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20 October 1983

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

No. 2839

CONTENTS

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Briefs

GCC GNP Increase	1
Expatriates Depart Gulf Countries	1

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

Syria, Greece Reportedly Support Armenian Terrorist Groups (ALIK, 27 Aug 83).....	2
--	---

ARAB AFRICA

ALGERIA

Economic Conditions in Country Analyzed (ARABIA THE ISLAMIC REVIEW, No 25, Sep 83).....	4
Development in Heavy Industry Reviewed (EL MOUDJAHID, 21 Sep 83)	7

EGYPT

Presence of Asian Workforce Criticized (Editorial; THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE, 1 Sep 83)	13
---	----

Briefs

New Towns	15
-----------	----

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi's Domestic, Foreign Policies Reviewed (AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL, No 19, 21 Sep 83).....	16
New Bill Specifies Social Insurance Entitlements, Conditions (AL-MUNTIJUN, 13 Aug 83).....	19

SUDAN

Destruction of Forests Feared (AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, 9 Jun 83).....	44
Southern Problem Examined in View of Tribal Discord ('Ayidah al-'Azab Musa; AL-AHALI, 8 Jun 83).....	46

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

ISRAEL

Cotton Industry Discussed (Aharon Periel; MA'ARIV, 30 Aug 83).....	49
Unemployment in Development Towns Examined (Charles Hoffman; THE JERUSALEM POST, 12 Sep 83).....	52
Kibbutz Underground Housing Planned (MA'ARIV, 30 Aug 83).....	54
Briefs	
Population Statistics	55
Industrial Production Up	55
Civilian Status for Military Settlements	55
Private Consumption Up	55

KUWAIT

National Assembly Speaker at IPU Meeting in Seoul Hits Superpowers (KUNA, 4 Oct 83).....	56
Latest Government Action on Al-Manakh Crisis Analyzed (AL-MAJALLAH, No 184, 20-26 Aug 83).....	59
Diversification of Revenue Sources Sought (AL-MAJALLAH, No 184, 20-26 Aug 83).....	63

LEBANON

Druze Leader Arslan Interviewed (Al-Amir Majid Arslan Interview; AL-'ARAB, 18 Jul 83).....	66
--	----

OMAN

Status of Marmul Oilfield Examined (OMAN DAILY OBSERVER, 13 Sep 83).....	71
Briefs	
Hotel Industry Workers	72
Allocation for Road Building	72
Copper Exports	72
Eliminating Illiteracy	73
First Woman Bank Manager	73

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

PLO Rome Representative on Syrian Threat (ANSA, 10 Oct 83).....	74
Fatah's al-Hasan Interviewed (Khalid al-Hasan Interview; 'UKAZ, 4 Oct 83).....	75
Fatah's Khalid al-Hasan on PLO Crisis (Khalid al-Hasan Interview; Paris Radio Monte Carlo, 7 Oct 83).....	79
PFLP's Habash Interview on PLO, Lebanon (George Habash Interview; Budapest Domestic Service, 30 Sep 83).....	85
PFLP-GC Kuwait Bureau Criticizes Jibril (Voice of PLO, 7 Oct 83).....	88
Interview With PFLP-GC's Talal Naji (Talal Naji Interview; Paris Radio Monte Carlo, 7 Oct 83).....	89
Briefs	
New Fatah Nomination Reported	92

OATAR

Coastal Watch on Oil Slick, Clean-Up Efforts Continue (Muhammad al-Sharbini; AL-RAYAH, 16 Aug 83).....	93
---	----

Gunboats Join Navy in Military Ceremony (AL-'URUBAH, 18 Aug 83).....	96
SAUDI ARABIA	
Industrial Centers in Dammam Toured (AL-RIYAD, 18 Aug 83).....	97
Briefs	
IDB-Moroccan Agreement	104
Inmarsat Membership Accord	104
Oil Reserve Figures	104
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	
Economic Development Fund's Annual Report, Future Plans Cited (AL-BAYAN, 7, 25 Aug 83).....	105
Details From Annual Report Plans for New Projects	
SOUTH ASIA	
AFGHANISTAN	
Measures Adopted To Eliminate Power Shortage (HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR, 30 Jul 83).....	107
Swedish Journalist Gives Eyewitness Account of War (Katarina Engberg; O JORNAL, 16 Sep 83).....	109
BANGLADESH	
Government Contradicts Press Reports on Industries (THE NEW NATION, 14 Sep 83).....	117
Ershad: Dhaka To Stick To Election Schedule (THE NEW NATION, 15 Sep 83).....	119
Told of Illegal Action by Toaha (THE NEW NATION, 8 Sep 83).....	121
Exchange Rate Fluctuation Absorption Scheme Initiated (Hassan Abul Quashem; THE NEW NATION, 1 Sep 83).....	122

Briefs		
High Commissioner to Malta		124
INDIA		
Press Reports on Visit of Bulgarian Trade Team		
(Various sources, various dates).....		125
Analyst on Expectations, by G.K. Reddy		
Greater Cooperation Studied		
Increase in Trade		
Press Reports on Visit by Maldives President		
(THE HINDU, 8 Sep 83; THE STATESMAN, 8 Sep 83).....		129
Arrival in Delhi, by G.K. Reddy		
Cultural Agreement Signed		
India, Mongolia To Cooperate in Medical Research		
(PATRIOT, 9 Sep 83).....		131
Unequal Representation in Mountain Study Center		
(G.K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 7 Sep 83).....		132
Briefs		
Machine Tools to Bulgaria		133
IRAN		
'Hajj International Seminar' Adjourns, Issues Resolution		
(JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 17 Aug 83).....		134
'Conspiracy To Isolate Iranian Pilgrims' Reported		
(ETTELA'AT, 12 Sep 83).....		137
Libyan Foreign Minister Interviewed on Various Issues		
('Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi Interview; KEYHAN,		
28 Aug 83).....		140
Musavi Discusses Meeting With Khomeyni, Other Issues		
(KEYHAN, 15 Aug 83).....		143
PAKISTAN		
Tense Political Situation Analyzed; Options Examined		
(Irshad Ahmad Haqqani; JANG, 26 Aug 83).....		147
Economic Cooperation With Iran Reviewed		
(Shaheen Sehbai; DAWN, 25 Sep 83).....		150

Prominent Figures Assail Indian Exploitation of Internal Crisis (JANG, 28 Aug 83).....	154
'Paper Discoveries' of Oilfields Criticized (Mujtaba Akhtar; DAWN, 25 Sep 83).....	156
Zia Advised To Hold Talks With Politicians (Editorial; NAWA-I-WAQT, 23 Aug 83).....	158
Religious Parties Urged To Unite To Combat MRD Movement (Editorial; JASARAT, 19 Aug 83).....	160
Nationalism, Need for Democracy Stressed (Z.A. Suleri; JANG, 2 Sep 83).....	162
Commentary on Recent Afghan Intrusions (Editorial; THE MUSLIM, 22 Sep 83).....	165
Border Violations by Kabul: Motives Analyzed (A.T. Chaudhri; DAWN, 25 Sep 83).....	166
Editorial Condemns Afghan Air Force Intrusions (Editorial; NAWA-E WAQT, 19 Sep 83).....	168
Commentary Compares Regime Policies With Those of British Raj (VIEWPOINT, 22 Sep 83).....	169
High Taxation Seen as Boosting Corruption (Editorial; THE MUSLIM, 16 Sep 83).....	170
Daily on Need for Early Elections (Editorial; NAWA-E WAQT, 15 Sep 83).....	172
Punjab Local Elections Examined; Role of 'Brotherhood' Discussed (VIEWPOINT, 22 Sep 83).....	173
Punjab's Apathy to MRD Movement Examined (Ayaz Amir; VIEWPOINT, 15 Sep 83).....	175
Change Urged in Government Policies on Sind (Mushtaq Ahmad; DAWN, 23 Sep 83).....	178
Noorani Opposes Dialogue With Government (DAWN, 23 Sep 83).....	180
Tehrik Leader Expresses Anti-Dialogue Stance (DAWN, 23 Sep 83).....	181

Low Literacy: Cleavage Between Theory, Practice Scored (Editorial; VIEWPOINT, 15 Sep 83).....	182
Dismissal of Journalists Criticized (Editorial; VIEWPOINT, 22 Sep 83).....	184
Briefs	
Punjab Colleges To Stay Closed	186
Plea for Free Information	186
Zia Said Overusing Media	186

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

GCC GNP INCREASE--Dubayy, 31 Aug--An economic bulletin published here today reported that the GNP of the GCC increased by \$12.717 billion in 1 year. It totalled \$196.712 billion in 1981 compared to \$183.965 billion in 1980 at market prices and with an average increase of seven percent. [Summary] [GF010702 Doha QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 31 Aug 83]

EXPATRIATES DEPART GULF COUNTRIES--Social and economic changes are now taking place in Gulf with large numbers of expatriates quitting the region and Gulf countries reducing their budgets. Officials in Kuwait and the UAE say many expatriates, men are leaving their countries. During the past three months, 4,318 people left Kuwait, and Ministry of Planning figures in the UAE show that many expatriates are leaving there too, mainly because of new law which restricts movement between employers. In Qatar, economic statistics show that the country's population is expected to fall by 15 percent. European company managers from the main contingent of people leaving the countries, and reports indicate that this follows the cuts in spending, companies feeling that the managers are too much of a financial burden for them. One sector which is benefitting from the exodus is transportation. One British furniture removal firm reported that at the moment it is handling the removal of furniture for 140 British families from the UAE. [Text] [GF021137 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 1-2 Sep 83 p 1]

CSO: 4400/17

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

SYRIA, GREECE REPORTEDLY SUPPORT ARMENIAN TERRORIST GROUPS

Tehran ALIK in Armenian 27 Aug 83 pp 2, 7

[Text] Under the heading "Armenian Terrorism Against Turkey at a New Stage, After the 1982 Israeli Invasion of Lebanon", Robert Kaplan, writes from Athens:

It appears that certain leftist terrorists have fled from their headquarters in Beirut as a result of the Israeli invasion. Many, like the Palestine Liberation Organization, have found refuge in Syria. Turkish diplomacy has not been able to assure the cooperation of Syrian authorities with regard to these terrorists.

In recent years, Armenian terrorists have been avenging the deportation and death of more than one million Armenians by Turkey during World War I. The terrorist acts against Turkish diplomats in Europe and the United States have reinforced Turkish denials that Turkey has committed Genocide against Armenians. But it is thought that the terrorists are being indirectly exploited by the Soviet Union, Greece and Syria against Turkey.

It appears that Turkey has few options in the matter. It lacks perhaps the means to resort to well-defined commando operations like those carried out by Israel.

For the Armenians too, the options are limited.

In spite of the activity of the terrorists, the possibility of setting up an independent Armenian state in Eastern Anatolia, which is the principle aim of some terrorist groups, is a question that Turkey does not entertain.

One of the existing terrorist groups based in Beirut is the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia [ASALA], a leftist organization that enjoys the support of the Soviet Union.

Recently, a Turkish paper TERCUMAN published the names, the pictures and addresses of the members of the ASALA leadership who, according to the same paper, are now in Syria or in those regions of Lebanon under Syrian rule. Experts who have been consulted, have confirmed the truth about these articles.

Last winter, the Foreign Minister of Turkey Iltis Turkmen, paid a visit to Damascus for a meeting with the President of Syria Hafiz al-Assad to examine this question. A Turkish official in Ankara declared that "Hafiz el-Assad had appeared to be cooperative."

However, other Turkish sources reported that Turkmen's visit to Damascus, to this date, had been only an insignificant success.

It can clearly be stated that since Turkmen's visit to Damascus, relations between Turkey and Syria have not improved. On the contrary frontier incidents were reported in June during which a Syrian soldier was wounded.

Syrian tolerance in harboring the terrorists is an inimical act towards Turkey and Israel, and has provided these two countries an opportunity for cooperation. This fact was confirmed during last summer's Israeli attack on Beirut. At that time, Israel passed on to Turkey information on 29 Kurdish rebels who had been captured in Palestinian camps. Israel also gave Turkey information from 40 other files.

Other factors however, create obstacles in the way of a close cooperation between Turkey and Israel. Under the regime of Generals, Turkish economic ties with Arab countries, particularly Lybia, have become closer, a fact that has resulted in a worsening of relations with Israel. Turkey has also reduced the personnel of the Israeli Embassy in Ankara, allowing only one official.

As for the other Armenian groups, in particular the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide, it is not easy to pinpoint their exact center. Experts think that after the fall of Beirut, the Justice Commandos fled to Greece, to Greek Cyprus and to France. Official circles in these three countries deny the truth of such information or the presence of such groups.

Greece has relaxed the formalities of entry into the country, as well as the special security controls. It has also good means of air communication with Europe, with the Middle East and with the Soviet Bloc. Although the Greek Socialist Government (PASOK) has officially condemned terrorism, its attitude towards Armenian terrorism remains ambiguous.

During a recent public meeting organized by the Armenians, Panos Kondogiorgis, the representative of Andreas Papandreu came out in favor of the Armenian struggle, declaring that "in the struggle that is being waged on all fronts by every means, PASOK is on your side."

Panos Kondogiorgis called for the formation of an "independent Armenian State" which means the partition of present-day Turkey.

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CSO: 4605/134

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN COUNTRY ANALYZED

East Burnham ARABIA THE ISLAMIC REVIEW in English No 25, Sep 83 pp 52-53

[Text]

After 18 years of tough socialist policy, the Algerian authorities are faced with a negative balance sheet. To defuse mounting popular anger, they are now trying to change course slightly. But change is slow, because the advocates of the late President Boumedienne's hard-line brand of socialism are still a force to be reckoned with, in spite of the isolation of some of their members.

Privately, government officials hardly bother to conceal the fact that Boumedienne's objective of "industrialising industries" has not been achieved, even 20 years after Algeria's independence. Officially it is now admitted – though not expressed publicly – that many of the projects included in the development plans of the 1970s have not been completed.

When, for example, the results of the first four-year plan performance (1970–1974) became available, the regime did not admit frankly the failure of most of the plan. That would have confirmed the people's belief in the inadequacy of socialism. On the contrary, the state-controlled press bombarded the citizens with figures, presenting the plan as a great success of socialism in Algeria. However, people remained sceptical as to the real performance of the economy and of socialism, especially as the latter had by then demonstrated its impact on the cost of living and on social life.

While the nationalisation of Algerian mineral resources from 1966 onwards was beneficial, bringing under state control every single small business worth the name generated abuses and excesses that led to a general popular frustration. And what can be worse for a country than its people's cynical indifference to its economic activity? The major concern of

the exponents of socialism was to apply socialist theory, without taking into account the wishes or even the views of those concerned: the people themselves. The consequences have therefore been disastrous.

Like other socialist countries, centralisation in Algeria brought in its wake fatally heavy-handed bureaucracy and red tape. This in turn curbed individual initiative in every field of activity, and paralysed vital sectors of industry that required quick decisions. Small businesses have been made inefficient through heavy taxes, and most of their owners have simply given up. Cottage industry has lacked raw material and incentives. Creativity has thus received a fatal blow.

Wholesale dealers, branded as "undesirable intermediaries" between the producers and the consumers – and hence castigated as exploiters of both – were disbanded in 1967. They were replaced by state organisations. Overnight goods became scarce, prices rocketed and queues in front of the shops lengthened. Meanwhile, salaries did not follow the sudden upward trend in the cost of living. The price of one kilogramme of potatoes, for example, soared overnight from 5 pence to 30 pence. One of these replacement state organisations, OFLA, responsible for the marketing of fruit and vegetables both within and without the country, damaged the performance of the state farm producers by fixing very low prices for the purchase of their produce. The benefits of low pricing, however, did not accrue to the consumers, as retail prices were fixed quite high.

The ban on the private import of goods and the creation of a state monopoly in this field added a great deal to the

disruption of economic activity, and caused great hardship and frustration. The monopoly of the state slowed down all sorts of imports, thus adversely affecting economic activity in a number of sectors.

For example, the huge state farms have been in constant need of machinery and farm vehicles. The monopolistic state control over imports and the bureaucracy involved have brought the state agricultural sector to a near-standstill. The workers have not had the necessary incentives to work normally. The truism needs to be repeated: private farming is extremely efficient, because workers are given the freedom to use their initiative, and so feel responsible.

It is not therefore surprising that the relatively tiny traditional private sector produces two thirds of Algeria's agricultural output, according to government figures. On top of this, the agricultural cooperatives set up within the framework of the so-called agrarian reform, have not produced the expected results. It is even reported that in some areas the peasants have abandoned the cooperative style of life and returned to their mountain dwellings.

State-run companies have operated at between 40 and 60 per cent of their capacities. The freezing of land sales and purchases, as well as the severe restrictions on house building, led to a housing crisis. When in the last three or four years restrictions on land sales and purchase unofficially eased slightly, the price of a square metre of land soared to an unbelievable level.

The irony of the situation is that the restrictions on land sales and purchases were allegedly meant to allow the authorities time to determine which lands were suitable for agriculture and which were not. However, while the ordinary citizen cannot get a small plot to build a house, national companies and ministries are known to have used the fertile agricultural plains of Northern Algeria to build factories and housing for their own employees.

Such a situation could not persist without leading to greater frustration, which posed a challenge to state socialism. The death of Boumedienne in 1978 hastened the re-thinking of the country's development strategy. No new development plan was adopted in the 1977-1980 period; the new president, Chadli Benjedid, and his planners used this time to work out a new development policy.

While the state-controlled press has kept up its vociferous socialist rhetoric,

state planners are trying to come to terms with reality. The 1980-1985 five-year plan, with funding of AD200bn for unfinished schemes, incorporates a slight shift in favour of light industries; agriculture is still neglected, being allocated only 12 per cent of the plan's funds. The reforms that departed from the traditional socialist policy were as follows: the big national companies, like the hydrocarbon concern Sonatrach, were split into smaller units, each specialising in a particular field, with a view to improving their efficiency; and the huge state farms were also planned to be divided into smaller ones for the same reason.

The agrarian reform, which took a long time to enforce, was much criticised by the people. It benefited only a tiny fraction of the vast number of peasants in dire need of land. It was acknowledged to have failed - though the acknowledgement remained within the new "constructive criticism" framework. Some of the land earlier taken from their owners, and left untilled, has been restored to their former owners. This measure has not received any official publicity, as the government resisted the move for years, in spite of its awareness that much of the nationalised land was not being tilled.

The acknowledgement of failure over the economy forced the authorities to "allow" the formation of a private business sector on a small scale. People who would like to set up small businesses, mainly in the consumer goods, services and construction sectors, can apply for a trade licence provided they abide by some "socialist" safeguards, which are intended to prevent the business concerned from "exploiting" the workers and from growing too big - conditions basically designed to save the face of the regime.

Applicants for licences may, in some circumstances, be granted state loans to launch their business, but in reality it seems bureaucratic impediments as well as a still-cautious political attitude have not so far enabled the private sector to develop.

The Finance Law of 1982 provided for special facilities in this respect for former Mujahideen. When submitting proposals for his planned business, a former Mujahid can get a loan of up to AD50,000 (nearly £6,000) provided he raises 10 per cent of the initial cost of the project himself. This maximum loan amount is ridiculously inadequate, and is not likely to help set up small and medium-sized enterprises, considering that one factory machine alone now costs a minimum of £15,000. Obviously such maximum ceiling

for the "privileged" loan presupposes that the applicant has already got the necessary capital to launch a business.

Marked out for privatisation are sectors which have been neglected and have thus put a strain on the country's foreign exchange reserves. These include handicrafts, shoes and clothing, and construction materials. However, the law still gives preference to those who are ready to set up a cooperative industrial unit. It is unlikely that many people will opt for this type of enterprise, given the past experience of the state cooperatives and the reluctance of many to enter into a partnership that exceeds two people. Loan priority also goes to those who are prepared to set up businesses in backward areas of the country.

As well as this liberalisation of small private businesses, industrial entrepreneurs are now allowed to import equipment and raw materials for their factories from abroad, on condition that the total cost does not exceed £50,000. They can now pay customs duties in Algerian currency.

The economic liberalisation initiated at the beginning of the 1980s is a government initiative that followed the failure of the harsh socialist policies imposed on Algeria since 1965. It is also a concession that has followed the emergence of a spontaneous popular Islamic movement, some of whose prominent members will soon have spent one year in prison without trial.

CSO: 4500/4

DEVELOPMENT IN HEAVY INDUSTRY REVIEWED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 21 Sep 83 p 12

[Article: "Heavy Industry: Priority Actions"]

[Text] After an entire series of meetings last week devoted to a study of the 1984 budget, Merbah Kasdi, member of the Central Committee and minister of heavy industry, presided Tuesday afternoon over an important meeting that brought together the general managers of the enterprises of the heavy industry sector. The meeting was called to discuss:

1. Finalization of the 1984 budget.
2. Production of the sector during the first 8 months of this year.
3. The situation with respect to distribution and with respect to the development projects.
4. A study of various other questions relating to port activity, debt collection, and restructuration.

At the close of the discussion concerning the 1984 budget of the enterprises, the minister of heavy industry asked all the executives present to mobilize the workers on a continuing basis with a view to achieving (or even exceeding) the nominal production capacity of the individual industrial units whenever possible--a goal that some units have already achieved in 1983. Recalling the orientations announced by the chief of state at the meeting of the UGTA [General Union of Algerian Workers], Merbah placed special emphasis on the importance of enhancing the profitability of the production structure at a moment when the nation is mobilizing to cope with an unfavorable world economic situation. It is therefore time--he said--for a continuous mobilization of the management and workers of the sector in order to meet the challenge of development by steadily increasing the production of goods and services and thereby making it possible gradually to replace imports with domestically produced equivalents.

During the past few years--and this year--the production structure of the heavy industry sector has recorded a constant increase in production in the majority of enterprises, thanks primarily to a greater mastery of the manufacturing process and to an improved organization of the maintenance function in the individual units.

Continuous Control of Management Performance

Citing the importance of the role played by the heavy industry sector in the economic life of the nation, the minister of heavy industry stated that the satisfaction of the nation's needs is an absolute priority on the part of management.

Merbah pointed out that in order to discharge this mission fully and effectively, the managers must undertake to exercise control over management of the enterprises and units by strengthening the managerial staffs of these enterprises and units by bringing in qualified personnel and by waging a continuing struggle against all forms of bureaucracy. The minister went on to declare that only by these means can the heavy industry sector make an effective contribution toward ensuring the nation's economic independence in respect to the products it manufactures.

The minister also called on the enterprises to take measures to strengthen the effectiveness of the technical services that are charged with controlling product quality, so that a continuing effort can be made in respect to product improvement and innovation in accordance with the requirements of the market.

Addressing himself to the problems of product distribution, Merbah said the situation in that area is markedly improved by virtue of the fact that the enterprises now have a more rational presence throughout the nation. In 1984 their presence will be even more meaningful, with the opening of the branches and sales outlets that are currently under construction.

It should be emphasized that in 1983 certain governorates have made an effective contribution toward development of the marketing infrastructure by the allocation of sites that have enabled the enterprises to obtain, with a minimum of delay, facilities--including temporary facilities--for warehousing and sales operations, thereby implementing even more concretely the policy of decentralization of distribution.

The actions taken in this domain have made it possible to improve the marketing of certain sensitive products such as bar steel for reinforced concrete, and will also facilitate distribution of automobile spare parts--an area in which there has been substantial progress in respect to the ability to fill orders placed by our citizens.

Addressing himself to the problem of reinforcing the potential for achievement on the part of the individual governorates, the minister called on the executives of the enterprises to continue--and maintain--those efforts that are targeted especially toward disadvantaged governorates, in conformity with the instructions of the president of the republic. It should be pointed out in this connection that since 1982 the heavy industry sector has placed at the disposal of priority governorates--such as Guelma, Tebessa and Bejaia--substantial quantities of equipment consisting basically of public works construction equipment, trucks, utility vehicles and vehicles for private use. Implementation of the decisions taken last month concerning decentralization--at the governorate level--of distribution activities for the benefit of the private sector has begun at enterprises such as the SNVI [expansion unknown], ENMTP [expansion unknown] and DVP [expansion unknown].

Greater Mastery of Planning for Development

In the area of development, the minister of heavy industry placed emphasis on those actions which should be carried out on a priority basis. These actions involve:

1. Speeding up the surveys preliminary to extension of the Rouiba industrial vehicle complex, and facilitating the process of advertising on an international basis for bids on the following projects:

- a. Construction elevators.
- b. Private vehicles.
- c. Pipe for overhead irrigation systems (Bordj Bou-Arreridj).
- d. Gas pipe and small-ID [inside diameter] pipe (Azzaba).

As regards the private-vehicle project, actions that will lay the groundwork for making the necessary decisions are in the planning stage. This planning is going forward under good conditions and is scheduled for completion before the end of this year.

2. Supervising the initial stage of the work under way on expansion of the electric household appliance complex at Tizi-Ouzou and on construction of the Oum-El-Bouaghi Stationary Electrical Machinery unit. Site preparation for the El-Milia (Jijel) steel complex will begin in October, with a very significant participation on the part of the construction enterprises of the sector.

3. Providing all the necessary attention and assistance by the sector to units that are currently under construction or about to begin operations, and to units that are still experiencing difficulties.

It should be pointed out that the measures taken in this connection in 1983 have made it possible to curb (and in some cases partly to eliminate) the delays reported in getting certain important units into production; these units include the Ain-Smara Compressor-Compactor Complex and the Bordj-Menaïel Cutlery Unit, which are currently in the start-up phase.

The status of the Azzazga industrial electric motors project has improved substantially: installation of the equipment for the transformer section will begin in early October, and production of transformers is scheduled to begin in December 1984.

In respect to the Biskra cable-manufacturing project, measures have also been taken to prevent delays in the planning of the construction work.

Special supervision has also been provided in connection with construction of the M'Sila Extrusion-Anodization unit, work on which began 30 March 1983.

Citing the number and scope of the projects that remain to be undertaken, Marbah emphasized the importance and necessity of enlisting the participation

of those survey and construction enterprises of the sector that already possess significant potential and experience; this will make it unnecessary to have recourse to foreign companies.

The minister emphasized in particular the special control exercised by these enterprises over certain projects, and to the fact that the construction planning is being followed. It can now be noted with satisfaction that the construction enterprises of the sector are achieving a greater mastery of the construction planning of certain development projects for which they have assumed responsibility.

It should also be noted--in connection with the industrial units that are in the start-up phase--that the Tiaret industrial vehicle body plant, the foundry of the industrial vehicle complex at Rouiba, and the Tiaret foundry have begun to put their facilities into production under conditions that are quite satisfactory.

Improved Production Results

Analyzing the results obtained with respect to production in July and August 1983, the minister stated that the situation was normal and satisfactory in the sector as a whole despite the disruptions experienced at the units during these 2 months--months that are characterized by the vacation period. Production in the majority of the enterprises shows improvement by comparison with the results for last year.

Some of the enterprises devoted July and August to the maintenance of production equipment. An analysis of production results for the first 8 months (January through August) shows that in general the enterprises either attained or exceeded the 1982 level of production. This is quite apparent in the machine-building industry, where targets have been exceeded at the industrial vehicle complexes, the Constantine tractor-motor complex, the Sidi Bel Abbas agricultural machinery complex, and the Ain Smara power shovel complex. In the electrical and electronic industry, targets have also been exceeded in the Tizi-Ouzou electric appliance complexes, the Algiers Cable Manufacturing Unit, the Setif Battery and Accumulator Unit, and others. In the metal structures industry and the mining industry, the targets were attained and sometimes even exceeded.

If this production effort is maintained, production targets will be achieved--and sometimes exceeded--in many units by the end of 1983. The production forecast for the entire year of 1983 accordingly shows the following increases (in value) over the corresponding figures for 1982 (arranged sector by sector):

1. Machine-building industries: up 36 percent.
 - a. Rouiba Industrial Vehicle Complex, up 16 percent.
 - b. Constantine tractor-motor complex (including assembly of motors and tractors), up 59 percent.

- c. Sidi Bel-Abbes Agricultural Machinery Complex, up 43 percent.
- d. Ain Smara Power Shovel Complex, up 300 percent.
- 2. Steel industries: up 16 percent.
 - a. Liquid steel, up 23 percent.
 - b. Hot-rolled steel, up 34 percent.
 - c. Cold-rolled steel, up 20 percent.
 - d. Flat-rolled steel products, up 40 percent.
 - e. Pipe, up 53 percent.
- 3. Electronic industries, up 23 percent.
 - a. Tlemcen complex, up 100 percent.
 - b. Tizi-Ouzou Electric Appliance Complex, up 19 percent.
 - c. The units administered by the National Electrotechnical Complex, up 16 percent.
 - d. Grand-Public Electronic Complex at Sidi Bel-Abbes, up 37 percent.
- 4. Mining: up 18 percent.
 - a. Marble in slabs, up 11 percent.
 - b. Phosphates, up 9 percent.
 - c. Mercury, up 131 percent.
- 5. Metal structures: up 19 percent.
 - a. Railroad cars, up 12 percent.
- 6. Surveys and construction work: up 27 percent.
 - a. COSIDERE [expansion unknown], 60 percent.

It should be noted, however, that some complexes are still experiencing problems, as for example the Tlemcen telephone complex and the Berrouaghia sluice gate-foundry complex. Measures are being taken to solve their problems.

Special attention, moreover, was accorded at the meeting to the problem of overstocking that has been experienced at certain units. It was noted in this connection that the bolt and screw factories have begun making serious efforts to market their products, in the light of the fact that gross sales increased fourfold in 1983. Very interesting results should also be noted in the sales of welding electrodes at El-Eulma, and of sanitary products at Miliana.

As for port activity, the enterprises of the heavy industry sector are making intensive efforts to remove the goods that are on demurrage in the ports. The transit and customs-clearance services of the steel and machine-building industries have accordingly organized teams that are working around the clock at the ports. Joining in the discussions, the minister gave instructions to the executives of the enterprises to utilize to the maximum those ports that are least congested, through better organization of their time and a better geographical distribution of imports with a view to utilizing all the nation's ports.

It should be noted that the organic restructuration of the heavy industry sector has virtually been completed. The target dates established by the government with respect to financial restructuration and the distribution of assets will be met. Special emphasis has been placed on the evaluation--and definitive placement--of management personnel at the headquarters of the new enterprises during September 1983.

10992

CSO: 4519/1

PRESENCE OF ASIAN WORKFORCE CRITICIZED

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 1 Sep 83 p 3

[Editorial: "The Asian Labour Deluge"]

[Text] That Egypt should liberally provide Arab and African countries with skilled labour is natural and normal. For Egypt is a large country with a population closing in on the fifty million margin and with a civilisation of over seven thousand years. Moreover Egypt is fully aware of its commitment to contribute unstintingly to economic development plans in the Arab world of which it is an indispensable member and in the African continent to which it is geographically and strategically affiliated. But that Egypt should be a vortex attracting cheap Asian labour is at once preposterous and astounding. However that is precisely what has been taking place in recent times. West Asians are being brought into certain parts of the capital seeking employment as house maids or house cleaners in return for relatively small wages. The trend, so far on a small-scale, has been prompted and encouraged by the sharp shortage in house maids and in people ready to accept menial jobs. The West Asians are quite eager to accept any kind of job at relatively low wages and therefore can very easily procure jobs of that type here.

Such a phenomenon, however, could have dangerous consequences, apart from having sinister implications of a social, cultural and economic nature. Advanced European countries which have enormous possibilities of employment, have actually begun to realise the danger of allowing foreign labour, particularly West Asians.

For this category of immigrants always plan to settle for good in the country where they get employment. Because they belong to totally different cultures, they can never fully integrate into the new society where they settle, with the result that they always feel alienated. Such alienation as sociologists contend can be disrupting to society because it breeds psychological and social perturbations of a very grave type. Secondly, an influx of West Asians into a country with very limited employment opportunities is certain to deprive many of its citizens of job opportunities and hence lead to unemployment. This can become very obvious when thousands of Egyptians, at present employed by the oil-rich Arab countries return home, a tendency the early signs of which have already begun to make themselves felt with persistent force. What makes things worse is that the Asians getting jobs in Cairo no doubt add to the onerous burdens now inflicted on the capital's aging utilities.

It is, therefore, imperative that we should try to curb the influx of Asians in order to stave off the economic hazards of having our wealth continually and increasingly sapped. Egypt is not an oil-rich country with enormous financial resources. Accordingly, it is not in a position either to host an influx of foreigners or to provide jobs for an army of West Asians. If it could only provide its own sons with the base necessities of life, this would be more than a blessing for which we should be very thankful.

CSO: 4500/1

BRIEFS

NEW TOWNS--Within the government's plan to renovate all public utilities in Greater Cairo, 105 sewerage will be renovated during the coming ten months, the Minister of Housing, Reconstruction and Land Reclamation, Mr Hassaballah El Kafrawi said. Meanwhile the United States will loan Egypt 1250 million dollars for renovating sewerage stations in Cairo, the residential districts west of the Nile and the Canal cities. The Minister said renovation of water and sewerage stations in all the governorates will cost LE 11 billion besides granting the Cooperative housing societies LE 450 million to help upgrade public utilities in their residential districts. Mr El Kafrawi also said two new factories in Al Masara, and Ramadan 10th City will produce the pipes for the renovation work. Moreover, the Ministry, in an effort to ease pressure on Greater Cairo's public utilities, is planning to develop new towns near Cairo, in Katamia, Belbels and on the Cairo-Suez road. Besides, offering housing, these new towns have the additional attraction of providing them job opportunities. For instance, 120 new factories will be established in Ramadan 10th City, on the Cairo-Ismalia desert road. These factories will give the towns the combined benefits of providing work and being productive centres. Furthermore, the Ministry is studying the possibility of urban expansion in every governorate, especially the Upper Egypt governorates, by establishing new cities near these governorates with separate public utilities Mr El Kafrawi added. GSS [Text] [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 28 Aug 83 p 3]

CSO: 4500/1

AL-QADHDHAFI'S DOMESTIC, FOREIGN POLICIES REVIEWED

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English No 19, 21 Sep 83 pp 6-7

[Text] Shortly after President Hissene Habre's Chad government forces had retaken Faya-Largeau at the end of July, Col Moammar Gadaffi decided to take charge of his war offensive in northern Chad himself, superseding temporarily the East German-trained Col al Rhafi.

However, Gadaffi's involvement in the campaign has caused confusion amongst his forces. A Russian-built TU bomber returning to base at Sebha, the military headquarters in southern Libya, after a mission over Chad was forced to continue circling as Gadaffi's personal Boeing jet was preparing to fly back to Tripoli. A crucial delay in Gadaffi's departure resulted in the war plane running out of fuel. It crashed into the desert, killing the crew.

This incident demonstrates the ad hoc nature of the Libyan war effort. Gadaffi realises that his offensive in Chad is not popular in Libya. Domestically, he has been playing down publicity while his external propaganda maintains that Libya is not involved militarily in Chad.

While previous Libyan military ventures in Africa were accompanied by a state of orchestrated near hysteria at home, with managers and workmen being pulled indiscriminately out of strategic industries, Gadaffi has not introduced a military call-up for the Chad offensive. Nevertheless, around Sebha, in southern Libya, away from the main oil-producing areas, the government has been commandeering vehicles and taxi drivers to ferry troops and equipment to the front. Some observers suggest that much of the fighting is being conducted by mercenaries, particularly Sudanese immigrants who have been enticed into Libya in search of a better life.

Earlier this year, Gadaffi, whose relations with his army continue to be prickly, was concerned that the military was in danger of presenting a threat to his leadership. On previous occasions he has acted to eliminate such powerful interest groups as the merchants and ordered the execution of several army officers who were involved in assassination attempts (AC Vol 24 No 7).

In May Gadaffi initiated an article entitled "The army--hashish and foolishness" in Al-Zahaf al Akhdar, the newspaper of the revolutionary committees headed by Mohammed Majdoub, who reports to Gadaffi's trusted aide Col Hassan Shkal.

Army v revolutionary committees

The article attacked corruption in the army, citing officers' illegal practice of importing hashish, alcohol and expensive cars. It called for the popularisation of the armed forces and the replacement of officers by so-called armed revolutionary committees. But the article brought to light an underswell of popular antipathy towards Gadaffi's revolutionary committees. Ever since their involvement in the campaign to liquidate opposition elements at home and abroad in 1980, revolutionary committees have grown increasingly powerful. Members have been jumping supermarket queues and commandeering cars for their private use with the result that public opinion has turned against them.

When this became apparent to Gadaffi he retracted some of his criticism of the army and realising that the revolutionary committees were becoming a potential threat to his carefully established centres of power, set the army and the revolutionary committees against each other. In practical terms it means that the army is no longer feted and the practice of recruiting young Libyans into popular militias-cum-revolutionary committees is in abeyance.

Gadaffi's conduct of the war in Chad and his running of the country are carried out by a tightly controlled group of personal allies. The southern army commander, Col Massoud Abdul Hafiz is married to the sister of Goukouni Oueddei, the Libyan-backed rebel leader. Hafiz is based at Sebha and is close to Gadaffi. Col Abdu Fatah Younis, the autocratic eastern commander is also trusted by the Libyan leader as he controls the often troublesome Cyrenaica province centred on Benghazi.

\$2m a Day for Chad War

This tightened chain of command appears to be working and though there are a number of serious cash-flow problems, Gadaffi is not personally short of funds. Oil production is being held at a consistent 1.1m b/d, an increase on the 500,000 b/d in early 1982. This represents Libya's quota under the OPEC agreement of March 1983, and the National Oil Company (NOC) is apparently determined to keep to it to maintain the current oil price level. Even so, the NOC has been undercutting official OPEC prices. An average price per barrel of \$29.60 has given Libya a monthly income of \$875m (\$10bn during the year). Thus, the cost of the war in Chad is not crucial to Libya's economy even if it totalled \$2m a day to support.

However, with a revised development budget totalling \$8bn and with Gadaffi's personal expenses (some estimates put them as much as 40% above that figure), there can be no doubt that Libya is running a budget deficit.

The result is that suppliers of goods and services to Libya, from British consultants to Indian contractors, have been experiencing problems with payments. The Indian ambassador in Tripoli, A.G. Asrani recently reported 6-12 month payment delays to Libyan-based Indian companies. Employees of Gammon India, which is building silos in eastern Libya, recently stopped work in protest against non-payment of wages.

As a result of these cash flow problems, bidders for Libya's large development project, the \$1bn Sirte industrial complex (which includes urea and ammonia plants) are being asked to provide their own finance. But there is no anxiety on the part of banks and export credit agencies to become involved and it may be left to the Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation in which Libya has a one-third interest, to provide the necessary credits.

After the recent flare-up in fighting in Chad which exposed France's trading relationship with Libya, US officials have been unable to decide whether or not to grant an export licence to a Houston-based company, Sofec (a subsidiary of the British company Vickers), which wanted to sell \$40m worth of offshore mooring equipment to Libya.

The US Commerce Department favoured granting the licence, but a number of bureaux in the State Department opposed it. The latter's hand was strengthened by a series of leaks on the case in the New York Times and Wall Street Journal at the end of August. This led observers to suggest that the State Department is anxious to maintain the strongly anti-Gadaffi image it has gained in francophone Africa over the Chad conflict. It appears that there are influential figures in the State Department who feel more mileage may be gained from adopting a hard line at the expense of France.

CSO: 4500/3

NEW BILL SPECIFIES SOCIAL INSURANCE ENTITLEMENTS, CONDITIONS

Tripoli AL-MUNTIJUN in Arabic 13 Aug 83 pp 6, 7, 12

[Article: "Social Insurance Coverage: The General People's Committee for Social Insurance"]

[Text] The Bill on Basic Pensions

Article One. The basic pension.

1. The basic pension is a cash security benefit paid out to people who are entitled to it without paying dues in exchange. It is the minimum which the social insurance system guarantees to people who have no other pensions, when the conditions for entitlement to it, as stipulated in Article 22 of the Social Insurance Law and based on the provisions of this bill, are met.

2. In defining the meanings of the words and phrases appearing in this bill, reference will be made to the definitions contained in Article 52 of the Social Insurance Law and the provisions of the following articles of this bill.

Section One: Conditions for Entitlement to the Basic Pension

Article Two. In order to be entitled to the basic pension, the following conditions must be met by the person applying for it:

First, the general conditions for entitlement stated in Chapter One of this section must be met.

Second, the person must belong to one of the entitlement groups stipulated in Article 22 of the Social Insurance Law and must meet the necessary conditions for this group in the manner stated in Chapter Two of this section.

Chapter One: General Conditions for Entitlement to the Basic Pension

Article Three. 1. In order to be entitled to the basic pension for persons, from any group whatever, the following general conditions are prerequisite:

A. The person must have no incomes whose amount totals or exceeds the value of the basic pension.

B. He must not be able to work.

C. He must not own or possess property that can be exploited.

D. He must not have a solvent source of sustenance who is obligated by law to pay his expenses.

E. He must normally be resident in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

2. It is also requisite that all the abovementioned conditions be met for one to continue to be entitled to the basic pension.

3. The formulation of these general conditions will be in the manner stated in the following articles.

Article Four. The person must have no incomes totalling the value of the basic pension.

To be entitled to the basic pension, it is a condition that the person applying for it not have a monthly income of any sort whose value totals or exceeds the value of the basic pension. If he does have any income whose value is lower than that of the basic pension, he will be entitled only to the difference between the two sums as a basic pension.

Article Five. What constitutes income.

With respect to the application of the provisions of the preceding paragraph, income will be considered to be:

A. Any old age or disability pension stipulated in accordance with the Social Insurance Law and the Bill on Social Insurance Pensions, Retirement Pensions, Retirement Pensions for Military Persons, and Social Insurance Pensions.

B. Any salary, wage, income or share of production revenues due from any body whatever, by virtue of any system, whether public or private.

C. The legal expenses which the person receives willingly or through the judiciary whether this is paid to him in cash or in kind.

D. The net actual income which the person realizes as the result of any activity, investment or effort, from the management of any type of activity or from the income of any salary.

E. Short-term benefits which dues-payers working for their own account are entitled to in accordance with Article 25 of the Social Insurance Law.

Article Six. What does not constitute income.

The following will not enter into the calculation of the income of the person applying for or entitled to the basic pension:

A. Household service aid grants specified for disabled persons in accordance with the provisions of Articles 10 and 11 of Law Three for 1981 on Disabled Persons.

B. A partial or total housing allowance or the value of the housing raise to which the person is entitled.

C. Grants or bonuses paid out to him in the course of studies, training or accreditation.

D. Benefits in cash or kind offered to him from treatment centers or health or social care bodies.

E. Earnings from simple household activities such as raising fowl and poultry, weaving and spinning wool, making decorative cloth, and other household and hand industries, within the limits of the first 25 dinars a month.

Article Seven. Calculating incomes.

The value of the monthly income in all cases will be calculated on the basis of the average income due from various sources, with attention to the provisions of the two preceding articles, within the 12 month period preceding the date of the application for the basic pension or the date of review of the application. No income or revenue will enter into the calculation of the abovementioned average monthly income if it has not assumed a stable and solid character over a period of 6 months or more.

Article Eight. The person must not be able to work.

1. To be entitled to the basic pension, it is a requisite that the person applying for this pension not be able to work to earn a living from any activity or service, whether that be work for his own account, in any place of production or service, or with any public or private body.

2. It is requisite that the person who is not able to work be in one of the following categories, unless it is proved that any of the people in these categories actually are working or are able to work:

A. People who have reached old age (65 full Christian calendar years in the case of men and 60 full Christian calendar years in the case of women).

B. People who are totally incapable of working or are totally disabled, when they are not suited for receiving work accreditation or reaccreditation services or it has appeared that these services are not accessible or fruitful as far as they go.

C. Widows, divorced women or unmarried women who provide for their children.

D. Orphans before they reach the age specified in Articles 22 and 23, unless the orphan's studies are completed before this age is reached, or a female orphan gets married.

Article Nine. The person must not possess or own property that can be exploited.

In order to be entitled to the basic pension, it is requisite that the person applying for it not possess or own property that can be exploited, whether that is real or moveable property, no matter what form of exploitation this property might be subject to, through a temporary sharecropping contract, contract for the lease of an orchard, partnership, work on the property, or any other mode of investment, whether it is actually exploited or no benefit is actually derived from its production.

Article 10. The person must not have a solvent legal source of sustenance.

1. To be entitled to the basic salary, it is requisite that the person, whatever category he might belong to, not have a source of sustenance who is committed by law to spend money on him and is able to pay his expenses.

2. Persons who are committed to pay expenses are considered a legal source of sustenance:

A. A husband, for his wife; the wife will not be entitled to a basic pension if her husband is alive and able to provide her with sustenance.

B. A father, for his children; the children, whether male or female, will not be entitled to any basic pension if their father is alive and able to provide them with sustenance.

C. Children, for their parents; neither of the two parents will be entitled to a basic pension if they have a child or children who are able to sustain them, be they male or female.

D. A mother, for her children; if their father is dead or his insolvency has been proved, or their relationship to a specific father has not been established, the children, be they male or female, will not be entitled in these cases to any basic pension if their mother is alive and able to provide them with sustenance.

3. No other relative who is not mentioned in Subsections A, B, C and D of the preceding paragraph will be considered sources of sustenance who are committed to paying expenses, and the presence of any of these other relatives will not constitute a deterrent to the person's entitlement to the basic pension.

Article 11. The solvency of the source of sustenance.

1. The lawful source of sustenance mentioned in the previous article will be considered to be able to make payments to the persons entitled to them if the actual income of this source of sustenance comes to or exceeds the total of the following amounts:

A. The minimum monthly wage stipulated in accordance with the labor law and the bills issued in regard to it.

B. The net housing allowance and family allowance the source of sustenance actually receives each month.

C. The debt installment or installments owed by the source of sustenance to the government and housing-related debts which he owes to other public bodies.

2. If the actual monthly income of the legitimate source of sustenance exceeds the total sums mentioned in the preceding paragraph and the person receiving the sustenance does not inhabit the same household, the source of sustenance will be considered responsible for the payment of expenses to him within the limits of one quarter the difference between his actual monthly income and the total abovementioned sums.

3. If the amount of one quarter the abovementioned difference totals or exceeds the value of the basic pension, the person receiving the sustenance will not be entitled to any basic pension. If the abovementioned sum of one quarter the abovementioned amount is less than the value of the basic pension, the person receiving the sustenance will be entitled to a supplementary pension amounting to the difference between this quarter and the value of the basic pension.

4. In all cases, consideration must be given to the fact that if the person receiving the sustenance lives in the same household as the source of the sustenance, this source of sustenance will be considered responsible for bearing his costs and for giving him assistance in full without restriction to the provisions noted in the two preceding paragraphs (Two and Three). The person providing the sustenance will be considered able to do so when his actual monthly income comes to or exceeds the total sums mentioned in Paragraph One of this article.

Article 12. On guarantees that the expenses will be paid out.

If the person applying for the basic pension has a solvent source of sustenance who is liable for his expenses by law, as described in the two preceding articles, and this source of sustenance refrains from paying these expenses to the persons entitled to them, a basic pension may be assigned to the person making the application, even though this solvent source of sustenance exists. In this case, the Social Security Fund may seek redress from the abovementioned source of sustenance through any of the following measures:

A. Acting in the place of the entitled person in demanding through the judiciary that his legal source of sustenance pay the expenses and in discharging the sums of the expenses which the judiciary decrees, in accordance with the provisions on legal discharges of payments stipulated in civil law, provided that these payments equal the amounts the fund has paid out as pension.

B. Intervening in cases bearing on expenses brought by the entitled person against the legal source of sustenance.

C. Seeking redress from the person found liable for what the fund has paid him or what it pays to the person in whose favor the ruling was made, within the limits of the total expenses on which the ruling was based.

D. Deducting the total expenses which it was determined would be paid to the entitled person from the value of the basic pension stipulated for him, if payment of them was made after he became entitled to this pension.

Article 13. Cases when expenses are to be paid.

1. If the expenses that are paid, willingly or in execution of a judiciary verdict, are equal to or exceed the value of the basic pension, no basic pension will be due.

2. However, if the value of these expenses is less than the value of the basic pension, the basic pension that is due in this case will be the difference between the two amounts.

Article 14. Condition of residence.

1. In order to be entitled to the basic pension, it is requisite in all cases that the person applying for the pension normally be resident in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; this condition is also necessary if the basic pension is to continue to be paid out. If the person's normal residence becomes a place outside the jamahiriya, the payment of the pension will be suspended.

2. However, it is permissible, by decree of the General People's Committee, on the basis of a recommendation by the General People's Committee for Social Security, to assign a basic pension to a Libyan citizen or a citizen of Libyan origin living outside the jamahiriya, whenever the conditions for entitlement to the basic salary exist and it is established through the documents he presents and the report of the Libyan people's office in the country where his place of residence is that his residence abroad may be attributed to circumstances justifying such entitlement.

Chapter Two: Categories of Entitled Persons and Conditions for Entitlement in Each Category

Article 15. Categories of entitled persons.

1. The basic pension will be due in the case of the following categories of persons:

A. Old persons.

B. Disabled persons.

C. Widows.

D. Orphans.

E. People whose ways of making a living have been eliminated or restricted, where no one is committed to paying their expenses.

2. The definition of each of the abovementioned categories, and the description of the conditions for entitlement to the basic pension and continued entitlement to it in the case of each of these categories, will be as stated in the following articles.

Article 16. Old persons.

1. Basic pensions will be due old persons who meet the general conditions of entitlement stated in Chapter One of this section and the stipulations of this article.

2. By old persons are meant people who have reached old age, men or women. This age is 65 full Christian calendar years in the case of men and 60 full Christian calendar years in the case of women.

3. In all cases, age will be established in accordance with the measures stipulated in Article 11 of the Social Security Pensions Bill issued by Decree 669 for 1981 of the General People's Committee.

4. To be entitled to the basic pension, it is requisite that old persons be citizens of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Article 17. Disabled persons.

1. Basic pensions will be due disabled persons when they meet the general conditions of entitlement stated above and the stipulations of this and the two following articles.

2. By disabled persons is meant everyone who has been afflicted with total permanent disability amounting to 60 percent or more which has prevented him from producing or earning or has obstructed him from performing any work or service for compensation, whether the reason for that was disability as a result of disease, work injury or other cause, and whether the disabled person is male or female.

3. For the disabled person to be entitled to the basic pension, it is requisite that he be a citizen of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

4. As regards proof of disability and definition of the degree of disability, the provisions of the decree evaluating disability issued by Decree 1309 for 1981 of the General People's Committee will be applied. The medical committees formed in accordance with the provisions of this law will have jurisdiction regarding the procedures for investigating disability and evaluating its degree and the possibility of its continuing. In all these matters, the provisions and measures stipulated in the abovementioned bill on the evaluation of disability will be followed.

Article 18. Disabled persons' pensions.

1. In the case of disabled persons, the basic pension will be due when they reach 18 full Christian calendar years of age.

2. Disabled persons' entitlement to the basic salary stipulated for them will continue until their state of total disability ends and they become able to produce and earn, whether as a result of being reaccredited or trained or for any other reason.

3. Female disabled persons' entitlement to basic salary will also continue until their marriage, unless their state of disability ends before that, so that they become able to earn and produce.

Article 19. Re-examination.

1. All persons entitled to basic pensions as a result of total disability will be subject to the provisions of medical re-examination to ascertain that the total disability is continuing and to establish its persistence. The re-examination will take place every year after the date of determination of the pension. The competent medical committees formed by virtue of the bill on disability evaluation referred to above will be in charge of that, and in this regard will be subject to the provisions and measures stipulated in the abovementioned bill.

2. If anyone who has been assigned a basic pension on account of disability refrains without reasonable excuse from presenting himself for a re-examination at the time the competent medical committee schedules it for him, payment of his pension will be suspended until he is re-examined.

3. The provisions of this article will apply to all people on current basic pensions who have been assigned these pensions on grounds of disability, in the manner cited in Article 74.

Article 20. Orphans.

1. The basic pension will be due to orphans when the abovementioned general conditions of entitlement are met, with attention to the stipulations of this article and the articles following it.

2. By orphans are meant:

A. People whose parents have died.

B. People whose fathers have died.

C. People whose parents are unknown.

D. People whose relationship to specific fathers is not established and whose mothers have died.

3. This will all apply whether the orphan is male or female and whatever his age may be, with attention to the provisions of the following articles.

4. For an orphan to be entitled to the basic pension, it is conditional that he be Libyan by nationality or that both or one of his parents be citizens of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Article 21. Pensions for orphans.

1. If there is one orphan, he will be entitled to a basic pension in the event there is no mother or she is married to someone other than his father.

2. In the event there is more than one orphan from the same father, in the event there is no mother or she is married to someone other than their father, they will be entitled to a single basic pension which will be assigned to the name of the oldest of the children, and this pension will be divided up equally among them.

3. An orphan, or orphans, who live in a common household with their mother, who is entitled to a basic pension in her capacity as a widow, will not be entitled to an independent basic pension but will share their mother's abovementioned basic pension with her.

4. However, if there is more than one orphan from the same mother and there is more than one deceased father, an independent basic pension will be due to each group of them from the same father, if need dictates that this group live in an independent household.

5. Likewise, if the orphans are from a single deceased father and more than one mother, an independent basic pension will be due for each group of them from the same mother, if need dictates that this group live in an independent household.

6. Proof of the existence of the need referred to in the two previous paragraphs will be by report of the social investigation prepared in the people's social insurance committee of the municipality concerned.

Article 22. Termination of the orphan's right to a pension.

1. A male orphan's entitlement to a basic pension will end when he reaches a full 21 Christian calendar years [of age].

2. However, if this orphan is a student, the entitlement will end on the basis of the following rules:

A. If he is a student in a university, faculty or higher institute, he will continue to be entitled to the basic pension until he reaches 28 full Christian calendar years of age, unless he completes his studies before that.

B. If he is a student in a secondary religious institute, teachers' institute, intermediate technical institute or school, or their equivalent,

he will continue to be entitled to the basic pension until he reaches 24 full Christian calendar years of age, unless he completes his studies before that.

C. If he is a student in a general secondary school or the equivalent, he will continue to be entitled to the basic pension until he completes the age of 22 Christian calendar years. If he completes his studies before he passes that age and joins a university, faculty or higher institute, his pension will continue to be paid out to him until he is over age 28, unless he completes his studies in the faculty, university or higher institute before that.

D. In all the cases stipulated in the preceding Paragraphs A, B and C of this article, if the student entitled to the basic pension reaches the age stipulated for those cases during the academic year, this pension will continue to be paid out to him until the end of that academic year.

E. This is all in the event the orphan does not find work at which he can make a livelihood before he reaches that age or ceases to meet any of the general conditions for entitlement before reaching the age mentioned in the preceding paragraphs.

Article 23. Termination of the female orphan's right to a pension.

The female orphan's entitlement to the basic pension will continue until she is married, finds work or ceases to meet any of the general conditions of entitlement to basic pension.

Article 24. Widows.

1. The basic pension will be due to widows when they meet the general conditions for entitlement and the stipulations in this and following articles.

2. By widows are meant women whose husbands have died when they were under their guardianship or women whose husbands have revocably divorced them then died during the period after the divorce in which a woman may not remarry. In the two cases, it is a condition that the woman not marry after the death of her husband or the person who has divorced her.

3. Husbands whose wives have died will not be considered widowers in regard to the application of the provisions of this bill.

Article 25. The widow's nationality.

1. In order for a widow to be entitled to the basic salary, it is a condition that she be Libyan by nationality.

2. However, a non-Libyan widow whose Libyan husband has died will be entitled to the basic pension when she meets the conditions for entitlement to it, if she is resident in the jamahiriyah, whether she is responsible for bringing up her children from that husband or does not have children by

him. Her entitlement to the basic pension will end when she marries someone other than him, leaves the country permanently or ceases to meet one of the general conditions of entitlement.

Article 26. The widow's pension.

1. If the husband leaves behind more than one widow, each widow will be entitled to an independent basic pension.
2. The widow's entitlement to the basic pension will end when she marries, finds work or ceases to meet one of the other conditions of entitlement.

Article 27. Widows with children.

1. If the widow is the source of sustenance of children by her deceased husband or husbands, she will be entitled to a single pension for herself and for these children.
2. If there is more than one widow for a single deceased husband, each of them will be entitled to an independent basic pension for herself and her children.
3. However, if the widow has children by more than one deceased father, one basic pension will be due for this widow and one for each group of her abovementioned children, when necessity dictates that that group live in an independent household.
4. If the widow marries, finds work or ceases to meet any of the other conditions of entitlement, her entitlement to the basic pension will end and her orphan children's entitlement to this pension will begin. These children, whether male or female, will be entitled to a single pension when they live together in a common household. If they have more than one father and need dictates that each group of them live in an independent household, each group will be entitled to an independent pension.
5. The children mentioned in the previous paragraph will continue to be entitled to the basic pension stipulated for them in their capacity as orphans even if the mother is subsequently entitled to a basic pension of her own because of the death of her second husband or for any other reason for entitlement, when it is proved that these children do not live with her in a common household.
6. Proof that the need referred to in Paragraphs Three and Four of this article exists will be by a report on the social investigation prepared by the people's committee for social insurance in the relevant municipality.

Article 28. Other categories.

1. Other people who have been deprived of ways of making a living or who have found it difficult to do so, besides the persons in the categories described in the previous articles, will be entitled to the basic pension when they meet the general conditions of entitlement stated in Chapter One of this section.

2. These will include:

- A. Divorced women whose waiting period for remarrying has elapsed.
- B. Families of sick persons who have been confined to hospital for a long period.
- C. People coming back from residence abroad.
- D. Families of people who have been imprisoned, detained or sentenced to punishments restrictive of freedom.
- E. Families of missing persons, absent persons or prisoners.
- F. Mothers of children whose patrimony is not established.
- G. Any other group which necessity requires be added, by decree of the secretary of the General People's Committee on Social Insurance, in the context of the provisions of Paragraph One of this article.

Article 29. Divorced women.

1. The basic pension will be due to divorced women of Libyan nationality who have passed through the period after their divorce during which they cannot remarry, when the general conditions for entitlement stated in Chapter One of this section are met in their regard, whether they have children under their care from the persons who divorced them or not. The provisions governing widows will apply to them, and their entitlement will end for the reasons governing the termination of entitlement for widows.

2. However, non-Libyan divorced women who were married to Libyan citizens will be entitled to the basic pension if they meet the general conditions for entitlement mentioned above and reside in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Their entitlement will end when they marry someone else or leave the country permanently.

Article 30. Families of sick persons.

The basic pension will be due to the families of Libyan citizens who are confined to hospital, if their stay there lasts for a period of more than 2 months, and their families have no incomes from any other source, while the other general conditions for entitlement are present, whatever the type of illness confining them to hospital or the degree of their disability, and whether they are totally or partially disabled.

Article 31. People returning from residence abroad.

1. The basic pension will be due to citizens of Libyan origin returning from residence abroad when they meet the general conditions of entitlement to this pension.

2. These citizens must submit a card along with an application for a pension stating that they are of Libyan origin and that they are returning from residence abroad, and papers proving that they have presented the General Passport, Emigration and Nationality Department with the documents required to grant them the desired nationality.

Article 32. Families of Imprisoned Persons.

The basic pension will be due to the families of anyone who has been provisionally imprisoned or detained under custody for investigation or imprisoned in execution of a verdict issued with a penalty restrictive of freedom, if the period of imprisonment or detention exceeds 2 months and the families meet the general provisions for entitlement.

Article 33. Families of missing or absent persons.

1. The families of missing or absent persons will be entitled to a basic pension when the death of those persons has been established by fact or by ruling and the families meet the general conditions for entitlement to this pension.

2. By missing or absent persons are meant citizens whose absence from their place of residence has been extensive, whose location is not known, who are not known to be dead or alive, and whose families have been deprived of news about them for a period sufficient to consider them in effect dead, when a judiciary verdict is issued establishing their death by fact or by ruling, on grounds that they are missing or absent.

3. It is permissible by decree of the people's committee for social insurance in the relevant municipality for the families of missing or absent persons to be paid a basic pension on a temporary basis before a verdict is issued establishing those persons' death by fact or by ruling, when the general conditions for entitlement and other conditions stipulated in Article 148-1 of the Bill on Social Insurance Pensions have been met, provided that the payment of this pension be for a period of 6 months. It is possible to extend this period after a social investigation has been held confirming that the persons are still absent or missing, while the members of their families meet the general conditions for entitlement.

Article 34. Families of prisoners.

The families of Libyan prisoners of war will be entitled to a basic pension when they meet the general conditions for entitlement to these pensions, provided that it is proved that they have been taken prisoner by a certificate issued by the competent body in the armed forces.

Article 35. Mothers of children.

A basic pension will be due to mothers of children whose relationship to a specific father has not been established, when they meet the general conditions for entitlement. These children will have a share of this pension whether they are male or female.

Article 36. Family members.

1. By family members who are entitled to the basic pension by virtue of Articles 30, 31, 33 and 34 of this bill are meant the wife, the male children up to age 21, and unmarried girls, provided that they be Libyan and that they meet the general conditions for entitlement to the basic pension.
2. The provisions on entitlement related to widows and orphans stipulated in this bill will apply with respect to the abovementioned family members.
3. The same provisions will also apply with respect to mothers and children mentioned in Article 35.

Section Two: The Value of the Basic Pension

Article 37. The value of the pension.

The value of the basic pension will be 50 dinars a month.

Article 38. Family raises.

The people on basic pensions will be entitled to family raises in the amounts stipulated in Article 24 of the Social Insurance Law in the manner stipulated in the bill on raises for the families of persons on pension.

Article 39. Increases in values and raises.

1. It is permissible by decree of the General People's Committee to increase the value of the pension or increase the value of the family raise which is due persons on pension in execution of Article 28 of the Social Insurance Law.
2. In the event a decree is issued in this regard, the provision of the raise will be in effect with respect both to new pensions and to pensions that had been stipulated previously as of the first of the Christian calendar month following the date of the issuance of the decree, unless this decree stipulates a different date on which it is to go into effect.

Article 40. The supplementary basic pension.

The supplementary basic pension will apply in the two following cases:

1. If the people meeting the conditions for entitlement to the basic pension are people who by virtue of previous social insurance or retirement or social insurance statutes are entitled to a pension for entitled persons whose value is less than that of the basic pension, the basic pension due these persons will be the difference between the two amounts. The provisions of this paragraph will not apply in the case of people entitled to the partial disability pension.
2. If people who meet the conditions for entitlement to the basic pension have an income whose total is less than that of this pension, the pension they are entitled to will then be the difference between the two amounts.

Section Three: Measures Related to the Basic Pension

Article 41. The relevant people's committees.

1. Measures related to the execution of the provisions of this bill will be taken in the people's committee on social insurance in the municipality in whose jurisdiction the actual place of residence of the person applying for the basic pension is located, and changes in this place of residence may be accepted only if it is proved that these changes are founded on good reasons.

2. Each of these committees must:

A. Adopt the necessary social survey and social investigation measures while taking the circumstances of the environment into consideration.

B. Confirm that the data and documents which are offered are valid and observe simplification of procedures as far as possible.

C. Positively monitor cases of people who are entitled to the basic salary and the social and financial changes that occur in them.

3. The General People's Committee on Social Insurance will issue decrees and instructions guaranteeing that the application of the system of basic pensions and the provisions on followup and oversight of the execution of this bill are properly applied.

Article 42. Submitting applications.

Applications to receive basic pensions will be submitted on the form prepared for that to the relevant people's committee on social insurance. The application will be accompanied by supporting documents to be determined by decree of the secretary of the General People's Committee on Social Insurance, and the application will be given a notation by the competent administrative body stating that this body, on its own responsibility, decrees that the data furnished in it is correct.

Article 43. Recording applications.

The applications that are filled out will be recorded in a special register arranged by serial numbers according to the date on which each is received, and the applicant for the pension will receive a receipt stating the number of the application and the date on which it was recorded in the register.

Article 44. Investigating applications.

1. The basic pension department in the monetary benefits section of the relevant people's committee on social insurance must investigate the applications that are filled out in order to establish that the data in them is correct and the documents accompanying them are proper. In this regard, it will prepare a report showing the extent to which the applicant meets the conditions on entitlement to the basic pension, provided that the following be observed in this regard:

A. The age is established in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the Social Insurance Pensions Bill.

B. Disability is established in accordance with the provisions of the Disability Evaluation Bill and its measures, under the aegis of the medical committees formed in accordance with it.

C. A social investigation is made dealing with the case from all aspects bearing on conditions for entitlement to pension.

2. This report will be handed over to the application review committee, which will be formed by decree of the secretary of the people's committee on social insurance.

3. This committee may request that the investigation be completed and that the data or documents be filled out, and it will present its books to the chairman of the monetary benefits section.

Article 45. Decisions on the applications.

1. If the chairman of the monetary benefits section endorses the view of the committee referred to in the preceding article, his decision in this matter will be considered to be definitive regarding the application, whether that decision is one of acceptance or rejection of the application.

2. If there is a difference in views between this committee and the chairman of the monetary benefits section, the matter will be presented to the secretary of the people's committee on social insurance which is competent to make a decision on it.

3. Each people's committee secretary and monetary benefits section chairman may make the decision on the application contingent on the completion of a specific investigation or the filling out of papers or data which they specify.

4. The applicant will be informed of the rejection of his application if the matter concludes with its rejection.

[Article] 46. Determination of the pension.

1. The basic pension will be determined within a week at the most of the date of the decision to accept the application.

2. In the determination decree, the name of the person on the pension and the names of the people who are entitled to this pension along with him, if they exist, will be stated.

3. The applicant will be informed of the determination of his pension, as will the other persons entitled to the pension.

Article 47. Rapid determination.

1. The basic pension must be determined rapidly, within a period not to exceed 3 months of the date on which the reason making entitlement to the pension necessary is determined.

2. In any event, the decision on the application must be reached within a month of the date it reaches the relevant people's committee on social insurance, providing the data and accompanied by the necessary documents, or a month at most from the date on which this data and these documents are provided.

Article 48. Submission of protests.

1. The person applying for the basic pension may submit a protest on the rejection of his application or delay in the decision on it.

2. Each person concerned may present a protest on the determination decree, if he considers that that is in violation of the provisions of this bill.

3. The protests will be presented to the secretary of the people's committee on social insurance, and he will take the appropriate measures in their regard within a month at most of receipt of them. If any points of conflict remain outstanding and the person concerned continues to adhere to his opinion, he may present his protest to the committee on disputes stipulated in Article 44 of the Social Insurance Law.

Article 49. The times at which payment is due.

The basic pension will be due as of the first of the Christian calendar month following the date of issuance of the determination decree on it. If the determination decree is issued on the first day of the Christian calendar month, the pension will be due on that date.

Article 50. Payment.

1. The pension due for each Christian calendar month in addition to the family raise due will be paid out at the end of that month.

2. Payment of the pension will be by one of the following means:

A. In cash, from the cashier's office of the people's committee on social insurance in the relevant municipality, within the limits stipulated for payment in cash.

B. By a check drawn on a domestic bank operating in the jamahiriya.

C. By direct deposit to the account of the person entitled, by his request.

D. By the people's committees in localities, by mail, or by any other means determined by the secretary of the General People's Committee on Social Insurance.

Article 51. Payment within the jamahiriya.

1. Basic pensions will be paid out in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and may not be remitted abroad.

2. Cases in which the basic pension is to be paid out to citizens residing abroad in execution of the stipulations of Article 14 of this bill will be exempted from this provision.

Article 52. Payment deputation.

1. The basic pension will be paid out to its legally competent recipient.

2. The pension may be paid out to someone deputized by its recipient if the latter is disabled or his circumstances do not make it possible for it to be paid out to him. Deputization will be by official or customary means. It will be written out by the recipient of the pension on a form prepared for this purpose before the competent employee in the people's committee for social insurance, who will authorize the deputization, or it will be written out by the recipient of the pension and will be witnessed by two witnesses, whose signatures will be approved by the people's committee in the locality.

3. Social insurance employees may not be deputized to receive payment of basic pensions unless the persons making the deputization are related to them up to the second degree.

4. The validity of customary deputizations will be for a maximum period of 6 months, after which payment may be made only to the recipient of the pension in person or by a new deputization.

Article 53. Pensions for minors and persons under guardianship.

1. If the recipient of the basic pension is a minor or is under guardianship, the pension will be paid out to his guardian or the person on whom he is dependent (the legal trustee). This guardian or trustee may also perform any activity or measure required by the provisions of this bill by proxy for the minor or person under guardianship.

2. However, the pension due to minors may be paid out to their parents without need for a decree of guardianship.

3. This will apply unless the competent court permits the minor or person under guardianship to have his pension or entitlements paid out to him or to have his property administered.

4. In cases in which payment is made to the trustee, guardian or mother in accordance with the foregoing, the person to whom the pension is paid out will be responsible for it, and the Social Security [Department] will not question him about his disposition of the pension sums which he has received, in his capacity, for the entitled person's account. He must, whenever compelled to present an account to the body which has appointed him, present a copy of this account to the monetary benefits section in the competent people's committee on social insurance.

Article 54. Annual Statements and Notifications.

1. The recipient of the basic pension or whoever acts in his place by legal proxy must present the secretary of the relevant people's committee of social insurance an annual statement on his family and financial situation and that of the entitled persons, along with the people whose sustenance they provide. The presentation of this statement will be by a form prepared for this purpose in accordance with conditions and circumstances determined by a decree issued by the secretary of the General People's Committee on Social Insurance.
2. This statement must be presented in the period between 1 January and the end of February of each year.
3. The payment of pensions will be temporarily suspended if this annual statement is not presented in the time stipulated for its presentation.
4. Notification will also be necessary as soon as any change occurs during the year in the family or financial status of the people who were mentioned, if such a change will lead to a review of the pension.
5. The administrative bodies will also be obliged to give notice when any change comes to their attention which will have an effect on entitlement to the basic pension and matters related to that.

Article 55. Review.

1. The basic pension due will be reviewed on the basis of the annual statement presented, the other notifications referred to in the preceding article, and the conclusions of the investigations by the people's committee on social insurance.
2. The review will concern termination or suspension of the right to the pension, redetermination of it, or changes in the shares of the people who continue to be entitled to it.
3. The decrees which result from the review will be in effect as of the first day of the Christian calendar month following the date on which the occurrence which led to the review took place.

Section Four: General Provisions

Article 56. The Christian calendar.

Calculation of the ages, dates and periods stipulated in this bill will be in accordance with the Christian calendar.

Article 57. Exemption from taxes and levies.

Basic pensions will be exempted from all taxes and levies, whatever they might be. In this regard, the provisions of Article 43-1 of the Social

Insurance Law and Article 156 of the Social Insurance Pensions bill will apply.

Article 58. Noncommingling.

The basic pension may not be combined with any other salary, wage or pension. In this regard, the provisions of Article 39 of the Social Insurance Law will be applied, without prejudice to the conditions of entitlement to basic pension stipulated in Section One of this law.

Article 59. Imprisonment of persons on pension.

If the freedom of the recipient of the pension is restricted for any reason, it will be prohibited to pay him the basic pension during the period of his imprisonment or detention, though the payment of this pension to his family or the people entitled to the same pension along with him will continue. If this imprisonment or detention lasts more than 2 months, a review will be made of the determination of the pension by applying the conditions and provisions stipulated for this bill, as if the recipient of the pension had died.

Article 60. Training and accreditation.

1. The people's committees on social insurance will in cooperation with the people's committees on public service, industries and other bodies, each within its own jurisdiction, strive to train and accredit people on basic pensions and people entitled to them in vocations, crafts or suitable work until they are able to work and produce.

2. People who are entitled to basic pensions because of disability or old age will have priority in reaccreditation and in accreditation and job training.

3. A committee will be formed under the chairmanship of the secretary of the General People's Committee on Social Insurance, with two delegates of the secretariats of public service and industries, reaccreditation centers, and other bodies concerned as members, to monitor training and reaccreditation affairs and the reaccreditation of people who are entitled to basic pensions and to effect coordination and coordination among the various bodies in this field, while striving to give them work and production opportunities after the training or accreditation is completed.

Article 61. Lodging.

1. In the event the recipient of the basic pension is lodged free of charge in an old persons', disabled persons' or handicapped persons' home, another social care home, a hospital, a sanatorium or a university, institute or school dormitory, it will be prohibited to pay him his pension in the period of his lodging.

2. If a pension recipient who has no family refrains without acceptable reason from living in a social care home or other home allotted for that

sort of situation, he will be deprived of pension during the period in which he so refrains.

3. However, in the cases mentioned in the two preceding paragraphs, if others are entitled to the pension along with him, the payment of that pension to these entitled persons will continue, as if he did not exist, if they meet the conditions for entitlement.

Article 62. Temporary deprivation.

It is permissible, by decree of the people's committee on social insurance in the relevant municipality, to refrain from paying out the basic pension on a temporary basis in the following cases:

A. If the disabled entitled person refrains, without acceptable excuse, from appearing for reaccreditation or from enrolling in a vocational or craft training course. The deprivation will apply for the period in which he refrained from the training and production accreditation.

B. If the person is convicted of the crime of begging or it is established to the people's committee on social insurance, through inspection and investigation, that he is engaged in begging, and the competent authorities have given notice. In this case, the deprivation of pension will be for 50 percent of the pension due for 1 month. If it is established that he has resumed begging, a decree may be issued depriving him of his entire pension for a period not to exceed 2 months.

Article 63. Expiration.

The basic pension will not lapse merely because its period has elapsed. The provisions on the prohibition against hearing suits on expiration cases in the manner stipulated in Paragraph B of Article 42 of the Social Insurance Law and Article 164 of the Social Insurance Bill will be in effect.

Article 64. Confiscation.

It is permissible to confiscate a basic pension only within the limits and under the rules stipulated in Article 42-C of the Social Insurance Law and Article 169 of the Insurance Pensions Bill.

Article 65. Termination of the right to a pension.

1. The right to a basic pension will end when its recipient ceases to meet any of the conditions of entitlement to this pension as stated in Section One of this bill.

2. In particular, the right to a pension will be terminated in the following cases:

A. The marriage of a widow or divorced woman.

B. The attainment by a widow of the age stipulated in Article 22 of this bill.

C. The marriage of a female orphan or her acquisition of work in accordance with Article 23 of this bill.

D. The termination of the state of total disability, whether the person has become partially disabled or the disability has been totally eliminated, whether through completion of the disabled person's accreditation for a specific job or for other reasons.

E. Permanent residence abroad, with attention to the provisions of Article 14 of this bill.

F. Acquisition of work or entitlement to a salary, wage, income, expenses or revenue of any type whatever which is equal in value to or exceeds the basic pension.

G. Other cases in which a circumstance is at variance with the conditions of entitlement.

3. The failure to appear for payment of the pension or to request it for a period of 12 consecutive months will be considered evidence of the termination of the state which led to entitlement to the pension, although such evidence will no longer exist if the entitled person proves that he had a compelling excuse which prevented him from receiving payment or making a request during this period.

Article 66. In case of death.

1. The right to the basic pension will end with the death of the recipient of the pension.

2. In this case, a death grant will be paid out, so that the payment of the basic pension to entitled persons of the family of the deceased will continue to be paid out, as if he had not died, for the month in which the death occurred and the 2 months following it. In this regard, the provisions of Article 23 of the Social Insurance Law and Articles 104 through 117 of the Insurance Pensions Bill will apply. In addition, burial assistance will be paid out in execution of Article 10 of the Birth Grant and Burial Assistance Bill issued by Decree [no number] of the General People's Committee for 1982.

3. A review will be made of the determination of the basic pension in accordance with a request from the persons concerned if there are people who were entitled to it, along with its recipient, before his death, and in the cases of widows and orphans.

Article 67. Notification of death.

1. The heirs of the recipient of the basic pension and the people's committee in the locality must notify the people's committee for social insurance in the relevant municipality at once of the death of the recipient of the pension.

2. In this regard, the provisions of Article 172 of the Insurance Pensions Bill will be followed.

Article 68. Determination for other persons and amendment of the determination.

If it appears, when the right of the recipient or the entitled person to the basic pension ends, that the conditions of entitlement to this pension are met by other entitled persons or the termination of that person's entitlement requires that the shares of the remaining persons entitled be amended, measures will be taken to determine the pension again or to amend the determination in the manner shown in Article 55 and the other provisions of this bill.

Article 69. Penalties.

1. The penalties stipulated in Article 45 of the Social Insurance Law will apply to everyone giving incorrect information or statements or refraining from giving correct information or statements with the intention of receiving a basic pension for himself or for others or with the intention of evading any commitment or duty which this bill imposes on him.

2. In addition, he will be compelled to return the value of the pensions which he unrightfully received and to compensate the Social Insurance Fund for any damage which might have resulted from his action.

Article 70. Investigation on the continued satisfaction of conditions.

1. The monetary benefits department and the inspection department of the relevant social insurance committee must take the measures and perform the necessary investigations to ascertain that the recipient of the basic pension is alive and that the conditions for entitlement to it continue to be met.

2. If it appears that a change has occurred which will have the effect of influencing entitlement to the pension or family raise, the monetary benefits department must adopt the measure which this change will necessitate and inform the person concerned of it.

Article 71. The power of judiciary seizure.

The competent officials in the inspection agencies will have the power of judiciary seizure as regards the execution of the provisions of Articles 22 and 45 of the Social Insurance Law and the articles of this bill. They may take all the measures that are conferred on them by virtue of this power including the performance of investigations, all forms of search for evidence, the reading of papers and documents in the possession of any body, and the writing up and submission to the office of the public prosecutor of minutes governing arrests for violations, in execution of the provisions of Article 47 of that law.

Article 72. Exemptions and benefits.

1. The allocation of housing belonging to the society will be made free of charge to recipients of the basic pension who have no housing and they will have priority over others.

2. The competent bodies will set out the rules and adopt the measures necessary to exempt the people on these pensions from paying compensation for water and electricity use and to exempt them wholly or in part from paying compensation for the use of municipal public means of transport, provided that these exemptions be restricted to the period during which they are entitled to the basic pension.

Section Five: Transitional Provisions

Article 73. Existing basic pensions.

1. The provisions of this bill will apply to existing basic pensions and those whose issuance was previously determined, and the payment of these pensions will continue until the rights to them end. These existing pensions will be increased from 40 dinars a month to 50 dinars a month, as of the date on which this bill is specified to go into effect, and the existing supplementary basic pensions will also be increased on this basis.

2. However, the provisions of this bill will be observed regarding the suspension of payment and withholding of the pensions mentioned in the previous paragraph and the termination of rights to them.

3. The recipients of these pensions and the people entitled to them will be committed to all the duties, conditions and measures stipulated in this bill.

4. The provisions on notification and re-examination as described in this bill will apply to them.

Article 74. Existing disability pensions.

1. The recipients of existing basic pensions which had been stipulated previously because of health disabilities will be subject to medical re-examination to establish the total disability and ascertain that it is ongoing.

2. The new medical committees to be formed will be in charge of conducting re-examinations in accordance with the criteria for disability issued by Decree 1309 of the General People's Committee for 1981.

3. The re-examination of these persons will all take place within a period of 6 months of the date of the issuance of this bill. The people's committees on social insurance in the municipalities will take the necessary measures for the re-examination of all these persons to take place in this period, and a periodic re-examination of them to take place every year after that.

4. If a period of 6 months has elapsed from the date of the issuance of this bill and the recipient of any of the current basic pensions stipulated on account of total disability has not been re-examined, the payment of this pension will be suspended temporarily until this examination takes place.

Article 75. Pensions for people entitled to retirement bonuses or overall assistance.

1. If the conditions of entitlement to basic pension are met by any person who previously was the beneficiary of retirement or social insurance statutes, and this beneficiary is entitled to retirement compensation on the basis of the Retirement Law for 1967 and the laws amending that, or overall insurance assistance for old age, infirmity, widowhood or orphanhood by virtue of the Social Insurance Law and the laws amending that, and this compensation or overall assistance has not yet been paid out to him, the basic pension to which he is entitled will take the place of that bonus or assistance.

2. This sort of bonus or assistance may not be paid out unless its recipient acknowledges in writing that he is not entitled to a basic pension and unless the veracity of that is determined.

Article 76. Conditions for actually paying out bonuses or assistance.

In the cases mentioned in the preceding article, if the bonus or assistance has actually been paid out, no basic pension may then be decreed for the person to whom it has been paid out unless a period of time has elapsed between the date of payment of this bonus or assistance and the date of application for the basic pension which will cover the distribution of the amount of the bonus or assistance over a number of months at the rate of 50 dinars per month, unless it is categorically proved, by social investigation, that he has ceased to have an income, because this period has elapsed, or has an income which is less than the value of the basic pension.

Article 77. Existing instructions and forms.

With respect to the basic pension, the existing detailed statutes, work instructions and forms stipulated previously will continue to be in effect to the extent that that does not conflict with the provisions of this bill, until new forms are provided and new work instructions and detailed statutes are set out.

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CSO: 4504/563

DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS FEARED

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jun 83 p 7

[Article: "Official Report On Energy In The Sudan Warns Of Destroying The Forests For Agricultural Goals"]

[Text] An official report has been issued in the Sudan concerning the country's energy situation and future possibilities, following a 2-year survey of the various energy sources in the Sudan. The survey was undertaken by a joint team composed of cadres from the Sudan's national energy administration and some foreign experts.

This report, which has been printed in the form of a 75-page book complete with diagrams, maps and tables, is considered one of several such reports issued by the "Energy Planning and Policy Projects in the Sudan." The report was financed by the Sudanese government, the International Development Agency, and USAID. It contains complete statements of the consumption of energy in the form of petroleum, electricity, firewood, and coal in the areas of transport, agriculture, industry, the domestic sector and services for the year 1980. The report also contains a scientific analysis of the current economic state of affairs in the Sudan, as well as predictions of consumption in the years 1985 to 1990.

It has been decided that the "Energy Planning and Policy Projects in the Sudan" will end in July 1983, to be replaced by a bigger project and by long-term assistance from USAID. However, the authors of the report presented their recommendations to the Sudanese Ministry of Energy and Mining, so that these recommendations might be discussed and the appropriate decisions taken immediately while there is still some time left to [the] project, which ends next July.

Among these recommendations, which have to do with the national energy administration, are suggestions that an information gathering and analyzing system be set up utilizing advanced microcomputers, as part of the program which will produce an accurate, up-to-date picture of energy consumption and supplies in the country. The report also advised that detailed analysis and economic studies be done of energy supplies and consumption in the various Sudanese provinces.

If we look at petroleum products and electricity, we find that they cost the Sudan enormous sums of hard currency which are paid out in order to import refined oil and the equipment needed to generate electricity. At the same time, the country has local energy in the form of the wood used for fuel and for producing charcoal.

According to reliable information, the Sudan has about 112 million hectares of land covered by forests which produce an average of 44.3 million cubic meters of wood each year. The Sudan's forest wealth is estimated to be about 1.9 billion cubic meters of wood. Home consumption takes a large share of this type of energy, which is dependent on firewood and locally produced charcoal, so that statistics show that these sources account for 90 percent of fuel consumption in the Sudan, especially in the countryside. The great danger in this regard is that the forests, which are the sources of this fuel, could be exhausted in a way that would threaten their disappearance from the face of the earth. The reason is that people are going beyond the official maximum limit on the number of trees to be cut imposed on the people and the charcoal producers by the officials in charge of the Sudan's forests. This limit, as stated by the statistics in the report on "Energy in the Sudan," is 44.3 million cubic meters. The report demonstrates, however, that home consumption has already reached about 67.5 million cubic meters.

The above mentioned report that, due to trees being cut down for agricultural purposes and to produce charcoal, desertification has been increasing at a high rate. The report recommended that an emergency plan be drawn up to organize land utilization, so as to create a balance among the various ways of using the land and to prepare the means needed by forestry officials and others to apply this plan effectively.

In reality, the foresters are fighting a losing battle against the elimination of forest cover to make way for mechanized agriculture and charcoal production. Moreover, nature is against them as well in districts which are being encroached on by the desert at a frightening rate. The report relates that entire forests have disappeared due to the greed of the charcoal producers and the voraciousness with which they cut down trees illegally. It is in this context that the report's recommendation concerning the role of the forests as one of the Sudan's energy sources is seen to be important.

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CSO: 4504/488

SOUTHERN PROBLEM EXAMINED IN VIEW OF TRIBAL DISCORD

Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 8 Jun 83 p 2

[Article by 'Ayidah al-'Azib Musa: "The Southern Sudan: A Wound Bleeds Again"]

[Text] The tension which used to dominate the southern Sudan in the '60's and '70's is once again in evidence. It seems that the problem of the south, which was the most important source of President Nimeiry's power following his success in reaching the 1972 agreement, has again come to represent the greatest threat he currently faces. The old wound has been opened and has begun to bleed anew.

Since signing the Addis Ababa agreement in 1972, which granted the south autonomy, President Nimeiry has followed a policy of media obfuscation. Official statements used to blame any disturbances on foreign plots. In reality, the 1972 agreement brought only a paper peace. Disagreements remained between the north and the south, on the one hand, and between the various southern tribes, on the other. The tension exploded in a bloody confrontation last week.

On the evening of the celebration of the 25 May Revolution and the installation of Nimeiry as president of the republic for the third time, a statement was issued by the general command of the Sudanese armed forces, announcing that a rebellion launched by some military units in Jonglei province (600 miles south of Khartoum), and that the rebellion had been part of a larger plot organized by a foreign party against the security and unity of the Sudan. On the next day, the Sudanese minister of guidance held a press conference in which he said that what had happened was neither a coup nor an attempted coup, nor a struggle between northern and southern elements, but rather a rebellion in a very small corps in the Bor region. He said that the problems began with a failure to obey orders, some cases of money being stolen, the introduction of foreign weapons, and repeated acts of insubordination and rebellion. This was accompanied by acts of chaos and plunder. The authorities were then forced to intervene. Despite the way that the Sudanese minister made light of the amount of tension, he did announce that it had been decided, right after the feasts of May, to once again divide the south into three provinces instead of one.

What the Sudanese minister did not announce was that the rebels had laid a trap for the government forces in Bor when the latter tried to storm the rebels' camp in order to search for weapons. The government issued a decree transferring the rebels to the north, but they refused to obey these orders. The government then cut off their pay, whereupon they raised a rebellion which resulted in 70 deaths and a large number of wounded.

Moreover, this rebellion was preceded by another, which happened in January in Abyei province, to the south of Kordofan. According to what was reported by sources, a number of Muslim men attacked a train station, opening fire on 13 Arab businessmen, whom they buried in the city of Waw, the provincial capital.

Although the authorities described the incident as a barbaric attack on innocent citizens undertaken by outlaws, they nevertheless arrested 21 prominent persons, including a former minister of health, a correspondent for the magazine "The Sudan Now," and the head of the Arabic department of Radio Juba. All of those arrested were from Abyei province. The incident has been described as an indication that the old wound, namely the old struggle referred to as the problem of the south, has been reopened.

Abyei has a long history of rebellion. Clashes in the past happened as a rule over water and dry season grazing rights. In 1981, the tribal shaykhs were able to solve a dispute between warring tribes, following the failure of the government's attempts to do so.

It is said that the current problem arose out of a feeling widespread among the inhabitants of Abyei that their subjugation to the northern administration might cost them their intellectual and religious freedom. Their intellectuals sent a request to President Nimayri in November 1982, in which they applied pressure on him to hold a plebiscite in which Abyei would choose to either merge with the southern province or stay with the north. However, he did not pay any attention to it.

The Division

The main characteristic of political life in the southern Sudan is tribalism. There are two big blocks: the first consists of the Nilotic tribes (the Dinka, Shaluk and Nuwary), and was defeated in the provincial elections held in mid-1982. Its candidate, Abel Alier, who used to be the vice president of the republic, was defeated.

This group calls for the unity of the south, and is opposed to dividing it into provinces, as happened in the north, which was divided into five provinces.

The other group is made up of the small tribes (about 500 tribes). It calls for the south to be divided into provinces, as was the north. This group was victorious in the elections, since it had the support of a large number of youths, thereby defeating Abel's group, which had practiced a sort of oppression against the youths.

The call to secede is represented in both groups, although it is weaker now, due to the cessation of foreign support for it, following the Nimayri regime's reconciliation with America and the West.

It is said that President Nimayri is leaning toward dividing the south. He arrested 21 leaders of the Unity Council of the southern Sudan, claiming that they had formed a political party opposed to the constitution. Although he later freed them, this measure was interpreted by many southerners as being tantamount to a confirmation of the central government's support for and bias toward a redivision of the south. The government thinks that it would be in its own interest for the south to stay divided at a time when the discovery of oil is stimulating thoughts of independence and secession in the south. The central government in Khartoum prefers to exploit the petroleum in a weak, divided province which no longer forms a single block. The Muslim Brothers, upon whom President Nimayri depends for his political survival, do not want a unified south, which would hinder the formation of an Islamic state in the Sudan (especially since the religious division in the south runs: 80 percent, no religion; 11 percent, Christians; 9 percent, Muslims).

Moreover, President Nimayri has dismissed Abel Alier, who engineered the Addis Ababa agreement of 1982. He removed him from his office as vice-president, replacing him with Joseph Lagu, the former leader of the Aniya Aniya gangs which launched a civil war in 1955 for the sake of bringing about the secession of the south. During the most recent elections in the south, Lagu sided with those who called for decentralization and the division of the south. His position was based on the notion that southerners' long struggle with the north was directed against the centralization of authority in Khartoum, with the current application of centralized authority in Juba being a denial of the struggle of the past. He also asserted that decentralization as a system of rule meant giving authority to the people.

It seems that the policy of decentralization and redivision has triumphed. This is the significance of the announcement by the Sudanese authorities that the south would again be divided along the old lines (namely, the provinces of Equatoria, Bahr al-Ghazal and Blue Nile).

The question, will division return the south to a peaceful state? Will it allow the small tribes a more powerful presence and more control over their own affairs, while shattering the authority of the large tribes which the small tribes have complained of? Will tribal discord thereby be done away with, or will the division be the start of a new phase of block formation and tribal strife? The evidence indicates that the south, which was the source of President Nimayri's power in 1972, is once again at the head of the list of dangers which confront his regime today.

12224

CSO: 4504/488

ISRAEL

COTTON INDUSTRY DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Aug 83 (Supplement - "Business") p 26

[Article by Aharon Periel: "Cotton: High Expenses; Uncertain Income"]

[Text] The kibbutzim and the moshavim are already planning for the cotton harvest. The question that intrigues those involved in the branch is: What will be the size of this year's crop? This is not because Israel is likely to lose its position as the holder of the world record in cotton crops. Every increase in the crop means a clear profit for the farmers. Cotton prices on the world market have dropped drastically, and every additional cent of income means the ability to "float" somehow and not drown in the losses.

The cotton branch is one of the oldest, most important, and largest branches in Israeli agriculture. Through the years the branch has maintained a handsome profitability, and the proof is that the size of the crop areas has grown annually.

On the other hand, Israel's importance in the world production of cotton is negligible -- one-half percent. The giants among the cotton-growers are the United States, China, and the Soviet Union.

Israel has a 1.5 percent share in the international trade, and the cotton people are looking everywhere in order to increase their efficiency, to save, and to maneuver under objectively difficult growing and trade conditions. The production costs are very high, the markets are distant, and if we consider that 80 percent of the Israeli cotton crop is designated for export, the challenges and the difficulties are understandable.

Yosef Delomi, the new director-general of the Cotton Council and a member of the kibbutz of Nahal 'Oz, explains: "The cotton crop in Israel is 20 percent higher than the cotton crops in Australia and the second in the world in the crop levels. In 1982 the cotton crop in Israel was 465 kg of fibers per dunam. In Australia it was 360 kg of fibers per dunam, and in California it was 330 kg per dunam. Israel mainly grows cotton with medium fibers, the most common and useful type.

The growing area this season amounts to 570,000 dunams; however the production costs in Israel are 25 percent higher than in California. The costs for water, energy, and pest control "eat up the entire profit."

1982 was one of the most difficult years for cotton-growers in Israel. Business amounted to \$160 million to \$170 million consisting of the sale of cottonseeds that are used for the production of oil or as livestock feed. The 1982 crop prices declined by about 70-72 cents per pound (about one-half kg) in comparison to 91 cents per pound in 1980-81. The reason for the decline in prices, says the director-general of the Cotton Council, is the accumulation of a cotton inventory of 26 million bales (each bale weighs about one-quarter of a ton), the amount sufficient for 6-months production in the entire world.

China is the largest cotton producer in the world today. It produces 65 million bales a year, about one-fourth of the total world production.

The United States Subsidizes Crop Reduction

As a result of these inventories the United States decided to reduce the cotton-growing areas this year by 1 billion dunams. The American Department of Agriculture adopted a policy of "payment instead of" or "payment as if." The growers are told: For every dunam that you do not sow cotton, you will receive 80 percent of the value of the crop. The United States has set aside a sum of \$1.75 billion of credit for customers for a period of 3 years.

The main customers of the American cotton are the spinning mills in Portugal, East Europe, and the Far East. "These favorable trade conditions make things difficult for us," claims Delomi.

The cotton is sold in the international market before the harvest. The assumption is that for the 1983 crop the cotton-growers in Israel will receive 82 cents a pound after the extreme price fluctuations during the recent months.

The director-general of the Cotton Council in Israel says that while Israel's market targets in the past were the countries of Europe (Britain has purchased in the past a million bales of cotton from Israel; today Britain purchases only one-fifth of this amount), there has been a "reorientation" in marketing policy with the objective now being the penetration of less developed countries such as Portugal and Greece, and especially the countries of the Far East and East Europe.

East Europe -- a Key Customer

The textile industry is moving to these countries, primarily because of the availability of cheap manpower. Today two-thirds of the cotton produced for sale in the world is bought by purchasers in East Europe.

The most "difficult" target country is Japan. Delomi: "Japan is an excellent customer. A deal is a deal, and a word is a word. The problem is penetrating this market."

In East Europe the Cotton Council is arranging deals with Hungary, Romania, and Czechoslovakia. Random deals "that are a door to regular deals" were recently signed with purchasers in these countries.

Faced with the trade and credit conditions and the other incentives that the cotton powers provide to purchasers, it is difficult for Israel to compete in the international market even if we do have a good "outlook" of high yields. Government assistance, says the Ministry of Agriculture, is a "joke." When the Cotton Council people asked the government for assistance in developing markets, and especially the markets of the Far East, they were told: "If you submit an itemized bill for \$45,000, you will receive half of this sum."

"If this is the attitude of the government to the development of export markets, we forego the donation," the cotton people responded.

In the professional and economic respects, the cotton branch in Israel is one of the most important also due to the size of the growing area and the enormous investments in its development. Delomi explains that \$50 million have been invested in the installation of drip irrigation systems in the cotton fields which has resulted in an enormous saving of water. The cotton branch consumes about 300 million cubic millimeters of water annually, about one-fourth of the total water consumption in agriculture. "We use marginal soil such as slopes and shoaly land for growing cotton. If export is important for our economic stability, we export about 80 percent of the cotton crop," he said.

The revolutionary development in cotton-growing in Israel is dual crops, that is two crops a year. The researchers in Israel have found a way to grow both cotton and wheat in one year. The cotton is sown in May and harvested in October or November. The wheat is sown in December and harvested in May. According to economic calculations, the use of soil for dual crops will increase farm income by \$60 per dunam.

"The significance of dual crops is not only an increase in income but also a reduction in the import of seeds," says the director-general of the Cotton Council. "There is no country in the world where the dual crop method is in use -- and this is also an achievement for Israeli research that is, with all modesty, the gem in the whole business."

The cotton growers in Israel show their appreciation for the contribution of research to the branch not only with words and compliments but also with checks. The contribution of agricultural research to pest control, the reduction in the use of pesticides, and the use of the natural enemies of the cotton pests as a part of the biological war, the saving of water, and the use of the computer -- all of these represent a crucial contribution of the researchers. The cotton-growers in Israel have also contributed their share with a grant of \$1.5 million for 120 studies. "The visible objective is the development of a hybrid variety of Israeli cotton within the framework of the research now being conducted in the agricultural faculty of the Hebrew University in Rehovot. If this is successful, it will be an additional contribution of Israel to the agricultural world. I have the feeling that we are more appreciated in the world than we are at home," concludes Yosef Delomi.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN DEVELOPMENT TOWNS EXAMINED

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Sep 83 p 3

[Article by Charles Hoffman]

[Text]

The high rate of unemployment among young people aged 18-24 in development towns has revealed a serious gap between the skills acquired by the young in school or other training and the demands of the job market today, according to senior officials in the ministries responsible for economic development in these areas.

A report issued last week by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs noted that for the last three years, the unemployment rate among the 18-24 age group in development towns has averaged 23 per cent. The national average for this age group has been about 15 per cent.

The overall national average has been about five per cent, while the average for development towns has been 8.4 per cent.

The head of the ministry's Manpower Planning Authority, David Katz, said that most of the unemployed in development towns are unskilled and have between nine and 12 years of schooling. They are not eager to take the unskilled, low-paying jobs available.

He said the jobless rate among the young was probably higher than the figures indicate, since many have given up and dropped out of the job market altogether.

The ministry director-general, Asher Ohayon, said that the solution to the problem is to change the occupational structure in the development areas, by bringing in

new industry with jobs demanding higher skills and paying higher wages. But first the young people must be trained for these jobs.

He said the ministry was expanding job training facilities in the north and south, and had made a good start in a programme providing vocational training to several hundred soldiers prior to their discharge.

Ohayon stressed that responsibility for bringing new industry to development towns lies with the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The official in charge of development towns in the Trade and Industry Ministry, Moshe Lehrer, said emphatically that the problem was not lack of jobs but lack of training.

He said metals and electronics plants in the Galilee need about 1,000 workers, but few are available with the proper skills. In the Negev, he said that the biggest unemployment problem was in Dimona, and that the ministry was considering raising the status of the town to A+, thus providing greater incentives for industry to locate there.

"In the last five years, the development of industry in general has outpaced the available skills at all levels, but particularly at the level of technicians and junior engineers," he said.

There is no reliable data on the extent of joblessness among young people in urban slum areas, but Katz estimates that the unemploy-

ment rate there is also high. The problems, he said, are an unwillingness to take unskilled, low-paying jobs, and the lack of appropriate skills for the better jobs that are available in the large cities.

Project Renewal has, during the past year, started programmes in urban slum areas to improve the skill levels of those who want to work but whose job opportunities are limited.

CSO: 4400/4

ISRAEL

KIBBUTZ UNDERGROUND HOUSING PLANNED

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Aug 83 Supplement p 21

[Article: "Members of the New Kibbutz in Ha'arava Will Live Underground"]

[Text] The residents of Rotem, a new kibbutz to be established in the Valley, are to become pioneers and not only because they have chosen to settle in a region with a harsh climate. The reason: They will be the first Israelis whose homes will be built underground.

The idea to build the homes in the Valley underground is that of Professor Gideon Golani, an expert in the building of cities. He assures that the homes will not be dark and stuffy in that they will be built on a slope but with one of their walls exposed to the air, to the light, and to the scenery of the Valley. A stable temperature will be maintained underground in the homes. The residents will be protected from the summer heat and the biting cold of the winter nights, and as such, they will save the considerable expense of air conditioning. In the settlements of the Valley the air conditioners work nonstop. Even at night the noise of the air conditioners is heard there. Professor Gideon Golani, a former kibbutznik, is now pursuing his career both in the United States and Israel. His proposal to try subterranean construction in the settlements of the Valley and Ha'arava was received enthusiastically by the Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency. The department architects have formulated a contour plan for the kibbutz of Rotem of the United Kibbutz Movement which will go up for settlement next to Mehola during the next year. "In the first stage it will be a conventional settlement," the architect Mickey Meir, responsible for the project, told me. "In time the segment designated for underground housing will apparently be built. The underground section will be built on a slope."

Such construction, according to Professor Golani, permits also the use of slopes that have an incline of over 20 percent for housing. It provides the residents with considerable protection against shellings and other defense-related damages. The only thing remaining now is to convince the future residents of the advantages of the new construction. "We still don't know how they will react," says architect Mickey Meir. "We have still not reached the human problem. In the next stage we will carefully persuade the young settlers that we are not proposing to bury them underground."

BRIEFS

POPULATION STATISTICS--Israel's population as the new year starts is estimated at 4,110,000, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. Of this number 3,407,000 (82.9 per cent) are Jews, 703,000 non-Jews. The estimates show that during the last twelve months the population of Israel increased by 78,000--an increase of 1.8 per cent as compared with a rate of 1.6 per cent for the preceding 12 months. The Jewish population grew by 57,000, an increase of 1.6 per cent as compared with 1.4 per cent during the preceding twelve months. The non-Jewish population grew by 21,000--a rate of 2.8 per cent as compared with 2.6 per cent. During the last twelve months 96,000 children, 73,000 Jewish and 23,000 non-Jewish, were born in Israel. 27,000 people died this year, 25,000 of them Jews. 15,000 Jews immigrated to Israel during the last year. [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Sep 83 p 2]

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION UP--In the first half of the year industrial production rose by 2.5 percent over the same period in 1982. According to the data, the increase occurred in the April-June period. The rise was not uniform in all sectors. The number of employees in industry went up by 2 percent in the first half of 1983 and their real wages rose by 6 percent. [Text] [TA040920 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Oct 83]

CIVILIAN STATUS FOR MILITARY SETTLEMENTS--A short time ago, the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs approved the civilianization of six Nahal settlements: Mezad and Zurit in the southern Hebron Mountains, Ginat and Yizhar in Samaria, and Berosh and Hemda in the Jordan Rift Valley. The committee also approved the establishment of the settlement of Zufim near Kefar Sava. [Text] [TA051226 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1155 GMT 5 Oct 83]

PRIVATE CONSUMPTION UP--Private consumption, the traditional index for measuring the standard of living, increased by about 8 percent in the first half of the year. These statistics proved all the economic forecasts wrong. The Treasury expected that the standard of living would not rise this year, however the public "ate" its savings and increased private consumption significantly. Economic agencies foresee somewhat of a decline in the standard of living toward the end of the year because of the economic actions. Eventually, they foresee an increase of about 6 percent in the standard of living this year. In contrast to the condition of the private citizen that will improve this year, the condition of the economy will worsen. The civilian deficit in the balance of payments and the excess of civilian imports over exports will increase this year by \$800 million, \$3.2 billion last year to \$4 billion. The overall deficit in the balance of payments will reach \$5.3 billion, in contrast to \$4.7 billion last year. [by Shraga Makel] [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Aug 83 p 1] 5830

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER AT IPU MEETING IN SEOUL HITS SUPERPOWERS

LD041827 Kuwait KUNA in English 1331 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Seoul, 4 Oct (KUNA)--Kuwait's National Assembly speaker Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adsani delivered a speech at the opening session of the 70th Inter-Parliamentary Union conference here Tuesday.

In his speech the Kuwaiti official said that "the secretary general report stated that international relations have remained complicated and difficult marked by rivalry between the United States and the USSR and by the acceleration of arms race on both quantitative and qualitative levels."

Al-'Adsani added "There are the alarming and excruciating reports and statistics about arms race and its astronomical expenditure figures which always remind us of the fact that the share of each individual on the earth from these destructive weapons is progressively increasing."

He continued "The second kind of reports and statistics deal with the uglier and more deplorable conditions of these who live in abject poverty and take only one meagre meal a day, those who starve and pass away in dead silence and render sleepless any conscientious man."

"The abominable mixture, of poverty, disease, illiteracy, preposterous wealth and senseless arms race together with the lustful desires of the strong to dominate over the weak or even the less strong make the present world situation more gloomy, repulsive, dangerous and intolerably iniquitous. The inevitable outcomes of such a situation are self-evident in several parts of the world."

On the Palestinian question the Kuwaiti speaker said, "The Palestinian question is simply the question of a people who lived in Palestine thousands of years ago, invaded (?by aliens)) with the assistance of the big powers who extracted by one casting vote a UN decision granting those alien invaders the right to establish a state on a part of Palestine."

"They relentlessly chased the Palestinian people outside its country and perpetrated systematic brutal and bloody massacres with a view to exterminating it once for all as they rudely declared," he affirmed.

Al-'Adsani said, "Whenever the United Nations tried to demand justice for the afflicted Palestinian people through moderate decisions especially of the Security Council, the U.S. vetoes in wait and strips the executive effectiveness of these decisions."

"The U.S. is simply saying to us that we are not competent to differentiate between right and wrong or between peace and war, and that it is better to leave such serious matters to the United States who alone can know the differences," the Kuwaiti (?diplomat) commented.

On the Afghanistan problem Al-'Adsani said, "If any of the UN bodies where there is no veto, adopts a decision against the Zionist entity, the United States threatens to suspend its contribution to that body and boycott its activities as well as the activities of all its subordinate agencies."

"By so doing the U.S. is denying, beyond any doubt, the right of the UN to independent thinking. It is as if the U.S. is saying to us, "I am the right because I have the might," he added.

The Kuwaiti diplomat continued, "In our turn we ask, had not the UN been established to rectify (?a) discriminatory and brutal principle of international relations? And if the might was the right, then, what is the use of the United Nations?"

He added, "However we truly and frankly say to the Soviet Union who declared himself once and again an enemy of colonialism and supporter of peoples...we say that his declared position regarding Afghanistan is not convincing to the world conscience, on the contrary, it stands on diametrically opposed position."

The Kuwaiti official said, "It is the interests of USSR and international community as a whole to respond to UN decisions calling for the withdrawal of the foreign troops from Afghanistan and enabling the Afghans to solve their problems by themselves."

On the Iraq-Iran war Al-'Adsani commented by saying, "We know very well that influential international efforts to end this war have not yet taken the required effective course, despite the wide door opened by Iraq for peace by declaring more than once, its readiness and willingness to stop the war and abide by international conventions.

The Kuwait diplomat (?added), "The expectations of this senseless war are stirring up the apprehensions of the people of the area as it provides the big powers with the long-awaited opportunity to re-install themselves as guardians on the world."

Al-'Adsani wondered, "Analysts often wonder whether there is a link between the arrogant and exciting concentration of fleets off the Lebanese coasts and what is planned in the dark for the Arabian Gulf areas."

He called, "We also appeal to all states, big and small, to stand together in and outside the United Nations to take every possible measure to put an end to the systematic massacres committed against the Palestinian people and enable it to return to its homeland and establish its independent state there."

He added, "We solemnly appeal for serious efforts to stop the dreadful destruction of Lebanon, Iraq and Iran."

The Kuwaiti speaker said, "As the states enjoying the use of the right of veto represent a small minority of the peoples of the world while the rest, especially Third World countries, consist the overwhelming majority, we believe that time had by now come to reconsider this right which was granted to certain states when this world organization was established. We are fully convinced that the cancellation of this right would surely enable the UN to set up the binding judicial bodies and the required executory powers," Al-'Adsani concluded.

CSO: 4400/18

LATEST GOVERNMENT ACTION ON AL-MANAKH CRISIS ANALYZED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 184, 20-26 Aug 83 p 23

/Article: "Kuwait: Life Returns to the Stock Market After Regulation Is Adopted To Solve the Al-Manakh Crisis"

/Text/ The government of Kuwait intervened last week to prevent the compounding of the al-Manakh securities market crisis which has been building up for 12 months, and to prevent its spreading into the banking sector and paralyzing the various aspects of economic activity within the country. Despite the fact that Kuwait's minister of finance, Mr 'Abd-al-Latif Yusuf al-Hamad, submitted his resignation and the crisis erupted on an unprecedented scale in the Kuwaiti parliament, the government succeeded in passing a law aimed primarily at solving the al-Manakh crisis and diminishing the size of the disabling obligations among those doing business and consequently settling the situation and restoring stability to the market, instead of neglecting these matters, which were calling for a wave of bankruptcies that would certainly have extended into broad segments of Kuwait's financial and business community.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister, expressed this concept when he opened the emergency session of Parliament in which the law submitted by the government for eliminating the swollen obligations was debated. These obligations came to about 26.7 billion dinars, which is more than 8 times Kuwait's budget. Shaykh Sa'd made it known that the matter no longer concerns bankruptcy or the difficulties of those who were speculating or playing the market, but the soundness of Kuwait's financial institutions "and a large part of the crisis is still hanging, without a solution, and is interacting in a growing fashion which threatens to have negative repercussions on our national economy." Also Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah, minister of oil and acting minister of finance, stated that there is a threat to the Kuwaiti banking institutions if the Suq al-Manakh crisis continues. He added that the government had already undertaken a study of the banking centers which were doing business with writers of deferred checks and he made it clear that these banks will be affected if the interconnection is not broken up and the obligations are not diminished, and this is what impelled the government to submit the law promptly.

The fundamental point in the new regulation is that the interest on deferred checks will be limited to not more than 25 percent of the face value at the

time of the transaction, as opposed to the astronomical interest rates to which the businessmen originally agreed, in expectation of a flood of profits, which appeared to be almost assured. The minister of commerce estimated that this step will reduce indebtedness by 40 percent and will solve 60 to 70 percent of the present problem. The minister did not give a figure in dinars on the new amount of indebtedness, nor did he indicate ways for dealing with the part of the crisis that will remain without a solution, but the crown prince expressed the government's determination for a practical solution to the crisis which will get at its roots even if this demands new measures which its capacity for this by passing the law while rejecting amendments proposed by the legislative committee. This was done by a 33 vote majority.

The two sessions of the National Assembly were marked by views clearly divergent between the sectors that will derive benefit or suffer loss in regard to the new law and the complex social, economic, and legal angles by which the crisis can be studied. One of the most significant manifestations of this polarization was the resignation of the minister of finance and his having left the country rather than attend the sessions, as well as the fact that the president of the assembly, Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adasani, and the vice president, Ahmad 'Abd-at-'Aziz Sa'dun, were among 11 representatives who voted against the law. The government was able to obtain a majority by persuading 20 members to add their votes to those of the 13 ministers who were each holding a seat by virtue of his position. Apparently passage of the law was only by a one vote majority, since the total number of members of the assembly is 65. Six members abstained while the rest were absent, some of whom had sent an excuse and some had not.

The tone of the discussions was so sharp that one of the members withdrew during a conflict of opinion between those who opposed and those who backed the departed minister of finance, who was one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the principle that a contract is binding on the two contracting parties and that there must be punishment of those who fail to meet their obligations regardless of any other consideration. Two members called for the resignation of the government and the assembly, while another member expressed his lack of confidence in the reports submitted by the government on the course of the crisis and the circumstances of those who have had a hand in it. Some members went so far as to say that the government is shielding certain institutions which bear part of the responsibility and must face their share of the blame. The opposition's main criticism against the government is that some of those who became involved in the market honestly had sold their property to pay off their indebtedness in accordance with three pieces of legislation passed by the government last September, while the big dealers, who know full well the art of delaying, have not yet been called to account except on the basis of the new maximum, which is 25 percent, after they have paid their debts in accordance with the previous contracts, which did not stipulate a ceiling on the interest rate. The only amendment that the government agreed to in the new bill will permit the board of arbitration to act with flexibility as justice requires in some cases. It is the prevailing feeling that the government intervened after

numerous indications that some banks and financial institutions were in real trouble, and after a continued decline in stock prices was making those most affected by the crisis those least able to pay. The situation began to appear ominous before the government's intervention, when the Debt Settlement Council issued, in recent months, 88 decisions, of which only 28 were carried out, while the arbitration panel issued 5,953 decisions in the three previous months, which is an average of 66 decisions each day including holidays. Among these decisions are dozens of decrees freezing assets and the injoining travel abroad. This was done without notable progress toward a workable solution to the crisis. Furthermore the minister of commerce stated that the new law will benefit 1,045 persons and not more than 13 persons will be adversely affected by it. The minister of justice said that those whose profits will be changed to deficits will not be more than nine persons, two of whom deal with themselves, while the seven remaining combined total dealings of 40,000 dinars. At the same time the minister of commerce stated that the number of those dealing in more than a million dinars is 1,171 persons.

Return of Activity to the Market

Large numbers of Kuwaitis had cut short their vacations abroad and returned to Kuwait. Large crowds of them attended the sessions of the assembly, while the sale of newspapers, which usually suffers from a slump during the summer, increased. Many expect a speedy end to Kuwait's summer this year and the return of activity to the securities market, which is considered the heart of the Kuwaiti economy. Stock prices have gone up remarkably following announcement of the agreement on the new law. The government refused to buy or support the shares issued by the companies founded at the peak of the al-Manakh activity because, as one deputy put it, they are no more than "kleenex tissues" after their prices fell. The owners of the millions of these shares hope that the next market surge will cause a rise in their value once again.

While the storm stirred up by the recent al-Manakh developments is calm and observers are trying again to sort out its mysteries and understand its ramifications, most Kuwaitis and people around the Gulf are busy these days counting their losses and profits and assessing their readiness for new excursions into the shares markets. All the evidence indicates that the collapse which followed the price upheaval last fall, the second such in 5 years, did not have a great effect on the passion of the Gulf residents for shares. In the shadow of money supplies which exceed the potential for orderly industrial investment, shares have been and still are the most tempting choice for the big investors and small savers alike. In Kuwait the authorities were obliged to close two brokerage offices because they resumed the old al-Manakh practices in the brokerage business, while many heard from persons in the Bahrayn Suq al-Jawharah who are distressed that they did not buy shares last May while prices were low and have now gone up again. The government of Bahrayn has established a central office through which information on the shares market is to be made available day by day. This is a first step toward establishing a stock exchange in the country.

The United Arab Emirates is proceeding with studies on establishing a securities market in its turn. The question now hinges on the degree of practical control government authorities can have over speculative activity, which has in the past been found to increase at certain times in an uncontrollable fashion, which cost the Government of Kuwait 150 million dinars in 1977 and is now **costing** Kuwait at least a billion (million) as published dinars in the form of compensation and market support, as well as a lot of political and economic headaches.

12496

CSO: 4404/597

DIVERSIFICATION OF REVENUE SOURCES SOUGHT

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 184, 20-26 Aug 83 p 45

/Article: "Issuance of 1983-84 Budget; Kuwait Endeavors to Diversify Its Resources"

/Text/ Kuwait's general budget takes on special importance in regard to the country's economy due to government expenditures constituting a high percentage of Gross Domestic Product, which makes the state's general income figures reflect the extent of its capacity to achieve its financial and developmental objectives. In turn, government spending controls, to a great extent, the levels of performance within the various sectors of Kuwait's economy.

In short Kuwait's budget is to be viewed as the axis of the financial system within the country and will constitute the cornerstone of it. From this view how does Kuwait's economy look in the 1983-1984 fiscal year?

The value of estimated revenues for the general budget amounted to 3.037 billion Kuwaiti dinars and expenditures amounted to 3.376 billion dinars, plus 303.7 million dinars for the fund for future generations, which shows a nominal deficit of 642 million dinars.

The negative indicators of Kuwait's budget, and especially the level of expenditures over income, prompted the Kuwaiti government to concentrate on closing the gap as much as possible in hopes that world economic conditions will change and oil prices will improve.

Actually in fiscal year 1982-83 the government began directing public spending in a manner that will achieve the greatest economic and social return possible for what is being spent, beginning with limiting unnecessary services and reviewing the types of public expenditures in order to eliminate undesirable accumulations.

In this connection the Kuwaiti government is stressing raising the performance level of government administration and developing some of the services or transferring them to the private and joint sector, or creating organizations to be given specific powers to accomplish this objective through the state's general policy of encouraging the private, cooperative sector to enter these fields, which is to be timed with diminishing the burdens, comparable to those services, in the government administration.

In light of these facts the Kuwaiti government is making an effort to diversify the sources of budgetary revenues and, with this objective, has announced its intention to conduct comprehensive studies of all sources of revenue and to encourage the private and joint sector to play a leading role in expanding the national economy and bringing it into balance.

Budgetary Expectations

The most outstanding expectations for the Kuwaiti economy in 1983, as outlined by the figures are;

1. The continuation of the high ceiling on oil production with the 1.25 million barrels per day limit throughout 1983. However, Kuwait's achievement of crude oil production averages within the established ceiling depends, to a great extent, on conditions of the international oil market in 1983 and an OPEC decisions concerning the production ceiling and quotas of the member states.
2. The continuation of oil prices as they are in light of existing market conditions during 1983, and especially the continuation of a supply surplus and activities to draw down supplies in addition to the continuation of a diminishing OPEC share of the oil market.
3. The likelihood of stability of oil revenues for 1983 at the level realized last year, that is, 3,700 million dinars, despite the expected reduction in Kuwaiti oil prices by about 12.3 percent from the average price last year. This means that the oil revenues will be able to cover only about 65 percent of the general expenses, according to the budgetary figures for fiscal year 1981-82.
4. Reliance on Kuwait's second source of income, which is derived from foreign investments, and which covers completely the cost of imports. However, despite its importance, this source is to a great extent subject to fluctuations, and therefore the government of Kuwait is contemplating starting to build a domestic sector, other than oil, which will complement the oil sector and at the same time serve as an alternative to it, that is, diversification of the production and investment base into the industrial sector and, thereby, broadening the base. This will not work against providing the protection required to support national industries until they can stand up on their own to competition under ordinary circumstances. The Kuwaiti government is bent on making sure that the constant support and protection is not excessive.
5. Incorporation of a sound tax structure, not to merely increase the diminishing state revenues from oil, but in order for the individual to participate and gain a sense of general responsibility.

Current Spending

Out of these given quantities it is still likely that government spending will continue its increased role in exerting a positive influence on the

local liquidity in 1983, but to a lesser extent than 1982. So general spending in accord with the draft budget for fiscal year 1982-83 amounted to 3,104 million dinars, whereas, in the draft budget of fiscal year 1983-84 it amounted to 3,371 million dinars.

The main official expectations indicate a decrease in the value of over-all exports by about 2.2 percent as opposed to an increase in the value of imports by about 5 percent, compared to the previous year, 1982.

However, on the level of Arab and international obligations, Kuwait classifies this aid into three categories.

1. Pan-Arab obligations in which the circumstances of Kuwait require that it share in order to safeguard Arab unity. Kuwait considers the obligations to be stamped priority because they represent collective Arab decisions.
2. Humanitarian aid to alleviate suffering from natural disasters. This aid has a humanitarian stamp which unites Kuwait with the world.
3. The Kuwaiti fund for Arab Economic Development: Kuwait is proud of this fund, the economic diplomatic role of which has been demonstrated in the Arab world, and which is considered a successful investment foundation that has realized sizeable benefits despite the fact that what emanates from it is in the form of assistance. The government has allocated 30 million dinars as payment to the fund's capital in the budget for fiscal year 1983-84.

For these reasons Kuwait is of the opinion that it cannot abandon her international obligations, but that does not preclude a reduction in spending and rationalizing consumption.

12496

CSO: 4404/597

DRUZE LEADER ARSLAN INTERVIEWED

Doha AL-'ARAB in Arabic 18 Jul 83 p 11

[Interview with al-Amir Majid Arslan, head of the al-Yazbaki wing of the Druz sect, by Orient Press: "The Druze Never Cooperated With Israel, and They Consider It an Occupying State. I Support the Lebanese - Israeli Accord, Because I Support Every Step the State Takes To Get Israel Out"]

[Text] If Mr Walid Junblatt is the head of the Junblatti wing of the Druze sect, then al-Amir Majid Arslan, who is considered one of the founders of the country's independence, is the head of the al-Yazbaki wing. Although the relationship between these two wings has often been characterized by political confrontation (and, long ago, by some military confrontations,) it is now as good as could be hoped for, following the events in the mountain, which have thrown all the Druze into the same crucible.

There is no doubt that al-Amir Majid is more moderate than Mr Junblatt. In what follows, he announces his acceptance of the Lebanese - Israeli agreement, in addition to his complete support for President Amin al-Jumayyil. However, he becomes a hawk as soon as one begins to talk about the Lebanese Forces. Here is the text of the interview:

[Question] It has been said that the failure of Mr Walid Junblatt to come to Beirut is what is preventing the holding of a decisive Maronite - Druze meeting, following the recent encounters.

[Answer] When the circumstances are right, the meeting will be held at once.

[Question] In your opinion, why did Mr Junblatt not go to the Lebanese capital, especially since his presence would help to straighten out many things?

[Answer] I think that Walid is very busy these days. However, he is following current developments in the mountain constantly via his own group. At any rate, ask him when he returns.

[Question] According to information disseminated by some circles, there is a conflict between you and Mr Junblatt.

[Answer] I do not know what the people who make up these rumors hope to gain by spreading them. They are lying rumors, for my relationship with my friend Walid is strong and firm and cannot be shaken.

[Question] Have the differences which existed between you in the past disappeared?

[Answer] There have never been differences between us and him. There were merely differing views on political standpoints. As for other aspects, we are agreed, may God be praised.

[Question] Do you mean that you two agree on Druze interests?

[Answer] Druze interests come before all considerations and enmities.

The Unity of the Druze

[Question] It has been said that the events in the mountain gave the Druze back their unity, after a period in which there was no unity between the Arslani and Junblatti leadership systems.

[Answer] May God be praised, the Druze have never been divided or disunited. I do not believe that the events of the mountain influenced our unity, since we were not at odds to begin with. But I want to say that the Druze do not and will not allow anyone to threaten their destiny or try to harm their existence.

[Question] Do you mean that the Lebanese forces, which entered the mountain during the Israeli invasion, were intending to harm the existence of the Druze there?

[Answer] The Lebanese Forces entered the mountain believing themselves to be the victors and the winners. They tried to use force against the sons of the mountain and to control them. This is what the Druze have rejected and still do reject. It is what we ourselves reject, what we can never accept.

[Question] But the Lebanese Forces say that they have the same right to return to the mountain that others do.

[Answer] Let all know that these forces had no presence in the mountain in the past, and that they will have none in the future, for we shall make war on this military presence which is foreign to the mountain. As for those of our Christian brothers who were compelled to leave, they have the right to return safely to their homes. It is neither party of the nature of the Druze nor a part of their noble Arab morality to kill on impulse. Therefore, we bid welcome to every Christian refugee who returns to his house in the al-Shuf and 'Aliyah areas. However, we will not permit the Lebanese Forces to come to the mountain to kidnap, kill and slaughter our innocent sons.

Who Is Killing And Kidnapping?

[Question] But do not the Phalange, the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Front have the right to protect their people who return to the mountain?

[Answer] I ask whether their people are subjected to humiliation, killing and kidnapping by the Druze? On the contrary, if we had wanted to drive the Christians out of the mountain, we would have done it a long time ago. But we believe in the unity of the fatherland and in coexistence among all the sons of the fatherland. The Druze, who took an active part in building Lebanon and establishing its independence firmly, refuse to be pulled down to this low level. I can say only that what is happening in the mountain is a defense of the dignity and existence of the Druze, who will not allow themselves to be plucked from their deep roots in the mountains of Lebanon.

Since we are talking about this topic, why do not our brothers in the Lebanese Forces and the Phalange Party allow the Druze refugees to go back to their areas in Bayt Mari, Brummana, al-Dikwanah, 'Ayn al-Rumanah, and al-Dawrah? They let themselves come into the mountain. Why do they not allow the refugees who belong to the other Islamic sects and left al-Nab'ah, al-Maslakh and al-Karantinah go back, if they are really so eager to have Lebanon return to stability, quiet and normalcy?

Closing Down the Barracks

[Question] Do you still hold to your position that the military barracks belonging to the Lebanese Forces in the mountain must be closed down?

[Answer] I still reject the presence of any illegal armed force in the mountain. I demand that all armed manifestations be removed from the streets and villages of the al-Shuf and 'Aliyah. At the same time, I insist that the military barracks belonging to the Lebanese Forces be closed down, because their presence in the mountain is in the interest of no one. Let me repeat again that the Druze will not allow any force, no matter how powerful, to impose its control over them, for they have never been accustomed to bow to anyone except the Creator, may He be praised and exalted.

[Question] Is this the solution you see for the mountain?

[Answer] The answer is to get rid of the military manifestations of all the conflicting sides in the mountain, and to have the army move quickly into the 'Aliyah and al-Shuf regions. We feel that no one but the Lebanese army can put a stop to this conflict. We think that the army is for all Lebanese, without distinction.

[Question] But does not the Israeli presence prevent the army from moving into the mountain?

[Answer] The Israeli presence is feeding the conflict between the sons of the same mountain. I believe that the Lebanese army alone will be able to end the conflict in the mountain, once it moves up there.

[Question] But Mr Walid Junblatt has refused to let the Lebanese army enter the mountain.

[Answer] I believe that Walid's opinion is like ours with respect to this matter.

No Relationship With Israel

[Question] It is said that a relationship has developed between the Druze of the mountain and Israel. Is this true?

[Answer] This is a lie and a distortion. The Druze will never let themselves cooperate with Israel, because they consider it an occupying power. These biased rumors are intended to detract from the nationalist and pan-Arab reputation of the Druze.

[Question] Was the "Druze document" presented by the Druze leaders to the government the result of a feeling on your part that you had been cheated and were suffering?

[Answer] As everyone knows, the Druze are the fundamental pillars on which this country rests. They played the leading role in building it. Prior administrations were not fair to the Druze and did not give them their due. Therefore, we thought we would go to the government with this document, which contains just Druze demands which must be obtained. We have complete trust that the legitimate authorities, as represented by President Amin al-Jumayyil, will discuss this document with us, and that we will arrive at a solution with respect to it.

[Question] Are your contacts with the government continuing?

[Answer] Our contacts with the government are continuing, and they have never been interrupted. Our relationship with President Amin al-Jumayyil is very good. We have announced from the beginning that we stand by him and in the patriotic course of action he is following in order to save Lebanon and liberate it from all the foreign armies on its soil.

With the Agreement

[Question] Do you agree with the accord reached between Lebanon and Israel?

[Answer] We support every step taken by the administration for the sake of getting Israel out of Lebanon.

[Question] But some political leaders have opposed the agreement, and there are those who say that opposing the government tends to increase the divisions among the Lebanese. What is your opinion?

[Answer] We are living in a democratic country. Every person has the right to oppose or to support. I do not at all believe that opposition might increase the sharpness of disagreements and divisions among the Lebanese.

For the Lebanese all unanimously agree that the dignity of their country must be preserved, that complete sovereignty over all its territory must be restored, and that the legitimate authorities must be supported.

[Question] Some political circles have thrown out for discussion the idea of holding a general national conference. Do you support this idea?

[Answer] We support every step which will help restore a sense of solidarity among the Lebanese, and which will be taken under the direction and leadership of the government and of President Amin al-Jumayyil.

[Question] Therefore, how do you view the achievement of national harmony?

[Answer] We want national harmony as quickly as possible, because Lebanon is passing through a very dangerous period. Unless the leaders of the countries close ranks around the government and the legitimate authorities, in my opinion, our future and the future of our country will be in doubt. Therefore, from the bottom of my heart I implore all political leaders to meet and reach a common understanding, so that the unity and independence of Lebanon can be assured.

12224

CSO: 4404/525

STATUS OF MARMUL OILFIELD EXAMINED

Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 13 Sep 83 p 7

[Text] THE fifth gathering station at the Marmul oilfield — the E station — has begun commissioning and is expected to be in full service by the end of the year.

The station is planned to handle 17 wells but the total could rise to 20.

Senior production supervisor of Petroleum Development Oman for southern operations, Nigel Bushnell, said the station was essential for the development of the Marmul field. There were already four gathering stations working, and the fifth, among other things, would ensure that there was no overload.

At present, Mr Bushnell added, the company had seven wells hooked up. PDO was now waiting for the final electrical hook-up and the construction of some beam pumps, by contractor Brown and Root on a further eight wells and the company was in a good position for the completion by the end of the year.

The station has a new production configuration which will allow more accurate metering under test conditions. The separators in the gathering stations work in three phases in that they separate gas, oil and water.

To separate the oil from the water, Mr Bushnell explained, the company used a weir system which allowed the water to

drain off. The oil was drained by gravity in the four original pumping stations, but with E station, he added, the company had installed pumps to assist in the dumping process because this allowed it to drain the tanks to a known fixed level giving more accurate metering of the contents.

Mr Bushnell added that materials had already been delivered for the up-rating of the other four gathering stations.

By December, a sixth gathering station — G station — should also be on line at Marmul. This station differs from the other five in that it has two functions. The first is gathering oil from the field and the second is part of a project which, the company hopes, will increase the hydrocarbon recovery rate through steam injection, a process defined as enhanced oil recovery.

Further modifications to the Marmul facilities include the installation of a low pressure gas blanketing system — using sweet gas from Saih Nihayda — linking all six gathering stations, the Marmul production station and Qaharair.

BRIEFS

HOTEL INDUSTRY WORKERS--There were between 60 and 70 Omani nationals working in the Sultanate's hotels but there should be more, the Director of Tourism Mr Mohammed Ali Said said this week. "We held an important meeting with all top hotel managers in July to discuss ways to encourage Omanis to join the hotel and catering business," he said. One of the incentive schemes was Government backing for Omani workers to be paid around 10 per cent higher wages than expatriates, he added. "Recently we held discussions with the Ministry of Social Affairs and we are planning a combined project to set up a hotel and catering training institute in the autumn of 1984. The courses would be for young men and women who are about midway through their potential education. At the moment we are sending interested candidates on two year courses to a college in Bahrain. Now is a very good time for students to go because they can be sure of a very progressive career in Oman. It is a growth area and they can move quickly to management positions," added Mr Said. He cited an example of one Omani who has taken a management post in a top Oman hotel after just six years. [Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 15 Sep 83 p 1]

ALLOCATION FOR ROAD BUILDING--The road maintenance squads of the Directorate General of Roads are getting new equipment worth R.O. 3 million. The allocation to buy equipment such as graders, mountain cutters, tippers and other light machinery has been made under the Ministry of Communication's budget for the Second Five Year Plan. Mr. Tariq Mohammad Amin al Mandhri, Director General of Roads said this week that the new equipment will replace 75 per cent of gear which has been in use of the eight years. He said the road squads were being provided with the machinery to cope with the heavy pressure of work involved in constructing mountain roads. With the acquisition of the new equipment which will be in use by the end of 1985 the efficiency of road squads in constructing new roads and the maintaining existing ones would be greatly improved, he added. [Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 15 Sep 83 p 3]

COPPER EXPORTS--The first consignment of refined Omani copper will be shipped to foreign countries next week. Three hundred tonne of copper produced at the Sohar Copper Complex this year, will be exported, partially reviewing Oman's bygone days as the leading copper producer in the area. The Complex began production in January by feeding 3,500 tonnes of ore into the concentrator where it was converted into high grade ore with a copper content of about 25 per cent. The Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals is giving final touches to two agreements to sell Omani copper to foreign companies. The copper project,

in which the Government had an initial share of 21 per cent is now totally owned by the Government. The authorities do not anticipate any problems in finding customers for the refined Omani copper. The Gulf area alone requires 150,000 tonnes of Copper products annually. Saudi Arabia and several Japanese and Western Companies are prospective buyers. Production of copper at the Sohar complex is expected to continue uninterrupted as the facilities available at the complex are sufficient. The complex has plants for crushing, concentrating, smelting, pelletising and refining the ore. If the Sohar Complex succeeds in meeting its annual production target of 20,000 tonnes, the area's reserve will last until 1995. [Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 15 Sep 83 p 7]

ELIMINATING ILLITERACY--Oman on Thursday joined the rest of the world in observing 'Eradication of Illiteracy Day'. In a speech to mark the occasion, Oman's Minister of Education and Youth Affairs, Yahya Mahfoudh al Mandhri, outlined the steps Oman had taken to eliminate illiteracy, following His Majesty's instructions that the campaign should be nationwide, with courses available throughout the country. Adult education programmes had been launched and illiteracy eradication centres set up, he said. The number of adult education classes rose to 368 this year, compared to 312 in 1982, with the number of students rising over the year from 6,572 to 8,311. [Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 15 Sep 83 p 8]

FIRST WOMAN BANK MANAGER--Customers look twice in disbelief when introduced to the manager of NBO's Muscat branch. They do a double take because the manager is a woman--Kauthar Salim Al Harthy. Many assume she is the secretary and persist with demands to see the manager. But Al Harthy feels women have a very important role in banking on both sides of the counter. As Oman's first ever female bank manager (she took over the Ghubrah branch in 1980) she is keen to see a woman's branch set up in National Bank of Oman to encourage local women to learn more about finance, an area she thinks is neglected at the moment. "Women's talents should not be wasted in a developing country such as Oman. They have a lot to offer," she said. She particularly wants to see more women in top appointments. Al Harthy's own career began with Chartered Bank in Dubai in 1968. Then she moved to NBO's Muttrah branch as a clerk and was appointed supervisor in 1976. Now she heads a staff of 20, caring for some of the most important account holders in the Sultanate. [Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 15 Sep 83 p 19]

CSO: 4400/5

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

PLO ROME REPRESENTATIVE ON SYRIAN THREAT

AU101546 Rome ANSA in English 1535 GMT 10 Oct 83

[Excerpts] (ANSA) Rome, 10 Oct--Damascus is seeking to destroy the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat, destroy the democratic and pluralistic face of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and bend it to the schemes of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, according to the "PLO" representative in Rome, Nimr Haddad in an interview published today by the PAESE SERA newspaper.

Haddad, 42, is about to leave his post in Rome after almost ten years in the Italian capital.

The "PLO" chairman Yasir 'Arafat is in Tripoli (northern Lebanon) where he is besieged by Syrian troops. Haddad said that the forces loyal to 'Arafat were living through dramatic moments as "Damascus is seeking to take advantage of our difficulties to unleash the definitive attack against us".

"We want to avoid an armed clash but we are ready to fight to the last.... Damascus will not beat us, (because) if it did it would mean the end of the Palestinian dream," the "PLO" representative said.

"For us Italy is one of the most important reference points in Europe," he said.

He recalled the Venice statement and stressed that Italy's participation in the multinational force in Lebanon was agreed upon at the end of close consultations with the PLO, prior to and after the massacres in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila on the outskirts of Beirut. Therefore, the PLO wants and plans to develop its positive relationship with Italy, Haddad concluded.

CSO: 4400/14

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

FATAH'S AL-HASAN INTERVIEWED

PM070940 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 4 Oct 83 p 1, 10

[Unattributed telephone interview with Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who was speaking from his headquarters in Amman--date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: As far as a comprehensive settlement for the Palestinian question is concerned, and assuming that adequate solutions to the Lebanese problem are found after the cease-fire, what is the ideal solution or the ideal way which the Arabs should take to fulfill the main cause of Palestine? Is it to be found in the Fes resolutions--the "Arab peace plan"--or in new initiatives based on the situation changes?

Answer: First of all, the Palestinians must not leave Lebanon before the Palestinian question regains its place as the top issue in the region and at Arab and international levels. Now that the Arabs have the Fes resolutions and bearing in mind the results achieved by the seven-member committee and the meetings held between His Majesty King Hassan II and U.S. President Reagan the Arab stand should be quite clear, without ignoring international attitudes or circumstances. What must be done regarding what has been said about possible new U.S. ideas on the Palestinian question must be done in advance. Any new U.S. idea not based on recognition of the Palestinian people, the PLO and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination cannot be open to discussion by the Arabs. We cannot take such ideas seriously.

Question: Are we to understand from this that you want new ideas based on new realities, or do you want to pursue the Arab peace plan, with guarantees?

Answer: What is needed is a strong and firm Arab drive to prove, first to the United States and then to Europe, that this [Fes] resolution is not simply a statement of position for media consumption but a serious positive position which will be followed through and put into practice. Subsequently, all Arab levers for exerting pressure should be geared to serve that end, just as the United States uses its own levers to achieve a particular objective.

Question: The PLO recently announced that it had received military orders from the Syrian Army instructing it to withdraw its forces from certain strategic positions. It has also been reported that some of these forces were besieged by the Syrian forces when they refused to carry out the order. In your opinion, does this attitude have any special significance?

Answer: We do not want to engage in verbal battles which would further complicate the situation between the PLO and sister Syria. We are very eager to have normal and correct relations with Syria and all the Arab states, based on the higher interests of the Palestinian cause which is the fundamental framework which governs our relations with the Arab states. We in Fatah have, since Fatah's inception, followed a clear line. We do not declare alignment with one side or another but we urge the Arab states to state their positions on the Palestinian question and the Palestinian struggle and in particular, Fatah. That is why I do not want to go into anything which might intensify the crisis. Interest dictates that we cool and resolve the crisis and restore normal conditions regardless of the pain in our hearts. We have learned to rise above our anguish and we are for any Arab agreement, whether on bilateral level or collective level, while reserving our right to an independent Palestinian decision.

Question: It has been reported that the current inter-Palestinian dispute will not be raised at the forthcoming Arab summit conference because it is a strictly Palestinian affair.

Answer (interrupting): We do not believe that there are inter-Palestinian disputes. The truth is that what is happening in the Palestinian arena and appears to be a dispute is in fact an extension of Arab contradictions and a reflection of attempts to impose certain ideas and theories on the Palestinians, which we reject. It has been suggested that we should form a government in exile. We refused not for the sake of refusal but because it is imperative that we should have continuous relations with all the Arab brothers, not just one Arab state.

Question: My question now is about the mutiny. I do not want to refer to it as the dissension.

Answer (interrupting): It is a military coup against the Palestinian revolution to place it under a non-Palestinian command.

Question: To finish my question, what results has this coup achieved?

Answer: It has achieved no success in Fatah's body or its military wing. Its strength stems from the support it gets from outside the Palestinian arena. It is not an intrinsic strength.

Question: What about the question mark which appeared in political circles recently regarding the Soviet attitude when the Palestinian resistance was threatened with complete annihilation during the Beirut siege and the subsequent ambiguous Soviet stands toward the Palestinians?

Answer: I believe that there is no ambiguity in the Soviet attitude toward us. The Brezhnev initiative stated the Soviet position, which became even clearer when the seven-member committee, including Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, visited [Moscow]. The Soviets then announced their approval of the summit conference [resolutions] and their commitment to them, matching the Arab commitment to these resolutions. Hence, the Soviet position from a political standpoint is clear.

Question: But I believe that in practice the Soviet Union did not offer the PLO what the champions of the cause had expected from it, at a time when Israel was getting even more than it wanted from the United States in times of crisis. If you recall, the United States was prepared to join directly in the October war against the Arabs if the war had gone the Arab way.

Answer: As far as practical attitudes are concerned, we must realize that the Soviet Union is a neighboring state and cannot take practical stands toward the crises in the region except to the degree that the Arabs allow Arab-Soviet relations to grow within the framework of cooperation against the dangers posed by the Zionist enemy.

Question: Demographic considerations and the strong links between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples necessitate Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, or rather a continuation of this dialogue. It is historical destiny. My question is: Is there any indication that the dialogue will be resumed on new basis?

Answer: It is true that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are strategic and imperative for the reasons you have mentioned, especially the demographic structure, and also for future considerations. What is important is that we find a common denominator which does not contradict the PNC and Arab summit resolutions. We in Fatah always view this dialogue with an open heart and an open mind but we do not want a repeat of the previous problem. If we resume this dialogue we want it to be resumed on a clear basis and with clear objectives that would lead to normal relations. This basis and these objectives are manifest in the Arab summit resolutions.

Question: What about Egypt today? How can this power, which the Arabs have missed, be exploited against Israel? Some people maintain that the return of Egypt to the Arabs and vice versa could only be achieved through Palestinian channels.

Answer: The Palestinian decision in this connection is governed by the PNC resolutions, namely that the further Egypt draws away from the Camp David agreements the closer we get to it. However, I want to mention the very important point that the Camp David agreements and the agreements which followed with the United States placed Egypt at the mercy of the United States, even where bread is concerned. Four of every five loaves consumed in Egypt come from the United States. In other words, Egypt is today constrained by U.S. and Western aid. Egypt's return to the Arab fold is not only an Egyptian duty. It is also the duty of the Arabs to work for that objective. The Arabs should do what they can to enable Egypt to draw away from the Western world and re-occupy its leading position in Arab ranks.

Question: How?

Answer: By shifting Egypt from Western capitalist monopolies on political terms or relations which would ultimately lead to Egypt's economic liberation which would then give it the necessary political freedom.

Question: Recent Egyptian declarations by President Mubarak himself indicate that Egypt has not stopped trying to support the Palestinian cause politically.

Answer: President Mubarak is not President al-Sadat and Mubarak's statements give rise to some hope but there is a need for an Arab stand that would help turn these statements into actual practice.

CSO: 4400/14

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

FATAH'S KHALID AL-HASAN ON PLO CRISIS

JN072124 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1810 GMT 7 Oct 83

[Interview given by Fatah official Khalid al-Hasan to Radio Monte Carlos news director Antoine Nawfal in Jidda for the "It Happened Tomorrow" program; date not specified--recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] Brother Khalid al-Hasan, welcome to this episode of "It Happened Tomorrow." No one really knows anymore where the PLO stands now. Has it been completely fragmented? Has it been divided into two organizations? What is really going on?

[Al-Hasan] We can say that at this stage the PLO is living in a fabricated climate of Arab interferences, which try to contain it so the PLO would become an instrument instead of the leader and representative of the Palestinian people. Such attempts are neither the first nor the last, although they are different this time from the point of view of their size, clarity, and openness, and because of the Arab powers, which clearly state that there is no independent Palestinian decisionmaking. This will eventually enable this or that Arab country to contain the PLO.

However, I confidently say that the PLO is no longer a mere organization like the other organizations. The PLO represents the Palestinian people's political entity, identity, and belonging. It is the substance of the organization that counts, and not its form. These Palestinian people are defending the PLO, its independence, and its freedom exactly as any other people would defend their government and constitution. Maybe you have noticed what is going on these days in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. All of the mosques, churches, and masses are announcing and outlining their stand in favor of the PLO and, furthermore, in favor of Yasir 'Arafat's leadership of the PLO, since he represents the Palestinian legitimacy. If we go back a little to the past, we see that the Palestinian question has had a special status--namely, that the Palestinian people are distinguished from the other Arab and Palestinian leaderships by the clarity of their stand and by their taking the initiative even before their leaders make a decision. What is taking place in the West Bank expresses an initiative by the Palestinian masses. These people took similar initiatives even before the PLO was formed. These people, who were unorganized foiled the settlements plans in the Arab countries. These people were

able to foil these plans through the unity of their stand. The last work in this regard is to be made by the people and not by any Arab regime. In this stage, these people are invited to strongly defend their legitimacy and the independence of their national decisionmaking so that all of the current problems can end and the PLO can become even stronger than before.

As for the other organizations, those that want to stay within the framework of legitimacy will find a big place among the masses and in our hearts. Those that want to be outside the framework of legitimacy and those who try to confuse the legitimacy through by forming another PLO will find themselves isolated from the masses of this steadfast people. Consequently, they will enjoy an ineffective existence. The Palestinian legitimacy will continue to be the influential factor with which the Palestinian people will cooperate, because the PLO's legitimacy comes from its people and not from any Arab regime, including the Arab summit conference.

[Nawfal] How can the Palestinian masses express their opinion?

[Al-Hasan] They are now expressing their opinion by sending cables, demonstrating, and adopting political stands. During the Camp David and the autonomy plots, the masses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip announced their rejection of these plots even before the PLO itself announced its rejection. Therefore, due to the size of the tragedy the Palestinian people have been facing for 60 years now, the Palestinian masses have sound sense that provokes them to take action without any instructions. Our people's uprising in Al-Yarmuk Camp, their demonstrations to protest Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] expulsion from Damascus, and even the Palestinian presence on the Palestinian folklore day--which was held in Busra, Syria and was attended by more than 30,000 Palestinians who came from Amman, Aleppo, and elsewhere--represent the masses' opinion and moves, which in turn constitute the sole guarantee for our cause. These moves tell all those trying to contain the PLO that our people cannot be tamed by any leader, party, or ideology and that our people adhere only to the ideology of struggle for the sake of the homeland.

[Nawfal] How can you explain the fact that a number of Fatah members, who have not been pressed by anyone, have joined the opposition?

[Al-Hasan] If you are referring to the group of officers who reportedly joined the opposition in the past 2 days, then I tell you that this group issued a statement from Damascus saying that it is not true that they have joined the opposition and that they renew their absolute loyalty to the Palestinian legitimacy and to the leadership of Brother Yasir 'Arafat. However, it is still not surprising that, due to the surrounding terror or the expected oppression, a person here or there joins the opposition. This is true, particularly since people are being asked to choose either to join the dissidents, to go to prison, or to leave Syria. Hence, all the Palestinians now present in that area are considered hostages. Those among them who say no are considered to be the most courageous, because they try to preserve the national political Palestinian identity and the legitimacy that represents it.

[Nawfal] You are accusing Syria. You are saying that they are hostages in Syria's hands. However, you talked about Arab powers but you did not identify these powers that are trying to contain the PLO. Is it only Syria?

[Al-Hasan] You are forgetting brother Mu'ammr al-Qadhdhafi, who wants to contain not only the PLO's decisionmaking but even in its ideology and internal organizations.

[Nawfal] Some, including the PFLP-GC and Abu Musa for example, say that Abu 'Ammar is no longer qualified for leadership and that a new leadership should be elected. According to Abu Musa, a Fatah conference will soon be held to elect the new leadership. What do you think of this?

[Al-Hasan] I am sorry to say that this talk is too insignificant to be answered, for one simple reason: There are two institutions, namely the PNC and the Fatah conference, that decide whether or not Abu 'Ammar is qualified for leadership. The PNC is the side that renews or does not renew for Abu 'Ammar. In its last session, the PNC elected Abu 'Ammar not only as a member of the PLO Executive Committee but also as its chairman. Since its formation, the Fatah conference has been considering Brother Abu 'Ammar and Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] as two people who are not subject to be voted on for membership. Naturally, our traditions do not say that a person should stay in his position forever, but so far no request has been made to vote on Abu 'Ammar and Abu Jihad's positions in the Fatah Central Committee and leadership.

As for the convocation of a Fatah conference and whether it should be an extraordinary or a normal one, it is the movement's legitimate leadership who call for the convocation of this conference in accordance with its basic law. Regarding what is being said about the putschists' attempts to hold a conference--notice that the putschists are actually lead by Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, and not by either Abu Musa, Abu Salih, or Qadri, because the real leader hides behind false leaderships until it is time for him to appear--I say that any action by them in this regard is an illegitimate one. Such actions would contradict the rights of the side entitled to call for the conference. These acts also contradict the basic laws representing the legitimacy for whose sake we are struggling. We have proposed through all of the mediation teams that we are fully prepared to hold either an extraordinary conference or a new conference. We also proposed through the six-man committee and other teams that a PNC committee be formed to supervise the accuracy of adhering to the basic laws regarding the convocation of the Fatah conference. This should not be interpreted as a sign of weakness for us to propose all this, because we favor the democratic dialogue before we reach the stage of violence, which I hope it will not happen.

[Nawfal] What do you mean by the stage of violence?

[Al-Hasan] Unfortunately, the stage of internecine fighting. I also refer to the current atmosphere in Tripoli. It seems that the plan in Tripoli will go as follows: The group of Ahmad Jibril, who is known for his complete subservience to Al-Qadhdhafi and Syria, as well as other forces hiding under the name of Al-Sa'iqah or the Palestine Liberation Army--which is present in Syria--would start acts of shelling and riots in Tripoli, as was the case 2 days

ago. After that, the Syrian forces would interfere under the pretext of restoring discipline, security, and stability to Tripoli. That is why the residents of Tripoli issued a statement through the Al-Tawhid group [not further identified] 2 days ago saying that they will defend the city and the Palestinians because they do not find any Israelis in Tripoli, whose presence might justify all these surprising military concentrations around the city.

[Nawfal] You are levelling serious accusations against Syria. The dissidents, in any case, deny that there is a siege....

[Al-Hasan] interrupts] The siege is a reality, and this may lead to the stage of military confrontation. We are doing our best to prevent this from taking place.

[Nawfal] A military confrontation with Syria?

[Al-Hasan] [word indistinct] That's why I am in Jidda--to discuss with His Majesty King Fahd the means of preventing such a military confrontation. If it takes place, it will bring destruction on a large scale. Our brothers have been instructed that they must fight only in self-defense. That's why when the terrible shelling took place in Tripoli 2 days ago that reminded the fighters of the shelling during the Beirut siege, the legitimate leadership, through brother Abu 'Ammar, whose orders are obeyed in spite of the claims that are being made to the contrary succeeded in having the officers, soldiers, and militias hold their fire and not respond to the fire in order to prevent matters from reaching an explosive state. Despite all of the practices by the brothers in Syria or by the other brothers, we realize very well that the pan-Arab interest must be safeguarded. Therefore, we do our best to prevent confrontation.

If there is a possibility of reaching an agreement, then this agreement must be reached on the condition that it takes place on clear political bases stemming from the commitment to the resolutions of the Arab summits and the PNC and also on the condition that it rejects any kind of subservience and either direct or indirect containment. These people, who have offered thousands of martyrs, have the right to have their own struggle, their own organization, their own political identity, and their own legitimate political leaders.

[Nawfal] Do you not believe that there is some kind of escalation in your statements, particularly because the opponents deny the existence of a siege in Tripoli? At the same time, they say that there is no need to fight, because the fighters are joining them without being forced?

[Al-Hasan] In this case, we hope that what they are saying is true. If the fighters will join them in the end, then their stand will be the sound stand; but if the fighters remain committed to their legitimacy and the people remain committed to their legitimacy, then their stand will not be the sound stand. At any rate, this is the reality we are now experiencing. If it is not correct, we hope that it is not correct. If it is correct, we hope that it will become incorrect, in order to prevent any confrontation from taking place. This is because we do not seek confrontation. The Tall al-Za'tar

massacres have become mixed with the Sabra and Shatila massacres and with the September massacres. This is more than enough. Neither should we forget the massacres in Al-Biqa', which are very painful.

[Nawfal] In your opinion, massacres were perpetrated in Al-Biqa'?

[Al-Hasan] Not massacres. Fighting took place and Palestinian blood was shed. This is something we wanted to avoid from the beginning of the revolution. We were always anxious that a Palestinian gun not be directed against a Palestinian fighter. Unfortunately, this has taken place.

[Nawfal] This means that you are leveling accusations. You have accused Libya and you are leveling serious accusations against Syria?

[Al-Hasan] I am also accusing the Arab impotence, the Arab silence, and the Arab oppression of preventing the masses from expressing their real stand toward the slaughtering of these Palestinian people. I am afraid that the Palestinian people will have the same status in the Arab world as that of the Jews who were persecuted in Europe and in czarist Russia. Thus, a new problem will emerge--that of the Palestinian problem, which will be similar to the Jewish problem but with a big difference. If the Palestinians lose their self-control, God knows what will happen in the region.

[Nawfal] Are Libya, Syria and the silence of the Arab the only reasons? Do not the Palestinian trends, particularly the Fatah leadership, assume a large part of the responsibility for what is taking place?

[Al-Hasan] Everyone shoulders the responsibility. There is no person who does not make mistakes. However, errors cannot be remedied by more errors. Errors must be remedied through understanding and agreement. If we are to follow the principle that error must always be remedied with the gun, the this will be the end of the world. We then will return to the law of the jungle. Since this law has been rejected in international relations, it must certainly be rejected in Arab relations. Specifically, this law must be rejected in the relations which exist among the one people, whether these relations are between parties, between the intelligence organs and their people, or between the authorities of oppression and their people.

[Nawfal] Some Palestinian trends, particularly in the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, want to introduce radical reforms while maintaining the unity of the PLO. Do you believe that in this context one must reconsider the status of Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Hasan] No one can deny that reforms are always required, and in a constant manner. No action can continue in a sound and developed manner unless objective self-criticism is carried out from time to time. This is the law of life, whether there are problems or not. Those who act make mistakes, and these mistakes need to be corrected. Reforms through dialogue and within the legitimate frameworks are a duty, an obligation, and a necessity. I do not believe that anyone can be against such an idea and trend. But to resort to arms under the pretext of seeking reforms, while the real objective of this

reform is to prepare to control the Fatah movement as a first step on the road to controlling the PLO, cannot be considered reform measures.

[Nawfal] Yasir 'Arafat seems to be besieged in Tripoli. It seems that he will not be able, or will not be allowed, to leave Tripoli by sea in view of the presence of Syrian naval units. Is this true? What information do you have on this?

[Al-Hasan] Abu 'Ammar will remain in Tripoli as long as there is a reason dictating that he remain in Tripoli. When his departure from Tripoli becomes necessary, he will leave Tripoli. Abu 'Ammar always stays with his fighters during crises. This is a fierce crisis. Therefore, it was necessary for him to be with his fighters. This is one of the qualities a leader must have. A leader must tell his fighters to follow him, and not to go before him.

[Nawfal] Where do you stand concerning 'Arafat, especially since there is much talk by the friends of the PLO and the friends of Fatah that 'Arafat has no future and that he will inevitably be doomed? How do you view his future?

[Al-Hasan] I believe that 'Arafat has not been wiped out politically, unless there is an attempt to assassinate him, to liquidate him physically, as the attempt to liquidate him politically has failed. [Sent: as heard] I do not believe that there is any other person who enjoys the support of these people as much as 'Arafat does. I remember that when we were in Moscow and were discussing what was taking place in Al-Biqa', we were told that when the Soviet masses speak about the Palestinian cause, they have Yasir 'Arafat in mind. This is because he has become the symbol of the Palestinian people and of national and pan-Arab struggle. No pan-Arab struggle can take place if it is not a struggle for Palestine, particularly at this stage.

I believe that Abu 'Ammar has greater political standing now than at any time before, particularly within the framework of the Palestinian people. I hope that this cloud will pass so that Abu 'Ammar, those who are with abu 'Ammar, and all of Abu 'Ammar's brothers in the PLO will have sufficient time for self-criticism, for rebuilding what should be rebuilt as a result of the crises which have affected us over the past 5 years.

[Nawfal] Thankyou brother Khalid.

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PFLP'S HABASH INTERVIEW ON PLO, LEBANON

LD011004 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2120 GMT 30 Sep 83

[Interview with George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Peter Zentai; date and place not given; Habash answers in Arabic with superimposed Hungarian translation]

[Text] [Zentai] Dr George Habash studied to be a physician but he has had no time to pursue his profession for decades. His time and energy are taken up by the struggle. The Western press calls him a hawk because, supposedly, the only means he recognizes as leading toward the goal--the creation of a Palestinian state--is armed struggle. For a long time he proclaimed the liberation of the whole of Palestine, which in the West was taken to mean that he wanted to eliminate the state of Israel. However, this interview with him modifies that picture we have of him.

The war in Lebanon has resulted, in the final analysis, in the moral victory of the Palestinian people, of the Palestinian armed movement. This is something that no one questions any longer. Nonetheless, this war resulted in the PLO losing the opportunity of pursuing its activities in the vicinity of Palestine. Is that right, Dr Habash?

[Habash] It is certainly true that despite the great moral victory the PLO won by its heroic steadfastness and tenacity, its fighters were in the end forced to leave Beirut and southern Lebanon. This fact has altered our situation and has changed the nature of our activities in the Middle East, and it has given rise to many new problems. Despite this fact, I do not accept the implication that the PLO has lost its significance or that today it is not one of the main barriers to the attainment of the imperialist and Zionist plans. I give you an example. You remember, of course, that in September 1982 the Americans put forward a peace plan. Reagan said that here was an opportunity for the settlement of the Middle East crisis. In reality, of course, he counted on being able to force our weakened organizations to accept the humiliating conditions. But, let me ask you, has Reagan succeeded in making us accept this plan? No, because the leaders of the organization unanimously rejected the idea of renouncing our demand for the creation of a Palestinian state. Thus, the Palestinian movement has proved itself to be strong.

[Zentai] But only as far as rejection goes. In my first question, however, I indicated not only this but also that the Arab states no longer take Palestinian resistance seriously. It is a topical news item that Syrian soldiers and Palestinian fighters are facing each other in Lebanon. Is it not the case that what is happening in Lebanon is that certain Arab countries or certain ethnic or political groups are trying to use the Palestinians for their own ends?

[Habash] I cannot agree with this conclusion either. It is beyond doubt that there are problems between certain Palestinian organizations, namely Fatah, and the Syrians. However, this opposition does not amount to a conflict between Syria and the Palestinian movement as a whole.

[Zentai] It is nonetheless a fact that Palestinians are killing Palestinians and that Syrians and Palestinians are murdering each other.

[Habash] This is a fact, but this has only secondary importance compared to the fact that the PLO lives and functions in the occupied areas, just as it does in Lebanon. Let me, however, answer you in greater detail. Lebanon is a country divided along religious lines. Religious flare-ups are an everyday occurrence. At the same time it must not be forgotten that in Lebanon there is also an organization active in the field which is not characterized by religious separation: I am talking about the Progressive Front and within it the Lebanese Communist Party. It is another matter that among the members of the progressive forces the Muslims and Druze are in a majority over the Maronites. We Palestinians however, are certainly not supporting the Druze against the Christians but the progressive forces against the fascist Lebanese regime. This is the way in which we interpret these matters, because this is what is important, and discords inside the organization are of secondary importance. The front line is between the fascist Beirut government supported by the imperialists and the Arab, Palestinian and Lebanese masses.

[Zentai] Do other Palestinian leaders share this view? Do you not have disagreements with 'Arafat on this issue? After all, you are known the world over as a critic of 'Arafat.

[Habash] I have reservations with regard to 'Arafat, but not because of this. He does not regard what is happening in Lebanon as a religious war either. The essence of my debate with brother 'Arafat is about the direction the development of the Palestinian revolution should take. But I am not expressing myself with sufficient precision in saying this. We are capable of developing an identical stand. At the last session of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament, we jointly worked out a compromise which was accepted by every member organization of the movement.

[Zentai] It is unquestionable that you are in agreement on many issues. However, you still disagree on a cardinal issue, namely on whether the armed struggle or political negotiations should have priority. You have spoken up on countless occasions on behalf of the armed struggle. 'Arafat, on the other hand...

[Habash interrupts] Look, you merely have to read the resolutions of the most recent session of the Palestine National Council. We said that we would concentrate our energies on the armed struggle, while at the same time we would not exclude diplomatic and political endeavors either. At any rate, the majority of the resolutions emphasized the need for armed struggle against Israel. This is the united standpoint to which we must adhere.

[Zentai] There were those, nonetheless, who placed the emphasis on direct dialogue with Israel. 'Arafat's adviser, Al-Sartawi, developed direct links with the Israelis. Did it necessarily follow from this that he had to die?

[Habash] There are some democratic, progressive people among the Israeli leaders as well. We have no objections to the progressive forces in Israel. On the other hand, we condemn all the more the Zionist leaders who are bringing in fascist-type retributive measures against our brothers living in the occupied territories and against the Lebanese people. On our behalf, we are endeavoring to develop the broadest possible connections with progressive Jewish circles.

[Zentai] I would like to know whether you or the organization you lead would be willing to recognize Israel.

[Habash] I believe that the relations between the state of Israel and the Palestinian people, and the problems connected with this, can be solved at talks with Jews of a progressive spirit.

[Zentai] Finally, I would like to know how you perceive the possibilities open to the Palestinian movement in the autumn of 1983, at a time when the Palestinian people have not only not come nearer to having its own independent state, but rather the opposite.

[Habash] In 1983 or in 1984 we cannot yet be optimistic. However, if we look at this question in a historical perspective and if we take into consideration that the Palestinian people are engaged in an armed struggle for their rights, for their rightful cause, and if we recognize that we enjoy the support of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, then we arrive at a different conclusion. In that case we conclude that the Palestinian cause will triumph in the end. However, let me stress that this will not be in the near future, because the United States wants to increase its influence in the region at any price. Its interests are bound up with oil. However, it cannot attain its goals without Israel, therefore it will continue to meet the wishes of the Zionist leaders. Thus, we can expect in the next few years an increase in the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis and a continuation of the struggle.

CSO: 4400/14

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

PFLP-GC KUWAIT BUREAU CRITICIZES JIBRIL

JN071810 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1549 GMT 7 Oct 83

[Statement issued by the cadres and organization of the PFLP-GC's Kuwait Bureau--date and place not specified]

[Text] After the several encroachments the Jibril and Shururu group made inside the front in particular and in the Palestinian arena in general--the foremost of which are sowing sedition among comrades in arms, inciting internecine fighting, and actually participating in plans for the front's military sector to flare up this fighting for which our Palestinian people have paid a dear price and for which the enemies' camp has been the only beneficiary--a large number of our fighters and organizational bases have rejected this dangerous conspiratorial role and formed a provisional leadership for the front to run all of its affairs. This was done after the failure of all attempts to have the Jibril and Shururu group reconsider its attitude and role in inciting Palestinian internecine fighting, which aims at splitting Palestinian ranks and has negative effects on the independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

We, the PFLP-GC cadres and elements in the Kuwait bureau--representing a fundamental part of this front--declare our support for our comrades in the provisional leadership committee. We join them out of our conviction and like all of our comrades in the various arenas and institutions where the PFLP-GC is present. [sentence as heard] In our capacity of expressing the living conscience of this front, we call on all hesitant comrades to decide to raise their voices in support of this initiative. We pledge to our masses and comrades that we will not be dissidents, and that we will continue to run the front's affairs on all levels until our just demands are fulfilled. We demand that a general conference be held so that the front can account for its acts and rectify the deviation that occurred because of the Jibril and Shururu group's practices in the front. We make this demand even though we know that this group will fabricate accusations against us just as it previously did when it accused our comrades in the provisional leadership committee. Therefore, we warn against this process of forgery and falsification, which only indicates this group's impotence to face reality and to meet our demands with a little wisdom and objectiveness. It is a revolution until the land and the individual are liberated.

CSO: 4400/14

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

INTERVIEW WITH PFLP-GC'S TALAL NAJI

JN072050 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 7 Oct 83

[Interview given by Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the PFLP-GC, to Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris for the "It Happened Tomorrow" program; date not specified--recorded]

[Text] [Faris] Brother Talal Naji, member of the PLO Executive Committee and assistant secretary general of the PFLP-GC, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has accused you, the Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] forces, and the Syrian Army forces of besieging the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps prior to attacking the pro-Yasir 'Arafat forces. What do you say to this?

[Naji] On 28 September 1983, the forces of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] committed a massacre at a base belonging to our militias in the Al-Baddawi Camp in northern Lebanon. Twelve of our men were martyred. Some bodies were badly mutilated, and others were burned. All this took place under Abu 'Ammar's personal supervision and directives. In addition, 19 of our comrades were wounded and several others are still missing. Abu 'Ammar was the one who perpetrated this massacre, not us. Abu 'Ammar has been trying ever since to cover up his crime by making appeals and dispatching messages and cables to Arab kings and presidents warning of renewed fighting in northern Lebanon. If we go back a little, we will recall that 2 months ago Abu 'Ammar made statements in Tunis and Kuwait warning of massacres in the north. Here he is today committing them himself.

Having been sidestepped by the Fatah upheaval, Abu 'Ammar is trying to reassert his position. He is trying to do that even if it means spilling the blood of our people and fighters. Abu 'Ammar has been very much perturbed by the victories the National Salvation Front scored, with the backing of Syria, in the recent battles in the mountain. Therefore, he wants to divert public attention from these successes by creating a crisis in northern Lebanon. As Palestinian strugglers, we would like to affirm that we will not take up arms against any Palestinian fighters. We will not allow our people's blood to be spilled. We will not be dragged into this by Abu 'Ammar. But at the same time, we call upon our kinfolk in Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid camps to raise their voices high in denunciation of the methods of oppression and terrorism Abu 'Ammar's followers pursued against Palestinian fighters there.

[Faris] Is there a siege or not?

[Naji] Of course there is no siege. As I said, all of these stories are fabricated by Abu 'Ammar's followers to justify their designs in northern Lebanon.

[Faris] Brother Talal Naji, you are also accused of financially and militarily backing the dissident movement inside Fatah. What is your answer to this accusation?

[Naji] First, permit me to correct you and say that this is not a dissident movement, but an upheaval to rectify Fatah's course and the conditions from which Fatah and the Palestinian revolution are suffering. As every observer knows, the differences inside Fatah are not new; neither are the differences inside the Palestinian arena new. These differences affect political, organizational, and behavioral matters. We in the PFLP-GC have often spoken about our differences with Abu 'Ammar's leadership on all of these matters.

[Faris] You are also accused of planning to form a new leadership for the PLO. Is this correct?

[Naji] Before answering, I would like to say first of all that we in the PFLP-GC believe--and our position is already known--that matters in the Palestinian revolution will not be right unless we face our people and masses with a clear political line, firm stands, and an organizational structure that restores the Palestinian revolution's genuineness and removes any diseases in the body of the revolution. This is what the Fatah upheaval has been demanding from the very first day. We are not antagonizing anyone. We simply said that we support the upheaval both politically and morally. We maintained this stand. As for the talks that we are supporting the upheaval materially, this is not correct. Permit me to say that I reject any accusation against the PFLP-GC, especially in this respect. We in the PFLP-GC leadership believe that the PLO is the fruit of our people's long struggle. It was established with the blood of our martyrs throughout the years. It belongs to these people. It has never belonged to an individual or individuals. It belongs to the Palestinian Arab people. Time will prove that the PLO is not an individual or individuals; the PLO will remain, but the individuals will go. This is what I wanted to stress right from the start.

As for the subject you raised, it is not new. The accusations have been made since 1976, and whenever voices are raised for reform the people making these accusations are the very ones who believe that the PLO belongs to them. The question is more than that. The PLO will stay. As a basic group in the Palestinian arena, we will protect it as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people on the basis of the Palestinian National Charter and the resolutions of the Palestinian national councils.

[Faris] In a statement you made this week, or a few days ago, you contested Abu 'Ammar's leadership of the PLO. Yet, you are a member of the PLO executive committee. Is what you said in that statement still valid?

[Naji] Let me first explain that Abu 'Ammar is not the leader of the PLO, but the chairman of the PLO executive committee. The PNC, which is headed by brother Khalid al-Fahum, is the legislative body which sees that Palestinian legitimacy is above any individual. Incidentally, the attempt to defame Khalid al-Fahum is in itself an attempt to bruise this legitimacy. When I contested Abu 'Ammar's leadership of the PLO, it was on the basis of his ability to safeguard the revolution's line and the lives of its fighters. I believe that Abu 'Ammar has deviated from the revolution's line and the resolutions of the national councils. I would like to use this occasion, to say to Abu Iyad: How easy it is to make accusations. Abu Iyad himself was previously accused by his own colleagues in the Fatah central committee and by Abu 'Ammar himself of being pro-Syrian and a colluder with Syria when he signed the strategic cooperation agreement with Syria in May 1982. It is easy to level accusations, but this does not befit strugglers. It is not becoming of those who call themselves responsible leaders to level false and baseless accusation.

[Faris] Then you are saying that Abu 'Ammar is no longer qualified to be the leader?

[Naji] As I said, I was shocked by the Al-Baddawi massacre, and I believe that he who permits such a crime against Palestinian fighters for no reason except that they belong to another group, a group which is still a basic part of the PLO and is participating in all of its institutions from the executive committee and to the PNC, cannot be qualified to be the leader of the PLO.

CSO: 4400/14

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

NEW FATAH NOMINATION REPORTED--The newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM has learned from leading Palestinian sources that Talal Abu Ghazalih has been nominated to an important position in Kuwait, where he will be an assistant to Salim al-Za'nun alias Abu al-Adib, deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council and Fatah's representative in Kuwait, since Abu al-Adib is currently required to undertake tours and important contacts dealing with the revolution, particularly when he is also chairing the revolution security court. Talal is regarded a leading figure within Fatah. He was well known in Beirut and he has participated in the various fields of the Palestinian revolution. This decision comes within the framework of bolstering Fatah offices and the PLO abroad by providing these offices with efficient Palestinian figures. Talal is expected to assume his position next month. [Text] [GF312000 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 30 Aug 83 p 1]

CSO: 4400/14

COASTAL WATCH ON OIL SLICK, CLEAN-UP EFFORTS CONTINUE

Doha AL-RAYAH in Arabic 16 Aug 83 p 3

[Article by Muhammad al-Sharbini]

[Text] AL-RAYAH has interviewed Engr Ahmad al-Subay'i, director of the Mechanical Equipment Department and chief of the team fighting the consequences of the oil slick that has spread from the Gulf waters to Qatar's northern coastline. Al-Subay'i explained the latest developments on the coastline and the procedures followed daily and regularly by the teams that have been exerting concerted efforts to clean up the consequences of the oil slick that has hit the coastline.

Coastline Watch Continues

Regarding the methods followed by the teams at present, the director of the Mechanical Equipment Department said that after the end of the control efforts during the blessed month of Ramadan, coastline watch efforts have been resumed on a daily basis and a daily follow-up is maintained through either cinematic or still photography.

Engineer al-Subay'i pointed out that during that period [Ramadan] the beaches in various areas were polluted. For example, the beaches of the town of Abu Zuluf, of al-Jumayl and of (al-Mughir) area have been cleaned up repeatedly but we find through our daily follow-up that they are repolluted.

Modifying Plan

Engineer al-Subay'i added: The formulated plan has been reexamined since the holiday and we have found it necessary to focus on the northeastern beaches. For example, the area extending from Umm Layji northward to Ra's Laffan-Umm Zubayrah-Ra's Qirtas-Huwaylah has required extensive efforts on our part and a long time to remove the oil from the beaches.

Al-Subay'i added: I am pleased to say that these areas have been fully and defiantly cleaned up and restored to their original condition.

[Question] Now that you have cleaned up these areas, will you leave them without further inspection as to their condition?

[Answer] It is unreasonable to leave the work we have done without checking on it. The situation requires us to inspect the beaches daily to determine what condition they are in and to reassure ourselves so that if oil reaches them again, God forbid, we can remove it immediately and keep the beaches constantly clean.

He added: I have entrusted a mini-team with keeping watch on the beaches to remove any small oil patches that may get dislodged from the rocks or float ashore from the sea as a result of natural elements. This team will continue to watch the beaches and clean them up constantly.

Work Stoppages in Some Areas

Al-Subay'i also said that work has been stopped in some areas, such as Ra's Umm Hasah beach and al-Mufajjar and al-Mamlahah beaches in the northwest and up to the headquarters of Shaykh Faysal ibn Thani, due to the shortage of workers needed and the equipment they need to help them clean up the beaches.

Al-Subay'i added that two teams have actually been transferred from al-Fariyah area, divided into three teams and assigned to the areas of al-Fariyah, Ra's Umm Hasah and (al-Mughir) in the west to clean up.

Major Effort for Sandy Areas

He said: During my tour last week, I found that these areas had been repolluted with quantities of jelled and sticky oil, keeping in mind that they had been cleaned well before the month of Ramadan. He pointed out that because these areas are sand areas, they require major efforts, since most of the oil has seeped under the sand, forming several layers. This requires greater efforts to dig up the sand and remove the oil hidden under it. Our responsibility and the responsibility of this team is to make sure that these beaches are completely safe, even if this takes a great deal of effort and time.

[Question] What comes after these areas are cleaned?

[Answer] After cleaning up these beaches and making sure that they are completely safe, the teams will proceed to other polluted areas, such as the beach of al-Ruways town and the beaches of Abu Zuluf and al-Jumayl; they will then move toward al-Irsal area and al-'Arish, the northwestern areas, which are heavily polluted.

114 Persons and 30 Vehicles

Regarding the number of teams currently working on the beaches, the engineer directing the Equipment Department said that the number of workers is 114, including workers, officers, drivers, technicians and supervisors. He also noted that the number of vehicles operating with the control team is 30 cars and 10 other vehicles.

We also work to gather and transport this oil, using the equipment designed for the purpose, to sites set aside for areas remote from the beaches.

Maintenance and Follow-up Team

As for the work of the beach maintenance and follow-up team and the latest reports received, Engineer al-Subay'i said that a special maintenance team has started its work by inspecting daily all the beaches that have been cleaned up from Umm Layji to Ra's Laffan and al-Huwaylah beaches. The latest reports received from the observers indicate that the beaches cleaned up from Umm Layji to Ra's Laffan are completely clean and have not been repolluted. The team visits these beaches daily.

The latest reports from the beach observers also indicate that the northern beaches from al-Mughir to al-Ruways, Abu Zuluf, al-Irsal, al-'Arish and Ra's 'Urshayrij are still polluted with large quantities of oil. The team will proceed, God willing, to these beaches to begin work.

Concluding his statements, Engineer al-Subay'i said: We appeal to the citizens and (visitors) who frequent the beaches with their vehicles to help the team cleaning up the beaches to perform this work in an ideal manner, especially since we all know that driving over the beach with vehicles causes the oil to disappear under the vehicles' tires, thus making it difficult to remove the oil.

He said that we should help these teams and should appreciate the efforts they are exerting in this extremely hot weather and under difficult working conditions in performance of the duties required of them by our beloved homeland.

8494

CSO: 4404/625

GUNBOATS JOIN NAVY IN MILITARY CEREMONY

Doha AL-'URUBAH in Arabic 18 Aug 83 p 5

[Article: "New Gunboats Join Naval Forces"]

[Text] On behalf of His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, deputy amir, crown prince, minister of defense and general commander of the armed forces, Brig Gen Muhammad 'Abdallah al-'Atiyah, the deputy general commander and Col Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Khalifah Al Thani, the assistant deputy general commander, were present to receive a number of gunboats as they arrived at the base.

Brig Gen Muhammad 'Abdallah al-'Atiyah in an address on the occasion praised the care and attention His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the country's amir, and his loyal crown prince devoted to developing and strengthening the armed forces.

At the ceremony, also attended by naval forces commander Col Salah al-Din 'Azab, the commanders of the various corps and units and Henry (Piot), the French ambassador in Doha, Brig Gen Muhammad 'Abdallah al-'Atiyah also commended the Qatari officers who commanded the boats, expressing the hope that these boats will strengthen the armed forces and peace in the area.

On the other hand, the deputy general commander asserted that the Qatari armed forces will always remain forces defending the country and safeguarding the national dignity.

In a statement after the celebration, the deputy general commander affirmed that any development and strengthening of the Qatari armed forces is a strengthening of the brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council member states and of the area's security and peace.

Brig Gen Muhammad 'Abdallah al-'Atiyah, accompanied by the assistant deputy general commander, the naval forces commander and a number of high-ranking officers inspected the gunboats and heard an explanation of the weapons and equipment they contain and familiarized himself with the international standard of training received by the commanders and crews of the gunboats.

Col Salah-al Din 'Azab said that the incorporation of these gunboats into the naval forces meets the instructions of the higher political command and of the armed forces general command to complete building and developing the armed forces.

INDUSTRIAL CENTERS IN DAMMAM TOURED

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 18 Aug 83 p 4

[Article: "In Dammam's Two Industrial Cities There Are a Total of 110 Plants Engaging in Production"]

[Text] Dammam has a laboratory which is for examining the sounds made by imported machines, and also has [a plant for producing] oil-well drilling apparatuses which is the first and only plant of its kind [in Saudi Arabia]. The plants suffer from the fact that the Saudi labor force is too small.

Studies involving the Arab Gulf nations are being undertaken concerning setting up vocational centers.

Among the many visits being made by journalists to industrial cities in the various parts of Saudi Arabia, based upon an invitation issued by the Ministry of Industry and Electricity, was a visit to the two industrial cities of Dammam which was made by journalists who are from places other than the city of Dammam. This visit took place on Tuesday, 8 Dhu al-Qa'dah 1403 A.H. [1983]. The visit lasted 10 hours, and during the visit journalists representing Saudi newspapers as well as numerous fields of commerce and industry familiarized themselves with the situation of industry in the Eastern Province by means of the tour which they made. During this tour they were accompanied by His Excellency Mr Ibrahim al-Thabit, vice director of the Dammam industrial city, and Mr 'Abd-al-Latif al-Salih, head of the industrial division in the administration of the Dammam industrial city.

This visit, which will be followed by other visits to industrial cities in various parts of the country, was one of the concerns of the Ministry of Industry and Electricity in its efforts to do everything possible to promote our national industry and insure its success by means of familiarizing journalists with the facts concerning our national industry. It is then the job of such journalists, in turn, to inform our citizens about the industrial products which Saudi Arabia produces by means of giving information and providing vivid photographs which tell something about this national industry. By means of this study concerning a visit to the Dammam industrial city by journalists who are not from Dammam, we are allowing our readers to share every moment and every event of the tour which we made.

The Beginning

At exactly 8:30 am last Tuesday everyone was at one of the large hotels in Dammam and ready to start the tour. The administration of the industrial city provided a bus to take the journalists and those accompanying them to visit the new industrial city. This was to be followed by a rest period and returning to the hotel, after which there would be another visit constituting the second stage of the journalists' tour--a visit to the existing industrial city. At exactly 9:30 am the journalists and those accompanying them arrived at their first location during their visit to the new industrial city. There they made a tour of one of our national plants which manufactures iron frames, tanks, (hangars) large automobile-transporting vehicles, and huge fuel and grain storage tanks. During their tour of the plant the journalists heard a detailed account given by one of the plant's employees in which he stated that the idea for setting up the plant originated during the beginning of the first stage of industrialization. The plant occupies a total area of 20,000 square meters, and the intention is to increase this total area to 32,000 square meters. This plant has developed as time has gone by, and now it produces numerous products, including asphalt tanks. Because of the great distances which must be travelled between the various cities of Saudi Arabia [in order to deliver the asphalt], these tanks keep the asphalt at a certain temperature for a period of 78 hours. Another of the products is the automobile-transporting vehicles which are able to transport up to 10 automobiles at one time. As for the assembly of these vehicles, it is done 95 percent locally in this plant. The plant also has a complete unit for the manufacture of dump trucks. The production capacity of the plant totals 450 trailers, 150 large-size dump bodies with a capacity of 32 [cubic] meters, 150 small-size dump bodies with a capacity of 16 [cubic] meters, 3,000 tons of [iron] frames, 50 (lawabid), and 250 tanks. The plant has also begun to manufacture large-size tanks, the capacity of which is more than 1 million gallons.

In addition to this, all the necessary materials and spare parts are provided. The plant consumes from 10,000 to 12,000 tons a year of various raw materials which are imported from the nations of Europe and from Japan. Furthermore, in the near future, the plant will rely on what is produced by the Jubayl industrial city to meet its requirements for these materials and raw materials.

A Plant For Producing Milk

After the journalists completed their visit to the plant which produces iron and frames, at exactly 10:10 am they began another visit. This was a visit to one of the factories in the new industrial city which produces milk and ice cream. This plant is one of three plants in Saudi Arabia which are owned by Saudi and Kuwaiti partners. The plant's production capacity of milk is 60,000 liters, and it produces 6 types of milk, 16 types of ice cream, and 5 types of coagulated sour milk [laban]. The plant also has a quality control laboratory to make sure that the milk is fit for human consumption. In addition to this, the plant has a maintenance workshop, it has spare parts for the equipment and [an area where] the spare parts can be installed in the equipment, and the plant has 57 vehicles for distributing its products.

The plant's director mentioned the fact that its initial monthly sales totalled 1 million riyals, and said that at the present time monthly sales have gone up to 3.5 million riyals. He added that Saudi plants suffer greatly from the fact that they are run by foreign European personnel. He said that these personnel are neither qualified nor prepared to do the job, that they have little job experience, that they believe that they are smart people, and that they believe that all other people are stupid and not able to run the enterprises.

Well-Drilling Apparatuses

After the visit to the milk and ice cream plant, and while the journalists were leaving the new industrial city, those employees of the Ministry of Industry who were accompanying them thought it would be a good idea to make a surprise visit to one of the plants which was not included originally on the tour. Actually, a visit to this plant certainly should have been on the journalists' tour during their visit because this plant manufactures and markets drilling equipment and apparatuses for digging oil, gas, and water wells in Saudi Arabia and the neighboring countries of the Middle East and because this plant is the first and only plant of its kind in Saudi Arabia. The plant covers a total area of 7,500 square meters, and its construction cost a total of 12 million riyals.

The production potential of the plant is 12,373 units per year, and its production capacity right now is 300 drilling apparatuses per month. It produces 4 and 3/4 inch drill (bits) and 17 and 1/2 inch drill (bits). The products of the plant include non-enclosed-load drills with drilling bits, metal enclosed-load drills, and insertion drills with mobile platforms. For its raw materials the plant relies on being supplied by the U.S. Aramco is considered to be the principal consumer of the plant's products. The plant's products are also used by some other companies which, among other things, engage in the operation of drilling wells.

The Break and Lunch Period

When the visit to the drilling apparatus manufacturing plant was over, everyone got on the bus and returned to the hotel which was prepared to receive them. There they had a rest period which lasted 1 and 1/2 hours, and during that time they ate lunch together. During this time they talked about Saudi industry, ways of developing it, and what the mission of the journalists was in this regard.

The Third Plant in the World

At exactly 2:30 pm the journalists arrived at the previously-built existing industrial city. The first stop on the tour of this area was the aluminum plant which had received the second place King Khalid Prize as a model plant and which had received a certificate of achievement because of this. There are only three aluminum-producing plants of this type in the world, and this is the only one of this type in the Middle East. The plant was constructed in 1395 A.H. [1975], with capital of 100 million riyals. The plant is totally

owned and administered by a Saudi firm. This was the first aluminum-manufacturing complex in Saudi Arabia, and it began production in 1398 A.H. [1978]. Its production capacity is a maximum of 8,500 tons per year of various aluminum products. Its products are used in the manufacture and production of transport [vehicles], containers, trucks, barges, irrigation pipes, and everything which requires aluminum. A branch of the firm has also opened up in Jiddah, and the plant there has a production capacity of 17,000 tons per year.

Evidence of Interest

This plant, which constitutes a large industrial complex for producing aluminum products for all purposes, was inaugurated by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz--may God have mercy on his soul--in the presence of a number of members of the royal family and ministers in the government. This was evidence of the interest on the part of our rightly-guided government in our national industry and its eagerness to have this industry reach the highest possible level of development in order to serve our nation and our citizens and in order that we may attain self-sufficiency and not have to rely on imported manufactured goods from abroad.

Meeting the Needs

The basis of the activity of this aluminum plant is that of meeting all of the needs of the enormous installations and projects in Saudi Arabia. This has, by the grace of God, enabled us to break the strangle hold of the foreign companies and the necessity of depending on them. The plant has undertaken a lot of jobs by contract in connection with housing projects for members of the air force in Riyadh and other places. Also, it is currently performing a job by contract for the project dealing with housing for members of the National Guard in Riyadh, al-Hufuf, al-Ta'if, and other places. The plant's administration is endeavoring to accomplish the transfer of technology and put this technology into practice without having the participation of any foreign shareholders or partners. A plant has also been constructed which produces insulating glass which utilizes the principle of double glass units. This plant employs a total of 1,000 workers in both Jiddah and Dammam. By the end of this year, the company in charge of this project will have achieved [full] production capacity in Jiddah--this level having already been reached in the plant in Dammam 3 or 4 years ago.

The plant also engages in various activities which involve coordination among the nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. As for the operation of manufacturing [aluminum], this initially involves the process of smelting, and this is followed by the withdrawal process, the process of cutting up [the material] by means of a saw, and then the material is passed through furnaces in order to modify its flexibility and strength. This is then followed by the dipping process, the product is then loaded [onto transport vehicles], and the packaging is done. The last stage is that of exporting the materials to the customers.

The Export Operation, and the Obstacles

The operation of exporting the products of the aluminum plant involves the process of achieving coordination between the GCC nations. One of the most important obstacles faced by the plant, as was mentioned by its director, is the force problem. This is considered to be the main problem, and it exists due to the lack of coordination concerning the requirements of the plants when it comes to the Saudi labor force and the imported labor force. The plant director also mentioned that the basic areas of activity give priority to furnishing and utilizing a Saudi labor force.

Furthermore, studies have been made on a Gulf-wide level concerning the setting up of vocational and training centers for workers in aluminum plants. Domestic plants [which utilizes] aluminum are considered to be the main consumers of the products which come from this plant.

The Air Conditioner Plant

After the visit to the aluminum plant and after getting complete information about how it was constructed and the nature of its job and production, the journalists undertook another visit. This time it was a visit to a plant in the existing industrial city in Dammam which manufactures air conditioners. This plant is a 100 percent Saudi operation. It began production in 1975, and its production capacity then was 15 air conditioners per day. Right now its production is 500 air conditioners per day as well as 50 central air conditioners per day. The plant also has branches in Riyadh, Tabuk, Yanbu', and al-Hufuf. The total labor force employed by the plant is 1,450 workers. By the beginning of the next Islamic calendar year the plant has the intention of producing various household appliances such as refrigerators, washers, etc. The plant also has two maintenance workshops--one of them mobile and the other one stationary--as well as a modern refrigeration unit, which utilizes the water refrigeration method, for large buildings and skyscrapers. Also, the plant has a sound laboratory which tests the sounds of imported air conditioners. The plant also gives a 5-year guarantee for its air conditioners, and during this warranty period the plant must undertake any repairs which are necessary, must provide necessary spare parts, etc.

Stages of Manufacture

The manufacture [of air conditioners] begins with the cutting up of the sheet metal into pieces, and this is then followed by perforation and the stage of assembling the room air conditioner units. After this comes the stage of painting in furnaces kept at a particular temperature, passage through the manufacture and production [assembly line], and then packaging. During the manufacturing stage, the air conditioners also go through a laboratory which tests their strength. The plant also has a sprinkling system which sprinkles water directly from the ceiling in case a fire should break out, a permanent clinic for the treatment of injuries, and an early warning [fire alarm] system.

Training Center

The air conditioner plant also has a center for training the Saudi labor force which operates by agreement with the vocational training center in Dammam, the purpose being to provide a national labor force which is sufficient. The students in this training center receive a stipend and they are on probation for a period of 3 months. Admission to the training center is still limited to certain categories of people.

Information About the Two Cities

After the tour was over, an employee of the Ministry of Industry and Electricity presented a detailed account which gave some information about the two industrial cities--both the new one and the existing one. This information told us the following:

The existing industrial city, which was built previously, is located along the road between al-Khubar and Dammam. Its total area is 2,217,441 square meters, and it is divided up into three sections. The first section covers an area of 570,348.66 square meters, and contains a total of 82 land plots. The second section covers a total area of 994,653.58 square meters, and contains a total of 118 land plots. The third section covers a total area of 652,438.8 square meters, and contains a total of 120 land plots.

The existing industrial city has a total of 88 plants which are already producing. Furthermore, it has 5 other plants which are under construction, and later on will have 15 more plants, the construction of which has not begun yet.

The New Industrial City

The new Dammam industrial city is located along the road to Buqayq [Abqayq]. It covers a total area of 24 million square meters, and is divided up into three sections.

The total area of the first section is 2.8 million square meters, and contains a total of 324 land plots. The second section, which is still under construction, covers a total area of 4.2 million square meters, and contains a total of 316 land plots. The new industrial city has 22 plants which are already producing, 15 more plants have nearly been completed, and still 9 more plants are under construction. There are still 23 more plants which have been contracted to be built but on which construction still has not begun.

Features and Services

The two industrial cities in Dammam have public services and utilities which include water supply and sewage networks, systems for draining rainwater and flash-flood water, electric power networks, and networks of paved asphalt roads inside these cities which are lit [at night]. In addition to this, there is a workshop in the industrial city where some spare parts and molds for the plants are made. There are also other basic services such as a bank, post office, police station, clinic, restaurant, mosque, and civil defense headquarters.

The land on which the plants are located is rented out at the nominal fee of 8 halalahs [100 halalahs = 1 riyal] per square meter per year. Furthermore, land inside the new industrial city will be set aside for housing for workers in the residential city inside the city.

During the Visit

All of the journalists had praise for the arrangements and work which had been undertaken by the administration of the Dammam industrial city--in particular for the work done by the following two employees of the industrial city: Ibrahim al-Thabit, vice director of industrial administration, and 'Abd-al-Latif al-Salih, head of the industrial division in the administration. Their work made the job of the journalists easier and was done as well as one could possibly have wished.

Our colleague Sami al-Damigh al-Muhammad, in the newspaper office in Dammam, also deserves our thanks for the efforts which he expended to serve his journalist colleagues who were sent to Dammam by AL-RIYAD, and his efforts facilitated their task and made their stay a pleasant one.

9468

CSO: 4404/582

BRIEFS

IDB-MOROCCAN AGREEMENT--An agreement was signed today at the Islamic Development Bank in Jidda, according to which the bank will finance a deal for importing crude oil for Morocco worth \$25 million. [Excerpt] [GF060700 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Oct 83]

INMARSAT MEMBERSHIP ACCORD--Dr Alawi Darwish Kayyal, posts, telephones and telegraph minister, today signed an agreement in Jidda according to which the kingdom becomes a full member in Inmarsat, the International Maritime Satellite Organization. [GF060700 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Oct 83]

OIL RESERVE FIGURES --Jidda, 21 Sep (SPA)--Kingdom's oil reserve is expected to last for 148 years and are liable to increase based on study conducted by the Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ministry on the volume of production, international demand, market capabilities and the kingdom's need for cash, an official source at the ministry said here today. In reply to a question by the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY (SPA) he said this estimation was based on reserves until 1982 with the addition of 20 percent for new normal explorations during the upcoming two or three decades. "The period of reserve depends wholly on the volume of annual production. It decreases when production increases and increases when the production decreases," he added. [Excerpt] [LD220250 Riyadh SPA in English 1333 GMT 21 Sep 83]

CSO: 4400/16

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND'S ANNUAL REPORT, FUTURE PLANS CITED

Details From Annual Report

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 7 Aug 83 p 2

[Text] The annual report of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, published yesterday, says that the total sum of the loans advanced by the fund from its establishment up to the end of 1982 totaled 3,729,200,000 dirhams, the total sum advanced in technical aid totaled 1,718,000 dirhams and total investments amounted to 185 million dirhams. Meanwhile, the fund manages or supervises projects totally or partially financed by the Abu Dhabi Government costing 2,312,079,000 dirhams.

The report adds that the fund's loans have financed 83 projects in 40 developing countries, including 43 in 12 Arab countries representing 74 percent of the total sum of the loans advanced by the fund, 26 projects in 18 African countries representing 8 percent of the total value of the loans, 11 projects in 8 Asian countries representing 13 percent of the value of all loans and 3 projects in Malta and Turkey representing 3 percent of the total sum.

The annual report of the Abu Dhabi Fund adds that the loans advanced have focused on financing infrastructure and production projects in the developing countries, advancing 49 percent of all loans to 25 projects in the industrial sector, with 24 percent of the total amount of the loans advanced for water and electricity projects, 12 percent for 14 agricultural and fish resources projects and 13 percent for transportation, road and storage projects, whereas only 2 loans representing 2 percent of the total amount of the loans have been advanced to hotels and the tourism sector.

The loans advanced by the fund last year totaled 242 million dirhams, of which 43.39 percent were channeled to industrial projects, 14.25 percent to water and electricity projects and 41.32 percent to agricultural and fish resources projects.

Plans for New Projects

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 25 Aug 83 p 2

[Text] The Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development is currently studying plans to finance new projects in Arab, African and Asian countries totaling in

cost nearly 2,877,450,000 dirhams, including three projects in Arab countries costing 740 million dirhams.

This is stated by the fund's latest annual report, which points out that these projects are:

The Risut cement project in the Sultanate of Oman with an annual production capacity of 210,000 tons of ordinary cement and salt-resisting cement. The project is to be set up near the city of Sallalah at a cost of 192 million dirhams. In addition to the fund, the government of the Sultanate of Oman, the Oman Development Bank, the Islamic Bank and the private sector participate in the capital and financing.

A project in Tunisia to develop (al-Jadid) oases at a cost of 222 million dirhams. The project calls for improving the conditions of nearly 3,361 hectares of oases lands in southern Tunisia and seeks to increase foreign currency revenues by 5 million Tunisian dinars as the result of exporting Daflat al-Nur dates.

The project also seeks to provide 2,600 seasonal work opportunities and to increase the production per hectare by an average 2.1 tons [of dates]. The Tunisian Government participates with the fund in the project.

A project in Djibouti to build a cement plant costing 326 million dirhams with a capacity of 300,000-350,000 tons of cement annually. The project is to be set up in the area of ('Ali Subayh), located 91 kilometers from Djibouti, the capital. Four Arab and African development banks are to participate in the project along with the Abu Dhabi Fund.

A project to enlarge (Mitsamiouli) Port in the Republic of the Comoro Islands at a cost of 166.5 million dirhams. The project calls for lengthening the present pier by 250 meters. Four other circles are to participate in the project, along with the Abu Dhabi Fund.

A plan to finance the first part of the (Jikiro-Nzevekore) highway in Guinea. This part is 132 kilometers long and costs \$96,211,000, or nearly 355.9 million dirhams.

A project to develop irrigated crops in the river delta of the Republic of Senegal at a cost of \$180 million, or nearly 666 million dirhams.

The project for the (Bambona) electricity dam in the Republic of Sierra Leone at a cost of 949,050,000 dirhams. This project calls for building a 70-meter high rock dam with a storage capacity of 225 million cubic meters, an electricity plant with a capacity of 33.9 megawatts and powerlines with a capacity of 33 kilovolts.

A project to finance the purchase of cargo ships for the Republic of the Maldives and to enlarge the present fleet of the government-owned Maldives Shipping Company through the purchase of used cargo ships with a capacity of 15-18 tons.

MEASURES ADOPTED TO ELIMINATE POWER SHORTAGE

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 30 Jul 83 p 2

[Text] With the aim of bringing about an all-round improvement and completion of the energy base of the country's economy through the development and reconstruction of power generating installations and existing power lines; the creation of new projects, the construction of a unified power system for the country, the Ministry of Electric Power, in accordance with the 11th resolution passed by the plenum of the Central Committee and the decision of the Political Bureau of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), has taken basic measures in the year March 83-March 84 to carry out plans for generating power throughout the country. Essential and effective steps have been taken to put these plans into effect.

Practical measures in this regard include the training of cadres in the field of energy; raising the vocational knowledge of workers with the help of the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education in the training centre of the Ministry of Communications; arranging work competitions in organizations and offices; introducing the system of coordination in organizations dealing with production and construction; the creation of new repair groups and the providing of existing groups with respect to facilities and personnel in order to carry out repairs in high voltage stations and power lines.

According to a source at the planning department of the Ministry of Electric power, other basic measures for carrying out this year's plan include: completion of the installations connected with the placement of new gas turbines in the third quarter of the current year; construction and installation of a temporary transformer in the northwest substation and the new substation in the north in the current year; installation of diesel generators in Herat and construction and installation of transfer powerline from the diesel generators opposite Silo to the city of Herat, a distance of 7 kilometers, completion of hydroelectric projects in Fayzabad, Urban network in Mazar-i Sharif, diesel power generating projects in the provinces of Badghays, Paktia, Laghman, and Subdistrict of Khost; construction and installation of the switching station workshop at the center for Electric Power Constructions is expected to be partially completed by the end of this summer and totally completed by the end of winter. According to the resolution of the 11th Plenum of the Central Committee and the resolution of the PDPA Politbureau, administrative steps have been taken and organizational shape given to the execution of long term and

short term development plans. Also, plans for the generation and distribution of electric power; permanent control of the plan's adaptation, generation and distribution of electric power and help in the execution of these plans have been worked out.

Supply and installation of 2 generating stations for the area of Gulbahar with a capacity of 7 megawatts; preparation of power units in the capital and the provinces to meet winter peak loads; repair of lines in Kajki, Lashkargah, Qandhar; Naghlu-Gulbahar line; 110-kw lines and stations are all included in the basic measures for carrying out electric power plans in the country.

In carrying out the plans drawn up by the Ministries of Interior, National Defense, Transport, State Committee for Planning, Finance, Bank of Afghanistan and the general directorate in charge of Oil Products and Sugar, provincial committees in the concerned provinces each have, in turn, been assigned basic responsibilities for maintaining security, providing free foreign currency for the purchase of technical material to help out the technical facilities existing in the country's ministries as well as obtaining oil products for storage in tanks for heating and diesel energy.

The Ministry of Electric Power is certain that by receiving assistance from concerned authorities and by undertaking basic measures aimed at generating electric power in the current year, it will be able to carry out the prepared plans.

9863

CSO: 4665/14

AFGHANISTAN

SWEDISH JOURNALIST GIVES EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF WAR

Lisbon O JORNAL in Portuguese 16 Sep 83 pp 12-14

/Special report by Swedish journalist Katarina Engberg/

/Text/ "Do you really believe that the Russians can conquer these mountains?" asks Alim Jan, mujahidin resistance fighter--he is on the snow-covered peaks of the Hindu Kush mountains--and asserts: "We will defend this white purity from Russian barbarism. Afghanistan is our fatherland and resistance is our heritage."

"The Russians wanted to get another country and thought it would be so simple to occupy Afghanistan, like Bukhara (Soviet city in Uzbekistan). But this country is not going to be crushed. The British tried three times and did not succeed," he continued.

After 4 years of war, the desire of the Afghan people to resist remains intact. But the country is severely devastated by the war and the terrible lack of food that exists can cause a new wave of flight to Pakistan.

In the short term, neither the resistance movements nor the Soviets can change the course of the war in their favor.

The Soviets are already having serious problems to continue supporting the Kabul regime. For the Soviets, a new regime is in fact necessary. That is why they attach so much importance to the negotiations between Pakistan and the Afghan Government promoted by the United Nations with a view resolution of the conflict.

More Than 3 Million Refugees

The resistance movements are not represented in those negotiations and fear that a solution may be found behind their backs. Their nightmare is to see another pro-Soviet Government with Islamic participation arise and gain international support, which would enable the USSR to reduce its military presence in Afghanistan. Pakistan could then close the refugee camps and send the 3.5 million refugees back to Afghanistan.

Many of the refugees might not feel safe enough to return to their country, and the resistance movements would be left without their base in Pakistan.

That is the general feeling among exiled Afghan leaders in Peshawar where a hardening of the position of Pakistani authorities has been noted. The movements of Afghan exiles have received orders to move their headquarters from Peshawar to other parts of the country and the resistance newspapers are going to be closed.

As for the population in Afghanistan, in April, May and June, it was subjected to the heaviest bombing since the war began.

Bombings

The Russians agreed to a ceasefire with the best-known Massoud resistance leaders of the Panjsher Valley, which was heavily attacked last year. In the meantime, there has been an increase of bombings throughout the country.

Thousands of inhabitants of the districts of Parwan and Shomali, north of Kabul, came to take refuge in the capital after there were bombings in that region which killed hundreds.

The city of Herat, in the northwestern part of the country, was bombed continuously during the second half of April. It is believed that 3,000 people were killed and half of the city was left in ruins.

Here in the province of Kunar, in northeastern Afghanistan, the situation is "relatively calm." Nevertheless, there is not a day without fighting. For 5 days, MiG planes bombed a mountain of the Hindu Kush. When the fighters passed over the imposing peaks of the mountain in the direction of their targets in the valley, it seemed as absurd as if one was in a peaceful mountain in northern Sweden and saw Russian warplanes pass by. But the difference is that the Afghan valleys are heavily populated and each bombing wave means more dead.

"Watch out for the antipersonnel mines," warns Commander Mammur, when we make our way toward the Kunar River. He picks up a camouflaged land mine: a brown plastic package the size of a pack of cigarettes. The antipersonnel mines are dropped by helicopter and spread over the roads. They can prevent the men of the resistance from moving during the night. If anyone steps on a mine it causes the liquid inside it to detonate and the explosion can blow off a foot. The injury can be fatal if there is not quick medical assistance.

"The Russians dropped antipersonnel mines in my field," complained a farmer who had invited us to have tea. "How can I gather the wheat now? Last year they dropped incendiary bombs during the harvest. This year I, myself, am going to have to be the one to burn the area near the road."

We waited for sunset in the farmer's hut to be able to cross the Kunar River. During the day, the river is patrolled by heavily-armed Russian "Hind" helicopters.

The Caravan

The river bank was full of mujahidins waiting for transportation. The donkey caravan was loaded with ammunition and antitank weapons coming from Pakistan. The majority of the mujahidins had exchanged their old weapons for Soviet or Chinese-made Kalashnikovs.

There was no longer any snow in the mountain passes of Afghanistan and the resistance movements could begin the summer offensive, better armed than last year.

But the resistance complains that only part of the arms aid that comes from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, China and the United States reaches the guerrillas who are inside the country.

Who Gets the Arms

Thefts of arms, which pass from the Pakistani receivers and passers of stolen goods to the Afghanis, are common.

It is the groups of Afghan exiles that receive the arms and to get a weapon one has to be a member of a party.

"The parties only divide us," declares a fighter, "but what can we do? As long as we are not self-sufficient in arms, we have to continue to join the parties. And we join several parties at the same time to obtain more arms."

It was not yet nightfall when we took our place in the raft on which we were going to cross the river. The mujahidins intoned verses from the Koran for Allah to protect us. Upstream the sky was sometimes lit up by artillery fire. Government forces responded to the Russian Dysjka machinegun fire of the mujahidins. Further down, government soldiers fired aimlessly into the night to protect the buttresses of the bridge.

The number of Afghan soldiers has dropped to 30,000 since the war began. Recruitment is not sufficient to fill the vacancies caused by desertions.

They are in charge of guarding the main roads of isolated places, while the Russian soldiers are stationed in the large population centers. Their control of the territory is limited to the range of their weapons, but the major part of Afghanistan is controlled by the resistance movements. Here in the fertile Kunar Valley, half of the population fled to Pakistan.

But in the village on the other side of the river, the population decided to stay to maintain traffic over the river, which is vital to it. We crossed the main highway between Jallalabad and Aszdabad, which is patrolled by mujahidins. About 50 of them are lying down sleeping the moonlight behind some cliffs.

The resistance learned that a military convoy is going to pass in the morning and several hundred mujahidins are going to attack it. But by that time we will already be in the Hindu Kush mountains and will only learn what happened several days later when a dead mujahidin was brought for burial.

At first the attack was successful. The government soldiers suffered heavy casualties and lost two tanks. Fighting continued all day and, when night came, the driver of a tank launched an attack against the mujahidins and began to fire. The Russian troops also opened fire from a city located some kilometers away.

Gul Rahman, tribal chief, is bitter: "The Afghanis are forced to kill Afghanis while the Russians are well-protected in their helicopters and fighters. And we do not even have antiair weapons to defend ourselves."

In fact, of about 10 SAM-7's sent by Egypt to the resistance, only a few reached the hands of the guerrillas. The Pakistani authorities kept the rest, the mujahidins believe, because they fear to irritate the Russians.

Gul Rahman and the mujahidins ask themselves if the Russians are going to attack the valley as a reprisal for the attack against the military convoy. "It is not very likely. This time, only Afghanis were killed, not Russians," explains Commander Mammur.

But at a Soviet base somewhere in the Kunar Valley, the decision was different: in reprisal, MiG fighters were going to begin an attack lasting several days against the poor village in the valley.

The Swedish Clinic

"What are you waiting for? For the Russians to begin bombing?" tribal chief Abdella Khan walks from side to side, anxiously. He wants us to conclude our visit to the "Swedish clinic" in the Nuran Valley quickly.

Yesterday, Russian fighters bombed Fahrid Valley. Will it be the turn of Nuran Valley today?

It was the time of the second prayer of the Moslem ritual, which is the early morning one.

At six in the morning, there are already people under the trees waiting for Hakkim, the medical aide who is going to open the clinic. Hakkim gathers several persons and takes them to the terrace of the stone house where the clinic is located.

A farmer rented the house for that purpose and is now one of the three guards who are at the door with "Kalashnikovs" on their shoulders.

Medicine

For the first time since the war began in 1978, tens of thousands of inhabitants of the valley now have access to primary health care. The International Aid Department of Sweden granted a subsidy of 1 million kronor for this clinic in the province of Kunar in northeast Afghanistan and there are seven other similar facilities in other parts of the country.

When the caravan loaded with medicines arrived in the valley 7 months ago, the tribal chiefs sent men who guaranteed the protection of the goods in the house chosen for the clinic.

"All the tribes and groups of the valley were pleased with the clinic and pledged to guarantee its safety," declared Abdella Khan.

It is an important guarantee because if any group considered itself improperly treated by the personnel of the clinic, the cooperation of the population would be different. Medicines and drugs give authority in this Afghanistan at war.

Four Thousand Patients in 3 Months

From the province of Kunar, a patient can be taken in only a few days to be treated in the refugee centers of Pakistan. But in the interior of the country, there is not that possibility.

In only 1 hour, Hakkim had time to see 10 patients. He prescribed an antibiotic to a child with a throat infection, and gave the necessary medicine to the mother of a child with roundworms.

At the end of 3 months of work, the medicines have begun to be in short supply and Doctor Rahman, who directs the activities of the clinic, goes to Peshawar in Pakistan to prepare a new supply of medicines over the mountain.

Hakkim changes the dressing on the head of a boy. The mother thinks I am a doctor and takes me to a corner to show me her varicose veins.

The clinic has a lack of women personnel, a lack which the population complains about often. In Afghanistan it is absolutely unthinkable for a doctor to examine a female stranger.

The register shows that the clinic cared for 4,000 patients in 3 months. About 40 were mujahidins with burns or bullet-wounds.

In the Swedish clinic, Hakkim and Doctor Rahman render only primary health care but for the inhabitants of Nuran Valley the arrival of the clinic was a great event. "And it proved that the world has not forgotten the Afghan people and their struggle," adds Abdella Khan. "We are going to continue our struggle against Russian occupation, even if we do not receive any aid from abroad. But they should support us because, with our bodies, we are holding back a barbarous enemy that threatens the democracy and independence of the whole world."

A large part of the population of Nuran Valley has already visited the clinic-- few for actually being ill; the majority out of the pure curiosity of being "examined by a doctor."

In all the villages we visited, there was the idea that the clinic should be transferred to larger facilities so that the patients could also remain overnight, because at the present time, they have to go to the mosque.

There are suggestions of various houses which the population would be willing to grant for this purpose, however, one of the rooms would have to be kept for the council of tribal chiefs, for their usual meetings. And what if we started a school? The children have been without a school since 1978 and we only need teaching material. As for teachers, there are various youths with the necessary qualifications. The school could operate in a tent set up close to the mountain so that the risks of bombing will be minimal.

One cannot forget the war and the military aspects. There are bombed houses in all the village and behind the clinic building itself, there are the remains of a bomb.

"Here Comes a MiG"

The light of the rising sun begins to rise in the mountain when Hakkim pauses in his work and explains to me how he became a medical aide.

"I fled to Pakistan at the time of the Russian invasion in 1979. Last year, the League of Afghan Doctors asked the tribal chiefs of the valley if they knew of a youth with secondary school education who could take a medical aide course in Peshawar. They chose me.

"I am from this valley and can be useful to the population. It is my way of taking part in the 'jihad,' the holy war."

But Hakkim was interrupted by a strange mechanical sound. "Here comes a MiG," somebody shouts.

It is two Russian fighters that are coming toward the valley and we have to take shelter among some blocks of stone. They pass over us in three as published waves and continue on in the direction of Ganzara Valley, which is the next one over from Nuran Valley. And the clear sound of bomb explosions can be heard from the other side of the pass.

This time, the target of the bombings was not the villages of Nuran Valley. But in Ganzara Valley, 10 persons were killed.

The Granary Is Empty

"The Russians prefer to see us starve to death so that they will not have to send troops and risk suffering casualties. We are being subjected to a purposeful economic siege. But we are not going to give up and run to Pakistan. We are going to continue the struggle with empty stomachs. It is better to die by a bullet than to die slowly of hunger."

So said Muhammed Asri, a farmer of Nuran Valley who, like others, is even more concerned about the lack of food than the Russian bombings.

A scientific analysis made by the former professor of agronomy of the University of Kabul, Azam Gul, revealed that Afghan agriculture fell sharply and during 1982 production was only one-fifth what it was before the war.

Azam Gul wants intervention by the United Nations.

"If Afghanistan and its people survive," he declared, "they are going to need food, seeds and fertilizers, which have to be imported into the regions that the government does not control."

Bread and Yogurt

The food aid of the United Nations is directed only to the 4 million refugees that are in Pakistan and Iran. The pro-Soviet Afghan Government is recognized by the United Nations and, for that reason, that organization declares that it cannot aid the 10 million Afghans--the majority of the population--who live in the regions controlled by the resistance movements.

To achieve a military victory in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union has to increase its troops and cause an escalation of the war. For that reason, the threat of starvation is an effective weapon by itself. Besides that, it can force new waves of refugees to Pakistan next winter. And if the population flees, what happens to the resistance?

It is the inhabitants of the villages who give the mujahidins bread and yogurt and a mat to sleep on. The mujahidins themselves are also farmers who took up arms against the war-machine of the superpower.

It is precisely the vestiges of the war that attract one's attention the most in Nuran Valley. In all the villages, there are huts destroyed by the bombs and in the roads there are spent Russian explosives with the marking: "Contains explosive material."

The inhabitants blocked the only highway there was to the valley so that the tanks would not have any access to the village.

A Button With the Hammer and Sickle

In 1981 and 1982, Russian airborne troops arrived and could only be pushed out with the aid of mujahidins of neighboring villages.

In the cemeteries, there are still white flags over the graves of the numerous war victims.

On the day of our visit, the inhabitants of Nuran Valley were frightened over the possibility of reprisal because of the attack the mujahidins had made against a military convoy.

The inhabitants had fled to the mountain caves where they took their few belongings. They would only return to the villages at night, when the risk of bombing would be minimal.

We are ready to leave the home of Muhammed Asri but first the mujahidin is still going to pray in the village mosque. When he is about to leave, women and children arrive and look at me in surprise. Muhammed Asri explains to me: "Our women are nervous because of the war. They asked me if you are on our side or that of the enemy. They are afraid that you are a Russian prisoner but I told them that you come from a friendly country, Sweden, on the other side of Russia."

An old woman comes near me. She has flower appliques on her dress and a button from a Russian uniform with the hammer and sickle. She takes my hand and says: "We would like to give you the best gifts but we cannot, and we do not even have wheat bread to give you, only corn bread."

Muhammed Asri is a mujahidin and he carries a Kalashnikov on his shoulder. But he is also a farmer and he is concerned about the destruction of agriculture: "The bombs destroy us but the worst thing is the hunger. Last year at this time, the Russians entered my house and killed my chickens, goats and cows. They ate some and they left the rest to rot. We saw what they were doing from the caves where we were hidden for 4 days, and our children screamed out of hunger and fear. That is why our people are so nervous; you will have to try to understand the women.

Muhammed Asri raises wheat in a small plot close to a stream. It the water of the Hindu Kush mountains which gives life to the valley, through a system of canals.

But the grain from these narrow strips is not enough for the daily needs of the inhabitants.

Muhammed Asri and other farmers earned money building highways in Kunar Valley and houses in Kabul but the war ended that work for them. In order to buy wheat, Muhammed today sells his last goats. Before the war, he had 60 but with the bombings and those he had to sell, today he has only 5.

The Prewar Granary

The majority of the inhabitants of the province of Kunar is in an identical situation to that of Muhammed Asri, although before the war this province was the granary of Afghanistan. And further in the interior, the situation is even worse.

At the end of Nuran Valley, a farmer is trying to fill the crater caused by a bomb which left him almost without a road. There is a group of men and they will make their way to the mountain with 7-kilo bags of flour on their backs, flour which they purchased at the entrance of the valley. Protected by darkness, the farmers succeed in passing the government posts and reaching the entrance of the valley, which is patrolled by local mujahidins.

"Do you see the reactionary feudal lords that the government says it is fighting?" says my guide, Abdel Ahed, sarcastically. We look at that group of laden men.

Abdel Ahed is an agronomist and specialist in nutrition. He recently fled to Pakistan after having spent 8 months in Pul-I-Kharki prison in the vicinity of Kabul. He said he was sent there because he refused "to defend the revolution" during his biochemistry classes.

8711

CSO: 3542/219

GOVERNMENT CONTRADICTS PRESS REPORTS ON INDUSTRIES

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 14 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

The Government categorically denied in Dhaka on Monday night as false, baseless and motivated reports appearing in a section of the press that two profitable industrial concerns were being sold to the foreigners at nominal prices, reports BSS.

The Ministry of Industries and Commerce said that attention of the government had been drawn to two reports published on Monday in two Bengali dailies which alleged the sales.

The dailies carried headlines "Two profitable concerns were being handed over to foreigners at nominal prices" and "Arrangements are complete to sell two profitable concerns at nominal prices" respectively.

For public information the Government gave the following clarification:

The decision to sell abandoned industries to the Bangladeshis through disinvestment is a part of the whole programme undertaken by the Government to revitalise the economy for national interest through framing a realistic and liberal industrial policy.

The abandoned industries are sold only to the Bangladeshis at maximum prices through open tenders. It may be mentioned here that valuations are fixed at market prices by recognised chartered accountant firms accor-

ding to existing accounting principles and rules before the sale of those industries. If the maximum quoted prices in the tenders are higher than the prices fixed by the chartered accountant firms then the shares of those industries will be sold at those higher prices. So, no question can arise of selling an industrial concern worth Taka 20 crore at only Taka seven lakh.

Moreover, the industrial concerns are sold to the Bangladeshi owners only after assessing their real ownership and nationality in accordance with the principles of existing disinvestment policy and at maximum prices either quoted in the tenders or valuation which ever is higher. For this reason the owner has to buy his own portion as well as the abandoned ones at proper price. So far no abandoned industrial establishment has been sold to any Pakistani citizen, the release said.

According to last year's estimates Quraishi Steel Mills Limited and Khulna Industrial and Trading Corporation Limited suffered losses of Taka 54.40 lakh and Taka 37.61 lakh respectively. Besides these losses, the two concerns have loans of approximately Taka 3.3 crore and Taka 4.25 crore and these burdens are

gradually increasing. It is not only exaggerated but also false that the Quraishi Steel Mills Limited has property worth Taka 20 crore. According to last year's estimate the concern has only immovable property of Taka 35.47 lakh only.

The report about deposit of Tk. 70 lakh to the government fund by these industrial concerns each year was quite false baseless. Rather these two units could not deposit any money at all to the Government fund in the last financial year due to suffering of losses.

Moreover, there is the possibility of suffering losses by these units in the current financial year also.

The reports which claimed that these units have been depositing Tk. two crore in the government fund in every year as revenue were not true but in fact they deposited only Tk 33.43 lakh to the government fund as revenue last year.

The area of the land where these two units are situated measures approximately 12.62 acre, not 30 acre and the prices of machineries and buildings are Tk. 50 lakh, not 40 crore.

The reports which claimed that these units had profitted Tk. 6/7 crore during the last ten

years after repaying the loan of the non-Bengalees is also false.

It is not also true that one thousand persons are being employed in these units. The number of officials, employees and workers are 330.

According to government policy no official, employee or worker is terminated from job after disinvestment.

It is clear in the above mentioned facts that the published reports are false, fabricated, exaggerated, motivated and confused.

The Government is selling the abandoned properties through disinvestment in a bid to accelerate the pace of national economic development, not on the basis of profit and loss.

It is also mentionable that the abandoned properties are being sold along with all sorts of liabilities and wear and tear.

President Ahsanuddin Chowdhury has sent a message of felicitations to Commandant General De Brigade Joao Bernardo Vieira, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau on the occasion of the National Day of Guinea-Bissau, reports BSS.

The President extended his best wishes for the health and happiness of Commandant

Vieira and for the well-being and prosperity of the people of Guinea-Bissau.

The Chief Martial Law Administrator H.M. Ershad has also sent a similar message to Commandant General De Brigade Joao Bernardo Vieira, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau on the same occasion.

HAILB MARIAM

President Ahsanuddin Chowdhury has felicitated to Lt Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of Central Committee of the Commission for organising the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia, on the occasion of the National Day of Ethiopia.

In a message, the President extended best wishes for the health and happiness of the Chairman and for well-being and prosperity of the people of Ethiopia.

The Chief Martial Law Administrator has also sent a similar message to Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of Central Committee of the Commission for organising the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia on the same occasion.

ERSHAD: DHAKA TO STICK TO ELECTION SCHEDULE

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 15 Sep 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

DOMAR (Rangpur), Sept 14 (BSS): The CMLA Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad, today declared that his government will stick to the election schedule already announced and the development programmes initiated to reshape political, economic and social life of the nation.

The CMLA was addressing two mammoth gatherings, one at Birampur in Dinajpur District and the other at Domar in Rangpur district while upgrading these two thanas into upazillas.

He said the people want that local bodies elections should be held before the general elections. They also want to see the implementation of the development programmes. "By now I have visited many places, even the remotest corners of the country, and everywhere I witnessed people's enthusiasm and determination in favour of both the election schedule and the 18-point programme".

When Gen Ershad asked the mammoth gatherings whether or not they also wanted the same, the spontaneous reply came in one voice "we also want it." He said, "I know your mind. Nobody can change the commitments we have made to the nation and specially when you want us to keep them."

The CMLA said it has been amply manifested that the people preferred democracy to start from the grass-root level. The vast majority who live in villages no longer want to remain deprived of their due share of the political and economic gains which in the past had remained confined to a fortunate few in the cities and towns some of whom are now making a plea for holding the general election before the local bodies elections.

He said the poor people have seen enough of exploitation and deprivation and they are now becoming conscious of their rights to live like human beings. They have found a sense of direction in the plans and programmes of the present government which is committed to improve the lot of the teeming millions.

Gen. Ershad said, the government's commitment to bring about a change in the condition of the 63 thousand villages is now under implementation through various reformative measures. The 18-point programme which spells out the aims and objectives of the present government, are directed towards achieving the economic emancipation. This programme, he added, is a charter of survival of the nation to which it belongs.

Gen. Ershad said, there has been enough wastage of resources, time and energy in the past. Now it is time, we all should make honest endeavour and put in hard labour for the successful implementation of the programme.

He said, amidst thunderous applause "we have paved the way for your survival with a fresh determination. We have taken a number of bold steps to bring about changes in different spheres of life. We have taken the government to your door steps. You have only heard of the government in the past, but not seen it. We can now see it, feel it and use it for your maximum benefit."

Referring to the responsibilities of the people following the decentralisation of administration, Gen. Ershad once again urged them to elect honest and capable persons to the upa-zilla parishads. "You should elect a man who will understand your problems, share your sufferings and devote his life for improving your condition."

He said another important responsibility of the villagers is to work in close cooperation with the upazilla parishads for the development of their respective areas.

The CMLA said the programme of upgrading the country's thanas into upazillas is being implemented in fulfilment of the government's commitment to materialise the hopes and aspirations of the people and ensure their basic needs like food, clothing, housing education and medicare.

Amidst full throated welcome slogans, Gen. Ershad said, "I have come to you to share your hardships and sufferings. I like to see smiles on your faces. If necessary I will give the last drop of my blood to see you happy."

POPULATION EXPLOSION

Referring to the danger of population explosion, he said it is blocking the country's progress and also depriving the people of the benefits of development. The population boom, he pointed out, must be checked for survival and future progress of the nation.

LAND REFORM

The CMLA said the land reform introduced by the government is aimed at boosting agriculture production and improving the condition of the farmers. "This will create a new chapter in the lives of the farmers by ensuring a secured livelihood and rights to their homestead," he added.

Gen. Ershad spoke of the measures undertaken by the government to ensure the rightful place of women in the society and said laws have already been enacted to protect their interests. He, however, said women should build up social resistance against all sorts of injustices and persecutions to them.

CALL TO STUDENTS

The CMLA reiterated his call to the students to go to the villaehs during their off time and vacations to help the people in their efforts to improve the socio economic

condition in the rural areas. He told them that they are the future hopes of the nation and they should prepare themselves accordingly.

Later, Gen. Ershad unveiled the plaques of upa-zillas both at Domar and Birampur and joined the people in offering munajat for the progress of the country.

The CMLA also planted saplings at both the places. The Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Mr Christopher Westdal and the Ambassador of Republic of Korea, Mr Kie Yul Moon who accompanied the CMLA from Dhaka also joined him in planting saplings at both the places.

The Principal Staff Officer to the CMLA, Major General Atiqur Rahman and the Zonal Martial Law Administrator, Zone 'B' Major General Abdus Salam were present on the occasion.

At Birampur, the CMLA while discussing the local problems, assured the people that the road from Birampur to Gobindaganj will be metalled. He also sanctioned Taka five lakh for the development of Birampur. He donated Taka five lakh to complete unfinished construction of the local college and Taka two lakh for the girls high school.

At Domar, he donated Taka five lakh for the local college, Taka five lakh for Chilahati College and Taka two lakh each for Domar Boys High School and the Girls High School.

NEW NATION TOLD OF ILLEGAL ACTION BY TOAHA

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 8 Sep 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Mr Mohammad Toaha, Chairman of Samaybadi Dal, took the shelter of the 15-party alliance in a hurry-scurry way as the party was investigating the charges against him, Prof Yaqub Ali, General Secretary of the party told the New Nation.

He said when Mr Toaha realised that majority of the central committee members were in favour of action against him, he resorted to his old style of operation. He tried to give the whole thing a so-called political colour and divide the party, he said.

Prof Yaqub said, the central committee meeting he (Mr. Toaha) called on August 17 and 18 and later on September 1 and 2 was unconstitutional and illegal, because a requisitioned council meeting of the party had already been called. So the

decision of the August 1 and 2 central committee meeting to relieve him (Prof. Yaqub) along with three other committee members of the party responsibility was also illegal, he said.

Moreover, only ten out of 23 central committee members attended the September 1 and 2 meeting convened by Mr Toaha, which took the decision to replace him as General Secretary of the party, he said. According to the constitution, simple majority is necessary for a forum of the committee meeting, he said.

Pointing out his ideological deviation Prof Yaqub Ali said, when Mr Toaha felt certain that the party leadership was determined to take action against him on the basis of the charges some of which he himself admitted to be true, he started to establish contact with the

pro-Moscow political part including Communist Party of Bangladesh.

A three-member inquiry committee headed by Prof Yaqub Ali was formed in 1981 to investigate the charges brought against Mr Toaha by central committee member Mr. Shanti Sen and others. Later Mr. Alauddin Ahmed, another member of the central committee also brought similar charges against him.

The inquiry committee decided to submit its report at the party congress held in March, 1982 at Bhairab. However, following a decision of the central committee not to place the report before the congress in the greater interest of unity of the party, the inquiry report was withheld. But the committee remained in existence and continued its investigation.

CSO: 4600/1023

EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATION ABSORPTION SCHEME INITIATED

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 1 Sep 83 pp 1, 7

[Article by Hassan Abul Quashem]

[Text]

The government has instructed all the concerned financial institutions to implement the "Exchange rate fluctuation burden absorption scheme" from the beginning of the current financial year (1983-84). The scheme was announced by the Finance Minister in his budget speech in June last.

The Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance and Planning has worked out the modus operandi of the scheme, which will be applicable for both public and private sector industrial projects. The scheme has been designed for the purpose of giving protection to the individual borrowers from the abnormal exchange rate fluctuation and thus neutralising the effect on the project through absorbing the shock.

The borrowers will, however, have their option in taking the protection provided under the scheme. The borrowers will have to exercise their option and execute appropriate documents by December 31 this year in case of loans granted before July 1 and on or before the date of opening of the first letter of credit in case of loans sanctioned after July this year.

The scheme will not be applicable to those projects which are covered by the specific provisions of any foreign credit agreement. The government has, however, made it clear that the borrowers' claim of providing benefit will not be entertained in case of fluctuations of the exchange rate in favour of Taka.

The Bangladesh Bank will enforce the scheme initially for five years with effect from July this year and will be applicable in case of all foreign currency loans which will be fully or partly disbursed between July this year and June 30 of the year 1988.

Under this scheme all the foreign currency loans will be converted into Taka at the exchange rate prevailing on the date of each disbursement of foreign currency loans and the borrower will be protected from the exchange rate fluctuations in repayment of a premium of 2.5 per cent per annum on the initial loan amount and the outstanding loan. The ministry has worked out six categories of obligations. There is also a provision of penal rate of interest in case of default.

The Bangladesh Bank will administer the scheme and all foreign exchange premium including the penalty premium received by the financial institutions will be deposited with the Bangladesh Bank. The amount will be deposited under foreign currency transaction adjustment account. All risks of fluctuation will be borne by Bangladesh Bank in exchange of premium deposited to the account.

In case of projects where last instalment of foreign currency loans was to be disbursed before July this year, a net excess exchange risk burden has been worked out in four different ways.

In respect of loans disbursed before July 1982, an initial exchange rate (IER) will be determined as the rate prevailing on July 1, 1975 or on the date when the last instalment of foreign currency loan was disbursed. It

will also determine the amount and principal and interest to be recovered in respect of foreign currency loan during the period from July 1, 1975 (or the last disbursement date whichever is later) to June 30 of 1982 applying the IER throughout this period of payment. The recoverable amount of F.C. loan during the same period will also be determined according to the prevailing rate on the date each sum is due.

No borrower will be entitled to have this benefit of the scheme unless he had made down payment of at least 5 per cent of the overdues as on June 30, 1982 in case of preliberation projects and 10 per cent of the overdues in case of post-liberation projects. The fluctuation shock will also be neutralised by way of converting a part of the burden into either redeemable preferential share-holding or debenture holding of the lending institutions in the project company.

CSO: 4600/1017

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MALTA--The Government have decided to concurrently accredit Commodore Mujibur Rahman, at present Bangladesh Ambassador to Libya as Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malta, reports BSS. [Text]
[Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 14 Sep 83 p 3]

CSO: 4600/1028

PRESS REPORTS ON VISIT OF BULGARIAN TRADE TEAM

Analyst on Expectations

Madras THE HINDU in English 31 Aug 83 p 7

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Aug. 30.

A high power economic commission from Bulgaria, led by the politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Mr. Ognyan Doynov, is arriving on September 1 on a 10-day visit to India for intensifying Indo-Bulgarian trade and industrial cooperation.

As the second most important political personality in Bulgaria, Mr. Doynov is visiting India in his concurrent capacity as president of the Bulgarian Industrial Economic Association, for high level talks with Indian leaders in various fields, before the State visit of the President of Bulgaria, Mr. Todor Zhivkov, at the end of this year.

Close links: Among the socialist countries of eastern Europe, India has the closest politico-economic relations with Bulgaria, ranking next only to the Soviet Union. It is not without significance that within a span of two years, the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and several other senior Ministers, besides the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, have visited Bulgaria. At the party level too, the Congress (I) general secretary, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has been to that country to establish closer links between the two ruling parties as he did recently in the case of the Soviet Union.

The visit of Mr. Doynov is significant in the sense that for the first time an important party functionary from a socialist country is heading an official delegation for talks with the Government, without confining himself to party level discussions. As one of the more important political figures in eastern Europe, he is clearly breaking new ground in promoting closer bilateral contacts with countries like India which have wide-ranging relations with the Soviet Union and its associates.

Apart from paying courtesy calls on the President, Vice-President and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr. Doynov will be having extensive discussions with the Prime Minister and the Ministers for External Affairs, Defence, Finance, Industry and Commerce. He will also be meeting prominent politicians, industrialists and representatives of export organisations. He will be visiting Agra, Bangalore and Hyderabad during his 10-day visit.

Spectacular progress: One reason why India has been taking a special interest in Bulgaria is that, as a part of the Turkish empire and one of the least developed countries in Europe, it had to contend with all the problems of backwardness like the emergent nations of Africa and Asia in its economic development. Its spectacular progress in the fields of agriculture and industry has greatly impressed India.

The country was so backward before the Second World War that a well-known American journalist wrote in his survey of the Soviet bloc countries that in Bulgaria there were only 16 km. of asphalted roads and that the electricity generated by it would be hardly enough to light up Times Square in New York. This pastoral country has emerged within three decades with one of the highest growth rates in eastern Europe with a solid agricultural and industrial base.

Well diversified cooperation: The modest economic relationship between India and Bulgaria with some routine trade agreements has now developed into well diversified industrial cooperation. Bulgarian enterprises have collaborated with India in setting up food processing and canning plants, pharmaceutical units for the manufacture of gammaglobulin

and albumin, chemical industries for producing industrial materials like sulphuric acid and factories for making ceramic goods, electrical appliances, tractors, pumping sets and other agricultural equipment.

The Indian exports to Bulgaria, which were initially limited to jute goods, oil cake, coffee, cotton waste, shoes and garments, have now extended to machine tools, steel products, cables, transistors, graphite electrodes, textile machinery, cranes and other construction equipment. The two countries are presently engaged in discussing the possibilities of further collaboration in the fields of industrial robots, electronics, pharmaceuticals, dyestuffs, leather processing, transport equipment,

counter-pressure casting, load-tap changers, ore treatment and manufacture of textile and oil-bearing machines.

It is a remarkable achievement, indeed, for a small country like Bulgaria with a population of only nine million, which was an under-developed country only 40 years ago, to be engaging now in collaboration agreements with a country of 700 million people over such a wide spectrum of industrial development. The visit of Mr. Doinov, who will be accompanied by the Bulgarian Minister of Finance, Mr. Belcho Belchev, and several deputy ministers and directors of foreign trade enterprises, is intended to provide the necessary impetus for further cooperation.

Greater Cooperation Studied

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Sep 83 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 20--India and Bulgaria today formed five groups to identify areas of greater economic cooperation between them at a ministerial level plenary session here.

The groups related to trade and commerce, including joint ventures and import and export of consumer goods, machine building and heavy machinery, including electronics, oil products, chemicals and pharmaceuticals and agriculture and food processing.

The delegation from Bulgaria was headed by Mr Ognian Doinov, member of the Politburo and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

Mr N.D. Tiwari, Union Minister for Industry, told the visiting delegation that there was wide scope for a higher level of trade between the two countries and the need was to increase it by including industrial goods.

Mr Tiwari said that for the past few years Bulgaria had a surplus in its balance of trade with India and in order to maintain and enhance the level of India's import, it would want to export more to Bulgaria.

Referring to the import of earth-moving equipments by Bulgaria, Mr Tiwari said that another contract for supply of bulldozers valued at \$7 million had been concluded, which indicated that Indian processes and quality were satisfactory.

Mr Tiwari suggested renewal of the existing agreement for supply of drugs and pharmaceuticals to include new items for which there was demand in the Bulgarian market. India could also offer plants for dyestuffs and intermediaries. Referring to the contract concluded with Hindustan Machine Tools for the supply of machine tools, he said that supplies could be augmented. Electronic goods were other potential items for exports from India. India would be happily to participate in the modernization schemes of textile plants through consultancy and supply of machinery. "We can also meet Bulgaria's requirement of iron ore concentrate/pellets on a long-term basis," he added.

He offered India's help in setting up of joint ventures not only in the two countries but in Third World countries also. Bulgaria, a primary exporter of agricultural products, could assist India in canned fruit exports to Third World countries and supply of grapes from India for Bulgarian export of wine.

Mr Tiwari invited the Bulgarian industry to participate at the Indian International Trade Fair being organized in November 1983 in which leading public sector undertakings, prominent private organizations and a large number of foreign organizations would participate.

Increase in Trade

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Sep 83 p 5

[Text] Bulgaria and the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding for promoting mutual trade and initiating steps for joint export plants and equipments to third country markets.

The MOU was signed after two-day discussions between the representatives of the EEPC and the Bulgarian Society of Engineering Organisations.

According to the MOU, the two sides underscored the need to take up collaborative projects in third countries on the basis of complementarities and one another's areas of specialisation.

It also called for strengthening mutual understanding of member enterprises through personal contacts. Besides, the two organisations would also serve as facilitating agency for giving a boost to such cooperation.

The Bulgarian Society of Engineering Organisations have offered to set up a joint project in this country for the manufacture of five-ton minibus with a seating capacity of 15 to 16 persons or a pickup van.

It was also willing to provide the technology and other know-how for manufacturing a ten to 12 ton fork lift trucks with the arrangement that Bulgaria would buy back 80 percent of the total production.

The countries identified for joint ventures were Nigeria, Tanzania, Libya, Ethiopia, Syria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Morocco and Latin American countries.

For constructing hotels, schools, hospitals, airports and houses, the Bulgarian side has requested Indian firms for earth moving equipment, building material, electrical and sanitary fittings, air conditioning equipment and telecommunication equipment including close circuit television.

It was disclosed at the conference that Hindustan Prefab Limited had sought the Government's clearance for setting up a unit for making bricks from black ash. Bulgaria will supply the technical know-how for this project.

EEPC chairman T.A.S. Balagopal expressed happiness at the outcome of the parleys.

He hoped Indian exporters would take advantage of the frank discussions and attend the trade fair in Bulgaria scheduled to begin at the end of this month.

CSO: 4600/1004

PRESS REPORTS ON VISIT BY MALDIVES PRESIDENT

Arrival in Delhi

Madras THE HINDU in English 8 Sep 83 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 7.

The President of Maldives, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in Delhi today on a seven-day State visit after overnight halt in Madras.

As one of the South Asia seven, Maldives has lately been receiving increasing international attention because of its great strategic importance as an Indian Ocean State.

A member of the non-aligned committee, it has close and cordial relations with India which is only a few hundred km from the Kerala coast.

At an hour-long meeting with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, this afternoon, Mr. Gayoom discussed the situation in the Indian Ocean region, besides the recent happenings in Sri Lanka with which his country has equally close relations. The relations between the two countries have been excellent because India's main interest in Maldives lies in ensuring the preservation of its independence and economic development without any foreign interference.

Though his country is an archipelago that is undeveloped and sparsely populated with hardly any resources, Maldives has remained a proud and independent nation without yielding to international pressures. After the British gave up the base at the Gan island, Maldives has refused to lease it to either the U.S. or the Soviet Union, thereby earning the respect and admiration of other Indian Ocean States.

No disputes: There is no lingering dispute between India and Maldives other than the problems of friendly cooperation. The signing of the maritime boundary agreement in 1976 re-

moved possible frictions in the relations. The misunderstanding that was created a year ago by a wrong report that Maldives was laying claim to the Minicoy Island in the Lakshadweep group belonging to India was cleared when Mr. Gayoom said subsequently that he was wrongly reported and, to give credibility to this denial, he formally acknowledged India's sovereignty over it.

So the talks with Mr. Gayoom and his Foreign Minister, Mr. Fathulla Jameel, were held in an atmosphere of utmost cordiality and mutual confidence. The Maldives President thanked India for the economic assistance it was already offering and welcomed the offer to expand this cooperation.

Shared traditions: At the State banquet given in honour of Mr. Gayoom tonight, the Presidents of India and Maldives spoke eloquently of the shared traditions of the two countries and their mutual dedication to the cause of peace. As neighbours with so much in common, they had much to learn and benefit from each other's experience.

After concluding his official talks in Delhi, Mr. Gayoom will be going to Agra, Bangalore and Cochin. He will also be visiting the Aligarh Muslim University which is conferring an honorary doctorate on him.

His engagements in Bangalore include visits to Hindustan Aeronautics, Hindustan Machine Tools and Indian Telephone Industry. In Cochin his main interest will be in having a close look at the integrated fisheries project and the Central Institute of Fisheries, besides a coconut processing plant, because of the heavy dependence on Maldives on its fishing and coconut exports.

Cultural Agreement Signed

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 8 Sep 83 p 12

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 7.—India and the Maldives signed a cultural agreement here today covering art and culture, archaeology, education, social welfare, public health, mass media and sports. The agreement was signed by Mrs Shella Kaul, Minister of State for Education and Culture and Social Welfare on behalf of India and Mr Fathulla Jameel, the Foreign Affairs Minister, on behalf of the Maldives.

The brief ceremony was attended by the visiting President of the Maldives, Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Mrs Gandhi, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Finance Minister, and Mr Arif Mohammed Khan, Deputy Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

The agreement, consisting of 13 articles, aims at reciprocal visits of academics and experts, representatives of educational, literary, scientific, technical, artistic and sports' associations, grant of scholarships and facilities by each country to students and scientific personnel of the other, exchange of educational, cultural, scientific and sports literature/publications and copies of art objects; exchange of artists; dance and music ensembles, exchange of art and other exhibitions, exchange of films, documentaries and radio and television programmes; participation in each other's international film festivals; and visits of sports teams.

The President, Mr Zail Singh today voiced India's concern over the growing militarization of the Indian Ocean which had turned the region into an arena for ideological rivalry and Superpower conflicts.

Talking at his banquet in honour of the visiting Maldives President and his wife, Mr Zail Singh expressed the conviction that the Maldives must be as concerned about the "frightening consequences" of this development as India. He hoped the proposed conference on the Indian Ocean would be convened soon. "Since we have a common perception of dangers and share

our concern for peace, I hope that the Maldives and India will continue to work together as they have in the past, for the establishment of a spirit of trust and goodwill in international relations".

Mr Gayoom, in his speech, noted that India and the Maldives, as member of the non-aligned movement, and the movement as a whole could play a crucial role in reducing tension in the world and in maintaining peace and tranquillity. "We are also committed to the concept and objectives of cooperation among South Asian countries. We believe that cooperation among South Asian countries will not only help the development efforts of our respective countries, but will also create a better atmosphere of understanding and harmony among the nations of the region", Mr Gayoom said.

Mr Zail Singh, talking on the topic of South Asian cooperation, referred to the first meeting in New Delhi of the Foreign Ministers of the countries of the region which had "successfully launched the integrated programme of action". This, according to Mr Zail Singh, was a good beginning for further cooperation and needed to be implemented with energy, sincerity and goodwill.

Earlier, Mr Gayoom, who arrived to a warm airport welcome, had a 40-minute meeting with Mrs Gandhi. The two leaders had a wide-ranging exchange of views on regional, bilateral and international issues. They reviewed the world situation since the meeting of the non-aligned leaders in the capital. South Asian regional cooperation, bilateral cooperation and matters connected with the Indian Ocean were discussed. They hoped that the international conference on the Indian Ocean would be held soon.

Mr Gayoom will be conferred an honorary degree by Aligarh Muslim University at a special convocation conference in Aligarh tomorrow, adds PTI.

CSO: 4600/1002

INDIA

INDIA, MONGOLIA TO COOPERATE IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Sep 83 p 5

[Text] India and Mongolia have signed a two-year programme of cooperation for 1984-86 under which India will assist in the establishment of an ayurvedic treatment centre in Mongolia, reports UNI.

The programme of cooperation, inter alia, provides for exchange of scholars of traditional systems of medicine, exchange of information on medicinal herbs used in both countries for the preparation of ayurvedic medicines, cultivation of rare medicinal plants and establishment of musk deer farms in Mongolia.

There will also be an exchange of literature on traditional systems of medicine and Hindi and English translations of ayurvedic books and 'sutras' preserved in Mongolia.

The two countries will jointly undertake research and experimental work on ayurvedic treatment of diabetes, high blood pressure and allergies.

Mongolian doctors will be trained in India in Toga.

The signing of the agreement came at the end of a six-day visit to Mongolia by a three-member Indian delegation headed by Health and Family Welfare Minister B. Shankaranand.

During his visit, the Minister called on Prime Minister Jambyn Batmunkh and held detailed discussions with Health Minister D. Nyam-Osor.

The Indian delegation visited premier medical institutions of Mongolia, including the oncology centre and the institute of traditional medicines at Ulan Bator.

During a brief stop-over at Moscow airport, Mr Shankaranand was received by Soviet Health Minister Burenkov. The two ministers discussed matters of mutual interest in the field of health.

CSO: 4600/1004

UNEQUAL REPRESENTATION IN MOUNTAIN STUDY CENTER

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Sep 83 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 6.

An International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMD) is being set up, under the auspices of UNESCO, with headquarters in Kathmandu for gathering information and preparing documentation on the ecology, water resources, forestry, agriculture and other socio-economic aspects of the Hindu Kush and the Himalayan regions.

The activities of this Centre will extend from Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal to Bhutan, Bangladesh, Burma and China which have territories straddling the two mountain ranges.

Though the country with the longest border along this mountain system is India, it has not been given any weightage in representation on the Board of Governors of ICIMD while Nepal has three representatives on this 11-member body which is supposed to run the Centre.

What is even more astonishing is that, apart from the fact that any foreign country which is prepared to pay 15 per cent of its expenditure can become a member of this

organisation, the ICIMD is being financed at the present by a \$2 millions (Rs. 2 crores) donation made by Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany with an Englishman as the Director of the Centre.

The idea of setting up this Centre with this extraordinary composition was first mooted as far back as 1975 and India agreed to it without ensuring proper representation for itself in the administration and supervision of the body that concern its own economic development in a substantial measure. It is only now that the Government has woken up to the incongruity of India having only one representative, while Nepal has three on the Board of Governors at present.

The first meeting took place in Kathmandu last week and India participated in it despite this imbalance in representation. In striving for a bigger voice in the activities of this Centre, India is not in any way objecting to the presence of foreign countries on the board, but only focussing attention on the inequities of the present representation.

CSO: 4600/1000

INDIA

BRIEFS

MACHINE TOOLS TO BULGARIA--Hyderabad, Sept 6--The Hindustan Machine Tools (International), a subsidiary of the HMT Ltd, has signed a contract with Bulgaria for the supply of machine tools valued at Rs 1.8 crores. The supplies would be completed by December 1983. A high-power 13-member Bulgarian economic delegation led by Mr Ognyan Doynov, Member of Politburo and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, visited the HMT factory here today. The delegation included Mr Tocho Tochev, Bulgarian Ambassador to India. The team was received by the Managing Director of the HMT Ltd, Mt T.V. Manusakhani, and the Executive Director, HMT (International), Mr H.B. Linganna. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Sep 83 p 9]

CSO: 4600/1001

'HAJJ INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR' ADJOURNS, ISSUES RESOLUTION

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 17 Aug 83 p 3

[Text] The Zionist capitalists have exported gifts to Mecca to be sold in pilgrimage ceremonies.

The international Hajj seminar in San Jose, California, adjourns with the issuance of a resolution. According to the reports of the ISLAMIC NEWS AGENCY from San Jose, Hojat ol-Eslam Amir Hoseyn Taqavi, the imam of (Hassrieh) Mosque in Edmonton, Canada, was the first speaker of the meeting. He talked about the political dimension of the Hajj [pilgrimage to Mecca]. Hojat ol-Eslam Taqavi in his speech, referred to the problems caused by the Saudi regime for world Muslims, especially Iranian pilgrims to the house of God. He strongly criticized the heads of this regime and said: "They think they are the owners of the house of God, to treat Muslims in such a way."

He also added: "The Muslims' problems must be discussed in Hajj and the Iranian pilgrims must discuss the different issues with other Muslims in the Hajj ceremonies."

The second speaker of the meeting was Dr Mahmud Ayub. In his speech he talked about the Zionist threats to other Muslim holy lands, and the extensive plots of this cancerous tumor of the region against Muslims. Then Dr Ayub, along with reciting the economic and colonialist plots of the Zionist regime in different countries of the region, emphasized that the direct and evident threat that can be easily noticed and that even the jews themselves are opposed to is the first target of Jerusalem.

He added: "Al Quds or Jerusalem is the second Mecca of Muslims, and the third Muslim holy shrine after Mecca and Madinah."

He added: "The Israeli authorities have changed the view and the face of the east bank of Jerusalem which includes all the important shrines and Al Aghsa mosque. Under the pretext of archeology, they intend to inflict more damage to the mosque."

He then suggested that Jihad [holy war] for God's way is the only way to confront Zionism. He said: "Holy war could be carried out in various ways. First it could be educational, such as arranging seminars, in order that Muslims will be aware of the dangers of world Zionism and Western imperialism."

The other is physical Jihad with Muslims armed and depending on God and Islam to fight against the enemies of Islam."

To conclude, Ayub emphasized that we must free our holy shrine from Zionist rule. We must always keep the way of Jihad open and not have any dealings with the Zionist regime and boycott them completely. After the speech of brother Ayub, there was a round-table discussion where the participants at the seminar discussed their questions and exchanged their views about Zionist policy and the political dimensions of Hajj. Then the seminar adjourned with the issuance of a resolution. The text of the resolution is as follows:

In the name of God:

1. The seminar believes that Islam is a complete religion and contains all the spiritual, social, economic and political aspects of life. In Islam, politics is not separated from religion and all the social, political and economic affairs related to Islamic nations must be discussed in Hajj.
2. This seminar believes that the Hajj ceremonies are an ideal opportunity to demonstrate solidarity among Muslims. Any action to limit the contact of Muslims with each other or to isolate a group of Muslims from others is strongly condemned.
3. The seminar strongly condemns the recent Saudi action in depriving the pilgrims of the Islamic Republic of Iran from their indisputable rights to participate in Hajj ceremonies. In addition, the seminar demands that the Saudi government provide the necessary resources for all pilgrims of the Islamic Republic and other countries.
4. In regard to the recent proposal presented by the house of Saud which contains the danger of official recognition of the illegitimate existence of Zionism, this seminar, in the name of all Muslims, especially the religious authorities of Islamic nations, declares that if they do not strongly oppose this disgraced proposal and reject it, the Zionist regime will take the house of God and holy Madinah shrine from Muslim hands. Therefore, the Hajj seminar finds it an Islamic duty to oppose this proposal which will endanger the existence of the holy places.
5. This seminar requests from the learned religious men of the Islamic nations to establish a permanent Hajj committee and to publish one newsletter per year, and explain the conditions of pilgrims and holy places in this annual newsletter.
6. The seminar demands the establishment of an international Islamic organization to supervise the holy places of Mecca and Madinah and all the affairs related to Hajj.
7. The news agencies have reported that the Zionist capitalists have exported some gift items to Mecca to be sold in Hajj ceremonies. The seminar demands that the Saudi regime adopt a complete Islamic economic and social manner and boycott all goods sent from the enemies of the Islamic countries.

8. The Hajj seminar proposes that the permanent Hajj committee be active in collecting petitions from all Muslims for:

a. Complete freedom for all Muslims to participate in Hajj and eliminate the system of quotas.

b. To use the meat of sacrificed animals in Hajj to feed the poor of the Islamic nations all over the world.

c. To improve health facilities and resources in both holy cities of Mecca and Madinah.

9815

CSO: 4640/338

'CONSPIRACY TO ISOLATE IRANIAN PILGRIMS' REPORTED

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 12 Sep 83 p 3

[Text] Iranian pilgrims have warmly welcomed the suggestion of Hojjat ol-Eslam Khoiniha, the imam's representative, that they offer a portion of their pilgrimage foreign currency to the combatants on the fronts of the war of truth against falsehood. They have speeded to help Islam's warriors, and according to the statement of a clergyman, in some cases amounts of more than 1000 out of the 2500 Saudi Arabian rials at the disposal of each pilgrim have been offered to help the fronts. At least six ambulances for the fronts can be purchased with the aid given so far.

The fascist Saddamist regime's mercenary stooges in Saudi Arabia are displaying their viciousness against the Iranian pilgrims, trying to compensate for the scandalous defeats the regime has suffered on the battlefronts. Apparently the Saudi police, who should be protecting the life and property of the pilgrims to the House of God, merely stand by and watch these disgusting scenes. According to information from a pilgrim brother who is an Iraqi immigrant residing in Shiraz and who set off on the pilgrimage with a caravan from that city, the following occurred to him on 9 September 1983 at 2100 hours: As he was driving his car past the Iraqi mission, he collided with two persons in a vehicle. The vehicle's occupants, against regulations, began to interrogate him, and when they learned of his identity and place of residence, they violently beat and kicked him, severely wounding him. While this brother was being beaten violently by Saddam's masked officials, the Saudi police remained spectators. At the end, in order to preserve appearances, the police straightened up his clothes and tried to send him to a hospital. However, after going to the imam's mission, he was sent by mission officials to the Red Crescent Hospital where he was released after his wounds were treated.

In addition, the Saudi police have used the fascist Iraqi regime's war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran as an excuse in their campaign against any anti-arrogance demonstrations by the Iranian pilgrims. Apparently trying to prevent conflict between Iranian and Iraqi pilgrims, and in reality hindering righteous demonstrations by pilgrims against satanic and exploitative powers, the Saudi region's police are strictly controlling gatherings and comings and goings in the cities of Mecca and Medinah. It is said this sort of so-called security policy has been adopted with full coordination between the Iraqi Ba'thist and Saudi regimes.

The Saudi regime's officials have been entrusted with the mission of preventing pilgrims from contesting the imam's mission. For instance, several days ago two persons from Kanu state in Nigeria came to dine at the Iranian pilgrim mission. One of them succeeded in fleeing, but the Iraqi officials arrested the second and interrogated him. They even took film of him, and then completely searched his dwelling at the Nigerian pilgrim facility. They then made him take an oath that he would have no further contact with Iranian pilgrims, and let him go! Furthermore, brother Ibrahim, a member of the Hezbollahi movement from Senegal, was arrested by Saudi officials as he left the imam's mission. This was the second time they had arrested him after leaving the imam's mission. The reason for the severity of the Saudi officials' actions against this Senegalese visitor was his participation in a pilgrim demonstration in Medinah on Sunday.

In addition, three brothers from the 'Muru' movement were attacked by the Saudi regime's officials as they left the imam's mission, but before the police could arrest them the Iranian pilgrims enabled them to escape. Two days ago two Malaysian pilgrims were arrested in the Jeddah airport for possessing pictures of imam Khomeyni, and were violently beaten and abused. The Saudi regime forced these two persons to return to Malaysia. It is necessary to note that these two persons were part of a 15-member group that had set off for Saudi Arabia to perform the pilgrimage. When the rest of the members of the group arrived in Mecca, they were attacked by Saudi police at night. The police warned them not to have any contact whatsoever with the Iranian pilgrims.

Concerning the bad conduct of the Saudi regime's officials towards pilgrims intending to visit Iranian pilgrims, officials from the imam's mission's foreign guest relations section noted that the Saudi regime's goal is to isolate the imam's mission. For this reason they have put spies in various guises in sensitive places, including hotels housing pilgrims from other countries.

Another one of the Saudi regime's goals in these oppressions is the creation of fear and terror among foreign Muslims. Some regions are cooperating with the Saudi regime in this regard, including that of Gen Zia ol-Haq, the president of Pakistan, who in a speech to the Pakistani pilgrims asked them to refrain from participating in anti-arrogance demonstrations.

As another example, among the Indonesian pilgrims there are 5 to 10 high-ranking military and intelligence officials who control the pilgrims' activities. Furthermore, a large number of policemen from Pakistan and Egypt have arrived in Saudi Arabia.

Regimes cooperating with the Saudi regime have tried to send mostly old, feeble Muslims instead of young ones to Saudi Arabia, or have decreased their share of pilgrims. Nigeria, for example, which sent 103 thousand pilgrims to Mecca last year, has sent only 50 thousand this year. West African countries like the Ivory Coast, Mali, etc., which sent 4000 persons last year sent only 800 this year. The number of Senegalese pilgrims decreased from 8 thousand to 4 thousand.

Countries which have stopped their pilgrims from participating in anti-arrogance demonstrations have not only decreased the number of the pilgrims, but, as mentioned above, have sent aged persons to Saudi Arabia instead of young, enthusiastic persons who naturally have anti-colonialistic tendencies.

Defeat of Saudi Rulers' Plot

Tehran - IRNA - Through the awareness of Iranian pilgrims to the Holy House of God and officials from the imam's mission, the plot of the Saudi security agents to create clashes and disorder in Mecca was defeated, and no excuses have been given to the Saudi's armed security and military officials to beat and abuse Iranian pilgrims.

According to reports from Mecca: In a plan organized by Zionist and U.S. agents to compensate for their previous defeat in preventing a peaceful demonstration last week in Hejaz Province by Iranian visitors shouting "Death to The United States, Israel, and Russia," Saudi security officials surrounded the imam's mission the day before yesterday and bothered people interested in the Islamic revolution. The security officials thereby hoped to provoke a clash by visitors to the House of God. However, the revolutionary visitors and the mission's officials, who were aware of the plot, neutralized it with logic and awareness. Despite more than 200 officials armed with masks, shields and batons surrounding the mission, military vehicles and cranes entering the compound, and provocative action, the Saudi kingdom's security agents were not given the chance to profit from the plan and bring about a clash.

According to this report: The Saudis continue to bother and annoy Iranian pilgrims. At every point of entrance to the Hejaz, Saudi security officials make several body searches of pilgrims in order to find anti-American and anti-Israeli written material. Officials are regularly sent to the pilgrim living quarters. At the orders of the United States, Saudi authorities accuse Iranian visitors of bringing guns and knives into Saudi Arabia. They regularly propagandize against the pilgrims with the help of news imperialism and by giving petrodollars to several well-known mass media. They are doing this so that in the case of a probable clash between the pilgrims and Saudi security officials, the ground will have been prepared for the condemnation of Iranian pilgrims by implication.

It is noteworthy that no mention has been made in any press reports about the anxiety of Saudi officials nor U.S. sensitivity to the awakening of the world's Muslims.

According to this report: Hejazi security officials are now making an effort to prepare for hostilities and clashes they have planned for the coming days, particularly after the Eyde Qorban ceremonies, and to use these clashes as an excuse to expel a group of pilgrims.

In light of these political, military and propaganda plots against Islam and the Iranian pilgrims to Mecca, revolutionary pilgrims have displayed their awareness, patience and revolutionary logic in order to make the Saudi Arabians understand that the Iranians are opposed to every sort of clash and disorder pre-planned by that regime, and that they will never fall into their trap.

IRAN

LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON VARIOUS ISSUES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Aug 83 p 17

[Interview with 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi by Mehdi Zarin; date and place not specified]

'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, foreign minister of Libya, who according to the new order of that country is called The Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee, in an exclusive interview with the political reporter of KEYHAN to Libya, expressed his views on different matters.

'Ubaydi during the course of this interview, while taking into account matters discussed with Dr Velayti, our country's foreign minister, who is visiting Libya, expressed his unconditional support for Iran in the imposed war with Iraq and said that Iran and his country have reached an agreement for establishing a unified strategy for combating America and the Zionist enemy. During his interview with the KEYHAN reporter, he said the Islamic Revolution of Iran is the combatant for Arabs and Muslims, as well as all freedom seekers throughout the world. He added that together with Iran, support for Syria against threats and pressures would be continued. What you are about to read is the text of his interview with our reporter in Libya.

Our reporter asked: In your meeting with the Iranian Foreign Minister, what aspects of mutual relations between Iran and Libya were discussed, and how do you evaluate the results thereof?

The Libyan Foreign Minister replied: During all the meetings between Libya and Iran, mutual understanding in all political aspects, which emanated from a single objective, were perceived; in all the discussions that I had with my brother and friend Dr Velayti, as well as the important meeting that the latter had with Colonel Qadhdhafi, enforcement of the relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the victorious Revolution of Libya were stressed and confirmed. Furthermore, regarding strategical aspects to be adopted towards our enemies, specially America, Imperialism and their lackeys in the region, who are positioning themselves against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Libya, an accord was reached.

I further told Dr Velayti that the Jamahiriya of Libya would stand by Iran and our position, in this regard, was irrevocable. As we believe that the

Islamic Revolution of Iran, together with the Libyan Revolution is an active force for the victory of Islam in the Islamic World, and we acknowledge that the new cross action of the United States and the Zionist enemy is evident for all. We are confident that Iran will be victorious in combating all plots. All such plots are conceived by the United States and it's lackeys in the region.

The KEYHAN reporter asked: with due regard to Iraq's recent threat concerning the destruction of Iranian oil installations in the Persian Gulf, please indicate whether such actions and threats of Iraq will prove harmful to the struggles of Muslims in the region or not and what is your analysis in this regard?

He answered: In the beginning of the war, we expressed our views concerning this war which was waged by Saddam on the Islamic Republic of Iran, we say that if Saddam sees himself as the guardian of Arab and Muslim rights, why didn't he go to war with the Shah, who was a lackey of the United States and its gendarme in the region?--The Shah who cooperated constantly with the Zionists.

The Islamic Revolution of Iran emancipated Iran from the atrocities of the Shah. The revolution rendered a great service to Islam and is considered an everlasting friend of the Arabs.

The Islamic Revolution, severed relations with the Zionist regime and the racist regime of South Africa. Whoever defies this revolution is considered a lackey of the United States, and our analysis of Saddam's threat does not extend further than this framework. Saddam, through his war, is betraying Muslims and Arabs, because the Islamic Revolution of Iran is the combatant for Arabs, Muslims, and independence seekers throughout the world.

Our reporter asked the Libyan foreign minister: With due consideration to the emphasis of the United States for imposing a general conformity in the Middle East, which violates the rights of the Palestinians, and with regard to the recent events in the Palestinian organizations, what is the Libyan Government's analysis of the status quo and the future of this problem, and what can Iran and Libya do regarding this matter?

'Ubaydi said: We have always declared that peace with the Zionist regime, which is occupying our territory can never come. This regime threatens Muslims and Arabs alike, this is reflective of its beliefs. Today the United States and the aggressors of the region want to realize their plans. Therefore, we will stand by our Iranian brothers in supporting Syria against threats and pressures. Such pressures are exerted by Arabs as well as from other directions.

Furthermore, we discussed with our Iranian brothers all plans for surrender and conformation, which should all be neutralized, furthermore, we believe in and are supportive of certain Palestinian groups who believe in armed resistance in the Bekka. We support the National Lebanese Movement, which combats the Zionist enemy. We believe that the new revolution, in process in the Fatah Organization, is due to the non-acceptance of 'Arafat's

policies. This revolution is a good beginning for the unification of Palestinians. We hope that the leaders of the movement (Abu Saleh and Abu Mussa) will be supported by independence seeking forces of the world, and we ask all progressive leaders of the Arab and Islamic world to support them. We believe that these leaders are seeking the help and support of Iran and Libya and Syria have already given their support.

12382

CSO: 4640/339

MUSAVI DISCUSSES MEETING WITH KHOMEYNI, OTHER ISSUES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Aug 83 p 3

[Text] Yesterday Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, met with the great leader of the Islamic Revolution in Hoseyniyeh Jamaran, and conferred with him.

Following the meeting, during an interview the prime minister explained the issues discussed with His Eminence the Imam in three principal parts, and expressed his viewpoints on the internal and external political issues.

The first question posed was about the topics raised by Engineer Musavi during discussions with His Eminence the Imam, to which he responded: "Today (yesterday), I submitted to the Imam of the nation a general report on the state of the country. We also discussed some other important issues. One was about the presentation of the new ministers to the Islamic Consultative Assembly and on what basis these ministers were selected. The second topic dealt with the ways of the distribution [of food] in the country, and the efforts made to improve the distribution. We believe that, God willing, and with the help of all Hezbollahi people, and the ability of the responsible authorities, who most certainly strive towards the attainment of all the goals and hopes of the Islamic Revolution, the condition--as far as the distribution of goods is concerned--will improve, and this issue will encounter fewer difficulties in the future. Currently, certain steps have already been initiated to this effect. Concerning bread, some complications had been created, despite the fact that we did have wheat and had made our purchase from abroad. However, due to lack of discipline and order in the break-baking process and its distribution, some discontent was created among the people. Presently, just as our martyr-nurturing nation can attest, the problem has been considerably improved. Naturally, some steps are also being taken to improve the quality of bread, which, God willing, will yield its results shortly. The second problem was the issue of rice, and for a long period of time, people were denied their allotted share. However, as I have heard, the distribution of rice did start as of yesterday. Hopefully, with a-proprate planning some order will prevail, and people will be able to satisfy their needs without waiting in queues and wasting their time or enduring any further hardship. Naturally, this policy will extend to other goods as well. In addition, as far as the distribution process is concerned, efforts are being made to normalize the situation. Government's involvement

in this matter should be very moderate and no more than necessary, aimed at assuring and fulfilling the interests of the oppressed and all other strata of the society dedicated to the cause of the revolution, to eliminate and remove any possibility of abuse or engrossment of goods. This is the aim of the government. Surely, if and when there is a government involvement, it means that there is a very severe shortage of goods. But, this involvement will only be within the limits of necessity. We declare this as a general policy of the government. We hope that in the future the government indicates how insistent and determined it is. Rice is one example of the few goods that are scarce. Naturally, as far as purchase and transportation of local rice is concerned, the government will be involved. But, the distribution will be up to small businessmen, with government supervision. The other subject discussed and presented to the Imam of the nation, was the Center for Cultural Revolution--presently under consideration. Considering the strengthening of this center and propagation of cultural revolution within our universities, especially on the eve of the reopening of universities and the resumption of their activities, this issue is of great importance. God willing, decisions will be made in this connection. These are the three points submitted and discussed with the Imam of the nation. Naturally, he did provide directives.

Cabinet Reshuffle

Concerning the cabinet reshuffle and the introduction of new ministers and as to how many ministers will be replaced, and when the reshuffle will take place? The prime minister answered: This will not take long. Within the next few days, the new ministers will be presented and they are few. Naturally, two of the ministers resigned, and they will be replaced by new ministers.

Question: Tomorrow (today) the government will present to the parliament its first economic, social and cultural development plan. What does the government expect from the parliament, insofar as the latter's cooperation and coordination for the implementation of this plan is concerned?

Answer: Planning in our country, and naturally in the Islamic Republic, is a new task, i.e., these are the first steps taken in this field. In order to implement such a plan, we must utilize all means available, all the capabilities of our people, and make maximum use of all existing resources particular to our land. During the last 15 months, intense efforts were made and much work went into this. The issue of planning was one of the most difficult tasks undertaken by this government. By God's assistance, it is now completed and is ready to be presented to the parliament. However, there may be some shortcomings in this plan. Naturally, we expect that our pious and knowledgeable brothers in the parliament, with their perception, will offer this program an impetus. They would do so by eliminating its defects and thus augment the work of so many unknown soldiers, who exacted all-out efforts to devise it. God willing, this program will be applied for the purpose of our cultural, economic, social advancement, and will be used in various dimensions. God willing, with parliament's assistance, this plan will be effective and prosperous for the consolidation of justice and order in the Islamic Republic.

U.S. Military Maneuvers

Question: We in the region are witnessing U.S. military maneuvers in the Persian Gulf. What is the analysis of the Government of the Islamic Republic of these movements in the region?

Answer: These maneuvers serve no other purpose but to create fear and intimidation. Nevertheless, the deprived and oppressed nations of the regions should prepare themselves against these kinds of plots devised by world oppressors. However, these tactics have been neutralized in the region since the advent of the Islamic Revolution, and after the display of formidable force by our nation. In other words, no one any more fears airplanes, maneuvers and special forces. We believe that this fear has decreased or disappeared among the regional nations; or at least is about to disappear. In general this type of maneuvers do not have the effect that the oppressive powers expect to have on the deprived nations. Therefore, they cannot succeed. However, if we look at these maneuvers from another angle, the United States of America and other countries who are its lackies and who are participating in this maneuver, have staged this operation to exert pressure on the anti-oppressive countries of the region on the one hand, and on the other, to preserve Western interests in the region. They also intend to render a deep inward support to Israel, which is the offspring of world oppression, but most of all to convey a strong warning to the Islamic Revolution. If we look at the scope of this maneuver, which reaches the Indian Ocean and touches the shores of the Persian Gulf, we can see that the United States is trying to assure its allies or rather its puppets of its support vis-a-vis the Islamic Revolution. That is why it staged this maneuver. However, what we have to say is that the destiny of the region must be in the hands of the people of the region. That is all.

Secondly, governments which are subservient to superpowers, will not be able to survive if they only depend on atomic power and bayonets. When people wake up and become aware of their immense inward power, such maneuvers cannot naturally have any other effect but make these people more alert and active. Therefore, when we look upon world events and conclude that such acts have no other alternative but bring about positive results for enslaved humanity, we interpret this phenomenon also as an action that will alert the people of the region. I think that this maneuver will strengthen the values of the Islamic Revolution in the region.

Saddam's Punishment

Question: The other issue which appeared in the conditions set by the Islamic Republic for an honorable peace in Iraq's war against Iran, was the matter concerning Saddam's punishment. This issue was distorted by various ambiguous conclusions of the Western media, which consequently confused the issue. Please explain the stipulations for Saddam's punishment.

Answer: We of course try not to use the term peace, because there cannot be any peace between us and the Ba'th regime. But world media have gradually realized our determined stand for our demands, and recently have started to state that this term "Saddam's punishment" is ambiguous. In our opinion this

is a step forward, for the realization of the aims pursued by us in continuing the war imposed upon us. In other words, the world has gradually realized how persistent our nation is on its conditions. However, as far as Saddam's punishment is concerned, just as the Imam of the nation has said, it is up to the world's wise men to decide what needs to be done about it. When any individual commits a crime that creates so much bloodshed, destruction of its own people, and such vast chaos in the world, it is obvious how he will be judged. How do people today in the world regard Hitler? Well, Saddam will be looked upon in the same way.

12447

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TENSE POLITICAL SITUATION ANALYZED; OPTIONS EXAMINED

Karachi JANG in Urdu 26 Aug 83 pp 3, 22

[Article by Irshad Ahmad Haqqani: "The Country's Current Situation Requires Concern and Deliberation"]

[Excerpt] Where do we stand after the incidents of the past 12 to 14 days, and after this, what avenues are open to us? One view is that the country is heading satisfactorily toward Islam. There is internal stability. The timetable for the restoration of democracy has been outlined. The president has already announced the measures to be taken to eliminate the defects in the 1973 constitution. Under such circumstances, therefore, what justification is there for disruption, rioting and destruction? Actually, those involved are enemies of the country, elements that favor regionalism and do not believe in the ideology of Pakistan. They wish to block the path to Islam and are trying to reestablish their dictatorship over the country. They should be severely crushed. The law should be enforced with maximum force. The activities of such people are worth condemnation because they cause disturbances against a constitutional government, even though Islam says to obey the ruler. According to this, creating disturbances is a bigger crime even than murder. This is one view of the current situation, and some Advisory Council members, certain respectable scholars, one or two ministers and several political figures have expressed such a viewpoint. After the cabinet meeting the other day, the expressed determination to strictly enforce the law gave this line of thinking authoritative support.

On the other hand, an alternative view might be that the protractedness of martial law, the suspension of the constitution, the restrictions imposed for years on political activities, the feeling of nonparticipation in the country's affairs, the deprivation of basic rights, the actions against political opponents, the far-reaching abrogation of the constitution and the announced resolve to make fundamental changes have prompted and compelled the majority of the country's political circles toward extremism. They are trying to respond to the position of the people in authority to the effect that since the people did not take to the streets, they have no grievances and are happy with the political principles and program of the present regime. It can also be said that people among those participating and supporting this campaign whose patriotism and liking for Islam is beyond any doubt or suspicion. Some among them have either personally held ministerial posts in the present government or other members of their party, at the invitation of this regime, have been a part of it. In fact, there are at least two such

personalities among the supporters of the current campaign, to whom officials now in authority have themselves offered the highest positions in the country, and up to now this claim of theirs has not been refuted. This movement enjoys the full support of people like Air Marshal Asghar Khan and Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, who were the heart and soul of the movement that gave power to present-day officials in authority.

Officials in authority should drop the idea of suppressing this movement by force and gain the proper conclusions from it. They should adopt the path of mutual understanding with the political elements of the country to find a solution to the current crisis. This is the second view that can be adopted of the current situation.

We are unaware, after all, what course officials in authority will take and whether they will still insist on the argument that since those protesting are only a small part of the total population of Pakistan, their own thinking, preferences and political views are correct. They should suppress these evil-doers and continue to move forward on the path of their own choice. We must say, however, that this kind of thinking will not be helpful. Over the past 10 to 12 days, whatever has happened in the country in general and especially in Sind, has shown that the government should realize and admit that certain aspects of this thinking can also be wrong also. A few months earlier, the president toured Sind. After that, he himself said, "The people of Sind hope that martial law will be enforced for another 6 years." Other people declared his tour of Sind a grand demonstration of his personal popularity and that of his government. We are not unaware of whatever was said on that occasion, but what has been happening in this very same Sind for the past week or more?

If you insist on your views, even after the incidents of the past 10 to 12 days, that's your responsibility. But do not disregard the possibility that the views of those who differ with you can also be correct. Whether the recent struggle of the Movement to Restore Democracy has been fully successful or not, it has, nevertheless, clarified one fact--that the intention expressed by the president on 12 August concerning the manner and speed of moving forward in areas involving constitution and elections needs to be reviewed. We also fear that if an effort is made to overcome the current situation merely through law and force, conditions will further deteriorate, and what course they will take cannot be predicted. With true well-wishes for the country and the nation and the officials in authority, we wish to say that the announcement of 12 August, with all its details, has already become irrelevant and the circumstances demand some other kind of initiative. The demand of the time is not to let the possibilities of conflict increase but to control them and eliminate the causes of tension.

We have said repeatedly in these columns that the path of flying alone should not be adopted to solve the problem of the political confrontation. Instead, an effort should be made to secure national consensus on the views. It is sad, however, that prior to his promised announcement, the president did not arrange for a large-scale advisory group; instead, he limited his deliberation and attention to the reports of only the committees and commissions established

by him. Certain informations lead us to conclude that he accepted only those recommendations of these committees and commissions that meshed with his thinking and preferences. For example, it was revealed about the Ansari commission that it proposed that elections be held in March 1984. This information was published many days ago, and none of the circles has refuted it. Therefore, it must be considered true. The president, however, has not accepted even this recommendation and has fixed the time for March 1985 [sic]. This recommendation was from a commission whose performance the president himself has lauded. We can say with confidence that if the Ansari commission's proposal had been accepted, first, the decision to initiate the current movement would have been reviewed, and if someone had still insisted on that, it would not have received the support of numerous circles whose sympathy it enjoys today. If the president, along with the announcement about holding elections in March 1984 [sic], had also expressed his intention concerning the disputed constitutional amendments, the people would not have displayed such severe reaction; they would have known that after the elections the new assembly would be in a position to make these amendments unworkable.

In our opinion, even now, if the government agrees to accept the mentioned proposal of the Ansari commission that the elections should be held by March 1984, and also that the decision of the constitutional amendments is left for the next assembly, and it agrees to permit all reputable political parties of the country to participate in the elections and announces its firm decision to march forward on these lines, the country can be saved from further instability and anxiety. If, however, the government does not adopt this course and insists on its announced schedule, it is feared that in the forthcoming days, the conditions will move in a yet more unfavorable direction. It cannot be said what will be the outcome of greater provincial independence, the rights of nationalities, the resolution of 1940 and, considering the lack of restrictions, talk about the right of separation and confederation. We should demonstrate our ability to learn a lesson from our recent past and the attending circumstances. We should keep a distance from every possibility of a conflict and repetition of all the mistakes we have previously made on the national level.

9779

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PAKISTAN

ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH IRAN REVIEWED

GF271808 Karachi DAWN in English 25 Sep 83 p I

[Article by Shaheen Sehbaï from Economic and Business Review Supplement]

[Text] In a memorandum of understanding signed at Tehran earlier this month, Iran has "demanded payment of overdue installments without further delay" for loans advanced by Iran to the only Pak-Iran joint venture in existence--the Quetta and Uthal textile mills.

The Iranians also pressed upon Islamabad to "provide necessary financial support to the Pak-Iran textile mills, facilitating its smooth running on an economically sound basis."

The issue according to insiders, took the visiting Pakistan delegation by surprise and they had to make a note of it in writing. "Since Pakistan delegation was not aware of this position (default of repayment) they promised to look into it on their return to Pakistan on a priority basis," the memorandum signed by the finance ministers of both countries on September 11 stated.

What caused the dispute was repayment of part of the principal amount and debt servicing charges for an Iranian loan of U.S.\$35 million. The total amount involved, due to defaulted installments, was Rs. 178 million in foreign exchange.

And Pakistan also agreed to consider the Iranian suggestion of providing finances to the project "positively," and "within one month" the Iranians would be informed of the latest position.

While these contents of the formal memorandum between two governments would have pained the Pakistanis, the story that remains untold behind the whole episode is one of self-inflicted cuts and wounds.

"The Iranians had warned us two months back that we will have some straight talk with the Pakistani finance minister on the Pak-Iran project and this is what they had presumably done," one senior official of the joint venture told me.

"They (Iranians) have provided all the funds they were supposed to. They gave us U.S.\$35 million as loan, they paid their 49 percent share in equity and they are ready to match any payments that are made by the Pakistan Government to the project," the official said.

But the relevant authorities here have failed to keep the biggest industrial project in Baluchistan afloat. While the textile sector is picking up all over the country and even chronically sick mills have revived, Pak-Iran textile mills at Lasbela is closed for over two months while the Quetta unit is working far below its capacity.

"Funds provided for the project came in bits and pieces, never enough for us to launch a restructuring programme that is a must if this huge project is to be salvaged," one expert said.

This is only part of the story. The other part is more depressing. When the huge joint venture was set up, with an equity capital of Rs. 260 million divided in 51:49 ratio between Pakistan and Iran, enough attention was not given to design, building, air-conditioning plants and other vital components which have been left with major structural defects.

"The machinery purchased for the 100,000 spindles was from so many diverse sources that one could not comprehend why and how it could happen when all the funds in the world were available for purchase from a single manufacturer of known quality," one official recalled.

Those who were responsible for the purchase of machinery did not include any Iranian but what has been bought is enough evidence that different people had different interests to but from different places, according to one textile expert.

The result is that today the managers are finding it enormously difficult to make the huge project run as a coherent productive unit. Yet, one senior official thinks, this unit can produce one of the finest printed cloth in the world if finances are catered for.

The sickness of Pak-Iran mills has been worse confounded by a casual "do-it-yourself" attitude of Islamabad bureaucrats who have to provide the vital cash to make things move.

"Our problem is that whenever they pay us the money, they cut their interest on previous payments in advance. Then, instead of an 8 per cent interest rate we are being provided funds by the commercial banks, on behalf of the government, at 12.5 per cent interest rate. This increase in interest rate is another burden and though the government has promised to give us an "interest subsidy" it is still nowhere in sight. The subsidy itself has accumulated to Rs. 40 million," an executive of the company said.

While Iranians have been watching this easy-going attitude of Islamabad for several years, insiders say they have not as yet lost hope and they are still prepared to provide funds for the project.

On the contrary, the public sector managers in Islamabad are thinking of dumping the project on any willing private sector entrepreneur who may be prepared to pay a fixed return.

Pakistan Banking Council sources say the council is also involved in the matter and the Ministry of Production is considering several offers from top textile tycoons to take the Pak-Iran mills on lease.

But informed sources within the company say all those private sector offers have been with the precondition that the government would provide at least Rs. 150 million as soft loan to the new owners so that the mills could be made viable and enabled to make repayment of principal loans as well as debt servicing charges.

One executive of the project thinks the Iranians should also be involved in the process of leasing out the project as they have been the main financiers so far.

But the managing director [MD] of the mills, Mr R. Impolodi still insists that if the Pakistan Government could pay at least Rs. 100 million lumpsum the much needed working capital he would make the units not only viable but self-supporting within a period of six months.

He told me in an interview that the major problem was shortage of working capital and at least Rs. 100 million were needed to make a beginning. "This is a huge project with 100,000 spindles and having spinning, weaving and printing facilities. We cannot take off with piecemeal advances of 10 or 15 million rupees at a time."

Mr Lodi has been associated with the project for over two years and he says as soon as he came in following a major shakeup after all sorts of failures and mismanagement, he drew up a restructuring programme to review the project.

That programme has been under the consideration of Islamabad for several months and the Pakistan Banking Council and the NDFC [National Development Finance Corporation] have also been involved. But so far there is no result, he says.

The requirement for bringing the plants at Lasbella and Buleli, Quetta into proper gear and production has been estimated by the NDFC at about Rs. 1.12 billion. Other estimates range between Rs. 800 million to Rs. 1 billion.

The situation on the spot is that the Lasbella unit employing over 1,500 workers is lying idle for over two months--thanks to nonavailability of funds. In November last year, KESC [Karachi Electric Supply Corporation] had cut the power supply of the mills as the bills piled up to Rs. 6.2 million.

The unit at Buleli, is operating, but only partially. "We are shifting to spinning more and more because it brings ready cash. But for this as well we need a lot of working capital," the MD says.

Several official committees have studied the working of the project in the past but none has come up with a solution which could revive the massive capacity which was created not only for industrial progress of Baluchistan but to provide employment and other social benefits to the people of that province.

The Iranians, after remaining as silent observers on the sidelines for all these months, appeared to have felt that enough was enough and took the matter up in right earnest during the recent visit of the Pakistan delegation headed by the minister for finance and commerce.

The purpose behind the Iranian move, it is believed, is not primarily to get back the installments but to press Islamabad into doing something about the whole project.

The Iranians appear to have succeeded because Islamabad has promised to give them an answer within one month, that is, about two weeks from now.

CSO: 4600/27

PAKISTAN

PROMINENT FIGURES ASSAIL INDIAN EXPLOITATION OF INTERNAL CRISIS

Karachi JANG in Urdu 28 Aug 83 pp 1, 10

[Text] Lahore, 27 August--by JANG correspondent--A meeting of intellectuals and politicians was held by JANG to consider the statements of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Indian Minister of External Affairs Narasimha Rao on the situation in Pakistan. The participants condemned India for openly violating international principles. Mr Z. A. Suleri said that over the past 6 years Pakistan gave India no opportunity that could serve as an excuse for its present actions. Our government has been extremely cautious in voicing its reactions to the Muslim genocide in India. But the current statements by Indian leaders are an indication that however cautious Pakistan may have been, India is not prepared to abandon its hostile designs against Pakistan. Chaudhri Ghulam Jilani, leader of the Jamaat-e Islami, calling Indira Gandhi's statement a dangerous signal, said that the army should immediately give its fullest attention to performing its professional duties of defending the country and leave the solution of the political crisis to the politicians. He said that the policy adopted by the government to deal with antigovernment demonstrators will embolden the separatists, thereby forcing the people of Sind into the camp of the separatists. Maulana Rashid Mian, leader of Jamiatul Ulema-e Islam, said that Pakistan should give up the policy of pleasing India and should pay it back in kind. In other words, he said that we should support the movement of the Sikhs and the people of Kashmir. Sahibzadi Mahmouda Begum, leader of the Muslim League (Khwaja Khairuddin group) said that as with previous governments, President Ziaul Haq is also responsible for deepening the sense of deprivation in the small provinces. She said that MRD [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy] is not a movement for Sindhudesh, it is a movement for the restoration of the fundamental rights and privileges of all Pakistanis. The administration is deliberately trying to characterize this movement as a provincial movement. She added that we are responsible for the present state of affairs and our adversaries are taking advantage of this situation.

Former Justice Shaykh Shaukat Ali charged that India has been secretly supporting some MRD elements, especially the defunct People's Party. That Mrs Indira Gandhi came out openly in support of the movement, just when India saw that it was growing weaker, to give it courage and activate it once again in its infamous designs, clearly proves this. He added that the big powers are once

again making plans to break up Pakistan. The acting president of the Mazdoor Kisan Party, Sardar Shaukat Ali, said that before Mrs Gandhi's statement, the U.S. Senate and Congress expressed concern over Pakistan's internal situation, and the U.S. secretary of state, George Shultz, had the audacity to state on the very soil of Pakistan that he was anxiously awaiting 14 August. If we do not consider these statements as interference in Pakistan's internal affairs, then how can we call Mrs Indira Gandhi's statement interference in our affairs? He said that in order to deal with external threats, we should immediately accept the MRD demands. Rafiq Ahmed Bajwa said that Hindus living in Sind were also responsible for the recent disturbances. He said he felt that the incidents that occurred in East Pakistan were about to be repeated in Sind and that Sindhi Hindus will be called on to play the same roles as the Hindus of East Pakistan. He charged that the Zia Support Movement and the Pakistan Solidarity Council were also responsible for the worsening of the situation in the country. Rafiq Bajwa expressed concern that if the present state of affairs continued, then India would set up some camps on the border and start charging that Pakistan was violating human rights, and it would claim that it was helping Sindhi refugees just as we are helping the Afghan refugees. In offering to resolve the crisis, Mr Bajwa said that external powers intervene only where the people are internally dissatisfied. He said that thank God, Pakistan was just as strong today and the only thing he was afraid of was that an extension of martial law would weaken the country. He added that now it is up to the government to decide whether the stability and the survival of Pakistan or the retention of power and authority is more important.

9315

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'PAPER DISCOVERIES' OF OILFIELDS CRITICIZED

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Sep 83 Supplement p I

[Article by Mujtaba Akhtar]

[Text]

THE FIRST well of the Dakhni oilfield, which was inaugurated on August 20 with a lot of fanfare, had to close down the very next day — and without any formal explanation being offered for the unexpected closure.

Now, following persistent inquiries, concerned authorities have come out with a vague statement to the effect that the well was closed down temporarily, pending the arrival of equipment which would help separate sulphur from the Dakhni crude.

According to informed circles, the particular equipment being mentioned would cost about Rs. 20 million for which international tenders would have to be floated and the approval of various concerned authorities obtained for the huge expenditure. Insiders believe all this will take something like six to nine months to be completed.

Paper discoveries

Quoting from past experiences, these experts said that the concerned agencies and their chiefs had in the past used "paper discoveries" of oil to promote their personal as well as organisational images. They said if all these so-called discoveries had yielded oil in commercial quantities, half of Pakistan's energy problem would have been overcome.

They said it was illogical and unscientific to announce big discoveries until oil in commercial quantities started flowing from the wells. At the time of the so-called inauguration of the Dakhni oilfield it was announced that it would yield 600 barrels a day which was more than half of 1,100 barrels a day target of additional oil fixed for the current year.

The OGDC appeared to be confident that after the sulphur separation equipment arrived the Dakhni well would start gushing out 600 barrels a day. But in terms of scientific logic, experts said, the confidence could either be a product of misjudgement or a characteristic attempt to mislead the nation, to which no one seemed to be accountable after the event.

No accountability

According to informed circles nobody had been made to pay for the lack of planning to meet the energy shortage which hit the country with all its force in 1982-83 and was projected to increase through 1985. And no one was asked why an oil well was inaugurated some three years back despite the fact that it was dry and the oil which the newsmen, present on the occasion, saw coming out was actually a technical trick.

Then there was the Khuzian affair — the so-called oilfield which was supposed to have yielded 30,000 bpd but finally produced only water.

The mystery of the costly LPG plant at Meyal is still unsolved. Nobody has so far given a straight answer to what exactly went wrong there. What has been gathered from bits and pieces of information, made available so far, is that the plant failed to function even for a single day and the Italian experts who assisted in erecting this Rs. 10 million plant were not issued clearance certificate and now a super technical expert from Italy has been invited to find the fault in the plant.

Independent oil experts ask why no action has so far been taken against those who negotiated the

deal, in the first place. Also why the Pakistani experts associated with the erection failed to detect the fault in time. These experts also hinted at possible foul play behind the whole affair.

The Italian experts, who are demanding payment of their dues which have been withheld pending the arrival of their super expert, claim that there was nothing wrong with the plant. They put the blame squarely on the local experts at the plant and say they could not properly operate it. Pakistan oil limited authorities have said that the plant's fault was the direct result of its substandard design.

CSO: 4600/26

ZIA ADVISED TO HOLD TALKS WITH POLITICIANS

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 23 Aug 83 p 5

[Editorial: "Shouldn't We Worry About the Country?"

[Text] Our country is going through a lot of turmoil these days. Not heeding this state of affairs or calling it 'normal' is to behave like an ostrich who hides its face in the sand when it finds itself in the grip of a furious storm or sees a hunter coming towards it, and deceives itself by saying "it will soon be over."

History tells us that sometimes a small flame may leap up and set everything around it ablaze; and when after much difficulty, the fire is extinguished, nothing but the ashes are left. Foresight demands that we do not overlook the fire that is smouldering, even if only in a province and a half, nor should we take any step that will add fuel to this fire. Rather, we should try to find out the causes that have led to the present discontent, and then try to solve the problem in a cool-headed manner.

It is not a wise step to condemn with one slip of the pen all the defunct political parties in the country and call them anti-national. It is to these parties that power will be transferred in the future. Moreover, one should not under-estimate one's opponent.

The people at the helm should realize that major reasons for the present discontent and dissatisfaction are length of the martial law, delay in holding elections, and indecision with regard to the transfer of power. Their giving one date [for elections] and cancelling it, then giving another date and cancelling it has given the public the impression that the government is not sincere in its declarations.

After a long wait, only when the martial law had entered its seventh year, was the promised framework announced. According to some sections of the public, however, it is incomplete and needs elaboration.

Political observers have pin-pointed the places in it where an explanation is essential. After a wait of six years, a delay for another eighteen months, even though quite proper, is too trying for the patience of some restless people. Provincial and central elections are more important than the local

bodies' elections. Since the local bodies' elections had already taken place once, all that was needed was to give elected members [of local bodies] an extension in the tenure of their offices. It is possible to wait for eighteen months to give the government time to complete the task. But would it not have been better if the government had invited politicians of every school of thought and discussed with them all the matters in the constitution that need explanation and rectification before the MRD [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy] got its political show going? If this declaration [to invite politicians for a dialogue] had been made on the 12th of August, it would have taken all the wind out of the sails of the MRD. Had the government had a heart to heart talk with the politicians, they would have found out the causes of the discontent found in the smaller provinces. They could have found out how much truth and weight there is in the accusation being levelled against the larger province that it is exploiting the smaller provinces and usurping their rights.

We are sure if the negotiations take place in an atmosphere of free discussion, many misunderstandings will be removed. Another thing we beg to say is that the political workers (of whichever political party) who are rightly or wrongly offering themselves for arrest should not be treated as common criminals. Giving them punishment of lashes, fines or long imprisonment will only make matters worse, specially when the leaders of these political workers are in prison or solitary confinement. People who are involved in destroying the peace of the country are very short-sighted. Specially those who are involved in acts of demolition and destruction should remember that they, by their abominable activities, are clearing the way for the enemies of the country who are waiting until matters get out of control and (God forbid) they get a chance to interfere in the internal affairs of our country.

God be praised that the situation is not yet out of control. The need of the hour is patience, deep thinking and action. We suggest to the president that he should invite leaders of every school of political thought to one table and have sincere talks with them. They are not traitors, nor are they the destructive elements of the country. They are patriots, like the president himself, and they love the unity and integrity of the motherland as does any military or non-military people who are in power. We will even go so far as to say that the president should appear on television and take the nation into confidence. If such a step is taken we believe it will have a very beneficent effect on the situation in the country.

Our duty was but to convey this message.

12476

CSO: 4656/249

RELIGIOUS PARTIES URGED TO UNITE TO COMBAT MRD MOVEMENT

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 19 Aug 83 p 5

[Editorial: "Alliance of Patriotic Parties"]

[Excerpt] Now the situation in our country has reached a point where it is the duty of all patriotic political and religious parties to remember their responsibilities and try to get united. The union that has emerged in the form of MRD [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy], and destruction and anarchy that has started under its influence, is sufficient to show us that this sort of union and this kind of leadership can lead the country into a new martial law, but cannot lead it to democracy.

If our analysis is correct, the question arises: Will the patriotic religious and political parties behave as silent spectators, and follow the policy of wait and see? In fact there has always been a political vacuum in the country owing to the patriotic political and religious parties not presenting a united front and a united program before the public. That vacuum is now being filled by those who are capable of destruction but nothing constructive can be expected of them. Whenever such a state of affairs has arisen in the country, our external enemies have taken advantage of it and left no stone unturned to harm the integrity of Pakistan.

The people of this country have been through similar situations twice already.

Each time the democratic movements were successful in overthrowing the despotic rulers, but were unsuccessful in establishing democracy. Because of the bitter experiences of the past, the people are anxious to find leadership that would bring them nearer to the goals of removal of the martial law and the restoration of democracy. In order to fulfill this desire and demand of the public, it is essential for the patriotic religious and political parties to come forward and unitedly present a program which would assure the end of the martial law and a peaceful transfer of power.

It is plain that the MRD, by its policy of destruction and terrorism, has created great obstructions and difficulties in its way. After adopting the path of confrontation, MRD has now lost all chances of a wise and diplomatic policy. At this point when President Zia's government has, through the proposed frameworks, proclaimed its intention of holding of elections and ending

the martial law, they [the MRD] should have tried to hold a dialogue with the government that would lead to a unity of views regarding the matters which President Zia raised in his speech. But MRD instead has lost all capacity for playing such a role.

Under the present circumstances it is imperative that all patriotic political and religious parties get united without wasting a moment and take a united stand regarding the controversial constitutional matters. They should demand of the president to waste this opportunity for holding purposeful talks. The president should realize that the holding of elections and lifting of martial law are long overdue. If now he does not show earnestness drawing a constitutional document after discussions with patriotic political parties, he may never get a chance again. We hope that the patriotic religious and political parties will remember their responsibilities at this critical time and the president will not make any mistake in noting which way the wind is blowing. Only by this method can the schemes of the internal and external enemies of the country be foiled.

12476

CSO: 4656/249

PAKISTAN

NATIONALISM, NEED FOR DEMOCRACY STRESSED

Karachi JANG in Urdu 2 Sep 83 pp 3, 22

[Article by Z. A. Suleri: "Problems and Views: Assessment of Maturity of Daultana's Views"]

[Excerpt] Mian Mumtaz Daultana talked about two things. He spoke of the sense of deprivation felt by small provinces. To remedy this situation, he suggested that elections should be held immediately. Second, Mian Mumtaz Daultana suggested that Ziaul Haq start negotiations with the MRD [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy] so that a way can be found to end the present action. Now, first of all, the very idea of small and large provinces is in itself, wrong. The difference between small and large provinces has nothing to do with the sense of deprivation. From the standpoint of population, East Pakistan was a large province. But that province, too, was said to be a victim of deprivation, and that was declared to be the cause of the secession. The truth is that Pakistan as a whole is a poor and backward country. In the Punjab there are a number of places that are poorer and more backward than certain areas in Baluchistan. There is no country in the world that can be said to have a proportionate structure, with its various regions on a par with one another from the standpoint of population distribution, economic well-being and other factors. In Great Britain, England is much more thickly populated than Scotland and Wales. What really matters is the perception of nationality. The backwardness of an underdeveloped country can be remedied only gradually. Then there are certain places that are endowed with natural resources. For example, Karachi, because it is our only seaport, has comparatively much more business and financial activity. With the passage of time every backward area is bound to develop; otherwise, the country will remain weak. If the leadership in East Pakistan had had the slightest insight and prudence, it would have dominated all the sectors of the Government of Pakistan over the next 10 years. Because of its integration, it would also have had the right to ownership of financial resources and wealth in West Pakistan. But due to a weakening in its perception of nationalism, the leadership had lost all sense of insight and wisdom and preferred separation, backwardness and insecurity.

Not only are the natural resources of Bangladesh limited, it is at the same time under heavy pressure from India because of its geographic position.

However much one may advance and however much wealthier he or she may become, the desire to improve will yet persist. In other words, if a person sees that someone else is better off, then that person starts complaining about his lot. It is hard to change this aspect of human nature. But a society has its own rules and regulations. One of these is its connection with its heritage and roots. Thus the saying that it is necessary to keep in touch with trees and plants in order to be hopeful about spring.

Our heritage and roots are fundamentally linked with the Muslim nationalism that led to the creation of Pakistan. Pakistan did not come into being because of the actions of any one province. Pakistan is the product of Muslim nationalism and as such it should be given top priority. Hence, the question is not one of the deprivation of Sind, Baluchistan and the North West Frontier Province but of the poverty and backwardness of the Muslim nation as a whole, and it is our duty to rid ourselves of this poverty and backwardness wherever it exists. It is legally improper to discriminate among the provinces. All wealth and sources of income are the property of the entire nation and should be used for the advantage and benefit of the nation, whether they are found in one region or another. No province has any monopoly over the wealth of the country. If the nation is given priority and all the affairs of the country are conducted in this light, then the nature of the problem changes. The wealth of all of the provinces becomes the wealth of the nation and there is no room for any complaint about deprivation. Yet there is a desire and striving for evolution. Statesmen of Mian Mumtaz Daultana's stature, keeping in mind the constructive values of the country, should direct the thoughts of the people on the right path instead of simply repeating slogans that appeal to the common man. Gaining popularity in this way might be beneficial for a brief period but at the cost of the larger interests of the country, and such actions are not worthy of a patriot. Second, whether the elections are held soon or are delayed, the real objective is to create respectable and trustworthy political parties capable of running the affairs of the state. Are the prevailing conditions such that we can attain this goal? Weak governments have always harmed the interests of the country. But you can imagine how dangerous an unstable government could be under the present circumstances when the country is threatened from all sides. We can only welcome an election that can unite and stabilize the country.

Mian Mumtaz Daultana has asked President Ziaul Haq to begin negotiations with the leaders of MRD, but did he ask these leaders whether they considered President Ziaul Haq's proposals before taking this action? Did they consider these proposals collectively and issue a detailed statement? They gave the government an ultimatum and started their disruptive activities with no hesitation. In such a situation, no room has been left for any negotiations. To tell the truth, there is not need for any negotiations. If the amendments to the constitution introduced by President Ziaul Haq are not acceptable then they can be made an election issue. If these amendments are not acceptable to the majority of the representatives they can be rejected. Even if cause of the dissension is that elections should be held immediately, to hold elections as soon as possible still takes time. The political parties also need time to strengthen their organizations. For this reason, it seems meaningless for Mian Mumtaz Daultana to support MRD. This does not indicate a maturity of

viewpoint but demonstrates opportunism and is clearly indicative of a desire to make hay while the sun shines. If Mian Mumtaz Daultana wants to be a leader then he should say things worthy of a leader. He should not boast about the achievements of others and put plumes in his cap that do not rightly belong there. Certainly what could legally be demanded is that the government be asked to clarify whether the elections will be held on partisan or nonpartisan bases. Also, during the transitional period, the parties should be allowed to carry out political activities so that they are able to make the necessary preparations for the coming elections.

I am afraid that Mian Mumtaz Daultana's statement may pave the way for yet further agitation. The movement started by MRD so far has been largely restricted to Sind alone. Under the misguided enthusiasm of patriotism, some people are thinking of spreading the movement to other provinces, particularly to Punjab, on a national scale, so that Sind will not be blamed for being a separatist. God forbid should such action come to pass; unfortunately, there would then be no country more foolish and less far-sighted than ours. In other words, we are inviting disaster. The events in Sind exasperated Shrimati Indira Gandhi. If Punjab were to be entangled in this movement, she could not have a better opportunity to interfere with Pakistan's internal affairs. It must be mentioned here that the Indian prime minister is determined to oppose Pakistan in any circumstances. On the occasion of the fall of Dhaka she said that the two-nation theory had proved to be false. Now the two-nation theory does not apply to East Pakistan but to West Pakistan as well. East Pakistan was the first step and she is impatient to take the second step. For God's sake, Mian Mumtaz Daultana, through your "sagacity" do not provide her with an opportunity to fulfill her dreams. I sincerely hope that Mr Daultana becomes a leader. He is now trying to become one. (He says that he is not interested in practical politics, but politics today consisted mainly of giving statements, and he comes up with a new statement every day.) He should follow the Quaid-e Azam, about whom he talks all the time, and instead of trying to gain cheap publicity he should make it his motto to perform concrete national public service.

9315

CSO: 4656/252

COMMENTARY ON RECENT AFGHAN INTRUSIONS

GF061152 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Sep 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Afghan Intrusions"]

[Text] There have been fresh intrusions of Pakistan's air space by Afghan aircrafts, this time of a rather serious nature. On Eid day a flight of six Mig-21's swooped over the Parachinar area and dropped as many as nine bombs. Luckily, the bombs fell in a sparsely populated area and no lives were lost, though six persons are said to have suffered injuries as a result of flying shrapnel. On the same day similar violations took place near Landikotal and on the Baluchistan border, followed the next day by further forays in the Parachinar region. The Pakistan Government has done well to lodge a strong protest with Kabul. So far it has displayed commendable restraint in the face of repeated provocation but its late note contains a warning that further incidents of this nature could lead to serious consequences for which the blame would rest entirely on the Kabul regime. Pakistan's concern has also been conveyed to the Soviet Embassy in Islamabad and a detailed list of Afghan air violations is being circulated at the United Nations where the General Assembly is now in session.

It transpires that transgression of Pakistan's air space has been taking place quite frequently; the document circulated at the United Nations sets forth a whole catalogue of such intrusions. It is difficult to understand why the people of Pakistan are not informed of these incidents as and when they occur. And it is equally intriguing that such violations are made on certain specific occasions, as, for instance, when high American dignitaries visit this country or when the issue of Afghanistan is due to come up for discussion at the United Nations, as in the present case.

The recent string of incidents again helps to underscore the dire need for a speedy political settlement of the Afghanistan issue to which Pakistan is sensibly committed. All attempts, overt and covert, by foreign powers, to keep the fires in Afghanistan raging, must be resolutely resisted because the continuation of a crisis smack on our borders may suit some cold warriors in the West but is definitely detrimental to Pakistan's long-term interests. The recent wave of agitation in some parts of the country--not to mention the complications arising from the congregation of three million Afghan refugees on our soil--gives a fresh edge of urgency to a quick and enduring resolution of the Afghan crisis.

CSO: 4600/27

BORDER VIOLATIONS BY KABUL: MOTIVES ANALYZED

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Sep 83 p 7

[Article by A.T. Chaudhri]

[Text]

THE way Karmal regime which has no entity of its own, except as a puppet of the Soviets, continues to raid Pakistan territory and violate its air space with impunity, is simply bewildering. But there is no bewilderment for those who know that captive Kabul is indulging in frequent delinquency at the behest of a superpower and fears no retaliation from this side of the Pakistan-Afghan border.

It is not the first time that Afghan MIG-aircraft have had a hoop-la exercise across the Durand Line. (In their Eid greetings to the Afghan refugees some half a dozen jets converged 10 times on Parachinar and made fireworks with nine bombs injuring a score of people.) But it was the first time, as the Foreign Office points out, that such a large number of red-snouted jets were involved. Their depth of penetration was larger and their duration of stay also longer than before.

Past record

The Soviets have denied their complicity in this sordid affair. And, the spokesmen of Karmal junta have, according to a BBC report, dismissed the Parachinar incident as canard dished out by Islamabad to divert world attention

from internal trouble. Yet, none but the gullible few would be taken in by such a blatant travesty of truth, which adds insult to injury. Parachinar in the Frontier and several other places in Baluchistan, where many victims of Afghan/Soviet atrocities are sheltered, have often been the targets of trigger-happy helicopter gunships, as also of the Afghan troops which relapse into bellicosity at regular intervals.

Past record shows that during the first year of Soviet occupation of Afghanistan — that is from December, 1979 to November, 1980 — Pakistan territory was raided no less than 200 times. There was no abatement in trespasses in 1981, or 1982. In fact, the escalation in the violation of airspace and border raids has always been in proportion to the intensity of the civil war raging in Afghanistan. (Since August 1 there have been 23 blatant violations).

The latest attacks precede the UN General Assembly session and it is not a mere coincidence that last year, too, Kurram Agency, the focal point of refugees, was attacked on the eve of the 37th session of the U.N. The timing is suggestive. Perhaps the Karmal regime is a protege of the Kremlin, which will be put in the dock at the U.N. once again, wants to convince world opinion that Pakistan is actively involved in the unending Afghan conflict.

Whatever the real motivation behind the recent Afghan sallies into

Pakistan, it is not without significance that border raids and airspace violations have escalated since the civil disobedience movement launched in mid-August. Does it imply that the ruling elite in Kabul is being goaded by its Soviet masters to go about fishing in the troubled waters on this side of the Durand Line? Or, is there a deeper design in the hit-and-run tactics of the Afghan raiders — that is to hot up the Pakistan-Afghan border and shake up the dormant Frontier and Baluchistan which are sitting on the sidelines of the ferment in Sind?

It may be recalled that the Soviets have off and on threatened to exercise the right of "hot pursuit" and destroy Afghan "sanctuaries" in Pakistan. This threat was vociferously articulated, last December, when President Zia was on a visit to the U.S., which provoked the State Department to warn Moscow of the dire consequences of its contemplated move. Now, it seems, that the Soviet strategists, who had earlier charged Pakistan with waging an "undeclared war" against them in the embattled Afghan land, feel tempted to exploit the simmering crisis this country.

In this context, it is worth mentioning that the Soviets have been irked by Pakistan's persistent refusal to engage in direct talks with the Karmal regime and in effect bestow legitimacy upon Moscow's satrap. They have been indulging in double talk: (a) sowing suspicion among the refugees that Pakistan is in a hurry to get rid of them and would soon enter into direct talks with Kabul; and (b) suggesting that Pakistan was rigid at Geneva III, or extended Geneva II, owing to U.S. pressures against any political settlement.

Rigid stand

The fact is that it was the Soviet/Afghan stand at the last Geneva parleys that was rigid and uncompromising. According to knowledgeable sources, the Soviets were almost back to square one on the crucial issues at stake. They are reported to have told the U.N. mediator, Mr Diego Cordovez, that they would not get out of Afghanistan, unless the Karmal regime asked them to withdraw. (Since World War II the Soviet troops have beaten a retreat only once — from Austria, in 1955.)

On the question of international guarantors, too, the Soviets are said to have taken a hard line at Geneva, arguing that as a super-Power they could not accept the supervision of the proposed Agreement by a rival and hostile super-Power. They are also believed to have insisted that a pro-Soviet Kabul regime, like the present junta, would remain in place and the Russian military advisers would also stay so that life for Karmal or his successor does not become precarious.

As for the return of refugees, only those were to return whom Russia approved on security grounds. An assurance was also sought to the effect that the one million refugees in Iran would not stir trouble after the signing of the U.N. sponsored deal — a "messy deal", as cynical observers describe the bargain.

To cover up its own stiff rather uncompromising attitude on the settlement of the Afghan tangle, Russia has lately deemed it prudent to accuse Pakistan of furthering the strategic interests of the U.S. in the course of "indirect" negotiations, which are now two-year old. Moscow conveniently

forgets that while the U.S. takes a global view of the Afghan problem, Pakistan is primarily concerned over its local and regional aspects. Again, it is Pakistan that took the initiative in indirect negotiations and endeavoured to generate international support for a comprehensive political settlement on the basis of the 30-page Cordovez draft centering round a four-point "core".

Substitutes

More important, Pakistan has reconciled itself to a Marxist regime in Kabul. Nor does it overstress the right of the Afghans to work out their own destiny. Instead, it has agreed to substitutes of a kind — for example, U.N. consultation with refugee resistance groups before the Cordovez plan is signed. What more do the Soviets expect from this country? After all, there is a limit to give-and-take and Pakistan cannot go beyond the limits it has already set. Russia is obviously mistaken, if it nurses the illusion that by twisting Pakistan's arm and creating tension on Pakistan-Afghan border, it can extort all the concessions it wants or dictate the terms of an Afghan settlement.

Nevertheless, the policy-makers of Pakistan should not lose sight of the fact that external dangers — India's interference and Kabul's incursions — will continue to mount as long as the internal trouble does not subside. Before long the spectre of Indo-Soviet collusion may begin to haunt this nation, unless it takes time by the forelock to tide over the new crisis.

It was time the politicians and generals came to terms and began to tread the road to political legitimacy and internal stability. That alone can ward off the new threats looming up on the horizon.

EDITORIAL CONDEMNS AFGHAN AIR FORCE INTRUSIONS

GF240658 Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 19 Sep 83 p 3

[Editorial from the international edition: "The Afghan Air Force's Provocative Violations"]

[Excerpts] Seven MiG-21's of the Afghan Air Force bombed Pakistan's border villages near Parachinar, causing a lot of damage, killing one person, and wounding another. This is clearly a case of wanton and blatant provocation.

One airplane can drift from its course, but seven airplanes of Afghanistan's Soviet-controlled air force cannot make such a serious mistake. The Karmal administration's action was meant to exert pressure on Pakistan as well as to divert attention from the increasing wave of protest and condemnation of the Soviet Union for its shooting down of a KAL passenger plane.

The Soviet Union's ally, India, is expressing great interest in the campaign initiated by the MRD in Pakistan and India and the Soviet Union are making political capital of the situation. This is a matter which should be seriously reviewed by the authorities in a realistic manner. The release of 1,056 political prisoners of the provinces on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha had created a pleasant atmosphere in the country, which was deliberately marred by the Afghan Air Force's action. In any case, whatever the motives of the Soviet Union or India, Pakistan can only resist them by putting its own house in order and maintaining domestic harmony as soon as possible. This will serve as a warning to the Soviet puppet--the Karmal administration--and reinforce the demand for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

There was a glimmer of hope with the convening of the Geneva talks, but the Afghan violation has had a very adverse effect, has created fresh suspicions about Soviet actions and motives, and has shattered what little confidence there was.

CSO: 4656/7

COMMENTARY COMPARES REGIME POLICIES WITH THOSE OF BRITISH RAJ

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 22 Sep 83 p 34

[Article from the "Press Round-up": "Alive & Kicking"]

[Text]

THOSE who mourn the passing away of the British Raj should take heart. Not only is the Raj alive and well in Pakistan, it has also been given some new twists that would bring a smile to the face of even the most blimpish imperialist. One of the chief features of the Raj was the belief that the government was always right, that it was the only one who knew what was best for the people. Never mind what the people actually wanted or the fact that they were never consulted, it was the government that knew best. Another important characteristic was the bureaucracy's firm belief in its own inherent superiority. No greater misnomer existed than the term 'civil servant'. The members of the civil service certainly never thought of themselves as public servants. As far as they were concerned, they were the masters. A third feature was the philosophy that 'the natives got restless', they could be swiftly 'sorted out' — a lathi charge here, a cannister of tear gas there, the occasional police firing into a mob to show that the Raj meant business. It was always a 'mob', an 'unruly crowd' or 'rioters' — never people. Mobs were impersonal entities and could be 'dealt with'. People, on the other hand, tended to be messy; they had families and hopes, they grieved and they bled.

The British left thirty-six years ago, but these and other aspects of the Raj continue to flourish in Pakistan. Governments are still always right. They are the only ones who know what is really going on, and are, therefore, the only ones who should be believed. So what if the Indians were only

hours away from taking Dacca. The government of the day said the Indians had been contained at Jessore, that all was well; and if the government said all was well, all was indeed well, come hell or high water. Similarly the latest round of official statements say that there is no political unrest in Sind, i.e. it is not true that 'the natives are restless'...

Another Raj-inspired philosophy is the one relating to controls. The theory evolved by the Brits was that one of the ways to prevent the natives from ganging up and kicking the Brits out was to keep everyone so bogged down in running from one government office to the next for permission to do this, that or the other, they would have very little time for anything else. With the help of this and other equally Machiavellian devices, a handful of Britishers managed to keep the vast sub-continent and its teeming millions subjugated for close to two hundred years. The lesson has not been lost on successor governments. A plethora of bureaucratic controls abounds. If you want to start a newspaper, you need the government's permission, approval of declarations and newsprint import quotas. If you want to put up a factory, you need permission. If you want a telephone, you need permission. If you want to travel, you need permission. If you want to hold a public meeting, you need permission. If you want to stage a play, you need permission. If you want to live, you need permission. No permission, however, is required if you want to die. Freedom at Midnight! Ye gods! That's got to be the joke of the century. — From an article by Mr. Kaleem Omar, THE STAR, Sept. 15.

HIGH TAXATION SEEN AS BOOSTING CORRUPTION

GF221500 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Sep 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Inflation, Taxation, and Corruption"]

[Text] As a million citizens fill their income tax forms to be filed before October 1, as required by law, the issues of inflation, taxation and corruption are coming to the forefront again in a big way.

Direct taxation is too heavy even after the marginal adjustments announced by the finance minister as part of the current budget. Income tax payable up to Rs. 21,000 hitherto even without making any investment to claim investment relief was only Rs. 120 and now after the tax exemption limit has been raised from Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 18,000, the 15 per cent taxation begins from Rs. 22,000 instead of Rs. 21,000 as in the past. Compared to that those with taxable incomes of Rs. 100,000 and more have been exempted from the ten per cent surcharge on the 60 per cent tax payable by them. Hence, the relief announced by the finance minister is clearly to the advantage of the rich, and is an eye-wash for the low income groups.

The total loss to the government from this and other concessions given to the entrepreneurs is only Rs. 40.8 crore. Compared to that while the tax revenue will be itself raise Rs. 685.5 crore this year over the previous years revenue, additional indirect taxation will bring a net revenue of Rs. 56.3 crore after adjusting for the customs and excise duty reliefs announced, and Rs. 200 more are to be collected through a more intensive tax collection drive making a total tax gain of Rs. 941 crore in all. Clearly the gain to the exchequer is far in excess of the marginal loss from income tax adjustments and the token relief to the low income groups.

When the people cannot pay full taxation and live reasonably well they will resort to tax evasion. Persons with one employment take to another to increase their earnings and avoid paying taxes on that extra income. The upper income groups have their exempt prerequisites and even more the top officials who formulate official policies but no such facility is available to the lower income groups whether they are employed by the private sector or the government. Hence tax evasion becomes imperative, particularly for those with large families to support. Simultaneously, it would be wrong to maintain that such persons

do not pay heavy taxes as over 80 per cent of the taxation in Pakistan is indirect--from customs and excise duties, sales tax, etc.

High taxation is also an invitation to corruption. Usually the higher the taxation, the higher the corruption. So in a year in which President Ziaul Haq has declared the current year as the year for a war against corruption, and has set up the ombudsman's office as well with a large staff and a considerable budget, avenues for corruption are being opened further. This is all the more so when the honest man more than the dishonest feels the vicious impact of inflation and taxation.

Corruption in Pakistan is essentially of three kinds. It relates to money or other rewards demanded by officials, delay by the officials, to tax evasion in lieu of gratification paid to the taxation officials, and to smuggling in and out of goods, particularly heroin without being checked by officials when they are in the know of it.

It is said on behalf of officials that if they are not paid well they will resort to corruption and become inefficient as well. Simultaneously, if heavy taxation is resorted to pay them well, and then prices of essential goods and services in the country are pushed up steeply, corruption will flourish despite official edicts to the contrary and the ombudsman. It is for the government to come up with the right remedies for this self-defeating exercise, which has been going on for too long. Corruption cannot be banished by fertilizing its roots unwittingly or otherwise.

CSO: 4600/27

DAILY ON NEED FOR EARLY ELECTIONS

GF230944 Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 15 Sep 83 p 3

[Editorial from international edition : "Speedy Elections--Need for Conductive Atmosphere"]

[Excerpts] The liaison committee of the Majlis-i-Shoora [Federal Advisory Council] held a meeting and passed a resolution denouncing the unfortunate reaction to the president's election proposals contained in his 12 August address which is manifesting itself in the form of courting of arrest by some political circles in the name of restoration of democracy, especially in the form of destruction and arson in some parts of the Sind Province.

In the resolution, it was clearly stressed that the country cannot afford to brook any further postponement of elections and it addresses the country's administrative circles as well as those political circles who desire early elections. Now the basic need is to create conditions in which a program for holding general elections in the appropriate manner in the shortest possible time so that there will be no impediment in the path of delegating power to the people's elected representatives.

The Majlis-i-Shoora committee's resolution is to make the people realize the fact that since the martial law administration has announced its plan to delegate power, it is the duty of the democracy-loving elements to create a conducive atmosphere for the implementation of true democracy and when the president is providing assurances on implementing necessary amendments in his proposals and holding negotiations on the same, there is no need for agitation, destruction, and subversion. Those elements in Sind who are indulging in such activities and who do not agree with the recommendations of the liaison committee must review their conduct and objectives and those elements who are merely agitating for speedier elections for the restoration of democracy must decide whether their behavior is appropriate or not.

CSO: 4656/07

PUNJAB LOCAL ELECTIONS EXAMINED; ROLE OF 'BROTHERHOOD' DISCUSSED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 22 Sep 83 p 16

[Text]

THE most conclusive argument in favour of holding elections, at all tiers on party basis is being provided by the way local bodies polls are being contested. Even a cursory survey of the electioneering tactics being employed in Lahore is sufficient to bring out the disastrous consequences of the so-called partyless election on the very system of representation.

The first thing one notices is the resuscitation of the 'bradari' system with all of its ugly concomitants. Two 'bradaris', each headed by a Provincial Minister, are in the forefront of the battle to capture the city of Lahore. One of the Ministers belongs to an old ruling family and although his son has been elected unopposed this time (while in 1979 he had lost both the election and a bet to a humble commoner), he has been outmanoeuvred by a younger and far more daring colleague. The latter acquired valuable experience in the art of swift manipulation in a by-election last year and is now reported to have fielded 70 candidates from his 'bradari'.

Arbitrary delimitation

The tussle between the two factions had in fact begun at the time of delimitation of city wards which added a new dimension to the art of gerrymandering. Wards were arbitrarily demarcated to suit the interests of favoured sons and cousins that scores of candidates raised a howl in protest.

However, the aggrieved candidates learnt that individually they were unable to beat the powerful machines commissioned by the new city lords. This was their first lesson in the baneful effects of seeking election without the backing of political parties.

The nature of the contest crystallised further when nomination papers were filed and rejected. The strength acquired by one 'bradari' so frightened its opponents that the Deputy Mayor forgot all about protocol and the risk to his career and protested to the CMLA-President at the 'Mashriq' public function. He certainly did not know what he was asking for but he did not have to wait long before he was made to realise the magnitude of his 'folly'. His plea to the faction chief to disown him did not work and finally he issued a statement expressing satisfaction at the arrangement for polls and the fairness of their outcome!

The principal feature of election on 'bradari' system is that considerations of candidates' merit or their suitability for the office sought by them become totally irrelevant. Nor is any value attached to candidates' promises or manifestoes. The people are told to vote for 'our man' who is subject to no political discipline and will function as a member of the clan.

Those who have the misfortune of being without substantial 'bradari' support also have realised that the

voters are not at all interested in checking on their qualifications or programmes. It is no secret, at least to the common citizens, that individual candidates' promises or programmes have little meaning as matters will be decided in the Corporation on the strength of 'bradari' alliances. Thus, the selected councillors' ability to help their supporters will be restricted to the distribution of money each councillor is allocated for what is ironically described as 'public works'.

This does not take into account the number of people who have been telling the candidates that they could not care less who got elected and who did not. The number of such people has caused no small surprise to the candidates and even Authority.

Other evils

Apart from canvassing on 'bradari' basis — despite the amusing announcement by the Election Authority that anyone canvassing support on the strength of 'bradari' connections will be disqualified — some other evils of the non-party poll have become manifest. A local daily has reported that some candidates are spending huge amounts to please their electors while in some wards the services of tough men and even known goondas have been found very effective.

Gone are the days when a candidate found in possession of a ballot box before or after the polling could promptly be denounced as a 'Jhurloo master'. Now each candidate will be carrying ballot boxes both before and after the polling — hopefully empty on both occasions or at least the first. But who knows?

CSO: 4600/29

PUNJAB'S APATHY TO MRD MOVEMENT EXAMINED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 15 Sep 83 pp 11, 32

[Article by Ayaz Amir: "Blithely Unconcerned"]

[Text]

BACK in 1971 when I was serving in an artillery unit near Lahore, I happened to listen to the BBC one evening and learnt about the fall of Jessore. In our youthful naivete we had been led to expect that the defence of Jessore, under the overall command of General 'Tiger' Niazi (for so he was called), would be no less heroic than the defence of Stalingrad. Its swift collapse, therefore, came as an unbelievable shock. When I mentioned the news to our regimental adjutant he nearly caught me by the collar, shouting that I was a provocative liar.

That adjutant has recently returned from a lucrative tour of duty abroad so I should imagine that he is wiser about the ways of the world. But that is besides the point. Why I am reminded of this incident is because I have just returned from a short trip to my hometown some distance south of Islamabad where I have witnessed the same oblivion that I saw in that adjutant friend of mine 12 swift, brutal years ago. The heavens may be pouring down their wrath on Sind, but for all one cares Sind might be as remote as the Dead Sea or the Bekaa Valley. The Punjab is going about its normal business blithely unconcerned.

Reality avoided

The tell-tale signs are many. The enthusiasm being shown about the local elections is one. The curious detachment which arises when the talk turns to the situation in Sind is another. Inwardly, it seems, people don't like admitting how serious the situation is because such an admission would impose the necessity of arriving at some conclusions, and once that is done the next automatic question is: what is one supposed to do about them? It is hard to escape the feeling that the stage where one would be called upon to make a choice is being avoided.

My friends who can talk in such terms tell me that the past few years have witnessed a steady brutalisation of our political culture. If this is true then the profound apathy from which the Punjab suffers is the most obvious symptom of the malady. Can anyone say that we are not retracing the path we have travelled several times before? The writing is on the wall yet we are shutting our eyes to it. There would be few places in the world capable of such cruel indifference.

In 1971 the fall of Dacca shook the Punjab from its profound sleep. Angry processions sprang up in Lahore and

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women threw bangles at the gates of the Governor's House. Conditions of near insurrection prevailed, but things came to such a pass only when a dumbfounded people were brought face to face with the closing scenes of the tragedy that had been implacably unfolding for two years and more. It would have to be admitted that it is a very costly way of getting up.

Tufail knows?

If one were looking for silver linings it could be said that one good thing about the developing drama is that it has served to throw a spotlight on the Jamaat-i-Islami, which has perforce cast aside its cloak and shown its true colours. Although Mian Tufail Muhammad has pushed his fears to extreme conclusions and has talked of the MRD movement in apocalyptic terms, invoking the spectre of communism and of Babrak Karmel, he is still being wiser than those in authority who think that all that is needed to root out the discontent is tough talk and tough handling. It is a fair guess that he knows that wider political issues are involved whose resolution can profoundly affect the fortunes and the future of his party and the ideological bridgehead which it occupies. But what a pity that a Sindhi has to come forward to combat his prejudices. Would it not have been better if

someone from the Punjab had been the author of the statement issued by Sind University's former vice-chancellor, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah? Let every political leader and worker read that statement and feel the anguish present in every line, for no one should be in a position to say later on that he was not warned. Let it not be forgotten that Shaikh Mujib was treated with derision when he unfolded his Six Points in Lahore in 1966 but the last laugh was his.

Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah is merely expressing a sentiment common in his home province when he tries to explain to us that the movement in Sind is a genuine people's movement which should not be belittled or treated with disrespect. It is the cumulative experience of the people of Sind which is now finding a voice and a temper. For good measure he has said that Sind should receive the parity which the Punjab demanded for West Pakistan before 1971. Read in the context of the disturbances which have swept Sind, these are incredibly sane demands. It would be nothing but a reflection of our shortcomings if we were to detect a separatist colour in their articulation.

Pulling up the drawbridge and talking to the walls or teaching dissidents "a lesson of their lifetime" has its attractions, but such an approach suffers from obvious limitations. How long, in the context of our never-ending crises, has the truism to be repeated that political problems, especially deep-rooted ones, can only be solved through dialogue and mutual accommodation? In this respect even Mian Tufail Muhammad, who does not deny the political nature of the problem, is ahead of the Government whose every major pronouncement tends to view the Sind situation in law-and-order terms. The accusations of foreign hands behind the troubles only serve to muddy the waters still further.

Credibility gap

There is clearly a yawning chasm of credibility which at this late hour cannot be bridged by endlessly repeat-

ing the determination to adhere to the misty schedule enclosed within the August 12 proposals. Had they commanded acceptability, things would have turned out differently. It is also not very helpful when Governor Abbassi declares before the Sind Council that "if the people can wait for six years, these 18 months will also pass," which is a philosophical reflection worthy of Dickens' heroine in Nicholas Nickleby who would remark whenever she made a mistake that it would all be the same a hundred years hence.

But, as the water rises to find its level, I wonder where all the champions and the mighty names of the Punjab are. One could draw up a long list of names beginning with those who formed the parliamentary cohorts of the PPP when it was in power and who can be expected to flock around 70 Clifton again when the season for distributing tickets arrives. But one reservation has to be made. Although the present situation requires many things, one thing which it definitely does not is advice from retired Lt.Gen. F.A. Chishti. It is a mad world indeed when people like him can stand up and recite lectures on democracy.

CSO: 4600/29

CHANGE URGED IN GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON SIND

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Sep 83 pp 21, 23

[Article by Mushtaq Ahmad]

[Text]

A FIRST-HAND knowledge of the conditions inside Sind and their underlying causes was the prime object of the President's recent tour. He returned to Islamabad firmly convinced that there was no evidence of a sessionist movement in the province, conjured up by the runaway imagination of a handful of individuals who have engineered the disturbances for their ulterior ends.

The elements engaged in acts of subversion were described by him as agents provocateurs, belonging to a certain political party he declined to name but expected the people to identify.

For the President it was a law and order problem with no political overtones, and capable of being handled by his administration. No Head of the State, however much a crisis may warrant his personal attention, has enough time and energy to grasp its full complexities unaided by the advice and information furnished to him by the functionaries of the government. It is the wont of the administration, especially in the developing countries like ours, to consider the maintenance of peace its primary responsibility.

Divorcing the police function of the State from its social responsibility is mistaking the symptom for the disease, which is bound to erupt

in the future and demand sterner measures from a government that does not see the problem in its correct perspective. Politicians, whether well meaning or otherwise, rarely fail to make capital out of social unrest, whose manifestation puts the administrators on the alert.

The smoke in Sind may not have the fire of secession, but the combustible material fuelling the fire, needs to be carefully handled to prevent a recurrence, in the President's words, of a regrettable situation. The eyes and ears of the government can only see and hear what the mind is attuned and trained to comprehend. Such are the mechanics of administration that they cannot fathom depths that lie below depths.

Sind is a province more sinned against than sinning. Probably no other province has made greater sacrifices for the cause of Pakistan and paid a higher price for its establishment, first by bearing the brunt of migration of an unprecedented magnitude from across the border, and subsequently, of an equally large movement of population from within the country which still continues unabated. Karachi, its premier city, now has one-third of the total population of the province, mostly of non-local origin. The country's biggest metropolis is a part and yet is apart from Sind. The prosperity of the city that has prospered more than any other part of the country since independence is not adequately shared by the rest of the province. In 60 per

cent of the nations industrial capacity which is located in Karachi, their participation in ownership and employment is less than minimal.

Although Sind, including Karachi, is the most highly developed province of Pakistan, excluding Karachi, it is perhaps the most backward. This excessive concentration of industry is partly conditioned by its ideal location at the head of the vast hinterland abounding in food and raw materials and providing a market for consumer goods processed in its factories. It is also the most convenient outlet for primary and manufactured commodities to international markets. In the era of unplanned economies disparities in development were understandable though not condonable; in the age of planning we entered as early as the early 50's the lopsidedness to which we are an heir, is a sad commentary on the perception of our planners and the policies our governments asked them to implement. The profit-oriented proprietorial class was least concerned about the social consequences of an unbridled adventurism in the field of industry.

Industrial policy

Lying as it were in the backyard of the nerve centre of industrialisation than any other province. From its traditional resource, agriculture the tenant-farmers and landless labourers eked out a meagre subsistence. Our statistics are generally not accurate, particularly inaccurate are the statistics of unemployment. We do not have their region-wise break-up. What we do, however, know from observation is that Karachi has the best investment and employment climate in the country, to which people from all areas gravitate in search of livelihood.

In Sind the situation is quite the reverse where both investments

and unemployment are at their lowest minimum. The urban areas of the interior in Sukkur, Dadu and Hyderabad, are its pale shadow. In range and scale, their absorptive capacity is very small for the surplus labour on land. According to an estimate over 50 per cent of agricultural workers are either seasonally or perennially out of work. The per capita income in the interior is naturally much below the average for the urban counterpart. A disquieting feature of the situation is the poor state of social services. Health and educational facilities available to the people do not compare either in quantity or quality with the prevailing standards in Karachi, whose wealth has created an effective demand for schools, hospitals and houses.

Since the imbalance in economic development will not automatically correct itself, social unrest, its natural by-product, will continue, to disturb the peace of the province. Only a radical change in the policies of the government, both in the private and public sector, can help mitigate the wide disparities of wealth and incomes responsible for the deprivation. The Federal Minister of Industries, Ellahi Bux Soomro, who himself belongs to the province, has on a several occasions called for a halt to the expansion of Karachi which has already reached a saturation point in development, and underlined the necessity for a dispersal of industries. His advice has gone unheeded in quarters who place the interest of their profits above the demands of patriotism. For setting up its new projects the private sector would rather look across the Hub than beyond the Indus, and the decision is dictated more by the proximity of the site to Karachi than its location in Baluchistan. The large-scale evasion of the octroi duty by the shipbreakers not very long ago and the outcry over its enforcement by the provincial government, showed an utter disregard for national interest.

For maintaining the balance, the government should give a new look to its industrial policies in the province by shifting its accent from Karachi to the interior under its own auspices and through the promotion of collaborative efforts between the non-Karachi entrepreneurs and the landed gentry in the interior of Sind. Any reluctance or obstacles in the way of collaboration should be surmounted by forcing the pace of development of State enterprises. A local-oriented personnel policy at all levels of employment is easier to implement in State-sponsored enterprises than in proprietorial projects.

Discrimination in job opportunities being a potent cause of middle class discontent, it is high time the State initiates an inquiry into the representation of the people of Sind in the whole of the public sector, comprising the banks, life insurance and its 44 corporations, being the largest employers of manpower, from the most highly paid executives to the poorly paid clerical staff.

The broad masses of the province have suffered no less, perhaps more, from the so-called champions of their rights — the landlord politicians whose hold on the land resources has not been weakened by the reforms which were never faithfully enforced nor were intended to be enforced. Appointment of yet another commission on a problem that has been so thoroughly investigated over the past 30 years, would be a wasteful and time-consuming exercise. The implementation of the reforms formulated by previous governments, should be among the top priorities of the administration. The agitation in the province, whatever its extent and intensity, would be a blessing in disguise, if it awakens the authorities to the realisation that it must do its duty to the people.

NOORANI OPPOSES DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNMENT

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

The President of the defunct Jamiatul Ulema-i-Pakistan (JUP), Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, has ruled out the possibility of talks with the Government in the foreseeable future.

Talking to newsmen at his residence on Thursday, Maulana Noorani confirmed JUP leaders' meeting with Mir Ali Ahmed Talpur, the Federal Defence Minister, and Mr. Sharifuddin Pirzada, the Federal Minister for Law and Parliamentary affairs.

He said he had discussed possibilities of arranging negotiations between political leaders and government nominees to break the present deadlock.

He emphatically stated he had reiterated the stand that any future negotiations should also include a firm election schedule.

The defunct JUP, he added, had also reiterated its pre-conditions for "meaningful dialogue" with the Government which included immediate and unconditional release

of political prisoners throughout the country.

He reaffirmed his party's stand to launch 'the direct action' from Oct 1 next if the Government failed to accept the demands put forward by the general council of the defunct JUP at its Lahore session last month.

He termed Maulana Sattar Niazi's reported statement in a section of the Press as a "mere Press gossip" and reiterated his party's decision to join the the present struggle for the revival of the democratic process from next month. (Maulana Niazi, Secretary-General of the defunct JUP, was reported as saying that joining of the present campaign was not advisable in the given situation.)

When asked about the statement of Shah Faridul Haq that the high-powered committee of the defunct JUP was scheduled to meet on Thursday to review the overall political situation, Maulana Noorani replied that it would meet sometime next week.

CSO: 4600/26

TEHRIK LEADER EXPRESSES ANTI-DIALOGUE STANCE

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

LAHORE, Sept 22: The defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal considers it useless to hold talks with the Government on the situation obtaining in the country, particularly in Sind.

This was stated by the Acting Secretary-General of Tehrik, Mr. Asif Fasihuddin Wardak, while addressing a Press conference here today.

He said the Tehrik wanted the 1973 Constitution to be revived forthwith and elections held without any further delay.

He said the Tehrik was clear about the issues facing the country, and whole-heartedly supported the present struggle for restoration of democracy.

Mr. Wardak said an offer by Lt. Gen. (retd.) Faiz Ali Chishti — as reported in local papers — to play the part of a negotiator and meet Air Marshal (retd) Asghar Khan was also irrelevant to the situation.

Moreover, in a written statement regarding the Sind situation, Mr. Wardak maintained that at present Sind had been denied a role in the decision-making, and asserted that anyone who said that the Hindus in Sind were behind the expressions of resentment against the present Government was not speaking the truth; anyone who said India had caused the present situation was also not speaking the truth.

He said the answer to this situation was to hold free and fair elections and restore democracy.

LOW LITERACY: CLEAVAGE BETWEEN THEORY, PRACTICE SCORED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 15 Sep 83 p 5

[Editorial: "Theory and Practice"]

[Text]

SINCE the attainment of freedom, on the rare occasions that they have referred to the subject of mass illiteracy, official spokesmen have always declared that the spread of literacy and education deserve the highest priority among essential national tasks. Promises have been made repeatedly that the matter would be given Government's most earnest attention and necessary funds and manpower allocated—next year. In fact, however, governmental practice has not conformed to the theory propounded. This may easily be judged from the fact that, after 36 years, Pakistan's rate of literacy is no better than 24% — an improvement of only 6 per cent since the British left our shores. Moreover, the criterion of literacy is depressingly low — namely, merely the ability to read a most elementary text or sign one's name. The bulk of our people so qualified are not in a position to make any use of this ability for self-learning. Another ghastly aspect of the present state of affairs is that the female literacy rate is, as may be expected in a society like

ours, even more dismal. It rests at 13 per cent and in the countryside it is only 5 per cent. This gross imbalance in educational policies means that with a vast majority of illiterate mothers, the upbringing of children suffers in a hundred and one ways.

None of these and related facts has ever been denied, although from time to time excuses of one sort or another are put forward on Government's behalf for what can only be characterised as utter failure in dealing with a problem vital to the country's future. It almost seems that, despite all the verbiage expended by Ministers and Secretaries, those in a position to make decisions have lacked the will or desire to mobilize the national effort needed for beginning to cope with mass illiteracy. Evidence of this is available in the fact that while Pakistan spends no more than 1.5 per cent of its GNP on education — and this marks a reduction since 1978 — many other Third World countries allocate as much as 6 per cent of

their GNP to education. There has recently been more talk about eradicating illiteracy, but again so far it is merely talk, despite the fact that the task was linked with the Hijra Centenary celebrations. A Commission has tardily been set up, but this again carries no guarantee that it will show better results than other commissions established over the years in this or other fields. The Commission has outlined a 10-year plan which, like many other plans devised earlier, looks quite reasonable on paper. However, there is nothing yet to encourage the belief that the paper plan can and will actually be implemented. In the first place, substantial funds are required to do so, and these are not forthcoming. Then, the niggardliness of pay scales for teachers at all levels, and particularly at the primary level, is such that it is going to be very difficult to recruit enough men and women to help fill the posts that should be created if a serious effort is going to be made to expand schools or set up literacy centres. There are other problems to which no attention has yet been paid. Nobody seems to realize that even if schooling is available, the living standards of our people prevent most parents from sending their children to school and this also encourages a heavy drop-out rate as soon as the child is old enough to start earning - which age in our country can be put at as low as six or seven years.

Apart from the practical difficulties that face those among the administrators who genuinely believe in the desirability of

spreading education, there are many who seem to believe that "too much education" is not a good thing for our nation. These gentlemen have always made a plea that education, particularly at any level above the primary stage, should be restricted, and judged in purely commercial terms, so that only as many students turn out in a particular discipline as can immediately get vacant jobs. This perverted theory has apparently influenced official thinking to the extent that we are now faced with a situation where the country's elite seem concerned only with maintaining reasonably high standards in a small number of schools, while the rest are sorely neglected and their students generally treated as second-rate citizens in the matter of getting admissions to universities or institutions for professional training. The confusion created over the medium of instruction has added to the chaos. All this obviously needs to be dealt with. Above all else, it must be realized that the people of Pakistan are entitled to basic education as a fundamental right. And neither fear of a rise in the educated unemployed nor of an increase in political disaffection (because education inevitably leads to an increase in consciousness) can be used as an excuse to keep the nation semi-educated, ignorant, or illiterate. This whole theory must be exposed and destroyed and Government spending on education revised upward steadily, so that it can begin to meet the national needs whose satisfaction is a prerequisite to national progress.

DISMISSAL OF JOURNALISTS CRITICIZED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 22 Sep 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Arbitrary Dismissal"]

[Text]

THE ARBITRARY dismissal of three senior journalists by a Trust Urdu daily in Lahore and the impending threat of similar action against six others, employed by two other newspapers acquired long years ago by the National Press Trust, provide an ugly example of the Islamabad brand of McCarthyism. The nine newsmen have ostensibly offended their bureaucratic masters by signing a Press statement, in association with more than two score intellectuals, writers, judges and lawyers, taking note of the present turmoil and expressing a measure of support for the movement that seeks to restore democracy in Pakistan, as well as indicating that they sympathise with the people of Sind. The statement represented a moderate expression of political opinion, and it recommended with the force of logic that the country's political problems should be solved on a political basis and not through the use of force. The appeal for good sense did not indulge in abusive polemics or impugn the motives of any individual or traduce any institution. In fact, the views expressed are shared by

many of those who give serious thought to the country's political crisis and, believing in the State's viability, seek to promote a settlement based on democratic principles that would, thus, be acceptable to most citizens and the representatives of all regions.

Not only was the statement for which such drastic punishment has been given, wholly innocuous, but patently it was signed by these gentlemen in their personal capacities with no pretence that it represented the opinion of the institution they serve or that of their employers. They acted as free citizens and had the right to do so. Their employment in Trust newspapers does not reduce their status as citizens. Nor was it easy for the Mashriq management to prove that the views expressed by them ran counter to the newspaper's avowed policies. Hence no specific charge has been made, and the Editor's letter on which the dismissal order rests is a quaint rigmarole signifying the writer's dissatisfaction, fears and suspicions. Even if the victimised newsmen's views did run counter to the newspaper's policies, this cannot be used as an instrument

to silence and gag adult citizens who, as journalists, are in a better position than many others to assess any political development. No respectable newspaper can expect its employees to endorse every facet of its policies or to believe that every editorial opinion is infallible or, in the present case, even that it is honestly held. It is an accepted tradition, supported by practice and conceded by the fact that no other conditions are ever included in the terms of employment of a journalist, that as long as his work for the newspaper cannot be faulted, his personal views cannot be made an excuse for discrimination or victimization. Such a condition would be specially meaningless in a Trust paper where policies change with every change of government and editors function like well-oiled weather-cocks eager to adjust their opinions as the wind veers from East to West or North to South. Any decent code of conduct should ensure that the views of all journalists are treated with respect and their expression, even if it does not please the editor, is tolerated with dignity.

It is extraordinary that instant dismissal has been ordered as if the offending journalists were guilty of lese-majeste or some unforgivable cardinal sin or some crime that disqualifies them for

their profession. It is even more amazing that before deciding on the harsh punishment no show-cause notice was issued, no explanation sought, as if the NPT were run under a dispensation that is not answerable to any fair authority. In the circumstances, the countrywide protest registered by journalists unions' is fully justified and should be supported by all fair-minded citizens, for the demand that the dismissed journalists should be reinstated cannot in justice be denied. In normal circumstances, the Labour Courts would immediately have ordered the rescission of the arbitrary dismissal orders, but it is not certain if such resort to the Court will gain immediate redress and save the victimised newsmen and their families from the hardship of undeserved dismissal. In any case, it is plain as plain can be that higher authority invested with the powers to intervene in such cases must move with speed to examine the whole matter and issue necessary instructions for the Trust factoriums to withdraw their highly reprehensible order. Let it be remembered that in the last analysis responsibility for what happens in the administration or maladministration of the National Press Trust rests directly on Government's shoulders.

BRIEFS

PUNJAB COLLEGES TO STAY CLOSED--Lahore, Sept 22--On the basis of reports by the provincial Home Department, colleges and universities in the Punjab are likely to remain closed for another month or so. Informed sources told Dawn that the agencies concerned did not find the time 'opportune' for open higher educational institutions due to expected agitation in the Punjab by some defunct political parties in the month of October. It is now confirmed that no suggestion or recommendation was made in this regard by any of the educational institution except that the heads of the institutions were informed about the continued closure. The educational institutions were scheduled to open on the fourth of this month, yet the Government had not announced any fresh date to reopen them. Anyhow, the schools were opened on the due date but despite the demands by the students in their individual capacities and through students organisations, the Government is still reluctant to allow the normal functioning of colleges and universities and as such a full academic year of students is at stake. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 23 Sep 83 p 6]

PLEA FOR FREE INFORMATION--Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, former Vice-Chancellor of the Sind University, and Dr Hameeda Khuhro have suggested that two groups of retired judges of Punjab and Peshawar High Courts and two groups of retired professors and senior teachers of the Universities of Punjab and Peshawar should visit Sind and inform people of other parts of the country about the situation prevailing in the province. In a joint statement, they pointed out that lack of adequate information might "endanger the very unity and survival of the country." They expressed their astonishment over a report appearing in a section of the Press saying that BBC was broadcasting exaggerated and biased reports about happenings in Sind. They maintained that the BBC was not reporting "even a small fraction of the facts." They regretted that people were being kept "ignorant and misinformed" about the events in Sind. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 23 Sep 83 p 22]

ZIA SAID OVERUSING MEDIA--In the ultimate analysis, all governments are brought down in this country by their own publicity media--radio, television and the controlled Press. Television and radio destroyed Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan did not last long enough. Radio and television destroyed the 'Quaid-i-Awam' and radio and television and National Press Trust newspapers are at the demolition job once again. All India Radio and Doordarshan, too, are government-controlled institutions but they don't tout the powerful and their policies as crudely as we do here. For instance, I have not seen

Mrs Gandhi on Indian television nor heard her voice over AIR for the last one week at least. I am sure Gen Ziaul Haq does not want to be on television all the time. But by putting him there for interminable hours, a lot of TV and radio people hide a lot of professional incompetence and unwillingness to work. "Let's put the general on and go to sleep" appears to be the motto at radio and television and who is pushed if the general loses all credibility in the process? Not Raja Zafrul Haq. No one ever learns at the Ministry of Information, not even a man as subtle as Gen Mujibur Rahman.--
Qurban Ali, Lahore [Text] [Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 15 Sep 83 p 4]

CSO: 4600/29

- END -