensive work has been accomplished in connection with the two social complexes the province has.

In fact, 540 women and girls are now benefitting from the services of these two socioeducational centers.

There they learn to read and write in an initial stage. Along with this, they are learning various vocations, involving knitting, embroidery, weaving (zarbia) and dressmaking, under the guidance of 45 trained women teachers.

Then they go on to general study courses, receiving religious and civic instruction in education and social and family life.

In fact, it is a question of training women for the following:

--Playing their role as mothers of families. In this connection, they are taught simple but practical concepts of child psychology to help them in caring for their children.

--Playing their role as wives. The No 1 support of any family or social life, wives received advice such as to make them aware of their responsibilities in their homes.

--Playing their role as full citizens, that is to say as active and productive individuals.

Education

The present school year has been marked by the inauguration of the new school in Dakhla. Where primary education is concerned, there are currently three schools:

--The 14 August School, with 799 students.

--The Mohammed V School, with 356 students.

--The new Dakhla School, with 500 students. There are therefore in all 1,677 students.

With regard to secondary education, there is a secondary school named after Hassan II, with 306 students in the first through the fourth years of secondary school.

In addition, and in accordance with the high royal directives, Koranic education is provided for children ranging in age from 5 to 7. Currently there are 305 children studying in the Koranic schools, 209 on the first level and 96 on the second.

Public Health

The situation inherited from the colonial era was of the most critical sort. There were no infrastructures or cadres worthy of the name. The true citizens of the region were neglected by the colonials where sanitation and medical care were concerned.

Immediately after recovery by the motherland, premises were established to serve as headquarters for the present Hassan II Hospital. An entirely modern medical staff was dispatched to take up the battle against the illnesses ravaging the region. Doctors specializing in various fields, along with holders of state certification and nurses of both sexes, volunteered to come and place themselves in the service of their brothers in Oued Eddahab. Today the province has a hospital, a health center and a dispensary.

Other health infrastructures are in the process of completion.

Posts and Telecommunications

The efforts made in the postal and telecommunications sector are reflected in high quality achievements.

For example, in the situation inherited from the colonial era, telephone service was reserved for the Spanish administrative departments. But as of 26 October 1976, a [figure illegible] line or subscriber switchboard was established as the launching of a new communications mode.

On 1 March 1980, the first radioelectric link between Dakhla and Laayoune was established. There was then one line for the entire region. At the same time, and because of the urgent demand from the residents of the region, on this same date another 100-subscriber switchboard which board was put into service.

A year later, that is to say in the month of March 1981, the Dakhla telephone network added 100 subscribers, increasing its facilities to 300 lines distributed among three switchboards, along with the establishment of a radioelectric link between Dakhla and Rabat. As a precaution, the regional posts and telecommunications office equipped itself with an emergency transmitter.

Telecommunications in the region were to be marked in the month of June 1982 by the commissioning of a land station effecting something of a revolution in this sector enjoying prestige in the region. In fact, the land station made it possible to receive national television programs telecast directly from Rabat, on the one hand, while further linking Oued Eddahab with the rest of the kingdom, on the other hand, with five circuits with Rabat, four with Casablanca, two with Laayoune and two with Agadir, or 12 circuits in all.

In this way Dakhla is in contact with all other countries and nations in the world.

Currently, the regional office is working on the automation of telephone service in the region. This project falls within the framework of the present five-year plan.

In conclusion, it must be said that the province of Oued Eddahab is continuing its economic, social and cultural advance under excellent conditions. Every year, grandiose projects are planned with a view to making this region a shining example of a prosperous and happy community of citizens. The residents of Oued Eddahab, who made a point of renewing their allegiance to the

sovereign last 20 August, are happy with and proud of the place they hold in the hearts of all Moroccan citizens. They intend to remain worthy of it by working day and night to frustrate the intrigues plotted and woven by the enemies of our sovereignty, our national unity and territorial integrity.

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FINANCE OFFICIAL DISCUSSES GENERAL BUDGET, ECONOMIC PLANNING

Manama AL-BAHRAYN in Arabic No 756, 4 Apr 84 pp 6-8, 56

[Interview with 'Isa Burashid, undersecretary of Ministry of Finance and National Economy, by Nabil al-'Alawi: "Development Programs: Reality and Future"]

[Excerpts] [Question] The interview began with a question on the general state budget and on why the budget is approved for 2 years at a time.

[Answer] Bahrain is like any other developing country facing the problem of balancing its limited resources with its people's aspirations. The main reason motivating us to prepare the 2-year budget is that we faced a problem in 1976 when the state undertook greater projects and financial commitments than its capacity due to the absence of a view of the future. We have also found that preparation and discussion of the budget take a long time and great efforts from the officials of the ministries, from the Ministry of Finance and from the Council of Ministers. Preparation, discussion and ratification of the budget will take a period that lasts 6 months every year. In the past, we found out that the efforts of all the ministries were focused on preparing an annual budget in 6 months. Consequently, a decision was made to adopt the 2-year budget.

[Question] On what basis does the state budget rely?

[Answer] At the outset, an estimate is made of the income expected in the next few years. After preparing the income budget, the ministries are asked to make their estimates for their requirements. The ministries' requests are then discussed in light of the estimates they present and it is determined whether it is possible or impossible to meet these requests in comparison with income, of course.

[Question] Does the Ministry of Finance have a role in approving or turning down these requests and in determining the general budget of each ministry?

[Answer] This is done at the outset. Before we prepare the budget, we propose to the Council of Ministers certain policies to be taken into consideration when preparing the budget of each ministry. In light of the policies approved by the Council of Ministers, the 2-year budget of each ministry is discussed.

[Question] The state had an ambitious plan called the 4-year plan. After the drop in oil prices, the plan was transformed into a 6-year plan. On what basis was this plan formulated and then extended to a 6-year plan?

[Answer] Through our experience with the 2-year budget, we have found that the 2-year budget does not cover a long enough period insofar as projects and economic planning are concerned. So we have decided to extend the projects budget and we have drawn up a plan or a program, as we call it in Bahrain, to be implemented over a 4-year period. The plan was based on a certain income we had expected. When oil prices dropped, we discussed in the ministry and with the Council of Ministers the steps that can be taken to alleviate the impact of the drop on the state's financial and economic situation. We also found out that the program was too ambitious and that implementation was delayed because of its ambition. For example, we approved nearly 350 projects for the first 2 years of the program whereas our implementation capacity was limited to 200 projects. The executive agencies were late in implementing the program and this helped us extend its duration. What happened is that we extended the program's duration but did not cancel any project. As for the other steps taken to confront the consequences resulting from the drop in oil prices, the Council of Ministers formulated certain policies which have been implemented in preparing the current 1984-85 budget. The main policies are the following:

Freezing the amount of the recurrent budget at the level of 1983, meaning that there is no increase in the budget or appropriations approved in the 1983 budget and there will be an increase in the appropriations for the 1985 budget by only 5 percent. As a result, the growth in the recurrent budget has been curtailed and the program has been extended. In addition to the above, a number of subsidiary policies have been established. The most important of these policies is the policy to refrain from appropriating any sums for the purchase of new cars or furniture and to freeze the manpower at the 1983 levels, unless there is an absolute need for more manpower, such as opening a new school or health center or expanding an existing service, i.e., excluding the services offered to the citizens.

[Question] Bahrain, as an advanced financial center, has gained the trust of the world. To what extent has this sector been able to reflect itself in the national economy?

[Answer] There is an economic policy which constitutes one of the mainstays of the economic plan being implemented in Bahrain. This policy is summed up in diversifying the sources of the national economy and reducing reliance on the oil revenues. The implementation of this policy started in the mid-1960's through establishment of the industrial zone at Salman Port and through plans to set up aluminum plants and to expand the service sector. One of the main ideas given consideration was the introduction of financial services to Bahrain. The implementation of this policy was begun in the early 1970's and the policy began to produce results in 1976. In 1975, we did not have a single foreign bank in our country. We now have nearly 75 foreign banks, in addition to nearly 50 representative centers. During this period, 4,000 jobs, or the equivalent of three times the jobs available on Alba Island, have been created and these jobs have their impact on the national economy, pumping into this economy nearly 65 million dinars a year.

[Question] Through the development and expansion of the labor base in Bahrain, we have seen Bahrain enter new spheres of activity embodied in financial centers, plants and other institutions. After oil, what is the most important source of national income?

[Answer] After oil, we have industry, which contributes nearly 13 percent of the national income; we have trade, the hotels and the restaurants, which also contribute nearly 13 percent; building and construction, which contribute nearly 12 percent; banks and communications, which contribute approximately 12 percent; banks and insurance, which also contribute about 12 percent; and real estate and leasing and the government sector, which contribute about 16 percent. From this review, we find that all the sectors contribute similar percentages and this means that there is a balance between the various sectors and it indicates how successful is the policy of diversifying the sources of income.

[Question] What are the steps taken to face the effects of the oil price drop on the state budget?

[Answer] It is indubitable that the gross national product has been affected by the drop in oil prices. But as I have already noted, because of the success of our policy of diversifying the sources of national income, the Bahraini economy has not been affected to the same degree as the economies of the other oil producing countries, considering that these countries rely on the oil sector to a large degree. What has happened here in Bahrain is that aluminum prices rose in the wake of the drop in oil prices. Consequently, the increase in the aluminum sector made up for the drop in the oil sector. In 1982, there was a big drop in aluminum prices. But in the same year, there was major growth in the banking sector and the growth in this sector was able to make up for the drop in the aluminum sector.

[Question] In your opinion, how strongly is Bahrain affected by the position of the banks, especially in the wake of the economic tremor to which al-Manakh Market in fraternal Kuwait has been exposed, by the subsequent drop in stock prices and by the damage incurred by shareholders and by people dealing in the stock market?

[Answer] Bahrain is a part of this area, and it affects the area and is affected by it. There have been negative effects on the economic situation in Bahrain. Personally, I believe that these effects have been more psychological than real. Our banks and our institutions have not been exposed or affected by what happened in Suq al-Manakh because they are subject to controls that prevent them and have prevented them from dealing in Suq al-Manakh. Our national institutions have not been affected because they did not deal in Suq al-Manakh. There is no doubt that some individuals have been affected by such dealings. But as far as I know, they are limited in number. Consequently, their impact on the national institutions in Bahrain has been weak. But as I have already said, there is no doubt that the psychological impact has contributed to reducing the volume of stock transactions in Bahrain. Consequently, the supply has exceeded the demand, thus resulting in a sharp drop in the prices of Bahraini shares.

[Question] Do you consider the phenomenon of the manifold rise in the prices of stocks, at times reaching 500 percent, a healthy phenomenon?

[Answer] What happened in our country was not a healthy phenomenon. There was some sort of speculation and speculation is harmful to the economy and changes the structure of investment and saving as well as the economic criteria.

[Question] Did not the Ministry of Finance and National Economy have a role to intervene to put an end to this phenomenon?

[Answer] I believe that the citizens undoubtedly recall the famous warning voiced by the minister of finance against the danger of proceeding in this direction and of its negative impact on the small investors.

[Question] What is your view of the future of the stock market in Bahrain?

[Answer] The current prices of most of the national firms are close to the real prices, and we do not believe that there will be another sharp drop in these prices. What we believe is that future developments will be in the direction of rising prices, but with reasonable increases.

[Question] On what basis has the state's general reserve been established and how is it used to deal with any emergencies?

[Answer] The reserve of any state is ordinarily the net outcome of the spending and revenue process. The budget surplus is usually diverted to the reserve which is customarily used to meet any future deficit and to implement the state's economic policy. Because our resources in Bahrain are limited and because our people's aspirations are, as I have already noted, big, we have not been able to develop as big a reserve as the other countries. Whenever any surplus is realized, it is diverted toward local investment. For example, all the projects in which the government participates are usually financed from the reserve. The yield of these projects goes back to the reserve. Our reserve is used for two purposes: to make up for any deficit that may develop in the state's general budget and to finance new projects.

[Question] Is the value of the Bahraini dinar and its relationship with other currencies, such as the dollar, affected by the drop or rise in the price of the dollar or of gold? An example is what has happened in the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which has devalued the riyal five times last year and this year.

[Answer] The Bahraini dinar is tied fundamentally to the special drawing unit which consists usually of a basket of strong currencies, such as the dollar, the Japanese yen, the pound sterling, the Deutschmark and a number of other currencies. This means that when one currency in the basket drops in value, the value of the other currencies in the basket rises comparatively. Consequently, the fluctuation in the currency exchange rates has a lesser

impact on the dinar than if the dinar were tied to a single currency. The dinar is affected but the impact is small when compared to other currencies. When determining the prices of currencies, it is customary to set ceilings for these prices. As soon as the price of a currency rises to reach the ceiling, this currency is devalued. During this period, the value of the dinar has not reached the ceiling in whose light the decision to change the exchange rate is taken.

[Question] How is the Bahraini dinar bolstered?

[Answer] It is obtained by purchase and sale and by supplying the dinar to the local market. The Bahrain Currency Organization is the party that exchanges the dinar. Consequently, it has the ability to control the number of dinars pumped into the local market. The organization withdraws dinars when there is excessive liquidity.

[Question] The government has recently offered for subscription development bonds valued at 30 million dinars. What is the role of these bonds in the local economy?

[Answer] We began to use bonds to bolster the general state budget as of 1978. It was a good experiment at the time and we were able to make up for the deficit in the budget by borrowing from the local market. At the same time, we supplied the local market with an instrument of investment. Consequently, we achieved two things: creating a new instrument of investment that returns a good yield in comparison with other investments and withdrawing some excess liquidity from local market. We were also able to meet the deficit in our budget. When we started preparing for the 1984-85 budget, we found that we will have a deficit, and a decision has been taken to repeat the experiment by issuing the above-mentioned bonds.

[Question] It is noticed that the ministry of finance always ratifies the transactions of the other ministries in the local market and also supervises these transactions. Can you shed light on this aspect?

[Answer] The government apparatus has been growing constantly in the past 5 years, and so have the financial transactions. We had two options: either increase the number of employees and agencies needed to manage these procedures or reduce the centralization. In the past, all transactions were sent to the Ministry of Finance which then examined the bills, wrote the checks and disbursed money from its account. But we have now diverted this responsibility to the ministries themselves. They examine their bills and issue checks against accounts opened for each ministry. At the end of the 1970's and the start of the 1980's we found that this is a time-consuming process that is expensive administratively. So we have developed a new automatic system whereby the bill, the disbursement document and the document of the financial transaction itself are in the same dossier and are entered into the electronic computer which issues the check automatically. As of the beginning of this year, we have introduced another system that reduces these efforts. It is a system whereby a check is issued twice monthly to every person who has transactions with the government.

[Question] Do you think that issuing two checks a month is practical, considering the number of government transactions?

[Answer] Yes. In the past, we used to issue nearly 5,000 checks a month. This number has now dropped to nearly 100 checks a month. This has sped up the disbursement procedures. We have also introduced other methods for the issuance of checks. We also have a new plan to do away with the issuance of checks and to replace them by direct remittances from government bank accounts to the client's bank account. This step will have its major impact on the speedy conclusion of financial transactions.

[Question] This shows us that the aspirations and efforts of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy to develop and achieve better continue. Can you tell us about the ministry's projects?

[Answer] As I have already noted, because of the expansion of the government apparatus and of the services offered by the government agencies, we have found it necessary to change all our work systems and to introduce a kind of specialization in the ministry and in our agencies. At the end of last year, changes were made in the ministry's job structure and the positions of assistant undersecretaries, and new departments were introduced. Insofar as higher job positions are concerned, the job of assistant undersecretary for budget and financial planning has been introduced. The main task of this part of the ministry will be to formulate a uniform financial system for all the ministries and, at the same time, to draw up a long-range financial plan taking into consideration our revenues and our needs for more than 4 years. There is another branch, namely the economic affairs branch, introduced because of the new developments in the area, especially the developments concerning Gulf cooperation, the foundation of the Cooperation Council and the conclusion of the unified economic agreement. We have set up a special agency to follow up on our relations with our brothers in the Cooperation Council member states. At the same time, there is a plan to bolster the Bahrain Economic Followup Agency so that it may follow up on the Bahraini economy and establish criteria and indicators that will enable the government to familiarize itself with the progress of the national economy.

[Question] What are the positive points which you believe have been achieved for the national economy through the unified economic agreement of the Cooperation Council member states?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the unified economic agreement helps bolster Bahrain's role as a service center in the area. There are broad spheres for benefiting from the agreement, especially for an economy like ours. For example, we have been encouraging the light and medium industries in the past 20 years and these industries rely fundamentally on exporting to the area's states. Consequently, implementation of the unified economic agreement and elimination of the customs barriers between the Council member states have helped increase our industry's exports. For example, our plants are now exporting nearly 2 million dinars' worth a month to the Council member states, whereas the exports amounted to nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ million dinars a month before the agreement.

[Question] Insofar as the future is concerned, what do you expect from the expansion of this unified economic agreement to include other spheres?

[Answer] In its present form, the agreement is an ambitious agreement that seeks ultimately to create a sort of economic unity or a unified market among the Council member states. Any commodity produced in any of the Council member states can be exported to the other Council member states. At the same time, a sort of a customs wall will be set up by the Cooperation Council member states to protect the industries of these states from foreign products.

In a final word, 'Isa Burashid, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, has said that the efforts made by the government of Bahrain in the past 10 years have been great efforts touching on all aspects of the Bahraini citizen's life. The current accomplishments in the economic sphere are nothing but the fruit of these good efforts.

8494

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FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL EXPRESSES ALARM AT SPREAD OF SETTLEMENTS

Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI in Arabic No 93, 17 Mar 84 pp 25-27

/Interview with Meron Benvenisti: "If We Are Not Prepared To Pay the Price, Let Us Give the Palestinians a Country of Their Own"; date and place not specified/

/Text/ Meron Benvenisti is a "troublesome child," or, as they say in French, an "enfant terrible," in the camp of the doves in Israel. He is a leader of the RAS, Shulamit Aloni's list, and was previously one of Kollek's close aides in the administration of Arab public affairs in Jerusalem. A short while after the June war he provoked the anger of the hawks in Israel, after they had learned of his program to divide Jerusalem up into sections so that the Arab inhabitants could manage their sections by themselves, with a certain amount of Arab sovereignty. In recent years he has gained fame by virtue of his research into the settlement process and its political repercussions. His conclusions once again provoked waves of criticism, this time from the camp of the doves as well. One effect of his conclusions is that they also will not please many Arab readers. Although one cannot accept his pessimistic conclusions without objection, it is important that the readers of AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI read them in order to become acquainted with this part of the doves' camp in Israel.

Question: The conclusion of your research into the settlement process is that we have reached a point from which one cannot turn back, an "irreversible" situation. Are you prepared to explain what you mean on this point?

Answer (Shaking his head in a sign of negation): The settlement process is a technical process; it is possible to eliminate the settlement process tomorrow. The issue is that the whole system is proceeding in a direction where it will become a permanent system which no power will be able to stop. That is the situation. There are not many people in the settlements at the present time, but is there a possibility that anyone can stop this process, or the process of the loss of the bank? The answer in my opinion is no, there is not. I do not see any domestic or external force.

Question: That is, we have not yet reached an irreversible situation.

Answer: Strictly speaking, no, but in terms of dynamic, yes. The forces that are seeking to stop the constant struggle, against which neutral forces are working, neutralize one another, and nothing will result from this.

Question: Are you prepared to see any of the opposition forces become separate? Why do they neutralize one another?

Answer: Take for example the external system. The Arabs, in my opinion, will never adopt a decision, not the Jordanians or the Palestinians to enter into the process in a tangible form. If they do decide to do so, it will be to realize a single goal, to prove that it is the Israelis who say no. However, there is no possibility of negotiations that will lead to any positive results, even with the government of the coalition. Look at the map next to you: one is the Alon plan, three is Jerusalem and Tel Aviv with their regions. That is the expanded Alon plan; it is the Jerusalem plan of the minister of housing, Abraham Ofir, and so forth. All that the Grouping is proposing is this middle ground between the two slices of the sandwich. What Arab leader will agree to such a thing? Why are we making such a silly statement?

Question: In the interview AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI held with the deputy Yosi Sarid, Sarid said that the Grouping members are logical; they know that the starting point of negotiations is not the final point or the last word.

Must the negotiations end in results the moment they begin?

Answer: Let Sarid believe that; let the Arabs believe it also. The question is, do the Arabs indeed believe this? I am speaking about the preliminary facts on the stage. The talk about the Alon plan, most of which consists of settlements, which are military areas -- there is consensus in Israel, which also includes Yosi Sarid, over this plan, I think, and if it does not, then he is alone, unique, and isolated. Yosi Sarid can think as he likes. The same about the areas of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. What will he do about them? What will he negotiate about? About the return of al-'Ayzariyah? What will he talk about? Who will he represent with his statements and views?

Question: Are you prepared to distance your statements from those of persons who might oppose the settlement process but are neutral and are not doing anything?

Answer: The settlements, as far as I am concerned, are a very prominent and dramatic matter on the stage, but they are not so important. The settlement process is really nothing -- what is it? People are building houses! What is the importance of that in the political and administrative struggles which will continue because there is no element stopping them?

Question: Could you give further details?

Answer: We have already talked about Husayn. The deal will go on as it has the last 17 years. When someone goes to a shop, he knows that he will bargain. The merchant says, 100 shekels, and the buyer says, 1 shekel. The merchant says, please, you are insulting me and showing me contempt. That is what will happen in the negotiations. What will they offer Husayn? When they conduct negotiations like that they must know in advance what the results will be. Hasn't the coalition talked with Husayn? They have talked with him for 10 years! Will he accept today what he rejected at that time? Today they will offer him less. What is Yosi Sarid talking about? What about? About the

fact that it is now up to the government of Israel to hold negotiations with Husayn? Hasn't it done so? What is new here? Now that the agreement between Israel and Lebanon has been abrogated, what will Husayn discuss? What will Yosi Sarid propose to him? What will the grouping propose? Will he substitute the border guard to disperse demonstrators in Nabulus?

Question: How, then, do you evaluate the political process?

Answer: There is no political process. There is talk about a political process, which has been going on 17 years and will go on 17 years more.

Question: What do you recommend? What can we do?

Answer: I am not recommending anything. I am not saying this as a politician. I am saying, "Wake up and look at what you are saying." There is no substance to these hopes. Do not have faith in them. We have entered a new stage from behind. We have eliminated the Palestinian cause. There are a million Palestinians and 3.5 million Jews, and they will live under Israeli rule for many years to come, I can assure you, and I do not want it to happen; it makes me sad, but these are facts, and let whoever does not believe that that will happen prove it to me, without telling me any stories. The people who claimed otherwise in 1968, 1970, 1971 and the years that followed failed every time and did not succeed in stopping this process, must think about what they are doing, and not I. This is an optimistic statement. We change governments and what did not happen before 1977, when the coalition was in power, is suddenly happening today; let whoever believes believe. The burden of proof lies on the politicians, not on me.

Question: Perhaps the difference is that the Palestinian cause has now entered a stage of greater seriousness, interference in Palestinian affairs now is at a high level after the war in Lebanon, and that will make it possible for incentives to exist for reaching a solution.

Answer: Exactly the opposite. The Palestinian cause is now a secondary one in the eyes of everyone and in the eyes of the Arabs. What was the reason for the strength of the Palestinian cause? Because many people thought that it was an element which threatened the West, the oil and so forth, geographically and strategically. However, it became apparent that that was not true, there was no connection between the two things. If that is the situation, what is still preoccupying anyone? What remains is that they want to resolve the issue on moral grounds! The Palestinians alone are left on the stage, and they have no power. Does that concern Reagan? Did it concern him that they bombed Beirut? Did it concern any Arab country that they bombed Beirut? Was al-Sadat concerned when he signed the peace agreement with Israel, what that would mean to the Palestinians?

Why all this talk? Can one say that the Palestinian cause is at the top of the agenda after Camp David? That is all ridiculous. It was never at all important to the Arabs. They used it when they wanted to. That is what they are doing today. What does it concern them?

Question: However, how do you explain the Reagan plan?

Answer: That was in 1982. If 'Arafat had accepted it, that would have been the last chance. That would have been an answer to Lebanon. That was the last chance, and the Palestinians lost it. He left Amman and did not go back. At that time it would have been possible to do something. Today? Today everything is connected to Lebanon, and the situation will remain as it is a number of years. Who in the West Bank is concerned with that? Who is preoccupied with this?

Question: Still, 'Arafat did go back to Amman.

Answer: What did he do? He went back, and he will go back again. The Arabs are more advanced than necessary. They publish moderate recommendations, but the Israelis always find justifications for rejecting them. It is very difficult to determine who is in the right and who is not. The Arabs also have their pressures. I am not accusing 'Arafat or belittling his ability or the ability of the king, but he has issues surrounding him. Can he do what Amin al-Jumayyil couldn't do? Could he have been satisfied with Resolution 242? Could that be explained by the fact that "the Israelis are satisfied with him?" If he was satisfied with 242, what would have happened? Would he have negotiated with them over the West Bank? They will not talk to him at all! Even the coalition will not talk to him! Even if they hold negotiations with him, they will break them off later. How many years can one put off the conclusions into political expressions?

Answer: I do not want to. I am now in a situation where understanding reality must go beyond changes. People will seize upon everything I say not in accordance with the situation but the way they imagine it (the situation). Therefore they will translate what I say into expressions which are not in keeping with what I mean. They used the expression "the man of the Bloc." However, if the situation really was one from which there was no turning back, as the men of the Bloc say, it is as if my research was only to support its political positions. The situation in the areas does not make it possible to determine political positions at this stage. Let them interpret me as they wish, that will not have any effect on me. They explain me as they imagine the situation is right now, and no one can ask me how I will act in the day, or to explain how I will act at night if the situation now is day. I imagine that the situation is in a state where people, including Yosi Sarid, must think about what is going on, if that is the situation, and what the individual and political struggle make it necessary that they do so in the new situation. They are not prepared to do so.

Question: How has your dialogue with the other doves taken concrete form?

Answer: They have not been prepared to fight for 17 years, they failed, and today they must make themselves conform to a different situation. They must be in favor of annexation today and not fight against annexation. They must reverse their positions. If this is the situation, it would at least be better for us to determine another order of values, if it is not possible to prevent annexation. That causes them sorrow, because the binational state has "paved the way" and it is necessary to think of a "human" annexation.

Question: What is the difference between a human annexation and political one?

Answer: They are different, certainly, because annexation on political grounds is objective; if there is no way to avoid the situation, let the regime be a just one. At that point I will be annexing with the goal of making these people citizens with equal rights. If we just annex the land without annexing the people, so that we can perpetuate the system of racial superiority (apartheid), then the reasons will become clear to you.

Question: That means that the struggle against the Bloc must be concentrated on the point that annexation, according to your statement, is an inevitable thing which cannot be prevented and therefore it must be an enlightened annexation, as was stated previously: "an enlightened occupation."

Answer: If that is the situation, they must think how they will act. I did not say absolutely immediately. If it is not in my power to fight the encroaching annexation, which has encroached and encroached until it has been realized, I must manage the method in another way which is in keeping with permanent dominance. What is annexation? Annexation is a change in the status of the situation and the status of the occupation to a permanent status. However, when the situation is permanent but there is no annexation, then a decision must be made to make your struggle of values a permanent situation.

In a few years you will be able to say that this is not a permanent situation.

Question: What about representation for the Palestinians in the areas in the Knesset?

Answer: Of course they must be represented. That is the necessary price for this. And if we are not prepared to pay the price? Then we must give the Palestinians a state of their own.

Question: That is, we must now become informed about the basis of discussion between the doves and the government.

Answer: Not exactly between them and the government; also with the hawks. Ezer Weitzmann knows this. Many hawks take a position like the doves when the issue is a democratic state or a Jewish one, the issue that must be resolved. The political world is divided, not between a government and a coalition; there are many doves who support the establishment of a Palestinian state because they hate the Arabs and want the Arabs out. There are many people in the Peace Now movement who use the Arabs but I am concerned about what will happen to me." That is how they talk. That, in my view, is an ignominy and disgrace. They are not concerned with the Arabs; they are concerned with what will happen to them. Now the system of doves and hawks is changing because it is founded on the distribution between who is for and who is against the total Israel. However, as long as Israel is whole, whether you like it or not, the whole discussion has ended. Since the matter has been accomplished, we must think what we will do next. Whoever believes that Palestine has not yet been annexed and will rise up in 5 years -- what will it do?

ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL PROBLEMS FACING PRIVATE, PUBLIC SECTORS ANALYZED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 373, 14 Apr 84 pp 48-49

[Article: "Who is Firing on Lebanese Economy"]

[Excerpts] The negotiators in Lausanne have forgotten that before anything else, the Lebanese economy is in need of a committee to save it, even if only temporarily, and to bolster its mainstays that have begun to collapse and fall in the face of the blows of successive events and the cycles of violence. It is true that the economy is improving with the improvement in the security situation and with the start of the endeavor to find political solutions. But it is also true that the economy can no longer wait for such solutions, as it is true that the resolutions taken have not so much offered solutions as they have rendered decisions to start studying solutions. This is the thing that continues to harbor all kinds of possibilities within its folds and that fails to map out the clear and obvious path toward the start of the solution.

By reviewing the given facts of the Lebanese economy at present, it becomes evident that the situation can no longer withstand more waiting or procrastination and that a continuation of the situation as it is heralds grave consequences. Lebanon has almost exhausted its assets and it seems difficult to find fundamental solutions for the economic problems generated by the events until the fate of the Lebanese political crisis is determined. But what are the fundamental problems and dilemmas currently facing the Lebanese economy?

The most complex problem creating a source of grave concern is perhaps the big deficit faced by the state treasury and which has accumulated in the past 9 years, intensifying in the past 2 years or since the Israeli invasion in June 1982 specifically. According to the figures of the Bank of Lebanon, the internal debt amounted by the end of 1983 to nearly 21 billion pounds, including nearly 15.8 billion pounds in treasury bonds and 5.3 billion pounds in loans from the Bank of Lebanon. If we add the relatively limited external debt, the total debt amounted to 22 billion pounds by the end of 1983. It is evident that the debt volume grew bigger in the first quarter of this year as a result of the events and of their direct impact on the treasury resources, especially on customs fees. By the middle of last March, state loans from the Bank of Lebanon rose by nearly 1 billion pounds, keeping in

mind that the state has asked that the ceiling for ordinary loans from the Bank of Lebanon be raised from 5 to 8 billion pounds because it expects to need the extra sum during the current year and that the ceiling for the development loans is 4 billion pounds. Therefore, it can be said that the debt rose to nearly 25 billion pounds by the end of last March. This is a figure equal to the amount of the reserves of the Bank of Lebanon and the amount of four annual budgets, measuring by the volume of this year's budget. Added to this big deficit, which is being currently faced under the canopy of the present conditions, are new challenges that are likely to result in a yet bigger deficit, the most significant of these challenges being:

1. The amount of the interest for the internal debt is estimated to be 1 billion pounds. This interest amounted to nearly 900 million pounds in 1982 and rose to 1.6 billion pounds in 1983 as a result of the issuance of 1-year, 18-month and 2-year bonds. It is expected that the volume of this interest will amount to nearly 1 billion pounds in 1984 now that the medium-range bonds have been cancelled and that bond terms have been confined to 3 months, 6 months and 7 months.

2. The state will face a deficit in a number of public establishments, especially the Lebanon Electricity Company which has suffered successive damages and which faces a problem of collecting bills and of electricity thefts.

3. What is said about the Electricity Company can also be said about al-Riji Company [state tobacco monopoly] and Beirut Port. The first has been incurring annual losses as a result of widespread smuggling and the impossibility of processing tobacco, and the second has been incurring losses as a result of the closure of the port and the loss of important revenues in collected fees.

4. Since the outset of this year, the state has been flooded with requests from city, suburban and village municipalities for treasury loans that enable them to continue to pay the salaries of their employees because the security situation and the absence of the government prevent the municipalities from collecting the fees and taxes due them. These urgent demands by the utilities whose services cannot be dispensed with are likely to increase the deficit tangibly at a time when the state cannot develop its revenues from taxes and fees. The state will face an increasing demand from the private sector for loans or aid, or at least for backdated and future exemptions. The state will, at least, face pressure that the fees and taxes, and the penalties [al-mujibat] emanating from them, be suspended. This is why the treasury's financial situation raises the question of how the state can meet these expenses at a time when it cannot increase its revenues and does not expect tangible improvement in these revenues because of the faltering activity of the private sector.

At a time when it is difficult to obtain foreign aid and when the state's position is becoming more difficult and critical--especially if the state is forced to launch, even if only partially, the reconstruction program, keeping

in mind that there is, before reconstruction, an urgent need to advance immediate aid to the hard-hit areas, particularly the southern suburb and to provide shelter to the evacuees who are occupying the schools and obstructing their educational activities--the state has tried to slow down implementation of the reconstruction program whose costs are estimated at 130 billion pounds. The state cannot ignore the vital projects, such as stepping up the efforts to put the Tripoli refinery back into operation at a cost of 600 million pounds, to restore the main highways and also to restore the telephone, electricity and water networks.

When talking of the treasury deficit and of the public sector's problems, we must also note the problem of deterioration and corruption that have developed in the administrative apparatus, the absence of control and the expanding scope of graft, not to mention the low productivity which is an old and ever-recurring problem.

The problems of the Lebanese economy are not confined to the public sector. They are manifested more sharply in the private sector as a result of the 9-year war. This sector continued to be relatively able to adapt until the beginning of 1983 when the signs of a freeze surfaced and then intensified rapidly. The problems of the various segments of the private sector are numerous and pertain to production, marketing, high costs and lack of liquidity. In this regard, we can pause before two main sectors, namely industry and banking.

First, insofar as industry is concerned, the main problem existing at present lies, contrary to the past, in the destruction and obstruction of the means of production themselves as a result of the direct damage that has hit the establishments. Estimated statistics indicate that no less than 20 percent of the installations or equipment, or both, of the establishments have been destroyed. Moreover, no less than 20 percent of the other establishments are incapable of production, either for security reasons or financial reasons. The industrial sector in its entirety is facing a crisis of liquidity and of a shortage of operational capital as a result of the continued payment of wages and salaries, of lower production and diminished exports. The industrial sector also faces the problem of exportation, either because of local reasons connected with transportation and high prices or because of external reasons connected with difficulties facing the importing countries or because of restrictions imposed on certain commodities. An industrial upsurge requires several expeditious measures, the most important being:

- In view of the unlikelihood of obtaining aid and compensation, it seems that soft-term credit facilities, in terms of both interest and duration, are urgently needed to bolster the operational capital required for the payment of salaries and for the purchase of raw materials.
- The performance of the public services, such as electricity, communications and fuels need to be improved and these services should be made available.
- The means of marketing by lifting the restrictions on exports, imposing a degree of protection, fighting smuggling, opening the provinces to each other

and giving industry priority insofar as government purchases are concerned should be improved. If these measures are not taken, industrial production will continue to falter and will not exceed 40 percent the available capacity. There is no doubt that establishing security will help increase this percentage, but only gradually and at a slow rate.

Second, there is no doubt that the banking sector which stood fast throughout the events has begun to face at present real challenges which form in their entirety the accumulated consequences which the banking sector is no longer capable of absorbing. The critical situation of the banks can be demonstrated through the following:

The successive events that have hit the business institutions directly or indirectly have increased the volume of the bank loans whose collection is doubtful, especially in the industrial and tourism sectors. This has made it necessary for the banks to increase their reserve supplies to cover the debts that the borrowers are unable to repay.

The banks are facing numerous difficulties in collecting the debts payable by their clients because of the state of economic stagnation confronting the industrialists, whose production has diminished, and of their inability to store their products and confronting the contractors [real estate developers], who find it difficult to sell apartments due to the disinclination for financial and security reasons to buy. Therefore, it is noticed that there has been a considerable drop in the prices of apartments, especially in the eastern sector of the capital where the supply exceeds the demand. Project [apartment building] owners sell at relatively low prices to repay the loans owed the banks and to avoid accumulated interest.

The banking loan policy will remain paralyzed until further notice because the unstable security will not permit the banks to chart new ending policies that yield a rewarding return and will not permit the banks to adopt flexible policies toward their indebted clients so that it may be possible to pay old debts through new credit facilities.

Making loans more accessible under the canopy of the unclear political and security situation seems somewhat impossible because most banks have spread themselves too thin by advancing loans and are facing a liquidity crisis that varies from bank to bank.

The nature of the banking sector and its extreme sensitivity do not permit a drastic squeezing of expenses because spending affects a bank's reputation.

The general situation and its negative effects on the banks have forced foreign banks to cancel or reduce the credit advanced to the Lebanese banks.

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SHAYKH FADLALLAH CALLS FOR ACTION AGAINST SOUTHERN COLLABORATORS

Beirut AL-NIDA' in Arabic 17 Apr 84 p 2

[Article: "Fadlallah Calls for Fighting Those Who Deal with Israel"]

[Text] His Eminence Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has urged spiritual and civilian notables to exert the utmost pressure on southerners dealing with Israel within the framework of the Southern Lebanese Army, the National Guard or any other organization by a call to isolate such collaborators at the popular level and to fight them with various means.

In a statement made yesterday, Shaykh Fadlallah stressed "the need for action to strengthen the civilian and military resistance being waged by the southerners against the occupation in Lebanon in the interest of the resistance so that we may transform the issue of the south into a number-one issue that takes precedent over all other issues and so that the south may become the starting point for reconciliation and the basis of unity, considering the priority the liberation issue occupies at the nation's level and considering the danger Israel poses to all the internal solutions to the Lebanese crisis."

Fadlallah also stressed that it is important that all the political forces in this country stand to exert pressure on the internal, regional and international situation so as to give the issue of the south its true dimension as a liberation movement.

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EXPERT STUDY CITES COUNTRY'S DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 Apr 84 p 5

[Article: "Population and Sectarian Distribution in Provinces According to Expert Study Conducted in 1983"]

[Text] The PRESS NEWS AGENCY [wikalat al-anba' al-suhufiyah] published yesterday a statistical study on demographic and population movements in the wake of the Israeli withdrawal from Beirut and its suburbs.

The study shows that the population of Lebanon is presently 3,019,567 and is divided as follows: Maronites 700,000 (resident Maronites), Catholics 164,773, Orthodox 281,382, minorities 45,573, Sunna 815,244, Shi'ites 852,308 Druze 170,033 and 327,498 Palestinian residents.

This is what the agency has said regarding the report:

"A neutral team of specialized sociologists and statistics experts, in cooperation with U.S. professors and employees of the official statistics agencies in Lebanon, have conducted a study of the demographic and population movements in the wake of the Israeli withdrawal from Beirut and its suburbs.

"The study was conducted throughout 9 months in 1983, was concluded in October of the same year and included all the governorates in light of the forceful displacements caused by the bloody battles and clashes in Lebanon."

At the conclusion of the study, a report was submitted on its outcomes, along with figures demonstrating the population and sectarian distribution in the provinces of Lebanon.

The report reviews the reasons for the decline of Lebanon's population generally, including emigration to the outside world. It is estimated that 400,000 Lebanese have emigrated from the country.

The report also reviews the causes for the enormous increase in the population of Mount Lebanon, an increase showing prominently in the southern suburban area.

The report attributes this increase to the emigration of the Lebanese from the south and al-Biqa' to the areas around Beirut either to escape the Israeli pressure or in search of a source of livelihood.

The report offers various percentages for incomes in the Lebanese provinces, emphasizing that the income figures in the belt of misery surrounding Beirut seem to be meager in comparison with the incomes of the service occupations in which the misery-belt inhabitants work away from their native rural society.

The report's most significant content is perhaps the figures on population movement and its distribution in November 1983. These figures show the population distribution of the various Lebanese sects to be as follows:

<u>Sects</u>	<u>Mount Lebanon</u>	<u>South Lebanon</u>	<u>North Lebanon</u>	<u>Al-Biqa'</u>	<u>Beirut Province</u>	<u>Total</u>
Maronites	594,318	1,182	31,772	6,919	76,063	690,254
Catholics	65,815	6,103	7,801	64,558	20,492	164,773
Christian Minorities	23,611	3,260	2,013	1,481	15,208	281,382
Sunna	237,699	64,692	206,308	38,008	268,537	815,244
Shi'ites	559,436	128,846	318	66,298	96,310	852,308
Druze	131,690	320	980	18,940	18,940	170,033
TOTAL	<u>1,667,511</u>	<u>222,009</u>	<u>381,374</u>	<u>204,535</u>	<u>544,136</u>	<u>3,019,567</u>

Christian sects: 1,121,902 39.144%

Muslim sects: 1,837,585 60.655%

Ethnic groups under study

Kurds: 27,148

Syriac: 2,706

Wadi Khalid Bedouins: 14,291

Palestinians: 327,398

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POSSIBLE SYRIAN MILITARY DEPLOYMENT IN AL-SHUF EXAMINED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 54, 21 Apr 84 p 20

[Article by Joseph Qusayfi: "Hafiz al-Asad to Sulayman Franjiyah: We Will Not Leave al-Jumayyil Alone and Will Not Go Soft on Those Who Do Not Want Peace for Lebanon; Should Syria Enter 'Alayh and Al-Shuf Districts"]

[Excerpts] Beirut--"Those who reject Lebanon's entry into the Syrian era [al-'asr] have not yet thrown away their weapons and they are working to keep the internal situation tense while waiting for the southern winds to blow, sweeping away from their path the lines drawn recently on the ground."

These statements, made by a Western diplomat well known for his broad knowledge in a private session he had last week with a number of politicians, go beyond the bounds of a personal assessment to underline the indicators that reinforce the diplomat's apprehension, namely:

First, the instability of the situation in the western part of the capital, Beirut, the spread of the wave of kidnappings and attacks on journalists, which constitutes one of the features of the situation, and the heightened sectarian tension in the wake of the recent events for which the Lebanese capital was the arena and which culminated with the domination of the Progressive Socialist Party and Amal Movement and the decline of the Sunni military and political character of the capital despite the endeavors being made to imply the opposite and to contain the reactions.

Second, the entry of the Israeli element into the plan and this element's ability to gain control of the situation in al-Shuf area through the agreement it has brought about between the Lebanese Forces and the Progressive Socialist Party over the situation in al-Kharrub District.

Third, the continued violation of the ceasefire along the Mount Lebanon axes despite the repeated appeals made and agreements concluded in the late-night security sessions at B'abda Palace and despite the Syrian insistence. This reinforces the belief that there is a faction working to reverse the Syrian tendencies in this phase.

Fourth, all the acts being committed in the western sector of the capital and that are beyond the control of Amal and the Progressive Socialist Party

confirm that there are those on the Arab side that do not acknowledge the reality of the current Syrian role in Lebanon.

The Syrian leadership has realized this and is working currently along more than one line to wrench a firm guarantee of a ceasefire and of an end to all military acts from all the parties involved. President Hafiz al-Asad told ex-President Sulayman Franjiyah when he received the latter upon his return from the Lausanne dialogue conference that he, President al-Asad, will spare no effort to restore tranquility and stability to Lebanon, beginning with the capital, Beirut, and that Syria will give all the parties the opportunity to submit voluntarily to the conference resolutions, especially those pertaining to the ceasefire, and to facilitate the return of normal life. He added, however, that Syria will not go soft on any faction seeking to "muddle" the objectives which Damascus is seeking to achieve in the near future. Al-Asad also told Franjiyah that the president of the Republic of Lebanon has put his trust in Syria and has asked for its assistance and that it is not in Damascus's character to renege on the pledges it undertakes, regardless of how dear the cost. That atmosphere, conveyed by people arriving from Zgharta, where ex-President Franjiyah lives, has been coupled with a concentrated campaign in the Syrian press warning against obstructing the return of normal life.

On the other hand, Pierre al-Jumayyil, the head of the Lebanese Phalange, assures all those who contact him that the Lebanese Forces are committed optimally to the ceasefire resolutions, that he and ex-President Camille Sham'un intend to implement the agreements reached and that the response of the Lebanese Forces command is complete. Al-Jumayyil cites more than one instance proving the Lebanese Forces' adherence, saying that they did not retaliate to the shelling that was directed at the eastern areas 2 weeks ago and held their fire for 2 days until all means of peaceful dialogue were exhausted and until the citizens, who paid this time dearly for the security breakdown which preceded the first meeting of the Higher Political Security Committee, lost all patience.

Sources in the Progressive Socialist Party have denied that they are responsible for undermining the situation along the mountain axes. When the army representative on the Security Committee asserted that the violations come from the party positions across the Lebanese army positions in Suq al-Gharb, the sources responded that the setbacks occurring from time to time are a natural result of the failure to separate the forces on this front.

The available information indicates that Syria is prepared to enter 'Alayh area within the framework of the return of the deterrent forces, about which a lot is being said in the political circles, to replace the Progressive Socialist Party Forces in the positions opposite the Lebanese army positions.

The observers also say that in case the Syrian forces enter the mountain, they will move to take up advance positions in the areas overlooking the boundaries separating 'Alayh and al-Shuf districts and that the mountain will thus become again an area for a direct regional tug-of-war between

Israel and Syria because of the possibility of escalating friction which will take place as a result of developments on the ground which will dictate that the tangential lines between Damascus and Tel Aviv be established once more on the Mount Lebanon soil.

It is evident from the above that the tranquility which Lebanon will experience will be no more than a truce during which each party reexamines its calculations.

Syria has begun to feel that the situation in Lebanon is exhausting it and that there is a need for an operation that restores the game of political-military balances and provides the parties with the opportunity to search for solutions with a flexible mentality free of the logic of "victorious and defeated."

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CSO: 4404/444

DAMASCUS GOVERNOR DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 4 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Building the developed socialist society is a long and complex process. The policy of the Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party in the years of the people's rule has created the material conditions and social atmosphere needed for the flowering of Syria's building up and progress, said the governor of Damascus, Mr Adnan Qouli in a statement to ST.

In this context, he added, the Governorate of Damascus has spared no effort in order to carry out pioneering projects.

The growing influence of the progress of national economy and the public sector is the chief feature of the current stage, the Governor said.

Improvements in the city, he added, have not been limited to the construction of parks, gardens and squares, the establishment of industrial and economic firms, but have also covered other vital projects, especially in the field of communications.

Ambitious schemes have been prepared for the improvement of road systems, in order to improve links between the more densely populated areas in the city, Mr Qouli went on. In this respect, the Governor said, the Governorate of Damascus has prepared detailed studies for new road networks, some of which have been completed. Others are under execution, while still other vital road projects are planned to be carried out by 1985 within the framework of the fifth five year-plan. Mr Qouli listed the completed projects as follows:

--Al Thawra street extends from al-Nafis hospital in the north, to Bab-al Jabieh in the south. It was carried out during the period from 1973-1978. The project includes two bridges for parking cars and a tunnel providing electric and telephone services. The project's total cost was estimated at LS 35 million.

--Tishreen street, extending from al-Qaboun area to al-Thawra street. It forms the city's northern entrance. It was carried out during 1976-1977 at a cost of LS 10 million.

--April 17 street: Extends from Kafr Souseh to the Mazzeh highway.

--Al-Rabweh crossroad which links al-Mouasat hospital with Khourshid road is 87 meters long, 18 meters wide and has an area of 1,500 square meters. It was carried out by the Works Construction Company at a cost of LS 10 million.

--The Wahda bridge and tunnel. This project was inaugurated in 1982. It links al-Mazzeah highway with the Ummiyad square.

--The crossroad of the city's northern entrance (al-Qaboun). It aims to facilitate traffic in the area. It was carried out by the Concrete General Establishment and opened to traffic on March 8, 1983, at a cost of LS 24 million.

--The road diversion of Sheikh Raslan area. The diversion was carried out by the Qasyoun Mountain Company at a cost of LS 7 million and was inaugurated in 1982. Other projects, the Governor said, are under execution. These include:

--The Southern Ringroad, which extends from the northern entrance of the city, meets the Aleppo highway at Harasta bridge. It passes through the areas of Jouber, al-Meedan, Safr Souseh, and al-Mazzeah "Ringroad". It is of a total length of 23 km. In 1981, the Qasyoun Mountain Company was commissioned to carry out this project, at a cost of LS 700 million.

The northern "Ringroad". This road extends from Adra, on the Damascus Aleppo road, runs around the mountains behind the said road, passes Ma'raba valley and al-Tal areas through two high bridges. It also runs behind Qasyoun Mountain via al-Hameh. The road's total length is 38 kms.

The aim of this project is to provide a link between the two axes of Damascus, al-Zabbadni and Damascus Ma'loula, and al-Qalamoun.

--The high bridge of al-Hameh which is located on the way to the northern "ringroad" in the region of Jamraia, was recently inaugurated. It is 310 meters long and 26 meters wide. It was carried out by the Works Construction Company at a cost of LS 21 million.

--President Assad Bridge starts from al-Jala'a street the Guest House Palace, passing over Beirut street and the Barada river. The bridge is 280 meters long and 28 meters wide. A branch bridge was constructed to link the end of the main bridge with the Beirut street by means of a bridge constructed over the Barada river. It is 115 meters long and 15 meters wide. The project is intended to provide a direct connection between Abou Rummaneh street and al-Barameka and to provide a solution for the traffic bottleneck in this busy part of the city.

A parking place for 400 cars is located under this bridge. In 1980, the Governorate of Damascus contracted with the Works Construction Company to carry out this project, at a total cost of LS 29 million. The project was inaugurated on the 13th anniversary of the Correctionist Movement.

--The project of the Southern entrance to Damascus. The Ministry of Communications is carrying out a new highway linking Damascus through Dara'a with the

Jordanian border. A new entrance to the City of Damascus from the South has been included in the City's planning blueprint. Detailed studies on this project have been completed. The Governorate has contracted with the Qassyoun Mountain Company to carry out this project. The highway extends from the southern end of the city at al-Qadam to the area of al-Fahammeh, at an estimated cost of LS 30 millions.

The "Ringroad" runs through the city's southern entrance via a highway to al-Qanawat, and Bah al-Jabieh ares. It is also linked with al-Thawra bridge and the southern "Ringroad". Detailed studies on this project have been prepared since 1974. Work to carry them out is expected to be started before 1985. The road project of al-Mujtahed, Kafr Souseh, al-Mazzeah al Mawasat, al-Rabweh to Qassvoun will also be carried out. Studies have been prepared for the cross-road linking this road with al-Mazzeah highway. Work is expected to start on this project in 1984.

Al-Thawra tunnel, starting from al-Dewanieh area and going south. The tunnel is 452 meters long. The project aims to facilitate traffic movement in the streets of Murshid Khater and Baghdad.

The governorate of Damascus, said Mr Qouli, aspires to carry out new projects in the field of communications. Among the projects, planned to be carried out during the fifth five year plan, the Governor said, are the following:

A "Ringroad" running along the city's wall and linked to several other roads.

A bridge linking the housing complex of Dummar with the Qassvoun mountain roads.

The Governorate of Damascus is currently preparing studies to carry out this project. The importance of this bridge lies in the fact that it constitutes a main entrance to the residential complexes of Dummar and Qudsvva.

It links the two said housing complexes with the city of Damascus. The bridge is 250 meters long and 28 meters wide. Work on constructing this project will start in 1984. Estimated cost is LS 25 million. At the end of his statement, Mr Qouli stressed that the Governorate will spare no efforts to fulfil the city's aspirations. "This can be attained through exerting intensified efforts in order to meet people's needs", Mr Qouli concluded.

CSO: 4400/233

COTTON PRODUCTION SECOND IN WORLD IN 1983

Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 24 Jan 84 p 3

[Article by Tomader Fateh]

[Text] All those who attended the cotton's 17th conference in Aleppo were greatly satisfied with the country's output of this product, which last year exceeded 512,000 tonnes, of a value of LS 2 billion.

This new figure enabled Syria to occupy the world's second position among cotton producing countries. These new indicators were the main topic discussed in the 17th cotton conference, which was held on January 3 through 9 1984.

The Conference was presided over by the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Mr Ammash Jdea'. It was attended by representatives of the Ba'ath party branches, peasants unions and in the governrates and representatives of cotton firms and establishments.

The great results achieved by the country in the field of agriculture made participants in the conference attempt to find means of developing production, in respect of both quality and quantity. This attempt to improve cotton production was advocated by the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform during his meetings with peasants.

The directorate of cotton which hosted the conference submitted a report showing achieved results in comparison with the figures of last year. Regarding the planted area, the report said that the area assigned for cotton plantation was 158,207 ha, but the actual planted area was 172,559 ha. This represents an increase of 143.58 hectares over the set plan, and an area of 139.46 ha over the figures of 1982.

The set plan aimed at producing 406,714 tonnes. By 25-12-1983 actual production was 515,802 tonnes. This represents an increase of 108,994 tonnes over the set plan and 93628 tonnes over the figures of 1982.

In respect of output, the set plan aimed at an annual production of 2571 Kg/ha. Till 25-12-1983, the output was 2989 Kg/ha. This represents an increase of 418 Kg/ha over the set plan and 302 Kg/ha over the figures of 1982. The report added that the gained increase in production was of a value of LS 375 million: it was attained due to several factors including: suitable

climate; an increase in the planted land and the increase of output per area unit. Following a full discussion, the conference approved a number of suggestions and recommendations. In the field of agricultural mechanization; the conference assigned the General Organization for Agricultural Mechanization (GOAM) to supervise cotton plantation and harvesting processes. It approved planting an 2900 tonnes of cotton seeds in an area of 478,000 dunums. Encouragement of Local manufacturing of tractors accessories, was given priority.

In the field of supply, marketing and manufacture: In collaboration with the General Union of peasants (GUP), the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) has proposed sale and purchase prices in order to be adopted by the Supreme Agricultural Council (SAC).

A cotton ginning mill will be established in al-Raqqa of a capacity of 30,000 tonnes per production season.

A new factory for oil extraction of cotton seeds will be put in operation in Deir Ez-Zour; it will have a capacity of 30,000 tonnes per season.

The conference approved a production plan for 1984 involving planting 163,143 ha with cotton seeds. Also approved, for the same year; an output of 2973 Kg/ha, and a total production of 485,059 tonnes.

The conference approved a subsidy of agricultural experts working in cotton research by resort to the law of production incentives.

In appreciation of the fruitful efforts exerted by agronomists, who helped increase the cotton harvest, especially in the last 3 years, representing a profit of LS 1 billion, the conference adopted a decision to put into force, the rules and regulations of law no 57 of 1980, which organizes the profession of agronomists.

Other decisions approved taking quick measures in the field of salty land reclamation in the lower Euphrates basin and the lower al-Kabour river.

Emphasis was placed on the enforcement of law no 14, provisions of which impose severe measures against those who impede agricultural plan implementation and other agricultural services. A permanent committee was formed including representatives from Deir Ez-Zour and al-Hassaka to supervise the distribution of al-Khabour waters and to deal with problems relating to use by farmers of non-licensed engines.

The conference stressed the need to pump water into Homs-Hama water pipes at set times and by definite quantities. Also stressed was the need to produce compound fertilizers locally.

Within the framework of the cotton's 17th conference, the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform met with directors of firms and establishments concerned with the agricultural sector in the governorate of Aleppo. The meeting was attended by the governor and the governorate's senior officials.

The aim of this meeting, the Minister said, is to discuss the work of every firm and establishment attached to the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Minister expressed the hope that the great agricultural achievements of 1983 will serve as foundation for greater successes in the forthcoming years.

Reviewing the notable development of the agricultural sector, the Minister said that the cotton harvest increased from 325,000 tonnes in 1980 to 442,000 tonnes in 1982 and 520,000 tonnes in 1983. Concerning sugar beet, the Minister said, production in 1980 was 200,000 tonnes, 860,000 tonnes in 1982 and 1200,000 tonnes in 1983.

As for livestock, the Minister added, we have achieved self-sufficiency in poultry.

The overall execution ratio of the plans was estimated at 90 per cent. As for cattle, the Minister added, meat production increased during the period from 1977 to 1983 from 7,000 tonnes to 13,000 tonnes. For the same period ratio of a cow's production of milk increased from 250kg to 4500 kg per year. The Fodder General Establishment, the Minister said, has been seriously working to produce green fodder, which is greatly useful to cattle production. The Minister spoke about the importance of agricultural mechanization in reducing production costs and increasing output per area unit. The government's investment policy in the sphere of agriculture aims to carry out all agricultural operations plans all over the country.

The 1984 investment plan includes the setting up of 105 guidance units, distributed in the governorates of Damascus, Hama, Homs, Tartous, Lattakia, Idleb, Aleppo, Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zour, Hassaka, Dara'a, Sweida, Quneitra and in al-Ghab district. The Minister stressed the need to establish the said units as soon as possible.

CSO: 4400/233

SUGAR COMPANY OFFICIAL REPORTS ON HOMS FACTOR

Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 25 Jan 84 p 3

[Article by Z. Saleh]

[Text]

The Homs sugar company has a vital importance due to its significant contribution to the country's national economy and to the importance of its production of sugar, which is one of the basic food materials which play an important role in the country's food security strategy.

The company was established in the year 1948 with a capital of L.S. 20 million only. The assets of the company have recently reached L.S. 125 million.

Interviewed by a SYRIA TIMES correspondent, the company's Director-General Mr. Talal 'Odaimeh, furnished us with information about the company's progress.

Sugar beet, he said, constitutes the main raw material processed by the company's affiliated factories to produce sugar. The company coordinates with the agricultural sector for the areas of land to be

sugar-beet cultivated in order not to have neither shortage nor surplus of this basic raw material, the Director-General added.

The sugar beet needed for factories is cultivated in Homs' agricultural plains near production sites to facilitate transportation.

Like all third world industrial factories, the company's factories suffer from shortage of spare parts and modern machinery. Yet, this obstacle was tackled by the zealous efforts of workers, who are determined to improve their company and take part in building up the solid national economic base necessary for Syria's steadfastness and confrontation he stressed.

The technical qualifications and experience the workers have acquired through years of work have enabled them not only to upgrade the production but also to supervise the installation and regular maintenance of

several newly established sugar factories all over the country, he pointed out.

The factory's daily production capacity is 800 to 850 tonnes of sugar, all intended for local marketing, Mr. 'Odaimeï said.

Training courses are often organized by the company to train workers in matters relating to refining raw sugar, the country imports considerable quantities of sugar to meet the needs of citizens for this food material. The refinery works five months a year and has a daily production capacity of 300 tonnes of refined sugar.

To utilise the by-products obtained in the process of the manufacture of sugar, a number of affiliated factories have been established.

One of these factories is the Oil and Soap Factory. It was set up in the year 1951 to extract oil from cotton and other plants seeds.

It produces daily about 15 tonnes of oil and three tonnes of soap, Mr. 'Odaimeï continued.

The Ethyl Alcohol and Carbon Factory is another

plant attached to the company. It was put into operation in the year 1953 to produce medical and industrial ethyl-alcohol. The factory has a daily production capacity of seven tonnes of ethyl-alcohol and four tonnes of carbon gas.

In the year 1976, a yeast factory was established. It produces about 10 tonnes of bread yeast per day, the Director explained.

In spite of several difficulties faced, the company's staff were able to achieve production figures conforming to the annual workplan, he said.

Last year, Homs governorate's crops of sugar beet amounted to 207,000 tonnes. The surplus of agricultural production caused a number of troubles to the company, which manufactured 80 thousand tonnes with a 10 thousand tonnes over the planned figure. The company managed to market the surplus, thereby contributing to tackling the problem.

Recently, the company prepared the blueprints needed for the carrying out of a number of projects to

improve the technological maintenance of the factories.

The projects include installation of an automatic sugar packing plant, the equipment of which is currently being assembled and expected to be put into operation soon.

A pump for producing carbon gas will shortly be installed along with a steam boiler, its production capacity will be 40 tonnes per hour.

The Director-General went on saying that an electric turbine, a set of sieves and a sugar refinery will also be installed.

Moreover, the yeast and ferment factory will be enlarged and an oil-bottling plant will be installed. The estimated cost of these projects, excluding the enlargement of the yeast and ferment factory, Mr. 'Odaimeï said, is L.S. 15 million.

The company will also establish a new production line at the sugar factory with a daily production capacity of 3000 to 4000 tonnes of sugar beet, the Director-General concluded.

TRACTOR OFFICIAL REVEALS ANNUAL PLAN STATISTICS

Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 10 Jan 84 p 3

[Article by Bashar Sati]

[Text] The Furat Tractors Company was established in 1974. Around 75 percent of the company's shares are owned by the government, while the remaining shares are owned by a Spanish motors company.

The Furate Company has a capital of LS 150 million. The value of its investments is expected to reach LS 200 million in the near future.

The tasks of the company include manufacturing agricultural tractors and industrial trucks, agricultural tools and machines, land transport equipment and machinery, as well as marketing the company's products.

Interview by ST correspondent, assistant director general of the company. Mr Mohammad Amin al-Samman, said that the company adopts modern technology in the production of tractors. Raw materials and manufactured spare parts are fully inspected by the Spanish motors company before they are put into use.

Production accessories including tyres, batteries and fuel are purchased from the local market: while other metal items are imported. In other words the company manufactures about 55 percent of the tractor.

On the implementation of the company's 1983 plan, Mr. Samman said that it included the manufacturing of 4500 tractors, agricultural equipment, various spare parts and production lines for mechanical bakeries. The company has also carried out a number of successful experiments on the manufacturing of the electrical pressing machines.

The implementation ratio of the annual plan was 100 percent for the first nine months of 1983, after which it dropped to 88 percent due to a delay in opening L/Cs and manufacturing spare parts for the newly imported tractors.

The 1984 plan, Mr. Samman said, includes opening L/Cs for imported spare parts. The company is scheduled to manufacture 4000 tractors by the end of 1984. About 55 percent of the whole tractor will be manufactured locally. In addition, the company will increase production to meet the shortages of last year: manufacture various industrial and agricultural machinery, produce more lines for mechanical bakeries; and expand in the field of making various spare parts.

Commenting on cooperation talks held between the company and Turkish firms, Mr. Samman said that a company delegation has visited a number of Turkish tractors manufacturing companies, in order to study the possibility of carrying out joint projects. The delegation also discussed the issue of importing certain tractors parts which the company usually imports from Spain. It has been agreed that a Turkish technical delegation will pay a visit to Furate company, in order to sign a technical agreement on manufacturing tractors and other agricultural machinery.

Discussing the difficulties facing the company, Mr. Samman deplored the delay in opening the L/Cs for importing tractor parts and raw materials, although, he stressed, the two ministries of Economy and Industry give priority to the opening of L/Cs submitted by the Furate company.

Referring to the company's future plan to promote production, Mr. Samman said that the company is exerting tremendous efforts to achieve its assigned goals, foremost of which is the manufacturing of tractor engines and other industrial machinery in collaboration with the Spanish motors company. Another daring plan includes the manufacture of factories specialised in making spare parts for Syrian cement factories. Current contacts have started with the GDR to purchase the equipment and machinery needed for this plan, the final preparations of which are scheduled to be ready by the end of 1984.

Concerning the workers at the company, the head of the workers union committee, Mr. Ramadan al-Ahmad said that there are 850 technicians working at the company. The number is expected to be increased next year to cope with the expected expansion of the company's projects. Training and qualification courses are available to all workers.

Among the tasks of the committee, Mr Ahmad listed the following: discussing the issues of production and labour, implementing the production incentives system, publishing workers' magazine, supervizing work at the workers' sale-store and organizing 15 recreation trips for workers annually.

CSO: 4400/233

AL-RAQQA EXECUTES WATER PROJECTS

Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 31 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] RAQQA. (SANA)--Execution of the governorate's countryside water projects started in 1981. Since then, More than 75,000 inhabitants have benefited from these vital projects. The projects that were put into investment included the following:

--Al-Sabkha town water project which involved a LS.3 million network fed by a reservoir.

--Al-Mansura town is provided with water drawn from a nearby river and stored in a 300 cubic meter reservoir.

--Al-Karam town water project which included a reservoir, an artesian well and a network fed by a LS.3 million pumping station.

--Al-Ma'dan project which cost LS.3 million and included two ground reservoirs for storage and one suspended reservoir to distribute water. The three reservoirs are fed by al-Bahamad water project, by a well and by a line drawn from a separate pumping station.

--Ein Issa project which included a well, a pumping station and a LS.160,000 pumping line.

--Al-Buhamad water project which brings water to the villages of Shriedeh, Jabali, Zour Shamr, Jaber, Khamiseh, Sweidieh, Atshaneh, Ghanem al-Ali and other villages. The project cost LS.9 million.

Other water projects were carried out in the towns of Slouk, Sharkrak, al-Kalta, al-Malloutieh and al-Hurrieh.

Projects which are being carried out and are expected to be put into investment this year include the following

--Al-Ishtirakieh--water project costing LS.700,000, which includes the digging of a well and the setting up of a pumping station, a reservoir and water pumping lines.

--Al-Mansura town project which will provide water for the neighbouring villages of Hneida, al-Safsaf, al-Hammam, al-A'Rasafa. The LS.15 million project includes the digging of three artesian wells and the construction of a number of pumping stations and reservoirs.

--Al-Dibsi Faraj water project which will supply water for over 15 villages at the cost of LS.15 million.

--The Shams Eddin LS.12 million water project which is expected to bring water to around 25 villages. The project includes the digging of wells, the setting up of a large pumping station and 17 reservoirs.

--An LS 5 million-Al-Jdeidat project which will provide water for the villages of Baladieh, Kahit, Hamra and Balasem.

More than 95 percent of the governorate's villages will be provided with water by the end of 1984.

CSO: 4400/233

EUPHRATES ORGANIZATION EXECUTES FOUR PROJECTS

Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 6 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Riad Zein]

[Text] The Syrian-Soviet friendship cooperation based on mutual respect and the achievement of common interests was manifested in a practical way in the setting up of the Euphrates Dam, which is one of the mainstays of Syria's national economy and a landmark in the country's modern history. The Euphrates Dam, which is considered one of the biggest development projects in the Middle East region, is aimed to improve social and economic conditions in the northern parts of the country. It will help carry out the comprehensive development plans drawn up by the government, which is working unceasingly for the establishment of modern Syria.

The Euphrates Dam, constructed at a cost LS 1.6 billion, was inaugurated in 1978 and put into operation in the same year. The dimensions of the Dam; it is 4,500 meters long, 512 meters wide at base and 19 meters at top, 60 meters height and 46 million cubic meters in total size. When fully operated, the Dam has all the water needed to generate the required power and a flow of 19,000 cubic meters per second. The power station of the Dam is the biggest in the country. It consists of eight big generating units, each of which produces around 100,000 kilowatt of power per annum. Al-Assad Lake behind the Dam has a 630-square-kilometers area; it is 80 kilometers long and has a maximum width of 20 km. Storage capacity of the Lake is 12 billion cubic meters of water.

In line with the comprehensive development plans, drawn up by the government to improve socio-economic conditions of the country, the General Establishment of the Investment of the Euphrates Dam, together with other concerned bodies, are exerting determined efforts to speed up the full implementation of all projects in the Dam area. These projects include the reclamation and cultivation of land, the establishment of thousands of kilometers-long irrigation canals, the installation of many water and sewage networks and the setting up of 40 modern villages in the Euphrates basin. Work on these projects is being carried out; over 50,000 hectares of land in the Euphrates basin have been cultivated and put into investment. A great number of important projects have recently been completed. These have included the digging of many artesian wells, the setting up of tens of water networks, the installation of dozens of ground and "suspended" water reservoirs and the establishment of many big pumping stations.

Furthermore, as part of the implementation of the current five-year plan, four vital projects are being executed in the Euphrates basin. These are:

1. The "Pilot Project" which is one of the country's biggest irrigation projects. It is the first of its kind to be carried out in a vast area north of al-Raqqa city. Work on the "Pilot Project" started a year ago and 50,000 hectares of land have already been reclaimed. It will irrigate over 640,000 hectares of land in the nearby areas of al-Bleikh, Mashaneh, al-,habour and al-Rasafa. The project aims at assimilating and re-settling the inhabitants of the region, which used to suffer great from floods. The project will also ensure meeting the country's needs of food materials and will produce many agricultural crops for export such as cotton, vegetables and fruits. The project includes the establishment of some industries which depend either on vegetable production such as cotton-seed oil and sugar beet, or on animal husbandry such as milk.

Work on the "Pilot Project" started in 1970 when the 25-cubic meters-per second pumping station has been installed. The project's main and secondary canals of a length of 480 kilometers, have been dug and more than 21,000 hectares of land have been irrigated. Moreover, 15 villages comprising 6710 housing units have been set up at a cost of LS 250 million, in 1975, some areas of the project were put into investment and agricultural work started cultivation of rice, cotton and sugar beet were among the project's main activities. In addition, more than 250,000 various fruit trees apricots, grapes, peaches, almonds and pistachios are planted. Production met the needs of the country's north-eastern parts and other areas. Three million saplings were planted with the aim of providing the Deir ez-Zour factory with needed wood and also to meet part of the local market's demands. Beside the project's economic and social facilities, plan were also drawn up to carry out a number of vital and services projects in the 15 villages established as part of the project and to improve social and agricultural conditions in the nearby areas.

2. The "Euphrates Middle Stage Project" is the second important stage in the Euphrates basin project. More than 27,000 hectares of land have been reclaimed in 120-kilometers-long area on the river banks: work to increase cultivated areas in the project continues. Many agricultural cooperatives were established and in 1978 peasants started to grow wheat, cotton and sugar beet.

3. The "21,000 hectares land reclamation project", which is being carried out in Maskaneh areas: Over 10,000 hectares of land were reclaimed and a 3,100-hectares model farm was set up. Work on the establishment of 6 other farms in an area of 12,500 hectares is also being carried out. The project will soon be completed.

4. Maskaneh Gharb and Aleppo Plains Project: The area of this project extends from Maskaneh city to the southern plains of Aleppo. About 130,000 hectares of land in this area will be irrigated by a 90-cubic meters-per second pumping station. The construction of a big dam in Khantouman valley is also being carried out.

CSO: 4400/234

DEPUTY PREMIER SPEAKS ON ECONOMY

Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 15 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Hisham Boukhari]

[Text]

Syria's average annual economic development is estimated at 6 per cent which is one of the highest in developing countries. Syria's rate of economic development has reached the level needed for national and social progress.

In fact, since the launching of the Correctionist Movement by President Hafez Assad in 1970, the Syrian government has been very keen on developing the industrial projects of the country; therefore, it is backing all industries which can contribute to economic development in general, and to making use of existing productive potentials as well as to setting up units to manufacture local raw materials, in particular. Accordingly, over 76 industrial projects are to be set up during the implementation of the country's fifth five-year plan. Such an increase in the number of industrial projects would contribute to providing job opportunities for the work force, reduce unemployment and develop the country's economy, especially because agriculture and commerce would benefit from such projects.

Anyhow, the volume of

investment in the industrial sector during the fifth five year plan reached LS 19 billion, out of which LS 17.9 billion were invested by public sector companies and establishments. In a recent interview with Deputy Premier for Economic Affairs, Dr Abdul Qader Qaddoura said: "Syria's economy is stable; this is not mere optimism but is based on a very thorough study of the country's economic structure and resources".

Syria's economy does not depend on one source of revenues as is the case with some other countries; instead, the country has a diversity of economic resources and several branches for economic investment to rely upon, Dr Qaddoura added.

Since the Correctionist Movement, the country has followed a stable and well-balanced economy, capable of meeting people's needs, particularly basic products.

"We have succeeded in maintaining the independence of our decisions as far as economy is concerned and despite the present world recession, unemployment and the current fighting in the Mideast region which is

greatly affecting the area", Dr Qaddoura commented.

Answering a question on whether the Syrian pound is stable, he stressed that there is no such thing as stable currency, a clear evidence of this is the continuous fluctuation of the US dollar and the West German mark.

"We try not to be affected by the rise and fall of the dollar, because we are trying to follow a socialist economic policy; yet, we are often influenced by the "free" currency, due to the need to import raw materials", he stressed.

Anyhow, he went on, the country has a wide range of resources; and this helps in overcoming the major economic obstacles. Dr Qaddoura pointed out that the country's "free" currency is, for the most part, backed by oil revenues, income from phosphates and coal, and implementation of trade agreements with other countries and several other items.

On whether the country's industrial projects have resulted in high revenues, Dr Qaddoura frankly replied that the public industrial sector is providing important income to the country's national economy. For example: THAMECO's revenues of medical products was five million Syrian pounds in 1975. In 1982, the same company paid about 12 million Syrian pounds as income tax to the Ministry of Finance, a sum that reveals the huge profit made by the company in that year. However, he continued, "our ambitions do not stop at this point: because we look forward for still far better revenues".

"We can say that the country's industrial sector has started to develop according to the plans set for it", he confirmed. Thus, Dr Qaddoura asserted that industrial costs

are being accurately estimated, the course of work properly supervised and waste minimized.

Moreover, incentives are paid to outstanding workers and employees. Consequently, he said, the canning factory failed to achieve considerable revenues in 1980; in fact in that year it even failed to pay the wages of the workers. Yet, after taking firm measures and imposing proper supervision on the course of work, the same factory was able to gain six million Syrian pounds in profit in 1982.

Moreover, the General Establishment of Trade and Cereal Processing (GETCP) fully carried out its plans for 1983, which aim to make foodstuff items available to all citizens at very low prices. The GETCP internal sales amounted to LS 2,315 million worth of material and external sales reached LS 115 million, Dr Qaddoura concluded. During the first half of 1983, domestic production increased by 13.5 per cent over that of the previous year. A squeeze was applied to importation in favour of exportation, in order to achieve a good balance between figures of foreign trade and payments.

In the field of agriculture, the government made great efforts to modernize this sector, which can bring huge revenues in case it is well managed.

Reviewing the notable development of the agricultural sector, he said that the cotton harvest increased from 325,000 tonnes in 1980 to 442,000 tonnes in 1982 and to 520,000 tonnes in 1983. Sugar beet production also rose from 200,000 tonnes in 1980 to 1,200,000 tonnes in 1983.

As a matter of fact, the government has taken effective measures to achieve a balanced economy; it has established the parallel market for foreign

currency and supervised the movement of foreign currency, encouraged investment by Syrian emigrants foreign remittance money in development projects in the country, allowed citizens to open deposit accounts in foreign currency, thus supporting the Syrian pound.

Development spending, per capita GNP and population in Arab states

	Development plans*	Total expenditure (million)	Duration	Per capita	Population**
				1981 GNP** (\$)	mid-1981 (million)
Algeria	AD	400,600	1980-84	2,140	19.602
Bahrain	BD	1,020	1982-85	8,960	0.362
Egypt	£E	39,000	1982-86	650	43.290
Iraq	ID	40,000	1981-85	na	13.541
Jibuti	N/A	N/A	N/A	480	0.381
Jordan	JD	3,300	1981-85	1,620	3.370
Kuwait	N/A	N/A	N/A	20,900	1.464
Lebanon	£Leb	68,000	1982-91	na	2.716
Libya	LD	18,500	1981-85	8,450	3.085
Mauritania	UM	76,000	1981-85	460	1.560
Morocco	MD	110,909	1981-85	860	20.891
Oman	RO	7,368	1981-85	5,920	0.919
Qatar	N/A	N/A	N/A	27,720	0.236
Saudi Arabia	SR	782,700	1980-85	12,600	9.305
Somalia	SS	16,299	1982-86	280	4.392
Sudan	£Sud	1,343	1980-83	380	19.242
Syria	£Syr	101,493	1981-85	1,570	9.314
Tunisia	TD	8,200	1982-86	1,420	6.528
UAE (federal,	Dh	15,900	1981-85	24,660	1.091
Yemen AR	YR	28,100	1981-86	460	7.251
Yemen PDR	SYD	508	1981-85	460	1.957

na: not available

N/A: not applicable

* Compiled by the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, London, October 1983

** Compiled from the 1983 World Bank Atlas, World Bank, Washington, June 1983

CSO: 4400/234

SUGAR INDUSTRY REPORTS ON 1983-84 PRODUCTION

Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 21 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Tomader Fateh]

[Text] The country's political leadership takes special interest in sugar beet production. A number of companies all over the country produce sugar from sugar beet. The General Sugar Establishment was set up to produce sugar from beets. Seven sugar companies are attached to the establishment, namely the Sugar companies of Homs, Adra, Tel-Salhab, al-Raqqa, al-Ghab, Deir ez-Zour and Maskaneh. The 1984 plan proposes planting 370,320 dunums of land with sugar beets. Planted areas will be distributed as follows: 50,000 dunums will be planted in the governorate of Homs; 7000 dunums in the Damascus governorate; 21,370 dunums in the governorate of Hama; 100,300 dunums in al-Ghab areas; 8,850 dunums in the Idleb governorate; 60,120 dunums in the governorate of Aleppo; 28,810 dunums in al-Raqqa; 27,070 dunums in the Euphrates region and 66,780 dunums in Deir ezz Zour.

About 65,000 dunums of the said area will be planted in the early autumn season, of which 50,000 dunums will be planted using the mechanized method in the areas of Homs, Deir ezz, Zour, the Euphrates basin, the al-Ghab district; Aleppo and the Raqqa governorates.

Area of sugar beet planted land in 1983 was 362,0P9 dunums while this area was 307,000 dunums in 1982.

Expected production of sugar beets in 1984 is expected to be 1,277 million tonnes, which will be distributed on the country's sugar companies as follows: Homs company 87,000 tonnes; 25,000 tonnes the Andra Company; 10,000 tonnes, the al-Ghab sugar factory; 255,000 tonnes, al-Raqqa; 255,000 tonnes, the sugar factory of Deir ezz Zour; and 30,000 tonnes, the Tel Salhab sugar factory. About 135,000 tonnes of sugar is expected to be obtained from the gross production of 1,277,000 tonnes of beets to be processed in the said factories. In 1983, sugar beet production was 1,164,185 tonnes which were marketed through the General Union of Peasants. The 1982 plan included the planting of 768,696 tonnes of sugar beet.

The General Sugar Establishment has taken measures to make the sugar factories of Homs, Adra and al-Ghab ready for operation at full capacity. The production

capacity of the sugar factory of Homs will be increased from 850 tonnes to 1200 tonnes per day and that of al-Ghab from 1000 tonnes to 2000 tonnes. The establishment has invited bids provide the two factories with all needed equipment. This equipment, for the sugar factory of Dadra, will cost LS8 million and will be installed shortly to raise the factory's production capacity.

Plant sugar beets takes place three times a year, covering the period from October to March.

In collaboration with the directorates of agriculture in the governorates branches of the General Organization for Agricultural Mechanisation (GOAM) and the Peasant Union branches, the Sugar General Establishment attempts to apply agricultural mechanisation to sugar beets plantation in the areas of al-Raqqa, Deir ezz Zour, the Euphrates basin and Maskaneh.

This was greatly welcomed by peasants after earlier successes in several sites. The process of mechanisation helps produce 3 tonnes of sugar beet per dunum, representing an increase of two tonnes over production before mechanization. Areas planted through mechanization represent an increase of 20,000 dunums over areas planted last year. The establishment utilized 60 seeders, 50 tractors and 50 cultivators in the plantation processes.

Nevertheless, mechanized agriculture faces difficulties resulting from shortage of machinery and the farmers' weak response to the newly proposed methods.

The establishment has three agricultural guidance units, of 14,000 dunums each, which are run by the sugar companies of Deir ezz Zour, al-Raqqa, and Maskaneh. The directorate of sugar beet plantation in each company has assigned 100 agronomists, 60 supervisors and 50 drivers beet planting. Up-to-date scientific agricultural methods have been applied in these guidance units, which are irrigated by sprinklers. The aim of these units is to train farmers in the correct methods of agriculture, in respect of plantation, ploughing, and the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

A joint study is currently taking place in collaboration between the General Sugar Establishment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform. The study intends to select the best kinds of sugar beets for each of the seasons produce. Moreover, suitable dates will be fixed for plantation in every region. Other experiments to decide on the best kinds of fertilizers and pesticides will be carried out.

Over 4100 personnel are working in the country's sugar companies, of whom one half are engineers, chemists and technicians. Most of these companies have good technical expertise. The company's policy favours employing local experts. In this respect training courses are taking place. Trainees are sent abroad in accordance with a set programmes at the rate of 20 technicians per year.

Nevertheless, workers in the country's sugar factories suffer from certain obstacles during the period of manufacture, which does not exceed three months. During this period of continuous work, employees forego their allowances under incentives Decree No 167.

On the other hand, plans for cultivation of sugar-beets have recently been elaborated by sugar companies officials, a spokesman of the Sugar Establishment has said. The total area to be cultivated next season is estimated at 370,000 dunums, the spokesman added.

Moreover, the establishment will allocate around 14,000 dunums for carrying out agricultural experiments, the spokesman concluded.

Noteworthy is the fact that the proposed investements are indended to reduce the risks of production. They would, for instance, reduce the risk of production associated with inadequate rainfall by improving soil moisture conservation through improved seedbed preparation, weeding and the application of fertilizers (intensive training of farmers to enable them to minimize losses in case of poor rainfall and to maximize benefits in good season). The key factors which would determine the success of the experiments are the responsiveness of farmers to the recommended agricultural practices.

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COTTON HARVEST HELPS TO BOOST AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English, No. 9, 19 Mar 84 pp 20-21

[Article by Ann Roberts: "Euphrates Dam Gives Syria Headaches--But Some Relief From Bumper Cotton Harvest"]

[Text]

The Euphrates Dam is currently producing 2.5 mn megawatts of electricity a year. This, however, is not enough to satisfy Syria's industrial, domestic and agricultural requirements and regular power cuts are the order of the day. The main cause of the insufficient electricity output has been low rainfall, with only 20 billion cubic metres of rain falling in the Euphrates Basin this winter instead of the expected 27 billion.

At the same time, Mr Tajar explained, Turkey was taking water off the Keban Dam, which further reduced the flow to Syria. He suggested that the establishment of a Euphrates valley authority would go a long way to defining and agreeing the "rights of water on the river." He favoured an agreement that would require any country that planned to build any construction along the river, or which took water off the river, to take into account the needs of other riparian states. But, he added, Turkey had started a new construction in the valley without seeking the agreement of her neighbouring countries.

Mr Tajar agreed that Syria had not sought formal agreement with Iraq before building the Euphrates Dam, but said that Iraq had

been kept informed of what the Syrians were doing. However, he added, to make a proper agreement required the cooperation of all three countries.

He said that a new regulatory dam was being built with Soviet assistance 25 kilometres downstream of the main dam, at a cost of about £S 500 million (\$6.5 mn). Construction of the dam began in 1982 and it is expected to be commissioned at the end of 1985.

On the question of leakage from the irrigation channels, the deputy minister explained that the main cause was the high gypsum content of the soil and excessive salinity. He said that Butine and polyvinylchloride (PVC) had been used effectively and changes had been made in the understructure. "We are dealing with the problem," he said, "and hope we can overcome it." However, such solutions are very expensive and some experts have said that Syria would not be able to make the necessary repairs to all the canals at an early date.

New canal building was going ahead, Mr Tajar said, and some 18 kilometres of the lower main canal, from the main dam to the

Balich area, would be completed by mid-1985 at a cost of £S 250 mn, he said. The ministry of irrigation is currently examining proposals to build three dams on the Kahbur river, which joins the Euphrates at Deir el-Zor. These were to be used mainly for irrigation, but also for electricity generation. In 1984, another dam, on the Nahr el-Kebir Shamali, is expected to be completed and will be called the Tishreen or November 16 dam.

An agricultural specialist told An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO that negotiations were currently under way with the World Bank for an \$80 mn loan, possibly earmarked for the Kahbur river area. In 1979/80, the World Bank lent Syria \$30 mn.

Pressure of population

The latest (1982) statistics show Syria's population at 10.97 mn, 5.4 mn of whom are female. With the headlong rush to the cities apparently unabated and the population of Damascus now more than one million, there is clearly pressure on Syria to make greater efforts to increase food production, by increasing both the area of cultivated land and yields. Particular attention is being paid to research on crops that thrive under mechanised farming and the UN Food and Agriculture

Organisation is helping research on improved crop strains.

This season's record cotton harvest of 526,000 tonnes compares spectacularly well with the 1980 crop of 380,000 tonnes and would appear fully to justify the government's allocation of £S 17.2 bn (\$4.3 bn) to agriculture in the 1981/85 five-year plan. Sugar beet production has also been remarkable, with output in 1983 of 1.2 mn tonnes, more than 70 per cent up on the 1981 harvest of 700,000 tonnes.

These enormous leaps in production have been achieved through better methods of irrigation, mechanisation and improved strains. Syria now intends to exploit this advantage further by putting back into cotton cultivation land which has been abandoned for the last five years, and reduce the emphasis given to industry in the plan.

Cotton alone will not fully compensate for Syria's serious decline in oil revenue and she must look for fresh oil finds to bridge the gap in foreign exchange earnings until new cotton production can improve the chronic trade deficit. Syria hopes to be the world's second largest cotton producer this year and with cotton earnings expected to reach \$250 mn, Syria's principal agricultural crop has already gone some way towards facing up to her financial problems.

CSO: 4400/235

HAMAH INDUSTRIAL SECTOR ACHIEVES 'NOTABLE' DEVELOPMENT

Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 20 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] It is important to give a survey of the volume of development and of the progress made by the industrial sector in the governorate of Hama since the launching of the March 8 Revolution and up to the present. It is also important to survey new industries introduced to the country for the first time which are Hama-based. New projects have contributed to improve and increase production.

In fact, a survey has proved that the country's economic development has been based on scientific principles, especially in the field of planned industries.

It is evident that a notable development was attained through an increase in the number of industrial and economic firms in the governorate of Hama. In fact, this increase, has promoted social development, particularly after women were given the chance to participate in the process of the economic building up.

During ST meetings with workers in the governorate's factories, they all expressed readiness to exert all possible efforts to bring production to the maximum level in order to enhance the country's economic steadfastness. The tour covered the General Company for Steel and Iron Production. The company is an industrial complex for manufacturing iron and steel. It consists of a factory for producing reinforced iron bars, a melting factory, a factory for tubes manufacturing. The reinforced iron factory was founded in 1970 at a cost of LS 35 million. The other two factories for melting and making tubes were set up in 1975 at a cost of LS 220 million and LS 70 million respectively. During the first year of production the first two (iron) factories employed 325 workers. This figure was increased to 458 workers in 1982, whilst the number of workers in the third factory increased from 600 workers in the first year of production to 906 by the end of 1982.

In the meantime, the number of employed workers rose to 1607.

Results of the 1983 plan included producing 105,00 tonnes, by the iron bars factory, 8,000 tonnes by the melting factory, and 12,000,000 meters of pipes by the tube factories.

These figures of the company's production plan in 1983 was 185,000 tonnes and 12 million meters of steel and reinforced iron bars.

Another important industrial plant in the governorate is the Tyres Factory which was set up by the Federation of the Chemical and Engineering Industries as provided for by in Presidential Decree no 13, dated 3.1.1975. The General Company for Tyres Industries, which supervises the factory was set up by authority of Legislative Decree No 2,887, dated 30.12-1982. It aims at producing all kinds and types of tyres. In 1982 the number of workers was 1439, and production estimated at LS 97.183 million. The Company's plan aims to raise production value to LS 219,330.

The Hama company for cotton spinning is considered one of the major companies run by the General Establishment of Textile Industries.

The company supervises two factories. The first was set up in 1969 and the second in 1974 at a cost of LS 45,574 million.

Number of workers employed increased from 1,556 workers to 1,981 workers in 1982, operating 164 weaving machines 66,080 spindles. In 1982 the company's set plan fixed expected production of 7,044 tonnes. In 1975, the foundation stone for a factory to sort out and wash wool. The Wool General Company was set up under Decree No 1,118, dated 20.12.1978.

It supervises two factories, the first to sort out and wash wool, to which reference has already been made and the second for wool spinning, at a cost of LS 70 million.

To begin with, the number of workers was 304, producing 2,040 tonnes of wool.

The Syrian Company for producing Cement and Building Materials runs two factories, the first was nationalized in 1965 and the second was set up in 1976, at a cost of LS 223 million. Workers at the two factories are 260 and 590 respectively. In 1982, production of the first factory was estimated at 117,250 tonnes, and at 125,000 tonnes in 1983; while the second factory produced 2,555,000 tonnes in 1983.

Another vital economic firm in the governorate is the Arab Company for Manufacturing Ceramics and Sanitary Items. The company supervises 3 factories: the first was nationalized in 1965, the other two factories were set up in 1975 at a cost of LS 35 million. Some 730 workers are employed at the factory.

The 1983 plan provided for producing 30 million tiles.

Hama's factory for dehydrating onions was set up in 1967 at a cost of LS 5,137,000 million. It employes 707 workers. Its production of dehydrated onions in 1983 was estimated at 1,284 to 1,656 tonnes.

Hama's oil company was nationalized in 1965 to become part of the public sector.

The company extracts oil from cotton seeds and markets the oil, cotton, and soap which it produces.

The company produces 21,000 tonnes of cotton seeds.

Hama's tobacco's factory was established and started operation in 1966, providing jobs for 310 workers.

The Musyaf shoe factory is one of four factories run by the General Company for Shoe Making.

In 1980, the factory produced 191,246 pairs of shoes. Production increased to 696,000 pairs in 1982. Number of workers employed at the factory was 393.

The Tel-Salhab Sugar Company is run by the Sugar General Establishment. Establishing the factory started in 1978; it was completed in 1981 at a cost of LS 273,628,535. The factory provided jobs for 437 workers.

Its average production ranges between 157,94 and 22,990 tonnes.

The Foddor factory was established in 1973 and started production at the end of 1977. It produces foddors for cows, poultry and fishing ponds. For the first time in the country, manufactured foddor includes added vitamins. The factory's 1983 production exceeded the set plan by 30 percent. Up to the present, the average number of employed workers has been 80. The number of factories and industrial firms in the governorate exceeds the estimates of this survey since there are other important projects not covered by it. The industrial achievements of the Hama governorate, it should be stressed, have been the result of the March 8 Revolution.

CSO: 4400/235

CURRENT PROGRESS ON RAIL NETWORK REVIEWED

Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 24 Mar 84 p 3

[Article by Tomader Fateh]

[Text] Railways play a vital role in the country's economic and social development, the Director of the Syrian Railways Establishment, Mr Mohammad Qaddour, said. He added that in the technical sphere, and during the stages of construction and investment, railways may be considered a vocational school for training technical cadres and preparing well-trained personnel. Moreover, railways help the country's economic build up in the industrial, agricultural and commercial fields.

Regarding the social aspect, the construction of an integrated railway network linking the country's villages, towns, and cities helps promote the country's cultural and civilizational progress. Since its launching in 1963, the March Revolution has given priority to the development of the country's railway network. More care was given after the Correctionist Movement, led by President Assad. The President personally inaugurated the Homs-Damascus railway on March, 14, 1983.

Since the establishment of the first railway network in 1903 and up to the March Revolution in 1963, the country's railway network has included:

- The Ikbis-Aleppoal-Ra'e line (166,528 km).
- The al-Qamishli-al-Ya'roubeih line (81,076 km).
- The Aleppo-Hama-Homs-al-Qseir railway (242,241 Km).
- The Homs-al-Akkari railway (67,049Km).

Total length of the network used to be 556,894 km. Steam trucks of a cruising speed of 60 km/hour were used. Between the years 1963 and 1970, the following railways were built:

- The Aleppo-al-Thawra railway (160,853 km).
- The Tartous-Akkari railway (42.124km).

Between 1970 and 1984, the following railways were completed?

--The Lattakia-Aleppo-al-Qamishli railway (580,427 km).

--The Homs-Damascus railway (194,148 km).

--The Hama-Mhardeh line (18,97 km).

--The Homs-Akkari railway (67,292Km). Homs

--The old 14,047 Homs-Hama railway line was rebuilt.

The total length of the country's railways was 1225 km.

Crusing speed of trains, prior to the March Revolution, used to be 100/hour. Trains of 28000 horse power were used. Following the March Revolution, the railway sector witnessed great development. At the time, the Railway Establishment's policy aimed to increase the number of locomotives to 193, of which 30 had 1800 horse power 10 had 650 hp, and 1500 hp, while the remaining locomotives were of the 2800 hp type, of these locomotives were imported from he Soviet Union.

With regard to passengers carriages, during the period from 1970 and up to 1984, the country imported 225 carriages from Federal Germany, 24 from Romania and 62 from Poland; 60 other were imported to be used as sleeping and service rooms.

It is important here to refer to the specifications of these carriages which are well furnished and air conditioned. In addition to passenger's carriages, a number of lorries have been used to meet needs of transporting commodities, including phosphate and cereals, in particular.

Up to 1963, the number of personnel working in the railway network was 1300. At present, the number has reached 6500 workers. It is expected to reach the figure 10,000 by the end of the current fifth five year plan in 1985.

In the past, technical expertise was rare. Moreover, it was hardly gained through slow practice. At present, technical expertise is available, since 150 engineers are employed. Yet, this limited increase in the number of technical personnel could not meet the great expansion and quick development in the number of carriages and needs of citizens. The establishment was, and still is, working to provide the required technical expertise. In 1974, the establishment set up an Inter-[word indistinct] Institute for the Syrian Railways. Graduates of the institute work in various fields: maintenance, repair of lorries, carriages and railway lines.

Another vocational training center relating to the Directorate of Training and Qualification was set up in Aleppo. It includes workshops, supervisors and lodging for trainees coming from all the country's governorates.

Since independence and up to the March Revolution, expenditure on railway projects totalled LS 9 million. Expenditure on these projects during the

period from 1963 to 1970 was LS324 million, while during the period from 1970 to the 7th month of 1983, expenditure was LS 2.8 billion.

Up to 1963 maintenance operations were carried out manually, but at present modern machinery is being used to serve this sector. In 1970 some 533,000 passengers were transported on the country's railways network. In 1983, the number increased to 1.5 million passengers. The 1983 plan expects to offer transport services to 108 million passengers.

Regarding the transport of commodities, at one time no more than 579 tonnes of various commodities were transported through the network. In 1983, the transported commodities totalled 2.8 million tonnes. It is expected that in 1984 4.4 million tonnes will be transported. Following extensive and continuous efforts, the country's main railway network has been renewed and is now ready to go into operation except the railway line linking Homs, Hama and Aleppo. This new line is expected to be completed and put into actual operation during the second half of 1984. There are other important projects under execution. These include: The Tartous-Lattakia railway is 80 km long. In 1981, a contract was signed with the Soviet Union to carry out preliminary work on this project. Other contracts were signed to prepare studies and drawings, in collaboration with Soviet experts.

Cost of construction work on this line, which is expected to be completed by the end of 1985, is expected to total LS 300 million.

With regard to Deir ezz-Zour-al-Boukamal railway (145 km) in 1981, a contract was signed with the Soviet Union. A request was made to the USSR to send experts to carry out preparatory work and a preliminary survey in this vital project.

Damascus-Dara'a railway at a length (130KM): Approval of the construction of this line was given by the Supreme Planning Council and a sum of LS 220 million was set aside for the purpose. Execution of this project was entrusted to the General Establishment of Syrian Railway Lines.

In a meeting with ST, the director of the establishment, Mr Mohammad Qaddour said that the aim of the establishment is to give comfortable services to citizens. To fulfil this strategy, he added, the following measures were taken:

--A number of 100 first class passengers carriages, 100 tourist carriages and 60 sleeping vehicles and other 13 service vehicles were imported. Number of daily trips between Aleppo and Lattakia were doubled to enable the inhabitants of the Eastern areas of the country to visit the coastal districts.

--Four trains were put in daily operation on kartous-Homs-Damascus line. The same number of trains was placed at the disposal of the Hama-Homs-Damascus railway line management. Mr Qaddour stressed that through the support which the Establishment receives from the Ba'ath Party and the government, especially from President Hafez Assad, development of the sector will be developed in a manner which will help it contribute to the enhancement of the country's national economy.

CSO: 4400/236

BRIEFS

TEXTILE COMPANY 1983 PRODUCTION--DAMASCUS, (ST)--The General Company of Modern Industries has carried out its 1983 production plan in full, the Company's Director General, Mr. Fawwaz al-Lahham said on Monday. He added that the Company's production of fabrics amounted to 3,227,000 square meters against 720,000 square meters in 1982. The total value of 1983 production amounted to LS 119.2 million while the 1982 production value was LS 74 million. With regard to the Company's modernisation plan, the Director of planning, Mr. Hamdi al-Halabi, said that last year the Company replaced 78 looms by new ones. He added that the Company is following up its modernisation plan, despite obstacles-relating to shortage of manpower. It may be noted in this connection that the central committee for production incentives on Sunday raised the average of incentives for workers in the spinning and textiles sectors by 15 percent. [Text] [Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 7 Feb 84 p 2]

POPULATION FIGURES FOR 1982--DAMASCUS, (SANA)--By the end of 1982, the population of Syria had risen to a record as high as 10,792 million people, 5.39 million of whom are males and 5,401 million are females. While by the end of 1981, the figures were 10,431 million people including 5.20 million females and 5.31 million males. Accordingly, the population of the country showed an increase in that year of 370,579 more people, 186,607 of whom were females and 183,972 were males. These figures were released here on Sunday by the Civil Status Office in the annual statistical bulletin. According to official statistics the population of the capital, the bulletin said, had reached 1.036 million people showing an increase of 19,196 people. The population of Aleppo increased from 881,548 to 905,944 and that of Homs increased from 401,352 to 414,401 people. The population of other governorates, the bulletin added, were: Hama 319,643; Lattakia 178,530; Deir ez-Zour 165,561; Raqqa 119,860, Dara'a 118,414, Hassaka 111,323, Idleb 100,352; Sweida 98,131; Tartous 84,467; and Quneitra 53,103 people. Other statistical population figures given by the bulletin were: al-Bab 133,353; Qamishli 89,999. [Text] [Damascus SYRIA TIMES 13 Feb 84 p 2]

DAMASCUS GOVERNORATE BUDGET--DAMASCUS. (ST)--The Damascus City Governorate Council has completed a two-day special session to discuss the governorate's 1984 budget. The session, held at the invitation of chairman of the council, Mr. Adnan Qouli was attended by heads of the governorate's technical, planning and finance departments. The Planning and Financial Affairs committee submitted a report on the estimates of the expenditure and revenues of the governorate's 1984 budget, each amounting to L.S. 44.4 million. Expenditure, the report

pinted out, included L.S. 25.8 million for road construction projects; L.S. 650 million for medical projects; L.S. 3.9 million for sewage and L.S. 13 million for new projects. Revenue, the report added, is planned to be derived from fees and taxes. The 1984 "investment" plan was discussed at the session. It included the completion of unfinished projects, such as asphaltting and tiling of pavements, road construction and maintenance. These projects are expected to amount to LS 25.9 million. In the field of medical services, the investment plan includes completing two medical centres at a total cost of L.S. 8.1 million. Out of the nine million Syrian pounds allotted to carryout sewage and drainage projects, a sum of L.S. 3.9 million will be spent this year. New projects, included in the 1984 investment plan, consist of road construction, asphaltting and tiling. This year, the governorate will spend L.S. 13 million on these projects, the total cost of which is estimated to be L.S. 15 million. [Text] [Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 21 Feb 84 p 2]

CSO: 4400/234

ABU DHABI, DUBAYY, RAK TO PRODUCE MORE OIL, GAS

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 9, 19 Mar 84 pp 15-16

[Text]

Abu Dhabi is aiming to produce some 1 mn b/d from its major onshore oilfields, according to production plans released last week. The target is to be reached over five years after further development of the Asab, Abu Hasa, Bab and Sahel fields by the state-owned Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Operations (Adco).

A main aim of the development plan will be to stabilise oil production over the next 20 years by using water-injection techniques for enhancing oil recovery. The first phase of the programme, which will cost \$50 mn, is expected to test in late 1985. Adco has recently signed a \$400 mn contract with Bechtel and the Arab Engineering Consulting Company for infrastructural work associated with the project. Other work to be carried out includes the construction of oil-gathering and separating installations, as well as pipelines to storage tanks.

The Emirate of Ras el-Khaimah is also taking steps to boost its crude oil production to about 50,000 b/d by the end of the year. From the beginning of the year, the emirate has been producing 5,000 b/d from its offshore Saleh field. The additional production is to come from two wells to be drilled this month and a third in April. Some \$16 mn has so far been spent on wells in the Saleh field. Oil officials also said that onshore explorations had turned up hydrocarbon shows at Alila and Halila and that exploration

wells would be drilled within the next month, at depths between 3,000 and 5,000 feet.

The government-owned Emirates' General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) is expected to sell up to 40 per cent of its shares to the general public, according to its vice-chairman, Al-Shaiba al-Hamili. Mr Hamili said the Corporation was now considering the sale and that a recommendation would be sent to the cabinet for approval soon. In December, when the possibility of the sale was first mooted, the UAE's energy minister, Mana Said el-Oteiba, said it was part of the government's policy of encouraging private-sector investment.

The company has an authorised capital of three billion dirhams (\$817 mn) and paid-up capital of 600 million dirhams (\$163 mn) and is responsible for the distribution of petroleum products and gas for electricity-generation in the six northern emirates. The EGPC was set up in April 1981, replacing the distribution franchise formerly held by Caltex, British Petroleum and Shell, who used products refined in Aden and

Singapore. The company is now self-sufficient in oil products, following the opening of the Ruwais refinery, which produces 120,000 b/d, and the Umm al-Nar refinery, producing 75,000 b/d.

Mr Hamili also announced that the Corporation had nearly completed a \$180 mn project to use gas from the Sajaa oilfield in Sharjah, which is to be used for electricity power stations in the northern emirates. He said that first deliveries of gas had already been made following the near-completion of a pipeline system to carry the gas from the field. By the middle of this year, he said, all electricity generated in the northern emirates would be powered by gas from the Sajaa field, which has a daily capacity of 80,000 barrels of oil and more than 100 mn cu feet of gas. He said the project would have a capacity of up to 300 bn British Thermal Units a day and would save the government between 20 and 40 per cent of its current fuel bill. The northern emirates currently need only between 50 mn and 200 mn BTUs a day.

Meanwhile, a \$140 mn project to boost Dubai's gas production will come on stream by the end of the year, a Dubai Gas Company (Dugas) official said. Harvey Wylie, the general manager of Dugas, said the project would increase the company's output of liquefied propane and butane by 40 per cent with surplus gas output rising by 70 per cent, which would allow Dugas to supply all the gas needs of the Dubai Aluminium Plant.

The \$400 mn Dugas plant

came on-stream three years ago and now processes some 125 mn cu feet of gas a day, to produce 70 mn cu feet of gas, 9,000 barrels of propane and 7,000 barrels each of butane and condensate.

Upon completion of the expansion programme, Dubas will produce 600,000 tonnes of butane and propane yearly and double its condensate production to 4.5 mn barrels a year. The company exports most of its product to Japan under a long-term contract, which may be expanded when it comes up for five-year renewal in July, Mr Wylie said. Exports to Japan last year totalled 413,000 tonnes of butane and propane and 2.5 mn barrels of condensate. Total foreign earnings on gas exports were \$247 mn. The project to raise gas output includes drilling three new wells in the Rashid oilfield and an undersea pipeline linking the offshore fields of Fatah, Southwest Fatah and Rashid with an onshore gathering plant.

Fertiliser sales to India and Japan

The Ruwais Fertiliser Industries Company (Fertil) has signed a long-term contract with India to supply 225,000 tonnes of urea per year, 45 per cent of the plant's output, the general manager said this month. A second contract has been signed with Japan, for 40,000 to 100,000 tonnes of urea this year. The Fertil plant — a joint-venture between the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company and Compagnie Française des Pétroles — has a monthly output of 20,000 tonnes, of which 6,000 to 10,000 tonnes are consumed locally.

BRIEFS

DUBAYY OIL SEARCH--At least three international oil companies are to spud exploratory wells around port Jebel Ali in Dubai in 1984, reports from the Emirate said last week. The Canadian group Adolf Lundin is to begin shortly at its onshore concession south of Jebel Ali. British Petroleum are expected to begin drilling onshore southwest of the port in about two months. And Taylor Woodrow will start an offshore well in the summer. The increased activity follows the completion of Dubai's last licensing round in December. Atlantic Richfield is already drilling 10 kilometres north of its concession at the onshore Margham field and a second well is expected to be spudded shortly. The state-owned Dubai Petroleum Company is testing its Beta-1 well prior to further drilling; and the American company, Sedco, is testing its Mubarak-1 wildcat. Ten companies are now operating in Dubai. The Dubai Petroleum Company's annual report, which was published at the beginning of this month, said the number of active wells working offshore Dubai increased by 22 during last year, to total 188. Work during 1984 was likely to exceed that growth, it said. The report said the Fatah field, which was discovered 18 years ago, now had 96 active wells and 27 platforms. The last stage of the development of the field is expected to be under way before the end of this month. Dubai has cut its internal gas prices by 10 percent. The move will make consumer energy prices cheaper and, more importantly, cut industrial and feedstock prices for the petrochemical industry. The director of the Emirates Gas Bottling Company said the cut was a response to local commercial pressures and to fluctuations in international prices. The move will also support the government's policy of switching from oil to gas for domestic energy requirements. [Text] [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 9, 19 Mar 84 p 13]

CSO: 4400/235

MAJLIS SPEAKER DISCUSSES 'PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE,' OTHER ISSUES

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Apr 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] Tehran--A top Iranian official did not rule out a possibility of the Saudi oil tanker being hit "from inside one of the countries in the southern coast of the Persian Gulf" and declared that Iraqi strategy to involve more regional states for broadening scope of the 44-month-old war shall fail to force Iran into making hasty and untimely decisions and falling prey to insensible provocations.

Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday asked those states to forego their hostile attitude, assured the region of Iran's goodwill in maintaining stability in Persian Gulf and expressed a desire to the regional countries for a peaceful co-existence--like between Iran and NATO member Turkey--provided those countries treated Iran "in a decent way."

Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani promised that the Islamic Republic will uproot the Zionist entity from the heart of Islamic lands after it put an end to the Ba'athist regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

The Speaker who is also Tehran's temporary Friday Imam made the remarks while reciting sermons to a great multitude of people who attended the city's Friday congregational prayers at and around Tehran University campus, the Iranian Radio reported.

Referring to recent concurrent plots hatched against the Islamic Republic by both Eastern and Western powers, Hashemi Rafsanjani stressed that both the US and Russia were, in spite of their superficial dispute, sharing one and the same idea as they considered Iran a serious threat to their illegitimate interests.

Both these two powers, he went on to say, used to depict Saddam Hussein as virtually invincible and propagated that Iran stood no chance to end the war in a decisive victory. This has now changed in the wake of the Islamic Republic success in liberating the Iraqi Majnoon Islands from the clutches of the Ba'athist regime in recent operation, the Friday Prayer Imam said.

Rafsanjani quoted one of the US officials to have said recently that the victory of the Islamic Republic over Iraq "will send such shock waves to all regional countries as a powerful nuclear bomb would" and that the effects of such victory will jeopardize the vital US interests in this part of the world.

"Also a British newspaper has falsely reported that Iran will be able to produce atomic bomb within the next two years. Western powers are now rightly concerned about the influence of the Islamic Revolution across the Islamic world from Indonesia to Morocco but, he said, magnifying the danger of the Islamic Republic was just an imperialist ploy and the Islamic Republic's victory would only serve to bring peace to the region.

"Only one country need be afraid of us and that is the Zionist state and this we have never concealed since the coming to power of the Islamic regime in Iran," he remarked.

Hashemi Rafsanjani reiterated that Iran considered it "a most primary duty" to mobilize its forces "through cooperation and coordination with other Islamic countries," for liberating the Quds once the Islamic Republic victoriously brought the regime in Baghdad to its knees.

Regarding the catching fire of a Saudi Arabian oil tanker the Majlis Speaker said it was possible that the vessel had been hit by a missile fired from inside one of the countries in the Southern coast of the Persian Gulf.

For he said "Iraq could not have hit the tanker where it is now burning in some 240 kilometers South East of the Kharg Island.

"It is quite possible that Saddam is seeking more of his brand of adventurism by trying to involve more regional countries in his imposed war against Iran," Rafsanjani observed.

He once again called on the Persian Gulf countries to note that Islamic Republic never intended to destabilize the region and that "those who treated Iran in a decent way can enjoy a peaceful coexistence with Iran."

The Friday Prayer leader told the mammoth gathering that an evidence of such goodwill was Iran's ties with the neighbouring Turkey which he said, in spite of being a NATO member, was enjoying good relations with the Islamic Republic.

"However, our actions have been and are always timely. The incident in the Gulf will fail to lead us into blocking the Hormuz Strait yet.

Iraq and other enemies are then in sheer mistake if they imagine they will be able to force us into embarking on an untimely action by inciting such premeditated, moves," he declared.

On recent attacks against Iranian centers in Germany, Holland, France and elsewhere Hashemi Rafsanjani said the measures were only indicative of the weakness and frustration of the enemies of the Islamic Republic. "Should those who staged such assaults escape trial and go unpunished, Iran will directly have to take action against them," announced the official.

Rafsanjani also talked on the fourth anniversary of Tabas incident, when the US just added another blotted page to its debased imperialist history by

staging a so-called commando 'rescue mission' to free American spies that proved a total failure.

Rafsanjani said Iran would not let the incident be forgotten because, he said, it disgraced the United States and proved the inability of a powerful regime in challenging the Islamic Revolution.

CSO: 4600/548

PRO-U.S. POLICY OPPOSED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Apr 84 p 6

[Text] ATTOCK, April 25--Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan, a former spokesman of the opposition in the National Assembly and a former chief of the defunct Pakistan Muslim League (PML), has strongly opposed the present government's pro-USA policies and said Pakistan should adopt a non-aligned policy, keeping out of super-power conflicts.

Talking to newsmen, he said that good relations with all superpowers are in Pakistan's interests and added that Pakistan should avoid adopting a policy of confrontation with any superpower, or becoming a yes-man of another superpower.

The old parliamentarian said Pakistan wants good relations with the USSR as well as the USA, but it was the USA which had often betrayed Pakistan's confidence.

Talking about the country's internal situation, he alleged that the present regime was spreading confusion, and President Zia's recent statement that direct presidential polls will be held prior to general elections was part of the same policy.

He said the only solution to the prevailing crisis was to hold elections under the Constitution of 1973, and transfer power to the elected representatives of the people.

STATEMENT: Malik Hakmeen Khan, former Punjab minister and a leader of the defunct PPP, recently freed from Lahore Jail, in a statement issued here demanded early announcement of the final election schedule.

He said the disturbed situation of the country will not improve without holding of general elections under the 1973 Constitution and transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people.

The PPP leader warned that the situation will be further disturbed if the fundamental rights of the people are not restored.

He also opposed the holding of a referendum. He said people want the restoration of democracy in letter and spirit.

CEREMONY: The launching ceremony of 'Ghair Alamti Kahani', a collection of short stories of eminent short story writer Ahmed Javid, will be held here on May 10 under the auspices of Halqae Arbabe Zauq, a local literary organization.

This was announced here by the halqa secretary Rana Afsar Ali Khan. On the occasion, former senator and prominent poet Ahmed Waheed Akhtar and other men of letters will read out papers on the work of Ahmed Javid.

CSO: 4600/538

FOREIGN DEBT: EXCESSIVE RELIANCE ON DONORS, DEBT SIZE CRITICIZED

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Apr 84 p 9

[Article by A. T. Chaudhri: "New Loans to Pay Off Old Ones"]

[Text]

NOW that the usual gloating over the enhanced quantum of Consortium aid is over. It is time to ponder the implications of the surfeit of external credit and the consequences of growing debt burden, which might ultimately put the national economy on foreign crutches.

The solid chunk of about two billion dollars pledged for 1984-85 is in excess of Islamabad's original request for 1.64 billion dollars. It marks a rise of 27 per cent over last year's commitment, which was also 56 million dollars more than what was asked for. No wonder, the stewards of the economy consider the new "windfall" a feather in their cap. For, having reversed the declining trend in aid of the early Eighties, they now claim to have won "a vote of confidence" of the donor States in the management and performance of the economy.

The munificence of the Aid Club has been attributed by competent sources to several factors. These are said to be: (a) the anxiety of some Western members of the Consortium to compensate Pakistan for combating poppy cultivation and meet the cost of the operation; (b) The IBRD-IMF group's interest in the ongoing Islamisation of economy; (c) the concern of the donors over the impending change in the political kaleidoscope of this country, which might affect the continuity of economic development; (d) the absence of debt relief

and rescheduling of payments for which the last agreement expired in 1982; and (e) the active involvement of the World Bank in the formulation of the Sixth Plan and preparation of major projects that have been labelled as "aid-worthy".

New apparatus

Seen in this context, it is hardly surprising that the new loans exceed the conservative estimates of planners and carry the tag of "easy terms". A new apparatus is also being established for the quick disbursement of credit. This became imperative since past experience shows that, at the crucial stage of disbursement, either the donors took to dilly-dallying, or the implementation machinery here was not put in proper gear.

In some cases the matching rupee component was not available, so that a good portion of the aid remained unutilised. The current figure of unutilised funds is reported to be 4,000 million dollars. As for the gap between the pledges and net inflow, the ratio last year was almost three to one.

Economic analysts quoting an official study point out that, in 1982-83, the net transfers — after accounting for debt service payment and price inflation, during the last decade were barely 170 million dollars. That made the gross figure of 984 million dollars for fiscal "82-83" highly misleading. In fact, as the Federal Planning Minister revealed, some time ago, Pakistan is

getting hardly 30 cents for every dollar disbursed by the creditors. For them foreign aid is a sort of self-financing. They have created a good market here and it is in their self-interest to sustain its capability to absorb credit and repay it with compound interest.

It is disturbing, if not alarming, that Pakistan's total debt liability has lately swollen to over 13 billion dollars. Of this two-thirds is repayable in foreign exchange. Thrice since 1970 Islamabad has been forced to negotiate debt rescheduling, to the chagrin of its creditors. They look askance at rescheduling. Nor would they agree to raise the element of grant, except in the case of aid to Afghan refugees. Instead, they would like the recipient to assume more and more debt burden, from year to year, and contract new loans to pay off the old loans.

Debt service

It is worth noting at present the debt service ratio is estimated to be nearly 35 per cent, which is much above the safe limit. The debt service repayment amounted to 675 million dollars in 1980-81. It rose to 728 million dollars in 1981-82. The total liability jumped to 900 million dollars, in 1982-83. In the current year, it may well escalate to a 1,000 million dollars. This is enough to send a shiver down the spine of the managers of economy.

To quote an eminent economist, "the external debt as a percentage of GNP is highest for Pakistan in South Asia at 34.7 per cent." (The comparative figure for India stands at 10 per cent). Indeed the situation has been aggravated in the past two years owing to the rupees delinking with the dollar, which has led to an increase in the servicing of debts by over 30 per cent, while the rise in the repayment of principal has already added to the country's burden.

True, no developing country can do without external credit. But what has complicated Pakistan's problems is the nature of the tied credit it receives. More than half of its annual imports come from half dozen members of the Consortium, who take only a fraction of our exports but claim 60 per cent of debt repayments.

The members of the Aid-to-Pakistan Consortium also seem to have the last word in fixing the priorities of development in Pakistan. They do not feel obliged

to pledge aid for all projects presented to them, especially if they relate to heavy industry, much less nuclear technology, which would reduce this country's dependence on the donor States. Their focus is chiefly on food and agriculture, transport and communications, industry and minerals and, of course energy. They are also generous in providing non-project aid and commodity assistance, as should be evident from the new aid-package.

Judicious balance

This country would never have been able to raise a heavy industry complex notably the giant steel mill, if it had not diversified its sources of aid. But in the past few years the principle of diversification has been apparently revised. Though China, the Soviet Union and the Gulf States, who have been offering united aid on soft terms, continue to occupy an important place in the roll-call of donors, excessive reliance has lately been placed on the creditors belonging to the First World. In the last half a decade, they have added some five billion dollars to our mounting debt liability, and most of their aid is tied.

The top planners still feel optimistic that a judicious balance would be struck between foreign aid local resources and that debts will not be allowed to accumulate beyond the critical mark. But this seems to be wishful thinking. As things are, there are no signs of edging towards the elusive goal of self-reliance. We are going the whole hog to borrow from the First World at a hectic pace in the vague hope of buying turn-key prosperity, unmindful of the fact that the situation is becoming precarious since the economic future of the country is being mortgaged, in a way.

It was time we revised the development strategy by making the Plan labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive and concentrated on generating maximum indigenous resources for development. There is also an imperative need to slash the wasteful non-development expenditure, curb conspicuous consumption, eliminate unnecessary imports, restore financial discipline, put focus on savings and enforce strictest possible austerity at all levels. The overall object should be to replace excessive reliance on donors with a modicum of self reliance.

CREATION OF 12 PROVINCES SUGGESTED

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Apr 84 p 2

[Text] MULTAN, April 27--The leader of defunct Jiye Pakistan Party, Mir Nabi Bakhsh Zehri, has emphasised the need for creation of at least 12 provinces in Pakistan in order to increase the number of offices in administrative set-up according to population and to solve people's problems easily and immediately.

Addressing the members of the Multan District Bar Association here on Thursday, he said that in Afghanistan and some other countries there were several provinces to facilitate the solution of people's problems.

He opined that with the creation of more Provinces no conspiracy against the integrity and solidarity of Pakistan could succeed.

He added that a small number of only four provinces is not beneficial for the country.

Moreover, he said, with the creation of maximum number of provinces new leadership, particularly of the youths, would emerge. He said that the old and retired politicians cannot understand people's problems as well as the critical situation prevailing in the country.

Mir Nabi Bakhsh Zehri said that due to only two provinces in the past, the province of East Pakistan was separated.

He urged all political parties to country.

He opposed the role of MRD and said that this was not the time to resort to disruptive activities to press for the acceptance of demands. He said that going to jails repeatedly was not a good thing for all.

Replying to a question, he said that those who unanimously signed that 1973 Constitution, were now saying that this had been done under pressure at that time.

Replying to another question, he suggested to launch a struggle with cool mind for the end of Martial Law keeping in view the interest of the country.

He said that "Martial Law at this critical stage is beneficial for Pakistan" as on the one side there is Afghanistan and on the other there is Bharat.

He praised the role of lawyers and urged intellectuals, lawyers and journalists to work unitedly for the solidarity of the country.

Replying another question, he said the Afghan refugees are our Muslim brethren and thus we are all morally bound to serve them as our guests.

He regretted that the leaders of Punjab never visited Baluchistan to acquaint themselves with the problems faced by people there.

CSO: 4600/539

FORMER AMBASSADOR URGES ADOPTION OF NEUTRAL POLICIES

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Apr 84 p 8

[Article by Anwer Iqbal]

[Text] RAWALPINDI, April 25--The recapture of Panjsher valley by Afghan and the Soviet forces is a very significant event which will have serious repercussions for Pakistan. This view was expressed by Mr. Sajjad Haider, a former Pakistani diplomat and a prominent scholar, while addressing a meeting of the Rotary Club here this evening.

He said that from the reports published in the newspapers today, it seems that the Soviets have begun their much talked about 'Spring Operation' to eject the rebel forces from different parts of Afghanistan.

Mr. Sajjad said that Panjsher was a stronghold of the Mujahideen where the forces of the rebel Capt. Masud were in a commanding position. If they have really been routed, it should not be difficult for the Soviet and Karmel forces to do the same in other parts of Afghanistan. And this, he said, will mean another influx of refugees from Afghanistan, probably in large numbers.

Mr. Sajjad claimed that South Asia was never a tension-free zone but 'this time we are sitting in the cockpit of super powers' rivalry.' This will have very serious economic, social and political implications which will not concern Pakistan alone. 'Rather, this region has the potentialities of becoming another Vietnam, he said, and added that 'Afghanistan has plunged South Asia into real dangers.'

He said there is also another war being fought not very far from us which involves two Muslim countries. If Iran closes the Strait of Hormuz, the war will not remain confined to Iran and Iraq and its escalation will mean further dangers for Pakistan. Then there was another neighbour which has its own interests in this region and on top of it is 'our traditional bad blood with India'.

In view of all these developments, Mr. Sajjad said the best way for Pakistan was to become totally neutral in all conflicts and rivalries of the region. We can follow the examples of Switzerland and Sweden, for instance', he said, though he was aware that it was not an easy task. 'Those who have their interests in this region will not like a neutral Pakistan but that's something which we will have to learn to do', the former ambassador asserted.

PLEDGE TO CONTINUE KHATME NABUWAT STRUGGLE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Apr 84 p 8

[Article by Saeed Qureshi]

[Text] RAWALPINDI, April 27--At a largely attended meeting of the Majlis-e-Khatm-e-Nabuwat here today, speakers reiterated their pledge to continue their struggle in the cause of the finality of the Prophethood. The Central Action Committee of the Majlis will meet on April 30 to chart the future course of action.

They emphasised their two main demands for removing Qadianis from key posts and closing down the Qadiani mosques and madrassahs. This, they said, was the common and unshakeable demand of every Muslim sect within and outside Pakistan.

There was a mixed reaction to the Presidential Ordinance issued last night. A majority of the speakers said that, it was, in fact, an amended version of the Constitutional amendment of 1974. Other speakers were of the opinion that the President deserved praise for taking timely action, hoping that the provisions of the Ordinance would be translated into reality.

Speakers from all parts of Pakistan exhorted their Muslim brethren to close ranks and continue the struggle till such time as all the demands of the Majlis were met by the government in toto.

They condemned the police action against delegations coming from outside Rawalpindi to attend the conference. They urged the government to stop such repression in the interest of peace and tranquility.

In the city itself, the conference was held in an extremely disciplined manner and no untoward incident took place. The Raja Bazar, the venue of conference, was closed to all kinds of traffic with traffic cops and Razakars of the Majlis collaborating to maintain law and order.

Inside the mosque-cum-madrassah, strong contingents of the Majlis had cordoned off the main courtyard. The faithful had converged in large numbers and all balconies, nooks and corners of the madrassah were filled with participants wearing Khatm-e-Nabuwat badges.

NASRULLAH SAYS REGIME NEEDS TO CHANGE THINKING

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] LAHORE, April 27--Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, President, defunct Pakistan Democratic Party, was accorded a hero's welcome, as he reached here after a prolonged confinement.

As his train from Multan steamed into the Lahore Railway Station thousands of political leaders and workers started chanting slogans: 'Nawabzada Nasrullah Zindabad', 'Long live democracy', Benazir Bhutto Zindabad', 'Long live MRD'.

Malik Mohammad Qasim, Khursheed Kusari Aitizaz Ahsan, Hamid Sarfraz, Malik Meraj Khalid, Mian Ahsanul Haq Malik, Hakeem Khan, Pervez Saleh and other leaders of MRD were present on the railway station.

The Nawabzada was profusely garlanded and taken in a procession to his Nicolson Road residence.

Talking to newsmen, Nawabzada Nasrullah said that the MRD Movement had played a historic role for the unity and solidarity of the country by defusing the misunderstanding created by martial law during the last seven years. Emphasising the success of the movement, he added, that with the suspension of the democratic process and a long spell of military rule numerous prejudices and misunderstandings had cropped up in various sections of society, provinces and areas of Pakistan

He said MRD movement had played a very important role in filling the vacuum. The movement, the Nawabzada observed, had a national character and it was wrong to say that in some provinces it did not attract the people. He claimed that entire nation had participated in this movement.

Questioned about the second round of MRD movement, the PDP President said that our struggle for the restoration of democracy was started from the date MRD was formed and it would continue till such time as it attained its goal. He said that the present rulers had outlived their tenure of power. He observed that Pakistan was facing very rough weather and a dangerous situation had developed on our frontier. He emphasised that it was the demand of time that political stability should prevail to counter the danger to national integrity.

Rejecting the August 12 formula of General Ziaul Haq, he said the government should bring some constructive and positive change in its thinking. He said there would not be any compromise on principles, as the entire nation was demanding restoration of the 1973 Constitution, lifting of ban on political activities, supremacy of courts, etc.

Nawabzada Nasrullah said that the government was creating confusion regarding existence of political parties in Islam. Even parliamentary or presidential system had been made an issue of "Islam and Kufr". He added that President Zia had not raised any objection to these matters from 1977 to 1979.

He said that the government had adopted a revengeful policy regarding political leaders and workers of Sind. Replying to a question regarding negotiations with the government, he said that a dialogue with martial law regime could only be held on the issue of transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people and that too was possible if the government announced holding of elections under 1973 Constitution.

CSO: 4600/538

POLITICAL FUTURE SEEN AS STILL UNCERTAIN

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Apr 84 p 9

[Article by Nisar Osmani]

[Text]

LAHORE, April 29: Although a number of political issues remain shrouded in mystery, many things are coming to light as the deadline by which the President is committed to hold elections draws closer.

Even at this unpredictable stage, it would be safe to say that there is little meeting ground between the Government and most political parties. In fact, as time passes, there is a discernible tendency towards hardening of stances by the two sides.

To quote a few instances, President Zia-ul-Haq has been consistently expressing his preference for non-party elections. He has also been talking frequently of confining the candidacy for public representation to "pious and practising Muslims" and advocating the need for restrictive qualifications for the voters. His contention that Pakistan should have an 'Islamic democracy' as against the Western sort is too significant to be ignored. Similarly, he has been consistent in his assertion that elections will be conducted on the basis of the framework announced on August 12.

In simpler words, he, in his capacity as the CMLA, would like to amend the Constitution vis-a-vis the powers of the President and the establishment of a national Security Council which, in the eyes of his critics, amounts to assigning a permanent role to the armed forces in the political life of the country.

Political circles, however, attach great importance to his statement at Lahore, suggesting that election

to the office of President should precede and not follow the general elections.

Almost all the known political parties have a different stand on these questions. Those in the MRD argue that the coming elections could be genuine and representative only if these were conducted under the 1973 Constitution and the electoral laws that were in force on July 4, 1977 — that is, on a party basis in which all the parties could participate without exception. They also maintain that the present Government has no authority to amend the Constitution, parliament alone being competent to do so. Similarly, they argue that the only role for the armed forces is that of guarding the geographical frontiers of the country. They believe that Islam is a non-issue, and the move to draw a line of distinction between the 'Islamic' and the 'Western' brands of democracy is nothing but an attempt to confuse the public mind on this question.

The JUP, which chose not to join the MRD, has of late revised and concretised its stand on national issues, bringing it almost in consonance with that of the MRD. The Faridul Haq formula has gone to the extent of suggesting that all political parties should boycott the elections if they are held on the lines proposed by the Government.

The Jamaat-i-Islami continues to be in a fix. Following the ban on student unions, which has seriously hit the working of its students wing — the right-wing IJT, which is also its most active wing — it feels much

more isolated. President Zia's recent remarks that the Muslim League is the only party which "enjoys" his sympathies has only added to the Jamaat's worries. Thus, the Jamaat would find it rather difficult to give up its stand that it would contest the elections irrespective of the mode or basis of the polls. Even otherwise, there is a fairly strong lobby within the MRD which does not welcome any association with the Jamaat and it would have to think twice before taking a formal decision. Time alone will show whether the estrangement between the Government and the Jamaat increases or the twain close ranks once again.

The Pagara League is probably the only party which reacts to the various proposals of the President without mental reservations. Its single-point demand is the formation of a political government under its leadership before elections are held.

All said and done, the moment of decision is yet to come. Meanwhile, the political circles have two main worries: Is it at all possible to have elections in the absence of a national consensus on their modalities and other relevant factors? And, if polls are held, what would be the post-election scenario?

CSO: 4600/541

ORDINANCE ON QADIANIS SAID WIDELY HAILED

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Apr 84 p 3

[Text]

BAHAWALPUR, April 29: The Presidential Ordinance on the Qadianis has been widely hailed by local religious circles.

The President of Majlis-i-Tahaffuz-i-Khatm-i-Nubbawat, Bahawalpur, Maulana Ghulam Mustafa, Secretary; Maulana Abdul Hakim Rabita Secretary; Maulana Mohammad Ismail Shujaabadi and a number of local Ulema in a joint Press statement have underlined the need for complete implementation of these ordinances with a view to safeguarding the interest of the Muslim community and protection of their religious values.

They demanded unrevealing of Maulana Aslam Qureshi mystery and removal of Qadianis from key posts in the Armed Forces and bureaucracy.

They said President Zia had served Islam by promulgating the ordinances.

PPI adds: The Mayor of Sialkot, Dr Mohammad Ashraf commenting the enforcement of the ordinance said that the Government have taken a wise step towards the Islamisation of the Pakistani society by issuing the ordinance. Dr Ashraf

said that the ordinance would serve as a fool-proof check against the anti-Islamic activities of the Qadianis.

Welcoming the ordinance Mr Manzur Elahi Malhi, Ameer Majlise Tahaffuz-e-Khatame Nabuwat, Pakistan, Sialkot, expressed his pleasure over the promulgation of the ordinance.

A veteran scholar and Chairman, Pakistan Islamic Welfare Council, Sialkot, said that the promulgation of the ordinance has proved that the present Government under the dynamic leadership of President Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq is sincere to enforce complete Islamic system of law in the country.

He congratulated the President Zia-ul-Haq for taking a stern action against the anti-Islamic elements in the country.

Pir Munawar Ahmed Shah, Union Councillor as well as Manzur Ahmed Shah and Zahid Hussain Chishti, General Secretary and Press Secretary respectively of the welfare association Kamalpur Chishtian (Pasrur) have also hailed the enforcement of the ordinance and termed it as a great service to the cause of Islam.

CSO: 4600/541

THOUSANDS MORE REFUGEES SAID TO ENTER PAKISTAN

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] SEVERAL thousand refugees have crossed the border from the Qandhar area of southern Afghanistan into Pakistan in recent weeks to escape heavy Soviet bombing, according to BBC.

Western diplomats in Islamabad believed that the bombing was part of a Soviet-led offensive against the Afghan Mujahideen in which the Panjshir Valley north of Kabul is the key target.

Kabul Radio said last Tuesday that the valley was under government control but Mujahideen sources claimed that fighting was continuing there till a few days ago.

BBC, quoting Afghan exile sources in Quetta, said that over the past few weeks Soviet-led forces appeared to be adopting tougher tactics in the Qandhar area, which has been seriously disturbed for several months. One facet of the new policy was to use more mobile units to attack Mujahideen caravans coming across the border from Pakistan.

The latest ambushes, sometime mounted during night, are said to have been generally successful.

Another development, according to the same sources is that bombing of villages near Qandhar has been stepped up, the main aim presumably being to drive out the local population so that the resistance groups could not establish themselves in the area.

Afghan exile sources said they estimated that at least a thousand families had moved out of villages and Qandhar over the past few weeks, most of whom have headed for Pakistan while the rest have moved to safe places inside Afghanistan.

International relief officials in Pakistan said they could only confirm that about 4,000 refugees had crossed border into Pakistan recently.

Meanwhile, Kabul Radio reported on Sunday that a senior Afghan army General had visited the Panjshir Valley accompanied by the country's Education Minister.

The general was said to have congratulated troops on their successful operation, while the Minister met local officials to discuss schooling in the area.

FINANCE MINISTER URGES SOFTER LOAN TERMS

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Apr 84 p 14

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, April 27: The Federal Minister for Finance Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan has called upon the Asian Development Bank to soften the average terms of its assistance by combining more of the Asian Development Fund concessional element in its loan for nations like Pakistan which are seeking to vigorously expand social services, agriculture and rural development in their respective countries.

The Finance Minister made this call on Thursday at the 17th meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank while addressing the second day's session of the three-day moot which began in Amsterdam (Netherlands) on Wednesday.

He expressed firm hope that the bank would not only maintain the present mix of special funds with ordinary capital resources for Pakistan, but would soften it further in line with the requirements for social sector projects.

Mr Ghulam Ishaq recalled that the bank's lending rate on ordinary loans, which was reduced from 11 per cent to 10.5 per cent per annum in July last year, has remained unchanged since then, which represents an intolerable burden of high real interest rates. By reducing it, the Minister added, the bank will be playing an effective catalytic role in encouraging additional net flow of commercial and official sources to the developing member

countries (DMCs).

While expressing his concern over the difficulties still being faced in the Seventh Replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA), Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan appealed to all concerned nations to resolve the outstanding issues expeditiously, so that all necessary action is completed in time to make IDA-7 effective from July 1, this year. He urged the donor countries to support a supplementary funding arrangement, so that the presently contemplated figure of \$9 billion for IDA-7 could be brought closer to \$12 billion, on which a consensus was reached earlier at the IMF-IBRD Development Committee meeting held in Washington recently.

The Finance Minister welcomed the bank's initiative about the provision of equity financing, which would diversify its operations in DMCs. He felt gratified that a Pakistani development bank, namely Pakistan Bankers Equity Ltd, was among the two DFIs selected for this purpose.

Concluding his speech, the Finance Minister emphasised the need and urgency of Chinese representation in the ADB, in accordance with a resolution of the UN General Assembly, which calls for the restoration of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China in all the organisations of the UN system, including regional organisations like the ADB.

NEED FOR MODERNIZING IRRIGATION SYSTEM DISCUSSED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Apr 84 p 7

[Text] PESHAWAR, April 27--The greatest danger to Pakistan's stability is the possibility of economic collapse due to the deteriorating quality of irrigated agriculture. The basic cause for the failure of agriculture and low crop yield was the incompatible, wasteful and perilously flawed traditional irrigation system, which lacks a complementary drainage system.

These views were expressed by a world-famed expert on water problems, Fatehullah Khan Gandapur, in an interview.

Because of these drawbacks, Pakistan's traditional irrigation system, he said, had resulted in waterlogging and salinity of millions of acres of agricultural land to various degrees, causing low crop yields and the incidence of plant diseases and parasites.

The unrealistic irrigation regime, he said, had a direct effect on the plant environment and indirect effects on plant growth and vigour. Salinity and waterlogging, he pointed out, tended to reduce plant growth, resulted in low crop yield, and rendered crops more susceptible to attacks from diseases and parasites.

Lack of drainage deteriorated soil structure and soil fertility and created unfavourable conditions for the growth of the soil bacteria. Thus, crops in such an environment were exposed to pests and diseases. The effects of irrigation on plant diseases were specific in each case. A crop like cotton was highly susceptible to diseases due to poor drainage, high water table and excessive sub-soil moisture invariably invited and harboured insect pests and parasites.

This year's cotton crop failure, he said, was an alarm for the tragic fate of agriculture and a precursor of the impending catastrophe. This single cotton crop failure had resulted in a fantastic loss of Rs. 600 crores and an equivalent loss of foreign exchange earnings, besides the need to import cotton worth Rs. 97 crores in foreign exchange. Textile Industries based on cotton will be in deep trouble. This year's estimated production of cotton is 2.5 million bales, when last year it was 4.85 million bales. False economy and lack of understanding of the problems of traditional irrigated agriculture by

self-proclaimed experts lead to large financial losses and human misery, he stated. Moreover, low production and a poor economy always invites internal and external trouble and creates unrest in the country. All this, he estimated, was due to bad planning and poor utilisation of the natural resources.

Fatehullah Khan pointed out that the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Research Council, the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Water and Power had more than 200 Ph.D. specialists to plan and look after irrigated agriculture in all aspects. Frequent crop failures showed that this herd of doctors had achieved nothing. They were merely toys in the hands of the bureaucracy and had themselves turned parasites, he said.

Similarly, another kind of pest, the generalists who ran the government administration, were ordinary arts graduates, he said, yet they planned and handled highly specialised work, framed policies and made technical decisions without understanding technology.

The modus operandi of the bureaucracy, he alleged, was always to push and trap the Governors and the President in a cobweb of problem, both political and economic. The dire need, therefore, was to separate development and its administration from the administration of law and order and politics. Politics should be in the service of development, he said. To set right irrigated agriculture, he said, complete modernisation was essential for raising crop yield per acre many times. There was no alternative to modernisation, he said. It had to be done sooner or later, and initiating it could bring a good name to the government.

He said the enquiry committee appointed by the government to investigate the causes of the cotton crop failure would traditionally blame nature and the pest or the pesticide. He feared they would never find the real causes, or hold anyone or any system responsible. It was against our tradition, he stated, to admit fault and set things right for the future.

In 1909, he said Egypt faced a similar cotton crop failure for the same reasons. They were wise enough to redesign their irrigation and drainage system on modern lines, and thus they revolutionised their agriculture.

In many countries, it was customary, he said, when mishaps took place, for the person in charge to resign in sympathy. "In this case, let us see who resigns. If no one resigns, it means either no one is responsible, or all are responsible. In that case, I am sure, the cotton crop failure will be declared by the enquiry committee as a natural disaster, i.e. an act of God".

The government, he suggested, must seek a second opinion to set right the present ills and the backlog of ills, which he said the bureaucracy cannot tackle. Concern and support at the highest levels, he stressed, was essential.

CSO: 4600/538

BRIEFS

MISSING MAULANA'S CASE--LAHORE, April 27--Under orders of President Ziaul Haq, a new team has been constituted by the Inspector General of Police, Punjab, to step up the process of investigation in Maulana Muhammad Aslam Qureshi's case. The team will be headed by Maj-Mushtaq Ahmed, DIG, Faisalabad range, who will be assisted among others by two S.P's and two DSP's. The IGP has directed the new team to mobilise all resources to carry out a vigorous investigation to solve this mystery. He has also requested the public to assist the team in their work by affording any information relevant to the case. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 28 Apr 84 p 1]

QADIANIS SAID TO ACCEPT BAN--CHINIOT, April 27--Qadiani Jamaat has ordered Qadiani organisations all over the country to accept the ban imposed on them by the government. This was decided in a high-level meeting of Qadiani leaders in Rabwah soon after the promulgation of the Ordinance last night. The meeting was presided over by Mirza Tahir Ahmed. In accordance with the directive the Qadiani Jamaat has removed the word mosque from their worship places and abandoned 'Azan' from Fajr prayer today. The Juma gathering was held at Aqsa where Maulana Bashir Ahmed Shad Qadiani asked the Qadianis to continue praying to God for the solution of the present difficulties of the Jamaat. Khutba was given by him but it did not include Takbeer. The Qadiani chief was also present there. In Quetta a heavy posse of Police was deployed outside the mosque of Qadianis, and they were prevented from reciting "Azan" from loudspeakers today. Besides, the signboard of "Ahmadia mosque" on the wall was also removed. However, no untoward incident occurred anywhere in Baluchistan. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 28 Apr 84 p 1]

CALL TO RELEASE DETAINEES--SAHIWAL, April 27--The District Organising Committee of the Pakistan National Party (PNP) in a resolution strongly urged the Government to release renowned labour leader and stalwart of Qaumi Mahaz-i-Azadi (QMA) Mr Rozi Khan who is detained at the Central Jail, Sahiwal, since 1981 without trial, also called upon the Government to review its policies regarding the detention of various political, labour, student and peasant leaders of the country and release them forthwith. The Pakistan National Party (PNP) resolution urged the Government to release all the detained journalists including Mr Masood Ahmed Baluch and Mr Sohail Sangi, intellectuals, lawyers, educationists and all others. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 28 Apr 84 p 2]

JI LEADER ON ELECTIONS--SUKKUR, April 27--Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Secretary-General of the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami, said at Jindo Dero in Sukkur district that President Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq was creating confusion by issuing misleading statements every now and then. Talking to newsmen before addressing a Quran confernece at Jindo Dero near Chak in Sukkur district, he said that the mode of elections was still undecided. The Government should make a clear-cut announcement with regard to the election schedule and the mode of elections. He expressed the fear that the elections would not be held by March, 1985, as a result of confusing statements of the President. President Gen. Zia-ul-Haq, he added, should avoid confusing the political situation by his statements, thus delaying the elections promised to be held by March, 1985. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 28 Apr 84 p 2]

TUFAIL'S PLEA ON ELECTIONS--LAHORE, April 27--Mian Tufail Mohammad, Amir, defunct Jamaat-i-Islami, has pleaded for immediate elections under the system of proportionate representation and called upon all the political forces in the country not to hinder electoral process but accept any form of polls. According to him, democracy to the extent of 60 to 70 per cent should be accepted to get rid of the present state of affairs. Addressing the workers at the conclusion of one-day training programme, Mian Tufail warned political leaders that in case the Government was provided with an excuse for once again postponing the elections, another Martial Law "young and energetic in nature," would emerge on the scene which would endanger the very integrity of the country. He also pleaded for avoiding prolongation of differences on matters like party or on non-party polls. Mian Tufail urged the Government to initiate dialogue with political parties as it was holding all the powers and as such more responsibility lay on their shoulders. He welcomed the recent Ordinance accepting the demands of the Action Committee of Khatm-i-Nabuwat conference. He also addressed a reception hosted in honour of the delegates of the Pakistan Islamic Medical Association this afternoon. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 28 Apr 84 p 2]

LEADER SAYS INDIA MAY ATTACK--LARKANA, April 27--India may attack Pakistan to divert the attention of her people from the troublesome situation in Assam, Punjab and other parts of India, according to Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Central General Secretary of defunct Jamaat-i-Islami here. He was informally talking to pressmen at the residence of Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi during his tour of the interior of Sind on Thursday night. He said understanding may develop among political parties for the revival of the Constitution that would pave the way for the restoration of democratic institutions in the country. He added JI may sit on the same table with MRD for the purpose, but with the condition of supremacy of Shariat laws and the Afghan issue. He reiterated that the Government of Pakistan has no mandate to talk or not on Afghanistan problem, as USSR, he said, declined to call off troops from Afghanistan, he added that actually it was not a problem of Pakistan, but a contention between the Afghan Mujahideen and USSR. He was of the opinion that due to the weakness of political parties, Martial Law had been imposed and could be lifted only with the sinking of differences of political parties and forging a broad-based alliance. He observed that attack on Islami Jamiat-i-Tulaba is supposed to be the attack on defunct Jamaat-i-Islami and the Martial Law Government had been applying military tactics to create rift in political parties, with the sole aim of lingering on. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 28 Apr 84 p 2]

MUMTAZ, PALEEJO IN HOSPITAL--KARACHI, April 28--Under strict surveillance, Mr. Mumtaz Bhutto and Mr Rasool Bakhsh Paleejo, who were admitted to the Sind Government's Services Hospital here the other day, are being treated for their respective ailments. Hospital sources, when contacted, refused to say a word about the condition of the two leaders nor is any visitor allowed in view of the security guards placed outside their separate rooms. Mr Mumtaz Bhutto, who had last medical check-up of his heart a year ago, had been advised to have another thorough check-up by his doctors abroad. But although no request has been made by Mr Mumtaz for permission to proceed for treatment overseas, his general condition is stated to have deteriorated lately and he has grown quite weak. Mr Paleejo, after his shifting from Lahore, has consistently been ailing. He is now hospitalised for his eye trouble. Before being shifted to hospital, both Mr Mumtaz Bhutto and Mr Paleejo were confined in Borstal Jail, Landhi. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 29 Apr p 14]

TUFAIL MEETS NASRULLAH--LAHORE, April 29--The Aimir, Jamaat-i-Islami, Mian Tufail Mohammad, called on Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, President of the defunct Pakistan Democratic Party here on Sunday evening at the latter's residence. It is the first political meeting of Mian Tufail with a leader belonging to a party in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD). The only other MRD leader Mian Tufail has met after the formation of the MRD is Mian Mahmud Ali Kasuri but that was only to inquire about his health. Political circles here are attaching great significance to this meeting. PPI adds: Sardar Abdul Qaiyum, founder of Muslim Conference, also called on Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan here on Sunday. The Nawabzada later described these meetings as courtesy calls. He visited Malik Ghulam Gilami, former MNA, and enquired about his health. The JUP Secretary-General, Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, is scheduled to call on the PDP President on Monday. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 30 Apr 84 p 1]

AFGHANISTAN: DIRECT TALKS URGED--LARKANA, April 29--Direct dialogue should be started with the Babrak Karmal Government in order to solve the Afghan crisis, said Maulana Ehteramul Haq Thanvi, a leader of the defunct PPP, at a Press conference at the Press Club here on Saturday evening. He strongly pleaded for forging a powerful political alliance with the aim of realisation of common objectives. Maulana Thanvi gave an assurance that the defunct PPP supported more rights to the provinces but in accordance with the 1973 Constitution. He said that unstable conditions would only lead to but uncertainty. He warned about the tense situation being created in Sind. He said that as a gesture of goodwill the new Sind Governor should free all political prisoners. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 30 Apr 84 p 2]

COMPLAINT ON PRISONER RELEASE--GUJRANWALA, April 29--There was no remarkable change in the attitude of the present regime towards release of political detenus as leaders of national stature such as Air Marshal (rtd) Asghar Khan, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Mr. Rozi Khan and Mr. Fatehyab Ali Khan were still under detention and there were no signs of their immediate release. This was observed by Malik Mohammad Qasim, Secretary-General, Pakistan Muslim League (Khairuddin group), while talking to newsmen here on Sunday. He had come to Gujranwala to attend a marriage ceremony. He said that the so-called politicians who had always joined hands with every government were the biggest

hurdle in the restoration of democracy. Malik Qasim said if Martial Law continued the four federating units of Pakistan might have to suffer serious consequences. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 30 Apr 84 p 4]

BOOKLET PROSCRIBED--LAHORE, April 29--The Punjab Government has proscribed the booklet entitled "Sind: Another Bangladesh" written by Feroze Ahmad and published from New York, USA, by an organisation called the Pakistan Democratic Forum. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 30 Apr 84 p 4]

AFGHANISTAN TRADE: SUSPENSION LOSSES--LAHORE, April 29--Pakistan is suffering a loss of about Rs. 800 million per annum owing to the suspension of transit trade with Afghanistan since January 1983. This was stated by FPCC&I President Saifullah Piracha at a Press conference here today. He said transit trade suspension had caused a number of problems for the daily wage earners, and had also severely affected about 15 thousand trade bodies. The suspension had also led to increase in smuggling of some items such as tea and vegetable oil to Afghanistan, causing high prices and shortages at home, he added. He said that now Afghanistan had diverted almost whole of its trade to Soviet territories. He said the Federation had appointed a six-member committee to study the issue so that the matter could be taken up later with authorities in Islamabad. On the issue of shifting of head offices of the nationalised banks --one each to every provincial capital--Mr Piracha agreed, in principle, to the demand by the Lahore Chamber. About the role of the private sector, Mr Piracha said that in fact it was the efforts of the private sector alone which had improved the economy. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 30 Apr 84 p 12]

JI, NON-PARTY ELECTIONS--LARKANA, May 4: Notwithstanding its stand that elections should be held on a party-basis under the 1973 Constitution, the Jamaat-i-Islami will take part in the polls whenever and under whatever mode they are held, said Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi, Naib Amir of the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami while talking to Dawn here on Friday. The Jamaat, he said would participate to frustrate the imposition of a fourth Martial Law hinted by President Zia-ul-Haq in his different speeches and statements. Maulana Abbasi called upon the politicians to devote themselves to getting elections held and power peacefully transferred to elected representatives of the people rather than dissipating their energies in criticising each other. Maulana Abbasi did not deny that talks were afoot on the defunct JUP move to unite the politicians and political parties on one point. He also did not deny that Mian Tufail and Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, during their meeting in Lahore, discussed the present political polarisation in the country as also a future line of action. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 5 May 84 p 2]

AHMEDIYAS GATHER IN LONDON----D. G. KHAN, May 4: Mirza Mansoor Ahmed, Ameer-e-Maqaami, Rabwah will perform the duties of the head of the Ahmediya community in Pakistan in the absence of Mirza Tahir Ahmed who has left Pakistan for London. According to Ahmediya sources, Mirza Tahir Ahmed and his companions have gone to London on their routine tour programme which was arranged prior to the promulgation of the Presidential Ordinance. Mirza Tahir Ahmed, grandson of Mirza Ghulam Ahmed Qadiani and fourth head of the Ahmediya community, after assigning the duties of acting head to his cousin Mirza Manzoor Ahmed left Pakistan on April 30 alongwith his wife, daughter and about 40 prominent and trustworthy Ahmedis and has now reached London.

Chaudhry Mohammad Zafarullah Khan is already in London and prominent Ahmedis from all over the world, including Professor Dr Abdus Salam, will meet their religious head in London to discuss the situation arising as a result of the new presidential ordinance. The head of the Ahmediya community will consult his prominent followers chalk out a strategy to deal with the latest developments in Pakistan. The head of the Ahmediya community might prolong his stay abroad for an indefinite period under the present circumstances, sources said. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 5 May 84 p 18]

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