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7 September 1984

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

EGYPT

Labor Party Members Discuss Upcoming Issues in People's Assembly (AL-SHA'B, 10 Jul 84).....	1
Leading Opposition Spokesman Describes Platform, Views (Mumtaz Nassar Interview; AL-YAMAMAH, No 812, 25 Jul 84).....	6
MB Members in People's Assembly Give Views on Various Topics (ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW, No 36, Aug 84).....	15
Egypt Participates in African Financial Policy Seminar (Usama Saraya; AL-AHRAM, 17 Jul 84).....	18
Youth Agricultural Conference in West Germany (Abd-al-Wahhab Hamid; AL-AHRAM, 17 Jul 84).....	20
Romanians Give Aid for Electricity Projects (AL-AHRAM, 17 Jul 84).....	21
Leading Feminist, Writer Interviewed (ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW, No 36, Aug 84).....	22

LIBYA

History, Nature of Opposition Front Reviewed (AL-MUJTAMA', No 675, 12 Jun 84).....	24
---	----

SUDAN

Constitutional Reform Emphasized (Abdelwahab el Affendi; ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW, No 36, Aug 84).....	28
--	----

New Civil Transaction Law (ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW, No 36, Aug 84).....	31
---	----

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

ISRAEL

Relations With Sri Lanka Described (THE JERUSALEM POST, 26 Jul 84).....	35
Censorship of East Jerusalem Press Viewed (THE JERUSALEM POST, 26 Jul 84).....	36
New Travel Tax Explained (Pinhas Landau; THE JERUSALEM POST, 27 Jul 84).....	37
Major Banks To Raise Interest Rates (Pinhas Landau; THE JERUSALEM POST, 27 Jul 84).....	38
New Magnesium Products Plant Planned (THE JERUSALEM POST, 26 Jul 84).....	39
Briefs Textile Factory in Ciskei	40

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

Ibrahim Describes Recent Conference, Arabwide Challenges ('Ali Husayn; FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH, 2 Jun 84).....	41
Resurgence of Red Crescent Activities in Beirut Reviewed (Bassam Barhum; FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH, 2 Jun 84).....	46

QATAR

Japanese Sign Mail Contract (DAILY GULF TIMES, 7 Aug 84).....	55
Jobs Increase in Qatar (DAILY GULF TIMES, 9, 10 Aug 84).....	56
Briefs Pact With India	59

SYRIA

Status of Various al-Hasakah Municipality Projects Detailed ('Izzat 'Abd-al-Razzaq; TISHRIN, 19 Apr 84).....	60
--	----

Problems of Salt Encrustation on Lower Euphrates Farmland Reviewed (Naji As'ad; TISHRIN, 23 Apr 84).....	66
---	----

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Ties With Sudan, Arabs Discussed (Editorial; KHALEEJ TIMES, 4 Aug 84).....	70
Cooperation Pact Signed With Turkey (KHALEEJ TIMES, 10 Aug 84).....	72
First Quarter Imports Down (K. P. Nayar; KHALEEJ TIMES, 2 Aug 84).....	74
Efforts To Boost Economy Discussed (KHALEEJ TIMES, 4 Aug 84).....	75

SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH

Ershad Scores Opposition for Opposing Polls (THE NEW NATION, 9 Aug 84).....	76
EEC-Bangladesh Commission Reviews Economic Progress (THE NEW NATION, 9 Aug 84).....	78
Food Minister Reviews Plans for Grain Procurement (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 10 Aug 84).....	79
Briefs	
Hasina-'Arafat Meeting	81
Gift From DPRK	81

INDIA

Analyst Says U.S. Punjab Stand 'Helpful' (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 1 Aug 84).....	82
Indian Delegate Reports on Moscow Trade Talks (Vinod Taksal; PATRIOT, 2 Aug 84).....	84
Problems, Prospects of Indo-EEC Trade Discussed (R. K. Sharma; PATRIOT, 30 Jul 84).....	86
Correspondent Reports Indo-Bangladesh Trade Talks (THE TELEGRAPH, 2 Aug 84).....	88

Commerce Secretary To Lead Trade Delegation to PRC (PATRIOT, 4 Aug 84).....	89
Indo-Czech Trade Plan Reviewed at Prague Meeting (THE HINDU, 5 Aug 84).....	91
Lok Sabha Discusses New York 'Khalistan' Convention (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 31 Jul 84).....	92
CPI Leader Interviewed on Communal Problems (Arindam Sen Gupta; PATRIOT, 16 Jul 84).....	94
Congress-I General Secretary Discusses Election Strategy (Subhash Kirpekar; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 27 Jul 84).....	96
States Reluctant To Answer Sakaria Panel's Questions (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 27 Jul 84).....	98
Analyst Discusses Expected Government Changes (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 28 Jul 84).....	99
Kashmir Government Issues Note on Farooq Ouster (PATRIOT, 29 Jul 84).....	101
Outmoded Administrative System Seen To Need Overhaul (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 29 Jul 84).....	103
Gandhi Not Planning Foreign Travel Until After Polls (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 29 Jul 84).....	106
Congress-I Tries To End Factional Strife Before Polls (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 30 Jul 84).....	107
Election Commissioner Plans To Update Assam Rolls (THE STATESMAN, 31 Jul 84).....	109
Justice Rules on Position of Kashmir Cabinet Supporters (THE HINDU, 31 Jul 84).....	111
Home Minister Speaks in Jammu, Kashmir Debate (THE HINDU, 1 Aug 84).....	112
Tiwari Appointed Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (THE STATESMAN, 4 Aug 84).....	114
Rajiv Addresses Congress-I MP's 2 Aug (THE STATESMAN, 3 Aug 84).....	116
Opposition Parties Issue Resolution on Kashmir (THE STATESMAN, 4 Aug 84).....	118

Congress-J President Talks to Press in Agra (THE TELEGRAPH, 16 Jul 84).....	120
Home Minister Defends Ousting of Farooq Abdullah (THE HINDU, 27 Jul 84).....	121
Karnataka Ministers Resign in Protest (PATRIOT, 28 Jul 84).....	123
Analyst Speculates on Changes in Uttar Pradesh (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 31 Jul 84).....	125
Excerpts From Rajiv's 27 Jul Speech on Punjab (PATRIOT, 1 Aug 84).....	126
PATRIOT Interviews CPI-M General Secretary (E.M.S. Namboodiripad Interview; PATRIOT, 3 Aug 84).....	131
Veteran Diplomat Chief of Foreign Affairs Planning (THE HINDU, 5 Aug 84).....	135
Reporter Notes Difficulties in Antismuggling Drive (THE STATESMAN, 28 Jul 84).....	136
Paper Reports Problems of Karnataka Chief Minister (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 29, 30 Jul 84).....	137
Talks With Cabinet, Press 'Chinks' in Ministry Exposed	
Economic Adviser Urges More Freedom for Public Sector (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 3 Aug 84).....	141
Analyst Notes Ministers Resist Panel Suggestions (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 6 Aug 84).....	143
Khalistan-Type Movement in Bihar District Reported (THE STATESMAN, 16 Jul 84).....	145
Delhi Bars Visit by British Human Rights Group (K. N. Malik; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 29 Jul 84).....	150
Apprehension Over Missionary Aid to Separatists Noted (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 31 Jul 84).....	152
Correspondent Discusses Tribal Insurgency in Tripura (V.I.K. Sarin; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 1, 2 Aug 84).....	154
Defense Delegation Activities in Moscow Reported (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Aug 84).....	161

Agreement To Purchase Latest French Missiles Signed (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 30 Jul 84).....	163
Army Reported Reducing Visibility in Punjab (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 5 Aug 84).....	165
Briefs	
IAF Reorganization Complete	166
Uttar Pradesh Ministers	166
New Forward Bloc	166
Uttar Pradesh Party Merger	167
Indo-Iranian Panel	167
Taiwan Trawlers Seized	167
UK Aid	167
Gandhi's Electoral District	168
PRC Maps Noted	168
Antarctic Oil Potential	168
Rice Price Increase	168
Rice Ration Distribution	169
IRAN	
Montazeri Recommends Political Activities During Hajj Pilgrimage (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 1 Aug 84).....	170
PAKISTAN	
Women Demonstrate in Karachi (THE MUSLIM, 10 Aug 84).....	174
Presence of Israeli Lobby Charged (ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW, Aug 84).....	175
Commentary Views Election Preparations (Khalid Akhtar; THE MUSLIM, 11 Aug 84).....	176
Cabinet Approves Qazi Courts, Evidence Law (DAWN, 9 Aug 84).....	178
Official's Plea To Boost Exports to Iran (DAWN, 14 Aug 84).....	180
Agreement on Morris Plant Being Concluded (DAWN, 14 Aug 84).....	181
Pakistan-Saudi Construction Project Completed (DAWN, 14 Aug 84).....	182
Briefs	
Trade Talks With Iran	183
Cassette on Saudi Labor Laws	183
Quetta-Sibi Railway Track	184
Japanese Equipment for Engineering College	184

LABOR PARTY MEMBERS DISCUSS UPCOMING ISSUES IN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Jul 84 p 2

[Article: "What Do Labor Party Deputies Think of Masses' Problems"]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has explored the opinions of the SLP [Socialist Labor Party] deputies on the most important popular issues and problems which they will raise in the new People's Assembly. What did they say?

Eng Ibrahim Shukri, the SLP chairman, has said: In the new session of the People's Assembly, we will focus on discussing the internal and external national issues and the problems from which the masses suffer daily.

At the external level, we will demand that a balance be established in Egypt's foreign policy, especially between the superpowers. We will also devote all our attention to stressing abidance in word and in deed to the policy of nonalignment. Efforts must be made to try to improve the relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union on the basis of the policy of nonalignment. I cannot imagine that our relations are frozen and that we will keep silent on these actions that contradict the policy and principles of nonalignment. Balance has to be established between the superpowers so that Egypt's position may not be harmed and so that the Egyptian Government may follow a balanced policy between the east and the west and may abandon the special relations with the United States

Eng Ibrahim Shukri added: The SLP deputies will also devote full attention and exert all efforts to achieve rapprochement between us and the Arab brothers so as to unite the Arab ranks. We will also demand the holding of an international conference on Palestine to achieve a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

Housing Problem

Eng Ibrahim Shukri went on to add: One of the most important issues and problems of the masses on which we will focus in the People's Assembly is the housing problem from which the overwhelming majority of the Egyptian people, especially youth approaching the marriage stage, is suffering. The government is no longer capable of solving the housing problem, which is a source of concern for Egyptian youth in all the governorates.

We also believe that the figures mentioned by the government in the 5-year plan are far from the figures we should achieve in order to solve the housing crisis.

Another most important popular problem on which we will focus in the People's Assembly and which the SLP deputies give importance and priority in discussions in the first upcoming sessions of the People's Assembly is the problem of the rising prices because wages are no longer capable of keeping up with the "rabid" rise in prices from which people with limited income, including government and public sector employees and pensioners, scream in pain. I regret to assert that in many cases, the government helps the rise in the prices of certain products through the so-called "process of moving prices." We thus see the prices of some products rising because of different packaging or because different prices are set for them.

Story of Tourism

The SLP chairman added: We will also devote attention to raising the problem of land reclamation and of desert development because I believe that the government has not devoted "enough" attention and care to this issue in recent years. There are numerous problems pertaining to this issue, such as the expropriation of lands and the obstacles that face companies and individuals who embark on land reclamation and on developing desert lands.

We will also devote special attention in the People's Assembly to raising the issue of tourism so that efforts may be exerted to develop the tourist movement in Egypt in order to enhance our economic resources. Moreover, we do not want tourism for the sake of tourism but want tourism to bring us a yield that is reflected in the national economy. During the first 9 months of last year, tourism revenues amounted to 198.6 million pounds compared to 228.5 million pounds in the past period, which means that our revenues from tourism dropped despite the increase in the number of tourists. How can this happen? This is why I say that the government has failed to deal with this issue.

Eng Ibrahim Shukri also said that he presented a query to the government in the past session--a query which he will submit anew--on the schools in Cairo that operate three shifts.

Canceling Permits for Bars

Sayyid Rustum, an SLP deputy in the People's Assembly, has said: One of the most important issues I will raise in the new People's Assembly is the demand that the bills on codification of the Islamic Shari'ah be presented to the Assembly quickly. Implementation of the Islamic Shari'ah must start as of now by closing the liquor plants (public sector) and turning them into soft-drink plants and by canceling the permits of bars operating in the quarters immediately.

Sayyid Rustum added: I will also demand that differences in incomes be reduced in the manner stressed by the constitution because we find contradictions. There is no proximity between the wages of the government and public sector workers on the one hand and the workers of the foreign companies and investment firms on the other hand. This is in violation of the constitution and has led to a flaw in the state's economic system. The government must correct these conditions in a manner that achieves justice and complete balance between wages and prices.

Sayyid Rustum has also demanded that the government distribute the appropriations allocated for cooperative housing to the local governments now that the housing crisis in the governorates has intensified and because the cooperative sector builds housing for the rich only.

People's Interests

Ahmad Mujahid, an SLP deputy in the People's Assembly, said: Without embarking on the details, the SLP will contribute generally to the People's Assembly activities and proceedings in a manner that achieves the people's interest. We have before us the issues of completing the democratic process and of amending or abolishing the laws obstructing the democratic procession, including the famous laws of "ill-repute."

He added: There is also the issue of the constant rise in prices not countered by a similar rise in the salaries of the people with limited incomes, including employees and workers generally and pensioners. Even though it is our opinion that subsidizing the essentials is a policy that better alleviates the burdens of the people with limited income, it is essential to conduct a more profound and comprehensive study on the prices and wages policy so that we may move closer to achieving social justice for the state and public sector workers.

SLP Deputy Ahmad Mujahid added: There are numerous problems facing the farmers or, if you wish, facing agricultural production. These problems include the incompatibility of the production cost of the conventional crops (cotton, rice, wheat and broad beans) with the prices at which these crops are supplied or delivered to the government. It is well known that agricultural production is suffering from a severe shortage of labor which has caused the labor wages to rise, as a law of the market. There is no objection, of course, to the rise in labor wages. The objection is to the price at which crops are sold to the government. It is no secret to many that in numerous cases, a certain crop causes the farmer a loss which he recuperates from cultivating clover, with the farmer ending up even or still incurring a loss. This has motivated some farmers to leave the land fallow in order to avoid a loss. Thus, the problem affects not only the farmers' incomes but also national production. Therefore, it is necessary to examine this problem and to try to find fundamental solutions for it so as not to saddle people with limited incomes with further burdens. This can be done by releasing the crop sale prices and giving a subsidy parallel to the increase in prices to the state and public sector employees and to pensioners or by raising the price of the crops received by the state in a manner compatible with production costs, with the increase in prices maintained until the prices are compatible with the production costs. Even in delivery, the circumstances of the small farmers, who cannot deliver the crops they produce for their own consumption, thus causing the quantity they deliver to drop, must be taken into consideration.

Livestock production is tied to agricultural production. Without embarking on theoretical visualizations, it is necessary to secure fodders, be they dry, processed or green fodders. We will study how to secure fodders so that they may be available to all the people concerned.

There are studies on securing fodders in Egypt and we will discuss these studies in the future.

We will also deal with the problem of the joint costs which cause the farmer constant confusion with the cashier and with other people involved in the costs. Our approach to deal with this problem is to add another column in the books of the agricultural cooperative for the land at the disposal of every landowner or tenant so that the sum of the total monies due payment by every village may be collected by the agricultural cooperative of that village.

We will also raise in the People's Assembly the issues and problems of the youth, which are simple and important problems at the same time.

We will also cover the issue of industry and of bolstering the public and private sectors to which we will devote special priority in our discussions in the People's Assembly because this issue is a fundamental mainstay of the national economy.

Generally, we will try to enhance industrial production so that it may achieve better standards. I am convinced in advance of the system of agreements which enable the public sector to build plants and to repay the loans from the production of these plants. We thus guarantee construction and operation of the plants and the creation of skilled cadres in freedom from any burdens under which the Egyptian economy may strain.

Arab Relations

Insofar as foreign relations are concerned, Deputy Ahmad Mujahid has said: These relations are divided into government or official relations and popular relations. The first may be exposed to changes that lead to severing them. This is within the authority of governments, which take several things into consideration. As for the popular relations, they are within the people's right and nobody has the power to impose estrangement among the peoples of the single Arab nation. Therefore, we will exert efforts to establish a policy to the effect that the door may not be closed between the Arab people of Egypt and the Arab people anywhere or between the Arab governments. If there are 3 out of 10 points on which these governments agree, then let the meeting take place on the 3 points and let the dialogue on the other 7 points go on. But there is no justification for estrangement, not even between the Arab governments. For example, regardless of one's viewpoint, there is no disagreement on the need to end the Iraq-Iran war. On our part, we will exert utmost efforts toward this end and toward whatever is required for dialogue with all the parties, especially with Libya, Syria, Iran and any other side.

We will also focus in the People's Assembly on stressing the nonalignment policy in a manner that produces economic and political benefits for Egypt and the Arab nation or in a manner that moves Egypt and the Arabs toward more independent positions that make them more capable of carrying on with the economic development procession.

Issue of Prices and Wages

Mamduh Qinawi, another SLP deputy in the People's Assembly, has said:

We have entered the People's Assembly as one of the parliamentary committees and we will work in the Assembly with a team spirit in accordance with what the party decides. Moreover, I imagine that the party apparatuses will be an element helping the committee in preparing the issues, studies and bills which the parliamentary committee will raise in the People's Assembly. All this requires consolidated efforts which we need to achieve solutions for the people's issues and problems.

Mamduh Qinawi added: The most important issues on which we will focus in the new People's Assembly are the issues of housing, prices and wages, production, educational reform, the 5-year plan, justice, eliminating red tape and abolishing immediately the state of emergency and the laws and provisions restricting liberties, especially the political parties law, the law on protecting the internal front, the law on social peace, the law of shame and the law on political isolation.

All these are national issues and subjects connected with legislation and requiring sincere dialogue, discussion and cooperation between the government and the opposition so as to achieve the people's supreme interest.

Mamduh Qinawi went on to add: It is our conviction in the SLP that democracy is the access to reform in Egypt and the Arab world because we see that what happens in Egypt, with its leadership role, reflects on the neighboring Arab countries, meaning that it is possible that a change [word indistinct], beginning in Egypt with a new formula. The SLP is projecting this future formula for achieving the common and higher interests of the Arab countries through joint Arab efforts. This can be achieved through the formula of an Arab common market. Such a formula can be achieved only through the democratic formula, i.e., through democratic Arab development and [word indistinct] Arab unity.

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EGYPT

LEADING OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN DESCRIBES PLATFORM, VIEWS

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic No 812, 25 Jul 84 pp 28-30

[Interview with Muntaz Nassar, Assembly deputy, by Muhammad Barakat: "There Are 100,000 Millionaires in Egypt; We Will Request the Revival of the Joint Defense Treaty"]

[Text] AL-YAMAMAH met with Counsellor Muntaz Nassar, leader of the opposition in Egypt. Political observers expect that this jurist-politician of long standing will lead the opposition forces within the People's Assembly in a manner which will make the opposition a rival of the government's, if not the predominant party. Counsellor Muntaz Nassar is the man who wins People's Assembly elections in spite of the government on all occasions. He was successful in the 1976 elections as an independent, although the government did not want persons like him to win at all. In the 1979 elections, al-Sadat's orders to bring down Muntaz Nassar and prevent him from entering the People's Assembly were clear.

The opposition leader in Cairo today is the fourth since party life was restored to Egypt in 1976. He is the first Upper Egyptian leader in this position. Mustafa Kamil Murad, the first opposition leader, is from al-Minufiyah; he remained leader of the opposition until the Wafd Party appeared in 1978, and Dr Hilmi Murad was chosen as spokesman in its name and became the second leader of the opposition. However, this situation did not last more than 100 days, after which the party froze its activity because of the late President Anwar al-Sadat's arbitrary conduct toward it. After that, the leadership of the opposition moved over to Eng Ibrahim Shukri, with the establishment of the Labor Party. Now the Egyptian opposition has acquired its fourth leader, Counsellor Muntaz Nassar.

Muntaz Nassar plays the role of the honorable opposition, because he has an unswerving belief in freedom. His position on freedom of thought and expression was a cause for much of the obstinacy he faced during the regimes of 'Abd-al-Nasir and al-Sadat both.

Muntaz Nassar was one of the judges 'Abd-al-Nasir dismissed in what was known as the judiciary massacre. The cause of the massacre was the judges' refusal to gather together under the banner of the Socialist Union and the

insistence on impartiality and independence from all bodies. Counsellor Mumtaz Nassar played the primary role in the judges' resistance and refused to be put in a subordinate position. He was a chairman of the club of elected judges which stood up to the conspiracy which was hatched against the judiciary, which had the judges as its target.

In the elections held to elect the board of directors of the club, the government exerted its utmost efforts to bring Mumtaz Nassar and his list down. The elections were held on 21 March 1969, and the result was an overwhelming victory for Mumtaz Nassar and his entire list, and an overwhelming defeat for the government and its partisans.

Mumtaz Nassar is famous for his serious requests for information, in which he has made accusations against the government. Among the most famous of these requests for information was the one on the Pyramid Heights which he presented in 1978, by which he was successful in stopping the tourist investment project some adventurers were to carry out on the Pyramid Heights, which constituted a blatant threat to our archaeological resources.

Then there was his famous request for information of the government regarding its misuse of the money it had collected from the levies on judiciary cases.

Mumtaz Nassar's stands in defense of right, justice and freedom are too numerous to be counted. However, the question that arises today, with his election as leader of the opposition in Egypt, is: how does this man think? What political, economic and social subjects are going about in his mind? What is expected of him as he plays the role of opposition figure in the People's Assembly?

AL-YAMAMAH's meeting with Mumtaz Nassar covered these and other questions. The discussion of the results which the elections had produced was the starting point which made its presence felt at the beginning of this conversation.

I asked him, "Talk about the elections is still agitated, because the government, as is its habit, always, says that they were the 'cleanest' and 'most chaste' elections in the history of Egypt, while the opposition unanimously agrees that they were fraudulent. What is the truth concerning this matter, in your capacity as one of the people who entered these elections and experienced them from inside?"

He said, "These elections were neither chaste nor clean, because the governors throughout the republic intervened in these elections in an organized manner and exploited their powers to get in touch with the prominent personalities of the country, on the one hand, and to respond to the requests of people who had requests to make on the other hand. This all had the objective of putting pressure on various people to elect the National Party's candidates, which involved influencing the results of the elections. That is an action which is contrary to every law.

"This means that the statement that the 1984 elections were 100 percent clean contains great exaggeration, because of unlawful interference by governors and the executive authorities."

I asked, "If this interference you are talking about had not taken place, would the results have been slightly or greatly different from the ones the elections produced?"

He said, "Yes, the results would absolutely and certainly have been different from the ones that were produced."

I asked, "It is well known that you are one of the most famous independents in Egypt, if not the most famous of them all. You entered the People's Assembly as an independent more than once, but in the recent elections you entered the campaign under the banner of the Wafd. Why did you choose the Wafd Party, specifically?"

He said, "When Law 114 for 1983, the law on election by proportional lists, was issued, it did not give the independents a political presence in Egypt; it based political activity on the existence of a number of parties, and restricted the elections to these parties' lists. At this point I exchanged views with my district, which agreed that I should continue my political activity. I elected to engage in this activity through the Wafd Party for a number of reasons:

"First, I come from an old Wafd family. My father, the late Muhammad Nassar, member of the Wafd board, was the Wafd candidate in the al-Baddari district in the 1939 and 1942 elections.

"Second, the Wafd, as a party, arose and was established on the base of the people, and did not arise by a decree from above, from the authorities, the way the other parties did.

"Third, the Wafd, throughout its history, has represented and defended democracy. It has set an example through sound democratic practice for more than half a century. Therefore, its political decisions have never been issued from the top but rather have been issued after discussion and consultation among the elements that make up the party base.

"Fourth, the Wafd established the Arab league in 1944 and made its headquarters in Cairo.

"Fifth, the Wafd created the first law on the independence of the judiciary in 1943 and was the party which eliminated foreign concessions in 1936 at the Montreux conference. It was the one that gave the workers their first legitimate rights in the history of labor in Egypt, in the law issued in 1944."

I asked, "Would you have preferred to enter the People's Assembly as an independent, had the law on elections which makes it inevitable that candidates enter the election campaigns through a specific party not been issued?"

He said, "There is no doubt that independence in one's opinions is the high point of political activity that is free from party commitments. However, as long as people can freely express their convictions, even if they belong to a specific party, I see no great difference between my engaging in my political activity as an independent or engaging in it through the party."

"What concerns me is that I express my opinion freely and that I win the party I belong to over to this view. If it is won over, that is best, but if it is not democracy requires that I yield to the opinion of the majority. Therefore, there is no difference, in my mind, between my engaging in my political activity as an independent or engaging in it through some party, as long as the party through which I am acting is based on liberalism and the exercise of true democracy."

I asked, "What if you have an opinion on an issue which is different from the party's opinion on this issue?"

He said, "I am supposed to express the party's opinion, as long as that is the opinion of the majority, unless I can win the party board over to my own opinion."

I asked, "In light of your affiliation with the Wafd Party, what is your opinion about the results the party obtained in the latest elections?"

He said, "I believe that if there had been no interference, the Wafd alone would have obtained at least 40 percent of the total votes, and perhaps more. I am not exaggerating if I say that had it not been for this interference, the Wafd might have obtained an absolute majority on its own."

I said, "There are three parties which are not currently represented in the People's Assembly; what form do you consider parliamentary practice will take now that these parties are outside the assembly, including important parties such as the Labor Party?"

He said, "There is no doubt that the opposition in the assembly can assimilate the opposition outside it, in a manner which will achieve coordination among everyone as far as support for the opposition and the laying of the foundation for different views in one way or another are concerned. Coordination in a manner which will bring about the higher interests of the country ultimately exists among all the forces of the opposition."

I asked, "What is the truth about the role the Wafd will play within the People's Assembly? Will it play the role of opposition force, the role of partner in government, or the role of shadow cabinet?"

He said, "The Wafd is a party which has a history, and its history is based on the sound exercise of democracy. Throughout its long history, it has recorded patriotic positions for which it is to be esteemed, and this is the role it will play in the coming stage. That is, it will carry out constructive, objective opposition, in the sense that the Wafd will support all the good acts the government carries out, and will violently oppose all the negative acts it performs. Indeed, it will resist what it believes is wrong,

and will raise the matter with the people so that they may render judgment on it."

I stated, "Nonetheless, some people repeatedly say that the Wafd Party will be a party in competition with the government, and not in opposition to it, because of the similarity between the Wafd's policy and that of the National Party."

He said, "That statement has no value, because the Wafd Party is the true opposition party. Its origins, themselves, prove that. It originated through the orders of the people, not the support of the ruler. There are essential differences between the Wafd Party and the National Party. The most important difference between them is the Wafd's concern to support and deepen freedoms, eliminate all exceptional laws and amend the Camp David agreement. The Wafd Party program also stipulates the need for the restoration of Egypt's total sovereignty over Sinai, the realization of social justice, the fight against corruption, and the transformation of consumer liberalization into a true productive liberalization. These things will all be translated into drafts which we will submit to the People's Assembly."

I said, "There now are two types of opposition in Egypt, an opposition inside the People's Assembly and an opposition outside the assembly, embodied in the group of parties which the tyrannical law has deprived of party representation. How do you view the future form of political activity, in terms of the existence of these two types of opposition?"

He said, "There is no contradiction, because the opposition inside and outside the assembly will coordinate positions between themselves and when differing views are presented will turn to Egyptian public opinion for its verdict."

I said, "In order that we can cover a point on the opposition, I would like you to offer me your personal conception of the optimum form of the opposition in a country such as Egypt. What form will it take?"

He stated, "There must be a strong government and an opposition that is also strong. For Egypt, there is no alternative to a strong opposition which grows and flourishes in a sound democratic environment, where other views will be given a chance to appear before people, at all levels, via all means of expression and media. There must not be a single view in Egypt; rather, there must always be a number of views, and differing views, so that the government and the opposition can ultimately turn to the people for judgment."

I asked, "What issues of national action, domestically or abroad, do you consider must be presented immediately to the People's Assembly before all else?"

He said, "There are political, economic and social issues which must be presented at once, without delay."

"In the political context, it is necessary before all else that the state of emergency end, so that normal law will prevail in the society and Egyptians will be blessed with security, safety and stability.

"Then it is necessary immediately to review the exceptional laws that are restrictive of freedoms, among them the law on parties, the law to protect the domestic front, the law on impropriety and the other infamous laws which have involved restrictions limiting the exercise of sound democracy and infringing on citizens' freedoms from certain standpoints.

"In the economic context, the issue of subsidies must be discussed at once, so that they will reach the people with limited incomes who are entitled to them, and the affluent will not enjoy them.

"In the economic context, also, there is the issue of incomes, where there is a vast difference between poverty and wealth. This reminds me of the issue I raised in the previous assembly, concerning the presence of 17,000 millionaires in Egypt, who emerged in the framework of economic liberalization, a liberalization which made the rich richer and the poor poorer. The problem which must be raised now is that these millionaires now are 100,000 in number; how can this happen in a poor country like Egypt?

"A parliamentary discussion on the issue of incomes in Egypt must be raised at once, especially since these millionaires do not pay taxes and threaten social stability with the atrocious differences in income levels they create in Egypt.

"This issue must be presented to the assembly at once, since some laws are being carried out in Egypt that violate Islamic law, such as interest, in the civil law; in the draft which I prepared in the law on civil transactions in the past session, we ended up preparing an integrated draft regarding civil transactions based on the provisions of Islamic law, and the draft is now fully prepared for review in the current assembly. I believe that that will be followed by a review of the law on religious penalties and the other laws carrying out the stipulations of the constitution."

I asked, "What about the law on elections, because of which and around which all the problems have arisen? Perhaps the simplest thing that can be said about this law is that it was behind the victory of the National Party. Some people have said that the National Party won through the law, not through the elections."

He said, "It is necessary to review this law, through which the National Party has won an abnormal and also illogical victory. Otherwise, how can it acquire votes and seats it does not deserve, but just gets in accordance with this law? How can that be?"

I said, "After these issues, there comes foreign policy activity. Here, the most conspicuous point is the Camp David treaty. You were one of the most prominent people to oppose this agreement, while it is said that the Wafd does not oppose it. What is the actual situation regarding Camp David now, as you see it from the position of opposition leader?"

He said, "The Camp David treaty is finished, in real and practical terms, because the period stipulated in the treaty has ended but nothing has been done about giving the Palestinians autonomy.

"Israel is taking its well known obstinate stand, and Egypt is trying to put pressure on it. The period stipulated for realizing autonomy for the Palestinians has ended but nothing has been done. That means that the treaty in my view and that of the Wafd is now of no substance.

"As regards the peace treaty, Israel has violated its commitments in this treaty also. Israel committed itself to solving its problems with its Arab neighbors by peaceful means, but it has not done so. Rather, it has occupied Lebanon, destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor and committed aggression against the Palestinians by increasing the settlements on the West Bank, which it wants to Judaize. It has also annexed East Jerusalem. All these things are in violation of the commitments it made in the treaty and in violation of the United Nations resolutions. Egypt, in accordance with international law, has the right to freeze all its commitments toward Israel, and not settle for withdrawing the Egyptian ambassador -- rather, to that it must add the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador from Egypt and the freezing of all relations with it, political, economic and social. If Egypt does that, Arab solidarity will be restored at once."

I said, "This is the basic issue, the issue of Arab solidarity. How do you, as a Wafdist, view Egypt's return to the Arabs, or the Arabs' return to Egypt, especially since we know that the Wafd has long-standing bases among the people throughout the Arab nation?"

He said, "I believe that Egypt in the context of President Husni Mubarak's regime and what he is doing to restore Arab solidarity can take a decisive action to this end. That action is to take a legal, fundamental position vis-a-vis Israel regarding the freezing of all relations with it. If this occurs, it alone will guarantee that the Arabs return to Egypt, and Egypt to the Arabs. This is our responsibility, and President Husni Mubarak's responsibility in the first place."

I asked, "Is there a specific action the Wafd can take regarding this issue?"

He said, "We for our part are most prepared to make reciprocal visits at the level of the people among Arab countries, and we hope that this will meet with a response among officials in order that official relations between Egypt and the Arab countries may receive greater support than what has been provided so far."

I said, "In previous assemblies, you made well-known requests for information by which the government became embarrassed. Perhaps the most famous of these was the one bearing on the Pyramid Heights project, which led to the government's abrogation of the project. Can we expect similar requests for information from you in the current assembly? What is the first request for information you will present to the government?"

He said, "There are many requests for information which I will present to the assembly, but the first of them will be one in which I will accuse the government of the series of violations which occurred in the latest elections, especially the governors' interference in these elections."

I asked, "What do you expect from these requests for information?"

He said, "These requests for information will be objective. In them we will list all the cases of interference that occurred on the governors' part which affected the course of the electoral process. We will reveal this to Egyptian public opinion and world public opinion as well. We will leave the matter up to the people, so that they can render judgment for or against us and so that they can have their say on whether we were right or were acting unfairly toward the majority regime."

I asked, "To what extent is the current People's Assembly different from the previous parliaments, specifically the assemblies of 1976 and 1979?"

He said, "This assembly is different in that the opposition within it is more numerous in terms of quantity and has greater depth in terms of kind, in terms of quality. In this assembly, we are aiming at a strong opposition which will include numerous persons who are specialists in all areas, enriching the discussion within the assembly more than at any time in the past in Egypt."

I said, "You have written famous books in which you recorded the facts regarding the incidents and battles for freedom in Egypt. The closest to mind now is the book on the campaign for justice, for instance. Do you have other books of this sort on the way, especially since a pen such as yours cannot ignore the grave events Egypt has passed through in the past 5 years?"

He said, "I have a group of books of this kind, which will be issued at a later time since I am now busy finishing some of them and reviewing some others."

I said, "Some people talk with much irritation about the absence in the current People's Assembly of certain famous parliamentary figures whose removal was brought about by the law. There is a long list of absent persons, which could start with Khalid Muhyi-al-Din and end with Sayyid Jalal. What is your opinion about these people's absence from the assembly?"

He said, "Yes, important parliamentary personalities have become absent from the stage, and this is a loss as far as national action is concerned, because it was in Egypt's interests to have them in the People's Assembly. However, these parliamentary figures can express themselves outside the assembly through the strong opposition papers in Egypt."

I asked, "What domestic or foreign issues would you like to end this conversation with?"

He said, "The issue that concerns me is the need for us all in our relations with the outer world tenaciously to look out for Egypt's interests, and not

favor either of the great powers. Our relations with them jointly must be balanced in terms of treatment; connected to this is our total rejection of the establishment of any of the military bases or facilities that we are hearing about for either of them.

"Egypt's land must remain genuinely Egyptian, and there should not be a single foreign foot on it. The Arabhood of Egypt must also be in the mind of every Egyptian. Our relations with the Arab countries must be distinct from other relations with all the other countries of the world. In this regard, Egypt must revive the joint defense treaty with the Arab world as a part of the restoration of Arab solidarity to actual reality. It is to that alone that Egypt must commit itself, in the interests of the whole Arab nation."

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MB MEMBERS IN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY GIVE VIEWS ON VARIOUS TOPICS

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 36, Aug 84 pp 34-35

[Text] Now that the Islamic Trend – especially the Ikhwan (Muslim Brotherhood) – is represented by ten members in the Egyptian parliament for the first time in modern history, *Arabia's* correspondent in Cairo asked a number of them what they intended to do there

 The Ikhwan are in parliament as members of the Wafd Party, since the law still bans their forming an independent political organisation. There is however, no disguising their separate identity, and their affiliation with the Wafd is viewed as a facade. Two Islamists (Shaikh Salah Abu Ismail and Hasan al Jamal) were elected to the 1979 Parliament but they were independent candidates and not Ikhwan members.

Hasan al Jamal, a member of the outgoing parliament re-elected to the new one, explained that his activities in the last parliament were dictated and limited by his own initiative and that issues relating to his Jeeza constituency had taken most of his time. However, now "we have an element of coordination and planning, and studies are carried out by specialists in their respective fields." This is being done on the level of the Wafd as well as the Ikhwan membership and, he adds, promises to be very fruitful.

On the issues which the Ikhwan will raise in parliament, he says: "applying the Sharia is our main concern. The Sharia is for the good of all mankind, acquainting him with his rights and duties regardless of

his religion. The difference between us and other religions lies in personal dealings. Even in this respect, some of those religions do not differ from the Islamic Sharia."

Hasan al Jamal asks the government seriously to consider lifting the ban on the Muslim Brotherhood Organisation and to allow it to re-establish itself, because, he says, it is a moderate organisation and holds fast to all the principles of Islam. He adds that the return of the organisation in a lawful and legitimate manner will attract the youth to it, who need guidance so that they do not fall prey to those who fight against Islam in the name of Islam.

Newly-elected MP Hasan Jauda Abdul Hafez, an education specialist, believes that the problems which people face today are all due to the absence of Islam and the exclusion of the Islamic method of government. The Ikhwan believe that those problems can be solved by commitment to the Islamic method and abiding by it. Such a method is not confined to exercising punishment and penalisation (Hadd), as some try to misrepresent it, but calls for all aspects of life to be controlled by the rules of the Quran.

He also believes that all the economic problems arise from ignoring the system that Islam provides. God has described those dealing with interest (riba) as being at war with God and His Prophet. There is also the issue of zakat, which is supposed to be an important source of state revenues, the spending of which is limited to helping the needy and achieving social security.

If zakat were collected from Egypt's millionaires who, according to government figures, number thousands or even

tens of thousands, the returns would finance the Five-Year Development Plan, especially its programmes for manpower, human, and social development. Hasan Jauda believes that only by enhancing the religious incentive, through guidance provided by educational and media institutions devoted to educating the faithful, can zakat be collected from these millionaires without their attempting to evade it.

All such means should be used to convince people of the greatness of Islam's method and moral values, which should have priority over legal obligations and commitments. Foremost among the proposals the Ikhwan intend to make in parliament according to Hasan Jauda, is that laws such as the emergency laws, the proportional representation laws and any other laws restricting democracy and the freedom of the Muslim individual, should be abolished.

A different view on zakat was expressed by non-Ikhwan Wafd MP, Saifud din Ali Ghazali, brother of the Islamic propagandist Zainab al-Ghazali. Saifud din Ali Ghazali believes that the religious incentive in itself is not enough to ensure that Egypt's millionaires pay zakat. Laws and rules should be imposed, regulating methods of collecting zakat from them. The money collected could be used to better social conditions and pay off Egypt's debts. Muslims' waqfs (endowments) should also be reviewed; thousands of millions of pounds worth of these have been looted. Waqfs should be limited to their original causes.

Hasni Abdul Baqui al-Milligi, another newly elected Ikhwan member of parliament, says: "Our main motive in entering the People's Assembly was the fact that it is the legitimate channel through which we can put into practice the Islamic programme advocated by the Ikhwan, who reaffirmed it during the recent elections. It was also to refute the charge that our means of realising our objectives were necessarily through creating secret organisations.

"Our main aim in entering the Assembly is to endeavour to put into practice the laws of Islamic Sharia: Article (2) of the constitution states that the Islamic Sharia is the main source legislation; but members of former assemblies never attempted to put this article into practice. The draft plan to codify application of Islamic Sharia is still, as it has been for the last three years, a neglected item on the

agenda and was discussed by the previous Assembly. We are in parliament now to reactivate the issue, and to persevere in our attempt to give our society its Islamic identity."

The most important objectives of the Ikhwan programme inside the Assembly, according to Milligi, are to establish the foundations of an Islamic code of conduct in parliamentary life to supersede current parliamentary practices which emphasise personal, and neglect public, interests. The role of the Ikhwan will be based on constructive opposition. He added: "The people's freedom to express themselves is as basic a need as food and drink. We desire full protection of that freedom, both for us and for those opposed to us which is why all emergency and contingency laws should be abolished. All these aims will only bear fruits if and when the media are reformed and the opposition have the right to express their views; and when the media no longer present that which harms or contradicts Islamic values."

Muhammad Abdul Rahim al-Maraghi also presented an overall view of the role the Ikhwan envisage for themselves during this parliament. "Applying the Islamic Sharia is not merely a matter of applying rules punishing offenders. It concerns all aspects of life, be it economic, political, cultural or social, for Islam is both a religion and a method of life.

"Our means of realising that aim is by convincing people that a lot of good will result through applying the Islamic Sharia because it secures and guarantees equality before the law and justice to the people, as well as freedom of opinion and religious doctrine. Only by wisdom and good counsel can we persuade people. Islam rejects violence or the imposition of doctrines and beliefs without dialogue, debate or persuasion."

Muhammad al-Maraghi stressed that everyone should be free to form political parties. The Muslim Brotherhood (Ikhwan), as well as other groups wanting active political roles, should be able to do so directly and openly, legitimately advocating Islamic values.

Finally, MP Muhammad al-Mismari, secretary general of the Lawyers's Union, discussed the parliamentary role to be performed by the Ikhwan MPs: "Political activity is part of the very structure of the Muslim Brotherhood Organisation, as Islam combines religion and the state and embodies both. The first role for the

Ikhwan, both inside or outside, parliament, will be very demanding as the organisation is rightly expected to present its true image, after defamation and misrepresentation by successive governments."

He believed that the Ikhwan's election campaign was a good start. The organisation truly represents the growing trend in Egypt. The Ikhwan do not accept any form of extremism: on the contrary, they attack it. They reject terrorism equally strongly.

He pointed out that Ikhwan MPs will present an image of Islam that meets the demands of modern society and reasserts the true concept of Islam in political, social and economic fields. Islam always calls for positive dialogues and cooperation with sincere people, he believes. "Our religion blesses and encourages every productive effort as long as it does not violate Islam's basic rules. The intentions and aims of the Islamic Sharia are to look after people's interests."

He also stressed that the role of the Ikhwan MP inside the People's Assembly will be an important one. They are expected, in their conduct, proposals and contributions to offer Islam's solutions to the problems which the people face. They are expected to prevent the People's Assembly from passing any legislation that is not debated on Islamic grounds. They must support the Islamic concept of freedom, wage war against any restrictions on it, and do everything possible to repeal every single law restricting freedom of thought and expression. The rights of the Egyptian Arab Muslim individual should be safeguarded.

The aim is to present a vision of Islamic parliamentary conduct, and of the political legislative and supervisory activities advocated by Islam and demanded by Muslim peoples. Such attitudes will be the best support that could be given to a popular government committed to justice, reform and responsibility to God and people.

Working within

An Ikhwan MP, who refused to be identified, has declared that another group of Ikhwan have entered the new parliament on the ruling National Party lists.

The MP has not given details but added that the masses would know those MPs later, when they can be identified from their views and conduct in the Assembly.

EGYPT PARTICIPATES IN AFRICAN FINANCIAL POLICY SEMINAR

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Jul 84 p 8

[Article by Usama Saraya: "The Minister of Economy at the Opening of the African Fiscal Policies Seminar: A Great Improvement in the Amounts of Growth in Savings Deposits; A Diminishing of African Development Assistance by 1 Percent"]

[Text] Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, minister of Economy and Foreign Trade, announced that there has been a great improvement in the growth of savings deposits in the banks and of foreign currency reserves in the banking system. There has not been, however, a large growth in public projects, infrastructure projects, or in private and foreign investments.

In an address before the Seminar on African National Fiscal Policies and Capital Formation that opened yesterday, the minister also announced a decline in the current deficit in the balance of payments, the amounts of cash circulation, and, consequently, the amount of inflation.

Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id delineated the economic reforms experience in Egypt that began in the year 1982/83 in the framework of the 5-year plan and as part of a dynamic stability in policies. He said that the Central Bank has undertaken to exercise quantitative monitoring over banking credit to guarantee an orientation toward projects more vital to the national economy.

Mr Muhammad Shalabi, governor of the Central Bank, which sponsored the seminar, disclosed that the amount of official assistance that was offered to the developing countries declined by one percent annually during the period 1980-1982. This figure will increase to about 10 percent annually during the period between 1970 and 1980.

The Egyptian central bank governor called on Africa to rely on itself for the capital formation necessary for development in order to reduce the level of poverty and dependency. He explained that this capital formation demands the utmost mobilization of local savings deposits and making better use of them.

The seminar--which is to last four days and which is being attended by delegations from 24 African central banks and a number of international financial, economic and banking experts--is discussing eight problems facing the banking system in the way of gathering local savings in the developing nations. Among them are: an increase and proliferation in Africa of the banks' practice of rejecting development operations; an increase in unregulated credit markets, which weakens the banks in confronting the usurers; an increase in population growth, which consumes every new increase in the amounts of economic growth and which makes the true mean individual income semi-fixed; and also consumer price supports and how they lead to wasteful consumption and consequently limit the ability to save.

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YOUTH AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE IN WEST GERMANY

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Jul 84 p 8

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Hamid: "Egypt Takes Part in an Agricultural Conference in West Germany; Working Paper on Egyptian Measures in the Field of Agriculture"]

[Text] Egypt is participating in an international youth agricultural conference which will be held in Altenburg in West Germany from 21 July to 5 August and in which 95 countries are participating. Representing Egypt at this conference is Eng 'Abd-al-Ghaffar al-Jazzar, president of the Middle East Nations League for the Youth Agricultural Program.

During its sessions this conference will deal with a number of subjects, among the most important of which will be the industrialization of agriculture, especially in the developing nations, supporting measures for the mechanization of agriculture and developing methods for agricultural storage, with the objective of devising quick solutions to the problems of manpower shortages in the agriculture sector, which looms as a dangerous phenomenon affecting the shortage of food items in the world.

'Abd-al-Ghaffar al-Jazzar announced that Egypt will present to the conference a working paper containing the accomplishments it has achieved in the areas of food security and agricultural industrialization and mechanization, giving priority to investment in the field of food storage, which is considered a sure sign of Egypt's achievement as a pioneer in this sector among the developing nations.

Jazzar added that there is a world-wide tendency to accept Egypt's invitation to the international conference to meet in Cairo for the next session. It was agreed that it be held in July.

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CSO: 4504/371

EGYPT

ROMANIANS GIVE AID FOR ELECTRICITY PROJECTS

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Jul 84 p 8

[Article: "Easy Loans From Romania for Electricity and Power Projects"]

[Text] Talks began yesterday between Egypt and Romania on technical cooperation between the two countries in the areas of electricity and energy. Heading the Egyptian side was Eng Mahir Abazah, the minister of electricity and energy, and heading the Romanian side was Alexandru Rosu, the Romanian minister of commerce and a member of the Romanian delegation currently visiting Cairo.

Eng Mahir Abazah announced after the talks that the two sides examined how to strengthen cooperation in the field of electricity and Romania's participation in the projects included in the 5-year Plan. He said that the Romanian side agreed to offer special tenders to extend high tension lines and to supply transformer stations in order to carry out the national program for Egyptian rural electrification, on the basis that the Romanian government will offer a soft loan to finance this equipment and material.

He added that the Romanian delegation transmitted to him the Romanian Ministry of [Electric] Power's agreement to dispatch Romanian experts to participate in implementing plans for distributing electrical power to the regions of upper and lower Egypt.

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LEADING FEMINIST, WRITER INTERVIEWED

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 36, Aug 84 p 85

[Text] The Egyptian writer Alifa Rifaat has attracted international attention recently, with the publication of a selection of her short stories in English. A passionate defender of Islamic values and women's rights, she spoke to *Arabia* about her works and ideas

 Can you tell us something about your family background?

I was born into a large family. My father was from an impoverished land-owning family. My mother was a relatively educated woman but her formal education ended when she won a scholarship to England for a teacher-training course and my grandfather decided that she should remain a mother and a housewife.

My own education was relatively limited but I started writing at an early age. After marrying I continued writing, but my husband firmly opposed my publishing stories, saying that I had to choose between the children and publishing. For 15 years I stopped writing but it was affecting me psychologically and my husband, under the doctor's instructions, agreed to let me write but not publish. However, I started publishing in various Arabic magazines under different names. A few years later my husband finally consented to the publication of my stories.

Up to now I have written 90 short stories and have four published novels

in Arabic, plus a collection of my short stories in English. I would describe myself as a writer from within the Islamic tradition. I know relatively little about the West. In fact, until recently, my only trip outside Egypt was a pilgrimage to Makkah.

Do you see yourself as a defender of women's rights? What do you think are the main problems facing Muslim women today?

Women's relationships with men in my stories are within the confines of marriage; they are not free relationships. As a writer I am very much bound by traditional values. I believe in strengthening family relationships by criticising their defects and abuses. I think it is the wisdom of Islam to leave the task of breadwinning to the man so that women can undertake education and upbringing, on which the health of the family is based.

My main aim is to protest against certain practices that men have used to their advantage. Islam has given many rights to women which have not been recognised in Muslim countries. In writing about these problems I am not necessarily offering solutions - I hope that my stories can make people think about the situation. However, abuse of power within the family will only be put right by education, for both men and women. In the Arab world boys and girls are brought up in very different ways and it is important that they should develop an awareness of each other's problems. The most important thing is the question of sexual education. I hope my stories can promote an awareness of the needs and emotional

requirements of Muslim women within the framework of the family.

There are many references in your collection, *A view from the minaret*, to disturbing effects of men having relationships with other women outside the family. Could you elaborate on that?

When the man seeks satisfaction outside the family, children are the most immediately affected. Moreover, Islam requires a man with more than one wife to be equally fair and impartial to all of them. A true Muslim man must respect justice in the conduct of his relationships with his wives and this, at least in our age, is very difficult.

Prayer and particularly death are prominent themes in your work. Can you explain why?

Prayer is a way of keeping in touch with the other world and God. It warns man about the passing of time and the inevitability of death. I have been preoccupied with death ever since I lost a close childhood friend when I was young. Every night when we go to sleep we do not know if we will wake up the next morning. We must always anticipate death. Every night before I sleep I think about any negative encounters that I might have had with people, I forgive them and purify my heart. I have done this since the death of my husband; I slept beside him all night and did not realise that he was dead. Death is never very far from us and this, I think, comes through many of my stories.

What are your future plans?

At the moment I am writing some stories for children. It is very difficult to talk to children, and adopt a language which can penetrate their world. But I will try, as it is very important to implant in them an awareness of God and human relationships. They are at a formative stage of their lives, when education is so important.

HISTORY, NATURE OF OPPOSITION FRONT REVIEWED

Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic No 675, 12 Jun 84 pp 20, 21

[Article: "A Brief Introduction to the National Front for the Salvation of Libya"]

[Text] When the news agencies and papers carried the news of the attack on the al-'Aziziyah barracks in Tripoli, Libya on 8 May, the National Front for the Salvation of Libya declared its responsibility for the incident and gave a eulogy for the martyr Ahmad Ahwas, member of its executive committee and commander and founder of the Salvation Forces, the military wing of the front. Since the event was an indication that the Libyan opposition had progressed from political to military action, we are publishing a brief introduction to the National Front for the Salvation of Libya here, as a contribution by AL-MUJTAMA' to the enrichment of its dear readers' information on Libyan conditions.

The Establishment

With the growth in the Libyan people's opposition forces because of the regime's policies restricting freedoms, a number of Libyans started to think of the subject of ridding themselves of the existing situation following a number of student uprisings and the rise in the number of political prisoners in Libya. After consultations which took place throughout 1981, the establishment of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya was declared on 'Arafah day, corresponding to 7 October 1981.

The declaration of its establishment took place through a statement Dr Muhammad Yusuf al-Maqaryaf, the spokesman for the front, directed to the Libyan people; it was broadcast over the Voice of the Libyan People, the station speaking for the front.

The appeal stated, "In these moments, it is God's will, and God alone possesses the will, that the great exalted 'Arafah day, corresponding to 9 Dhu-al-Hijjah 1401, should witness the declaration of the establishment of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya.... The declaration of its establishment was preceded by a number of concentrated efforts, contacts and meetings in the course of more than a whole year inside and outside Libya,

including former officials, ministers, officers and diplomats, businessmen, chiefs of tribes, lawyers, journalists, professionals and students.... The front considers its struggle against the regime and its clique an extension of all the heroic efforts which the members of our people have offered, including more than eight military coup attempts, more than 10 individual assassination attempts, a number of explosions in military and civilian installations, a number of student uprisings, and dozens of isolated individual stands in rejection of al-Qadhdhafi's regime, including the stands taken by His Eminence Shaykh al-Tahir al-Zawi (the Mufti of Libya) and Shaykh Mahmud Subhi (the sheikh of the Society of the Call to Islam).... The repercussions of these efforts have not been heard because of blackouts, silence and collusion on the part of the international media and some countries which are linked to al-Qadhdhafi in terms of interests and strategy."

Coordination of the Opposition

This front asserts that it is in total agreement with the other elements that are opposed to the regime concerning the basic goal of our people's struggle, as embodied in:

1. The elimination of the regime by force.
2. The establishment of a national constitutional democratic regime on the ruins of the regime.

The front believes that national action requires programs for struggle, combat and holy war, not government programs. It distinguishes between two stages, the stage of struggle and the stage following the fall of the regime. In the first stage, the front considers that all nationalistic elements inside and outside Libya should be advanced within a program of action and struggle which is integrated politically and militarily and in terms of the media and has the objective of eliminating al-Qadhdhafi's regime and whoever is connected to it, using all necessary possible legitimate means.

Although the front has received financial offers of help from non-Libyan sources, it has so far relied on purely Libyan sources of financing, with thanks and gratitude to God.

After the fall of al-Qadhdhafi the front considers "A temporary presidential council and government should be formed, for a year at the most, to arrange the holding of general elections to choose a national charter assembly which will set out a constitution for the country that will be put forth for general referendum; then the president will be elected in the light of the new constitution, all powers will be transferred to the elected or formed constitutional institutions, and a national reconciliation will be held."

The appeal ends with great sublime God's appeal "Let God cause those who side with him to triumph; God is great and powerful, to God belong matters from before and after, and God is triumphant over his affairs, but most people do not know."

A Military Wing

The front has a military wing known as the Salvation Forces which was headed by Ahmad Ibrahim Ahwas, who was killed last 6 May, 2 days before the attack on al-Qadhdhafi's headquarters in al-'Aziziyah. The military wing of the front is responsible for the military training activities which it is believed are held in neighboring African countries.

Media Activity

In the context of the media, the front's office of media affairs issues the magazine AL-INQADH, which comes out every 2 months; its postal address is in West Germany. The magazine is devoted to stating the front's goals and exposing the policies of the ruling Libyan regime. The front, in the seventh issue of AL-INQADH, issued in February 1984, made an announcement concerning the establishment of "a cooperation and coordination agreement" between the front and the Libyan National Salvation Army with the objective of "eliminating the regime and establishing a national democratic alternative."

The front also issues a periodic information publication titled AKHBAR LIBYA. In addition, the front has published numerous information bulletins including an appeal to the Libyan people, "The List of Charges Directed against Al-Qadhdhafi," "Tomorrow's Libya," "How Al-Qadhdhafi Destroyed the Libyan Treasury," and so forth. We in AL-MUJTAMA' have received the front's calendar for 1984, listing some important dates in the Libyan people's struggle against the ruling regime, such as uprisings, the names of victims among the Libyan people, and other things, on national occasions.

In addition to that, the front has a radio station which broadcasts its programs three times during the day to the Libyan people.

It is worth pointing out that the front is in contact with various political fronts and organizations that have a relationship to the Libyan people to explain its point of view and demands. In this context, the front sent a memorandum to the Organization of African Unity summit conference held in Nairobi in 1981. Following the al-'Aziziyah incident, the front issued a number of statements in which it declared that its military activity was confined within the Libyan borders and that its Islamic activity in no way interfered with the affairs of any country.

The Most Recent Reports

The British newspaper THE TELEGRAPH has pointed out that the Libyan government has taken decisive measures in the wake of the attack on Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi's place of residence last month.

It added that news has been frequently reiterated in Libya to the effect that at least 1,500 persons have been arrested for questioning, including a number of students, businessmen and shopowners. According to ASA, it has been pointed out that al-Qadhdhafi has levelled blame against the heads of tribes for their support of opposition elements.

It stated that al-Qadhdhafi is punishing opposition elements by burning down their homes.

In another area, the penalty of death by hanging was carried out against a Libyan citizen on the charge of belonging to the Society of Moslem Brothers.

In the same context, AFP has pointed out that the Libyan government has imitated Khomeyni's regime in Iran, openly carrying out the death penalty against five members of the opposition starting last Sunday. Libyan television showed the executions; after the list of charges was read out, the television cameras concentrated on the following stage, which was the execution of the sentence.

Observers believe that al-Qadhdhafi resorted to the trials and the issuance of death penalties only after he had made a preliminary investigation of the magnitude of the opposition, which was embodied in the wave of arrests, since more than 200 citizens of various classes, including the student sector, from whom two people had previously been executed last 16 April on the charge of carrying out counterrevolutionary activity, were arrested.

The death penalty was carried out against these two students just 24 hours before the shooting in front of the Libyan embassy building in London, which was one cause for the diplomatic crisis between the two countries that ended with the severance of diplomatic relations between them.

The statements of the Libyan opposition point out that their work has not stopped at those points, and that the days to come will have scope for further activities with the aim of changing the regime. How does one imagine the confrontation between the two parties will develop? The coming days will reveal this.

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CSO: 4504/359

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM EMPHASIZED

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 36, Aug 84
pp 32-33

[Article by Abdelwahab el Affendi: "Sudan: What Constitution for Islam?"]

[Text]

● The ratification of Sudan's new constitution, which was supposed to formalise and serve as a culmination of the Islamisation process, has been delayed amid reports of strong opposition to some of its stipulations by a number of MPs, and to the very idea of it by southerners and some loyalists of the ancien regime. Meanwhile President Numeiri, sensing the opposition, stressed in a meeting with MPs the need to concentrate on points on which there is consensus and the vital need to preserve the unity of the nation.

At the centre of controversy are two major tendencies in the new constitution. One aims at eliminating the special status of the South, and other at enhancing the powers of the president at the expense of the People's Assembly and the judiciary, besides blurring the separation of powers that has become recognised as an important constituent of the modern state.

The problem of the South is very pertinent for Numeiri, for his main support came from there either directly or indirectly in the years before 1977 when the National Reconciliation accord pacified the opposition that was mainly northern. The only group of Sudanese who fully and genuinely participated in the political process that led to the promulgation of the present constitution and the attempts to make it work were the Southerners who took it seriously. They had a fairly democratic and open government in their autonomous region, in spite of bitter tribal rivalries. Khartoum managed to mediate on these and minimise their divisive effect.

One of the strongest arguments against the replacement of Numeiri was then that he was the only person the Southerners trusted, and that his departure would lead to civil war and the disintegration of the country. This argument reduced support to the opposition at home but particularly in the West, where Numeiri was seen as a great stabilising factor.

Southern bitterness stems from their deep emotional involvement with the present constitution, in the drawing of which they so energetically participated. This sentiment is not shared by the other sections of the population and the political forces which represent them. The year in which the constitution was promulgated saw the great student revolt of 1973 when the eruption of protests forced the government partially to suspend the new constitution only months after it had been passed.

The student revolt of 1973 had "freedom" at the centre of its demands, and it is precisely freedom that many Sudanese see as suffering under the provisions of the new constitution.

Although the most flagrant affronts to basic tenets of modern political thought and the mainstream interpretation of Islam were duly withdrawn from the amendments supported by Numeiri, what remains is still hard to swallow for the majority of Sudanese, the Islamic movement not excepted. What was withdrawn comprises such provisions as tenancy for life for the president, the right to appoint a successor and changes in the name and nature of the political organisation. The

latter is seen as a concession to veteran loyalists who were shocked by the pace of the new developments.

The main thrust of the amendments, which were drafted by the president himself, is to increase draconically his powers, which will be exercised in conjunction with a new Shura (consultative) Council headed by him. The council is an enlarged parliament of which all the members of the National and the regional People's Assemblies are part. Besides, all the president's aides, ministers, senior party-officials and other selected members can sit on it. It takes over from the People's Assembly ratification of treaties and the approval of the budget and supervision of the executive, among other functions. There are some functions of the People's Assembly which have been taken up by the president, like the approval of the appointment of the Auditor General and his dismissal.

The Shura Council (SC) which is still not very well defined, will have powers superior to that of the People's Assembly and a clause in the old constitution that allows no authority or jurisdiction over the Assembly has now been amended to give this jurisdiction to the SC.

The most objectionable point to the MPs is probably the clause giving the president the right to dissolve the PA in consultation with the president of the SC instead of with the Speaker of the Assembly, as the original constitution allows. The point is that no consultation is involved at all, since the president of the SC is none other than the president himself.

Equally objectionable is the clause giving the president the right to appoint the Speaker, who would normally be elected by the Assembly itself. The PA will also be deprived of the right to question ministers, ask for their dismissal or force the president to put disputed policies or matters to a referendum.

Other amendments effectively remove the immunity of PA members and waives the restrictions on dissolving the Assembly within a year of its election. The PA can also no longer amend the constitution.

Most important, however, is the amendment taking from the Assembly the right to impeach the president. The presidency in the new constitution is more of an imamate. The amendments stipulate that Sudan is now an Islamic Republic, in which sovereignty is God's but the people practise it and the president is responsible

for the preservation of religious values and protection of religion.

In the new constitution the president has no vice-president and there is no council of ministers. The president now has only assistants and a presidential council. A clause that provides for a referendum to elect a president nominated by the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU), the only legitimate political party was at first replaced by Bay'a (pledge of allegiance) to be defined by law. The more recent version speaks about elections. But since the clause does not define clearly what kind of elections, this can be decided virtually at will by an incumbent president, since the president has powers to pass laws by decree. The new amendments have also reverted to a six-year term for the president and his successor is automatically the speaker of the PA. A new president will have to be elected within a month.

The chief objection of Southerners is that the new constitution implicitly bans non-Muslims from holding the supreme office (no explicit exclusion clause says so).

But generally, the spirit of the new constitution does not tally with the liberal and modernistic tendencies of the Sudanese Islamic movement. It is an expression of a traditionalist interpretation of Islamic political philosophy. Although it seems on the face of it an attempt by the president to enhance his powers, it is in fact based on advice by jurists and Islamists who want ulema (working as advisers to the president) to pass laws, rather than an elected organ.

The retrograde character of this philosophy is in sharp contrast with the well-developed political thought of the Sudanese Islamic movement, which was criticised by the international Islamic movement as too modernistic.

If anything, the new constitution reflects and emphasises the obvious, that the Sudanese Islamic movement was and remains an outsider to the political process in Sudan. In spite of the unconditional support given by Ikhwan to the Islamisation measures their role in dictating their course remains minimal. They were as surprised by their nature and their timing as anybody else.

They were also caught unawares by the new amendments. Their responsibility for them however is accepted by international public opinion. A loose coalition of opposition groups, comprising a number of ex-ministers and SSU officials ousted in

the latest reshuffle in Khartoum, was reported to have affirmed this view. Their programme called for a war first against Ikhwan, since they are the main danger, rather than the other pillars of the regime, who are seen as transient, less organised and too dependent on the person of Numeiri for their power.

A campaign has already started by the publication in a pro-Libyan Arabic daily published in London of reports about Ikhwan training in Iran to overthrow Numeiri. The aim is obvious.

Ikhwan are in a very tight position. Since the appointment of Hassan al Turabi as Information and Foreign Affairs Secretary of the SSU shortly after the National Reconciliation in 1977, their job has been to polish the image of the regime to the outside, while they have little to say in what kind of regime it can be. Numeiri remains the sole arbiter of this and he is the only centre of power in the country.

Ikhwan have nevertheless been very enthusiastic about the present measures, and even about the constitution, at least formally. The deputy-speaker and leader of the Assembly, who are responsible for pushing the amendments through, are two prominent Ikhwan.

But the reports circulated by the international media on the new Islamisation process as an Ikhwan initiative or a bid to win their support are totally false. Numeiri on two occasions (January and May this year) after the Islamisation went out of his way to deny any role for "any group" of people in his initiative. This was seen as a clear reference to Ikhwan, but it is certainly true.

At first the gesture was interpreted by SSU officials as a signal to discredit and minimise the importance of Ikhwan-led demonstrations in support of the new measures. These officials were later ousted, but Numeiri reiterated his position even after that. It remains a fact that in case of an all-out assault on the regime the Ikhwan will be one of the few sources of organised support for it, and they certainly will put up a fight. This explains why the opposition want to get rid of them first, for if they remain, any western-sponsored coup will have to be very bloody indeed.

All signs point to the fact that the coming days will be very harsh for the regime and Sudan in general. With the insurgency in the South taxing an already heavy security spending, it is not clear how the country will cope. Sudan is now virtually without a friend abroad. Numeiri supports Iraq against Iran, the US against Russia, and Egypt against the Arab radicals. But it is the Iraqi Baath Party and the Iraqi-supported London-based opposition who are

now spearheading the fight against Numeiri, rather than Iran. Egypt's lukewarm reception of the Islamisation measures, coupled with hostile attitudes in the Gulf, made the Americans even more uneasy about support for Numeiri, who still remains very adamant in his loyalty to the US.

The West generally doesn't view favourably the "fundamentalist" turn of Numeiri, especially in relation to the South. No outside force will support a war against the South, and many will support the insurgents, and indeed Ethiopia and Libya, among others, are openly doing so. With an \$8bn debt, Sudan is heading towards an international economic blockade. The hardships that will be caused by the steep reduction in imports, government spending and the consequent hyperinflation will tax the cohesiveness of the internal front.

It is clear that if Numeiri sincerely wants Islamisation then he will have to rely less on America, and more on justice and the rule by consensus. Some steps have already been taken in this direction by the launching of a campaign against corruption which has brought down many of Numeiri's chief aides notorious for their questionable behaviour. Public trials have uncovered intricate networks for channeling foreign aid and governmental funds to private use.

Weeding out corruption is an important step towards creating a sound basis for development and Islamisation but is not enough in itself. Open government and fully democratic institutions in the tradition of the Rightly Guided Caliphs is a sine qua non for the Islamisation process. If the internal front is to withstand the all-out assault anticipated in the coming months, then Numeiri must show more trust for his people, and less for "friends" who are not friends of Islam, whatever else they may be.

The problem of the South also deserves careful attention. Although the days in which the Southern minority effectively ruled the North by maintaining a veto on all policies not to their taste can no longer come back, a sort of accommodation with the South is a must. A confrontation with the South does not serve the cause of Islam in Africa.

The South is a potential bridge with the rest of Africa. With now roughly equal numbers of Muslims and Christians, the majority of the animist population are embracing Islam in greater numbers than Christianity. A confrontation on ethnic lines will certainly arrest progress in this direction. Tolerance and accession to the legitimate demands of the South will be the wiser course to take.

NEW CIVIL TRANSACTION LAW

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 36, Aug 84

[Text] ***Sudan Civil Transaction Law promulgated in April 1984: a summary incorporating Islamisation provisions***

Section 25: Choses and property

(2) Everything that can be possessed either physically or constructively and can be lawfully utilised may be a subject matter of proprietary rights so far as transaction in the same is neither restricted by law nor by the nature of the chose itself.

(4) Equivalent choses are those with similar units, parts of which so resemble each other that they can customarily replace one another without any significant difference and are assessable in transactions by number (of units), weight, or measure.

Section 28: Scope of exercising the right

(1) Legal permission negates indemnity: whoever lawfully exercises his right shall not be made to indemnify for any damage that might ensue from such user.

(4) Prevention of damage (or hardship) should be given priority over earning of benefits.

(5) Private hardship will be preferred to public hardship and small hardship to greater hardship.

Section 29: Misuse of right

(1) Whoever exercises his right in an unlawful way shall be liable to indemnity.

(2) User of right shall be unlawful:

- a. If there is intention to violate (others' rights);
- b. If the desired benefit is unlawful;
- c. If the ensuing benefit is not proportionate with the damage that will affect other parties;
- d. If it exceeds what is usual and customary.

Section 30: Classes of right

A right can either be personal, specific or moral:

(1) A personal right is a legal tie between debtor and creditor whereby the creditor, claims as against the debtor the transfer of a specific right.

(2) A specific right is a direct authority over a certain thing which the law bestows to a certain person.

(3) A specific right may be either original or ancillary.

Section 31: Specific rights

Original specific rights are ownership, disposal (or transaction), benefiting, occupation, use of roof, easement rights and wakfs (Islamic endowments).

Section 33: Bases (or essential ingredients of) contract

(1) A contract is the coincidence of offer by one of the parties and acceptance by the other in such a way as to attach effect to the subject matter of contract and create obligations of each party towards the other.

(2) More than two wills may coincide in order to create the legal effect.

Section 41: Completion of contract (its conclusion)

(1) A contract is not complete unless the parties have agreed upon all the matters on which they have been negotiating. Agreement upon some of such matters is not sufficient to bind the parties even if reduced to writing.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (1), if the parties agree to all the substantial issues in the contract and reserved detailed issues to be agreed upon later without limiting the completion of the contract to such agreement (on detailed issues), the contract shall thence

be deemed to cover the issues thus not agreed upon.

(3) Any dispute that may arise about those issues which have not been agreed upon shall be governed by the nature of the transaction, provisions of the law, custom or the rules of justice.

Section 48: Agent's contracts

Where a contract is concluded by agency the principal, and not the agent, shall be regarded when considering the existence and expression of will, defects therein, effect of knowledge of special circumstances or presumption of knowledge thereof. But where the agent acts in accordance with specific instructions by his principal then both agent and principal shall be regarded so far as the will of each have contributed in the conclusion of the contract.

Section 49: Obligation in agent's contracts

Rights and obligations accruing from a contract by the agent on behalf of the principal shall be attributed to the principal.

Section 67: Contracts rendered void for misrepresentation

(1) A contract is voidable for misrepresentation by act or word of mouth if such misrepresentation is so substantial that the other party would not have contracted had it not existed.

(2) Intentional concealment of a fact or a state of affairs is deemed to be misrepresentation if it is proved that the victim of such misrepresentation would not enter into the contract had he known of such a fact or a state of affairs.

Section 68: Misrepresentation by a third party

If misrepresentation is made by a third party the contract shall not be void unless the victim of such misrepresentation proves that the other party knew or ought to have known of the misrepresentation.

Section 69: Contracts voidable for coercion

(1) A contract is voidable for coercion when a party enters into a contract under the influence of reasonable fear unlawfully caused by the other party.

(2) Reasonable fear exists when the circumstances at the time of contracting are such that the subject of such fear apprehends the coercer's ability to inflict the subject of his threats and that substantial danger to his life, person, honour or property is threatening him.

(3) Threat covers father, son, spouse or any other person of either blood or other amicable and close relationship.

Section 70: Criteria of coercion

In assessing coercion differences between people as to sex, age, culture; social status, health and other relevant circumstances shall be considered so far as they affect the degree of coercion.

Section 71: Coercion by a third party shall not render the contract void unless the victim of coercion proves that the other party knew or ought to have known of the coercion.

Section 72: Gharar defined

(1) Gharar exists when one party to a contract deceives the other using deceptive words or acts which induces him to consent to what he would not otherwise have consented to.

(2) Intentional concealment of a fact or a state of affairs is deemed to be gharar if it is proved that the victim of gharar would not have contracted had he known of such a fact or a state of affairs.

Section 73: Gharar and ghabn

If one party commits gharar against the other and it is proved that the contract is affected with gross ghabn (disadvantage) the victim of such gharar shall be entitled to avoid the contract.

Section 74:

(1) Gross ghabn as to estate and otherwise is that which is covered by the assessment of evaluators.

(2) If the ghabn, however little, affects the property of an interdicted person or a "deceased in death bed" and the debt of either is in excess of his assets the contract shall be suspended subject to the lifting of ghabn or to ratification by creditors, and shall otherwise be rendered void.

Section 75:

If gharar is effected by a third party and the victim of such gharar proves that the other party to the contract knew of the gharar at the time of contracting he shall be entitled to avoid the contract.

Section 76: Renunciation for gross ghabn

Gross ghabn (disadvantage) shall lead to renunciation of the contract without proof of gharar as far as the property of the interdicted, wakf and state property are concerned.

** This is legally defined (in Sharia) as an illness which naturally causes death provided that death follows it. A person who undergoes such experience is said, while thus ill, to be "deceased in death bed."*

Section 78: Legality of subject matter

(1) The subject matter of the contract must be lawful in Islam, otherwise the contract shall be void.

(2) No disposal of (or transacting in) the estate of a living person, even with consent of such person, is permitted except in cases provided for by law.

Section 85: Lawful benefit from contract

A contract is not valid unless there is a lawful benefit from it in favour of its parties.

Section 87: Contracts that need be ratified

A contract will not have effect and remains suspended pending ratification if made by one of imperfect legal competence as to his property where the relevant transaction could be either beneficial or harmful or where the will is affected by mistake, representation, coercion or exploitation, or where the transaction relates to the property of a third party without his permission or where there is a special provision of law to that effect.

Section 91: Failure of an essential basis of contract and the absence of writing where it is statutorily required

(1) A contract is void if either an essential or a descriptive basis is not satisfied by being made by a legally incompetent person or because of the absence of consent, subject matter or cause, or either the cause or subject matter lacks its substantial conditions, or if the legal form is not satisfied or if there is a special provision of law to that effect.

(2) A contract is void where the law stipulates that it should be in writing and such is not effected at the time of making the contract. Provided that if it is later written it shall have effect as from the date of such writing.

Section 92: Effects of a void contract

(1) A void contract does not become concluded and shall have no effect nor can it be ratified.

(2) Every interested party can stick to the voidance and the court can decide on its own [initiative] provided that an action for avoidance shall not be heard after ten years from the time of making the contract.

Section 93: Status of the parties to a void contract

Where a contract is void or suspended and then avoided the parties shall be restored to the status quo ante and where such restoration is impossible the judge shall order equivalent compensation. A person of an incomplete competence shall not

upon avoidance of the contract be obliged to return more than the amount of actual benefit to him as a result of the performance of the contract.

Section 94: Voidance and partial suspension

Where a contract is only partially void or suspended it shall be avoided or suspended only to the extent of such voidance or suspension unless it is found that the contract would not have been completed without the void or suspended part.

Section 102: Interpretation of doubt

Doubt shall be interpreted in favour of the party who will be negatively affected with the condition.

Section 105: Mode of renunciation and ratification

Renunciation or ratification may be effected by any act or words which have either explicit or implicit indication to that effect.

Section 115: The concealed contract

Where the parties conceal a real contract with a real one, effect shall be given to the contract vis-a-vis the parties and the general successors.

Section 121: Conditions relating to pre-designed contracts

In the case of pre-designed contract forms so made as to regulate contractual relations the conditions related to such contracts shall have predominance over the original conditions in cases of contradiction even if such contradiction conditions are not deleted.

Section 122: The enforceable effect of contract

A contract cannot create an obligation on the part of a third party although it can create a right thereto.

Section 125: Revocation of conditions in favour of a third party

The party who lays down a condition shall be entitled in exclusion of his creditors and heirs to revoke such condition before the notification by the beneficiary to the undertaker or the party laying down the condition of his intention to benefit from such condition unless that would contradict with the implication of the contract.

The undertaker's responsibilities towards the party making the condition shall not be discharged as a result of such revocation of condition unless explicitly or implicitly agreed otherwise. The party making the condition can replace the initial beneficiary with another or confine the benefit from such condition to himself.

Section 126: Third party

Where a condition is made in favour of a third party the beneficiary can be an independent person or a body and such person or body need not have been specified at the time of contracting so far as specification is possible at the time when the contract is effected in accordance with the condition.

CHAPTER XV**Termination of the Contract****Section 127: Performance**

A contract expires upon its performance in accordance with its terms.

Section 128: Breach of contract

(1) In the case of bilateral contracts if one party fails to perform his obligation the other party shall be entitled after notifying the first party to claim the performance or renunciation of the contract and the payment of damages in either case so far as that is justifiable.

(2) If the circumstances so permit the judge can allow the debtor a period (for performance) or refuse the claim for renunciation if the unperformed part is not substantial.

Section 129: Agreement to rescind the contract

An agreement can be reached to render the contract as automatically rescinded without the need to a judicial decree upon a breach of the duties arising therefrom. Such an agreement shall not relieve (the parties) of the requirement as to notices unless they have explicitly agreed on such relief.

Section 130: Impossibility

In the bilateral, mutually binding contracts, if an obligation expires which was impossible to execute due to a foreign reason not caused by the debtor, the corresponding obligations shall equally expire and the contract will be automatically rescinded.

Section 131: Effect of rescission of contract

When a contract is rescinded either automatically or by the act of the parties they shall be restored to the status quo and if that becomes impossible compensation shall be ordered.

Section 132: Reciprocity of discharge and breach

Where the contract is binding on both parties and the mutual obligations are due each party is entitled upon failure of the other party to perform his obligation to refrain from the performance of his own undertaking.

Section 133: Mutual revocation of contract

The parties can renunciate the contract with mutual consent after its conclusion.

Section 134: Legal conditions of renunciation

(1) The subject matter of the contract should be existing and in the possession of the contracting party at the time of renunciation.

(2) Where part of the subject matter of the contract has either perished or been disposed of, renunciation shall be valid in respect of the balance in correspondence with the relevant portion of consideration.

Section 135: Effect of renunciation

Renunciation is rescission of contract on the part of the contracting party and a new contract as regards third parties.

RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA DESCRIBED

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul 84 p 3

[Text]

COLOMBO (Lankanews). - Veteran Israeli diplomat David Matnai, a specialist in Asian affairs, was appointed to head the Israeli Interest Section office in Sri Lanka to improve relations between Israel and Sri Lanka and not to involve himself with the internal problems of the island.

This was stated recently by National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, who also categorically denied that the Mossad has sent more than 150 personnel to Sri Lanka, as alleged by the PLO representative in Colombo.

The minister said in parliament that Sri Lanka had not severed diplomatic relations with Israel but had merely suspended relations 14 years ago, when Sri Lanka was ruled by the pro-Socialist government of Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, who heads the Freedom Party. In 1976 Bandaranaike was elected chairman of the Non-aligned Movement, when the fifth summit of the movement was held in Colombo.

Matnai's job in Colombo is also to coordinate cooperation with Israel in the development of agriculture, irrigation and social development. The Israeli Interest Section office will also help Sri Lanka obtain consultancy services to update the island's intelligence services, particu-

larly in the face of growing terrorism in the island.

Athulathmudali categorically denied that Israeli personnel will be engaged to combat Tamil separatist terrorists in the island. "The fighting will be done by our forces and nobody else, because it is our policy not to allow any foreign servicemen to operate on Lankan territory," the minister said.

The minister's statement followed accusations published last month by the *Sunday Times* of London that Matnai is a Mossad agent who came to Sri Lanka to help train security forces fighting Tamil guerrillas. Following the *Sunday Times* article, which gave Matnai's Colombo hotel address, the hotel was bombed and a local woman was killed.

In a statement rejecting the *Sunday Times* accusation and published by the paper on July 1, the Israel embassy in London noted that Matnai is a veteran diplomat and Asian specialist, and that his function is to improve Israel-Sri Lankan relations particularly in the fields of agriculture, irrigation and social development.

"Israel has maintained friendly relations with the Tamils of Sri Lanka for many years," the embassy statement said. "The government of Israel does not interfere in any way in that country's affairs."

CSO: 4400/309

CENSORSHIP OF EAST JERUSALEM PRESS VIEWED

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul 84 p 2

[Text]

Fifteen to 30 per cent of the material submitted to the IDF censor by East Jerusalem newspapers is banned from publication. This emerges from a study of the relationship between the Palestinian press and the censor by *Davar* Arab affairs reporter Danny Rubenstein, which appeared in the 1984 yearbook of the National Federation of Israeli Journalists.

The study compared the amount of material edited and set up to be printed with the amount that actually appeared in the papers. The East Jerusalem newspapers are aware that large portions of the material they send to the censor are liable to be excised, so they prepare, as a matter of course, about 25 per cent more printed material than they have space for. This is to prevent being caught short of material, since it is forbidden to leave blank white spaces indicating that material has been blue-pencilled, the article says.

A random sample of the excised material reveal that it contained no military or other state secrets, but rather dealt with politics and Palestinian nationalism, Palestinian heritage, sentiments hostile to Israel, or the legitimacy of the Israeli reality.

Also excised were items regarding resistance to the Israeli authorities in

the territories, and Israeli actions that threaten Palestinian nationalist aspirations, such as the establishment of new Jewish settlements in the administered areas.

The Palestinians, therefore, perceive the East Jerusalem newspapers as weapons in their struggle against Israel. The censor, for his part, reacts with a counter-offensive, it says.

Neither the East Jerusalem newspapers nor the censor perceives their differences as concerning the principle of freedom of the press, but rather as an all-out war of survival between Israel and the Palestinians, the article says.

East Jerusalem journalists select the news items, write headlines and choose photographs and cartoons on the basis of their effectiveness in the national struggle. Even obituaries and advertisements are informed by this purpose, it says.

The censor uses the same criteria in his battle against such expressions. For example, when the censor sees an item about a Palestinian solidarity conference in Paris, it will be blue-pencilled because to the authorities this represents part of the PLO struggle, indicating support for the Palestine National Covenant and for the armed struggle against Israel.

NEW TRAVEL TAX EXPLAINED

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jul 84 p 2

[Article by Pinhas Landau]

[Text]

Announcement of the 15-per-cent levy on tourist services bought in Israel for trips overseas and on the \$2,000 travel allowance has caused some confusion among the public. The following is an attempt to answer the questions that have been asked most frequently:

What is the new tax?

The new tax is a 15 per cent levy on the import of services, such as tourism, which are paid for by sending foreign currency abroad. This includes the purchase of foreign currency for the purpose of travelling abroad.

What about imports of goods?

These are already subject to an import duty, in the form of a deposit of 15 per cent of the purchase price, which is returned in unlinked shekels after one year.

How is the tax collected?

An Israeli citizen who buys up to \$2,000 in the bank for his travel allowance, has the amount (up to \$500 in cash and \$1,500 in travellers' cheques) written in his passport and flight ticket. He must now pay a 15 per cent levy on this amount at a bank and receive an official receipt, which he must show before he leaves the country. If he does not have this receipt, his departure can be delayed.

Does the tax apply to Patah (tourists' and new settlers' foreign-currency) accounts?

No. Withdrawals from these accounts do not have to appear on passports or tickets.

Does the tax apply to travel tickets themselves?

No. The tickets are subject to a \$100 fixed surcharge, which is a separate tax, applicable to all travellers and in force for the last several months. However, a tour package is liable on that part that involves purchase of services, such as hotel and car rental.

Is this a tax-deductible expense?

Yes. Although it is formally enacted under the emergency regulations, it has the status of value added tax.

When did the tax go into effect?

The levy on imported services became effective on Wednesday. The levy on travel allowances began at midnight last night.

Is the tax retroactive?

As it stands, the tax is applicable to purchases made with credit cards that have not yet been debited – even if the traveller has since returned. Similarly, travel agents will have to pay it on money to be sent abroad for trips that have already begun, and they are unlikely to be able to collect the extra payment from these customers.

These points have been raised by trade organizations and Knesset members and are now being clarified.

MAJOR BANKS TO RAISE INTEREST RATES

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jul 84 pp 1, 13

[Article by Pinhas Landau]

[Text]

TEL AVIV. - The "big three" commercial banks - Leumi, Hapoalim and Discount - yesterday announced an impending rise in interest rates by 1½-2 per cent monthly on loans, overdrafts and deposits. Annually, the rates run as high as 1,760 per cent.

The move followed a similar rate hike by the United Mizrahi Bank, the fourth largest bank, on Wednesday. The banks explained the increase as being the inevitable result of their continuing liquidity deficits, which are estimated at IS25-IS30 billion - after full utilization of a IS40b. loan from the Bank of Israel.

The liquidity deficits are caused by the lack of shekel deposits in the banking system. This shekel shortage is, in turn, a reflection of the general unwillingness to hold funds in local currency and the preference to turn shekel balances into dollars. The flight from the shekel has been getting steadily worse for several weeks, and the banks have been forced to raise the rate of interest they pay to depositors in an attempt to persuade them to hold onto their shekels.

The new rates are based on a 2 per cent increase in the prime rate that the banks charge to their best corporate customers, from 16.5 to 18.5 per cent monthly. Authorized overdraft rates will now vary from 18.5 to 21 per cent, in line with the quality of the customer. These monthly rates translate into effective annual rates of 687 to 914 per cent.

The charge on unauthorized overdrafts, or excesses beyond the permitted levels, will now be 6.5 per

cent above the basic rate, or 25-27.5 per cent. Annualized, these figures come to 1,455-1,760 per cent. The banks state openly that these rates are punishingly high and are meant to discourage clients from exceeding the loan facilities given them, with the resulting liquidity deficits, which are extremely expensive to the banks.

At the Leumi and Discount Banks the new rates are due to take effect on August 1, while Mizrahi and Hapoalim are putting up their rates this Sunday.

Accounts of salary earners receive slightly better terms at some banks. Hapoalim is traditionally the most accommodating in this respect, and the first IS20,000 in these accounts will be charged 17 per cent, compared to 18 per cent at Leumi and Mizrahi.

On the other side of the ledger, Leumi announced 2-3 per cent hikes in rates paid to depositors at the beginning of this week. Hapoalim increased its rates on *pakam* short-term deposits, by 3-4 per cent, even on very small deposits, from last Wednesday, while Discount and Mizrahi raised their rates by 2-3 per cent, also to take effect immediately.

The large banks will probably begin to pay interest on current accounts from the beginning of August. Mizrahi, which has been paying interest on current accounts subject to certain conditions since March, raised its rate to 10 per cent. The First International Bank, which has been paying interest on all current accounts since June, has also announced an increase to 10 per cent.

NEW MAGNESIUM PRODUCTS PLANT PLANNED

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul 84 p 6

[Text]

BEERSHEBA. - The board of directors of the Dead Sea Periclase company, at its meeting last week, approved a \$10 million project for a new plant, which will produce specialized magnesium products for pharmaceutical use.

The new products will be marketed in cooperation with another Israel Chemicals subsidiary, Giulini Chemie of Germany.

Moshe Zahavi, the company's director, said that the project will take two years to complete. The new plant is expected to increase the company's exports by nearly \$10m. a year.

Zahavi said that in the 1983/4 fiscal year, Dead Sea Periclase increased both profitability and production, thus maintaining its stand-

ing as "the producer of the finest quality magnesium available."

For that period, the net profit before taxes was \$3.1m. (11 per cent of total income), up from the previous year's \$1.7m. (8 per cent).

The company sold 44,000 tons of periclase and calcined magnesium in 1983/84, an increase over the previous year's 31,000 tons.

Dead Sea Periclase is located in Mishor Roten near Arad. Its process uses brine from the Dead Sea and natural gas from Rosh Zohar.

Its main product is magnesium oxide, which is used to coat bricks, making them fire-resistant, used in ovens to produce metals.

Zahavi noted that international demand for the company's products was gradually increasing, due to an easing off in the worldwide economic recession.

CSO: 4400/309

BRIEFS

TEXTILE FACTORY IN CISKEI--JOHANNESBURG (Reuter)--The president of the South African tribal homeland of Ciskei yesterday opened the first of six Israeli factories due to be set up there, and said Israeli investors had been subjected to "unfair criticism." In a speech released through the South African Press Association, Chief Lennox Sebe praised the 150-man Ciskatex textile factory. (Ciskatex is reportedly being financed by the Israel Discount Bank.) "This factory stands on Ciskeian soil and it belongs to Israelis who have faith in the capability of Ciskei to honour its promises, and it demonstrates the willingness of our friends from Israel to invest permanently in Ciskei," he said. Israel has not formally recognized the tribal homelands founded by South Africa. But it has close political ties with the Pretoria government and economic links with some of the homelands, including Ciskei. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jul 84 p 1]

CSO: 4400/309

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

IBRAHIM DESCRIBES RECENT CONFERENCE, ARABWIDE CHALLENGES

Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Jun 84 pp 15, 16

[Article by 'Ali Husayn: "Haydar Ibrahim, Secretary General of the Palestine Federation of Workers: They Tried To Embargo Our Federation but Failed Drastically"]

[Text] The same parties which tried to dominate the Liberation Organization's political decisionmaking have tried, and are trying, to dominate the Palestinian union federations.

Here is a conversation concerning the Palestine Federation of Workers' experience with Arab attempts at co-optation.

Five months have elapsed since the seventh conference of the Palestine General Federation of Workers, in which the federation demonstrated its extreme concern for its principles and goals and for the principles and goals of the revolution. The federation waged a battle against fraud and succeeded in preserving its unity, cohesion and continuity as a framework for a revolutionary workers' union. In the context of the revolution, the federation has struggled against fragmentation and dissidence and defended independent national decisionmaking. Since the battle is the same, on the union and national levels, the attempts at isolation and distortion which the federation was exposed to came from the same parties and bodies which had attempted to take over independent national decisionmaking and to fragment the unity of the revolution and its institutions.

The Palestine General Federation of Workers chose the more difficult approach and managed to persevere and move on to embargo those who were embarrassing it in the Arab and international arenas, through continuous, unremitting work in the proper democratic style.

FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH met with our brother Haydar Ibrahim, the secretary general of the Palestine Federation of Workers, who related the details of this confrontation and talked about the federation's most important activities and movements in the latest period.

They Stand As the Accused

[Question] Some parties became angry that the Palestine General Federation of Workers emerged united and strong from the seventh conference. How did the federation cope with these pressures?

[Answer] After the seventh conference was held in Tunis (between 9 and [1]3 January 1983), and the federation emerged in united, strong form, in addition to making the decision to move the headquarters of the secretariat general from Damascus to Tunis, we were exposed to an intensified campaign on the part of people claiming to represent the Syria and Libya Federations of Workers, whose goal was to split up our federation, control it, alienate it from the Palestine Liberation Organization and its legitimate leaders, and tie our federation to the wheels of a given regime. They tried to deprive the federation of its will, when they failed they tried to split it up, and when they failed they launched their intensified campaign against us.

I can say that the reason for our success in the confrontation was our unity and cohesiveness. In the wake of this campaign, we quickly launched a campaign to explain the situation to fraternal labor federations in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Iraq, South Yemen, Lebanon, Somalia, Kuwait, Mauritania and Eritrea. We explained the goals of this campaign to them and told them that we would not relinquish our independence or accept subordination, and that we would continue to struggle for the sake of preserving independent Palestinian national decisionmaking and for the sake of our legitimate rights and our rights to determine our destiny and establish the independent state. We met with sincere understanding from all these federations, without exception.

I can say that in spite of the short period of time since our seventh conference, we have succeeded to a large extent in rising up, and instead of their isolating us we isolated them. They now stand as the accused, especially within the International Federation of Arab Workers' Unions.

Excesses by the Libyan Secretary

[Question] The discussion leads us to a question concerning our federation's relationship with the Arab Federation of Workers. What are this federation's conditions now?

[Answer] In actuality, nothing remains of the International Federation of Arab Workers' Unions but the name. For 2 years its constitutional boards have been suspended and inactive. The constitutional period for the holding of the general conference of the International Federation of Arab Workers' Unions has been exceeded by more than 1 year.

The Syrian and Libyan agencies certainly bear the responsibility for this. Mr Hamid Jallud of Libya, the secretary general of the federation, is obstructing the activity of the federation's boards, and he is still refusing to convene the federation's general council, in violation of the constitutional stipulation which requires that this council be held once every 6 months.

Hamid Jallud also violated the constitution when he rejected the demand of more than one-third the federation members that the central council be convened, on the pretext that the secretariat general consisted of five members (Palestine, Algeria, Syria, Libya and South Yemen), with Syria and Libya opposed to the holding of the council, Palestine and Algeria in favor of it, and South Yemen neutral.

Therefore, one can say that because of this state of paralysis, bilateral relations prevail. We for our part are trying to restore life to the Federation of Arab Workers. What is strange about the matter is that Hamid Jallud is postponing and delaying the holding of the central council meeting on the pretext "Palestine and for the sake of Palestine," while at the same time trumping up charges and spreading about distorted facts against the Palestinian revolution and the Palestine General Federation of Workers. This constitutes contempt for the principles and goals of the Federation of Arab Workers, a federation which has been known for its positions of principle and seriousness in defending national issues and the issues of the Arab working class, and maintaining the rights of that class.

Our Relations with the International Federation Are Strong

[Question] Why is Hamid Jallud postponing the council's meetings?

[Answer] In brief, everyone is offended by Hamid Jallud's practices, and this means that if the central council meets that will be the end of Hamid Jallud and what he represents, since the center will hold Jallud accountable for his actions.

[Question] Now we must talk about relations with the International Federation of Labor Unions.

[Answer] It is necessary to remind one that we are among the charter members of this federation, and have a historic, firm relationship with it. It is necessary to remind one of this federation's principled positions on the side of the Arab liberation movement and the Palestine revolution in particular. However, attempts to sabotage the relationship have been made and are being made by the same parties, especially now that Ibrahim Zakariya, the secretary general of the International Federation of Unions, has started to embrace a policy of Arab axes and align himself with one party to the exclusion of another, thereby violating union traditions and failing to observe the general interests and unity of the federation. Mr Zakariya must be objective and contact everyone from the premise of concern for solving problems, totally removed from partiality. Except for that, our relations with the International Federation of Unions are good and ongoing.

On the Side of National Dialogue

[Question] Let us talk about the internal Palestinian situation and the serious events it has witnessed the past year. Where does the federation stand regarding these events?

[Answer] We have continuously stressed our firm position, which arises from the principles and goals of our federation. We are on the side of national unity and against all attempts to split ranks. We are also on the side of democratic national dialogue as a sole means for solving all problems. This position has not changed and will not change. Such dialogue must include all the forces which have defended independent Palestinian national decisionmaking and have not tried to obstruct the organization's legitimate institutions, especially the Palestine National Council.

In addition, we are in favor of having the National Council meet as soon as possible to preserve the Liberation Organization's Arab and international legitimacy and preserve our national unity in the context of the PLO, our sole legitimate representative, under the leadership of the symbol of the Palestinian struggle, our brother Yasir 'Arafat.

Therefore, we direct appeals to the comrades in the People's and Democratic Fronts and to sincere Palestinian national forces, so that the platform of democratic dialogue may be preserved and a united PLO protected. Our hopes in the comrades of the forward march are great.

Unions in the Occupied Territories

[Question] There is an important, sensitive issue regarding which it is necessary to speak, the working class in the occupied territories.

[Answer] Our relations with the Palestinian working class in the occupied territories are strong and we are constantly trying to develop them. We are also trying to provide the necessary support for the unions internally. These unions have managed to rally the working class around them. At the Arab labor conference held in Iraq last 4 March, we managed to obtain assistance of half a million dollars, which we will allocate to supporting the unions internally in the event it is received.

In addition to the material support, we request at all international gatherings that the conditions of the Palestinian working class in the occupied territories be supported, in light of the national and class terrorism and repression to which it is subjected. We will raise this issue at the Geneva conference of the International Labor Organization on 5 June, and we will hold an international day of solidarity with the workers and people of Palestine in Geneva during the days of the conference.

Our International Relations

[Question] The turn for reviewing the latest activities and movements of the federation in the past 5 months has now come.

[Answer] It was a period full of vital union activity and work. First of all, we were able to preserve the unity of the federation in the face of the barbarity we referred to, and we managed to preserve the union traditions of our federation. The federation witnessed development in this area.

In the context of internal and foreign relations, we strengthened our internal relations through visits to the branches and interaction among the branches. In the foreign area, we strengthened relations with fraternal federations, except for the federations of Syria and Libya, for reasons we have mentioned. In the international area, we exchanged meetings with labor unions in France, Italy, Portugal, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Cuba, Nicaragua and the Organization of African Union Unity. We made friendly visits to the embassies of friendly socialist countries, the embassy of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Cuba, Hungary and East Germany. We participated in the 13th conference of the International Labor Organization and we made an effective contribution in the conference as part of the Arab group. These activities and relations indicate the strength of our federation.

On 1 May, international workers' day, our brother Abu 'Ammar, the general commander of the forces of the Palestinian revolution, made a visit to the federation headquarters, where he made a speech on behalf of the revolution to the Palestinian working class inside and outside the occupied territories.

On this occasion, our federation issued a statement which was distributed in the Arab world and internationally.

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CSO: 4404/565

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

RESURGENCE OF RED CRESCENT ACTIVITIES IN BEIRUT REVIEWED

Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Jun 84 pp 29-31

[Article by Bassam Barhum: "16 Years of Progress in the Palestinian Red Crescent Society: Preparedness in Peacetime; More Successful Activity in Wartime"]

[Text] One day an official with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society made this statement to FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH: "When an explosion occurs, the motors of Palestinian first aid vehicles start up the next second."

That was before the departure from Beirut. What about this society's role in the most recent war? How did it get back most of its former teams, and add to them in some areas?

Statistics show that the Palestinian Red Crescent Society treated 36,000 cases and that it saved the lives of much more than this number in Beirut alone during the 1982 war in Lebanon. Proceeding from this historic achievement, one can talk at length about this society, which is no more than 16 years old and began as a simple practical idea in 1968 among a number of doctors and nurses volunteering to work in the bases of the Palestinian revolution to help fighting men and treat their wounds, moving from place to place under the most difficult of conditions.

In 1969, after the society's medical and social services were extended to the camps and Palestinian communities, the first Palestinian Red Crescent clinic opened in the Marka camp. In 1968, near Amman, the Palestinian National Congress had approved the establishment of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society as a patriotic humanitarian organization enjoying full material and moral support. Since that date, the society has advanced with firm, rapid strides to face its battles alongside the revolution and strengthen its perseverance and its ability to continue.

The Internal Structure of the Society

Before we get into details related to the activity of the society, its humanitarian role and its development, it is necessary to review the mechanism of this activity and the way the organizational structure of the society

has, through comprehensiveness and flexibility, helped greatly to bring the society's work to most places where there are Palestinians, not just in the context of health but also in the social context.

In addition, this organizational structure internally contains approximately 2,335 workers, according to 1981 statistics, distributed among the various agencies of the society and a number of regions -- Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Kuwait. They enjoy equal rights and duties, in accordance with the stipulation of the society's charter. Perhaps the experience following the departure of the Palestinian revolution's fighting men from Beirut in 1982 has proved the flexibility of this internal structure, since the society has been able to rise above difficulties with amazing speed and carry out its humanitarian duty inside and outside Lebanon while continuing to develop and adapt to circumstances as they arise.

The society's organizational structure consists of four organizational bodies and 10 agencies with their various branches. The four bodies, which function democratically, are, in accordance with their order in the charter:

First, the general assemblies of the branches, which comprise all the members of the society. They must choose members of the general conference from within themselves and set out the broad outlines of the society's activity.

Second, the general conference, which is the highest authority in the society. This is composed of representatives of the regions in accordance with the ratios stipulated in the charter, in addition to 20 qualified members whom the executive board nominates, as well as everyone assuming the chairmanship of the society and the members of the administrative and executive board, workers, overseers and agency heads. The conference approves the general plan of the society.

Third, the general administrative council, which is the highest authority in the event the conference is not in session.

Fourth, the executive bureau, which is the highest authority in the event the administrative council and general conference are absent. That is the daily command.

The agencies are:

1. The medical services agency, broken down into the following branches:
 - A. Treatment services.
 - B. First aid and emergencies.
 - C. Preventive medicine.
 - D. Natural treatment.
 - E. Pharmacology and equipment.
 - F. Health insurance.

G. Laboratories and shops.

H. Dentistry.

2. Social affairs; its groups consist of:

A. Vocational training.

B. Support for the Palestinian heritage.

C. Support for the Palestinian family.

D. Injured persons' affairs.

E. Prisoners' and detainees' affairs.

3. The financial agency, with its various branches.

4. The education agency.

5. The social insurance agency.

6. The occupied territories service agency. This agency works to support health conditions domestically.

7. The administrative and legal affairs agency.

8. The public relations agency. Its task is to link the society with close ties to similar organizations and institutions in the Arab and international contexts.

9. The media and acculturation agency. This issues publications, reports and media books, as well as issuing a specialized monthly magazine and producing movies.

10. The statistics and planning agency, whose task is to support the activity of the other agencies with plans and statistics.

There are two departments alongside these institutions:

First, the secretariat; second, the general oversight department.

Conspicuous in the internal structure of the society is the good harmony between centralization and democracy, which guarantees better work performance in the agencies, which have relative freedom.

The Society's Conditions on the Eve of the War

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society worked in total harmony with its principles and goals, which were spelled out for it in Chapter Five of the charter. Here we will content ourselves with the stipulation cited in the first section of this chapter: "Preparedness in peacetime and work in wartime, to

offer aid to all the victims of war, civilians and military personnel, in particular to move wounded and sick persons about, establish hospitals, prepare means for transportation and give aid to people who have been oppressed by the war and to families." This stipulation is totally in harmony with the contents of the Geneva agreements.

In fact, the society's preparations have been made in this context, since all facilities were developed to become capable of functioning in war. One may observe this as follows:

First, in the context of medical services in the various regions -- Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. In Lebanon, before the war, the society had 10 fully equipped hospitals for all areas of specialization in addition to dozens of clinics and first aid, emergency and evacuation centers. Plans were made to establish more, and a start was made in constructing a portion of them.

There were four hospitals in Beirut with a number of purposes and specializations, 'Aka, Gaza, Ramallah and Nazareth, in addition to two others, first the Haifa medical and social accreditation hospital and second the al-Rihlah physical therapy hospital. In addition, there were a number of health centers.

In the south, between Damur and Tyre, there were four hospitals, as follows:

Al-Karamah in Damur; work was underway to develop and expand this. The Sidon hospital. The final touches were made to build the Jerusalem medical hospital, also in the city, consisting of a hospital and a nursing faculty. There were the Tyre hospital and the al-Nabatiyah surgical hospital.

In the al-Biqa', there was the Martyred Kamal 'Adwan hospital in Bar Ilyas, in addition to the clinics in Ba'labakk and the al-Jalil camp.

In the north, the society is planning to carry out a project for a large hospital in Tripoli; however, the construction will depend on suitable circumstances. Nonetheless, the society has clinics and health centers in the Nahr al-Barid and al-Baddawi camps.

In Syria, the society had one hospital, the Yafa hospital, and a center for physical therapy, in addition to the Dayr Yasin complex of clinics in the al-Yarmuk camp and some other clinics, five in number, spread about other areas.

In Egypt, work has been started to establish the Palestine hospital in Cairo; in addition, there are basically some clinics.

Building up Staff

Also in the area of medical services, the society has developed the preventive medicine, natural treatment, dentistry, laboratory and blood bank agencies, and the first aid and emergency section was developed subsequently to cover all the areas of Lebanon.

In the context of staff preparation, the society has undertaken to hold instruction courses in the fields of nursing, first aid, laboratories and pharmacists' assistants, in addition to civil defense courses and the graduation of legal midwives. The education agency has also continued to send people on fellowship to fraternal and friendly countries.

In regard to the activity of other agencies, such as the administration, public relations, media and acculturation agencies, their activity has experienced development that is no less important than that in the medical services agency, since the society now has strong ties with all similar international organizations. It has been possible to organize female aides and accept volunteers. In the context of the media, the society now has a more thorough and developed monthly magazine, and foreign media activity has doubled. In addition, the domestic acculturation process is continuing, and the media have taken part with the public relations agencies in many activities and the reception of delegations, especially press delegations.

In summary, once can state that just before the 1982 Israeli invasion the society was fully prepared to cope with any emergency.

A Splendid Instrument during the War

Dr Fathi 'Arafat, chairman of the society, stated that the moment the war broke out, in 1982, "We realized that the enemy was going to launch a comprehensive aggression against us, and therefore we took full preparations."

In the executive committee meeting at the start of 1982, when all incidents were indicating that an Israeli aggression against Lebanon had become imminent, this meeting had to set out plans to cope with this aggression, and it in fact did approve the following steps:

First, the subdivision of Lebanon into areas, providing the necessary resources for perseverance socially and in terms of health for each area in isolation -- the south, Beirut, the al-Biqa' and the north.

Second, the grant of nearly-absolute powers to leaders in these regions to take appropriate decisions.

Third, the strengthening of all centers in each area -- hospitals, clinics and first aid and emergency centers.

Fourth, the opening of field hospitals and first aid centers in areas in which such centers were not present.

Fifth, the provision of requirements guaranteeing that the enemy's use of poisonous and flammable gases and chemical and bacteriological weapons could be coped with.

Sixth, the distribution of members of the executive committee to these regions to bear responsibilities.

Eighth [sic], in the context of public relations and the media, the two agencies were assigned to intensify contacts with all international organizations to program the dispatch of aid and volunteers and carry out a broad media campaign in all areas of the world to explain the dimensions of the war. The media agency was also assigned to set out a program for internal acculturation in first aid and to cope with the health and social effects of the war.

As regards execution, work was actually carried out rapidly, since two surgical hospitals were opened, in Sidon and al-Nabatiyah, containing 130 beds, and in addition a field hospital in Sidon was opened accommodating 31 beds and six evacuation centers were opened in Sidon, Tyre and al-Nabatiyah. In addition, reserve storage areas were built in all regions. All hospitals that already existed went through a rapid development process in order to become more effective in war. This included the development of first aid and emergency centers, laboratories, pharmacies and blood banks.

By the most accurate criteria, we can say that the society managed to prove its worth in coping with the 1982 war in the health and social contexts, since, as we stated, it managed to treat 36,000 cases in Beirut alone, and save the lives of many more people than that.

Beirut, under siege, was divided into six regions and each region was divided into self-sufficient units. Twenty-six new health centers were opened and put into operation, in addition to the old centers, all outfitted with human teams, equipment and machinery. The course of the first aid and emergency activity could also be observed, since first aid vehicles would outrace bombs in getting to the sites of incidents.

The media and public relations departments played a role of distinction. The former turned the monthly magazine into a daily publication, covering all needs, as well as issuing acculturation bulletins on first aid, civil defense and epidemic control. The latter agency received 27 delegations in Beirut when it was under siege and aid and volunteers were organized in an effective manner.

The society, in coordination with the higher aid commission and people's federations and organizations, worked to organize the conditions of dispossessed persons and alleviate their sufferings; in addition, there were the major statistical achievements the statistics and planning agency made during the war.

In the south of Lebanon, the society's centers and hospitals worked around the clock in the first days of the war, in spite of the harsh circumstances, since they were a target of brutal Israeli bombardment; they stopped working only after most of them had been destroyed and more than 500 of their personnel had been imprisoned and uprooted, when it became apparent that the Zionist enemy intended to close them by force.

After the Great Departure

After the end of the war and the departure of the fighting men from Beirut, in August 1982, the society faced many difficulties inside and outside

Beirut. These difficulties were focussed on many pressing issues, especially the resumption of work in the hospitals and health centers, and the repair of those that had been destroyed and damaged. The society also had to cope with the social and psychological conditions which the war had created.

In this sort of condition, the tragedy reached its peak with the commission by Zionist and fascist gangs of the massacres in the Sabra and Shatila camps; thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese were killed in these, and they left behind the most complicated social and psychological problems in the world.

The society was not spared during the massacre; the savage gangs entered the 'Aka and Ghazza hospitals and slaughtered the two nurses Intisar and Siham, the two doctors Sami al-Khatib and 'Ali 'Uthman and the young Egyptian 'Ura-bi who was working as an assistant to the person in charge of the planning and statistics agency.

The brutal gangs also burnt Crescent [Society] documents in the media files, giving proof of their vindictiveness and barbarity.

Notwithstanding this terrible situation, our brothers who worked in the society got busy the day after the massacre and started working to eliminate the traces of the massacre, immediately putting the hospital back in operation, in view of the positive effects this would have on citizens in their attempt to eliminate the Dayr Yasin complex, since the Israeli goal in all these slaughters is the same, namely to prompt our people to flee, become homeless and feel permanent inability, and to eliminate the greatest number of our people.

Thus, the hospitals in Beirut started operating again, in order to carry out their mission, and reports indicate that their development work is continuing.

The difficulties that appeared after the departure were numerous and diverse. Foremost among them were the loss of the main center and the dispersion and scattering of personnel, in addition to such social and health burdens as attention to wounded civilians, especially the serious cases, the process of providing them with accreditation, and the elimination of social and psychological conditions.

In addition, one of the most complex problems was the task of rebuilding the agencies and continuing their activity. Therefore the executive committee's first meeting after the war was devoted to studying these conditions and studying the experience of the war and means for benefiting from it and advancing the activity.

Absorbing the Results

The society's command, as embodied in its executive committee, stressed more than once that "suspending ongoing development is to be considered treason to the humane principles believed in by the members of the society, which derives the essence of its human and moral affiliation from its affiliation with the Palestinian revolution."

In fact, the adjustment to the new circumstances was made with amazing speed. The agencies were distributed among the various countries in a manner that was in keeping with the function of each agency and the tasks assigned to it, while centralization of planning and followup by means of the executive bureau was retained.

In a short period of time, the agencies resumed working in a more developed manner, and a substantial number of health centers and hospitals were constructed, especially in the countries the fighting men had gone to -- North Yemen, South Yemen, the Sudan, Tunisia, Syria, Algeria, Tripoli and the al-Biqa'. The Martyr Majid Abu Sharar Hospital was established in the al-Biqa', the Yafa Hospital was improved, nine new clinics were opened in Syria and the bulk of the Palestine hospital in Cairo, which will be expanded to more than 350 beds, was built. In addition, clinics were opened in various areas of Egypt where there was a concentration of Palestinians.

In the social context, the Jerusalem nursery was established to accommodate 120 infants, and the society is continuing to prepare medical staffs, since a nursing school was established in Cairo including about 300 male and female students studying in the fields of nursing, first aid, laboratories and medical equipment who will work in the Palestine hospital.

In the framework of public relations and international activity following the war, the society took part in all the conferences held in numerous countries to try Israel for its crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian people. Participation was provided by witnesses who came to give their testimony, in the form of foreign volunteers who worked in the society's hospitals and centers before, during and after the war and witnessed Israeli crimes with their own eyes. Among these conferences was the one held in Nicosia, Cyprus, by the international committee to investigate the crimes of Israel, the conference held in Geneva, another one in Vienna, and numerous other conferences in Yugoslavia, Canada and America.

One of the most prominent of these volunteers was Dr Gianno, of Greek origin and Canadian by nationality, whom Israel had arrested; he made a tour, attending conferences in Norway, Sweden, Italy, France, Greece and the United States of America.

In the framework of the media, their activities made great progress. The monthly magazine BALSAM started appearing again right after the war; it is most developed and objective, and more than 15,000 copies are distributed in more than 89 countries.

The media agency also prepared the only documentary film to have been issued by Palestinian organizations at such an excellent level on the war; its name is "insistence" in Arabic and in English "Why?"

Work is now underway to issue VIDEO magazine, a magazine to disseminate culture covering literature, art and the activities of the society and many Palestinian societies. Some issues of this magazine have actually come out. The media agency takes part in all movie conferences, symposia and festivals, and receives press delegations, as well as issuing publications, books and documents.

The society's activity, from increasing the number of beds in hospitals and first aid vehicles to realizing accomplishments in the area of the preparation of qualified personnel and public relations and the media, is continuous and evolving.

One issue remains to which reference must be made. That is the society's role in preserving the Palestinian people's heritage. There is a special branch in the society for this purpose. The society has established a permanent exhibition in Athens, Greece, to present the Palestinian heritage.

Sources.

1. BALSAM, Number 62-65, 1982.
2. BALSAM, Number 103-104, 1984.
3. The society's report presented to the Palestinian National Council held in Algeria in 1983.
4. Reports by the society's branches in Egypt and Kuwait for 1983.

11887

CSO: 4404/565

JAPANESE SIGN MAIL CONTRACT

Doha DAILY GULF TIMES in English 7 Aug 84 p 3

[Text]

SUMITOMO Corporation of Japan has signed a QR16.9m contract to mechanise mail-handling at the new Qatar General Post Office in West Bay, Doha.

Sumitomo, nominated by the Qatar government after an intense competition, from four other multinational companies, will act as subcontractor to Patel Engineering Company Limited of India, who are building the QR112m complex.

The work will involve design, manufacture and installation of machinery and equipment for handling mail. This includes provision of conveyor belts, lifts, chutes, bag opening machines and a closed circuit television system to monitor activities on different floors.

The equipment will be able to handle all incoming and outgoing mail including parcels. Incoming mail will be received on the ground floor. After sorting, it will go to the main postal hall on the second floor, where it will be put into the appropriate post boxes.

Outgoing mail collected on the second floor will be automatically taken to the ground floor for onward despatch.

The machinery will be imported from Japan and Britain.

Patel Engineering, as main contractor, will coordinate the work with other agencies and subcontractors and provide all necessary general attendance and associated civil work.

The work will be supervised by the British Postal Consultancy Service on behalf of Qatar's Ministry of Public Works.

The equipment is expected to be commissioned by October 1985.

JOBS INCREASE IN QATAR

Doha DAILY GULF TIMES in English 9, 10 Aug 84 p 5

[Text]

QATAR's labour situation is not adversely affected — even though the state, like some others in the region, has had to contend with some negative aspects of economic recession, a senior official of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs disclosed this week.

Assistant director of labour Mr Abdullah al-Khalifa confirms that labour inflow into Qatar is continuing, and state manpower needs are being met adequately.

The assistant director pointed out in an interview with *Weekly Gulf Times* that a survey done at the end of last year in Qatar shows that manpower supply in the private sector, in fact, rose as compared with the numbers at the end of 1982.

He disclosed that 1164 Qataris were employed in the private sector during 1982. This rose to 1812 during 1983. Similarly the strength of Arab labour moved up from 8,511 to 10,239. And that of non-Arabs from 49,184 to 55,703 for the same period.

Mr al-Khalifa said all expatriates working in Qatar should hold a labour card issued by the labour department. Companies are legally required to obtain a labour card for all labour they employ.

Those who fail to comply will be considered as violating the law and appropriate action will be taken.

Mr al-Khalifa says entitlements for a worker on leaving

employment are clearly spelt out under chapter 10 of the Labour Law. Article 14 of the law provides for disability compensation.

Several provisions of the labour law deal with end of service benefits for a worker.

Mr al-Khalifa said the ministry is responsible for employing Qataris in the private sector. Many Qataris are working in various occupations. Their number in the private sector has risen from 1164 to 1813 by end of 1983.

Here are excerpts:

Q: What sort of new employment opportunities have been created for Qataris recently?

A: The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is responsible for employment in the private sector. Qataris are now working in various jobs and occupations. The number of Qataris in the private sector, for example, has risen from 1164 in 1982 to 1813 at the end of 1983. This simply means that new opportunities of employment have been created in the private sector.

Q: Are there many labour disputes in Qatar because company's have closed shop recently? If so, how are these resolved generally?

A: Labour disputes in Qatar are mainly about entitlements of employees or workers leaving the job, whether on the expiry of the labour contract or before; whether the end of service is by the initiative of the employer or the employee.

THE TELL-TALE FIGURES

Q: Slump in the industrial sector has resulted in many companies closing and labour returning to their countries. Is the labour supply situation adequate to meet development needs of the state? If not, what measures are contemplated to recruit fresh labour?

A: We cannot ignore that the recent economic situation — not only in our country but in the area as a whole — has certain negative effects on some activities and some establishments.

A the same time it should be known that labour inflow is going on. To let figures speak for themselves, we compare the size of labour force as estimated in 1982 with that shown by a survey undertaken at the end of 1983:

Manpower in private sector

	Qataris	Arabs	Non-Arabs
1982 —	1164	8511	49184
1983	1912	10239	55703

Though our experience we can say that manpower supply is adequate to the present needs of the country.

However, such disputes as well as others are solved according to the Labour Law. Provisions of this Law are clear and specific. So such problems can be easily solved at our Ministry. Some cases are transferred to the Labour Court, which usually takes action in a short period.

Q: What specific benefits can an employee or worker expect on being asked to go or on voluntary resignation? Can you spell out the Qatari Labour Law provisions in this respect, please?

A: End of service benefits are dealt with by several provisions of the Labour Law. These benefits depend on the conditions of expiry, or termination of a labour contract, and by which party this action is taken. They also depend on the reasons and procedures of such an action. So end of service benefits are usually calculated on the basis of many factors.

To be more specific to the question, I refer to Article 30 of the Labour Law which provide as follows: "If an employer terminates a worker before the expiry date of the labour contract, or if the worker gives the employer the legal notice provided for an article 18, the employer has to pay to the worker his wage, together with

any entitlements before the end of the next working day.

But when the worker terminates his service without giving the above mentioned legal notice, he shall be paid his wage together with any other entitlements within seven days following the date of such termination or cessation.

Q: What are the entitlements for an employee or worker if he is involved in an industrial accident?

A: Chapter 10 of the Labour Law deals with this matter. Article 14 of the Law provides that when a worker is injured, or exposed to one of the occupational diseases listed in the Law, he shall be entitled to free medical treatment or surgical operation, or any other treatment as prescribed by an authorised physician agreed on by the employer. The worker is also entitled to full wage during his treatment for up to six months. After six months he is entitled to half wage until he is cured, or becomes disabled or dies.

Q: Are all companies complying with the rule for getting labour cards for their workers? If not, what action the labour department proposes to take in this matter?

A: Every non-Qatari worker should hold a labour card issued by the labour department. One of our measures to ensure this rule is to ask for the labour card when considering any application or case of the concerned person. Other measures are taken if the labour inspector finds workers without labour cards at a certain establishment. In this case, the establishment will be considered violating the labour law.

CSO: 4400/310

BRIEFS

PACT WITH INDIA--Qatar-India treaty on technical and economic cooperation has been ratified by President Giani Zail Singh of India, the Indian ambassador to Qatar Prof S Bashiruddin said in Doha yesterday. The protocol as signed in New Delhi on April 19 during the state visit of the Emir HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, to India. Qatar's Cabinet ratified the agreement on May 21. The exchange of instruments will take place in Doha on August 12. Prof Bashiruddin said the agreement will become operative on the same day. Meanwhile, the Indian embassy will hold its first-ever "Open House" at its new chancery on August 15 as part of India's Independence Day celebration. There will be a formal opening of a reading room by Prof Bashiruddin and a feast of cultural events like Lezium dance of Maharashtra, Bhangra dance of Punjab and folk dance of Kerala, between 5pm and 8pm. Video documentaries on Indian current events will also be screened. Prof Bashiruddin said the occasion would also be used to introduce the new staff which has arrived recently to strengthen the Indian embassy in Qatar. The mission serves an average 150 consular visitors a day. [Text] [Doha DAILY GULF TIMES in English 8 Aug 84 p 3]

CSO: 4400/310

SYRIA

STATUS OF VARIOUS AL-HASAKAH MUNICIPALITY PROJECTS DETAILED

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 19 Apr 84 p 4

[Article by 'Izzat 'Abd-al-Razzaq: "Services and Utilities, in a Meeting with the Chairman of the City's Council: The Road and Sanitary Drainage Plan Is 100 Percent Complete"]

[Text] A whole year has now passed since the elections to the al-Hasakah city council and its executive office. During this brief period, the council and the office have managed jointly to exert efforts which deserve to be commended. From the beginning, the executive office set out a work program which relied on control of expenditures and speed, with all the modest resources available, in carrying out the maximum service projects possible in the shortest possible period. Thus the citizen has started to feel that the features of the city on the al-Khabur have started gradually to assume a change for the better.

Concerning the year's round of executive committee's activities, we had a meeting with Mr Adib Miru, chairman of the city council of al-Hasakah, in the course of which he talked, at the start, about achievements, stating:

Road Construction Is 100 Percent

"As a result of the rallying of all sincere efforts in the governorate, 100 percent of the plan for the projects on roads and sewers, which are considered the most important of vital facilities as far as the citizens go, has been completed. An acceptable completion rate has also been attained in the mechanized transport, parks and public lighting projects. However, it was not possible for us to realize rates of construction in the section covering diverse construction works because the tourist hotel project was removed owing to the immensity of the costs and spending on its construction by the Ministry of Tourism. Correspondence has been sent to this ministry to discuss the possibility of carrying out this project through its allocations. In addition, the magnitude of the cost for the industrial area, which is estimated at 300 million Syrian pounds, and the city council's inability to carry it out through its own resources, prompted us to suspend the order to proceed on it in principle until the studies with the Ministry of Local Administration on the search for sources of financing are completed. It has

also not been possible for us to provide firefighting equipment costing 3.5 million Syrian pounds, because the Vehicle Organization has not imported this equipment for the country as a whole."

Our comrade Miru went on to say, "We have managed to reach a 100 percent construction rate on the 1983 road plan, in addition to the work of laying and setting up sidewalks which the secretariat's workshop carried out through maintenance allocations. Herewith are the projects that have been carried out in this area:

"The new terminal in the third real estate section of al-Hasakah has been paved and oiled; this was put into actual operation on 4 May 1983, which was world traffic day, after it had been equipped with new public utilities and an additional garage to store automobiles committing violations.

"The street extending from the al-Jaghjagh River bridge to the new al-Hasakah hospital, 600 meters in length, has been paved and oiled at a total cost of 1.1 million Syrian pounds.

"The construction of sidewalks, pathways and gravel beds 530 meters in length on Government Employees' Section Street, and its extension up to the railway, at a cost of 1 million Syrian pounds.

"The paving and oiling of a number of main streets and renovated roads distributed among various sections of the city, at a cost of 5 million Syrian pounds, which have been transferred from governorate aid.

"Work on walkways, sidewalks and the remaining stonework was carried out in the area of the housing societies in al-Matar Section.

"The work of earth grading and paving in West al-Ghuwayran Section was completed over a distance of 2 kilometers.

"The walkways, sidewalks and remaining stonework were completed in the al-'Aziziyah, al-Nasirah and Tall Hajar Sections over a distance of 15 kilometers.

"Work was started on the construction of 70 percent of the project to build a bridge over the al-Khabur River linking the al-Ghuwayran Section to the Military District at a cost of 3.5 million Syrian pounds.

"The laying and installation of sidewalks was carried out on the main streets of the city to raise the level of the sidewalk, because of the rise in successive layers of oiling, which caused the sidewalks on some streets to disappear.

"The completion of the work of paving and oiling the entrances to the city from the south over a distance of 2.5 kilometers, at an estimated cost that came to 5 million Syrian pounds.

"The municipality's oiling workshop carried out maintenance work on some streets in the city and filled and raised excavations of the asphalt crown in the system of streets which had been built 10 years ago."

Execution of the New Organizational Plan

In answer to a question on the planning and organization work that has been carried out in the city, the chairman of the city council replied by saying "The first stage of work on the topographic survey of the city of al-Hasakah, which has been performed by Aleppo University on behalf of the city council, has been completed, and this stage has actually been received by the committee formed basically for this purpose, with very good results. We anticipate that the work on the topographical survey for the second stage will be performed in the next few months. We also wrote the Office of the Prime Minister, General Studies Company, to obtain its agreement to the conclusion of a contract for the performance of the organizational planning work for the city, and we have actually received its agreement in principle to the execution of the project. We have also obtained aid of 2 million Syrian pounds to carry out this project."

After that, Comrade Miru summarized the work that had been carried out in the field of mechanized transport in the following points for us:

The sum of 1.5 million Syrian pounds in hard currency was transferred from the city council's allocations to the account of the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade to cover the machinery listed in the council's plan for last year, which had been agreed to by the Office of the Prime Minister.

Two Iranian Mercedes buses were received for a total of 1.5 million Syrian pounds.

A Hungarian Icarus model bus was received for 710,000 Syrian pounds.

The necessary spare parts for the maintenance and temporary storage of equipment until it is needed were provided, in order to benefit from the element of time when breakdowns occur.

Some modifications were made to a maintenance tank for the city's sewers, and it was outfitted with a new pump.

Two hundred thousand Syrian pounds in hard currency were transferred from the city council's allocations to the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade to pay for a tank to clear out sewers.

The study was carried out on the possibility of using buses in the city council garage that are out of service to build new frames for them to help solve the transportation shortage inside the city.

Reviving the City's Heritage and Scenic Character

A contract was reached to make two waterwheels to be placed on a green spot on the al-Khabur River with the purpose of reviving the folkloric heritage of the city of al-Hasakah, and the area situated to the west of the city council building was renovated to accommodate two small waterwheels as a symbol of the heritage of the area.

The al-Thawrah Park in the al-Matar Section was outfitted, places to sit down were installed in it, the pond was put into operation, and the walkways and internal roads were readied and put into operation during the governorate's celebration of the revolutionary holidays.

Four fountains were set up along the al-Khabur River and they were put into operation. Four 10-horsepower electric complexes with pumps were purchased to operate these fountains.

The movable bridge leading to the al-Qamar tourist island was repaired prior to being put into operation, after the road leading to it had been outfitted and provided with electricity at the al-Khabur Park alongside the Municipal Survey [Department].

Agricultural land was set out in the middle of the main streets for planting with shrubbery, and iron poles were erected and metal chains put on them to turn them into fences to protect the plants.

In cooperation with the leadership of the Vanguard Branch, children's games were supplied, preparatory to being placed in the al-Thawrah park; these include swings, games, slides and 25 sedan chairs to be used as places for children to relax in the city's parks.

Contract was reached with the al-Rusafah Company to build shelters for three public parks, and the company started its work, with the objective of completing these parks and putting them to use.

A small boat and mobile metal stairs were built, with the objective of using the al-Khabur River fountains as models, maintaining them and moving them from the river during floods.

Five parks have been planted, barbed wire fences have been built around them and water has been piped to them. They are distributed among the following ordinary districts: the Military Section, al-'Aziziyah, Ghuwayran, Tall Hajar and al-Nasirah.

Work is now underway on transporting soil for planting to the green strip alongside the commercial market, in order to proceed with the cultivation on it.

Thirty planting troughs have been brought from Aleppo and distributed to the city council building, the main road intersections and the government building. They have been planted with flowers and roses.

The entrances to the city from the direction of al-Qamishli have been planted with trees; quinine trees have been planted to achieve an appearance which is compatible with the area facing, which was previously planted with quinine trees.

Providing Electricity for the Corniche and the New Housing Complexes

In the area of public lighting, the chairman of the city council of al-Hasakah concentrated on four projects in his conversation with TISHRIN. These are:

1. The provision of electricity for the Corniche, extending from the Water Organization in al-'Aziziyah to the al-Tala'i' City intersection, over a distance of 2.5 kilometers, at a cost in excess of half a million Syrian pounds.
2. The provision of 300 fluorescent lighting units to provide electricity for the new housing complexes created by the application of the organizational plan in the al-'Aziziyah and al-Nasirah Sections.
3. The municipality provided all the resources necessary for maintaining the lighting system.
4. All the lights for illuminating the main streets and ordinary sections have been kept operating, and the worn out lights replaced with new ones.

Covering the Ordinary Sections with a System of Modern Sewers

Comrade Miru went on to say, "In the area of sewers and environmental health, 100 percent of the 1983 plan has been carried out. The following are the most important activities which the General Water Projects Company 'GI-KOP' is carrying out:

"The al-'Aziziyah Section sewer project; the work on extending the water pipes and construction the inspection rooms over a distance of 15 kilometers has been completed.

"The Tall Hajar and al-Nasirah sewer projects.

"The al-Nashwah Section sewer project; the reasons for the delay in work on this project may be attributed to the difficulty of excavation in rocky areas. A letter has been sent to the construction company on the need to give adequate attention to this project in order to serve the housing complexes which have been built and are being built in this newly-constructed cooperative section. The work of laying the pipes and building inspection rooms over a distance of 3,000 meters has been completed.

The Construction of a Commercial Market

"In the realm of building projects, the following projects have been carried out:

"A. The building for a new commercial market in the al-Matar Section containing 116 shops has been completed at an estimated cost of 4 million Syrian pounds; some of this has been allocated for the construction of a semi-automated bakery, while the rest of the shops have been set aside to serve the housing complex.

"B. A contract has been made with the Military Housing Organization to construct 50 shops in the al-Matar, Ghuwayran, al-Nasirah and al-'Aziziyah Sections, with 10 shops per section at a cost of over 1 million Syrian pounds.

"C. A semiautomated bakery has been outfitted at a cost of 150,000 Syrian pounds with a capacity of 2 tons of flour per shift, and it has been put to use on behalf of the city council."

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CSO: 4404/579

PROBLEMS OF SALT ENCRUSTATION ON LOWER EUPHRATES FARMLAND REVIEWED

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 23 Apr 84 p 4

[Article by Naji As'ad: "Reclamation of the Lower Euphrates Project: Salt Encrustation Now Covers 30 Percent of the Acreage"]

[Text] The farther east you go from the city of al-Raqqah on the road to Dayr al-Zawr, the more the farmland on the banks of the Euphrates River appears to assume a crystalline color, bathed in the rays of the sun, and broad surfaces of salt sheets which sometimes lie on top of the water are soon reflected on people's sight and take form before their eyes. The sight might perhaps seem attractive to travelers passing through this region for the first time, but it does not reflect the actual state of the true sufferings the peasants of the lower Euphrates sense, with the blocks of salt that rise to the surface of their farms and threaten them with drought and desiccation.

However, the problem of salinity in the Euphrates basin is not a new one for its farmers. It is an old one, and has appeared most conspicuously on the newly reclaimed lands, as in the pilot project, where this problem has required the bodies involved to review the gist of the technical activities and studies set forth for the reclamation of the land the Euphrates is to irrigate.

The Lower Euphrates

The fortunes of the farmers and peasants on the lower Euphrates are faltering because they are in direct contact with the problem. Although the lower Euphrates project comes to 200,000 hectares in area, figures from the previous period indicated that 40 percent of this acreage was to be considered good land that was free from the threat of salt encrustation, 50 percent of this land was in the process of developing salt, and 10 percent was totally abandoned.

Eng Nabih al-Shawa, the director of the lower Euphrates reclamation project, whose work the General Land Reclamation Organization is supervising, stated that the breakdown of the area in terms of salt encrustation in this project are currently estimated as follows:

Thirty percent of the land is abandoned, 30 percent is threatened with the danger of salt encrustation and 40 percent is free of danger. These rates indicate that it is necessary to hasten the execution of the reclamation projects, out of fear that further areas will fall within the area of salt encrustation.

Reclamation of 50,000 Hectares First

The tasks of the lower Euphrates project department, which are derived from the tasks of the General Land Reclamation Department, are focused on supervision of the execution of the reclamation project and the followup of studies, in addition to the performance of certain studies. The lower Euphrates project was launched after a contract which was signed with a specialized French firm at the end of 1974. A start was actually made on the study in 1975; the contract stipulated that general studies were to be carried out on an area of 200,000 hectares in the project and a detailed study was to be made of the first area, which extends from Dayr al-Zawr to al-Bu Kamal on the right bank of the Euphrates River, over an estimated area of 50,000 hectares. After the French company made the general study of the project, it started with a detailed study of Area One. However, the reclamation organization's opinion differed with that of the French over the method of irrigation, since the foreign experts recommended drip irrigation by means of pipes under pressure, which costs a great deal and also needs high electric energy, while the organization's opinion was focussed on a solution relying on the principle of irrigation by means of open channels and large areas. After numerous discussions with the French bodies, the study of the project was continued in accordance with this approach.

Four Thousand Hectares Are Subject to Salt Encrustation Annually

The preliminary study has established that every year the development of salt encrustation spreads over an area ranging from 3,000 to 4,000 hectares as part of the areas where salt has formed. This situation was the point of departure from which the study related to stopping the salt encrustation processes began, since the project with its detailed studies was broken down into two projects:

The drainage project, whose goal was to stop the encroachment of salinity.

Supplementary irrigation and drainage projects.

Eng Nabih stated that in the drainage study project use was made of the particular feature of the geological formation of the region, in which the depth of the arable soil ranges from 2 to 8 meters, followed by the sandy gravel zone, whose depth comes to 14 meters. However, the permeability of the sandy zone is high, and on this account the notion of vertical drainage was raised, on the basis of the geological advantages of the soil.

Vertical Drainage

This method of drainage is well known in Russia, Pakistan and Greece. The country occupies third place in the world in the use of this method, which

is governed by purely geological circumstances; the advantage of this method is that its cost is lower than that of ordinary drainage projects. In addition, there is the possibility of carrying it out with greater speed.

This method can be summarized as the drilling of wells in land where salt has formed in specific places at various depths. The water in which salt has formed is collected in these wells and the water is then pumped to open drainage ditches so that the water level lies 2.5 meters below the natural ground level. One should observe that the depth of the roots of plants is 1.25 meters. This method, as well as reducing the rate of salinity in the soil, will greatly help reduce the level of water in the marshes in this region, which is now a real problem there.

75 Wells Covering 58,000 Hectares

Execution of this approach has started in Area One, totalling 58,000 hectares in acreage, through the drilling of 75 wells in the first stage, whose average depth comes to about 20 meters, and whose drainage on the average to 15 to 50 liters.

The bodies concerned have also agreed to put this method of salinity drainage into general use over the whole area, since it has also been introduced into the remaining project acreage, which is broken down into two areas, the first known as Area Two and the second extending from the mouth of the al-Khabur River on the Euphrates River to the Iraqi border on the left bank.

Area Three, which is considered the third area in the project as a whole, extends from the two sites of Halbiyah Zalbiyah and the mouth of the al-Khabur on the Euphrates river, left bank, to Halbiyah Zalbiyah on the right side of the river. Construction on the project currently is concentrated on Area One.

The water drainage and salinity elimination project consists of three sections -- the construction of wells, the drainage complexes and the electric power transmission lines.

What about the Construction Procedures?

At the conclusion of a tour which Mr Walid Hamdun, deputy prime minister for service affairs, made of the Euphrates area, the people concerned raised with him the problem of the delay in construction activities in the well drilling sector, which the water company is pursuing. It appears that the primary explanation for the delay is that this company is compelled to perform the work although the technical resources are not available to it.

Therefore no credits were set aside for the excavating equipment, casing, drilling equipment and pumps, which the company had asked for, until many requests were made. Nonetheless, the rate of construction of the work awarded to the company now stands at 30 percent in general. The rate of the work carried out in the area of well drilling and development now totals 60 percent; although the company began, with its resources, in the eighth month of 1982, the actual start of work occurred in the beginning of 1983. The contract period is 17 months.

The General Irrigation Facilities Company (SARICO), which is constructing the drainage complexes, has now completed about 60 percent of the project overall. Although the period of the contract to carry out the project is 12 months, 20 months have elapsed since construction began, but the company has not fulfilled its commitments; the reason for that may be ascribed to a shortage in some of the necessary construction equipment.

The dam organization, which is building the power transmission lines, has now completed 80 percent of the project although the period of the contract is 14 months and the organization started the construction in the 11th month of 1982.

Irrigation Projects

The irrigation projects included in the projects cover two sections, in accordance with the nature of the land. There is land near the riverbed where salt encrustation has no effect; this is not being given the priority granted to the body supervising the land where salt has become encrusted. The irrigation system being carried out depends on open irrigation channels in a manner which is controlled from below. This system is different from the al-Raqqah pump plant system.

The reclamation project is also making arrangements for the construction of drainage channels and roads and the grading of salination development measurement stations.

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CS0:4404/579

TIES WITH SUDAN, ARABS DISCUSSED

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 4 Aug 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Strengthening Arab Links"]

[Text]

A HIGH-level Sudanese delegation has just ended its three-day visit to the UAE during which it delivered a written message to the President, His Highness Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, from Sudanese President Jaafar Nimeiri. The message is said to have dealt with bilateral relations between the two sisterly Arab countries as well as with constitutional, political and legislative developments in Sudan in the light of the recent implementation of the Islamic Sharia. The delegation, which was led by the Minister of Culture and Information, Mr. Ali Shummo, and also included the minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the Supreme Council for Religious and Auqaf Affairs, was here primarily to strengthen relations between the two countries in the field of information and culture, including the exchange of radio and television programmes, and to counter what Mr Shummo described as a "vicious defamatory campaign" by the foreign media against Sudan's Islamisation drive.

At a Press conference to mark the end of the visit, Mr Shummo made a spirited defence of the current Islamisation drive in his country which he described as part of a policy to erase all traces of colonialism and take it back to its Islamic roots. He charged that the Western media relied on information provided by Christian missionaries and concentrated on only certain aspects of the Sharia's punitive measures rather than on the system of jurisprudence as a whole. He added that Sudan had introduced the system to strengthen unity and solidarity within the country so that it could withstand the challenges from outside. The Sudanese Foreign Minister, Hashim Othman, elaborated that Sudan has a population of 22 million, of which about five million live in south. Of these, only about 350,000 are Christians, but because of their education, organisation and resources, as well as their links to the Western media, they have been more vocal.

The visit coincided with another in the opposite direction by Mr Nasser Al Nuweis, managing-director of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development (Adfaed). He was there in the capacity as chairman of the Board of Directors of the UAE-Sudan Corporation to discuss with Sudanese officials the corporation's activities and investment programmes. An indication that economic relations between the two countries are to be further strengthened comes from the fact that the corporation's capital is to be increased from \$20 million to \$50 million. Sudan has a vast

potential in terms of natural resources, specially in land and water, which can contribute to the development not only of Sudan but also the whole Arab world. Sudan has the scope for a vast expansion in the production of agricultural foodstuffs in which the Arab world is still deficient. It has the potential for a three-fold expansion in irrigated area and a six-fold expansion in rain-fed agriculture. Moreover the country can develop agriculture-based industries to process raw materials into consumer goods such as textiles. In return the UAE can provide part of the capital. In fact, Adfaed has already financed a spinning mill in Sudan at a cost of Dh 100 million. In relation to the potential even the increased capital of the corporation appears to be rather small, and it is to be hoped that it will be increased as and when the corporation expands its activities.

These two visits occurring simultaneously highlight the multifaceted relations between Sudan and the UAE as well as the necessary relation between social and economic development. The visits came at a time when Sudan, which is a vast country cutting across several geographical, ethnic and religious boundaries, is facing a major challenge to maintain its national unity which cannot but affect the nation's development. There is considerable sympathy in the Gulf for Sudan, but there is also concern about the revival of the civil war which has brought a number of vital irrigation and industrial projects in the south to a standstill and has diverted attention from the urgent tasks of development. The apparent breakdown of the agreement of the early 1970s, which had brought to an end the 15-year civil war and had provided a framework for harmonious relations between the north and south of Sudan, will therefore be viewed as extremely unfortunate. It is necessary to revive urgently the dialogue to resolve the conflict peacefully in order to strengthen Sudanese national unity. In this connection, UAE's experience in maintaining the federation in which all participants continue to share the common ideal which, after all, is the only guarantee of unity, and UAE's success in providing an environment in which people of all cultures and religions can live in peace and harmony, should prove useful to our Sudanese brothers as they consider ways to end the conflicts in their country.

CSO: 4400/311

COOPERATION PACT SIGNED WITH TURKEY

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 10 Aug 84 p 1

[Text]

ANKARA—The UAE and Turkey yesterday signed two agreements covering culture and economic and technical cooperation.

The signing followed talks between the UAE President His Highness Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and Turkish President Kenan Evren in Ankara yesterday.

The five-year economic and technical cooperation accord foresees the establishment of joint projects between the two countries to satisfy both markets and third countries.

Within the same agreement, both countries also agreed to increase commodity purchases from each other and cooperate on contracting and consulting services.

The agreement on cultural cooperation covers exchanges of performers, scientists and experts.

The agreement was signed by UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah and Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglul. In a short speech at the start of the official talks President Evren said Shaikh Zayed's visit to Turkey had special importance because it came at a time when crises and conflicts were prevailing in the Middle East.

The Turkish president said the visit would give an opportunity for both sides to exchange views and discuss matters of common interest.

Welcoming Shaikh Zayed, President Evren said, "You have witnessed the pleasure of the Turkish people who greeted you on your way from the airport to the capital, and I wish to affirm, in my name and the name of the Turkish people, our deep appreciation of your visit."

He said that relations between the

UAE and Turkey were always good and recently there had been more progress.

Shaikh Zayed thanked President Evren, the government and people of Turkey for the warm welcome extended to him and the accompanying delegation.

He expressed the hope that the visit would bring greater cooperation between the two countries.

He praised President Evren's efforts to achieve Islamic unity, and hoped their talks would promote cooperation among Islamic states.

Official talks between the UAE delegation led by Shaikh Zayed and the Turkish delegation led by President Evren started at the presidential palace at 11 a.m. UAE time.

The UAE side included Their Highnesses, Members of the Supreme Council Shaikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al Mualla, Ruler of Umm Al Quwain, and Shaikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Ruler of Fujairah.

The Turkish side included Turgut Ozal, Prime Minister, and other cabinet ministers.

After the official round of talks between the two delegations Shaikh Zayed and President Evren held separate talks while a ministerial meeting was held to discuss details of the cooperation accord.

The UAE side at the ministerial meeting was led by Shaikh Hamad while the Turkish side was led by Mr Ozal.

A reliable source said after the meeting that the two sides reviewed cooperation issues, especially in the economic sector, and the contributions of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development in development projects in Turkey.

The meeting agreed to form an

economic committee to promote economic and commercial cooperation between the two states with emphasis on investment activities.

The committee was scheduled to hold a meeting later yesterday to adopt a working programme for the next period.

It is learned that Mr Halefoglu briefed the meeting on his country's foreign policy and its position regarding the Iraq-Iran war. He said Turkey wanted to help put an end to the war which was causing destruction to both countries and the region as a whole.

He affirmed that Turkey would continue its efforts at all levels to achieve that goal through the Islamic Conference Organisation or bilateral contacts.

It is also learned that Mr Ozal reviewed the economic situation in his country since the establishment of the modern republic and pointed to his country's desire to strengthen economic cooperation with Arab Gulf countries.

He said that President Evren was expected to sign a decree yesterday allowing citizens of the Arab Gulf countries to own real estate in Turkey.

Meanwhile, Shaikh Zayed attended a luncheon banquet held in his honour by Mr Ozal at his residence.

The banquet was also attended by Shaikh Rashid bin Ahmed, Shaikh Hamad and other members of the UAE delegation, and members of the Turkish government.

Meanwhile, the West German news agency DPA, quoting Foreign Ministry sources said President Evren would pay an official visit to the UAE next May on an invitation extended to him.

In the evening Shaikh Zayed received members of the diplomatic corps in Ankara. Present during the meeting were Shaikh Rashid bin Ahmed and Shaikh Hamad.

Earlier, Shaikh Zayed visited the chemical and mechanical industrial complex where he was briefed on the 21 plants which produce various types of military equipment.

After listening to a briefing on the production capacity of the plants, Shaikh Zayed inspected various types of equipment produced for exploration and drilling.

Around 17,000 people work in the complex which was established after the Turkish liberation war in 1920.

Shaikh Zayed and President Evren attended a folklore performance at the Opera House in Ankara.

FIRST QUARTER IMPORTS DOWN

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 2 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by K. P. Nayar]

[Text]

THE first authoritative indicator for Dubai's trade in the current year shows a reduction in imports to the tune of Dh711 million in the first quarter.

There was a proportionate reduction in re-exports by Dh355.72 million and in exports by Dh75.29 million, according to official figures made available to Khaleej Times yesterday.

Although the decline in imports points to subdued trading activity in the emirate this year, the trends are not entirely without their brighter side. Importers are clearly placing orders after taking into account the needs of the market—both for re-exports and for domestic consumption.

Reduced imports, keeping pace with the shrinking market, will eliminate any possibility of overstocking. Lower imports are also attributed by some sources to massive purchases by local businessmen in the third quarter of 1983 to beat the deadline for higher customs duty.

Shipments brought in on payment of nominal customs duty are said to be still seeing many merchants through their requirements.

Another silver lining on the trade horizon is that although re-exports are down by more than 25 per cent, some new markets such as Djibouti and Afghanistan have been developed further by businessmen here in the

current year.

Saudi Arabia continued its unsailed position as the emirate's largest trading partner with re-exports totalling Dh191.92 million and exports worth Dh42.95 million. Japan came next with a turnover of Dh201.3 million—exports worth Dh199.2 million and re-exports worth Dh2.04 million.

Iran, which took exports and re-exports together worth Dh157.15 million, vastly improved its offtake of goods from Dubai from Dh106.44 million in the corresponding period of 1983. The improved trade with Iran sets at rest all speculation regarding the scope of Iran's market for Dubai's merchants.

Dubai's other major trading partners in the first quarter of this year were Qatar, the US, Bahrain, India, Pakistan, Kuwait and Djibouti.

Movement of goods to the UK, which registered a marked rise last year, declined sharply in 1984. Compared to exports and re-exports worth Dh243.27 million in the first three months of 1983, only goods valued at Dh34.19 million were bought by that country during this year.

The weakening of European currencies marginally favoured European exporters to Dubai. They gained mainly at the expense of Far Eastern traders who dramatically built up their exports to the emirate in recent years.

EFFORTS TO BOOST ECONOMY DISCUSSED

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 4 Aug 84 p 2

[Text]

ECONOMY and Commerce Minister Saif Al Jarwan hopes that the enforcement of the Companies Law, with the protection and support they provide to the national capital, will give a boost to economic activity in the country.

In a statement issued in Dubai yesterday, he said all necessary preparations for implementing the law, issued last March, would be made in the next four months in cooperation with the authorities concerned. Drafts of the rules and regulations for implementing the law, the minister said, would be discussed with the parties concerned before its enforcement to enable the ministry to allocate funds for the implementation process in collaboration with the ministry of finance and industry.

Highlighting the importance of the law, he said since economic activity did not confine to individuals but also covered groups of people or organisations, his ministry had worked out rules and regulations for setting up companies providing protection to rights of investors, partners and their resources. He explained the regulations at length and the effects they would produce on commercial companies operating in the country. They cover, among other things, matters ranging from trade fraud curbs to technical supervision and control of companies, including insurance firms and agencies.

About the executive rules relating to trade fraud laws, he said that they meeting will be held during the next few days to discuss measures relating to the implementation of the rules, he added.

He said that the ministry had started the implementation of the law for insurance agencies and companies,

which was issued on July 15. Insurance being one of the main pillars of the national economy, the minister said a comprehensive law to organise insurance activity on proper lines and subject it to government supervision and control was necessary.

He said the law provided for the setting up of two insurance committees. The first committee, which will be a higher body, will comprise representatives of concerned authorities in the various emirates as well as the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. It will be responsible for formulating policy guidelines. The second committee, which will consist of only the representatives of the authorities concerned in the emirates, will be a supervisory body, with powers to look into the grievances, if any, of insurance companies. The minister hoped that the two committees would be formed soon.

Explaining the insurance companies law, he said that starting insurance business would now be possible after obtaining a licence from the ministry of economy and commerce. It stipulates that the main objective of such a company should be insurance work and that it should take the shape of a general joint stock company with all its shares owned by UAE shareholders with a paid-up capital of not less than Dh 10 million.

He warned that insurance companies failing to apply for registration with the ministry by December 31—the deadline of the grace period allowed to them—would not be able to undertake any new work, and this would be followed with measures for their liquidation. He said separate rules had been prepared for regulating the work of insurance surveyor and actuary. The rules would be issued only after consulting the higher insurance committee yet to be formed.

ERSHAD SCORES OPPOSITION FOR OPPOSING POLLS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Aug 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Pirojpur, Aug 8 (BSS)--The President and CMLA Lt Gen H.M. Ershad said here today that his government was determined to establish people's democracy and institutions of people's representatives in the country.

Addressing a huge public meeting, the President said he had launched the process of democratisation towards the end of last year in keeping with his promises and with that end in view elections to the union parishads and paurasavas had already been held.

He said election schedules were amended to accommodate the viewpoints of the opposition political parties and the parliamentary election date had also been shifted to December 8.

President Ershad said it was ironical that the political parties which were clamouring for democracy were now opposing elections. They opposed upazila chairman election preferring continuation of an official head of the upazila parishad, he said adding: They are now opposing the parliamentary elections although they are crying hoarse for democracy, may be, of their own definition to suit their own purpose.

The President said it was not understandable how democracy could be established without elections. If these political parties and leaders wanted democracy they could not avoid elections as there was no alternative to elections for establishing democracy, he stressed.

He said people now understood that these political parties were afraid to face elections. They were afraid because of their past misdeeds which were still fresh in the public memory and for which these parties had been rejected by the people, he added.

President Ershad called upon these political parties to shun politics of agitation and contradiction and come forward with constructive programmes for the nation. He asked the political parties to take part in the elections and help establish democracy in the country, for which they had been clamouring so much.

The President said people wanted to know from these political parties as to their socio-economic and political programmes for the nation if they are voted to power. He said people also wanted to know what form of government they would follow if they come to power.

He said two major political alliances which had joined hands were poles apart regarding their principles and programmes. How could these two divergent groups of politicians bring about any political stability in the country and economic benefits to the people, he asked. Heterogeneity is ingrained in them and that is bound to manifest to the detriment and distress of the people, he added.

President Ershad expressed his determination to go ahead with his programme of peaceful transition to democracy to which the huge public gathering extended support with thunderous applause.

Referring to the current devastating floods in the country, the President said everything possible was being done to mitigate the sufferings of the flood-hit people. He said for Pirojpur district so far 14 lakh Taka and 70 thousand maunds of wheat have been given for the flood victims. He announced a further grant of Taka 2 lakh and 10 thousand maunds of wheat making the total of Taka 16 lakh and 80 thousand maunds of wheat for flood-affected people of the district.

The President also donated ten rickshaws to be distributed by the local Pourashava among the poor rickshaw pullers.

On his arrival at Pirojpur, President Ershad was warmly greeted by thousands of people of all walks of life. They raised slogans in support of his leadership and his programmes. People lined up and greeted the President along the road from stadium to local high school ground, the venue of the public meeting. As soon as he arrived at the venue of the meeting people gave him standing ovation with full throated welcome slogans.

The meeting was also addressed by the Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative Minister, Mr Mahbubur Rahman and the local Janadal leaders.

Mr Mahbubur Rahman in his address said support to the President and his programme demonstrated by the people needed to be coordinated and organised for which Janadal came into existence on the basis of President Ershad's socio-economic and political programmes.

At Pirojpur all the 18 union parishad chairmen of Nazirpur upazila met the President and expressed their total confidence in his leadership and solidarity with his programmes. Earlier, they announced their joining in Janadal and pledged to carry forward its programmes in their respective areas.

President Ershad distributed relief goods including sarees and lungis among the distressed people. He took with him relief materials like sarees, lungis and powdered milk for distribution among the flood hit people.

CSO: 4600/1119

EEC-BANGLADESH COMMISSION REVIEWS ECONOMIC PROGRESS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Aug 84 p 3

[Text] The EEC-Bangladesh Joint Commission, which met in Brussels on July 16 and 17, reviewed the economic developments in both Bangladesh and the Community noting that Bangladesh has achieved a satisfactory growth rate in 1983-84, according to a PID handout.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Jos Loeff, Director General in the Directorate-General for External Relations who also led the Community delegation. The Bangladesh delegation was led by Mr S. Hasan Ahmad, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

The Joint Commission noted a satisfactory increase of Bangladesh export to the Community and a narrowing of the trade gap between the two sides in the Community's favour during last year. It also noted that the liberalisation of Bangladesh's import controls and a simplification of procedures, as well as a greater participation of the private sector in the economy.

The Joint Commission reviewed the trade promotion programme for 1984 and noted that actions would be undertaken in the jute and leather industries and marine products and forg-leg section. Training facilities would also be made available with the Irish Export Board.

A number of outstanding commercial questions were also discussed. It was agreed to provide technical assistance to Bangladesh glass industry and to take steps to increase cooperation in the field of energy.

With regards to development cooperation, the Joint Commission previewed current projects and noted that they are progressing satisfactorily. Food aid again be granted to Bangladesh consistent with needs and Bangladesh will remain one of the largest single recipients of Community's cereals food aid.

CSO: 4600/1119

FOOD MINISTER REVIEWS PLANS FOR GRAIN PROCUREMENT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Aug 84 pp 1, 16

[Text] The Government plans to import 2.4 million tons of foodgrains during the current financial year, Food Minister A.G. Mahmud said on Thursday.

He told BSS in an interview that so far "we have been able to firm-up import of 2 million tons."

Discussions on procurement of the remaining quantity are continuing, he added.

The Food Minister said the import of foodgrains had been revised with the twin objectives of meeting the food gap and building up a comfortable stock by the year end. The original external procurement plan of 1.6 million tons has been revised in view of food loss due to flood.

Mr Mahmud said the major portion of the foodgrains would reach the country by next December. Two lakh tons of foodgrains has already reached the country, he added.

The Food Minister said the crop loss due to flood has created a food gap giving rise to a number of chain reactions. The food off-take has been revised, resulting revision of food budget to revise external procurement.

The original food gap was 1.3 million tons which has now shot up to 1.9 million tons, the Minister said. He said the original off-take of food was 1.7 million tons, which has now been estimated at 2.4 million tons.

The Minister said during the 1st two weeks, the Government was able to firm-up purchase of 5 lakh tons of wheat from the donors. He said import of foodgrains will come from the traditional donor either as grant, aid, credit or deferred payment. There will be some cash purchase also, he added.

Referring to the import of foodgrains by private sector, the Minister said this has been decided to augment supply position which had been affected by shortfall of production in the country. About two lakh tons of foodgrains will be imported by the private traders under Wage Earners Schemes, he said.

Speaking about price situation, the Minister said although the availability of food was quite sufficient, the price had gone a little higher than the normal. This sudden price-hike, the Minister said, was due to rains and bad weather which hampered internal supply line. The Minister said though the price had gone up, it has almost stabilised and was not "jumping."

The Minister said we have adequate stock to stabilise the price. The present stock of foodgrains with the Government was 8 lakh tons. He said during the current month 2,91,000 tons of foodgrains will be released through various channels all over the country to maintain price stability and availability of food. If necessary additional quantity will be sanctioned to meet any situation, he said.

Summing up the overall food situation, the Food Minister said "I do not foresee any crisis."

The Minister underscored that we have taken allout measures to "overcome any eventuality." He expressed the optimism "insa Allah we will be able to maintain steady flow of foodgrains."

CSO: 4600/1121

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

HASINA-'ARAFAT MEETING--Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Wazed had meeting with PLO chief Yasser Arafat at the invitation of whom she recently visited Tunis, capital city of Tunisia. According to a party press release issued yesterday, Sheikh Hasina also had a meeting with Arab League Secretary General Chadly Klibi in Tunis. She returned home on Friday last after her month-long visit abroad. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Aug 84 p 1]

GIFT FROM DPRK--The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has decided to donate 2,000 tons of cement worth U.S. dollars one lakh as flood relief to Bangladesh, reports BSS. This was conveyed to the President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen H.M. Ershad, by the DPRK Ambassador in Dhaka, Mr Kim Chol Song at Bangobhaban on Thursday. Meanwhile, President Kim Il Sung of DPR Korea in a message to President Ershad expressed deep sympathy for the loss of lives and damages to property in the current unprecedented flood in the country. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Aug 84 p 16]

CSO: 4600/1122

ANALYST SAYS U.S. PUNJAB STAND 'HELPFUL'

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Aug 84 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 31.

The Indo-American relations have not really slumped in the wake of repeated allegations of CIA involvement in the Punjab crisis, as it is generally believed, but improved to some extent following the helpful attitude adopted by the Reagan Administration in disapproving the attempts of overseas Akalis to mount a virulent anti-Indian campaign from the United States.

There is appreciation in high Government circles in Delhi of the steps taken by the State Department to persuade some busybodies in the U.S. Congress to give up their bid to hold public hearings on the Punjab situation at the instance of some Sikh organisations.

After his return from a long vacation, the U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Harry Barnes, has called on the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr. P. C. Alexander, and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. M. K. Rasgotra, to assure them that the State Department was urging the South Asian and Pacific sub-committee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee to put off the proposed hearings tentatively scheduled to begin on August 7.

Govt. surprised: The Government of India was taken aback when it heard of this unwarranted move by this sub-committee—generally known as the Solarz Committee—since its Chairman, Mr. Stephen Solarz, is considered to be one of India's active supporters in the U.S. Congress where it has never had many sympathisers at any time.

The State Department has also shown some understanding of India's concerns in not only refusing a visa to Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan, the brain behind the so-called Khalistan movement, but also preventing the Punjab terrorist, Talwinder Singh, who was recently released by West Germany and allowed to go to Canada, from reaching New York last week to participate in the international Sikh convention.

The Government of India had told the State Department in advance that, if Talwinder Singh was admitted into the U.S. on whatever pretext, it would immediately ask for his extradition to face pending murder charges.

Informal extradition: There is no extradition treaty as such between India and the U.S. but the two Governments have been cooperating informally through Interpol channels, as West Germany and even Britain have been doing by invoking the fugitive laws applicable in such cases, to apprehend and quietly hand over known criminals like terrorists, drug-peddlers and others accused of serious offences that do not entitle them to seek political asylum.

The procedure that is generally followed to get over legal hurdles is to seize the passports or travel papers of such wanted men and send them to the embassies concerned for verification. After these embassies declared them to be forged or faked documents, the Government concerned feels legally entitled to send back such fugitives to their countries of origin under escort to face the consequences of their actions.

Saved of embarrassment: Apart from other political considerations, the U.S. Government could not afford to ignore India's warning about Talwinder Singh and allow him to travel to New York to attend the Sikh convention, since it has to rely on India's continued cooperation through Interpol channels for apprehending or keeping track of known drug-peddlers operating on the South Asian circuit.

So it saved itself of a lot of avoidable embarrassment by preventing this terrorist from boarding a New York-bound plane from Toronto airport presumably with Canadian cooperation.

No Congressmen at meet: The Government of India has also been assured by the U.S. Embassy that no U.S. Congressman had attended

the Sikh convention and that the gentleman in question, Mr. James C. Corman, is a former member of the House of Representatives, a Democrat from California, who was now acting as a lobbyist in his capacity as a private citizen. He was in no way authorised to speak for the U.S. Congress or the U.S. Government.

The other one, Mr. John Nicas, who spoke at the convention is an Administrative Assistant to the Governor of New York, on ethnic affairs, and in this capacity he confined himself to urging the immigrant Sikhs not to forsake their cultural association.

Hearings postponed: He did not say anything, on behalf of the Governor of New York or himself, that could be construed as political interference in India's internal affairs, much less lending support to the Khalistan movement.

The Government of India reacted sharply when it heard that the Solarz sub-committee on South Asia as well as the Human Rights Sub-Committee of U.S. Congress were plann-

ing to hold hearings, as they did during this emergency, to discuss the Indian situation.

But it is now reasonably satisfied that the U.S. Government itself is strongly opposed to these moves and has been successful in at least getting these hearings postponed for the present, although India cannot be too sure that the idea would not be revived later at the instance of some political lobbies at work in Washington.

PTI reports:

No suo motu report: The Government told Parliament that it did not on its own wish to make a statement on the Sikhs convention at New York, but it would not object to a discussion on the subject if members wanted it.

While in the Rajya Sabha, the Leader of the House, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said there would be no suo motu statement by Government on the issue as "it has got nothing to do with it". In the Lok Sabha, the Speaker said he was allowing a calling attention motion.

CSO: 4600/1101

INDIAN DELEGATE REPORTS ON MOSCOW TRADE TALKS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Aug 84 p 7

[Article by Vinod Taksal]

[Text] Moscow, Aug 1--India and the Soviet Union have agreed to coordinate their trade and economic relations on the basis of national five-year Plans, and to seek further expansion in a long-term perspective.

A protocol aiming to foster longer term trade and production development compared to the current five-year perspective, and visualising linkage of trade with production investments in the two countries has been signed here following a meeting of the joint planning group here yesterday.

The protocol was signed by Dr A.M. Khusro, member of the Planning Commission and Mr S.A. Sitarayan, deputy chairman of Soviet Gosplan, co-chairmen of the planning group. The talks lasted four days.

The planning group has strongly recommended to the two countries and their planning commissions identification of national resources like raw materials, labour and energy sources, production capacities and long-term shortages.

Dr Khusro said the idea was to develop national production capacities based on optimal and economical conditions to meet domestic and bilateral requirements on a long-term basis.

Soviet first deputy premier Ivan Arkhipov, whom Dr Khusro met for over 75 minutes on Monday had spoken of the prospects in bilateral trade and economic cooperation and laid emphasis on longer term trade arrangements.

Preparatory to that, Mr Arkhipov suggested long-term production arrangements in specified lines so that each country produced for itself and the other what it could produce best at economical costs. For this, however, the current five-year trade perspectives were too short and not suitable, Mr Arkhipov felt.

During the discussions, both Mr Arkhipov and Dr Khusro agreed that the combination of Soviet-European technologies and Indian technical skills were likely to produce good results and higher quality goods at cheaper costs. They felt possibilities for this and for third country ventures should be explored.

The arrangement could be significant according to Dr Khusro, in supplementing improvements in technologies to overcome shortages of energy and labour resources and raw material supplies faced by some C.M.E.A. countries which during their recent summit agreed to develop inter-state trade on the basis of specialised national production capacities.

The protocol suggested that India and Soviet Union exchange experts for short durations to study methods and techniques of planning in the two countries and afford both state benefits from each other's experience and practice.

In this context, Dr Khusro lauded Soviet concept and practice of "regional plans" besides national and state plans. "Perhaps the future lies in developing plans for regions, within states or cutting across state borders," Dr Khusro said.

Dr Khusro said he was impressed by Soviet investment patterns, target setting, production response to public demand, pricing administration and the inter-play of supply and demand with suitable intervention of pricing authorities.

CSO: 4600/1106

PROBLEMS, PROSPECTS OF INDO-EEC TRADE DISCUSSED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Jul 84 p 4

[Article by R.K. Sharma]

[Excerpt]

India was the first Third World country to have formal diplomatic relations with what was then a community of six West European nations.

Since this was done in 1962, Indo-EEC trade and economic relations have increased considerably. The EEC presently occupies an important place in India's foreign trade, accounting for 19.8 per cent of India's total exports and 22.6 per cent of its global imports.

Indo-EEC trade has grown considerably during the last five years, rising from Rs 2,904.93 crore in 1977-78 to Rs 4,720.01 crore in 1982-83. During this period, exports increased marginally from Rs 1,393.84 crore to Rs 1,475.10 crore, while imports rose sharply from Rs 1,511.9 crore to Rs 3,244.91 crore. The liberalised import policy followed by India has contributed significantly to the increase in the imports from the EEC.

With imports running ahead of exports, India has been having, during the last four years, a trade deficit which increased from Rs 425.31 crore in 1979-80 to Rs 1,769.81 crore in 1982-83. India's mounting trade deficit with the EEC is a matter of great concern to her. India's trade with the EEC has grown to India's disadvantage as compared to India's global trade. India's global exports, during the period, increased by 34.5 per cent, while exports to the EEC rose only by four per cent.

India's share of the EEC market is very small; it has less than one per cent of the total. Nor is it an important market for the community, whose exports to India are less than one per

cent of its total exports. Tariff and non-tariff barriers erected by the EEC are responsible for this state of affairs.

Within the EEC, India's major trading partners are the UK and the FRG. The other important trading partners are Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and France. The trade with Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg and Ireland remains at a low level.

During the past few years, a number of steps have been initiated to forge strong trade and economic ties between India and the EEC. The first step in this direction was the signing of the Commercial Cooperation Agreement by India with the EEC in December 1973. India was the first Asian developing nation to sign such an agreement with the EEC.

The agreement established a framework for promoting and diversifying trade relations between India and the EEC on the basis of comparative advantage and mutual benefit, based on the recognition that the economies of India and the EEC countries complement rather than compete with each other. The agreement, which came into force with effect from 1 March 1974, was initially valid for a period of five years. The agreement provided for grant of Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment in accordance with the GATT principles and promotion and diversification of trade.

The India Trade Centre was established with the assistance from the EEC at Brussels in February 1980 to study the complementarities of the economies and suggest measures for increasing Indian exports to the EEC.

The centre also helps to promote Indo-EEC tie-ups and introduction of new Indian goods in the European markets.

In June 1981, India signed a new five-year Commercial and Economic Cooperation Agreement with the EEC. The new agreement is much wider in its scope and provides for intensified cooperation for transfer of technology and joint venture programmes. Like the earlier one, it is also based on the principles of comparative advantage and mutual benefit.

One of the recent developments in the Indo-EEC trade relations relates to India's signing, in October 1982 a bilateral textile agreement with the EEC covering a period of four years, starting from 1 January 1983. The agreement provides India greater scope for its textile exports to the EEC. In the agreement, while handloom garments have been included in the quotas, the handloom fabrics, made-ups and "India (folklore) items" will continue to get quota-free entry. Further, India under the new agreement will be able to utilise quotas in a better way as a result of quota alignments among the EEC members.

In textiles, China has forged ahead of India in the EEC market. Dumping is the basic means of Chinese trade expansion. China today enjoys not only the MFN treatment in the EEC but also the GSP concessions. Similarly, China enjoys certain "preferential" benefits with regard to its imports from the EEC.

Already EEC has "liberalised" about 90 per cent of its trade with China, while for the remaining 10 per cent quotas have been raised. Chi-

nese export of textiles, for example, was doubled, though China is not even a member of the international textile agreement.

There is no doubt that tariff and non-tariff barriers imposed by the EEC on our exports are creating serious problems for us in the field of foreign trade. At the same time, a clean chit cannot be given to Indian producers and exporters. Indian producers are busy minting money at the cost of local consumers. They have no incentive whatsoever to improve the quality of their products when they can very easily sell their sub-standard products at monopoly prices in the protected home market.

Both India and EEC have made the right noises about joint ventures and industrial collaboration in third countries. A potential sector in this regard is leather. An EEC look-see mission toured several leather goods centres in India in 1983 raising hopes of joint ventures. No follow-up action has, however, been initiated. One only hopes that the idea will not be allowed to die.

The world economic situation is gloomy. Recessionary trends in most parts of the world are still continuing. The high interest rates are delaying recovery. Protectionist pressures are being intensified. In short, the world economic environment is far from conducive to steady growth in exports.

As such, our endeavour to get a better foothold in international markets will have to be in severe competition with other countries. Export expansion will imply an increase in our share in world trade which is possible only when we have a net competitive advantage combined with aggressive marketing.

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS INDO-BANGLADESH TRADE TALKS

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 2 Aug 84 p 6

[Text]

New Delhi, Aug 1: India and Bangladesh have called for the need to double their twoway trad during the current year. Considerable effort is also to be made to reduce the imbalance in their bilateral trade. This was agreed upon during the four days of talks between the commerce secretary, Mr Abid Hussain and his Bangladesh counterpart in Dhaka on July 27.

The two sides also decided to renew the bilateral trad agreement for another three years with provision for an annual meeting to review its working.

Mr Abid Hussain expressed the hope that the total turnover of trade this year would be Rs 100 crores and hoped that the loan of Rs 60 crores which includes a Rs 20-crore government to government loan and Rs 40-crore Exim Bank loan would be utilised for stepping up exports from India.

He also directed attention to the slow utilisation of the lines of credit given by India to Bangladesh and stressed the need to quicken the pace of utilisation. The loans are expected to give a boost to the export of capital goods machinery and transport equipment to Bangladesh.

The leader of the Bangladesh delegation stressed the need to reduce the imbalance in trade. India in this connection expressed its interest in importing natural gas. Mr Abid Hussain also proposed that the railway service of Bangladesh be made available and transit facilities from West Bengal and Tripura through Bangladesh, should be examined.

A meeting of the transport coordination committee under the two commerce ministers to look into the matter of telecommunication and transport facilities was also proposed by the Indian delegation.

Both sides agreed to cooperate in increasing the export capabilities of Bangladesh through trade generating joint ventures. Many of these joint ventures would be in the field of transport equipment.

India has also offered to supply 1,20,000 tonnes of coal to Bangladesh in 1984-85 through the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation.

The Indian delegation also drew the attention of the Bangladesh authorities to the difficulties faced for the export of Indian agricultural implements.

COMMERCE SECRETARY TO LEAD TRADE DELEGATION TO PRC

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Aug 84 p 6

[Text] The Commerce Secretary will lead the 5th Indian delegation to China for negotiations on a trade agreement between the two countries, the Lok Sabha was informed on Friday, reports UNI.

Minister of State for Commerce P.O. Sangma told Mr Chitta Basu that "we are awaiting indication of a convenient date for the visit from China."

He said there was a lot of scope for increased trade between the two countries but absence of a trade agreement has been a handicap since China followed a "dual tariff system" giving preference to countries with which it had a bilateral trade agreement.

Once the India-China trade agreement was signed trade between the two countries was expected to rise significantly, he added.

Mr Sangma clarified that the last Indian delegation led by the Additional Commerce Secretary visited China for a "specific purpose and not strictly in connection with the trade agreement.

He said since the resumption of trade between the two countries in 1978 it went up to Rs 130 crores in 1981-82 but came down to Rs 117 crore in 1982-83.

Mr Subramaniam Swamy (Ind) wanted to know if an assessment of the "areas and commodities" for increased trade had been made. He said during his visit to Mansarovar Lake the people living on the border areas were keen on reopening of the border trade.

Mr Sangma said there had been some identification of commodities by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) delegation which visited China some time ago.

The items identified for export included steel wire, sheet glass, asbestos and complete cement plants and for import edible oil, zinc, mercury and drugs and pharmaceuticals.

The items exported so far included tobacco, raw cotton and sugar, and the imported ones machinery, transport equipment and iron and steels.

He said three joint ventures in China had been finalised so far and the fourth was in the pipeline.

CSO: 4600/1111

INDO-CZECH TRADE PLAN REVIEWED AT PRAGUE MEETING

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Aug 84 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Aug. 4.

The total trade turnover between India and Czechoslovakia is likely to go up in 1984 by 28 per cent as compared to the actuals of 1983. The buoyant trend is reflected more so in India's exports to Czechoslovakia which are expected to increase by almost 60 per cent in 1984 over the exports in 1983. These trends were indicated during a mid-term review of the Indo-Czech Trade Plan in Prague recently when an Indian delegation led by the Joint Secretary (East Europe) in the Ministry of Commerce was in Prague.

Against the twoway trade turnover of Rs. 133.5 crores in 1983 the total turnover is expected to be in the range of Rs. 170.4 crores in 1984. India's export to Czechoslovakia in 1984 are expected to touch a record level of Rs. 113.3 crores against Rs. 68 crores in 1983.

During the discussions at Prague efforts were made to further identify new commodities and products particularly in respect of imports from Czechoslovakia so that the bilateral trade would grow in a stable balanced manner.

Since the signing of the first trade agreement, the volume of Indo-Czechoslovakia trade has

grown steadily. It has increased from Rs. 47 crores in 1963 to Rs. 66 crores in 1973 and reached a record level of Rs. 162 crores in 1982.

More than three quarters of India's imports from Czechoslovakia consist of engineering products, the remaining consist of chemical products and other goods. Main items of imports thus are steel and steel products, seamless pipes, tubes and castings, machine tools, ball bearings, diesel generating sets, organic and inorganic chemicals, textile machinery, shoe making, tanning and leather making machinery, components and spares for tractors, capital goods and components for Czechoslovak assisted projects.

The commodities being exported by India to Czechoslovakia are predominantly traditional like deoiled cakes, coffee, pepper, cotton yarn, iron ore, jute manufactures, tanned and semi-tanned hides and skin, mica, manganese ore, castor oil and shellac. Traditional items constitute about 60 per cent of the total exports from India to Czechoslovakia.

The trade plan for 1984 (January-December) was concluded on November 16, 1984 at New Delhi. — Our Special Correspondent.

CSO: 4600/1112

LOK SABHA DISCUSSES NEW YORK 'KHALISTAN' CONVENTION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Jul 84 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, July 30--The New York convention on "Khalistan" had its loud echoes in the Lok Sabha this morning, when members from both sides sought a government statement and house discussion on the subject.

The demand was made just as the house assembled and members suggested that question time be suspended.

The minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr Buta Singh, responded to the demand by saying that the house was unanimous in seeking a discussion and the speaker could decide the form in which the issue would be raised and the timing of the discussion.

The speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, agreed to a debate which will be held after the government makes a statement.

In the Rajya Sabha also, a demand for discussion on the convention was made by a Congress member, Mr Sat Pal Mittal, and it received general support from other members.

U.S. Congressman

In the Lok Sabha, the speaker told the members who were agitated over the New York convention, in which two Americans, one of them a U.S. Congressman participated: "I have understood the sentiments of the members. It is a question of India's integrity, sovereignty and supremacy. Nobody can challenge it. The U.S. is a big country but they cannot interfere in our affairs."

Earlier, Mr K. Lakkappa and Mr K.K. Tiwari, both of the Congress, and Mr Maniram Bagri of the Lok Dal pointed out that they had given notice to the speaker for suspension of question hour.

Irked by the venue of the convention in the U.S. and the presence of a U.S. Congressman, one member said: "Summon the American ambassador and ask for an explanation."

Mr A.B. Vajpayee (BJP) suggested that the matter could be discussed after question hour today itself. But this was not considered possible as the house was to discuss the developments in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof Madhu Dandavate (J) drew the attention of the speaker to the unanimity of the demand.

The chair, appreciating the sentiments of the house, then made the observation that he would allow a discussion.

CSO: 4600/1098

CPI LEADER INTERVIEWED ON COMMUNAL PROBLEMS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by Arindam Sen Gupta]

[Text]

Communalism of various shades and hues is very much evident in the country today. In the recent past, the nation has been ravaged by fratricidal feuds where the people seemingly lost their sanity and attacked and killed neighbours and friends simply because they subscribed to a different religion. What is driving people to this insanity? Who is injecting the communal poison in their minds? And how can this madness be checked? These are questions agitating the minds of every responsible citizen as well as every secular political party.

The Communist Party of India (CPI) discussed these questions at its recently-concluded Central Executive meeting. It resolved to directly confront communal forces as well as mobilise public opinion against them. Patriot met CPI general secretary C Rajeswara Rao for a detailed discussion on the question. Excerpts of the interview follow:

Q. Why is communalism on the rise? How does your party plan to fight it?

A. Communalism festers on genuine discontent of the people regarding their living conditions. These pertain to questions of unemployment, poverty, price rise, and so on. These grievances are channelised by communal forces to serve vested interests. And this happens specially when the left forces fail to channelise these grievances into mass movements for alleviating the living conditions of people.

Q. So you are admitting that the left parties have failed in fighting communalism?

A. Well, we failed to be vigilant during the recent riots in Bombay-Bhiwandi-Thane. Bal Thackarey, aided by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, and other communal organisations, was openly making communal propaganda. No one took notice of it, including the left. Only when the conflagration had taken place did we embark on fire-fighting, so to say.

Q. How do you plan to remedy your failure?

A. Three steps need to be taken. First, the left

parties must fight more vigorously to unite the masses on issues. Only then can they be prevented from being led astray by the communalists. Second, and this is a simultaneous task, the game of the communalists — to divide people and, in the process, help reactionary vested interests — must be exposed. Third, the left should continue its struggle for national integration on correct lines.

Q. What do you mean when you say "on correct lines"?

A. It means that it is not enough to fight communalism alone. Casteist and linguistic-chauvinistic forces too have to be fought. It must be remembered that this fight is an essential part of the larger fight for national integration.

Q. What steps need to be taken for a long-term solution to communalism?

A. Of greatest importance is the need to change the concept of secularism as is understood by the ruling and other bourgeois parties. While equal respect has to be given to all religions, it is necessary to separate State from religion. In other words, all religious practices must be separated from State functioning. Unfortunately, it is the other way round in India. Even ships are launched to the accompaniment of chanting of mantras and breaking of coconuts. All sorts of obscurantist practices prevail.

Secondly, education needs to be revamped. Text books must be purged of all communal poison. It is said in the present history books the Muslims occupied Hindustan and attacked Hindus. This is not true. The fact is that the Muslim rulers attacked not only Hindu states, but Muslim states too. Aurangzeb raided Muslim rulers of the south. Shivaji, who is depicted as a champion of Hinduism, was in reality fighting Mughal domination. Many of his generals were Muslims.

An objective view of history must be presented. That period of history has to be seen as

a period of feudal rule and religion played an important role in the Middle Ages. But this has no bearing on present-day reality. Certainly, the Hindus cannot be made to feel that they were once upon a time persecuted by Muslims.

Other steps would include a necessity of making the various communities tolerant of religious beliefs and practices of other communities; highlighting common traditions which gave rise to the composite culture in our country. Moreover, all parties that call themselves secular must not befriend rabid communal parties for narrow political considerations. Besides, inter-community marriages should be encouraged.

Q. And what would be the "fire-fighting" measures?

A. We have stated that in the Central Executive resolution. We have asked for strong action against all communal and criminal elements. In the recent riots in Maharashtra criminals utilised the occasion to settle private battles. These elements must immediately be rounded up.

Communal propaganda must be banned and exemplary punitive action taken against those who violate the ban. The police force needs to be reorganised to have proper representation of minority communities, Harijans and tribals. In this connection it is essential that the National Integration Council is reorganised so that it resumes to function.

Q. How do you propose to implement all these measures that you have listed?

A. We have to first take up the task of restoring communal amity in all earnestness. For this it is necessary that all secular, democratic parties come together on some platform to carry out

the measures.

Q. When you talk of secular parties, would you include the ruling party?

A. Yes, all secular forces in the country, even the Congress-I. But Indira Gandhi refuses to come together with other political parties on such a platform. A few months ago we were asked to join the Sampradayikta Virodhi Committee by the Congress-I. We, in turn, said all secular parties should be invited to join it. I held talks with Chandra Shekhar and Bahuguna. They were agreeable to the idea and even asked the Prime Minister to inaugurate it. However, for some strange reason the Prime Minister did not agree.

Indira Gandhi's line is that she alone can fight everything, including communalism. In truth, her party is becoming a party to communal instigations. After her party's defeat in the South she is deliberately playing the Hindu communal game. She is playing a very dangerous game for narrow political gains.

Q. You say that all communal parties should be shunned. Could you please identify them?

A. Yes. They are BJP-RSS, Jamaat-e-Islami and the Muslim Front. And these communal parties have connections with the imperialist powers—some are open about it, some secret.

Q. Would you include the Akali Dal in this list?

A. The Akali Dal is different. It was born of the struggle against the British for the liberation of the gurdwaras. So it has the tradition of being an anti-imperialist party which had its base on a particular community.

Of course, we were critical of the later changes in its policies. And we have pointed this out to the Akali leaders during the course of our discussions with them.

CONGRESS-I GENERAL SECRETARY DISCUSSES ELECTION STRATEGY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 27 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by Subhash Kirpekar]

[Text] New Delhi, July 26--Speculation on the Lok Sabha elections being held in mid-November was strengthened today with the Congress general secretary, Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, indicating the party strategy.

The date of the Lok Sabha poll may be November 20 or 21. If elections are indeed held in November, she said, it does not mean that the dates are being advanced.

This is an election year and the time for holding the poll is approaching. The entire process has to finish by January 20, 1985. It was on January 20, 1980 that the present Lok Sabha was constituted, she recalled.

Asked whether the party favoured holding elections to state assemblies also, she explained that, if this was done, it would be only in those states which were in any case to go to the polls by June 1985. These are mostly Congress-ruled states like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

Some non-Congress-ruled states which had still about two or two-and-a-half years to go would not have assembly elections along with the parliamentary poll, she said.

At the moment there does not seem to be any talk in Congress circles of some of the states mentioned above having assembly elections simultaneously with the Lok Sabha poll.

The Congress parliamentary board is to meet on July 30. The main purpose of this meeting is to decide on the candidate for the vice-presidential election, but a discussion on the timing of holding the Lok Sabha poll is on the cards.

As far as a state like Maharashtra is concerned where factionalism is rampant, some party sources feel that holding the assembly poll together with the Lok Sabha poll may help forge unity in the party.

In many other states the party is riddled with factional fighting. So, a simultaneous poll may have a similar impact on these states also. Party leaders here expect that at least during the election process factionalism could be contained.

There is no doubt that competition will be fierce among Congressmen to secure the "party ticket." Lobbying can be expected to begin shortly and the various state bhavans here will be teeming with aspirants.

Political circles believe that Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Congress general secretary, will have a major say in the distribution of tickets in both Lok Sabha and state assembly polls. More younger people are likely to be selected as candidates.

The states are now holding conferences to assess the strength and weakness of the party. For instance, Mrs Bajpai is visiting Gujarat this week-end to discuss organisational matters with party functionaries from the PCC president down to the block-level elected representatives. She will proceed to Maharashtra for a similar exercise on July 31.

CSO: 4600/1087

STATES RELUCTANT TO ANSWER SAKARIA PANEL'S QUESTIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Jul 84 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 26.

The only two States which have so far replied to the questionnaire sent by the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations are Kerala and Madhya Pradesh. The remaining 20 States have not sent their replies despite two extensions of the time limit followed by several reminders to them.

The questionnaire was sent out in November, 1983, and the replies were expected by the end of March, 1984, but the deadline had to be extended till May 30, 1984, followed by a further extension without setting any time limit for it.

Reluctant to commit

It is considered rather strange that none of the non-Congress (N) State Governments which have been pressing hard for a review of Centre-State relations has bothered to reply to the questionnaire spelling out its views on various aspects. The Congress (I) Governments have for understandable reasons been generally quite reluctant to commit themselves in writing on some of the sensitive features of this relationship which might run counter to the policies and attitudes of the Centre.

After waiting for nearly nine months, the Sarkaria Commission has decided to start its visits to different State capitals for discussions with each one of the 22 State Governments. It was only after the commission notified the Madhya Pradesh Government that it would be arriving in Bhopal in the first week of August that it finally sent a reply to the questionnaire which would be the basis for the discussions with it.

As these talks with individual State Governments would be of a wide-ranging nature, the commission proposes to spend at least a week in each State capital followed by another week of preparation by the commission's staff for these discussions. It means that the commission would not be able to cover more than two States per month, and the process of these discussions with all the 22 States would take

about a year assuming that all of them would be sending their replies in due course.

The commission's initial term which expired at the end of June 1984 has been extended by another year to enable it to complete its work. But it is not expected to make its recommendations before the end of 1985 at the earliest, since it would require at least six months after the completion of the discussions with the Central and State Governments to write the report.

The non-Congress (I) Governments are in no hurry to engage in detailed discussions with the commission until the parliamentary elections are over, since they are waiting to see the new political lineup at the Centre. It is quite significant that both the Central and the more important State Governments under Congress (I) rule have been equally reluctant presumably for the same reason to take any particular stand at this stage on any aspect of Centre-State relations.

In the case of the States, the questionnaire has been sent to the respective Governments which are expected to send consolidated replies to it. But the questionnaire has been sent directly to the Cabinet Secretariat and ministries at the Centre, so that the views of the Union Government can be elicited directly from the Ministries concerned on different subjects and also in consolidated form from the Cabinet Secretariat.

Special cell

A special cell has been set up in the Home Ministry under a noted constitutional expert to coordinate the views of the Centre and spell out its position. Though some individual Central Ministries have replied to the questionnaire, the main consolidated response from the Centre would not be available until the Lok Sabha elections are over and the next Government has assumed office.

It is also an open question whether the Centre would be equally keen after the elections in seeing the commission complete this monumental task and implementing at least some of its recommendations.

ANALYST DISCUSSES EXPECTED GOVERNMENT CHANGES

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Jul 84 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, July 27--The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, has hinted in the course of her private talks with some of the Opposition leaders that in her view the Defence Minister, Mr R. Venkataraman, would be an appropriate choice for the post of Vice-President.

Though the selection of Mr Venkataraman will be finalised only after the Congress(I) Parliamentary Board has met on Monday or Tuesday, the Government circles are proceeding on the assumption that the choice would fall on him.

Consequently, there is talking of the Minister without portfolio, Mr S.B. Chavan, being appointed Defence Minister in the place of Mr Venkataraman. In that case, the Prime Minister, who is now holding additional charge of External Affairs might appoint one more Minister of State to assist her in the day to day work of the Ministry, so that only high policy matters would be referred to her.

PPB post may be revived: There is also a suggestion under consideration for reviving the post of Chairman of Policy Planning Board (PPB) with the rank of a Minister of State. But it is not clear whether this appointment would be made in addition to the induction of one more Minister of State.

Meanwhile, there has been some flutter in official circles here over the reports of impending changes in the top bureaucracy in the near future. It has been reported in a section of the Press that the present Home Secretary, Mr M.M.K. Wali, is being replaced by the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, Mr R.D. Pradhan, which is not correct.

It is learnt on good authority that Mr Wali will continue as Home Secretary until his retirement in May 1985, and there is no question of his being shifted to some other post. Similarly, the Cabinet Secretary, Mr C.R. Krishnaswamy Rao Sahib, will continue in his present capacity till the end of February 1985 when he would retire in the normal course.

But the Government has offered to Mr Rao Sahib, the post of Executive Director of the World Bank after his retirement, after the present incumbent, Mr A.N. Ray, completes his three-year tenure. Similarly, Mr Arjun Sen Gupta, who is Secretary in charge of Economic Affairs in the Prime Minister's Secretariat, is being appointed Executive Director on the International Monetary Fund after Mr R.N. Malhotra completes his term.

CSO: 4600/1090

KASHMIR GOVERNMENT ISSUES NOTE ON FAROOQ OUSTER

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Srinagar, July 28 (PTI)--The Jammu and Kashmir Government today charged that former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah's "patronising attitude" towards pro-Pakistan and pro-Khalistan activities was the "prime consideration" for the State Governor in dismissing his Ministry.

In a detailed "factual note" on events leading to the change in government on 2 July, the government of Mr G.M. Shah said there was a rise in such anti-national activities during the last two years in the State.

The comprehensive 22-page note said "there is clear evidence of involvement of Dr Abdullah in the activities of these elements in the State."

The note says that it was because of these "alarming anti-party and anti-national activities" that 12 National Conference legislators had withdrawn support to Dr Abdullah. The note said the Governor's action was fully "constitutional, proper and legal."

The note says that the former Chief Minister had more than one meeting with the late Sikh militant leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and other extremist Akali leaders and these meetings had led to holding of six Gurmat camps in Poonch, Bharakh, Digiana, Pulwama, Shopian and Baramulia during 1982-83, and that the State Governor Mr Jagmohan was fully aware of these.

The note also says that the Governor was equally aware of the fact that the huge processions of the trainees in these camps belonging to the All-India Sikh Students Federation (later banned) were taken to the Civil Secretariat with naked swords. "While giving arms salute to late Bhai Amrik Singh, president of the AISSF at Nanglai Sahib in the border district of Poonch, a Sikh trainee was killed which proved that the training given in these camps was one of handling arms and not propagating religion as claimed by Dr Abdullah," the note added.

The note says that recorded photographs of Dr Abdullah with two leaders of the Kashmir Liberation Front, namely Hashim Qureshi and Amanullah, alleged to be connected with the slaying of Indian diplomat Mhatre in Birmingham in England, established his links with the secessionists forces.

It says that a photograph of the former Chief Minister administering oath of allegiance to Hashim Qureshi, who hijacked an Indian Airlines aircraft to Lahore in December 1971 clearly indicated his (Dr Abdullah) links with the Kashmir Liberation Front, an organisation based in Pakistan.

The note strongly contested the claim by the national Opposition parties that Governor Jagmohan had violated the Constitution or acted against democratic norms by dismissing the government of Dr Abdullah, and inviting Mr G.M. Shah to form the new government.

It asserted once the Governor was satisfied that Dr Abdullah had lost the majority support in the State Assembly, the Governor could not have "waited even for a moment" in dismissing his government.

CSO: 4600/1093

OUTMODED ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM SEEN TO NEED OVERHAUL

Madras THE HINDU in English 29 Jul 84 p 2

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

THE talk of an administrative shake up in Punjab in the aftermath of the recent military action has prompted many stalwart administrators to take a fresh look at the good and bad points of the present system. It is not enough, in their view, to replace a few bad characters with better men, if no parallel effort is made to probe into the inadequacies of the inherited traditions, erosion of values, corrupting influences and political interferences that collectively contributed to this tragic situation.

The real need, therefore, is for some honest heart-searching by all concerned to identify the basic causes of the progressive decline in the quality of government throughout the country, instead of taking a compartmental view of the complex factors that led to the near paralysis of the Punjab administration.

The malaise is much deeper than is generally realised, since the rot that had set in at various levels has been allowed to spread over the years to the very roots of the country's governance. It has sapped the morale of bureaucracy, impeded established procedures, deprived civil servants of sustained direction and encouraged politicians to look for scapegoats to cover up their own failures in either comprehending or coping with difficult situations.

Imperial interests

The so-called steelframe, organised initially to subserve the interests of an imperial power, was basically designed to suit the convenience of its conquests. The ICS can trace its origins to the early days of the East India Company which advertised in England for young men of mean birth but good handwriting to work in its depot at Surat. No doubt, over the next two centuries, it grew into a formidable administrative apparatus, admittedly one of the best colonial services in the world, but its role was limited to the preservation of an empire, the brightest jewel in the British crown, with a minimum of effort to secure the imperial interests.

The British concentrated on maintenance of law and order, development of communications, establishment of educational facilities for administering a vast sub-continent largely with native talent, securing the country's borders with modest military expenditure, keeping up a delicate political balance between different communities and castes, and holding the princes firmly by the leash to make them increasingly dependent on imperial power for their survival in the face of mounting nationalism.

There was no pretence of providing any developmental thrust for harnessing the country's resources and improving the living conditions of its people, apart from organising a minimal level of social services. The philosophy of fatalism, an integral part of the Indian psyche, made the people submit meekly to their miserable existence, until Gandhiji came on the scene and kindled their dormant spirit of freedom.

Element of continuity

The British themselves realised the inadequacies of their outmoded administrative system in India and were seriously thinking of appointing a royal commission to suggest appropriate changes. But the Second World War came in the way and the idea was not actively pursued at the end of it, since Britain had by then reconciled itself to the thought of granting freedom to India which could no longer be held in bondage.

The trauma of partition, followed by sudden departure of most of the British civil servants certainly weakened the steelframe, but the Indian component rose to the occasion and provided the necessary element of continuity during the difficult years of transition, until the new IAS was raised to supplement the ICS in running the administration.

The Indian leadership took over the Government as a going concern with all its plus and minus points and became a prisoner of its outdated administrative attitudes. It became impossible even for an imaginative leader like

Nehru to shed the hang-overs of the past in governing a complex country like India with all its baffling problems. He did precious little to improve the quality of administration to match his passionate efforts to live up to the rising expectations of the people. As the bureaucracy became more and more unwieldy in the wake of its rapid expansion, the lesser men round Nehru started taking liberties by interfering with established procedures, playing favourites and corrupting the system.

Playing favourites

The Administrative Reforms Commission merely skimmed the surface by concentrating mainly on an improvement of bureaucratic procedures without paying attention to a thorough overhaul of the system itself through a drastic reorganisation of the machinery of government. The successive governments that followed both at the Centre and in the States did further harm by accepting or implementing only those recommendations that suited their convenience while ignoring the more important suggestions for improving the quality of administration.

The ways of politicians politicising the services by playing favourites in the name of commitment politics placed a premium on personal loyalty and subservience. It subverted the established norms of both propriety and procedure in the uses and misuses of patronage, leading in turn to gross nepotism and rampant corruption.

The rapid expansion of the administrative machinery at all levels opened the way for the operation of Parkinson's law in its worst form, resulting in a multiplication of Ministries and departments as well as senior selection posts and subordinate ranks down the line. There are now more than 800 Ministers and 5,000 legislators in the country at the political level, about 8,000 officers in various Central services and perhaps double this number in the State cadres, roughly 6,000 in the judicial services from the Supreme Court down to district judges and magistrates.

In a country where government is still the main source of employment, an estimated eight million people work in Central and State Government offices, police and armed forces, railways, ports, posts and telegraphs, public sector industries, electricity boards, municipalities, road transport organisations, airlines, sick mills, nationalised mines and a host of other establishments.

Parkinsonian law

It is most important to have a highly competent, honest and dedicated bureaucracy at the top to run this vast web of governmental machinery, its subsidiary organisations and public utilities and enterprises with a semblance of efficiency free from the taint of widespread corruption. But it presupposes that the political leadership at the helm of the country's affairs has the capacity and sincerity of purpose to provide the higher direction with a fuller grasp of the complexities of modern administration.

It is no use having as many as 80 officers of the rank of secretaries, 150 of additional secretaries and over 300 joint secretaries in the Central Government and its attached offices all over the country, if they are unable to run the administration efficiently to ensure reasonable returns from the many millions of employees of various categories paid in one form or the other from public revenues.

The Parkinsonian law works with greater devastation in the States where the proliferation is bad enough, but the work out is considerably less, inefficiency is much greater and accountability for poor performance is almost non-existent. The functioning of the State Governments is further hampered by petty rivalries and inter-service jealousies in the absence of proper political direction. The few States that have strong Chief Ministers are handicapped by their limited vision or tendency to surround themselves with favourites to the detriment of better administration. In many States, there are several Inspectors-General of Police in place of only one in the past, while the position of the PWD and other departments is equally bad with a similar multiplication of top posts.

Army officers' grievance

The upgradation of ranks in the higher command and staff jobs in the armed forces in the name of avoiding congestion at the lower levels, has led to a two or three-fold increase in the number of Lieutenant-Generals, Major-Generals, Brigadiers and others in the Army and of comparable ranks in the Navy and Air Force, although the Chiefs of Staff have not yet been elevated to the five-star level of Field Marshal, Marshal of the Air Force or Admiral of the Fleet.

The armed forces which accept the supremacy of the political leadership resent the superiority of the civil servants nursing a strong grievance against the way the civilians running the Defence Ministry boss over them. They also resent the way senior military officers have been down-graded over the years in the warrant of precedence placing civil servants of comparable status well above them.

The intelligence agencies are not free from their own petty squabbles since the IPS and non-IPS components have been at loggerheads for a long time. The recent multiplication of the top intelligence posts has generated its own frictions since some of the IAS officers have been placed over the heads of IPS men who have been treating this field as their close preserve with vast possibilities for exercise of patronage. The result is that the Cabinet Secretariat and the Home Ministry which control the various police and intelligence agencies are riven by internal jealousies and tensions.

The only way of cleaning up the Augean stables to restore some order in the functioning of this vast proliferation and ensure that they do not work at cross-purpose blaming one

another for their lapses, is to set the right standards of efficiency, probity and discipline at the higher political levels of the Government. If there is no back-biting among senior Ministers, there will be no scope for disgruntled civil servants to carry tales and attempt to curry favour with them. The best antidote for discord at the lower levels is harmony at the top backed by a sense of clear-cut purpose in the higher direction of the Government.

The appalling Indian spectacle of senior Ministers and civil servants being accused of colluding with big business houses, police officers helping gun-runners and terrorists, customs officers conspiring with smugglers, income tax officers of assisting tax evaders is only a sad reflection of the psychological malady conditioning the reflexes of the people.

The average citizen is prepared to believe anything in this sick atmosphere attaching greater credibility to anything that sounds astounding and unbelievable in more normal conditions. It is no use trying to dismiss this malevolence as part of a global phenomenon, since public misgivings, however exaggerated or unfounded, cannot be dispelled with mere platitudes that are not backed by reassuring actions.

CSO: 4600/1092

GANDHI NOT PLANNING FOREIGN TRAVEL UNTIL AFTER POLLS

Madras THE HINDU in English 29 Jul 84 p 12

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 28.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is not accepting any international engagements involving foreign travel during the rest of this year because of the approaching Lok Sabha elections.

Consequently, India is not encouraging the move for an early summit meeting of the five world leaders who launched in May what has come to be described as the "four continent peace initiative", to mobilise support for their appeal to the nuclear powers for a halt to their disastrous arms race.

The five leaders who made this appeal to the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China were the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the President of Mexico, Mr. Miguel de la Madrid, the President of Tanzania, Mr. Julius Nyerere, the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Olof Palme, and the Prime Minister of Greece, Mr. Andreas Papandreu, representing Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe.

The senior officials of the five countries met last week in Athens to discuss how best their leaders could step up their campaign for nuclear disarmament. They felt that until the U.S. Presidential election was over there was not much that their Heads of Government could

do to mobilise world opinion in favour of a halt to the nuclear arms race.

The idea of a summit meeting in the near future has been shelved for the present in the absence of any great enthusiasm for it from the five Governments. But these countries agreed that the campaign should be kept up through every possible forum, including the forthcoming U.N. General Assembly session, even if all of them were not in favour of an early summit conference.

The Government of India is not also accepting any visits by foreign dignitaries from September onwards, after the Yugoslav President's trip at the end of August, because of the Lok Sabha elections. The countries concerned have been told that it would not be possible for Mrs. Gandhi to accept any international engagements during the rest of this year.

Consequently, there is going to be a prolonged lull on the foreign affairs front, with no great activity even in the non-aligned sphere, apart from going through the motions of routine policy statements. The main focus at the moment is on exerting all possible influence on some of the Western countries with large Indian communities to prevent hostile elements from carrying on anti-Indian propaganda and fomenting disaffection.

CSO: 4600/1092

CONGRESS-I TRIES TO END FACTIONAL STRIFE BEFORE POLLS

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, July 29--The pre-election jitters now gripping different political parties are producing diverse reflexes, depending on each one's predicaments, but almost all of them including the ruling Congress (I) seem to be sharing the same sort of anxieties in varying degrees about the unpredictable attitudes of the Indian electorate in the prevailing atmosphere with so many cross-currents at work on the national scene.

The one question that is being asked privately by practically everybody who is somebody in the country's political life is whether any past parallel, however disquieting or reassuring, would be applicable with any degree of relevance in the present situation for either sensing the mood of the people or smelling the electoral climate, even if it is too early to assess the prospects or hazard a guess about the possible outcome of the parliamentary elections.

But they all seem to agree at least on one point that, whatever surprises the forthcoming poll might have in store, there will be no repetition of either 1977 or 1980 in the sense that the Congress (I) is going to romp back home with a landslide victory or get drubbed so badly that the Opposition parties could be able to run away with the trophy again. The closest parallel that the political pundits on either side of the dividing line are talking about is 1967 when the then undivided Congress received a severe jolt but was returned to power with a narrow margin that set in motion the subsequent chain of events which had a deeply unsettling effect on the country's political life.

The Congress (I) strategists are not deluding themselves with any illusions of another walkover victory, but stressing the need for putting the party's house in order to face the ordeal with some semblance of unity and discipline. The Opposition parties, on the other hand, are striving hard to arrive at some sort of seat sharing arrangement to confront the Congress (I) with straight contests in as many constituencies as possible, since they fear that the ruling party is not going to make the same kind of mistakes it made in 1977 when it came to grief because of its overconfidence.

While the Opposition parties are still groping in the dark not knowing how they should proceed to work out these electoral adjustments among themselves, the Congress (I) has started making a determined effort to end the factional fights of its own rank and file in the States. The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, herself is playing an active role behind the scenes in persuading or pressuring the Congress (I) leaders in different States to rise above the rut of their personal feuds and temperamental differences.

The first moves have already been made in Maharashtra, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan, and similar efforts are underway in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh and Assam. In the non-Congress (I) governed States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, the Congress (I) leadership is equally keen on forging some measure of unity within the party units to end dissidence. The purpose of this exercise is not to resolve the running feuds in every State, but bring about some sort of a truce in the factional fights within the party organisation to ensure that those denied ticket do not secretly work for the defeat of the official candidates.

The Congress (I) strategists feel that, unless the party has at least two southern States on its side, it will not be able to offset the anticipated losses to some extent and absorb the shock of similar reverses elsewhere, even if they are on a small scale, to be able to return with a reasonable margin for forming a government. The current crisis in Karnataka has, therefore, assumed considerable significance from the Congress (I)'s point of view which is watching the developments wistfully with great expectation.

Another interesting feature of the present Congress (I) stance is that there is very little talk of socialism these days, since the main accent is on publicising the 20-point programme. The overall economic situation in the country is quite tolerable despite the continuing increases in prices, and the very absence of any shortage of essential commodities is viewed as an encouraging sign that the voters are not going to be adversely influenced by the inflationary factors in exercising their franchise.

Mixed emotions

The Government is, however, worried over the deleterious effects of the regional agitations and communal tensions, and the bitter political animosities generated by sectarian passions. The Punjab problem has evoked mixed emotions in the North, with the Sikhs greatly agitated over the continued firmness of the Government and the Hindus feeling nervous once again that the strong military action taken against the terrorists has not really solved the problem.

And strangely enough the only thing on which both the Congress (I) and Opposition leaders appear to agree, or at least share the same feeling, is that Mrs Gandhi is not likely to repeat the mistakes she made in 1977 and give up power so easily even if she is faced with a near 1967 situation. Those even in the Opposition camp who talk of a near or narrow majority for her, more as a possibility rather than a probability, are not deluding themselves with the thought that she will not form the next government.

CSO: 4600/1096

ELECTION COMMISSIONER PLANS TO UPDATE ASSAM ROLLS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 31 Jul 84 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 30--The prospect of renewing discussions between the Centre and the Assam movement leaders on the aliens issue is overshadowed by the equally grave question of the electoral rolls for the coming parliamentary poll. Following a meeting with seven national parties and the Plains Tribal Council of Assam, the Chief election Commissioner, Mr R.K. Trivedi, had announced his intention to update the 1971 rolls in consultation with the State Government.

Major Opposition parties, barring the Marxists, want the 1971 rolls revised, but the CEC has called another meeting with the Opposition parties in August which suggests that a final decision has not yet been taken. Reports about the "non-availability" of the 1971 rolls in a large number of constituencies in Assam are believed exaggerated. The Assam Government, however, is tight-lipped about correspondence, if any, with the CEC. Opposition leaders feel that Dispur is dragging its feet and fear a repetition of what happened in 1983 when the 1979 rolls were used because of a constitutional deadline.

The All-Assam Students' Union and the Gana Sangram Parishad recently submitted a memorandum to the CEC warning it against imposing an election in the State without revising the rolls and "deleting the names of foreign nationals." Mr Prafulla Mahanta and Mr Biraj Sharma, the convenor of the Parishad and a "hawk," told reporters in New Delhi that they might consider a revised 1971 rolls with the names of aliens deleted and subject to the approval of their respective executives--a procedure which in the past led to dramatic somersaults and kept the situation fluid. Hints about having fresh discussion on the cut-off date if the movement leaders are formally invited are tactical in nature. Having spurned Mrs Gandhi's offer at Gauhati four years ago, accepting a "quid pro quo" now is unlikely. The AASU cannot strike a deal which, implicitly, recognizes the validity of the 1983 elections.

Despite their differences, the AASU and the Parishad have realized that the issue must be fought politically, especially after the Jorhat consensus and an election provides the right opportunity to seek a mandate and solve the problem. The moderates in the community had wondered why the movement

leaders had not reacted to the CEC's proposal to update the 1971 rolls. In making the proposal, Mr Trevedi, they argued, had virtually admitted that holding of the 1983 elections using the 1979 rolls was wrong.

A positive response by the movement would have made it incumbent on the Assam Government to expedite the revision of the rolls. The Hiteswan Saikia's Ministry was not enthusiastic about the CEC's proposal for obvious reasons (the objections). Instead of exploiting the achilles heel, the CEC's proposal was scuttled by powerful interests. Bringing it back to the street is to reinforce the feeling that the movement leaders are not really interested in a settlement based on constructive and pragmatic proposals. While stressing that detection of aliens and taking action is primarily the responsibility of the Centre and, keeping in view New Delhi's "fence-sitting" observers feel that the movement leaders should spell out their concrete proposals following authoritative indications that the 1961-71 chapter is not closed. The moderates say that the present drift is dangerous and will give a free hand to detractors and extremists to destroy the Assamese identity.

CSO: 4600/1099

JUSTICE RULES ON POSITION OF KASHMIR CABINET SUPPORTERS

Madras THE HINDU in English 31 Jul 84 p 9

[Text]

SRINAGAR, July 30.

Holding that MLAs who supported the new National Conference faction Ministry headed by Mr. G. M. Shah in Jammu and Kashmir cannot be considered disqualified, the acting Chief Justice of the High Court Mr. Justice Anand expressed his reservations on whether the Speaker of the Assembly had any power to withdraw an earlier reference on the matter made to the court.

The Judge said that as the judgment was about to be read, the Deputy Registrar of the Court received a notice from Speaker requesting that the reference to the court may be treated as withdrawn.

Even if the Speaker could be permitted to do so, this question could be decided at a "proper time".

Mr. Justice Anand said even if all the allegations made against the 12 MLAs by the Speaker were admitted to be true, they did not attract the provisions of Section 24 (G) of the Representation of the Peoples Act.

The court said change of the party leader by a group of members would only be termed as a split in the party itself and not a defection. The cases relating to the split in the party and the claim of the rival groups that they were the real party could only be dealt with by the Election Commission under the election symbols cases.

In a 40-page judgment the court held that there was no quarrel with the proposition that a sound party system was essential for the stability of parliamentary democracy or a parliamentary form of Government. But it was equally important that the right of dissent was preserved in the party itself and members of the party were not denied the right to vote out a leader and choose another one, except on the pain of suffering the disqualification.

There was no averment in the complaint that the 12 legislators had given up the membership of the party.

The court held that Mr. Rafiq Khan, as a complainant, had filed an affidavit stating that he was satisfied that the 12 legislators had suffered no disqualification.

After the submissions, made on behalf of the Speaker and Mr. Khan under Clause (B) of Sec-

tion 24 (G), the reference did not require to go further, he said. The court reserved judgment on the reference for Friday.

The court said that though it could reject the references on the basis of the affidavit, keeping in view the importance of the issues raised in the reference, it heard both the parties before passing a final order.

Speaker's contention: The Speaker, in his order said: "On the basis of the material placed before me, I am satisfied that the persons complained against have not denied the fact of having withdrawn the support to Dr. Farooq Abdullah and having elected Mr. G. M. Shah, an expelled member of the aforesaid party, as their leader."

He said "These facts, in my opinion, constitute voluntarily giving up membership within the meaning of Section 24 (A) of the Representation of the Peoples Act."

"The said provision does not provide any particular mode of voluntarily giving up the membership of a political party," he said.

"The Jammu and Kashmir High Court, in Mian Bashir's case held that the aforesaid Section 24 (G) is *intra vires* the Constitution and seeks to ensure political morality in public life," the Speaker said.

The order of the Speaker said: "The purport of the representation is that the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, headed by Dr. Farooq Abdullah, is a recognised political party in the House as well as with the Chief Election Commission of India and that 15 members of the House, belonging to the aforesaid political party, have voluntarily given up membership of the said party."

Advice binding: Mr. G. D. Sharma who filed a writ challenging the order of the State Governor dismissing the Farooq Abdullah Government, meanwhile contended elsewhere in the High Court that the reported advice of the outgoing Chief Minister, Dr. Abdullah, to the Governor on July 2, for summoning the Assembly for a trial of strength or, in the alternative, to dissolve the Assembly under Section 53 of the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution, was binding on the Governor in view of the mandatory provisions of Section 5 (2) of the Constitution. —PTI, UNI.

HOME MINISTER SPEAKS IN JAMMU, KASHMIR DEBATE

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 31--The Union Home Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, contended today that the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Farooq Abdullah, had to go mainly because he lost his majority in the Assembly. In the given situation, the Governor, Mr Jagmohan, had no alternative to the course he had adopted, said Mr Rao.

Replying to the two-day debate in the Lok Sabha on the "recent developments" in Jammu and Kashmir, the Home Minister referred to another factor--of anti-national and secessionist forces getting stronger during Dr Abdullah's regime--but did not want to speculate on what would have happened had the disturbing trend continued.

Loss of majority: The two developments, according to him, were not mutually exclusive though the immediate provocation for Dr Abdullah's dismissal was provided by the loss of majority. In passing, Mr Rao said "lot of arms" were floating around and some officials were soft in giving licences in the State. He also spoke of the linkage between the Punjab extremists and anti-national elements in Jammu and Kashmir. "Each one of these strains counted," he said.

The Home Minister did not touch today's development--nor did the members, except in stray references by the Opposition side. This was because of the ruling by the Speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, barring criticism of the conduct of the members of other Houses. But Mr Rao did maintain that the recent action (of change of Government) was valid legally and constitutionally. Along with the fact of a ministry being responsible to the legislature concerned, the Governor, he said, did have certain powers and discretion under the Constitution.

Secondly though there had been decisions at several forums favouring the test of a ruling party's majority in the Assembly, in practice Chief Ministers, when reduced to minority, had quietly bowed out of office, he said.

Also, on the basis of the High Court judgment, said Mr Rao, the MLAs who had disowned Dr Abdullah were not defectors and had to be treated as members. Neither splits nor changes of Chief Ministers were unusual, and many Congress

Chief Ministers had been asked in the past to resign because they were not able to rise to the occasion and their replacement became necessary. He did not want to cite instances, but had no hesitation in adding: "I am an example." (This was a reference to his removal as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in 1973). Such developments would continue as long as Art 356 (providing for President's Rule) was there.

Anti-defection measure: The present Central Government, he said, had been seriously considering the question of an anti-defection measure. This was a difficult job, especially because the conflict between "conscience" and "party loyalty" had not been resolved, he said, recalling the abortive bids both by the Congress and the Janata Governments in the past. "Let us put our heads together to define defection," he said. There was a provision for President's rule in the States (in case of defections), but there was no such arrangement for the Centre in such contingency and therefore they, he said, had to be careful in not allowing such a thing here.

In all 25 members took part in the debate. In the cut and thrust of the discussion, the Opposition blamed the Centre for having engineered defections in the State as part of its anxiety to see Dr Abdullah out of office, and the Treasury Benches recalled the former Chief Minister's past and his alleged links with anti-national elements.

CSO: 4600/1101

TIWARI APPOINTED CHIEF MINISTER OF UTTAR PRADESH

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Lucknow, Aug 3--Mr Narain Dutt Tiwari, an astute politician and eminent parliamentarian, today became the 14th Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and the third since the Congress (I) returned to power replacing the Janata Party in 1980, reports PTI.

Mr Tiwari, who resigned yesterday as the Union Industries Minister, was administered the oath of office and secrecy by the Governor, Mr C.P.N. Singh, at Raj Bhavan.

Earlier, he was unanimously elected leader of the State Congress (I) Legislature Party at a special CLP (I) meeting, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, Union Information Minister, and Mr Darbara Singh, former Punjab Chief Minister, attended the meeting as observers.

Soon after taking the oath, Mr Tiwari told reporters that his first priority as the Chief Minister would be to give a "clean and efficient administration to the State." He would ensure that maximum results were achieved from implementation of various development projects in the last year of the Sixth Plan.

He left for Delhi to consult the central leadership on the constitution of his Council of Ministers. He would announce the new Ministry shortly.

Asked about the likely size and form of his Ministry, Mr Tiwari said: "Wait and see."

The leadership of the CLP (I) fell vacant following the resignation of Mr Sripati Misra on medical grounds on Wednesday.

Earlier on the day the President accepted the resignation of Mr Tiwari from the Union Cabinet. He had submitted his resignation yesterday on the eve of his election as the leader of the Congress (I) Legislature Party in Uttar Pradesh.

A number of Congress (I) workers, legislators and M.P.s were present at the swearing in.

The former Chief Minister, Mr Misra, his Cabinet colleagues, the president of the U.P. Congress (I) Committee, Mr Sukhdeo Praasd, were also present.

The Darbar Hall of Raj Bhavan where the oath was administered to Mr Tiwari, was packed to capacity.

Mr Tiwari told a Press conference today that he would revive his original plan of having Cabinet meetings at the divisional level especially in rural areas, as was being done when he was the State Chief Minister.

According to Mr Bhagat, as many as 15 members of the PCC(I), including Mr Lokpati Tripathi, Mr Balram Singh Yadav and Mrs Swaroop Kumari Bakshi, had "formally" nominated the name of Mr Tiwari, adds UNI.

Mr Tiwari was first inducted as Chief Minister in January 1976 after a brief spell of President's rule that followed the resignation of Mr Bahuguna in November 1975.

CSO: 4600 /1110

RAJIV ADDRESSES CONGRESS-I MP'S 2 AUG

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Aug 84 pp 1, 7

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 2—Mr Rajiv Gandhi today gave indications that general elections would be held some time in November and urged all party members to get ready for the poll. He was addressing a meeting of the Congress (I) Parliamentary Party.

Mr Gandhi was not specific about when the poll would take place. In his first reference to the matter, he reportedly said: "It could be in the next two or three months," but subsequently changed it to "the next three or four months." He said the present session of Parliament would "very likely" be the last of the seventh Lok Sabha.

The Congress (I) general secretary asked Congress (I) M.P.s "to go back to their constituencies and get busy straightaway" after the present session was over. Mr Gandhi said that he had noticed a tendency in the pre-poll meetings his party members were having to go into discussion of the material benefits the Congress (I) Government had bestowed on their respective areas, and to stress on further material advancement that they proposed to bring about. While all this was important, he said, the party M.P.s should be more involved in political discussions to counter the points raised by the Opposition.

Mr Gandhi was obviously making a policy statement before the meeting today-- Mrs Gandhi who customarily addresses the party on such occasions was not present and the notice for the meeting had listed the AICC(I) general secretary as the speaker.

J. & K. Situation

In dealing with the Jammu and Kashmir situation, Mr Gandhi held that Dr Farooq Abdullah's Ministry there had fallen because of internal bickerings in the National Conference and the Congress (I) had nothing to do with it.

He said the seeds of dissension were sown in the National Conference when Dr Abdullah was made Chief Minister after the death of Sheikh Abdullah without duly ascertaining the wishes of the legislature party.

Soon after Dr Abdullah's election, Mr Gandhi observed, the members of the National Conference realized that it was a wrong choice as the Chief Minister had devoted hardly two or three hours a day to office work.

Mr Gandhi criticized the Opposition for extending their support to the "unseemly" action of the former Jammu and Kashmir Speaker, disqualifying 12 National Conference MLAs in violation of the High Court decision.

Mr Gandhi said "gurmat" camps had been held in Jammu and Kashmir, weapons recovered from extremists and an Indian Airlines Airbus was hijacked from Srinagar. All these indicated spurt in extremists' activities in a vital border State.

West Bengal

Referring to West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, Mr Gandhi said these States were asking for a change in Centre-State relationship in order to cover up their own shortcomings. West Bengal was one of the top States in the country in industrial development. The State had done much better during the Congress (I) rule in the field of industry and agriculture, but now production in both these fields had gone down. Industrial establishments were closing down and there was more and more unemployment, agitations and violence.

He said this was because of "inefficiency and lapses" on the part of the West Bengal Government and added that his party would have to fight it politically. With regard to Andhra Pradesh, he said the State Government there had no sense of priority and "they do not seem to be interested in development."

On Punjab, Mr Gandhi said unity of the country was above everything else and all demands whether religious or otherwise should be made within the framework of the Constitution.

Basically, the Akalis had made two demands, namely acceptance of the Anandpur Sahib resolution in toto and a change in the terms of reference of the Sarkaria Commission. The Government could not have accepted these demands. Even if any other Government were to concede these demands, his party would object to it.

Mr Gandhi said that the Government had suggested to the Akalis that terrorists and extremists be removed from places of worship. But this was not acceptable to the Dal leaders and their reply was that these were "extraneous matters."

On the Opposition demand that the Government name the foreign powers which were behind the trouble in Punjab, Mr Gandhi said from circumstantial evidence anyone could guess which these powers were.

CSO: 4600/1108

OPPOSITION PARTIES ISSUE RESOLUTION ON KASHMIR

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 3--The National Democratic Alliance of the Lok Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party has asked for the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution to bring Jammu and Kashmir on a par with other States of the Indian Union. The NDA has also said the Jammu and Kashmir Resettlement act should be repealed.

This was stated in a resolution adopted by the meeting of the Coordination committee of the NDA presided over by the Lok Dal leader, Mr Charan Singh, and attended by the BJP leader, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The resolution said: "Continuing political turmoil in this border State will make it extremely vulnerable to the machinations of anti-national and secessionist elements. The ruling party's manoeuvres thus have been causing damage not only to the country's democratic fabric but also to the cause of national unity and security."

It was the NDA's confirmed belief that the moves of the Congress (I) in Jammu and Kashmir were actuated by "sordid political considerations" and not by any concern for national interests. If the deposed Chief Minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah had agreed to play the role of the Congress (I) ally, New Delhi's attitude would have been entirely different, the resolution said.

The NDA said that a special status, and a separate Constitution for the State, kept it away from the political mainstream of the country and made the State a fertile ground for anti-national and subversive elements. Secondly, it was stated Article 370 which conferred a special status on the State was a historical aberration forced on India by Pakistan's aggression.

The NDA in another resolution demanded an inquiry into the recent spurt in the "unprecedented imports" of agricultural commodities. It was said that the Government's claims of "bumper production" were usually followed by heavy imports on the pretext of augmenting domestic supplies to keep the prices under check.

PTI adds from Srinagar: The authorities today relaxed the indefinite curfew imposed in parts of the city for the first time in 48 hours from 1 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. to enable people to go for Friday prayers and buy essential supplies.

The authorities here claimed to have made a "decisive breakthrough," in stamping out the subversive activities of the extremists by apprehending eight prominent activists of the outlawed AISSF in the border township of Poonch today. Those apprehended included Harcharan Singh alias "Baby," president of the State unit of the outlawed organization.

CSO: 4600/1110

CONGRESS-J PRESIDENT TALKS TO PRESS IN AGRA

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 16 Jul 84 p 4

[Text]

Agra, July 15 (PTI): Mr Jagjivan Ram, Congress(J) president, said here today that the dismissal of the Farooq Abdullah ministry in Jammu and Kashmir was "unconstitutional and illegal."

Addressing a press conference, he said the support enjoyed by the ministry had not been tested on the floor of the House as Dr Farooq Abdullah had suggested, and instead the decision had been taken at the instance of the governor.

Mr Ram said the residence of the governor was not the proper place for testing the support enjoyed by a "popular government."

On the Punjab situation, Mr Ram said although the situation had become complex, a solution could still be found on the basis of the demands of the Akalis, some of which had been accepted by the government but not implemented.

Demands pertaining to the Sikh religion and the sharing of river waters, and the Akali proposal that the water dispute be handed over to a Supreme Court judge had been accepted by the Union government, but nothing had been done towards their implementation, Mr Ram said.

He said Chandigarh could be

handed over to Punjab provided Haryana got Abohar and Fazilka or some other areas as compensation.

Regarding the foreign hand in Punjab terrorism, Mr Ram said the government had not specified which country it was, and if it really had been involved relations with it should be broken off.

In reply to a question, Mr Ram said the government had obviously failed to discharge its responsibilities in Punjab, which had led to the deteriorating situation.

Mr Ram approved of the Army action taken, but said anyone else in power would have taken the decision to send the Army earlier. He also said the action taken against Army deserters was in order.

Mr Devi Lal, president of the Haryana unit of the Janata Party and former Haryana chief minister, who was also present at the press conference said the Congress(I) government was responsible for the Punjab situation getting out of hand.

Mr Devi Lal said his party and that of Mr Ram would fight the next elections together in Haryana.

Later, Mr Jagjivan Ram and Mr Devi Lal left for Etah to address a public meeting there.

CSO: 4600/1066

HOME MINISTER DEFENDS OUSTING OF FAROOQ ABDULLAH

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Jul 84 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 26.

There was no constitutional impropriety in the way the change of Government was brought about in Jammu and Kashmir, said the Union Home Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, warding off a concerted Opposition attack in the Rajya Sabha on the Centre and the Congress (I) for their role in the recent developments there. He defended the action of the Governor, Mr. Jagmohan, saying that it was in accordance with the provisions of the State Constitution.

The fact that the action was taken under another Constitution imposed a limit on discussions in Parliament, he said, expressing surprise that nobody, not even the members of the National Conference, appeared conscious of this point. In this case, according to Mr. Rao, the Governor needed to be conceded greater discretion because of the several 'grey areas' (as regards the constitutional position). They, in Parliament, could not go behind the Governor's action, particularly because it was not covered by the provisions of the Constitution.

"If one Chief Minister loses majority in his State, we do not have to lose tempers here," he said at another stage amidst laughter. Obviously, some thought he had oversimplified the issues involved.

As he saw it, the Abdullah Government had lost its majority. The question whether the 12 MLAs who extended support to the new Chief Minister, Mr. G. M. Shah, were defectors or not was for the High Court to decide.

Recall Governor

The 6½ hour discussion, was notable for the near-unanimous Opposition demand that the Assembly be dissolved and fresh elections ordered. Most of the critics also urged the recall of the Governor. Among the other highlights were the altercations between the National Conference and Congress (I) members from Jammu and Kashmir, mutual heckling from the two sides of the House, and a dig by Miss Jayalalitha (AIADMK) at the DMK, the Telugu Desam and the Janata.

Though faced with a difficult case to defend, Mr. Rao was fully in control of the situation. He was happy at the consensus on the issue of unity, integrity and security of the country and assured members that the new State Government would be asked to take all those measures (against anti-national and secessionist elements) which Dr. Farooq Abdullah, former Chief Minister, was told to take. "It is not a question of this Chief Minister or that but of the security of the country," he said.

When Mr. L. K. Advani (BJP) demanded a Punjab-type white paper on Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Rao quipped that here the situation had not been allowed to reach the white paper stage.

Mr. Narasimha Rao was responding to a calling attention motion, of which notice had been given by an unusually large number of members — 27 — belonging both to the ruling party and the Opposition. In keeping with the practice in the Upper House, members prefaced their queries after the Minister's prepared statement in response to the motion, with a longish formulation of their viewpoint. The way the subject was worded in the notice provided for ample flexibility.

During the marathon debate, ruling party members drew attention to the failure of the Abdullah Government in containing the activities of secessionist and anti-national elements. They cited past episodes to support their charges of the former Chief Minister encouraging these forces. This was their main theme though they did refer to the change of Government, in the wake of the "split in the National Conference."

Dismissal denounced

The Opposition was unanimous in denouncing the dismissal of Mr. Abdullah and installation of the new "government of defectors", which, they said, was the Congress (I)'s creation. According to them, Dr. Abdullah was removed because he refused to play along with the Centre.

The change of government figured briefly in Mr. Rao's prepared statement, most of which was devoted to anti-national activities in the State and the role of the previous government. Since July 1983, said the Home Minister, the Centre had been asking the State Government to take effective action against anti-national, secessionist and extremist elements. It sent nine communications to Dr. Abdullah between then and June this year. However, action by the State Government was inadequate, often belated and, therefore, had little impact. The activities "of these elements continued unabated, including the hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane", he said.

'Centre wanted peace'

In the sensitive border State of Jammu and Kashmir the Centre wanted to ensure that "peace and order prevails and the nefarious designs and activities of those who are seeking to undermine the integrity and unity of India are effectively checked", he said. Mr. Rao appealed to members to view the recent develop-

ment in the right perspective and strengthen the hands of the Government.

Apart from listing the activities of anti-national and secessionist elements in the second half of last year — demonstrations, hartals, slogan mongering, bomb explosions and threats to the life and property of public figures, media men and others, the statement referred to the continuance of the activities this year, of the banned All-India Sikh Students Federation.

It added: "Following the action by security forces in Punjab, AISSF activists and other Sikh extremists made common cause with anti-national, secessionist and communal elements in the State. They indulged not only in making objectionable speeches and shouting anti-national slogans, but also in arson, loot and other violent activities on a large scale. Buildings housing Central Government establishments such as post offices, telephone exchanges, State Bank of India were targets of attack. Religious places were also attacked and desecrated".

CSO: 4600/1088

KARNATAKA MINISTERS RESIGN IN PROTEST

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Bangalore, July 27--The minority Hegde Government today received its severest blow when two of its senior Ministers, Aziz Sait and Chandraprabha Urs tendered their resignations from the Janata Ministry. They also resigned their membership of Janata Legislature Party and asked the Speaker to allot them seats to sit as Independents. At an urgently convened press conference here today, they also said that they were not members of the Janata Party, according to the Janata Party leaders themselves.

Both Aziz Sait and Mrs Urs explained that they decided to resign because they were totally disillusioned with the performance of the Hegde Government. They had expected this Government to give a new dimension to the problems faced by weaker sections and minorities. "We thought they will render justice, but it has damaged and undone what was done by the late Devraj Urs. People who were benefited by land reforms were harassed. Programmes for weaker sections, minorities, workers and farmers were not implemented and there was no proper representation in the party for all sections."

While resignations of all 23 Ministers were pending with Chief Minister Hegde for the last 11 days and he was planning to reconstitute his Cabinet, Aziz Sait and Mrs Urs today directly went to Governor and submitted their resignations.

Explaining this, Mr Sait said "earlier resignations were a gimmick, this is real." Asked what they wrote to Governor, he said: "We wrote that we have lost confidence in the Chief Minister and he has lost confidence in us. We have, therefore, no place in the Cabinet."

Karnataka Governor A.N. Banerji has accepted the resignations at the instance of the Chief Minister who will hold both the portfolios temporarily.

Agencies add: Chief Minister Hegde said he did not expect any adverse development following the resignations of Aziz Sait and Chandraprabha Urs.

Talking to newsmen, Mr Hegde said "as long as I enjoy the majority in the Assembly, there is absolutely no danger to my Ministry."

Mr Hegde said he had summoned all the Ministers who were on tour to reach Bangalore immediately for consultations tomorrow. Asked when he would reconstitute his Ministry, Mr Hegde said: "As early as possible."

The Chief Minister brought to the notice of both the Ministers in his reply to their resignation letters, that there were complaints against them that they were hobnobbing with the Congress-I.

Mr Hegde said that the resignations did not come as a surprise to him. Mrs Chandraprabha Urs, particularly, was trying to contact some MLAs for the last few days and the MLAs whom she contacted reported the details of the meeting later to him. They gave a fair indication of what is going to happen, Mr Hegde said.

Mr Hegde repudiated the charge of the Ministers that there was a "ginger group" in the Cabinet.

In his letter to Mr Sait, the Chief Minister said it was true that several complaints had been received that he was encouraging Congress-I members. He had also brought this to Mr Sait's notice earlier. Mr Hegde said when Mr Sait met him this morning he did not express his desire to be relieved of the responsibility. On the contrary he suggested to him that he be given a lighter portfolio in view of his poor health.

Mr Hegde denied that he threatened to quit if the Ministers did not voluntarily hand over their resignations to the Cabinet meeting as alleged by Mr Sait.

Though Mr Aziz Sait was not fully satisfied with the work done for minorities, he had acknowledged that the Janata Government had done far better than the previous governments.

Asked whether he would demonstrate the strength of his Ministry, Mr Hegde asked why should he do it. He had demonstrated his strength several times.

CSO: 4600/1091

ANALYST SPECULATES ON CHANGES IN UTTAR PRADESH

Madras THE HINDU in English 31 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 30.

The consequential changes in the Council of Ministers, following the selection of the Defence Minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, as the Congress (I) candidate for the office of Vice-President, are expected to be made on August 4 after he files the nomination papers and submitted his resignation from the cabinet.

It appears that the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is contemplating a slightly bigger reshuffle than necessitated by Mr. Venkataraman's nomination for the Vice-Presidential election, since the Minister for Industry, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, has been suddenly recalled from Vienna where he had gone to attend the UNIDO conference.

The Commerce Minister, Mr. V. P. Singh, has been sent to Vienna to head the Indian delegation, following Mr. Tiwari's recall to Delhi. Mr. Tiwari is expected to return tomorrow morning before the Central Parliamentary Board of Congress (I) meets later in the day to finalise Mr. Venkataraman's nomination and also review the political situation in some of the northern States.

When it became known that Mr. Tiwari had been suddenly summoned back to Delhi, there was intense speculation in Congress (I) circles that Mrs. Gandhi was probably contemplating some changes in Uttar Pradesh to strengthen the party before the parliamentary elections. The name of Mr. Tiwari was being mentioned along with that of Mr. K. C. Pant as a possible choice for Chief Ministership, although nobody outside her inner circle seemed to know what exactly she was thinking of doing to improve her party's prospects in the State.

But more immediately, Mrs. Gandhi will have to find a substitute to take Mr. Tiwari's place as Minister for Industry, if she is really thinking of sending him and not Mr. K. C. Pant as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, in place of Mr. Sripat

Mishra who has evidently not come up to her expectations. It would involve more changes than she initially contemplated, when she thought of selecting Mr. Venkataraman for Vice-Presidentship and shifting Mr. S. B. Chavan from Planning to Defence.

Meanwhile, the veteran diplomat, Mr. G. Parthasarathy, is being appointed Chairman of the Policy Planning Board in the External Affairs Ministry with the rank of a Cabinet Minister, although the Prime Minister will continue to retain this portfolio as an additional charge. He will be functioning for all practical purposes as a de facto Foreign Minister, referring only high policy matters to her for decision.

The Prime Minister has chosen Mr. Parthasarathy for this key assignment because of his vast experience in foreign affairs, since he has been closely associated with almost every aspect of the country's diplomacy in the last three decades. He was in charge of policy planning for several years during the Seventies with the rank of a Minister of State.

The Prime Minister is considering shifting one of the more experienced Minister of State from some other Ministry to the External Affairs to assist her in parliamentary work, besides looking after some departments. One of the Ministers of State being considered for it is Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, who is at present in independent charge of Irrigation, but Mrs. Gandhi might not want to disturb him because of the good work he has been doing in handling this complex subject.

The present Minister of State for Railways, Mr. Jaffer Sharief, who has not been getting along well with the Minister, Mr. Abdul Ghani Khan Chaudhury, has been pressing for a change. He is likely to be accommodated in some other Ministry in the course of the impending reshuffle.

EXCERPTS FROM RAJIV'S 27 JUL SPEECH ON PUNJAB

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Aug 84 p 5

[Text] During the Lok Sabha debate on 27 July on the Punjab developments, Congress-I general secretary Rajiv Gandhi made a speech, some significant parts of which have gone unreported. The following excerpts from the speech, which raise questions, can contribute to the continuing public discussion of the events.

The Sikh involvement in India since our Independence has been beyond their numbers. Their contribution to the country's development has been substantial. They have raised Punjab from a very pathetic State in 1947, just after the riots, to a prosperous and leading State. This has happened because they are hard-working and have initiative. But this could not have happened without the infrastructural help provided by the Congress during these years.

There has been no dearth of Sikhs in our public life, in administration, in foreign service, in judiciary or in any sphere of our national activity. They have been able to rise because of the Congress policies, whereby every group, whether it is a religious or caste or linguistic or regional group, is given full opportunity to rise to the highest level. There has been no stepmotherly treatment towards the Sikhs.

...the Army must come in for praise. The restraint...and valour they have shown must be put on record. The decision whether the Army should or should not be sent in must have been one of the hardest decisions any Government had to take since Independence. It is only a strong Government that was able to take such a decision. If there had been a weak Government, these things (acts of large-scale violence and terrorism) would still be going on.

We have seen what happens under conditions of confusion and chaos as we saw between the years 1977 and 1980. One of the major reasons that the negotiations with the Akalis had not come to a positive conclusion is the confused attitude of the Opposition towards the Akali demands...

The Government's stand on the demands has been very clear right from the beginning. There has been no question of accepting any demand that can affect the integrity of our country. There can be no question of modifying our basic standards just because one small political party which represents, maybe 20 percent of the people in one State, puts up a demand, no matter what support they get from the Opposition.

What you have to analyse is the stand that the Akali Dal was taking. If we look at their final demand on Article 25, one thing is very apparent right from the beginning. They always put their demands forward first and only later considered what their demands actually were.

One example is Article 25. The demand was put forward, I think, on 26 January this year. The then Minister of Home Affairs, Mr P.C. Sethi, agreed to all their demands and said, "We are willing to amend the Article. But please let us know what you want to amend."

It was almost one month after they had put forward their demand for amendment of Article 25 that they set up a committee to decide what was to be done with Article 25! They put up the demand without knowing what they wanted.

They put up the demand for a transmitter in the Golden Temple. When they were told, "This is not possible, but we will allow you transmission," they did not know how long they wanted the transmission for.

On the Gurdwara Act, the Government kept on asking them "Please give us a list of your historical Gurdwaras. Please give us a draft of what you consider the Gurudwara Act." But that has not been forthcoming.

When demands are put forward, these must be specific, concrete. Then they can be discussed positively. But all their demands have been so nebulous and vacillating that it has been very difficult to pin them down to a specific issue.

Even on a very crucial issue like water, it is not a question of whether Haryana is getting water or Rajasthan is getting water. The question they should have put forward was that Punjab is so many MAF short of water. They could have said "4.2 is not enough; we want 5.2; we want 6.5; we want so much." But, they did not know that. In fact, they had forgotten the fact that, in many areas of Punjab, there is water logging taking place because of excess water.

Their major demand which many of our members from the Opposition have said was dropped, was the Anandpur Saheb resolution. I do not know what discussions took place between the Opposition and the Akali Dal. But I do not think that the demand was ever dropped.

Has not Sant Longowalji asked very specifically in his letters about the Anandpur Saheb resolution? Has he not said that the resolution demand is there and has been there right from the beginning to the end?

Has he not demanded that the terms of reference of the Sarkaria Commission be modified so that the resolution in full be put in front of the commission?

Is that what the Opposition wants?...

The actual demands have been vacillating right from the first day. Their main demand right from the beginning has been the Anandpur Sahib resolution. At no stage has this demand been dropped and there is no way that the Congress Party and the Government could accept this, no matter what the Opposition has been trying to say here on the floor of the House.

The SGPC, which is totally run by the Akali Dal, shares the major responsibility of what has taken place in the Golden Temple. How is it that arms and ammunition were stored in the temple? How is it that bodies of the dead were found outside the temple every few days? What was happening inside the Golden Temple?...

Who was talking to them? Who went to the Golden Temple? Who came back and told us that "there is nothing there, there are no arms, there is no ammunition there?"...

I believe three members of the Janata Party did visit that shrine... They came back and said there is nothing happening in the temple. Is this not the same party which sent two people to Pakistan? Did they also not come back and tell us that everything is fine? They have got these F-16s so they can be put in the children's playground and children can slide down their wings?...

There have been some demonstrations in London. Who was involved in these demonstrations? A certain Sikh leader was there, yes. But who was working with him? I would like the Home Minister to confirm whether Amin-ullah Khan of the J and K Liberation Front was not there right with him in front of the procession.

...here, on the back of the White Paper, there is a photograph...at the bottom, there is one banner--the front banner is a Sikh banner extolling a particular gentleman and at the bottom, on the left side, the photograph is not very clear, but you can read it. It says "Pakistan Youth Convention."

Now, who is involved in these demonstrations? When the demonstrations took place recently in Jammu and Kashmir, who was there with the handful of the Sikhs in the demonstration? Was it not the Jamiat-e-Islami or the Jamiat-e-Tuleba? Were they not there with the Sikhs? Who is instigating this? Now, we had a hijacking. What happened during hijacking? There were rumours that certain two Ministers from the previous Government were present at the airport, very senior Ministers. They were at the airport from 2 o'clock to 4.30. Neither did they receive anybody nor did they see anybody off. They were not going anywhere and they did not arrive from anywhere. But they were there. One wonders why they spent two and a half hours at the airport...

Then, when this aircraft came over Lahore, Parminder Singh, who was the main hijacker asked the Lahore control tower for permission to land. Lahore said: "No, you cannot land, go away." He asked again; again he was told to go away. Then, he said, "I am Parminder Singh Harfanmoula, give me permission to land." Lahore still said, "No." He then repeated four times Harfanmoula. Then ultimately he said: "Tell them...." Who is "them?" He said: "Tell them, it is Harfanmoula." And Lahore said: "Stand by." Then, he came back a few minutes later and gave them the permission to land. I wonder, where these 'Sikh' people had learnt their Urdu, because they were speaking Urdu, whether it was this side of the border or the other side...

I heard that, while the Pakistani intelligence was interrogating the hijackers, one of the questions that was put to them was, "Why did you not train the other six people better?" There were nine people: three were a little professionals, the others were very, very dheela (unsmart).

...This was overheard by one of our Indian Airlines people. So, I have been told....

Much has been made during these last few days of Congress involvement with certain extremists and Akalis leaders. It has been clarified on the floor of this House by one of our members that the accusation was totally false. It is false. I myself clarified when my statement was dragged in.

My statements are there: I have collected them for a little over a year now. Almost every statement says that strong action is required in the Temple to get these extremists out. At one point, I have gone beyond that and have said: I will quote here: "Also when he talked about the Punjab situation saying that his views differed from those of the Central Government, he called for much tougher action in the State." My position on this has been very clear right from the day one.

...there are a few more statements from the Opposition which I would like to point out, just to show the way their minds are functioning.

In a letter to Mr Chandra Shekhar, three party leaders, a former CM (Chief Minister), Mr Banarasi Das, Mr Ravindra Verma and Mr Raj Narain stated that the statement, "Army action in Punjab is unfortunate," did not take into consideration the gravity of the situation.

This is one political party, Janata President Chandra Shekhar has described the calling of the Army into Punjab unfortunate and demanded its immediate withdrawal. On the one hand they say that they do not have a clue as to what is going on, on the other they are saying "withdraw it, it is unfortunate, etc...."

Because of your confusion, you have confused even the poor Akalis... You have not only confused, but led them down the garden path...

What we must realize today is: What were the weaknesses that led to this situation? One of the weaknesses has been the administration: and I am glad that the Government has taken a stand on having 50 percent (of officers of the all-India services in a State) from outside...this is bound to help.

There will be regional demands, there can be every group's demand. They must be raised; they must be voiced. And in a democracy then can sometimes go beyond what we actually started by asking. But that is where your leadership comes. That is where you must control your people.

You must see that your demands do not transgress on the liberty of others, on the freedom of others. That is where you have not been able to control the Akali Dal. That is where it has gone out of your hands. This is where it has gone out of the Akali Dal's hand...

This is the first time in 37 years that organised violence has escalated and become terrorism and it is time we put our heads together and try to finish this off. It is no use of the Opposition trying to get political mileage out of it just because we are a few months away from elections. We have to sit together, think together and come to some positive conclusions as to how to finish these things off and how to hold the country together.

CSO: 4600/1103

PATRIOT INTERVIEWS CPI-M GENERAL SECRETARY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Aug 84 p 4

[Interview with E.M.S. Namboodiripad, CPI-M General Secretary, by Arindam Sen Gupta in New Delhi]

[Text] Question: What has been the progress towards the realisation of the objective of bringing about a unity of the Left forces? Do you see an early possibility of Left unity in the country? What are the difficulties in achieving this goal?

Answer: The unity of Left parties among themselves and with other democratic forces is a continuing process. It has so far assumed the following forms:

- (a) Trade union unity, as can be seen in the emergence of the National Campaign Committee in which all the non-INTUC-I unions are participants. Support was extended by it to struggles, for instance, of the jute, port and dock, etc. workers at the all-India level and others at the State level;
- (b) the conferences of all-India and important regional parties beginning with Vijayawada and ending with Calcutta;
- (c) united stand adopted by Opposition parties against the ouster of Dr Abdullah's Government in Jammu and Kashmir;
- (d) the eight-party rallies, conventions, etc. against nuclear war and for world peace;
- (e) floor coordination in Parliament by all Opposition parties; and
- (f) the Left parties' pledge to extend support to the Janata Party and its allies in the United Front.

These constitute a solid achievement but (this) has to be further strengthened and consolidated.

Q: What will your strategy be in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections? What are the parties with whom the CPI-M will not enter into electoral adjustments at all and why? With whom does the party see possibilities of reaching an understanding and why?

A: Our broad election strategy is based on three objectives: (i) defeat the Congress-I; (ii) isolate the divisive forces (among which we have identified the RSS-dominated BJP and the recently formed Muslim National Front); and (iii) increase the representation in Parliament on the Left, democratic and secular forces in general and the Left parties in particular.

Q: What is the assessment of the CPI-M about the ruling party? Please comment on the role it is playing today, both in domestic and international affairs.

A: The ruling Congress-I is the strongest party of the Indian ruling classes--the bourgeoisie and landlords. The interests of these classes require of that party to put up a certain amount of resistance to imperialism which is in a way reflected in the foreign policy of the Government. This limited resistance to imperialism however is accompanied by backsliding on the anti-imperialist foreign policy in several respects. It is in domestic policy--economic, political and socio-cultural--that the anti-democratic and anti-people character of the ruling classes is fully revealed.

Due to these anti-people policies, the ruling party is unable to rally the people even on questions of foreign policy on many of which it takes a correct stand. That is why we as a party of militant Opposition fight the Government but extend support on those questions where it adopts correct policies--mainly on foreign policy.

Q: The Congress-I claims, in light of recent byelection results, that its position is improving in West Bengal. Do you think it will pose a bigger challenge to the Left Front than in the last elections? If so, how serious is the challenge likely to be?

A: The claim is made on a superficial reading of facts i.e. with reference to the seats won. The real criterion is the percentage of votes polled. Examined on this basis, it can be seen that neither the Congress-I nor the CPI-M has recently been able to make any breakthrough into the mass base of its main adversary. Both are in fact maintaining their base.

I have, however, no doubt that following the fiasco of the policies being pursued by the Congress-I Government at the Centre, with growing unemployment, increase in prices, etc. the possibility of rapid erosion in the mass base of the Congress-I is great. It is with this confidence that we are working in West Bengal and throughout India.

Q: What in your assessment are the changes in the alignment of political parties and forces in Kerala and in what measure is it likely to affect the outcome of elections?

A: Every party and group within the ruling coalition in Kerala is rocked by internal conflicts. There are also contradictions among the front partners. This however is not likely to lead to the breakup of the front, since they are all interested in the continuance of their Government.

The realignment that is likely to take place therefore is the growing unity of the mass following and the active cadres of the constituents of the ruling coalition on the one hand and the masses which follow the Left-democratic opposition on the other. There is therefore every possibility of the present LDF being widened by the coming of individuals and groups from the ruling to the Opposition front.

Q: In the recently concluded CC meeting, the CPI-M has decided to have no truck with the BJP. Does this signify a shift in your line?

A: No. We have never pursued the line of the United Front with the BJP or its earlier form, the Jan Sangh. Even in 1977 when we were cooperating with the Janata, we exposed and fought the Jan Sangh; we therefore joined those in the Janata Party which demanded that Janata members should sever their connections with the RSS.

Q: There are indications that Mr Charan Singh, who has been an ally of the BJP, may be wooed into the United Front fold. In that eventuality, will the CPI-M's attitude to the UF change?

A: This being a purely speculative question, I excuse myself from answering it.

Q: Has the Bihar controversy involving the CPI-M and the CPI over the Rajya Sabha elections impeded the process of unity of Left forces?

A: The controversy on the Rajya Sabha election in Bihar is only one example. There are several other issues on which the two parties do not see eye to eye with each other. This however does not prevent the developing unity of action.

Q: There is some anxiety in the Left circles that differences between the Left Front partners in West Bengal are becoming more frequent these days. What, in your view, are the reasons behind this phenomenon?

A: Differences on ideological and practical questions are natural in any united front. There are however more points of agreement--and that on the more vital questions of policy; the differences therefore can and will be sorted out.

A: Electoral politics aside, what is the CPI-M doing--at the grass roots level--to bring about a consolidation of Left and democratic forces?

A: Please refer to the answer to question 1.

Q: Given the overall situation in South Asia, with reference to the destabilisation moves against India, what in your opinion are the principal tasks for the Left parties?

A: The central task is to mobilise the people for giving a rebuff to the forces of destabilisation within the country and abroad. This however is intimately connected with the united struggles against the authoritarian and anti-people policies of the Government.

Q: Could you identify the forces outside the Left who would be its allies in countering these designs?

A: The active cadres and mass following of all parties (including the Congress-I and the BJP) are objectively interested in the reversal of the policies pursued by their leaders. There are however subjective factors which add up to the ideology and policies of particular parties which prevent them from coming closer to the Left.

Hence the importance of (a) an ideological struggle to draw the masses of all parties away from the authoritarian, anti-people, obscurantist ideologies, and (b) united actions on specific issues in which are to be drawn the mass followings of all parties.

Q: Communalism and regionalism seem to be on the rise in different parts of the country. How does the CPI-M propose to combat these tendencies?

A: The above answer is applicable to this as well. You cannot "exorcise" communalism and regionalism by simply swearing at it. Patient work which combines ideological struggle and united action on specific issues is the only way.

Q: What in your assessment is the present role of China in global politics? Do you think there is a China-Pak-US axis? Is it correct to say that China has forged a de facto strategic alliance with the US?

A: Our party, as you know, differs with the CP of China on important international questions. I however feel that the conclusions regarding a "strategic alliance" made in the question would be going too far.

Q: What is your assessment of the role of the Soviet Union in global politics? Will it be correct to say that the CPI-M's assessment in this regard is more positive now than it was a few years ago? Has this given rise to any debate within the party, particularly in West Bengal?

A: I would like to remind you that, when a crisis broke out in Czechoslovakia in 1968 (when party-to-party relations between our party and the CPSU were very bad), we had no hesitation in supporting the Warsaw Pact countries action. This, you will agree, was our positive attitude even in the worst of times. The entire party rallied behind (the action).

CSO: 4600/1109

VETERAN DIPLOMAT CHIEF OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PLANNING

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Aug 84 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Aug. 4.

The Government today announced the appointment of the veteran diplomat, Mr. G. Parthasarathy, as Chairman of the Policy Planning Committee in the Ministry of External Affairs, with the rank of a Cabinet Minister to assist and advise the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, in the conduct of the country's foreign relations.

An official spokesman said that, in addition to heading this committee in formulating the postulates of India's foreign policy and assessing the overall international environment for pursuing the country's long-term objectives, Mr. Parthasarathy will also be associated with the work of the Ministry in dealing with current developments, besides looking after any other duties assigned by the Prime Minister to him.

Close connection: As an honorary adviser to the Government on foreign affairs, Mr. Parthasarathy has been closely associated with the conduct of the country's foreign policy in recent years, because of his vast experience. He functioned as the Chairman of Policy Planning during 1975-77 with the rank of a Minister of State when Mr. Y. B. Chavan was Minister for External Affairs, but now he has been reappointed to the same post with the enhanced status of a Cabinet Minister with the Prime Minister herself holding additional charge of the portfolio and

only two Ministers of State assisting her.

The late D. P. Dhar was appointed Chairman of Policy Planning in 1971 with Cabinet rank merely to provide an official cover for handling the Bangladesh crisis independently without the direct supervision of Mr. Swaran Singh who was External Affairs Minister at that time. He gave up this job a year later to become a full-fledged member of the Cabinet.

So Mr. Parthasarathy will be the first Cabinet rank Chairman of Policy Planning who will also be looking after the work of the External Affairs Ministry, functioning as a de facto Foreign Minister and referring only high policy matters to the Prime Minister for her decision.

Low profile: As one who shuns personal publicity and prefers to adopt a low profile, Mr. Parthasarathy will try to involve the two Ministers of State more actively in the day to day work of the Ministry as political appointees, rendering such advice and assistance as they might require in discharging their functions.

He will also try to promote a better team spirit at the level of senior officials in a sensitive Ministry like the External Affairs which require closer direction than the other administrative ministries of the Government.

CSO: 4600/1112

REPORTER NOTES DIFFICULTIES IN ANTISMUGGLING DRIVE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Jul 84 p 12

[Text] The rise in the number of Border Security Force battalions from eight to 14 has curbed trans-border smuggling and has resulted in more clashes between BSF personnel and criminals.

But an effective check on infiltration from Bangladesh, according to a BSF source, is still not possible as the battalions are stationed at six to 10-km intervals along the 2200-km West Bengal-Bangladesh border.

One of the main difficulties faced during the anti-smuggling drive is stated to be the wide network of smugglers on both sides of the border where smuggling has become a way of life. Some local people are in league with the criminals and BSF action sometimes provokes resistance from them.

Recently in Islampur, according to the source, some smugglers went far into Bihar, bought a herd of 40 cattle from Manikpur hat and were driving them from West to East Dinajpur in Bangladesh when they were intercepted about three km inside West Bengal.

At Hakimpur in Swarupnagar, 24-Parganas, a known smuggler attacked a BSF constable with a spear and the constable, firing in self-defence, killed him.

Public resistance was witnessed a few days ago in Cooch Bihar when a BSF patrol party, headed by a sub-inspector, seized 64 quintals of railway track worth about Rs 44,000 but the smugglers fled. The next day, when the sub-inspector was visiting Jamalda market, he was severely beaten up by the smugglers. He was admitted to the local health centre.

Sometimes, the smugglers, because of the very nature of the West Bengal-Bangladesh border, can easily outwit BSF personnel.

Two country boats, for instance, are anchored on either side of a 100-yard wide river. The boat on the West Bengal side is laden with paddy. A smuggler swims to the opposite side after fastening a piece of rope on to the boat. Then, he slowly pulls the rope and brings the boat to the Bangladesh side of the river.

When the boat crosses to mid stream the dividing line between the two countries, the smuggler chuckles and the BSF men witness the scene helplessly.

CSO: 4600/1089

PAPER REPORTS PROBLEMS OF KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

Talks with Cabinet, Press

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Bangalore, July 28--The Karnataka chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, reiterated here today that the resignations of Mr Azia Sait and Mrs Chandraprabha Urs, his cabinet colleagues till yesterday, posed no threat to his ministry.

There was no threat locally or from outside, Mr Hegde said, in any case, the ministry had faced threats in the past and would face it now.

He did not expect any Central intervention in Karnataka. What kind of an intervention? he asked in reply to a question. What the Centre should do was to help the state tackle the drought and flood situation.

At the same time, the chief minister accused the Congress of continuing its attempt to topple the Janata government. The demand made by Karnataka MPs for the dismissal of his ministry on the ground that it had failed to deal with the drought problem was an indication.

Secondly, he blamed the Congress for the violence in Hungund in Bijapur district over the location of a bus depot, resulting in police firing and death of four people. (A judicial commission will inquire into the Hungund incident).

Emergency Meeting

An emergency meeting of the council of ministers, convened by the chief minister today, is believed to have formulated an action plan to counter possible efforts to destabilise the Janata government.

The meeting reportedly considered various options before the government to ensure a successful "holding operation" in the face of renewed efforts to induce defections from its ranks.

According to informed sources, there was confidence that Janata MLAs would not easily fall prey to enticements. The chief minister, however, is believed to have asked his colleagues to keep in touch with party MLA's from their districts.

The informal meeting of the council of ministers was also attended by some important leaders, including chief whips of the party in the assembly and the council as well as the president of the state unit of the Janata Party, Mr D. Manjunath. It reviewed developments following the resignations of Mr Sait and Mrs Urs from the ministry as well as the party.

According to a view expressed at the meeting, the Janata Party should not hesitate to admit Congress MLAs willing to cross over.

Meanwhile, Mr Sait and Mrs Urs, who alleged harassment and humiliation at the hands of ministers, kept in touch with several legislators. Mr Sait is reported to have told some of his close associates that a couple of ministers and legislators would quit the Janata in the next few days.

The Janata camp, however, discounted such possibilities and, in fact, expected developments in its favour.

Briefing newsmen on the meeting, Mr Hegde said that there was "some development yesterday, so we had to apply our mind to the possible fallout."

Replying to a question, he said he had started consultations with his party colleagues on the expansion of the cabinet. "They have given their opinion in confidence."

CPM Support

PTI adds: Mr Suryanarayana Rao, leader of the CPM group in the Karnataka assembly, an ally of the Janata government, today alleged in a statement here that the main aim of the two ministers, Mr Sait and Mrs Urs, in resigning from the cabinet was "to help the Congress in its toppling game."

Mr Rao said: "All pretensions of the two ministers justifying their resignation does not cut much ice with the people." The working class was not unhappy that Mr Sait had quit the cabinet, while Mrs Urs's resignation went against the desires and wishes of her late father, Mr D. Devaraj Urs, he said.

Mr Rao warned the Janata Party not to fall a prey to the BJP's "blackmail," and said stern action should be taken against "communal and divisive forces."

The Karnataka PCC president, Mr K.H. Patil, today denied Mr Hegde's allegation that the Congress was trying to create a law and order problem in the state to destabilise the Janata government, according to PTI.

Describing it as "very cheap and irresponsible," he said in a statement that "Mr Hegde should realise that he cannot fool the people" by leveling such charges against the Congress to cover up "serious defects and deficiencies" which had afflicted his administration.

Mr Patil denied that the Congress was involved in the violent incidents at Hungund. The incident occurred because "total callousness" of the government and could have been averted if handled with tact, he added.

Meanwhile, an uneasy calm prevailed today in Hungund which witnessed violent incidents on Thursday, according to UNI reports.

Reports reaching here said though the situation was tense, commercial establishments resumed business.

The Karnataka minister of state for home, Mr Ramesh Jigajingi, went round the troubled areas yesterday. Top police officials were camping in the region. The condition of two of the four injured was 'serious.'

Firing Condemned

The Union minister for labour and rehabilitation, Mr Veerendra Patil, has condemned yesterday's police firing at Hungund as "uncalled for and unwarranted."

"People's problems should be resolved by negotiations and discussions across the table and not by bullets," he said in a statement in New Delhi today, reports PTI.

Coimbatore (UNI): The Bharatiya Janata Party general secretary, Mr L.K. Advani, today reaffirmed his party's support to the Ramakrishna Hegde government which suffered a jolt on Friday with the resignation of two ministers both from the government and the Janata Party.

Talking to newsmen here, Mr Advani, who is on a two-day tour of Tamil Nadu, said what had happened in Karnataka was purely an internal affair of the party and expressed the hope that the Janata government would surmount this problem.

Condemning the manner in which the Farooq Abdullah government in Jammu and Kashmir was dismissed, Mr Advani said the Congress had charged Dr Abdullah with indulging in anti-national activity only after it had failed to come to an electoral understanding with him last year.

Mr Advani called upon eminent sociologists and non-political experts to undertake an indepth study of the causes of frequent communal disturbances in places like Hyderabad, Bhiwandi, Aligarh and Moradabad.

'Chinks' in Ministry Exposed

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Jul 84 p 8

[Text]

The resignations of Mr. Aziz Sait and Mrs. Chandrabha Urs expose the chinks in the Hegde ministry in Karnataka. It was held together all these eighteen months by a combination of motivations and circumstances, most of all, the need to present a semblance of ministerial unity in the face of persistent sniping by the Congress. Apparently Mr. Sait and Mrs. Urs, never too comfortable in a cabinet in which they felt dwarfed, neglected, and even discriminated against, decided to call it a day at a time most probably suited to them. Their announcement to pull out has doubtless caused a gasp of surprise in political circles, but not to the astute chief minister. He seems to have anticipated some such development. Indeed, the impression persists that if the former labour and social welfare ministers had not stepped down on their own, he would have dropped them in the ministerial reshuffle of which he has been talking for quite some time. Whether he has allowed grass to grow under his feet or not, the fact remains that the talk of restructuring the council of ministers (particularly after the "group of thirty eight" raised the demand for the resignations of all ministers in order to "strengthen" his hands) has generated hopes of finding a berth in the cabinet among some Janata leaders, while it has driven others into a corner. Perhaps the latter is the case with Mr. Sait and Mrs. Urs. Whatever it is, they were thought of as potential "defectors" because they remained unreconciled to the merger of the Janata and the Kranti Ranga. Their next step will be keenly watched and time will show whether the line of contact they are supposed to have established with the Congress will be of any use to them.

Mr. Sait has Protean political tendencies, as his long career shows. Mrs. Urs, a daughter of the late Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, who founded the Kranti Ranga a few days before his death, could have taken on her father's mantle had she inherited his organising ability or insight. It is premature to say whether Mr. Sait and Mrs. Urs will become the nucleus of an emerging anti-Hegde force. For the present, Janata leaders tend to treat them as good riddance. Moreover, they would like to look upon the exit of Mr. Sait and Mrs. Urs as a development "induced" by the Congress in its continuing toppling game. The glee with which the Congress has welcomed their resignations is quoted in support of this view. Although the Janata has successfully fought back efforts to oust it from office in the past, its fear that what has happened in Jammu and Kashmir may be repeated in Karnataka has become greater than ever. Even as the chief minister faces the tough problem of reconstituting his ministerial team amidst contending claims, the spectre of defections, from the Janata to the Congress and vice versa, looms large, with nobody overconcerned with the morality of it all.

CSQ: 4600/1095

INDIA

ECONOMIC ADVISER URGES MORE FREEDOM FOR PUBLIC SECTOR

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Aug 84 p 3

[Text] New Delhi, August 2 (PTI)--The economic administration reforms commission (EARC) has said that the public sector must be given the freedom to initiate, innovate and take risks but be made accountable rather than having to comply with government rules all the time.

The commission, headed by Mr L.K. Jha, has just wound up its work with a series of reports on public enterprises--management, autonomy, accountability and profitability.

In the second phase of its work as a one-man commission which lasted a year ending July 1984, the commission also presented an "overview of economic administration," in the context of the seventh plan, and reported on taxation of capital goods and on governmental clearances and approvals.

It had set up two working groups one of which went into the simplification of excise procedures and another reviewed the existing arrangements for social security. The reports of the working groups have been forwarded to the government along with the commission's views.

The commission was appointed in March 1981, initially with a term of two years, during which it examined and reported on the direct tax laws, industrial licensing and MRTP procedures and rent control legislation. The government has so far published the recommendations on direct tax laws and is planning to introduce a direct laws (amendment) bill to give effect to them.

Asked about the reports of the commission being made public to promote wider debate, Mr Jha said it was for the government to whom the reports were submitted, to publish them.

Mr Jha said that though the public sector was given corporate form, it was "crippled" in its performance by bureaucratic regulations. The commission has reported on what can be done to improve its efficiency as well as to bring about accountability in the public sector.

Strict Control

The commission's report is believed to have said that the public sector in India was more strictly controlled than the private sector.

Once a decision was subjected to prior government approval, accountability ceased to exist. What was necessary, according to the commission, was to get the right men, whether in the board of directors or in the ministries, give them adequate powers and let them be responsible for results and not be made simply to comply with rules. Improved efficiency and accountability should not be in terms of compliance with rules.

The commission has pointed out how the process of decision making shows down in government when matters were referred to different ministries and ultimately they had to go to the cabinet to get the differences resolved. The loss of time involved was a valuable resource waste. The commission has suggested a fresh look at rules continuing from British times.

The commission has cited instances of over-investments in public enterprises and how profitability of the enterprises had been eroded. In pricing, it has said, market conditions should be taken into account.

Advanced Planning

The commission, in its overview on economic administration, is said to have urged advanced planning of projects to be taken up in a five year plan period to avoid delays in commencement and execution of costly projects.

On capital goods, it has suggested reconsideration of the taxation policy (import duty) as most of the capital goods taxes rate in to the plan resources.

While there was revenue on one hand, the outlays had to be increased and there was no real net revenue. The only case for taxation could be protection of domestic industry.

CSO: 4600/1107

ANALYST NOTES MINISTERS RESIST PANEL SUGGESTIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 5--The one and only report of the Economic Administration Reforms Commission (EARC), headed by Mr L.K. Jha, which has been accepted by the Government in toto and is now in the process of implementation relates to the wide-ranging suggestions for simplifying and streamlining the laws and procedures for excise collections which constitute the single largest source of public revenues.

The seven-member working group set up with the taxation expert Dr Raja Chelliah, as Chairman, and Dr V. Gauri Shankar, Adviser to the Planning Commission, Dr S.P. Gupta, and a senior officer of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP), Mr N.T. Srinivasan as its leading members, was able to present a comprehensive report within a relatively short period despite the complexities of the subject.

Maze of unenforceable laws: Excise collections which yielded only Rs 68 crores in 1950-51, covering only 13 items, have increased nearly 150 times by 1983-84, bringing in Rs 10,125 crores by extending the net to as many as 270 items. Apart from serving as a principal source of revenue, the excise levies were supposed to serve as a control mechanism for regulating economic activity, but they ended up bogged down in a maze of unenforceable laws which have led to large-scale tax evasion.

Though several commissions and committees have been appointed from time to time to suggest ways of improving excise collections by eliminating delays and avoiding undue harassment and litigation, none of them came out with practical suggestions as the present working group of the Jha Commission has done for simplifying and streamlining procedures within the framework of the existing laws which have been readily accepted by the Government.

Scope of recommendations: These recommendations pertain to simplification of licensing and bonding procedures, systems of control, classification of production costs and prices, revision of the tariff structure, regrouping of items, recoveries and refunds, relief of duty on inputs, export incentives, disposal of appeals, avoidance of litigation and prevention of corruption.

What is important is that almost all these changes in the excise laws and collection procedures could be made through administrative decisions without any need for fresh legislation.

Novel experiment: The Jha Commission itself was a novel experiment since the original intention was to transform this into a sort of permanent body at some stage after it had dealt with its more immediate terms of reference for improving the economic administration so that the Prime Minister could have the benefit of its independent advice on a continual basis in economic spheres. But the Government later on changed its mind and decided to have a bigger Council of Economic Advisers which has no doubt dealt at length with larger issues of economic policy without coming forward with practical suggestions as the Jha Commission has done for improving the quality of economic administration.

21 reports submitted: The Jha Commission which was set up in March 1981 was wound up at the end of last month after it submitted as many as 21 reports on several subjects within the purview of its seven terms of reference. It was initially asked to deal with only four subjects, (1) tax administration, its rationalisation and improvement, (2) the uses of non-tax devices for raising the level of savings, (3) establishment of a new international economic order and (4) examination of rent control laws which were inhibiting house constructions.

Later on, three more subjects were added to the terms of reference. They included (A) economy in public expenditure, (B) duty drawback procedures and (C) commercial representation abroad.

Suggestions for PM: The Government, in its anxiety to have the benefit of the Commission's advice on all these complex issues as early as possible, requested its Chairman, Mr L.K. Jha, to send the suggestions in the form of proposals for the Prime Minister's consideration without submitting elaborate reports on each subject. The intention was that after the Prime Minister and her advisers had studied these suggestions, they would forward them to the Ministries and departments concerned for action.

Bureaucratic foot-dragging: But in the absence of a centralised mechanism in the Prime Minister's office or the Cabinet Secretariat for monitoring the implementation of these suggestions, the change-resistant bureaucracy in the economic Ministries started dragging its feet and finding excuses for deferring action. What was more unfortunate, the Finance Minister also resented the imposition of such advice from the top and sided with the bureaucracy in delaying implementation or of shelving the recommendations.

Finding excuses: The moral of this unhappy episode has been that any commission or committee dealing with economic reforms imposed from the top for whatever purpose is bound to meet with resistance from the Ministries concerned unless the chairmen of these bodies are tactful or docile enough to make the respective Ministries feel that their suggestions have either originated from or reflect their own thinking so that they get the kudos for any changes made in pursuance of such recommendations. It is not enough for these ministers to be told that the Prime Minister herself has approved the recommendations since they can find numerous excuses for not implementing them.

KHALISTAN-TYPE MOVEMENT IN BIHAR DISTRICT REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Jul 84 p 9

[Text] Even as the "Khalistan" movement in Punjab is being firmly dealt with, another movement is gaining strength in the Kolhan area of south Bihar's Singhbhum district for "Kolkanistan". There have been murders, kidnappings, looting and arson in the area. The self-styled "Government of Kolhanistan" was formed in December 2, 1982, when its leaders celebrated "independence" day. Two of them, including the man "in charge of foreign affairs" and chief legal adviser of the government of Kokhan, are in jail on charges of sedition. The intelligence agencies suspect a "foreign hand". The foreign groups apparently are interested because of the presence of uranium deposits in the Singhbhum belt which would make India self-sufficient in the ore. According to the Atomic Energy Commission Chairman, Dr Raja Ramanna, about 73,000 tons of uranium ore had been identified so far following exploration in Singhbhum and parts of Rajasthan. Insight recently combed the forests of Kolhan to find out what is happening.

Is Kolhan in Singhbhum district in south Bihar, inhabited mostly by Ho tribals, not part of India? Sounds strange but a group of educated tribals insist that it is not and have started a movement within the area for independence. And thereby hangs a tale of tension and violence.

The group's main argument is that Kolhan, spread over an area of 3,100 sq km, was not covered by the transfer of power in 1947 and, therefore, could owe allegiance to London and not to New Delhi. The presence of the Indian administrative machinery and police on their land, is thus a gross violation of human rights and an act of aggression, the self-styled "Kolhan government" leaders assert.

In fact, "Kolhanisian" celebrated "independence day" on December 2, 1982, and its leaders announced that it was now an independent member of the Commonwealth. December 2 is the day when the British Government frames rules to govern this aggressive tribal belt in 1836-37. Like the "Khalistan" movement, the movement for "Kolhanistan" is also reported to be financed by foreign elements.

Captain Thomas Wilkinson, the first Governor-General's agent brought Kolhan under the jurisdiction of the then South-West Frontier Agency under Section VII of the Bengal Regulation XIII of 1883, whereby the civil courts system was abolished. Thus Kolhan came under direct management of the British Government. The British had first come to the area a little before the great "Kol revolt" of 1931-32.

Wilkinson Rules

Even 37 years after India's independence, Kolhan is governed, as far as civil justice is concerned, by the Wilkinson Rules, framed in 1836-37. The Civil Courts Act and the Civil Procedure Code do not apply here.

The 31-point Wilkinson Rules provided "internal autonomy" to the self-governing units of the tribes and civil justice with the help of the tribals' Manki-Munda system. A Manki is the head of a group of Mundas, who, in turn, are chiefs of their respective villages. In Kolhan civil cases are decided by a superintendent.

In December 1981, leaders of 42 Commonwealth countries received copies of a confusing letter addressed to the Commonwealth headquarters in London "from the government of Kolhan (Indian subcontinent)" seeking help to save it from India.

The letter, was signed by Mr Narayan Jonke, "Chief government of Kolhan". It said: "Kolhan owes allegiance to the Crown and the Commonwealth countries" It urged all Heads of State to meet in Chaipasa to stop Indian "aggression" against Kolhan.

The Commonwealth leaders must have felt embarrassed at finding that Kolhan is part of a district in south Bihar. And Mr Jonko's appeal must have been dismissed as the work of a madman. However, similar appeals to Commonwealth leaders were made during CHOGM in New Delhi last year.

Mr Jonko's letter of December 1981 was not his first attempt to seek international help. With his lawyer-friend, Mr Christ Anand Topno, "chief legal adviser and in charge, foreign affairs, government of Kolhan". Mr Jonko had visited London and Geneva in October the same year to present Kolhan's case.

Common Law

The entire concept of an independent Kolhan as a Commonwealth country rests on two words "Common Law", which, according to the two men, governs the life of the people of Kolhan. They point out: "The Common Law of the country has prevailed in Kolhan. The Common Law of the country has been recognized in Rule 20 of the Wilkinson Rules and that the Common Law has become part of international law".

In their view, the Common Law is of "immutable character". The same Common Law is covered by Articles 4(2) and 13(4) of the Constitution of India and is

accepted as unamendable in Article 368(3) but Kolhan is not accepted by Article 4(2) for admission as a Union Territory of India or as a State under Articles 2 and 3 of the Indian Constitution, and allocation of seats for membership of the Council of States does not appear in the Fourth Schedule of the Indian Constitution

What is Rule 20 of the Wilkinson Rules, which, as they say, talks about "Common Law"?

"The Governor-General's agent and his assistants are authorized at their discretion, to refer suits for decision to panchayats after the complaints had been filed and the defendants' answer received...." That is how Rule 20 begins, and it goes on to lay down the procedure about how to select the panchayat and how it would function and give its award, which, with the attested signatures of all parties, will deliver it to the court appoint-it and that "it shall not be appealable or set aside, unless corruption can be proved against the panchayat or unless the award shall be contrary to the Common Law of the country or the rules enacted by the Governor-General-in-Council".

"Free Kolhan" supporters have, however, twisted this simple rule about the procedure for justice through the panchayat to suit their aim. For them, mere mention of "Common Law" of the country means the existence of a separate nation with its century-old rules.

Non-Applicable

In support of their point they talk about non-applicability of the Civil Courts Act and the Code of Civil Procedure. "Kolhanistan" propaganda material reproduces a Notification issued by the Bihar Government's Law Department: No A/AB-303-1/4 53/3533J, 26-8-53. In exercise of the powers conferred by subparagraph (1) of Paragraph 5 of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India, the Governor of Bihar is pleased to direct that the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1951, (11 of 1951) shall not apply to the Sadar sub-division of the district of Singhbhum except the areas comprised within the Chaibasa and Chakradharpur municipality... 2. This Notification shall be deemed to have come into force on April 1, 1951, the date on which the said Act was brought into force by the Central Government... By order of the Government of Bihar, R. Singh, Secretary to Government".

The President of India is also not declared in the Constitution of India as a "successor" to the Governor-General-in-Council which ruled India from London, "Free Kolhan" leaders point out, adding that the most important thing is that the Wilkinson Rules are not part of India law.

The memoranda submitted in London, Geneva and later sent to the Heads of State of Commonwealth countries and others attending CHOGM in New Delhi last year claim that "the government of Kolhan has formed its own dominion status and has been functioning under Section IV of Regulation XII of 1833 and by evolving the post of Chief of Kolhan.

Richest Belt

"Kolhan is the richest belt of mineral resources and forest wealth of the world. The Kolhan belt is producing uranium and thorium iron-ore, coking coal, etc. All kinds of mineral resources which are needed for the development of a highly advanced technological society are hidden here. The world famous Saranda forest of sal trees, which is said to be the biggest in Asia, is in Kolhan. To sum up, Kolhan is one of the richest belts in the world. But on the other hand, the people of Kolhan represent the poorest people of the world. It signifies gross violation of human rights by the present Government of India. There has been aggression and firing by armed forces since the beginning of India's independence...."

FIR

On the other hand, an FIR lodged by the police on October 20, 1981 states: "As a result of a deep-laid conspiracy, a movement for secession of the Kolhan area of Singhbhum from the Indian Union has been started by a few misguided people like Narayan Jonko, Christ Anand Topno, Krishan Chandra Hembram and others. These people have been spreading seditious thoughts among the masses to carve out an independent State for themselves with persons like Ashwani Kumar Sawajyan, Lal Bodra, Hando Munda, Motilal Maria, Bikram Baoipai, Murgi Angaria, Budhram Soren, Gabrel Laguri, Sado Munda and others. They formed an innocent-looking organization in 1977 by the name of Kolhan Raksha Sangh. But in the course of time, the sangh has matured into a self-styled government and it is making frantic efforts not only to paralyse the established Government of the land, but also to enlist support of foreign countries for their cause".

After identifying Mr Jonko and Mr Krishna Chandra Hembram as president and general secretary of the sangh, respectively, the FIR says that the sangh organized a public meeting on March 30, 1981 at which its president declared that the Kolhan area was independent of India and that they would present their budget in March 1982. He also declared that they would collect taxes and would open a university affiliated to Oxford. It would also declared that "independence day" would be celebrated on December 2, 1982.

"In pursuance of this declaration" the FIR continues, "the Kolhan Raksha Sangh prepared a draft memorandum addressed to the Secretary of State for the Commonwealth in which they declared their intention of having allegiance as citizens of Kolhan to the Commonwealth and to the Crown of Great Britain. This memorandum was signed on behalf of Kolhan State by Narayan Jonko, who designated himself as the Chief, and Christ Anand Topno, who was designated as in charge, foreign affairs. The office-bearers and supporters of the sangh, including Krishna Chandra Hembram, general secretary, terrorized the local people of Tonto block and forcibly collected money from them"

The FIR concludes: "On the basis of the above facts, I charge the office-bearers and supporters of the Kolhan Raksha Sangh of sedition and of instigating the local people for waging war against the legally established Government of India.--sd/--Inspector of Police, Sadar Chaibasa".

Violence

The foundation of the Kolhanistan movement has been laid with violence. Though the "Hukumnama of Kolhan" was issued by the chief of the Kolhan Raksha Sangh on November 1, 1977, the first major incident that shattered peace in this forest belt took place at the busy Tonto "hat" (weekly bazar) on August 27, 1983. Thirteen people, all said to be against the Kolhan movement, were kidnapped, and all but one, who managed to escape were murdered. The "army" of Kolhan responsible for this crime was led by the sangh's secretary, Krishna Chandra Hembram, now absconding. Though no bodies have been found as in the case with other similar incidents, the authorities are sure that innocent persons had been murdered and the bodies thrown into the forest.

Though the incident took place on August 27, the terror it created prevented the people from reporting the matter of the police. They came to know of it only on September 16.

No one had glanced twice at Hembram, a primary school teacher, who contested a series of local and Assembly elections as an independent candidate from Chaibasa, but lost. Today he is a terror. The police are looking for him everywhere. The latest intelligence reports say he has crossed into the forest area of Orissa, where he is buying up property. He is guiding the movement from there.

"Police parties have been ambushed by the tribals. The police dare not enter the forest at night. The tribals attack with arrows. You never know from which direction they come," said a senior district official to Insight, showing a sharp arrow with a metal tip which sometimes is treated with poison.

Police have also been accused of creating terror. A retired soldier, Ganga Ram Kalundia, who had won many awards for bravery, was allegedly picked up by the police from his house on April 4, 1982, taken to the forest area, tortured and killed. His fault was that he had demanded compensation for those whose houses had been up-rooted for building a dam and supporting the move for a separate "Jharkhand State". His alleged murder created such an uproar in the area that the Union Home Ministry sent a special team to probe the allegations which it found true to some extent.

Through Kalundia had nothing to do with the Kolhan Raksha Sangh, it uses his death to tell others how the tribals are being "controlled" Today Kalundia is a martyr in Kolhan.

After announcing its existence with a bang at the Tonto "hat" by kidnapping and killing opponents, the Kolhan Raksha Sangh began efforts to take the issue to international forums. This led to the visit of Mr. Christ Anand Topno and Mr Ashwani Kumar Swaiyan to London and Geneva. Both have been waiting in the Caibasa jail for bail since their arrest in November 1981. The Supreme Court has rejected their bail applications. As the denial of bail even by the Supreme Court has forced the two men to see things in the new perspective and gauge their future, they say: "Though Kolhan is a member of the Commonwealth in law, we never demanded a separate sovereign State. We have always talked about "Kolhan Estate" not of Kolhan State".

DELHI BARS VISIT BY BRITISH HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by K.N. Malik]

[Text] London, July 28--A British parliamentary group on human rights which wanted to verify reports about atrocities in Punjab has been refused permission to visit India.

Lord Avebury, chairman of the group, had written to the Indian high commissioner here last month, saying an MP's delegation would like to visit Punjab and requested for assistance in enabling the members to travel to Punjab and meet people there.

The high commission in its reply early this week said that though the MPs were welcome to visit India any time they wished, it would not be appropriate for a special human rights group to investigate this particular allegation at this time. The question of human rights (in Punjab) concerned the Indian government and not an outside group. British MPs had visited India in the past and would do so in future. In fact, the high commission had already extended an invitation to British parliamentarians to visit India some time in winter. This particular group had been refused permission on a matter of principle, the letter said.

Lord Avebury said he was sorry that India had barred the MPs' visit. The purpose of the visit was not to condemn the government but merely to observe things at first hand so as to inform British parliament. He said the British human rights group has no authority to tell the government of India what it should do. However, an inquiry by an independent group could have been in India's own interest.

This is not the first time that group has been prevented from investigating charges of atrocities or infringement of human rights by a country. Two years ago Indonesia barred the group from investigating allegations of atrocities in northern Sri Lanka. Turkey also did not allow the group to visit the country to probe similar allegations.

The group has, however, visited El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Zimbabwe, Uganda and the Philippines. Surprisingly, this group has not sought permission to visit Pakistan to investigate allegations of atrocities in Sindh and other parts of that country.

Observers here feel that India should allow this group to visit Punjab as it would help scotch false allegations of discrimination against the Sikhs and expose the extremists. If the government of India was to take a stand that human rights or the affairs in Punjab was not the concern of any outside group, then the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, should not have written to various foreign governments about the events in Punjab.

Lord Avebury said there seemed to be some misunderstanding about the purpose of the visit and that his group had been prejudged. He said he had again written to the high commission about this matter. According to him, the group was concerned with preserving human rights and civil liberties in all countries, including Britain. In fact, he wanted same parliamentary group on human rights from India to investigate human rights in Britain faulted on this score several times and had also been indicated on the European human rights court on the maximum number of occasions.

An invitation by the government to a particular group, he said, was not the same thing as permission to an independent human rights group to visit the country. A group which visits a country at government invitation would not be able to convince the people that their observations were independent and unbiased.

Besides this group led by Lord Avebury, another group of MPs led by Mr Harry Cohen and Mr Eric Deacan, both Labour MPs, have been canvassing for looking into the human rights aspect with particular reference to the Muslims in India. Two days ago, at a largely attended meeting in the grand committee room of parliament, speakers expressed concern over the infringement of human rights and especially the rights of the Muslim minority in India. They expressed concern over the growing incidents of communal violence and demanded protection for the minorities and equal rights for all citizens.

CSO: 4600/1095

APPREHENSION OVER MISSIONARY AID TO SEPARATISTS NOTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Jul 84 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, July 30 (UNI)--The Central government has "seriously apprehensions" that foreign missionaries are giving financial help to tribals of Kolhan region in Bihar who have been demanding independence.

Stating this in the Rajya Sabha, the minister of state for home, Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha, said money was particularly being made available to the Kolhan Raksha Sangh for fighting court cases.

Mrs Sinha, who was replying to a calling attention motion on the moves of extremists to establish an independent Kolhan nation in Chaibasa region in Singhbhum district of Bihar, said the government was fully seized of the situation and efforts were being made to create a climate of harmony and accelerate the pace of development in the area.

Mrs Sinha said the Centre had strengthened the law and order machinery in the area and armed pickets with magistrates had been stationed to prevent illegal felling of trees in the dense forest area by tribals.

Central Assistance

At the same time, she said the Centre had asked the Bihar government to urgently take steps for the development of the region, like providing drinking water, primary education and medical facilities and opening of fair price shops.

Mrs Sinha said the special Central assistance for supplementing the programmes of the Bihar government had been increased from RS 15.66 crores in 1983-84 to Rs 18.23 crores in 1984-85.

The Bihar government was also taking steps for greater participation of tribals in local administration, both in the developmental and regulatory spheres. The local administration had been instructed to look into the grievances of the people and take immediate remedial steps for their redressal.

PTI adds: Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha said the Kolhan Raksha Sangh extremists who had launched the movement, had been abducting and liquidating those who did not toe their line. Government was vigilant about their activities and had taken steps to deal with the situation.

Mrs Sinha said the sangh was reported to have killed 17 and abducted 49 persons during the past eight months. It had indulged in illegal felling of trees in an area of 25,000 acres and 10,000 acres of forest land was under its forcible occupation.

The minister said that important functionaries of the sangh had been identified and prosecution had been launched against 16 members of the sangh for sedition. Efforts were being made to arrest other accused persons.

Memorandum to U.N.

Earlier in a statement, Mrs Sinha said that the sangh formed in 1978 had been demanding independence of Kolhan tribal belt covering about 1,400 villages in Singhbhum district.

The sangh claimed that the area which was governed by 'Wilkinson's rules' of 1837 under which all executive, judicial, revenue and police powers were vested in tribal village functionaries, gave them a measure of autonomy.

Mr Narayan Jonko, Mr K.C. Hembram and Mr Christ Anand Topno were reported to be the president, general secretary and legal advisor respectively of the sangh.

According to reports, Mr Jonko and Mr Topno visited London and Geneva in 1981 and submitted memoranda to the British government and the U.N. office demanding independent status for "Kolhan government." The sangh also submitted a memorandum to the chairman of the CHOGM in New Delhi in 1983 requesting ratification of the "Kolhan government," Mr Sinha said.

CSO: 4600/1098

CORRESPONDENT DISCUSSES TRIBAL INSURGENCY IN TRIPURA

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1, 2 Aug 84

[1 Aug 84 pp 1, 9]

[Article by V.I.K. Sarin]

[Text] Argatala--A few shots fired in the air at the Republic Day function at Dangabari, in south district by a small band of Tripura National Volunteers (TNV) terrorists signalled the revival of insurgency in this tiny border state.

The insurgents are actively assisted by the Bangladesh authorities and armed and trained in guerilla tactics by the outlawed Mizo National Front.

The turn of events since January 26 has sent shock waves through the corridors of power in Agartala and nearly unnerved the security forces. The BSF and CRP forces patrolling the border and policing the interior are clearly inadequate to meet the emerging challenge to the peace that prevailed precariously in Tripura after the June 1980 bloodbath in which over 3,000 people were massacred.

Five battalions of the BSF patrol Tripura's 840 km of open frontier with Bangladesh and the 110-km-long border with disturbed Mizoram. This thin deployment leaves wide gaps (at places as much as 20 km) between two posts. The bulk of the five battalions of the CRP and one of the Rajasthan Armed Constabulary (the latter was sent in the wake of the 1980 uprising) is tied down to the stationary pickets established in the interior. Likewise, the two battalions of the Tripura Armed Police are engaged in normal law and order duties.

When the TNV extremists fired in the air, shouting "independent Tripura," pro-Khalistan and anti-India slogans at Dangabari, the CRP jawans deployed for security scurried for shelter. The insurgents then withdrew into the nearby jungle, leaving behind handbills announcing the resumption of the "struggle for self-determination." The second phase of the Tripura insurgency began.

The TNV is led by its charismatic 42-year-old chief, Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhawl, operating from Sinlung, in the jungle fastness of the Miyani reserve forests of the Chittagong hill tracts in neighbouring Bangladesh, formation of a "TNV government" in exile and declared a "war of liberation" against India.

In the last six months, armed TNV rebels crossed the international border, struck with impunity on as many as 30 occasions and escaped to their base leaving behind a trail of death and devastation. The major brunt of the hit-and-run operations has been felt by the para-military forces, the Tripura police and suspected police informers. Among those killed by the terrorists were the assistant commandant of the Border Security Force, Mr S.S. Sangwan, and the assistant commandant of the Central Reserve Police, Mr Vijay Kumar Khular. The rebels are not known to have suffered any casualty nor has any of them been captured.

The weapons snatched from the para-military forces include two light machine guns, seven self-loading rifles, three sten-guns and four other fire-arms. Besides they also carried away a rich haul of ammunitions. Day by day, the TNV is becoming more and more daring. At first the terrorists confined their activities to the collection of rations and funds and liquidation of suspected police informers. Those refusing contributions to the underground cause also received attention. Of late, they have trained their guns on the BSF and CRP patrol parties, police outposts and police stations.

The revival of insurgency has taken the authorities here surprise. The deceptive calm in the wake of the capture of Chuni Koloi, the self-styled "commander-in-chief" of the TNV, by the CRP, followed by the surrender of a sizable underground group of Binonda Jamatya, known as the "supreme commander" of the all-Tripura Peoples' Liberation Organisation (ATPLO), and the dissolution of ATPLO had induced a false notion in government circles that the back of the insurgents had been broken.

They had evidently not reckoned with the potential of the wily Hrangkhawl who, after initiating a peace dialogue with the chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborty, and persuading him to drop some of the criminal cases pending against him, had slipped into the Chittagong hill tracts along with his wife on August 13, 1982, to resume the leadership of the underground movement.

He established contacts with "colonel" Lalraoliana, "Officer commanding" of the outlawed Mizo National Front, at New Lankar (Bangladesh) and Col Anwarul Haque, chief of the National Security Intelligence of Bangladesh, based at Mariswa, in the Chittagong hill tracts. Consequently, the MNF agreed to impart training to TNV recruits in sabotage and guerilla warfare.

The Bangladesh authorities allowed him not only to establish his headquarters at Sinlung but permitted his men to cultivate land. While the TNV guerillas were undergoing training, Mr Hrangkhawl maintained a low profile, thereby inducing the Tripura administration into further complacency. In October 8 last, the first batch of TNV guerillas completed training. The passing-out parade was inspected by "col." Lalroaliana of the banned MNF, while Hrangkhawl personally presented medals to the "meritorious cadets."

According to an official estimate, the TNV has a trained force of about 250 guerillas. All of them are in olive-green uniform and have been issued identity cards with personal service numbers which enable them free movement in Bangladesh.

Nearly half of this guerilla force is armed. Its weapons include light machine guns, self-loading rifles, sten-guns and an assortment of rifles, revolvers and pistols. While some of these fire-arms have been snatched from the para-military forces, the bulk is reported to have been supplied by the MNF.

The newly trained guerillas had their first taste of success when on December 10 they attacked a police station at Lefunga, 27 km from here in the western district, killing two policemen and seriously injuring two others. They carried away four weapons while retreating into the jungle. Hrangkhawl was thrilled by the success of his boys and promptly honoured them with "gallantry awards" at a formal ceremony at Sinlung.

The Marxist chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborty, has reacted by blaming partly the Union government for the resurgence of terrorism in four years after the 1980 holocaust. He buttresses his view by pointing out that his pleas to send reinforcements of BSF and CRP personnel had been ignored by the Centre. Only last week it sent one BSF battalion to augment the four already deployed in Tripura.

In view of the largely inaccessible terrain in the eastern sector, he has repeatedly suggested to the Prime Minister, Mrs Gandhi, to improve communications by constructing a 100-km stretch of road along the Bangladesh border. He is of the view that the proposed road will improve the mobility of the BSF, aiding effective border patrolling. The Centre has not responded to this so far. Perhaps the fresh spurt of extremist activity may induce her to give a thought to the proposal, he hopes.

Mr Chakraborty admits that the force at his command is not adequate, nor has it the means to cope with the threat posed by the TNV. He has, therefore, requested the Centre to rush three more battalions of the CRP to assist the Tripura police.

Highly Motivated

Although there can be no dispute about the need for reinforcements to quell the TNV uprising, experts on guerilla warfare are of the view that the CRP may now be an ideal choice. Experience in Mizoram and Nagaland has established that the CRP is not the answer to trained and highly motivated insurgents. A crack unit of the army, especially trained in guerilla warfare, is the need of the hour, they feel.

Mr Chakraborty is, however, averse to the deployment of regular troops in his state. In fact, he has been pressing for the withdrawal of the army units from parts of the north district which were declared a disturbed area on September 17, 1982, in the wake of a series of violent incidents, including an attack on the Manu police station, by the TNV.

In view of Mr Chakraborty's known opposition to army induction, the Centre could resolve the issue by sending in men of the Assam Rifles which, while being a para-military organisation, is fully acquainted with the terrain of the region and has rich experience of fighting insurgents in Mizoram and Nagaland.

The chief minister concedes that there have been intelligence gaps but feels that bringing of intelligence teams from outside will not help. The need, he says, is to strengthen the state intelligence by fresh recruitment at the grass-root level. Efforts in this direction are on but paucity of funds is coming in the way. The Centre could help by providing funds.

While being concerned over fresh developments in Tripura, Mr Chakraborty is not inclined to take an alarmist view of the situation. The tribals and non-tribals in the state capital of Agartala as well as in the interior, he maintains, are living in peace and amity. The ruling CPM, he claims, commands the support of a majority of tribals while the TNV of Hrangkhawl constituted only a microscopic minority.

Unlike June 1980 when this correspondent visited the state following the carnage, the situation in Agartala and elsewhere today is near normal. Although the chasm between the tribals and non-tribals has not yet been fully bridged the open hostility and enmity witnessed between them four years ago is not so apparent.

[2 Aug 84 p 9]

[Article by V.I.K. Sarin]

[Text] Agartala--The ethnic conflict in Tripura has its genesis in the massive influx of Bengali immigrants from erstwhile East Pakistan which has caused pressure on land, tribal unemployment and food shortage. The socio-economic tensions generated by these factors now give sustenance to the secessionist Tribal National Volunteers (TNV).

The tribal natives have been swamped by the Bengalis who have naturally taken over the administration, the state's trade and commerce and dominate its cultural life. It is true that the Tripuris with their primitive economy and archaic ways of eking out a livelihood have had a subordinate place for centuries. But the visible signs of relative prosperity of the immigrants in the very area where tribals live in abject poverty have led to frustration, bitterness and conflict. The pent-up lava of discontent poured forth in the shape of the June 1980 uprising when non-tribals were massacred and thousands of houses razed to the ground.

Tripura is mainly a hill region. Sixty percent of its area is covered by dense forests. Until partition, the tribals, divided into as 19 groups and sub-groups, lived in amity with the territory's non-tribal population. Most of these groups possessed identical cultural and social traits. In fact, the inhabitants of the hills from the north spurs of the Patkoi to the southern tip of the Chin ranges of Burma form a single ethnical unit, closely knit in race and culture.

Demographic Disturbance

The process of disturbance of the demographic equilibrium started with the settlement of some 10,000 Bengalis belonging to various professions in his kingdom by King Ratna Manikya in the 13th century. The move was prompted, of course, by secular requirements, for example, the introduction of the plough for cultivation among his subjects and reorganisation of the state's archaic machinery on the model of the system shaped by the Muslims in neighbouring Bengal. His policies, besides accomplishing these and other material objectives, produced other important results such as bringing both the royal family and the tribal Indo-Mongoloid people closer to the Bengalis in religion and culture. It also led to the use of Bengali and Sanskrit as the cultural and religious languages by the Tripuris.

It was during the reign of Dharma Manikya in the 15th century that the process of conversion to Hinduism began on a wide scale. A devout Hindu, Dharma Manikya made Bengali the official or court language of Tripura. Hinduism, however, did not banish the traditional religion of the tribal people. Although relegated to a secondary position, many a pre-Hindu ritual is still in vogue amongst the Tripuris so much so that Tripura is now the only region in the northeast where the Bodo people retain a good measure of their medieval political and cultural milieu.

On the surface, the tribal life has not changed much over the last century. Nevertheless, beneath this apparent changelessness there has been an undercurrent of change which increasingly tends to erode the very foundation upon which the tribal society has through centuries come to rest.

Their traditional mode of shifting cultivation--jhuming or slash and burn technique--is giving way to permanent cultivation. Jhuming, it is to be remembered, is not merely a cultivation technique, but is indeed a way of life for the tribals. The web of life woven round it must also undergo change.

Winds of Change

It is, of course, true that there has been tranquillity and even content in the traditional way of life of these people. But they have now come to taste in increasing measures the comforts which science has bestowed upon mankind in abundance. The transition from the traditional life to modernity has, as elsewhere in the country, disturbed the delicate equilibrium of Tripura's aboriginal society. The result is that the new generation particularly is finding it difficult to make adjustments with the altering conditions.

The peculiarity of the situation here is that unlike in other contiguous hill areas in the northeast, the Tripuras have been submerged by the growing mass of non-tribals, leading to acculturation in a manner and on a scale which has but few parallels in the country. The process of acculturation which has been going on over centuries, has not yet stopped. Rather it continues to cut deeper into the social matrix as points of contact and conflict between the tribals and the non-tribals, mostly Bengali, keep on enlarging.

There are no statistics on how many among the tribals have given up jhum and taken to permanent cultivation. In the past, even in the face of law, they sold their land to Bengali immigrants who got their title deeds in thousands. But now, caught between the state insistence on preservation of forest land and opposition to "jhum" on the one hand and the paucity of level land on the other, they are agitated.

The Communists have been trying for years to build a base among the tribals of Tripura. After the failure of the Telengana and Kakadyip uprisings, many Communists were drafted to Tripura, including the present chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborty. They, among other things, helped the tribal leader, Mr Desrath Deb Burman, to mount a "drive away the Bengali" agitation in the early 'fifties when the inflow of refugees started from East Pakistan.

Vastly Outnumbered

Tripura's population complex is different from that of any other tribal state in the north-east. The tribals here are vastly outnumbered by the Bengali immigrants from the neighbouring Sylhet, Commila, Noakhali and Chittagong districts of East Bengal (now Bangladesh). Tripura, therefore, could not be listed as a tribal state proper in the constitution although its original inhabitants were the Tripuris, Renags, Jamatias, Chakmas, Halams and 14 other hill communities.

Bengali commentators in Tripura point out that the tribals in the state were never in a majority at least since 1911. A census report prepared by the then princely state in 1911 put the total population of Tripura at 299,613 of which the hill tribes numbered 108,526. In 1931, Tripura's population rose to 382,450, of which the hill tribes numbered 182,260 while the rest, overwhelmingly Bengalis (both Hindus and Muslims), 196,190.

It was, however, the Noakhali riots in 1946 and the partition in 1947 which gave a big boost to Bengali immigration into Tripura. After the communal trouble of 1963, the Bengali influx into the state swelled into a tide so much so that the present estimated population is about 2.1 million--600,000 tribals and 1.45 million Bengalis. Then there is a sprinkling of Manipuris and North Indians.

The Maharaja of Tripura enjoyed suzerainty over his own state but was also given zamindari rights on the adjoining districts of Commilla, Noakhali and part of Chittagong by the British. This tract, which was otherwise under British administration, forming part of East Bengal, was known as the "Chakla Roshanabad" area.

The Bengali settlers of Tripura point out that a vast number of them who came from this region had been invited by the Maharaja himself and been paying land revenue to him. "It is, therefore, wrong to say that Tripura belongs only to the tribals. It is as much ours as of the tribals and any slogan for our ouster, or any move designed to consign us to a second class citizens' status, is inspired by enmity," the Bengali spokesman assert.

While the Marxists have busied themselves in creating "cells" in the hill areas, championing the cause of the downtrodden and hitherto neglected tribal natives, the East Bengali Hindu-dominated Congress has found it profitable to seek support from the more numerous displaced persons from erstwhile East Pakistan. These are largely concentrated in the more fertile plain areas.

Royal Guests

Over the last few years, the Congress has split repeatedly resulting in the emergence of several ineffective political outfits. All the political organisations, in their mad race for power, have ignored the fact that their divisive politics was bound to embitter the relations between the natives and the immigrants and encourage separatist tendencies. Once separatism was tolerated and compromised with, it was natural that it should manifest itself in other forms as well. Linguistic chauvinism might have started as either a pro-Bengali or anti-Bengali posture, but it was inevitable that it should lead to estrangement and weaken the delicate fabric of national unity further.

The chief of the rebel TNV, Bijoy Kumar Narangkawl, is leaving no stone unturned to encash the growing disaffection of the tribals to sustain the insurgent movement. It is, therefore, not surprising that he has succeeded in a fair measure to attract recruits, collect rations and funds and secure the covert support of a section of the tribals for his "struggle" for the "right of self-determination" and "war for the liberation of the Tripuris from the clutches of the colonial-backed refugee government (of Mr Nripen Chakraborty) and foreigners who have reduced us to a microscopic minority."

CSO: 4600/1104

DEFENSE DELEGATION ACTIVITIES IN MOSCOW REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Aug 84 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, August 5 (UNI)--India has finalised a deal with the Soviet Union for the outright purchase of advanced air superiority fighter aircraft MiG-29.

An Indian defence delegation recently visited Moscow to work out the delivery schedules for the MiG-29 which is considered by western military experts as having a combat capability equal to or better than the American F-16 fighting falcons and the F-18 Hornet aircraft.

The twin-engined fighter aircraft, which incorporates the Soviet "state of the art," has a mach 2.3 performance (more than twice the speed of the sound) and has very high manoeuvrability, all-weather capability and excellent thrust-to-weight ratio.

Squadron Service

According to the present indications, the MiG-29, which has recently entered squadron service with the Soviet Air Force, is likely to be delivered to the Indian Air Force sometime later this year.

India would thus become the first country outside the Soviet Union to acquire this modern aircraft which even Moscow's socialist allies have not got so far.

The MiG-29 is expected to be brought to India in knocked down condition and then assembled at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

According to defence ministry sources Indian Air Force pilots have evaluated the MiG-29 earlier this year and had found it "vastly superior" to the F-16. It was not immediately known as to how many MiG-29s would be brought, but sources said "substantial numbers" would be supplied to the IAF to meet its requirements.

The MiG-29 is NATO code-named "Fulcrum" and is believed to be 15.5 metres long, with 35-metre swept wings and a gross weight of 16.5 tonnes.

The MiG-29 has a combat radius of 360 nautical miles and is armed with four air-to-air missiles with active terminal guidance. The aircraft can carry

a bombload of 500 kilograms. It has advanced radars which give it the look-down and shoot-down capability.

The aircraft has large fixed-geometry wings with highly swept leading-edge extensions and twin vertical fins.

It will have the latest head-up display, and digital data link and have the pulse doppler radar.

Sources said an Indian Air Force team of pilots will be sent to the Soviet Union for training. A number of technicians and ground engineers would also accompany them.

The clearance for the supply of the MiG-29 was given by the Soviet Defence minister, Mr Marshal Ustinov when he visited New Delhi in March this year.

CSO: 4600/1113

AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE LATEST FRENCH MISSILES SIGNED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Paris, July 29 (UNI)--India has concluded an agreement with France for the supply of the latest long-range air-to-air and infra-red seeker missiles.

According to the French officials representing the Matra firm and the GIFAS (a group of aeronautics firms), the Indian Air Force (IAF) will have "an unmatched deterrent in the Asian skies" when the Mirage-2000 fighter aircraft, fitted with these missiles, from the first operational squadron.

A high-level Indian delegation has just returned to Delhi after finalising the agreement for the Matra Super 530-D long-range interception air-to-air missile and the new Magic-2 missiles. The Magic-2, according to experts here, is better than the Sidewinder missiles being given by the United States to Pakistan to fit the F-16 Fighter Falcons.

The Magic-2 is an infra-red seeker, has larger scanning capability and can perform sharper turns.

Mr Jacques Mitterand, president of GIFAS, said France was interested in further intensifying co-operation with India in the field of aviation and space. He said France was in the highly competitive aerospace market in the world and was getting ready to meet the challenges of 2000.

He emphasised, "We want to improve political, economic and scientific relations with India, particularly in the field of aviation industry and space."

Mr Renaud Da, marketing executive of Matra, said India has recently bought 40 highly sophisticated and precision lenses to be fitted into the cameras of the Indian satellite to be launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 1985. He said an ISRO delegation had recently visited Toulouse in France for further negotiations for co-operation in the field of space.

Meanwhile, the first batch of 40 Mirage-2000 aircraft, ordered for IAF, are now being given finishing touches at the assembly lines and would be ferried by Indian pilots in early September, French sources said.

The sources said the later versions of Mirage-2000 for the IAF would be fitted with the advanced M-53 P-2 uprated jet engine which would give the Mirages a Mach-2.2 performance. This would be far superior to the Mach-1.9 capability of the F-16 jets. Besides, the Mirage-2000 would be "unbeatable" at high altitudes and the F-16 jets could not intercept it.

Under the contract signed in October 1982, India would get 35 single-seat Mirage-2000 aircraft and five twin-seat jets for training purposes. The aircraft would be supplied at regular intervals till the middle of 1986.

More than 30 Mirages earmarked for the IAF are at various stages of production at the assembly lines at Bordeaux-Meriagnac in southern France, the sources said.

CSO: 4600/1094

ARMY REPORTED REDUCING VISIBILITY IN PUNJAB

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Aug. 4.

The Army, which has been deployed in strength in Punjab to put down terrorism and provide security to the people, has not only reduced its presence by withdrawing more than two of the six divisions that were initially sent to deal with this unprecedented situation, but also taken steps to diminish the visibility of the remaining units by disengaging them gradually from combat operations in the districts.

At least two more divisions are due to be withdrawn by the middle of this month, if possible, or, by the beginning of September when the BSF, CRP and Punjab Police assume full responsibility for the maintenance of law and order in the State.

Modest military presence: The remaining units will be located at the 12 cantonments in and around Punjab from where the troops could reach any trouble spot within half an hour to assist the paramilitary and police forces. A modest military presence will, however, be maintained for some time at strategic points in more important towns for psychological reasons to provide the necessary measure of reassurance to the people that the army is present in requisite numbers to deal sternly with any threat of renewed violence.

Strict civil supervision: The Army will remain in the vicinity of the Golden Temple while the 'kar seva' is in progress, to prevent any attempt to obstruct the rebuilding of the damaged Akal Takht. But here again, the main task of screening the devotees and others visiting the temple premises and guarding the holy scriptures and treasures will be transferred to the para-military forces which will perform these duties under strict civil supervision.

Units on borders to stay put: The main military formations guarding the borders from Kashmir through Punjab to Rajasthan, which were not involved in anyway in the June operations, will continue to

take care of the country's defences without being called upon to perform law and order duties in these States. It is for this reason that the Centre decided to send troops from distant places for carrying out the anti-terrorist operations in Punjab so that the front-line infantry divisions are not diverted from their primary responsibilities of guarding the country's borders at this difficult moment.

Patrolling by para-military forces: The Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan borders were sealed largely with the help of the para-military forces to prevent the flow of foreign arms and thwart the attempts of some terrorists to escape into Pakistan without involving the Army formations in it. The regular Army units on either side have to remain at least 16 kilometres away from the border in peace time under the Indo-Pakistani ground rules, with the result that the actual patrolling of the border to check smuggling or infiltration has to be done only by para-military forces.

Units to assist civil administration: It is for this reason that the Government has decided to have an entirely different set of military units in Punjab for assisting the civil administration while the main support for the maintenance of law and order will continue to be provided by the para-military forces. About a dozen extra battalions will be retained in Punjab as stand-by at different cantonments after the bulk of the six divisions brought from outside for the anti-terrorist operations are withdrawn from the State.

Instilling confidence in people: The civil authorities feel reasonably confident of maintaining law and order with this token military force as a special reserve to supplement the para-military forces. The big problem, however, is how to create a sense of security among the people before most of the Army units are withdrawn from the scene since many of them are quite apprehensive of renewed violence in the absence of a strong military presence.

BRIEFS

IAF REORGANIZATION COMPLETE--Madras, July 31--The Government of India has completed the reorganisation of the Indian Air Force on a functional basis with the creation of a Southern Air Command. Under the new dispensation, five minor air wings will be set up at Madras, Sulur, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam. The main air base will be located in Trivandrum, Mr R. Venkataraman, Union Defence Minister told newsmen here today. Mr Venkataraman, who arrived here today by a special IAF aircraft, accompanied by Air Marshal K.D. Chaddha, Deputy Chief of Air Staff at Air Headquarters, Delhi, discussed with Air Marshal T.J. De Sa, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Air Command and Air Commodore M.K. Chandrasekhar, Air Officer Commanding No 2, Ground Training School, Tambaram, Madras, the logistics of the new set up. Replying to a question about the fencing of the 1300-km long border with Bangladesh, Mr Venkataraman said that for some time the work had been stopped due to monsoonish conditions. "We have decided to erect fences along the border at strategic points. It is our right to guard our frontiers from incursions," he said. [Text] Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Aug 84 p 1]

UTTAR PRADESH MINISTERS--Lucknow, August 5 (UNI)--The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr Narain Dutt Tiwari, today constituted his cabinet by inducting three ministers. Of the three cabinet ministers sworn in at a brief ceremony held on the Raj Bhawan lawns here, Mr Brahm Dutt and Mr Veer Bahadur Singh had been senior ministers in the governments of Mr Viswanath Pratap Singh as well as that of Mr Sripat Mishra. The third minister, Mr Saidul Hasan from Bulandshahr district is a newcomer. The chief minister later said that both Mr Brahm Dutt and Mr Veer Bahadur Singh would retain the portfolios they held in Mr Mishra's government while Mr Saidul Hasan would look after housing and waqf. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Aug 84 p 9]

NEW FORWARD BLOC--A new party--All India Socialist Forward Bloc--has been formed mostly with the followers of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and with Mr Biren Roy, former M.P., as its chairman. "True followers of Netaji and the INA, as well as the freedom fighters, feel that a party with faith in the real ideology of Netaji should be established in India." With this end in view, the new party has been formed, according to a statement issued by the AISFB. There are already three Forward Blocs: the Forward Bloc and the Marxist Forward Bloc, the constituents of the Left Front, while the third Forward Bloc (Dutta Majumdar group) is critical of the Left Front. Each claims to be the "true" follower of Netaji. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 1 Aug 84 p 3]

UTTAR PRADESH PARTY MERGER--Lucknow, August 3--The U.P. unit of the Congress (J), against the wishes of the national leaders of the party, today emerged with the Lok Dal "unconditionally." Announcing this at a press conference after the regional conference of the party, the UP president of the Congress (J), Mr Shyam Dhar Misra, said that over 500 office-bearers of 50 units of the party in the state filled the membership forms of the Lok Dal following the decision. Mr Misra said that Mr Jagjivan Ram, national president of the party, was adamant that the Congress (J) should not merge with the Lok Dal. A series of meetings with him did not change his stance. The party has two members in the U.P. assembly, who have also joined the Lok Dal. The president of the Lok Dal state unit, Mr Mulayam Singh Yadav, who was also present, said that the efforts of his party to forge a unity among the opposition parties had, for the first time, yielded results with the merger of the Congress (J). [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Aug 84 p 9]

INDO-IRANIAN PANEL--New Delhi, July 27--The second meeting of the Indo-Iranian joint commission will be held in New Delhi before September-end to further strengthen bilateral relations. The last meeting of the ministerial-level commission was held when the then external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, had gone to Teheran in July last year. Preparatory talks for the joint commission were held in Teheran this week during the visit of Mr Romesh Bhandari, secretary, external affairs ministry, there. Mr Bhandari discussed bilateral relations as well as the Iran-Iraq war. Mr Bhandari was told by Iranian leaders that there was immense potential for intensifying economic relations between the two countries. Iran has been keen to secure India's assistance in the industrial field and has shown interest in the purchase of a variety of equipment. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Jul 84 p 9]

TAIWAN TRAWLERS SEIZED--Bombay, July 27--The Coast Guard vessel Vikram made a bumper catch off the Kerala coast last evening--eight Taiwanese trawlers fishing illicitly in prohibited waters. An aircraft of the Coast Guard as also the helicopter based on Vikram had a leading part in capturing the poachers, a source said. Each of the chartered trawlers can take in 300 tonnes of fish. The trawlers were engaged in fishing within the 45-fathom-depth limit for some time before they were spotted. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Jul 84 p 9]

UK AID--New Delhi, July 30--Britain will finance the full off-shore cost of a new captive power plant to be supplied to the Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) for its smelter at Korba in Madhya Pradesh. The contract for the power plant being supplied by GEC of the U.K. was signed here today. Britain is providing through its overseas development administration Rs 140 crores as aid towards the cost of imported equipment and Rs 55 crores towards erection cost and civil works. In addition, a loan of £ 25 million arranged by Lazard Brothers is expected to be guaranteed by the export credits guarantee department. The provision of nearly Rs 200 crores in grant aid for BALCO power plant makes it the largest single commitment from the British aid programme to any project. The power plant will consist of four

67.5 MW coal-fired generating units and ancillary plant. Delivery will be completed within four years. The plant will bring enough power to BALCO's smelter to obtain maximum production (100,000 tonnes per year). The National Thermal Power Corporation has been appointed to supervise and operate the plant. [Text] Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Jul 84 p 6]

GANDHI'S ELECTORAL DISTRICT--Madras, Aug 4--The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Ghandhi, has chosen the former defence minister, Mr R. Venkataraman, for the post of vice-president so that she may contest the Lok Sabha election from his constituency, South Madras, it was reliably learnt here. Political circles here believe that Mrs Gandhi has decided to contest from South Madras, a traditional Congress(I) bastion. South Madras is a safe constituency as far as Mrs Gandhi is concerned because Mr Venkataraman continues to be a popular leader there. Moreover, the electoral understanding between the Congress(I) and ADMK will guarantee her victory. It is believed that Mrs Gandhi's choice of Mr Venkataraman as the next vice-president is a calculated move to convince the Tamil electorate that she was giving prominence to Tamil leaders. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 5 Aug 84 p 1]

PRC MAPS NOTED--New Delhi, Aug 1 (UNI)--India is intrigued that China has sponsored a series of publications showing parts of Indian territory as its own, the minister of state for external affairs Mr A.A. Rahim told the Lok Sabha today. He said the government had seen reports about Chinese atlases showing Ladakh and Aksai Chin, parts of Himachal Pradesh and the whole of Sikkim and Darjeeling, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh as part of historical China. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 2 Aug 84 p 5]

ANTARCTIC OIL POTENTIAL--Madras, July 29--Forecast of oil in Antarctica--the world's windiest, coldest and stormiest of all continents--is about 50 billion barrels, according to Dr Madanlal, a senior Geologist of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC). Dr Madanlal, who was a member of the third Indian Antarctica Expedition told a party of visiting journalists at Dehra Dun recently that the environment in the continent was pure and a standard for comparison with other impure environments of the world. He spent 20 days in the Schimacher hills and carried out geological mapping of about 25 sq km. Besides, he carried out a magnetic survey of the part of the area along with the expedition leader and collected 175 samples for petrographic sedimentological studies and for age dating. He took with him a portable drilling machine to collect paleomagnetic samples. He would be conducting detailed experiments at the K.D. Malaviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration, Dehra Dun, on the samples, he said. He had submitted a preliminary report to the Department of Ocean Development and the Chairman, ONGC, Col S.P. Wahi. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Jul 84 p 16]

RICE PRICE INCREASE--Rasht, KEYHAN reporter. At the invitation of Hojjat ol-Eslam Ehsanbakhsh, the representative of the imam in Gilan and Friday imam of Rasht, and Governor General Rahmani of Gilan, a one-day seminar on the problems and difficulties of the Province of Iran was held in the presence of the Friday imams, governors and the Majlis representatives of the people of Gilan at the water and electricity building. In the conclusion of this seminar, concerning the issues discussed in the seminar, the governor general of Gilan

said: In this one-day session, the most important political, social, and economic issues were discussed. However, considering the problems before us, economic issues were the primary topics of discussion. In regards to the economic situation, especially concerning the agricultural sector, the problem of rice was on the agenda of the session. More than 20 of the brothers present in the session spoke and in the end, we reached a summation, which will be presented to the brothers of the economic council of the Islamic Republic. He continued: Among the issues discussed concerning rice was that those present voted for government control and supervision. Another discussion concerned the government and private sectors and the price increase of a minimum of 20 percent. All of these suggestions will be announced to the economic council. The governor general of Gilan then referred to the issues discussed concerning prohibitions and, noting this year's drought and the travelers entering this province, offered certain suggestions in connection with the cleansing of the sea, viewing, control over the sea, and segregation. [Text] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Aug 84 p 3] 10,000

RICE RATION DISTRIBUTION--The headquarters for economic development announced in a communique that urban coupon no 241 of the stage 5 rice ration coupons for the third turn for citizens of the Province of Tehran has been allotted for the present year for high quality rice or imported rice. To receive their rice rations, citizens residing in Tehran can go to the city and village Qods, Eteka, and Sepah chain stores and the cooperative store on Qezel Qal'eh Square, and citizens residing in other cities of the Province of Tehran may go to those stores whose names were announced previously to receive 2 months rations of 3 kg per person at 270 rials per kg. Also, citizens who wish to receive imported rice may go to all city sales agents and grocery stores to receive their 2 months rations of 3 kg per person at 75 rials per kg. Also, the above-mentioned coupon will be valid until 22 October of this year and sales agents have until 6 November to deliver the coupons they have received to the branches of Saderat Bank to obtain receipts. Also, urban coupon no 24 will be valid until 6 September of this year. [Text] [Tehran BURS in Persian 16 Jul 84 p 2] 10,000

CSO: 4640/362

MONTAZERI RECOMMENDS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES DURING HAJJ PILGRIMAGE

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 Aug 84 p 12

[Text] On the occasion of hajj week, a large group of clerics, managers, and supervisors of the hajj caravans; Messers Musavi-Kho'iniha, the representative of the imam and supervisor of the Iranian hajj pilgrims, and Khatami, the minister of Islamic guidance; and several of the officials of the hajj and pilgrimage organization met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri last Monday.

In this meeting, after the representative of the imam and supervisor of the Iranian hajj pilgrims presented a brief report concerning the programs arranged for the hajj pilgrims, particularly in regards to propaganda, and the proposal for celebrating hajj week, which was announced by Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, he praised them and said: Contrary to what the enemies have propagated and some of our ignorant friends have also believed, Islam is not a religion whose programs dwell exclusively on the next world, after death; it has offered sufficient necessary programs, instructions, and directives for all human affairs related to this and the next world. Islam has precise programs and teachings appropriate to the growth, development, and salvation of human beings from the time they are in their mother's womb, while they are nursing, during childhood, in their youth and beyond, to the moment of death. In order to help human beings achieve the high goals of creation, Islam has devised comprehensive laws which take into consideration all the material and spiritual needs of societies and individuals in various situations. He pointed out: Based on this principle, even the act of worshipping is not one-dimensional in Islam; worshipping is a mixture of the spiritual and divine, social and political, and penal and legal affairs of individuals. Islam has paid extraordinarily careful attention to affairs related to the various aspects of human life and so-called economic, political, and judicial goals. If we look at the more than 80 volumes of texts on religious jurisprudence, we see that with the exception of 5 or 6, they concern political, economic, and governmental affairs and the details of Islamic laws. Concerning Islamic worshipping, the hajj pilgrimage is given a special privileged

status. The attention to the mixture of all of the various aspects of politics and worship is more apparent during the hajj pilgrimage than other Islamic forms of worship and obligations. In the Koran, God considers the Holy House the place for the uprising of the people, that is, a center which instigates the stability, confrontation, and resistance of the people. This can only mean that the hajj ceremonies are not one-dimensional and exclusive of spiritual affairs. It is what Muslims need and it can bring stability and honor to Islam and glory and unity to Muslims. In these ceremonies and in the pilgrimage to this center, monotheism must be paid particular attention to. The extremely important concern in the hajj pilgrimage is for the pilgrims to the House of God, in addition to following the obvious aspects of practicing the religious instructions, to pay attention to the content and the spirit of this great form of worship. If the purpose of explaining this great obligation were to carry on a few simple acts without understanding the political and social truths, secrets and content, the Koran would not have interpreted the House of God as the place of the "people's uprising," because this great House and its pilgrimage ceremonies result in the stability and uprising of Islam and the people when, in addition to the spiritual and divine aspects, the high political and social aims of the pilgrimage to that House are also paid attention to and practiced by the hajj pilgrims.

He said: One of the important duties of the honorable clerics and religious scholars who accept the responsibility for these caravans is to make the people and the hajj pilgrims aware of the unrecognized aims and truths of this great journey to Almighty God. While explaining the religious problems and instructions and the protocols and customs of the hajj pilgrimage, the spiritual brothers must try to familiarize the honorable hajj pilgrims with the spiritual and political philosophies and aims of the hajj pilgrimage as well so that, God willing, the hajj pilgrims will be able to carry out this obligation in the form instructed by the Koran and the Prophet of Islam and which the pure imams have wanted and recommended.

Continuing his speech concerning the lack of attention to Islam on the part of the leaders of Muslim countries and their nations, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: Today, Islam and Muslims, on the one hand, are faced with governments whose leaders are mostly either ignorant and uninformed about Islam or are the agents and functionaries of the enemies of Islam and international Zionism, and, on the other hand, are faced with corrupt court appointed clerics who endorse the injustice and armies of the governments. Because of these two factors, every calamity is inflicted on the Islamic world today, and usurping Israel has been able to occupy the first Kaaba of the Muslims, the lands of many of the Islamic countries, and the oppressed country of Palestine. If the Islamic countries, which have the great power of Islam and

numerous material and human resources, would follow Islamic instructions and become closer to their nations rather than having relations with the enemies of Islam, Israel could not carry out so much injustice. If the Saudi Arabian government would leave the hajj pilgrims free rather than establishing colonialist conferences upon the order of others and would not prevent anti-American and anti-Israeli demonstrations, Israel would not become so bold as to allow itself to invade Islam and the Muslims in southern Lebanon and occupied Palestine and would not be able to occupy the first Kaaba of Muslims for years. I do not know how they can say that the hajj pilgrimage ceremonies are not political when the Koran openly considers the Kaaba a center for the uprising of the people to fight global dualism and heathenism and instructs the revered Prophet and his holiness 'Ali to recite the blessed Sura Bara'at, which is supported by all the strongly vehement verses against the heathens and infidels and was a decree for the proclamation of war against the enemies of Islam during the hajj ceremonies, declaring the disgust of God and His Messenger for the heathens and infidels, who are the main enemies of Islam. Grand Ayatollah Montazeri pointed out: Based on the verses of Sura Bara'at and other verses of the Koran and the behavior of the Messenger of God, the most appropriate place in which the slogan of death to the United States and death to Israel must be declared to the people of the world is the hajj ceremonies. It is in these ceremonies that the Asian nation must be informed about the problems of the African nations and the injustice carried on by colonialism towards them. This is where they should come to an understanding and raise their weapons against the infidels of the age and the superpowers. It is during the hajj ceremonies that the Iranian pilgrims must inform the oppressed nations of the secret to the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. The reason we see the Saudi Arabian authorities usually making arrangements to enable the Iranian pilgrims to contact the Muslim sisters and brothers of other countries is because of their fear of this. But, what we mean by the exportation of the revolution is that we put our experiences and the fruits of our revolution at the disposal of the oppressed and deprived people of the world. Otherwise, water and land are no obstacles for us. For us, the issue consists rests with human beings and alerting and awakening them. The heads of the Islamic countries must know that whether or not they wish it, nations are awakening, and if they want to continue to govern, they must rely on Islam and their own nations, not on the United States and the Soviet Union. Let them heed the history of Mohammad Reza Shah. Neither the United States, the West, nor the Soviet Union could protect him against the awakening and uprising of the people; finally, he fell into the trash bin of history. Concerning the duties of the clerics and managers as well as the representative of the imam, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: The responsibility that the brothers have accepted is very grave. Islam and the people expect more from the spiritual brothers than

they do from others; they must watch their behavior with individuals and their comings and goings in the region and among other Muslims. They must avoid statements and actions which are not worthy of a cleric and must know that their slightest transgression will be blamed on Islam, the revolution, and all clerics. The brothers on the hajj pilgrimage must also be just in their behavior towards the service personnel of the caravans and not imagine that the service brothers are their servants or inferiors. They must help and cooperate with them in tasks involving the caravans as much as possible and preserve Islamic behavior and morality in their comings and goings and various dealings. The managers of the caravans must also note that if, God forbid, they do not do their duty well and if they are slow to identify Mana, 'Arafat, Mash'ar and other sensitive places, each of which require precise practices, the blame for the disruption of the hajj pilgrimage will also be on them.

10,000

CSO: 4640/354

WOMEN DEMONSTRATE IN KARACHI

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Aug 84 p 8

[Text]

KARACHI, August 9: Women demonstrated against the 'Diyat and Qisas' law before the Governor's House here this afternoon.

Different women organisations of Karachi held a meeting here this afternoon under the auspices of Women Action Forum in YMCA to register their protest against the Diyat and Qisas law. The speakers condemned the law as in their opinion it "tends to deprive the womenfolk of their constitutional rights as provided in the 1973 constitution".

They said that the law as recommended by the Majlis-e-Shoora not only "devalued the women of the country who constitute 50 per cent of the population" but was also against all norms of a civilized society.

They apprehended that passing of the law was only a beginning and if allowed to go unchecked more severe and inhumane laws would follow.

They said that not only the women have been deprived of their rights but the value of their life has been also reduced. In the case of Qisas the compensation for the women would be paid half of the compensation fixed for men.

They raised questions such as whether the women were not full human beings, or "are the women and the people belonging to minorities not citizens of the country". "Have the women no eyes so as to demand Qisas for the murder committed before her and if she is considered half of the

man for every thing would she be awarded half the punishment awarded to men for committing the same crime?"

They also distributed an appeal of the same nature among the spectators which according to them will be sent to President Gen. Ziaul Haq.

After the meeting the women came out on the roads in a procession, which went round the main streets of the Saddar area and culminated before the Governor's House where they demonstrated for about 45 minutes.

They carried banners and placards inscribed with slogans expressing their demands, such as, 'Jagirdari and Sarmayadari Khatam Karo', 'Restore 1973 Constitution', 'Qisas Diyat Namanzoor', 'Minorities are not second class citizens', 'Down with black laws', 'Women devalued by Qisas Diyat', 'half in the eyes of men, whole in the eyes of God', 'Mullacracy Nahin Chalegy'.

It may be mentioned that the Governor was not in the Governor House today as he had gone to Islamabad to attend a cabinet meeting.

The women tried to block the traffic on the Governor's House road. However the Police persuaded them to disperse. They again came in a procession to the YMCA and after passing a resolution condemning the Qisas and Diyat law dispersed.

They announced to meet again in the APWA headquarter on Monday next.

PRESENCE OF ISRAELI LOBBY CHARGED

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English Aug 84 p 39

[Text]

PAKISTAN's major Urdu daily, *Jasarat*, has made a stunning revelation about the presence of an Israeli lobby in the government of Pakistan. The newspaper published an editorial on June 15 commenting on an American official document which said that several members of the Federal Majlis - shura (parliament) have expressed the view that, like Egypt, Pakistan should also award diplomatic recognition to Israel. The document was presented to the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate in April. The main argument of those members of Shura who are in favour of recognising Israel is that support for the Palestinians has not secured any monetary benefits, while recognition of Israel may ensure massive American help.

Since its establishment Pakistan has remained committed to the Palestinian cause, which is definitely an Islamic cause. It is unthinkable that some members of Zia's handpicked Shura should measure support to the displaced Palestinians in terms of money and plead that the usurper be recognised so as to gain monetary benefit from the United States.

It is possible that the American report may be a deliberate attempt to create ill feeling against Pakistan in the Arab world. However, this possibility does not prevent Pakistan from making inquiries into the matter. So far the Zia regime has dismissed the plea, saying they are the views of some intellectuals. Even if they are the views of a tiny minority, the Zia regime has a responsibility to the people of Pakistan and to the Muslim world as a whole to expose those involved - and if they are members of the Shura, Zia must dismiss them immediately.

CSO: 4600/717

COMMENTARY VIEWS ELECTION PREPARATIONS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Aug 84 p 4

[Article by Khalid Akhtar in the "Spectrum" column: "Clearing the Decks for the Polls"]

[Text]

With the March 1984 deadline approaching fast the President, of late, has started unfolding his cards one by one. Gradually, the blanks left in Aug. 12 Programme are being filled in. And all is being done systematically. The most controversial aspects of the programme are being discussed in the foreign Press thus giving the Government enough time and manoeuvrability to respond to any unfavourable response to any of the provisions of the new political system.

The President has rarely been more free and frank in expressing his views than he was during the course of his interview with the Financial Times. He has made it known explicitly that he would like to be asked to stay on in the office even after the elections. One wonders how President Zia could launch the new system minus his own self from the set-up. Apart from this there are certain quarters which genuinely want him to continue as President. And after elections many voices will implore him to stay on in the office. Mr. Talpur probably asked for the same thing but in different words. Secondly Gen. Zia is to restore the same powers and lustre to the office of President which had been its lot in the days of the late Ayub Khan. The concentration of powers is to shift from the Premier to the President.

INSTITUTION OF NSC

The next point which stood out prominently in President Zia's interview with the British daily was his mention of the NSC. Now this was perhaps for the first time since the announcement of Aug. 12 Programme that President Zia has referred to the National Security Council. This indicates that the Government is probably not finding the public response favourable to this institution.

In the new set-up important powers are likely to be vested with the President and the NSC. It will be the latter which alone will have the power to declare emergency.

In a democratic system this is the exclusive prerogative of a sovereign body. What other powers the NSC will have is not yet clear. Now with President Zia in the office it will be easy for him to establish rapport with the "Khaki" composed NSC. A civilian President may find the arrangement a bit out of character to have smooth sailing in the office. He may not find himself more than a figure head before the all powerful NSC. After all, a civilian Speaker of the House in the Ayub Khan's set-up turned out to be powerless man. Then there is another aspect to the situation. The political role for the three services chiefs may make their exit, after the expiry of their term in office, a bit more uncertain.

Coming to Parliament, President Zia said that it will be called Majlis-e-Shoora with enhanced powers and greater authority than it is enjoying

at the moment. In the Western concept of democracy Parliament is a sovereign body. Does the change in the title from Parliament to Shoorā also imply a change in the character and functioning of the House? Will the Shoorā lack the sovereign status of a Parliament?

It appears that the decision has finally been taken on holding polls on non-party basis. As a matter of fact the die was cast when polls to the local bodies were held on partyless basis. After that the controversy was merely of an academic nature designed more to keep the politicians with their faces toward the wall. The politicians do have a place in Government's scheme of things but not the parties. But how they will survive without parties to support them is the crucial question the politicians have been left to ponder about. This is also perhaps their biggest quandary on taking or not taking part in the elections. An equally greater quandary for the Government is how to ensure the participation of maximum number of leaders in the polls to win broader acceptability to the elections at home and abroad.

SPECIAL ENVOYS

There are reports that the Government had sent special emissaries to London for talks with the politicians now residing in Britain. Almost whole of PPP leading hierarchy is in London these days. Among the Baluch leaders Attaullah Mengal is also there. It is said that the Government has shown its willingness to allow these leaders to take part in polls in exchange for accepting the legitimacy of the regime coming into being as a result of the forthcoming elections.

It is true that many of the right-wing politicians are likely to take part in the elections. Pagara Muslim League and Jammat-i-Islami have given their consent long ago to take part in any exercise the regime may deem fit in the existing circumstances. But their participation alone will not give the polls a "look of acceptability". Only the involvement of the majority of

leaders of major parties will give polls the acceptability that the Government is seeking. Polls sans politicians could turn out to be a risky proposition. For non-acceptance of polls results could cause more serious problems than not holding elections at all. None of us would like the repetition of 1977 events.

The most unusual aspect of the whole situation is that the march towards election has not led to a proportionate liberalisation in Government's policies in most spheres. There remain all kinds of curbs on the Press; leaders like Air Marshal Asghar Khan, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Mumtaz Bhutto are still in detention and political workers continue to be rounded up. The hanging of the three "terrorists" on the verdict of a military court and the approval of the draft law on Qisas and Diyat by the nominated House were carried through in face of criticism. With elections not far off both the decision could easily have been put off. But perhaps the Government did not want to show any dent on its firmness, though it remains open to question whether the approach has done any good to the Government's image. Happily the flogging of a woman has been postponed. The last act could have driven the "weaker vessel" to utter despair.

BITTER SCENARIO

In the background of this bitter scenario the lifting of the ban on the entry of leaders like Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Sherbaz Mazari and Moulana Fazlur Rehman into Punjab has given a ray of hope that there may be relaxation in the body politic of the country in the days ahead. Reconciliation and not confrontation is the need of the hour. Divisiveness will add another negative element to the election process.

Much will depend on how things shape up after the elections. Will it be a new beginning as is being claimed? If not, then, what will be our future? These are some of the intriguing questions which only time will answer. For the time being, with our fingers crossed, we sit and hope for the best.

CABINET APPROVES QAZI COURTS, EVIDENCE LAW

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Rawalpindi, Aug 8--The Federal Cabinet which met here on Wednesday under the chairmanship of President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, gave its approval in principle to the draft of Qanoon-i-Shahadat Ordinance 1983, and the draft of Ordinance for Establishing Qazi Courts in the country.

The Cabinet meeting which remained in session for eleven hours also considered at length the draft ordinance of Qisas and Diyat and decided to consider it further.

Later, the Federal Information Secretary, Lt-Gen Mujib-ur-Rehman told newsmen that the proposed Qanoon-i-Shahadat Ordinance is an important milestone in the nation's march towards the ultimate goal of complete Islamisation of society in the country and introduction of Islamic nizam-i-adal to ensure dispensation of speedy and inexpensive justice to the people.

The Qanoon-i-Shahadat Ordinance revises, amends and consolidates the existing law of evidence in conformity with the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah.

The Cabinet considered at length the draft of Establishment of Courts of Qazis Ordinance 1983 together with the report of the committee set up in 1983 to examine the draft ordinance with a view to ensuring that its provisions were fully in accordance with the spirit of Islamic justice.

The Information Secretary said that the process of appointment of Qazis will be initiated immediately and a three-member Selection Committee will be constituted to select qualified persons for the post of qazis. The Chief Justice of Federal Shariat Court and two judges of the Shariat Benches of the Supreme Court will form the committee. A judge of a High Court will also be associated with the selection of the qazis in the respective provinces.

The Cabinet decided that initially Qazi Courts should be established in the Islamabad Federal Territory, Rawalpindi division in Punjab, Swat district in NWFP, Nasirabad district in Baluchistan and Khairpur district in Sind.

On special invitation, Mr Justice Aftab Hussain, Chief Justice of Federal Shariat Court, Mr Justice Pir Karam Shah and Justice Maulana Mohammad Taqi Usmani, judges of the Shariat Bench of Supreme Court and Mufti Sahayuddin Kakakhel, members of Majlis-i-Shoora attended the Cabinet meeting when the proposed draft ordinance was discussed. Later, professor Tahirul Qadri also joined the ulema in the discussion.

The deliberations of the Cabinet started with recitation from the Holy Quran by Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting. The meeting was attended by the Provincial Governors, Federal Ministers, Ministers of State and concerned secretaries.

CSO: 4600/714

PAKISTAN

OFFICIAL'S PLEA TO BOOST EXPORTS TO IRAN

Karachi DAWN in English 14 Aug 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text] Lahore, Aug 13--Iran is the biggest importer of the Pakistani goods. Therefore, exporters should try to meet its requirements keeping in view that it is not only a neighbourer but also a Muslim state with which Pakistan was enjoying very friendly relations, this was stated by Mr Izharul Haq, Federal Secretary, commerce.

He was addressing traders and industrialists here today at the local Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He said the Government had decided to send a Pakistani trade delegation to Iran this year and also invited the Iranian Commerce Minister to visit Pakistan.

He hoped the Iranian Commerce Minister would visit Pakistan in September and meet his Pakistani counterpart to explore the prospects for importing other Pakistani goods.

Replying to a question, he said that due to shortage of storage facilities at the Zahidan railway station, the Government was considering to export goods to that country through land-route.

Answering another question, he said that being an Islamic country, Iran preferred to import goods it needed from a Muslim country. Therefore, we should try to provide maximum facilities to Iran in order to mount more items on our export list.

Mr Izharul Haq said that the target of exporting cotton and rice fixed by the Government for the current fiscal year would be reviewed when the new crops of both the commodities arrive in the market.

He, however, added that better crops were a must this year to compensate for the losses suffered last year.

Answering a question, he said that the Government had already directed all the Government departments and the construction companies functioning abroad to import Pakistani goods to encourage national industry.--PPI

CSO: 4600/717

AGREEMENT ON MORRIS PLANT BEING CONCLUDED

Karachi DAWN in English 14 Aug 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

KARACHI, Aug 13: The Federal Government has issued the necessary permission for the manufacturing plant of Morris Ital car to be set up in the private sector and formal signing of the agreement between the Pakistani entrepreneur and the British firm will take place by September.

Informed sources said most of the outstanding problems between the British and Pakistani firms have been resolved following the visit of the Austin Rover team to Pakistan, headed by its chairman Mr. Harold Musgrove.

They said the visit of the Austin Rover team was to ensure quicker implementation of the project and both sides were fully committed to the project.

One issue, according to the sources, that of the third partner's

equity, has not yet been solved. The total requirement of a third partner is Rs. 35 million and sponsors of the project believe the matter will be finalised in the immediate future.

Sources said the project was expected to come on stream by July next year and a comprehensive programme for construction has already been taken in hand.

Necessary equipment like paint shop and other facilities, which the Austin Rover wants to dismantle and ship to Pakistan, has already been ordered, sources said.

They pointed out that it was the first project of its kind in Pakistan which aims at total manufacturing of an automobile. Although routine problems and difficulties in its implementation are expected, the attitude of the Government is extremely positive, they added.

CSO: 4600/717

PAKISTAN-SAUDI CONSTRUCTION PROJECT COMPLETED

Karachi DAWN in English 14 Aug 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

KARACHI, Aug 13: A big housing project of dollar 225 million has been completed and handed over by Al-Huseini-Ada, a Pakistani-Saudi joint venture construction company in Saudi Arabia.

The Managing Director of the company Mr Mumtaz Ahmed Qureshi, said the project in Hafar al-Batin comprised 1750 housing units, and two mosques. Most modern amenities have been provided in the houses.

Mr Qureshi said that the work was carried out under the supervision of US corps of engineers and completed within the prescribed time of three years. Construction was done by using precast concrete walls and roof panels. Latest technology was employed in the erection of these panels.

With the completion of this project A-ADA has so far done jobs worth more than 370 million US dollars in Saudi Arabia which includes, housing project in Hafar al-Batin, construction of airport buildings, workshops, auditorium training centre, warehouses at Dhahran airport, construction of power house at Al-Kharj, construction of saline water conversion corporation headquarter building at Riyadh, construction bridges on Safwa Jubail Road, construction of Pakistan Embassy School Jeddah,

Landscaping and plantation work at Yanbu.

After being impressed from its performance another similar project comprising additional 1650 units of houses and 3 mosques was awarded — ADA at the same location with a value of 230 million US dollars. This second project is now more than 50% complete and the progress is according to schedule.

The company, he said, was also successful in securing following new jobs worth more than 230 million US dollars during the year 1983-84.

a. construction of housing project for interior Ministry at Hafar al-Batin. b. construction of National Commercial Bank building in Dammam and Jubail, c. construction of children parks in Riyadh, d. construction of petro-min housing in Jubail.

With the addition of new jobs, the value of work in hand has gone up to more than 350 million US dollars and all these works are successfully progressing according to schedule.

The company is continuing to make efforts to obtain more jobs under tough competitive market in Saudi Arabia to provide more jobs for Pakistani labour and earn more foreign exchange for the country, he said. —APP

CSO: 4600/717

BRIEFS

TRADE TALKS WITH IRAN--Lahore, Aug 13--Ministerial Trade Committee will meet in September to regulate the flow of exports from Pakistan to Iran. This was disclosed by the Federal Commerce Secretary, Mr Izharul Haq while replying to questions from members of the Executive Committee of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry today. He said the Iranian Commerce Minister was due to arrive in Pakistan next month to hold talks with the Federal Minister for Finance, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Before that, however, a trade delegation from Pakistan will visit Iran to assess Pakistan's export potential to Iran. Due to inadequate storage facilities at Zahidan, the Government of Pakistan was planning to make bulk exports to Iran by road. For this purpose various proposals were under consideration, he added. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 14 Aug 84 Business Supplement p I]

CASSETTE ON SAUDI LABOR LAWS--Islamabad, Aug 16--The Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) has produced an orientation and briefing audio cassette covering the labour laws, social, cultural and economic conditions of Saudi Arabia for the Pakistani expatriates working in various parts of the Kingdom. The launching ceremony of the cassette will be held at a local hotel on Aug 16. His Excellency, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Taufiq Khalid Alamdar shall be the chief guest and Federal Minister for Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis, Ghulam Dastgir Khan shall preside over the function. The orientation and briefing cassette produced by the OPF has been recorded in the voices of Mrs Mahpara Safdar and Mr Khalid Hameed, the newscasters of the Pakistan Television Corporation, whereas the script of the cassette was written by the editor of the monthly magazine of the OPF. The cassette provides complete information regarding labour laws of Saudi Arabia beside giving maximum details about the baggage rules, procedure to remit foreign exchange from abroad, regulations of duty-free shops and methodology of various investment promotion agencies in Pakistan. The OPF Managing Director pronounced that the Foundation envisages to produce such cassettes for Pakistan expatriates living in other countries of the Gulf and the Middle East.--PPI [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 17 Aug 84 p 11]

QUETTA-SIBI RAILWAY TRACK--Quetta, Aug 7--The Quetta-Sibi section of the Pakistan Railways providing an important link between Pakistan, Iran and Turkey is to be electrified at an estimated cost Rs 1,370 million including foreign exchange component of Rs 772 million. According to Railway sources here feasibility study on the project has been completed by an Italian firm and okayed by the Central Development Working Party. It would be implemented under special development plan with funds from friendly foreign countries. The project will take three years to complete. The project envisages electrification of 102 kilometres of single track from Sibi to Abigum and Kolpur to Quetta and 38 kilometres of double track between Abigum to Kolpur besides construction of three 25 KV 50 cycle feeder stations at Sariab, Mach and Sibi.--PPI [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 8 Aug 84 p 1]

JAPANESE EQUIPMENT FOR ENGINEERING COLLEGE--Quetta, Aug 6--Japan has pledged model equipments worth about two billion yens for Pakistan to be installed at under-construction Baluchistan's first engineering college at Khuzdar. The project is estimated to cost Rs 425 million including foreign exchange component of over Rs 113 million. A three-member Japanese delegation, now here, held a meeting with the Project Director of the college and discussed with him details of the project. The delegation assured of wholehearted support and supply of necessary equipments for the college. The college is likely to be completed in a couple of years.--PPI [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 7 Aug 84 Business Supplement p I]

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