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NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA

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EGYPT

NEAR EAST

SHOOTING INCIDENT IN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY REPORTED

Cairo Al-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] After the end of the session nominating President Mubarak, after the departure of the members, and as Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub was leaving the People's Assembly, bullets of unknown origin were fired in the Assembly hall, obliging security personnel to surround Dr al-Mahjub and take him back inside the Assembly. He did not depart until the situation was secure. Security officials did not comment on the origin of the mysterious shots, nor did they say anything about whether the incident actually occurred.

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CSO: 4504/297

KUWAITI MAGAZINE VIEWS COPTIC COMMUNITY

Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic 21 July 87 pp 30, 31

[Article: "The Coptic Minority in Egypt: the Present and the Future"]

[Excerpts] The nature of a discussion about the Coptic minority in Egypt is special: there are no geographical, cultural, political, or social boundaries separating Copts from society in general. There are no areas in which Copts are concentrated and no areas where they outnumber Muslims. In fact, Copts in Asyut, which is the capital of Upper Egypt, make up no more than 20 percent of the total population. Asyut is also the governorate that has the largest number of Copts. This means that in the governorate which has the largest number of Copts one out of every five persons is a Copt. In al-Minya Governorate, which has the second largest Coptic population in the country, Copts make up 19.4 percent of the population. It is followed by Sawhaj, where Copts make up 14.2 percent of the population. These three governorates are all located in Upper Egypt where the ratio of Copts to the general population is actually higher than it is elsewhere: Copts make up 10 percent of the population in Upper Egypt. In Egypt's northern governorates, however, that percentage drops sharply, and Copts there make up no more than two percent of the population. In medicine and pharmacology Copts make up 18.2 percent of the total number of people who are engaged in these professions; they represent 15.8 percent of those engaged in trade; and 13 percent of all those who are employed in the natural sciences, in accounting, statistics, mathematics, and engineering. These percentages are high, but they are not high in agriculture, where Copts make up only seven percent of those who are employed in that profession.

Less Than 3 Million Persons

But how many Copts are there in Egypt now? The most recent census was conducted in December of last year (in 1986), and the results were announced only a few weeks ago. Those results indicated that the number of Copts in Egypt was under 3 million persons. According to the official census the number of Copts in December 1986 was 2,829,349 persons; that is 5.87 percent of the Muslim population. In 1960 the number of Copts was 1,829,182 persons; they made up 7.33 percent of the population. In 1966 their number was 2,018,562 or 6.74 percent of the population. In 1976 their number was 2,285,620 or 6.24 percent of the population. Last year, however, Copts were 5.87 percent of the population or approximately 2.8 million persons. What then is the basis of those claims about

the number of Copts being 8 million and 5 million persons, when the actual number of Copts is under 3 million? All the figures we mentioned and all those which are mentioned in relation to that subject are derived from the book, "Al-Mash al-Ijtima'i al-Shamil lil Mujtama' al-Misri min 1952-1980" [A Comprehensive Social Survey of Egyptian Society from 1952 to 1980]. That book was published by the National Center for Social and Criminal Research in Cairo. In addition, these figures are also derived from the most recent census of the population which was completed last year.

There were 1,413 churches and approximately 37 monasteries in Egypt in 1980. Copts have a weekly newspaper, WATANI, which comes out on Sunday, and they also have a magazine, AL-KIRAZAH. The permits for these two publications had been revoked when al-Sadat revoked the permits of other newspapers and magazines in September 1981. Since then, however, publication of both the newspaper and the magazine has been resumed. WATANI is a newspaper that devotes attention to both political and spiritual matters. It features a weekly column on spiritual matters written by Archbishop Shanudah. AL-KIRAZAH Magazine focuses basically on religious and spiritual matters, and its circulation is less than that of WATANI.

The Orthodox Sect

Most Copts in Egypt are members of the Orthodox sect, and their leader is Archbishop Shanudah the Third. Although their number is smaller than that of Orthodox Copts, Egypt also has Catholics and Protestants. Archbishop Shanudah the Third became the archbishop of the Copts by presidential decree issued in 1971. He served as leader of the Coptic sect until he was removed from that position by al-Sadat and sent far away from Cairo to Wadi al-Natrun where he was placed under house arrest. Al-Sadat had accused the archbishop of fanning the fires of sectarian strife, and security agencies had submitted numerous reports condemning the archbishop and accusing him of encouraging Copts to stir up problems and communicate with western countries and with the United States to appeal to them for an end to what they called "the persecution of Copts in Egypt." Accordingly, the Ethics Court refused to order the archbishop's release and reinstatement. Because of political pressures, however, a presidential decree was issued on 1 January 1985 reinstating Archbishop Shanudah.

Copts do not have a specific political organization, but they do join most political organizations: the government's party and opposition parties as well. No where in Egypt can a Copt who had been nominated by Copts win in an election and get a seat in the People's Assembly. That is why the People's Assembly Law allows the president to appoint 10 members to the assembly, and it has become customary that all 10 appointed members be Copts. However, in the recent elections in which people voted for party lists, a number of Copts did manage to get their names on the parties' lists of candidates, and they were elected. In the first electoral district in Asyut, for example, a Copt whose name was on the list submitted by the alliance of Muslim Brothers and the Labor and Liberal parties was elected. In Cairo a few Copts whose names appeared on the National Party's lists were elected. In an election each party tries to prove that Copts would vote for it. This was particularly true of the New Wafd party whose secretary general, for example, is Mr Ibrahim Faraj, a Copt. In the government's party Butrus Ghali holds the position of minister of state for foreign affairs,

and 'Adli 'Abd-al-Shahid holds the position of minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad affairs. It seems that these two positions are always reserved for Copts in Egypt. In the press we find Musa Sabri and Sa'id Sunbul in leadership positions in AL-AKHBAR. In general, Copts are noticeably widespread in the media. In professional associations, we find Dr 'Adli Ramsis serving as president of the Pharmacists' Union.

Coexistence and Unification

Copts in Egypt cannot be distinguished from the rest of the population by color, appearance or language. It is usual to find a Muslim family living next door to a Christian family. It is also usual to find a store owned by a Christian next to one owned by a Muslim, and it is usual to find Christians and Muslims working together. There is nothing extraordinary about that, and there are no hard feelings. The problems which could develop between two families or two persons are mostly material problems which have nothing to do with religion. Many Coptic intellectuals, therefore, refuse to talk about "coexistence between Muslims and Copts," and prefer to talk about "the unification of Muslims and Copts." This is because coexistence implies the existence of conflict between two parties which came to an agreement on a peace treaty. The term, "unification," however, implies no disagreement over the supreme goals for the country.

Egyptian Copts maintain relations with Coptic communities abroad. It is not unusual for the Egyptian president to encounter anti-Egyptian campaigns when he visits a country that has strong Coptic communities. This happens if there are rumors about "the persecution of Copts." This is what happened with President al-Sadat on more than one of his visits abroad, to the United States and to other countries as well.

Talking about the Coptic minority is always a very touchy subject for some people. When calls are made for the application of the canonical law of Islam, evil-minded people ask, "And what about the Copts?" That is why the existence of Copts in Egypt has been used by some as an excuse for refusing, delaying or impeding the application of the canonical law of Islam. And yet, Coptic leaders have declared no objections to the application of Islamic law. They declared that they had led peaceful and secure lives under that law.

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PLO REPRESENTATIVE WILLING TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL

Sydney TRIBUNE in English 22 Jul 87 p 6

[Article by Roderick Shaw]

[Text]

For the first time, a senior PLO official has made a written declaration of willingness to recognise Israel. Executive Committee member Abu Mazen made this statement to Israeli MP Charlie Biton at a meeting in Hungary on June 11.

This was the second such meeting of Israelis and Palestinians in the past year. The last one was in Romania last November, after which four Israelis were charged under the country's "terrorism" act and are currently facing trial (see *Tribune*, June 10).

Charlie Biton, who headed the Israeli delegation, refused a summons from the police and challenged them to arrest him, which they have not done. He also commented on the lack of hostile public responses to his meeting PLO representatives.

"The Israeli public has begun to realise that the Palestinians, and the PLO, are honest in their search for peace," Biton told the Palestinian newspaper *Al-Fajr*.

He also said that the Israeli government "still denies the legitimate Palestinian right to a Palestinian state. I believe, however, it will be a long time before the Israeli government is willing to sit and negotiate with the PLO".

Media coverage

The PLO representative in Australia, Ali Kazak, told *Tribune* that he thought it odd that the media should have paid so little attention to the meeting in Hungary.

"They gave much coverage to the recent meeting between white South Africans and the African National Congress," Kazak said. "But the Israeli-Palestinian meeting was just as important, in some ways more so."

"Important because some Israelis realise that they have to choose between war and peace, and to have peace they have to make peace with the Palestinians. And to do that they have to speak with their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO."

Racism

Kazak also said, however, that there was a growing racism in Israel, particularly among young people. He blamed the Israeli education system for this, quoting Israeli General Mordechai Gur, who said that people could not be expected to fight if they did not hate.

"There are two schools of thought in Israel, but the one pushing for war is dominant Jewish people all over the world have to realise this. It is their

duty, and that of everyone, to encourage the right of self-determination for the Palestinians.

Even Bob Hawke realises that there can be no peace without the PLO."

The Israeli Consul-General in Sydney, Zvi Gabay, told *Tribune* that Israel wouldn't accept a Palestinian state. Gabay insisted that the PLO was bent on Israel's destruction, despite Mazer's declaration in Hungary. "We are willing to meet with Palestinians as part of another Arab delegation, but

not with the PLO itself."

He did add, however, that "we do not have a policy to annex the occupied territories. There are settlements there, but they should not be an obstacle to negotiations".

Ali Kazak believes that Israeli politicians committed to a peaceful resolution should "take the initiative and meet PLO representatives. You have to do that when you think you're right, particularly when the future of the whole area is at stake and it's in your people's interests." ■

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CHINA'S ATTITUDE ON TIES WITH ISRAEL DESCRIBED

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jul 87 p 5

[Interview with Peter Enav by Daniel Gavron]

[Text]

THE CHINESE know very little about Israel and the Jewish people, says Peter Enav, the head of Cosmopolitics, a Jerusalem-based company that advises local businessmen on Asia. Whereas in the West Israel is a primary focus of interest, this is not the case in China and the rest of Asia. "We are entirely outside their cultural experience," he points out.

Israel's foreign policy has been Western-oriented, says Enav. Jerusalem has strong ties with only a handful of Asian countries, and this is worrying, because Asia is growing more important every year. Readers who watched *Mabat Shenit* (Second Look) on Israel Television last week will know what he is talking about: three documentaries showed the impressive economic power of Japan and South Korea.

Israel has diplomatic relations with South Korea, but it closed down its embassy in Seoul several years ago. South Korea, which buys oil from the Arab states and has thousands of its citizens working in the Gulf, is reluctant to allow it to be reopened.

This country has never had relations with China, despite being one of the first countries to recognize the Communist regime which took over in 1949.

As things stand now, China, which has vital interests in the Moslem world, is not anxious to forge ties with Israel; but this could change if there were real prospects for an international peace conference on the Middle East, with the participa-

tion of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Enav, who teaches Chinese at the Hebrew University, came here from the U.S. only four years ago. He has long been a student of Chinese affairs, starting with Chinese studies at the Universities of Wisconsin and California, during which he spent a year in Taiwan, and going on to serve in a combat unit in Vietnam. He was subsequently at the American Embassy in Thailand, worked as a journalist in Hong Kong, and served on the National Council for U.S.-China Trade in Washington for three years.

An important element of China's foreign policy is the desire to be taken seriously as a great power, he says. A peace conference would be a major event in world diplomacy, and the Chinese would not like to be left out of it.

AT PRESENT, China sees the disadvantages of ties with Israel outweighing the advantages, says Enav. Although there has been a gradual improvement in relations in the past few years, he cautions that this should not be exaggerated.

It is true that in March, Xinhua, the official Chinese news agency, reported a meeting at the UN in New York between Foreign Ministry Director-General Avraham Tamir and Li Luye, Beijing's permanent UN representative. Before that, meetings between Israeli and Chinese officials had always been denied. This was a significant

change, concedes Enav, but it was within the framework of the United Nations, rather than a strictly bilateral meeting.

The recent visit to China by Rakah leader Meir Wilner should be seen within the framework of the Chinese Communist Party's attempts to improve relations with other Soviet-oriented parties, which deteriorated in the 1960s, at the time of the Sino-Soviet split. Rakah is a Moscow-aligned party, notes Enav, and the Chinese invitation to Wilner was part of the process of Sino-Soviet normalization, although there was probably also a desire to learn more about Israel.

The Tamir and Wilner contacts – and the fact that Israeli businessmen and scientists have visited China in the past few years – are "ripples rather than waves," he suggests. Today, Israelis do enter China on Israeli passports as delegates to international conferences, but although some ordinary tourists have been allowed in, it is not certain that anyone who wants to visit will be able to. Israelis can now send letters to China or phone that country, and that is an improvement on the previous situation. In Enav's opinion, there is reason for "cautious optimism," but no more than that.

HE IS EXTREMELY sceptical of recent media reports of vast business deals between Israel and China. The potential simply isn't there, he points out. "We would have to be competing with Japan, the U.S. and

nature. China is a major arms supplier to Iran. It has also sold huge quantities of equipment to Jordan, which is obviously passing them on to Iraq. Thus, Beijing is "playing both sides of the street" in the Gulf War.

China's trade with the Middle East is larger than its trade with either Europe or the U.S., Enav points out. It is seven times its trade with Africa, and five times its trade with Latin America. Nothing that Israel can offer compares to business on this scale, although the possibility of scientific and technological exchanges should not be counted out.

At the same time, China has adopted an ideological, "Third World" approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Beijing's current stance on relations with this country is very tough: no diplomatic relations unless Israel withdraws from all territory taken in 1967, including East Jerusalem; agrees to Palestinian rights, including a Palestinian state; and pledges to desist from "its policy of aggression and expansion" in the Middle East.

Regardless of the pros and cons, Enav insists that the PLO take part as an independent delegation. Nevertheless, if an international conference became a real possibility, Beijing might modify its policy to ensure its participation.

Although China officially denies a desire for super power status, proclaiming that the two super powers – the U.S. and the Soviet Union – are the source of all tension in the world, it does want to be regarded as a major player on the world stage. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, it recognizes its rights and responsibilities.

"Beijing does not want to be frozen out of the international conference," says Enav, "and if the entrance-ticket is recognition of Israel, it will reconsider its current line."

Regardless of the pros and cons of the conference itself, Israel can gain huge advantages just by agreeing to the parley, suggests Enav. Ties with China and renewal of ties with the Soviet Union – before the actual talking starts – would be gigantic steps forward for Israel, which is still regarded as illegitimate by much of the Third World.

APART FROM deciding to participate in an international conference, and pursuing a "clever diplomacy" towards that end, there is not very much that Israel can do to improve its relations with China, in Enav's view. The biggest thing that Israel has to offer is a place at the conference table.

Nevertheless, small advances in trade and technological exchange are feasible, possibly through the U.S. Israel must understand how China does business, and look for things to buy as well as to sell. One Chinese product that Israel could purchase is coal.

American relations with the Chinese began on a cultural and sporting level – the so-called "ping-pong diplomacy." Enav does not see immediate progress for Israel in this area, but wonders aloud whether a personality such as Isaac Stern (who is revered in China) might be able to initiate musical exchanges. A tour of China by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra would be a marvellous achievement, he muses, but it is probably more realistic to think in terms of a small chamber group at first.

"The point here is that the Chinese are aware of how little they know about Israel and the Jewish people, and they are beginning to realize our importance," says Enav. He suggests that Israel Radio could start broadcasting to China, noting that "enough talent exists in this country to produce a 15-part radio series in Chinese on the history of Israel."

Above all, stresses the expert, Israelis must learn to be discreet. Israel-China relations are in a very delicate state and the last thing they need is publicity.

"Of course cabinet ministers and government officials want to publicize their achievements, and that is perfectly legitimate. But they must realize that, when they report on their meetings with Chinese officials in the media, they are causing real harm to our relations with Beijing."

In general, Enav pleads for more Asia-consciousness in this country. In the 21st century, he predicts, Asia will be a major centre of economic and political power, and Israel should strive to improve its relations with as many Asian nations as possible.

Europe. Contrary to what some Israel businessmen seem to think, the Chinese are not waiting with bated breath for Israeli technology."

There are fields in which Israeli expertise might interest the Chinese, he concedes; but this is likely to be a gradual development. China is very interested in Soviet military technology, and Israel is an expert on the subject, having faced Soviet weaponry in several wars. This country has also been successful in upgrading out-of-date weapons systems, and the Chinese would certainly be interested in these techniques.

Enav insists that he has no inside information on this. "I read the papers, the same as you do," he says. "I am not talking because I know about secret deals, but merely indicating theoretical compatibility."

Israeli expertise in agriculture would also interest Beijing, he believes. The Chinese could certainly learn from Israel's experience in irrigation, pest control, arid-zone farming and solar power; but this is not a sufficient incentive to outweigh the deterrents to closer relations.

CHINA TRADES with the Middle East on a gigantic scale, says Enav. Between 1980 and 1985 Beijing earned \$25 billion from sales to Middle East countries. As China is self-sufficient in oil, it buys little in return and there is a trade imbalance, which means that the earnings are in hard currency.

A lot of the sales are of a military

RELATIONS WITH INDIA DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jul 87 p 2

[Article by Michael Karnon: "The Tennis Match Between Israel and India Was a Step in the Right Direction"]

[Text] New Delhi--Knesset Member Pinhas Goldstein, chairman of the Knesset Sports Committee, who arrived in Delhi yesterday, may meet with a government member for an initial discussion, at the intercession of former Indian member of parliament M.L. Sundy, currently a professor of international relations at the Nehru University in Delhi.

Goldstein and Sundy, who served as chairman of the India-Israel Friendship Association, met yesterday at a reception given by the small local Jewish community for the Israeli tennis team. Sundy, a Hindu, has close ties to the community. He told me that he had no doubt that the prime minister's permission to have the tennis match was not coincidental and that it marked a first step toward improving the relations between India and Israel.

The visit of the Israeli tennis team to the Bet Yehuda Hayim Synagogue yesterday was an exciting event for the 7-family congregation, which welcomed the Israelis with flowers and warm handshakes. The head of the congregation, Ezra Kolet, 73, greeted the team with a warm welcoming address. "There is no anti-Semitism here, and the government was always good to us," he said.

Dozens of armed soldiers secured the place, and several plainclothesmen even accompanied the players inside the synagogue.

Following a few days of silence, Indian newspapers yesterday carried items about the expected visit here of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He will arrive in Delhi on Monday, at which time the Israeli tennis team will still be there.

An Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman denied claims that the visit was allegedly planned on purpose to coincide with the Israeli team's stay in Delhi. The spokesman noted that the visit had been scheduled for that date a long time in advance, in view of the close relations between India and the PLO. He added that the decision to hold the Davies Cup match against Israel had been taken by the Indian Tennis Association, and the government only approved visas for the Israelis.

The newspaper STATESMAN wrote that Arab ambassadors here were invited to the Foreign Ministry last week for a meeting, at which it was explained to them that the permission given for the Davies Cup game against Israel does not indicate any change in India's policy toward Israel and the Arab cause.

OVERZEALOUS MILITARY INDUSTRY BLAMED FOR ECONOMIC IMBALANCE

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jul 87 p 4b

[Article by Roman Priester: "Back to Reason"]

[Text] It was a military secret that only a handful of government insiders knew: the management of the Soltam Company was considering a proposal to develop smart mortar shells, thus preparing to compete in sophisticated international markets. However, the till of that arms manufacturer was at the time filling with money from the Shah of Iran, and its managers refused to invest that money in development and infrastructure. Perhaps they thought that the bonanza would continue forever. The outcome: last week, 700 of the factory's workers in Yoqne'am were sent home, and God only knows when they will return from their forced vacation.

Undoubtedly some politicians, cabinet ministers, or members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Commission will say: "Had we known, it would not have happened." But I did not begin my article with the Soltam story at random. Today, esteemed politicians, you know it all. At the end of the past week we heard about the launching of "Jericho 2," a missile with nuclear potential that can hit any Arab capital, including Baghdad. It is no longer a secret that the aircraft industry is considering, along with the controversial Lavi, the development of the missile carrier "Sa'ar 5," a modern vessel equipped with sophisticated weapons systems. Foreign sources have reported that hasty preparations are underway to build an Israeli submarine. Similarly, the Merhava tank continues to roll off the assembly lines of the military industry. One would have to be deaf and blind not to ask: Isn't this a symptom of grandomania? Can a small country, which relies on foreign aid, afford to compete with the big powers in such an expensive field without courting economic collapse and without exceeding the limits of reason in a no less sensitive area, namely its political and technological autonomy?

Silly Weapons

For close to 15 years, Dr. Ze'ev Bonen was general manager of the Weapons Development Authority (REFAEL), between 1970-78, and from 1982 to June 30th. Our meeting with him took place in the REFAEL offices in the Gulf of Haifa, where he was getting together his papers before leaving for the United States on sabbatical. These papers contained much food for thought concerning the

past, present, and future of the military industries; their development, difficulties, and the grand illusion that did not materialize. And here they are, as summarized by the departing general manager:

"When we were hit by the shock of the embargo imposed on us by De Gaulle after the Six-Day War, we decided that we would never again be dependent on others: that we would manufacture all the weapons required to defend our homeland by ourselves. This sounded right, and for some reason not one of the decision makers could foresee the future and calculate its economic implications. Had anyone bothered to examine the economic ramifications of the new policy, he would have easily come to the conclusion that in view of the huge development costs and the limited quantity of products that IDF could purchase, there was no way that the economic balance could be maintained.

"I do not believe that everything should be calculated in pounds and shekels. Also, before the French embargo we were developing secret and expensive weapons systems which gave us an advantage on the battlefield. Except that we did so in a controlled and selective manner. In such conditions it is permissible and even obligatory to ignore economic priorities. But when we spread into the broad technological front, the cost of which can be borne only by the biggest powers, the law of economics hit us full force. And as if that were not enough, we in fact even lost the autonomy we were pursuing. We are developing prestigious installations--for the Lavi and the Sa'ar 5--financed by the United States. There is no certainty that an embargo may not in the future be imposed on that money, as was the case with the arms supplies from France."

Dr. Ze'ev Bonen foresees a future in which the means of warfare that characterized the battle fields of World War II will no longer be in use. True, mortar and artillery pieces are still used in the Iran-Iraq war as in the past, but those are the last shots of the "silly weapons," as he calls them. The future belongs to the "smart weapons" alone. For this reason, Bonen is worried about the future of the military industry (TAS), which can compete in international markets only in price, while the price of the respective items is continuously dropping and the number of competitors who can produce more cheaply is rising.

Nor does Bonen see the reliance of the Israeli military industry on platforms, whose development costs billions and which require millions in equipment investments, as the solution which will get us on the right track. In this respect, his views are close to those that Benny Peled has recently been airing: Instead of developing prestigious platforms that swallow up all our financial resources, we would do better to purchase them abroad and equip them with Israeli-made avionics, control and monitoring, communications, and radar systems. In other words, instead of developing the Lavi, we should buy the F-16 and equip it with the technological sophistication developed in our country in accordance with the specific needs of the IDF.

Dr. Bonen: "This situation, which we entered with our eyes closed, is simply not cut to our size. We cannot carry it off. Even medium-sized powers like England and France currently seek joint developments in order to share the costs. Moreover, the endeavor to develop and produce platforms increases our

dependence on others. For example, Israel will never manufacture engines for fighter planes, and as long as we need foreign components, we cannot be free to market our products in world markets. One still remembers the difficulties that President Carter made when we wanted to sell the Kfir to Ecuador. Some 10 years ago the aircraft industry tried to sell the plane to Austria. Did anyone truly believe that Kreisky would purchase a fighter plane from Israel? There are political impediments that no product, however fine, can overcome. Not to mention the fact that this policy does not win us any technological advantage. We will always lag behind. Suffice it to ask when the first F-16 took off and when the first Lavi will be ready."

Israeli Brains

The managers of the aircraft industry explained to us that the platforms constitute fertile grounds for sophisticated developments that will grow from them. According to others, there is no connection between the development of sophisticated weapons systems and national projects such as the Lavi. The proof is that REFAEL sold missiles and aircraft control systems which are not even featured in the structure of our air force, and it was the aircraft industry itself that carried out the adaptations. Dr. Bonen is convinced that the future of the military industry lies in capitalizing on Jewish brains to the utmost extent, and in returning to the principles that guided us in the past, when the emphasis was put on selective development, which would ensure an advantage of quality over quantity, as well as limited reliance on others. "By producing infrared tubes, advanced electronic systems, electro-optical systems, etc., it is easier to preserve our autonomy, because almost all the components can be produced locally. And international competitiveness is easier because it is based not just on price, but primarily on quality and reliability."

From this basic assumption, the former REFAEL director general takes another step forward, to our helping to develop smart weapons systems in the West. "We have something to offer and there is no reason to reject us," claims Dr. Bonen.

There is, however, a fly in the ointment. Cooperation between the Israeli military industry and the world development giants would necessarily relegate us to the role of a junior partner. We would play second fiddle, if not third, in that orchestra. And the problem of secrecy would arise in many cases. Dr. Bonen is also aware of the fact that secret developments gave us the advantage of surprise in the wars we fought; suffice it to recall the destruction of the Syrian anti-aircraft missile batteries in Lebanon in 1982. Any unwarranted and advance disclosure of such weapons could rob the IDF of one of its most important advantages. Particularly in view of the fact that the norms of secrecy of the west differ from ours: information on the very fact of a new development, including its budget and scope, belongs to the public domain in the west. If we had to adopt those norms, and if our weapons developments were no longer properly classified, not only would we lose the element of surprise, but the race for intelligence and the arms race among our enemies would be intensified.

Dr. Bonen: "These are problems that we must take into consideration and must deal with. There is no doubt that when cooperating with our friends in the west, we will be obligated to keep certain developments to ourselves. But without such cooperation I predict difficult years for our military industry. And one must also not ignore the difficulties that a partner may create: different countries prepare for different kinds of warfare, and it is not easy to coordinate the development of joint systems. Experience teaches that the larger the number of countries involved in a joint project, the longer the span between the day on which a decision is taken and the day on which the item is taken into military use. The time factor is not as critical to the NATO armies as it is to Israel. We cannot afford the luxury of sitting back and patiently waiting until all the political and military partners have agreed on all the details. Nevertheless, there is no other alternative; the fine goods we can offer for sale today are the outcome of past investments. Because of the special needs of the IDF, we managed to lead the world in certain areas. When the issue of tank protection was a pressing issue for us, we contrived to find a solution 2 and 1/2 years ahead of the Russians. The Americans came hard on the heels of the Russians in that race. But we stand no chance of winning across the entire technological board. One cannot profit from the past forever. In the future we will be in dire budgetary straits, and unless we become a part of the western military community, we will not be able to overcome our budget difficulties."

Most of the processes that guided the development of the Israeli military industry were not the outcome of long-term political thinking. At times they came as a reaction to temporary pressures, and at other times as a result of uncontrolled development, or of narrow producer, government, or private interests. Now, when this industry is at the crossroads, the hour of truth is upon us. "If a deliberate political solution is not found, our hand will be forced by economic imperatives. The turning point will come in any event. The question is whether the structural change will be the fruit of examination and thinking, or of compulsion," concluded Dr. Ze'ev Bonen.

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FIRST VECTOR AIRCRAFT LAUNCHED

Haifa INNOVATION in English No 140, Jul 87 pp 4-5

[Text]

Haifa — The technical feasibility of vector controlled flight in the atmosphere was recently demonstrated by a group of Israel researchers, headed by Prof. Benjamin Gal-Or, of the Technion's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. At the beginning of May, Gal-Or and his associates successfully flew a jet propelled robot airplane, in which they successfully incorporated vector flight controls.

When the pilot of a conventional airplane desires to cause his craft to move up or down or to turn to either side, he does so by moving aerodynamic control surfaces — the rudder, ailerons and elevators. That time honored system is effective, but it also has its disadvantages. Most important among those, perhaps, is the fact that it becomes completely ineffective at zero speeds — under stall and post stall conditions — and at very high altitudes.

Vector flight control could outflank many such problems, while enhancing aircraft performance. It performs steering functions by changing the direction in which the jet engine's thrust is caused to act, relative to the plane's attitude: the craft is maneuvered to the right or left, up or down by deliberate changes in the direction of the jet stream.

Research to that end, observers believe, is now

being carried out by a number of the world's most important aircraft manufacturers and laboratories. However, the difficulties are considerable and it seems that most of those programs have not yet progressed beyond the stage of computer simulation. Gal-Or and his associates apparently are the first anywhere to build such a system and to test it in actual flight.

The jet engine of the remote controlled plane flown here was equipped with rectangular exhaust nozzles, which can be rotated up to 20° up or down, and up to 35° to either side. Changing the attitude of those nozzles, combined with thrust reversal, causes the plane to maneuver at will, more quickly and with greater versatility than can be expected from a conventionally equipped craft. Using this system can also reduce the length of runways needed for take offs and landings.

At least five vector controlled flights were carried out successfully until now, and valuable information was gathered from each. According to press reports here, major factors in the aircraft industry, including important manufacturers abroad, are carefully following the work of Gal-Or and his team.

/9274

CSO: 4400/0258

PLANS FOR SEDE DOV AIRPORT DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jul 87 p 11

[Article by Hayim Handwerker: "A War of Attrition"]

[Text] Tel Aviv has been unsuccessfully trying to rid itself of the Dov Hoz airport north of the city. There has been a lot of talk about the need to move the airport to a new location because of the ecological damage that it is creating and the obstacle which it presents to the development of the city.

Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu, a politician whose power base is in Jerusalem, is dancing to the tune of the Airports Authority; he has been throwing wrenches in the works and nipping in the bud any idea that might have led to a solution of the problem. The Air Force, who makes the most use of the airport, is indifferent, as if the quality of life of the Tel Aviv inhabitants were of no consequence, and as if it were more important that high ranking air force and IDF officers serving at the Qiriyah general quarters have easy access to the aircraft ferrying them around. Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat is very interested in removing the airport, but he seems to have tired somewhat of this protracted and exhausting battle. The Ministry of the Interior has requested that the runway be removed, and the Regional Planning and Building Commission and the Authority for Environmental Protection are very determined in this respect.

The latest move was made a few months ago. Corfu protested a plan presented by the Regional Planning and Building Commission which would have made it possible to build 15,000 housing units in the Sede Dov area, within the perimeter between Haifa Road and the sea, and the Yarkon river and the Country Club. Approval of such a plan would have meant closing the airport in the future and having the entire area under construction, including portions which now belong to Sede Dov, in view of the fact that building on such a scope and filling the apartments are incompatible with the existence of an airport causing noise and safety problems.

Corfu's protest to the National Commission halted the bureaucratic procedures conducive to the development of the area. For how long, no one knows. Sources connected to plot owners in the "Big Block" area, which incorporates the major land holdings in the area, said that recently an agreement was reached between themselves and the Airports Authority. According to this agreement, the

Transportation Ministry's protests on this matter will be repealed and building will be permitted in the area, in keeping with the restrictions imposed by the continued existence of the Sede Dov airport. In the wake of this agreement, the owners began preparing to submit a detailed building plan which will now require licensing and planning procedures. The "block" managers feel that within 2 years construction can begin on some 3,000 housing units in the area.

We went to the Transportation Ministry spokesman in order to verify our information, and received a denial. The Planning Management of the Ministry of the Interior, the Regional Planning and Building Commission, and the Engineering Management of the Tel Aviv City Hall were equally ignorant of the matter. Be that as it may, even if the opposition is lifted, there is still a long way to go before building can begin in the area.

Temporary or Permanent?

Five years ago, the National Planning and Building Commission decided that a substitute location must be found within 10 years, but that as long as such a site was not found, Sede Dov would continue to function as before. Today--that is, 5 years after that decision, that national commission has still not discussed any plan and not much progress has been made. A "committee of editors," made up of relevant specialists of the Ministry of the Interior, Airports Authority, and the IDF, has been put in charge of the matter. The head of the Planning Department of the Ministry of the Interior, Yonatan Golani, said that the committee has tried to locate a substitute site, but so far it has not found anything acceptable that is both suitable and close to the big city. "At the moment I do not see a suitable solution, but we are making every possible effort to find such a site. However, I am not optimistic. Within a few months time I hope that we will finalize a proposal for a planning solution for the airport, which we will submit to the National Planning and Building Commission for its decision."

We have learned that the proposal under consideration does not involve moving the airport, but rather will leave it in place--temporarily, of course. However, in this case "temporary" can involve great permanence. According to the plan which is being worked out, Sede Dov will be given the status of a civilian airport, something which will finally give the Airports Authority a legal handle on the matter, which at the present is arguable. The plan also includes a ban on night activities and jets, the removal of the terminal and parking lots--which cause noise in the northwest area--to a new spot, and does not allow for changing the length of the runways.

Two other problems must be solved before the plan can be finalized. One is how to divide the land between the military and the civilian areas; the second problem is that the Air Force is against civilian supervision of its activities designed to prevent noise pollution.

No one seems to know yet when this plan will be submitted to the national commission. In any event, the plan will be dubbed a provisional plan. However, there is almost no doubt whatsoever that it will be implemented as a permanent plan--until a new airport is built sometime in the distant future, if at all.

Tel Aviv's City Hall is unequivocal in this matter and will not accept any arrangement that grants Sede Dov even a temporary legal status, for fear that this sort of temporariness can become permanent.

One person has in the past few years treated the Sede Dov issue as an almost personal project, and that is MK Dov Ben-Me'ir. He said that the Airports Authority and the Transportation Ministry do not want to get out of Sede Dov because they do not own it. Once they leave it they cannot claim even one cent, but must return the land to private owners or to the Israel Land Authority. This is why they want the National Planning and Building Commission to give Sede Dov permanent status, so that they can gain a foothold in it. Then they can claim transfer funds in order to remove it. "We at Tel Aviv City hall are firmly against this," Ben-Me'ir said. "Once they become owners of the airport they can also demand all sorts of conditions. This is also why we are not prepared to change the location of the terminal, despite the request of the Airports Authority. Any building step that we allow can help, one way or another, to make Sede Dov permanent."

To this, Ben-Me'ir added the position of the army, which is also not interested in getting out of Sede Dov. The army is under great financial pressures, so no one is thinking of investing in a new airfield. "I want to stress that the army's claim that the airfield is required for operational purposes is nonsense. The airfield is primarily used for the convenience of the big brass.

"Lahat told me that he does not want any airport in Tel Aviv anyway, and it took me one year to convince him that if that was to be our policy, then nothing would happen and Sede Dov would remain in place. This is how we got the idea to move Sede Dov out to sea, while leaving the terminal and the parking lot near Reading. They have more than a few problems there anyway, and the damage caused would be smaller than anywhere else. It was clear to me that any initiative had to come from us at every stage. Corfu told me that he was happy with the present location of the airport and did not mind if it remained there. If Tel Aviv's City Hall wanted another airfield, it was free to get it. Corfu was willing to help to extend the runway and build the terminal, because that was a commercial proposition."

A professional committee led by Treasurer Yitzhaq Elron was recently established at the Tel Aviv City Hall to examine the economic factors involved in bringing the runway out to sea. The figures that have been mentioned in connection with this project are around \$140 million, while interest on interim financing may come to another \$40 million. Two entrepreneurs, Avraham (Abie) Ne'eman and Aharon Rubinstein, have offered to build the new airfield; however, their proposals seem so pitfall-riddled that it is doubtful whether the plan could come to any practical fruition.

Ben-Me'ir estimates that from the moment a decision is taken it would take 10 years to bring the runway out to sea. He is convinced that such an airfield would not cause any damage, and would permit the development of the city in the present area of the airport. However, it will be a while before all the persons involved decide to go ahead with the project. "In any case," he added,

"since I left my position at city hall I have not seen anyone take the subject in hand and pursue it, and that is a pity."

"City Hall Is Afraid to Give its Endorsement."

Ya'aqov Kolnik, deputy director of the Planning and Economy Department of the Transportation Ministry, said that as far as his ministry and the Airports Authority are concerned, Sede Dov's present location is satisfactory. Moreover, he expressed doubts as to the feasibility of bringing the runway out to sea, not only because of the financial outlay involved, but also because of ecological considerations. "I am not convinced that the people living in the area will not encounter serious problems even if the runway is at sea, although it is reasonable to expect that the problems would be less disturbing than is the case today. Also, I am not sure that they have examined the issue seriously enough. The Airports Authority is still studying it. In view of that, airport activities should have been regulated--the terminal removed to a less interfering spot, and aircraft activities regulated. But city hall is afraid to endorse the airfield legally."

Dov Radosher, a regional planner with the Ministry of the Interior, clearly stated: "We do not believe in long-term coexistence. Currently, in order to build in the area, one has to provide ecological protection for the housing, which means sound insulation for the apartments. In an area such as this, and in view of the climate in the residential area near the sea, people need natural air and would want to enjoy the natural conditions. The solution that seems desirable to me is to move the runway out to sea, in order to neutralize a considerable part of the present ecological problems." Radosher added that ecologically streamlined buildings would raise the cost of the apartments by 10-15 percent.

All the committees and all the experts can say and do what they want, but the decisive factor in the matter of the Sede Dov airport is still the Air Force. We asked the IDF spokesman about the Air Force's plans concerning Sede Dov. The answer was unambiguous: the Air Force has no plans to move the airfield from its present location. The general staff wants an airfield 10 minutes from the Qiriyah, for defense considerations of course. The conclusion from this is clear: Sede Dov will remain in place for a long time to come; the noise will continue and the building plans will remain on the shelf. We asked Golani when, in his view, the land owners in the neighborhood of and within the airport will be able to realize their property. "I would not venture a guess," was his answer.

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TEN THOUSAND NEW DWELLINGS FOR JERUSALEM'S ARABS

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jul 87 p 2

[Text] Jerusalem's city hall and the Housing Ministry have agreed to build 10,000 apartments for Arabs in the northern part of the city.

This constitutes a compromise between city hall's request for 18,000 apartments, and the Housing Ministry's position which called for only 6,000. The Ministry of the Interior has not yet given its approval for the compromise.

In the wake of the compromise, detailed planning will resume on building for Jerusalem's Arabs, in view of the fact that the plan to build 16,000 apartments has already been approved by the local Planning and Building Committee. The new plan will require renewed approval by the local and regional committees.

The dispute, which lasted over a year, was caused by differing estimates concerning the real needs of the capital's Arab population. Representatives of the Housing Ministry recalled at meetings that the government had at the time decided to preserve the demographic balance of Jerusalem. They claimed that if building plans are approved on the scale that Jerusalem city hall was suggesting, the balance between Jews and Arabs in the capital may deteriorate to 66 percent Jews and 34 percent Arabs by the year 2000.

Since 1967, 21,000 dunam of land were expropriated in East Jerusalem, that is, about 1/3 of the entire area annexed to Jerusalem. On this land were built, among others, the new Jewish residential districts: Newe Ya'aqov, Armon Hanatziv, Ramot, and Gilo.

Until a few years ago, almost no housing was planned for the East Jerusalem Arabs. Illegal building was rife in the Arab sector during that period, and was characterized by low population density over extensive areas.

If the plan to build 10,000 apartments in the Arab sector is approved by the planning committees, it will be the first time that the state has in fact planned to develop the Arab sector in Jerusalem. The planned development will be private, but the Housing Ministry has announced that it intends to extend aid and loans to those entitled to live in the respective area. The aid will be granted in conditions similar to those extended to Jewish applicants.

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12782

NEW PLAN TO REDUCE INFLATION IN PREPARATION

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Jul 87 p 1

[Article by Pinhas Landau]

[Text]

The Treasury is working on a new and wide-ranging economic plan, designed to bring the rate of inflation down to an annual level of 5 per cent.

Work is currently under way to draw up a picture of the economic conditions likely to pertain in 1988, and this will serve as a background to the detailed proposals to be laid before the government later this year.

According to Treasury Director-General Emmanuel Sharon, who outlined these plans at a press briefing yesterday, the current inflation rate of 15-20 per cent is untenable. It will either rise or fall from this level, and economic policy must aim to reduce Israel's inflation rate to the 5 per cent level of our major trading partners, he said.

Unless this is done, the policy of keeping the exchange rate fixed would also break down. The exchange rate cannot remain fixed in the long term in the face of huge gaps between the rates of inflation at home and abroad, because Israeli exporters would lose their competitive position in world markets, he explained.

The cost-of-living allowance and the system under which it was paid were, according to the Treasury boss, suited to the old days of high inflation, but needed to be remoulded to the new reality of relatively low inflation. This remark brought a sharp response from the Histadrut. Haim Haberfeld, the Labour federation's trade

union department head, said the Treasury had no authority to change the current agreement.

Sharon dwelt at some length on the price-control regime. He noted that the Brazilian anti-inflation programme had broken down because it overly relied on the use of controls to repress price rises. However, in Israel the controls had never been a central feature of the plan. While they could help calm inflationary expectations they could not, *per se*, reduce pressures on prices.

Sharon said that the gradual relaxation of controls would continue, but that they would be maintained on goods produced by local monopolies or cartels. Regarding subsidies, the Treasury's aim in 1988 was to reduce the amount of subsidy in each subsidized good rather than the total number of goods being subsidized.

The director-general's conclusion was that the aim of 5 per cent annual inflation was attainable, given the right policy mix, and without damaging the balance of payments. To achieve sound economic growth, he said, would require several years of stability, and the expectation of several more.

He added that the size of Israel's defence complex was a serious constraint to the development of the economy. In this connection he noted that if the Lavi could be completely financed by the defence ministry's budget, it would be only a military problem, and not an economic one.

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CSO: 4400/0249

5-DAY WORKWEEK NEGOTIATIONS GET 'GREEN LIGHT'

TA270713 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jul 87 p 1

[Report by Asher Wallfish and Jeff Black]

[Text] The government gave Finance Minister Moshe Nisim the green light yesterday to negotiate the introduction of a 5-day work week with the Histadrut, within the context of talks over a 2-year wage agreement.

The vast majority of the ministers approved the shorter work week proposal in principle. But the ministers made it plan that the 5-day week could not come about in the immediate future and attached a host of conditions to their approval.

Three ministers voted against the 5-day week: Science and Development Minister Gid'on Pat and Ministers-Without-Portfolio Moshe Arens and Yitzhaq Moda'i.

Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Police Minister Hayim Bar-lev, Absorption Minister Ya'agov Tzur, and Minister-Without-Portfolio Yiga'el Hurvitz abstained.

Among the cabinet's conditions were that:

--Public sector wages will not go up nor will the number of work hours go down, and the wage agreement will hold for 2 years.

--Wage stability in other sectors must not be affected by the 5-day week in the civil service;

--Talks will be held with employers to ensure that the work week in the private sector is not affected and that workers in that sector do not make wage demands to compensate them for the fact that civil servants are to work 1 day less.

--The cabinet also decided that Nisim should not sign anything with the Histadrut, until the principles of the agreement are submitted to the committee of economic ministers and then brought back to the cabinet for approval.

During the discussion, Pat proposed that since the government could not afford to take chances with the economy in its present state, it should seek advice and draw on the experience of other countries that have changed over to a 5-day week.

Rabin said he anticipated many difficulties in his own sphere, the security establishment, when it came to planing the 5-day week.

Tzur said that since he favoured wage rises in the public sector, he could not vote for a 5-day week proposal that ruled out all such rises.

Histadrut trade union leaders yesterday lauded the cabinet's decision.

Me'ir Gat, the Trade Union Department's deputy chairman, called the decision a "historic achievement for the Histadrut."

He said the histadrut, by pressuring the cabinet had succeeded in introducing a new social and economic order into Israeli life.

Union leaders stressed that the implementation of a shorter working week would not affect their demands for a wage rise in the public sector.

Nisim said that if the Histadrut did not drop its demands for civil service wage rises and if it rejected the 2-year wage agreement, approval for a 5-day work week would be revoked.

Haberfeld said he has asked Treasure officials if the cabinet's conditions meant that there would be no wage increase, and that they replied "no" to this. "One has to learn how to read and understand cabinet decisions," Habelfeld told reporters.

Hilel Duda'i, the Treasury's chief wage negotiator, told reporters earlier that the cabinet had, at a previous meeting, undertaken to approve wage increases for the lowest-paid workers in the public sector.

Haberfeld said that the unions would decide today on the format of their negotiation team with the Treasury.

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CSO: 4400/251

DEVELOPMENTS IN SUPERCONDUCTIVITY REPORTED

Haifa INNOVATION in English No 140, Jul 87 pp 3-4

[Text]

Jerusalem – Israel physicists discussed this country's efforts in the development of "high" temperature super conductors at least at two recent meetings. The subject was raised at the recent annual meeting of the Israel Physical Society, which took place at Tel Aviv University, and it was the theme of a special seminar held in May at the Hebrew University, at the initiative of the Ministry of Science and Development.

Super conductivity has long been known to physicists, but the phenomenon was believed to depend on low temperatures very near "absolute" zero – 0° Kelvin, or -273°C – where molecular movement is virtually thought to cease. However, during the last year researchers in different parts of the world have reported the achievement of superconductivity at relatively high temperatures – in at least one case less than 200°C below the freezing point of water.

Although still unconscionably cold, in most contexts, this may bring super conductivity within the purview of many practical technologies. After all, such temperatures may be obtained with the help of liquid nitrogen, a fairly common and inexpensive material. What is more, many scientists believe they will be able to achieve super conductivity in even

warmer environments, although its attainment under room temperatures just now seems likely to remain within the sphere of science fiction.

The importance of this development cannot as yet be estimated. The ability to transmit electricity without any losses due to resistance could some day revolutionize the design of electric generators and motors, of power transformation and control gear, of electromagnets, of data processing systems and who knows of what else.

At least two teams of Israelis – one headed by Dr. Joseph Ashkenazi of the Technion, the other by Dr. Meir Weger, of the Hebrew University – are trying to develop theories capable of explaining super conductivity, as observed in some materials. Their work proposes to deal with the motion of electrons – the flow of electricity – and the interaction of those particles with the much more massive atomic nuclei. Once formulated, such a theory would also make it possible to predict that effect in other compounds, making applied research in this sphere much less of a hit and miss affair.

So far most of the Israel explorers in this field tend to shun the limelight. However, it is known that superconducting material have been identified here at temperatures within the range attainable through the use of liquid nitrogen.

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CSO. 4400/0258

OIL SHALE PLANT FOR 'ARAD

Haifa INNOVATION in English No 140, Jul 87 pp 5-6

[Text]

Arad — A demonstration plant for the production of electricity, based on the direct combustion of oil shale, will be built near this Judean desert city within the next two years. If successful, that is likely to lead to the construction of a commercial facility, based on the same domestic fuel resource.

Israel has extensive reserves of oil shale, a mineral that contains up to 15% of combustible hydrocarbons. PAMA Ltd., a company set up some years ago with government assistance, has been working toward the development of economically viable methods for the utilization of this material, the only fossil fuel resource so far found in this country in any significant quantity.

PAMA's earlier plans, for the construction of a facility to extract oil from the shale, had to be abandoned when the international market for petroleum collapsed. Its product would have been competitive, according to earlier forecasts, with oil that sold for \$ 30 a barrel, or more.

With that approach ruled out, at least for the foreseeable future, engineers here returned to the possibility of the "direct combustion" of crushed shale in a suitably designed fluidized bed combustor. If located near the shale mines, so that transportation costs are kept to a minimum, such a

plant is expected to be competitive with modern coal fired generating facilities.

According to plans recently made public by the Israel Electric Corporation, PAMA's demonstration unit should be in operation within two years, and it is likely to be followed very quickly by a 120 MW pilot plant. If that effort meets expectations, PAMA is expected to proceed very quickly to the venture's expansion. As many as four more 120 MW generating units may be erected by the mid-1990s.

With a rated output of 600 MW, such a station will only produce between 5 and 10% of all the power used in Israel at that time. However, its importance to the national economy may be far greater than that figure suggests, even though just now nobody is prepared to hazard a guess where this line of development will lead, after the turn of the century. The future importance of such a technology may be considerable: with ten billion tons already proven — an energy equivalent of perhaps one billion tons of oil — this country's shale reserves could fuel much of the economy during many decades.

The present movement toward the production of commercially significant quantities of electric power also seems to have enhanced the Israel Electric Corporation's interest in PAMA. Some time ago I.E.C. acquired the 25% shareholding earlier held in that firm by the National Coal Company, and according to press reports it recently increased its interest to one third, through the acquisition of a block of 8 1/3% of its shares from Sonol Oil.

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CSO • 4406/0258

AIR PROCESSORS REDUCE RADON GAS

Haifa INNOVATION in English No 140, Jul 87 p 6

[Text]

Tel Aviv — Dangers to health, posed by the atomic radiation that occurs almost everywhere, can be reduced significantly by the use of Amcor's modern air processors. That is the conclusion of research carried out under the auspices of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission.

Radon (^{222}Rn) is a radioactive gas that emits gamma rays; it is the source of much of the ubiquitous "background radiation", to which everybody is subjected from the day he is born. Minute quantities of that gas tend to infiltrate living spaces from the ground, and also from building materials of mineral origin, such as cement, stone and brick. Radon has a halflife of 3.7 days.

Even more dangerous than radon itself are two isotopes produced in the course of its radioactive decay: polonium ^{214} and polonium ^{218} . Molecules of both tend to attach themselves to minute particles in the air; thus attached they are inhaled and may lodge in the respiratory system, where they continue to emit alpha particles.

The danger to human health, posed by this phenomenon, is considerable. Some researchers believe that it is a major cause of lung cancer, second in importance only to cigaret smoke.

Various methods have been tried to meet this problem. Subfloor ventilation has been installed, and there have been attempts at sealing basement walls, floors and all pipe openings. However, most of those efforts have been found too costly, by far, and of only uncertain efficacy.

Controlled experiments have now demonstrated that Amcor's air treatment units offer a simple and cost effective solution. Combining electrostatic cleaners with carbon filament ionizers, they rapidly remove even very small particles — diameters of less than ten microns (0.01 mm, or 0.0004 inch) — from the air. Those tiny pollutants are the most dangerous, since the body's own defense systems cannot screen them out effectively.

Two Amcor "clean air center" systems were tested: the free standing or wall mounted "air font", and the table top "air processor". Both rapidly reduced concentrations of radon progeny, in many cases by as much as 60%, once an equilibrium was reached about two hours after the system was first activated.

Amcor air processing equipment also removes other pollutants from the air, such as dust particles and cigaret smoke, and restores freshness to the atmosphere. Earlier, similar systems made by this company were shown to be useful in clinics and operating rooms, where they sharply reduced airborne bacteria and virus levels (see INNOVATION 43, June 1979).

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CSO: 4000/0258

SOLAR POWER STATION FOR EILAT

Haifa INNOVATION in English No 140, Jul 87 pp 7-8

[Text]

Eilat — A solar energy generating station will be erected in the Arava, just north of this Red Sea port, by LUZ Ltd., the Jerusalem based developers and builders of such systems. An agreement to that effect was recently concluded between LUZ and the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC).

In spite of declining international interest in alternate energy development, LUZ' affairs are booming. The company developed an entirely new commercially feasible technology for the conversion of solar radiation to electricity. Four of its stations already operate in California, and others are on order.

The Eilat project will include a field of 150,000 square meters of tracking parabolic reflectors, which focus the rays of the sun on absorber tubes through which a thermal oil is pumped. That quickly heats up and is passed through a heat exchanger, where it produces a significant volume of steam; that is subsequently made to operate one or more suitably designed turbogenerators.

The planned facility will have a rated output of 25 MW — annual production is projected at 67,000 megawatt/hours — enough to meet most or all local requirements. However, the system will also be tied into the Electric Corporation's national grid, from which local needs in excess of the new facility's

output can be covered, and through which surplus local production can be passed on to other places.

The plant is expected to incorporate LUZ' innovative LS-3 collector, a third generation development that attains higher working temperatures and is more efficient than previous models (see *INNOVATION* 127, June 1986). With the help of that new design the LUZ station will remain economically competitive, even should oil prices drop to as little as \$ 15 per barrel.

After lengthy deliberations, IEC decided not to provide the capital for the erection of this facility; however, the corporation undertook to buy all the power it will generate. That undertaking should suffice to make investment funds available from other sources. LUZ executives presently estimate the required amount at \$ 70m.

To be erected quickly — it may be on line before the end of 1989 — the Eilat SEGS is envisaged as only the first in an extensive chain of such facilities in Israel. By the end of this century, according to tentative Ministry of Energy plans, up to 500 MW of solar electric generating capacity will be installed in this country, to diversify energy resources and to yield significant foreign currency savings, due to reduced fuel imports.

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CSO: 4000/0258

BRIEFS

DIRECT DIALING--A new service will soon enable direct telephone contact between Arab countries and residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Elihu Ben-On reports that the service will be provided by the Solan Company from Tel Aviv, through a communications center currently being set up in London. The service will enable callers from the territories to reach a subscriber in an Arab country through direct dialing, and vice versa. Our correspondent has learned that the service was checked out for a long time by the security authorities. Communications Ministry Director General 'Ami Gov has confirmed that direct dialing from the territories to Arab countries is also being examined in his ministry. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Jul 87 TA] /12232

ISRAEL FOREIGN DEBT--At the end of March 1987, Israel's Foreign debt totaled \$25.533 billion, \$618 million more than at the end of 1986. The increased debt follows a \$956-million increase in Israel's Foreign debts during 1986. Thus the accumulated increased debt over 15 months totaled \$1.574 billion. This data was released yesterday by the Bank of Israel foreign exchange controller. From the data it transpires that some \$840 million of the increased debt stems from the decline of the dollar against European currencies. [Text] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Jul 87 p 1 TA] /12232

JAN-JUN IMMIGRATION STATISTICS--Some 5,400 new immigrants arrived in Israel between January and June 1987, marking a 49-percent increase over the same period in 1986. Central Bureau of Statistics data shows that the number of immigrants from Asian, African, and European countries has increased, although there has been no change in immigration from America. By June, 732 new immigrants arrived from the Soviet Union, compared with 93 during the same period last year. [Summary] [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Jul 87 TA] /12232

'AL HAMISHMAR CORRESPONDENT IN TEHRAN--Beginning with the Sabbath edition of 'AL HAMISHMAR [Friday, 7 August], our paper will carry reports and articles by 'Ali Sargon [name as published], our paper's special correspondent in Tehran. The edition will carry a story on the reactions in Iran in the wake of the events in Mecca and a comprehensive article about the social and political reality in Islamic Iran. 'Ali Sargon is the first correspondent to write directly for an Israeli paper since the Khomeyni revolution. [Text] [Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 6 Aug 87 p 1 TA] /12232

NEW IDF ATTACHES NAMED--Tel Aviv--The IDF will soon appoint new attaches in London, Paris and Tokyo, a well-placed military source said last week. Tat-Aluf Menahem Mayara, who recently headed the officers' personnel administration, goes to Britain to replace Tat-Aluf Ya'acov Even. Aluf-Mishne Ya'acov Neria-Reinich goes to France to replace Tat-Aluf David Gedalia. Tat-Aluf Yuval Daliot, deputy head of the Quartermaster Branch, has been assigned to Japan to replace Aluf-Mishne David Yitzhak. The three attaches completing their tours of duty will leave the IDF. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jul 87 p 2] /9274

CSO. 4400/0249

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL QUOTA SYSTEM--Jordan has adopted the quota system for agriculture which is the custom in Israel and, under guidance from the Civilian Administration in the territories, the agricultural leagues have readied themselves to implement this system. Reference is to agricultural produce, mainly including potatoes, onion, tomatoes, eggplant, cabbages, and varieties of deciduous fruit. According to recent instructions from Jordan, a member of the Jordanian Parliament who resides in Samaria, Tahsin Faruz [name as published], will be in charge of implementing the quotas. In accordance with the method practiced in Israel, a quota will be determined for every agricultural league, and its produce exported to Jordan will have a minimum price. A farmer who produces more than his allocation will be responsible for any losses incurred. [Report from Menahem Rahat and Yosef Tzuri'el] [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Jul 87 p A6 TA] /12232

CSO: 4400/252

SABOTEURS ALLEGEDLY TRAINED IN IRAN

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 18 Jul 87 p 1

[Text]

TWO men, killed two days ago in downtown Kuwait City while trying to plant a bomb, had been trained as saboteurs by Iranian intelligence, according to the daily Al Seyassah.

The newspaper and another Kuwaiti daily said the two men identified as Mousa Saleh Mousa Al Attar and Mahdi Saleh Sulaiman Al Attar disappeared last November while fishing in the Gulf.

A month later, the men, both Shi'ite Muslim Kuwaitis, returned to Kuwait and told authorities they had been captured by the Iranian Navy and detained at the Iranian port of Bushehr, the newspapers added.

The bomb explosion Wednesday night in the fashionable Salhiya shopping district claimed no other victims but damaged some shops.

Al Seyassah said that the two would-be bombers' tale about being captured by the Iranians "was a coverup for the training they received at the hands of Iranian intelligence squads before carrying out acts of terrorism in Kuwait.

The newspaper cited no sources for its report.

Al Seyassah said Mousa Al Attar was an employee of the state-run Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, while Mahdi Al Attar worked for Kuwait Airways.

"They are dirty elements full of rancour against this country. But the Almighty has inflicted on them immediate punishment," Al Seyassah wrote.

Another Kuwaiti newspaper said: "Such diabolic deeds will not succeed in pressuring Kuwait to abandon its independent decision and will.

"The attempts of those who try to turn Kuwait into a scapegoat are doomed to failure," it said.

Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri has warned of those who are trying to spread seeds of disunity and disorder between people of the same nation.

He said the aim of the car bomb was to destroy Kuwait's internal stability and spread disunity.

He stressed that the only way to stand against these attempts was to unite under the banner of love for and loyalty to Kuwait.

He was addressing Kuwaiti students studying in the UK.

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CSO: 4400/245

TANKERS TO SERVE JAPAN, EUROPE

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 18 Jul 87 p 11

[Text]

OIL to be carried by US-escorted Kuwaiti tankers will end up largely in brightly coloured "Q8" petrol stations in Europe and petrochemical plants in Japan, according to Reuter.

Half of the 22 vessels owned by the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) will begin to fly the US flag next week, carrying oil and gas to Kuwait's far-flung retail network and to its clients worldwide.

Operation

Some oil executives say KOTC's parent Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) has already joined the "seven sisters", replacing Gulf Oil Corp in the league of giant oil firms.

Oil sources say the Stars and Stripes are due to be raised on the crude oil supertanker Bridgeton and a liquefied petroleum gas carrier next week and will sail into the Gulf under heavy US naval and air escort.

Six petroleum product carriers serving the Mediterranean and northwest Europe and three other gas tankers serving Japan are due to follow after being renamed and reflagged.

The operation is designed to help to protect Kuwait's oil and gas exports from attack by Iran, which has targeted Kuwait's shipping in recent months in retaliation for its support for Tehran's war enemy Iraq.

While the Bridgeton will shuttle crude oil back and forth between Kuwait and a safe point outside the Gulf, the other ships will deliver oil and gas products to Europe and Japan.

Kuwait now owns more than 4,000 petrol stations in seven European countries and is shopping for more. Its recent

purchase of 389 service stations in Denmark gave it nearly one quarter of the Danish market.

The Q8 logo, a bright rendition of the traditional Arabian dhow or wooden ship, is also prominent in Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Britain and Italy.

With a long-established seafaring tradition, Kuwait was one of the first non-Western oil producers to launch a tanker fleet of its own. The fleet, formed in 1959, has now grown to 1.8 million tonnes.

KOTC was the first to use supertankers to transport oil products, instead of the normal supertanker cargo of crude. It has the two largest such tankers in the world and has completed a special berth for them at its Rotterdam terminal.

The fleet handles roughly one-third of the country's export of crude oil, 60 percent of its refined products exports and 95 percent of the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sold to Japan.

KOTC chairman and managing director Abdul Fattah Al Bader calls the fleet a safeguard against sudden price fluctuations in the world tanker market. Officials say it also gives Kuwait greater marketing flexibility and control over revenue.

In addition to the 22 it owns, KOTC charts about 15 tankers. As attacks in the Gulf intensified, it has increasingly sought to lease them from countries able to provide naval protection — Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union.

The Kuwaiti-owned fleet will be substantially increased starting next year when KOTC takes delivery of the first of six new product tankers ordered from a South Korean shipyard.

The emphasis on refined products reflects KPC's downstream expansion. It owns refineries in Denmark and the Netherlands and wants to expand into West Germany, France, Spain, Japan, the Philippines and the United States, officials say.

The corporation, like the biggest Western oil multinationals, is now fully integrated from exploration to production, refining, transport and retail sale.

Threat

Officials say the reflagging is not merely a temporary answer to the threat posed by Gulf shipping attacks. "This is going to be for a long, long time," Bader said.

"We shall study our future requirements and if the number of our vessels registered abroad has to be increased we shall increase it," he said.

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CSO: 4400/245

OIL PRODUCTS TO BE SUPPLIED TO SUDAN

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 23-24 Jul 87 p 13

[Text]

AMMAN, July 22, (Opecna): Kuwait has agreed to supply Sudan with oil and products to meet its requirements in the next three months, according to Abdullah Mohammed Ahmed, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Sudanese parliament.

He told the Oatar News Agency (QNA) that the agreement was reached during the recent visit of Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi to Kuwait.

Visit

Ahmed, who ended a four-day visit here Tuesday, said that his country's annual oil bill stood at around \$600 million.

Kuwait will also supply two million barrels of crude to Ecuador under an "oil loan" agreement signed last week.

The "loan" is to help Ecuador meet its export requirements which were disrupted when the country's oil production and transportation facilities were severely damaged by a series of earthquakes in March.

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CSO: 4400/257

EXPANSION OF GASOLINE OPERATIONS IN EUROPE

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 23-24 Jul 87 p 13

[Text]

DESPITE the crisis in the Gulf, the man in charge of Kuwait's overseas oil marketing says his company hopes to expand its gasoline station network into France and Germany, and perhaps eventually to the United States.

Exploration

But Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa said restrictions on his country's oil output by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries were "a limiting factor" on Kuwait's retail expansion plans.

Most of the crude and refined oil that will be carried from Kuwait aboard US-flagged Kuwaiti tankers and others chartered from the Soviet Union and Britain will wind up in Kuwait's retail and wholesale operations abroad.

Once a traditional exporter of crude oil, Kuwait now refines about 80 percent of its Opec quota of some 1 million barrels a day, and is heavily involved in international oil exploration.

Sheikh Ali said he did not know if Kuwait eventually would take a further step and begin buying crude from other producers to supply its refineries and gasoline stations in Europe.

Sheikh Ali leads state-owned Kuwait Petroleum International, which operates refineries in Denmark, Italy and the Netherlands.

It also runs some 4,500 Q8-brand gasoline stations in those countries, as well as Belgium, Luxembourg, Sweden and Britain.

It gained most of those stations in a 1983 buyout of US-based Gulf Oil's European holdings.

Stations

He is acting chief of the parent company, Kuwait Petroleum Corp., during the current vacations of its chairman and vice chairman.

"We want to increase our market share," he said in an interview with the Associated Press, "But it won't be done in a very dramatic way. We intend to do it in a very cautious, intelligent way."

He noted that Q8 — a pun on the country's name — does not yet have stations in the big West German or French markets, and said: "We're interested to have a presence in these two countries."

Need

He said that in Britain, where KPI recently opened stations that took 2.5 percent of the market, "maybe we need some time to see what we've got" before expanding.

"We're always looking at the American market," he said, but added: "It's not as much of a priority as Europe."

Kuwait's US retail operations are limited to a few aircraft fuelling stations, but KPC owns US-based Santa Fe International a major exploration and drilling company with interests in US production acreage.

KPC has developed into a largely integrated oil company, with assets in the 1985-86 fiscal year of roughly \$15 billion and profits of more than \$160 million. Figures for 1987 are due within a few weeks.

Operations

He said Kuwait tried to avoid completely in-house operations, which would leave it vulnerable to excess capacity if the market slipped.

"We don't sell all the petroleum to our own refineries," he said.

"We don't sell all the (refined) products to our downstream operations. We don't ship all our hydrocarbons on Kuwaiti ships."

Uncertainty over the US decision to offer military protection to Kuwaiti tankers against Iranian attacks in the Gulf have helped push oil prices above \$22 a barrel in recent days — far above the Opec target price of \$18.

But the Kuwaiti official declined to say whether he thought recent prices were too high.

"We in Kuwait would like to see the demand on oil increase ... If these prices would inhibit increasing demand, I surely wouldn't like that," he said.

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CSO: 4000/257

REPORTERS DESCRIBE PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN SOUTH

Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 3-9 Aug 87 pp 6-7

[Article by Najib Safa]

[Text]

We publish the following report of a tour by a number of Lebanese journalists who visited South Lebanon last week to look into conditions in a number of Palestinian camps. The report was written in Arabic by Najib Safa, and we print it as it was translated for us:

There are no signs of a siege around the Qasmieh and Burghlieh Palestinian refugee camp in South Lebanon contrary to all reports. Life goes on as usual in the two camps, inhabitants come and go without disturbances, workers attend to their jobs in nearby orchards without any sort of harassment.

Still, fear remains among those inhabitants due to threat reports spread by the media and demanding the evacuation of these camps. These rumors are the main reason behind the tension between Lebanese and Palestinians.

That, was felt by the delegation of «Al Bairaq», «Al Hawadeth», «La Revue du Liban» and «Monday Morning» during the tour of the Tyre area organized by the Information Ministry. Some thirty local and foreign journalists and reporters toured the area and observed the situation in the camps, and met with several Amal and Palestinian leaders.

The convoy of reporters left the Information Ministry premises on July at 8:30 in the morning. It was escorted by Syrian soldiers till it reached the Awali bridge. From there it was escorted by a force of the Popular Liberation Army to the Sayniq bridge where it was greeted by Daoud Daoud, Abdelmajid Saleh, and Ali Kreiss from Amal, and Abdallah al Amin of the investigation committee in Sidon.

The delegation moved directly to the Qasmieh camp, where it met in one of its houses a number of its inhabitants and members of the popular committee in the camp.

Abu Mustafa, a Palestinian, member of the popular committee and spokesman said: «One week ago Amal arrested four people from the camp, and freed three of them later, one remains with Amal undergoing investigations». He explained that they were arrested following the assassination of two young Palestinians in Burghlieh. Abu Mustafa said that: «The inhabitants here are frightened by foreign media reports of threats against the inhabitants of Burj ash Shamali camp. These rumors are the cause of tension between Lebanese and Palestinians. We denounce any party using such tactics, be it Amal or the PLO in Tunisia.»

Later the delegation moved to the Bass camp where it met Kassem Abed of the camp's popular committee who affirmed that movement in and out of the camp are permitted without restrictions, adding that schools are working normally and denying the existence of any sort of siege of the camp. He also declared that inhabitants of the camp are not responsible for any statement issued in Sidon, Tunisia or Algeria.

Journalists Najib Safa, Suraya Assi and photographer Joseph Rizk met a large number of Palestinian inhabitants of both Qasmieh and Burghlieh camps and questioned them about the realities of camp life and the extent of truth in the reports of Amal mistreating the Palestinians.

They all denied the allegations saying, "all we want is that the media cease using us, because political problems and differences between different Arab regimes and their consequences affect us directly we the peaceful inhabitants. All we ask that the Palestinian leaders outside Lebanon let us live in peace with our Lebanese brethren, especially those who fight Israel."

The delegation later met at the Tyre Hospital a number of Palestinian dignitaries and members of the popular committee, as well as the Hospital Director Nassir Basma who gave a full description of the hospital situation and demanded the aid and concern of public and health institutions.

On his part Abdallah Amin who accompanied the delegation during this stage of the tour clarified that about 90% of those who have left the Palestinian camps returned,

Amin later asked journalists to report accurately the daily suffering of the people of South Lebanon, indicating that Israel is responsible of such state of being as well as leaderships who neglect their people. He addressed the journalists saying that: «You've heard complaints about Amal's actions and positions in the camps, but someone

who can say which is wrong and which is right is not besieged, is not threatened and is not homeless." He expressed his wishes for the necessity of another tour where journalists can observe the Resistance in South Lebanon. He added that freedom fighters are not ghosts, they are the inhabitants of the whole of South Lebanon. Only then can one clearly observe tragedy from one side and true national heroism on the other side.

Next the delegation visited the Tyre rest house where they had lunch on an invitation from Amal's information officer. The Amal Information Office distributed a statement from its South Lebanon Office clarifying the measures taken by Amal following the execution of the Damascus accord concerning the Palestinian camps, east of Sidon and the number of murders committed in the South to make Amal look as a conspirator against the citizens.

The statement added that one investigation started, and confessions started pouring, tension escalated, and Palestinian militias started claiming that a charade is going on in Tyre. For this purpose "we demanded an investigation committee. Prior to forming the committee a series of incidents escalated the security situation east of Sidon, and following that formation and after it moved to Tyre, Ghazieh was a target of heavy shelling."

The statement denied any alleged reports of bulldozing houses or camps, or enlarging roads at the expense of the camps. It also refused any arrangements that could lead to a situation similar to that of 1982 or 1969.

It also asked Arab and International public opinion, as well as all local and international humanitarian organizations, the UN Security Council the UN General Assembly and all the powers in solidarity with both the Lebanese and the Palestinian people to block the road on any attempt of war declared by Yasser Arafat in the camps to prove that he still has power in Lebanon.

HAWI CALLS FOR JOINT NATIONAL ACTION BY AMAL, COMMUNIST PARTY

Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 3-9 Aug 87 pp 18-21

[Article by Reem Drouby]

[Text]

A call for the resolution of outstanding differences between the Lebanese Communist Party and the Amal Movement was made last week by the party's general secretary, George Hawi.

It was to bridge these differences, he told me, that he had met Amal Movement leader Nabih Berri in the office of Syrian Vice - President Abdelhalim Khaddam recently and made with him an agreement to form a committee of members of both the Party and the Movement which would have two objects :

— To investigate recent incidents of violence between the two groups in a bid to prevent their recurrence.

— To coordinate bilateral relations and to renew cooperation on all levels, including that of resistance to Israeli occupation of Israel's so-called «security zone» along the Israeli - Lebanese frontier, and that of dealing with Lebanon's worsening economic crisis.

He drew attention to the fact that there had been «a period of positive cooperation» in which Party and Movement had cooperated against the Israeli occupation «and the Phalangist forces». But there had been other times, he noted, both before the Israeli invasion of 1982 and more recently, when fighting took place between them, fighting «preceded and

accompanied by revenge, displacement and attacks against fighters... who were members of the Communist Party in the South, the Beirut suburbs, and certain regions in Beirut itself.»

Both the Communist Party and Amal are key allies of Syria in Lebanon, and Beirut observers have noted that it would be in Damascus's interest to patch up the differences between them as it prepares to form a broad coalition of Lebanese forces opposed to President Amin Gemayel and to the Lebanese Forces militia.

This broad coalition, Hawi told me, would include three smaller groupings : 1) the recently - launched Front for Unification and Liberation (FUL), «which is radical in its orientation» ; 2) the Islamic Gathering, a grouping of clerical and lay Moslem notables ; and 3) a «broad national meeting that will be held within the formula of a national conference... which is expected to be chaired by former President (Suleiman) Franjieh.»

Hawi had a warning for Samir Geagea, the leader of the Lebanese Forces, whom he accused of «preparing to declare a "government of independence», in other words, to declare partition» by separating the Lebanese - Forces - controlled Christian enclave northeast of Beirut from the rest of Lebanon. This, Hawi

argued, would amount to a reenactment of the events in Palestine in 1947-48, when that country was to be divided between Jews and Arabs.

Geagea, Hawi charged, was «planning to transform the Christians in Lebanon into a Zionized cause... similar to the Israeli entity. Insistence on this course will not only lead to the displacement of the rest of the Christians who are still outside the Christian ghetto (the enclave), but will also lead to a renewal of fighting.»

Another danger no less threatening, he told me, was that of a renewal of the «war of the camps» between Amal and the Palestinians. «Intensive effort» was being devoted to restarting the conflict, he said, effort which if it bore fruit would have baneful consequences «on the Palestinian cause as well as on the Lebanese national cause.»

A translation of the interview, which was conducted in Arabic :

There are reports concerning the widening of the scope of the current struggle in the South between the Palestinians and Amal Movement. What is your viewpoint ? If this widening takes place, will the Syrian forces interfere to stop it, as was the case in Beirut, or is the matter different there ?

The issue is no longer rumors. There is intensive effort to renew the war of the camps and to widen its scope. This will have a grave and negative outcome on the Palestinian cause as well as on the Lebanese national cause. We are against the efforts exerted by the two sides to renew the fighting. We call for a calm, responsible and serious way of tackling this situation.

First : The Palestinian national determination should gain victory, because it is not interested in renewing the war of the camps which will be used as a fuel in the battle, in a bid to win a position for the rightist command of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), during the talks held on the international level to find a solution to the Palestinian cause.

The Palestinian position should be reached through the unity of the PLO on a sound basis, and through boosting the relation of the PLO with Syria and the Lebanese national forces, and the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union. This position will not be reached through a return to reconciliation with Cairo and Morocco, along with the reconciliation with Amman, while considering what happened in Cairo as a «summer cloud».

In fact, the hope for a Palestinian national stand has become like a summer cloud that will soon fade away, allowing the bitter reality to show up in betting on the Arab right and the imperialist camp. This, unfortunately, was Yasser Arafat's declaration published on Wednesday, July 29, 1987. It is not necessary to knock at the gate of Damascus through Ain el-Helwe, East Sidon, and the camps of the South, of Beirut and the southern suburbs. The inhabitants of the camps are tired, and so are the people in the areas surrounding the camps. It is enough using Lebanon's camps as an entrance to exhaust Syria, and to obtain a position for the PLO leadership.

Second : This procedure should be stopped through serious measures taken within the Lebanese national framework. The hostility to the Palestinian people should be stopped along with the siege of their camps and provoking them under feeble excuses and pretexts. Nobody has given anyone the right to be transferred into a policeman to control security, and to punish the Palestinian people for Arafat's sake. The Amal Movement should stop individually tackling this issue, which must be the concern of the Front for Unification and Liberation.

If the Palestinian arms in the camps are allowed or forbidden, it must be made clear how far it is allowed, and how far it is forbidden. This issue is not the concern of Mr. Nabih Berri alone, and the fate of the South is not the business of Amal alone. So is the case with Sidon and its eastern suburbs, the southern suburbs of Beirut, and so on.

They are of interest to us as Lebanese nationalists.

I propose that Walid Jumblatt, Mustafa Saad, Assem Kanso, the Syrian National Social Party and our Communist Party, in addition to nationalist Moslem and Christian personalities, and the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, the Islamic Grouping and Amal should form a part of this broad national action, and should seek a solution to the camp dilemma and to Lebanese - Palestinian relations. If Amal accepts this appeal, then we can thwart Arafat's machinations, and we can start solving the problem. If the struggle renews, the Syrian troops may, or may not interfere. This does not depend on our desire. We support the widening of the security plan through deploying Syrian troops throughout Lebanon, but this depends on national, regional and international circumstances. However, we are not the decision - maker in this respect.

Why hasn't former President Franjeh participated in the Front for Unification and Liberation ?

Former President Franjeh will participate in the comprehensive national conference, and will chair this conference. He will also chair the wider grouping that will include within its framework the Front for Unification and Liberation. There will thus be three frameworks for the national action :

1 — The narrow framework which is radical in its orientation, and will comprise the political parties and organizations in the Front for Unification and Liberation, and will have a radical orientation to solve the problem of Lebanon's unity, Arab identity and the continuation of its democracy.

2 — The Islamic Gathering and its representatives, whom we respect, and we call for collecting common denominators between the Islamic Gathering and the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, in order to unify the will of the Lebanese nationalists on these denominators.

3 — The broad national meeting that will be held under the formula of a

national conference, and for whose convening we took the initiative of calling a few months ago. It has been approved recently, following the horrible crime which claimed the life of Prime Minister Rashid Karami. This conference is expected to be chaired by former President Franjeh.

Some people doubt the possibility of success of the Front for Unification and Liberation, because it has failed to elect its president. What is your response ?

The mere approval of the collective command of the major parties constituting the Front for Unification and Liberation is a sign of strength in this direction, and not a sign of weakness. The collective presidency represented by the Socialist Party, the Amal Movement, the Baath Party, our Communist Lebanese Party, the Nasserite People's Organization, the Syrian National Social Party, which we hope will be able to bypass its crisis. This collective command is a source of strength and not a source of weakness. This does not mean that the Front will not face risks or challenges. We also are worried about the fate of the Front, considering the major challenge facing it is to be able to unify the stands of the forces of which it is composed.

I envisage that the following steps should be taken :

1 — Abandoning the method of factional hegemony among the constituent forces (of the Front).

2 — Unifying the Lebanese nationalist regions which are supervised by these forces, one way or another.

3 — Solving the issue of Lebanese - Palestinian relations.

4 — Regulating the combatting relation between the Front for Unification and Liberation, and the broad national rank forces.

5 — Boosting our ties with the sister state Syria.

6 — On this basis, a battle will be waged to overthrow the partitioning forces represented by the factional authority and the Lebanese Forces.

It is said that Assem Kanso will be the secretary general of the Front for Unification and Liberation. Is this true?

We have not yet discussed leadership positions. But comrade Assem Kanso has a major role in this Front. He has chaired the Preparatory Committee of the Front, and has successfully managed its activities. He forms a common denominator around whom the various Lebanese parties will rally. We support his continued active role, whether he is named secretary general of the Front or not. The Front has a collective presidential committee, and will have an executive secretariat. We hope that Kanso will be ready to help this Front be a success.

How are relations between the Communist Party and Amal?

We are now seeking to draw a lesson from the past, where this relation was characterized by two phases:

1 — a period of positive cooperation against the Israeli occupation and the Phalangist forces. This phase allowed everybody to benefit from this cooperation.

2 — a phase of fighting, both the events prior to 1982 or the latest regretful events that were witnessed in Beirut, and which were preceded and accompanied by revenge, displacement and attacks against fighters who struggled against the Israeli occupation, and who were members of the Communist Party in the South, the Beirut suburbs, and certain regions in Beirut itself. Everybody faced the negative outcome of this phase.

We are definitely annoyed and worried about this phase, and at the time this phase is weakening Amal and proving its inability to fulfill its commitments that it declared in front of the masses. This made difficult the path of the nationalist forces and frustrated any possibility for the establishment of a nationalist stand in the near future. We call for benefitting from this experience, and for bypassing all matters of conflict after full discussion. During our latest meeting with Mr. Nabih Berri, at the office of Mr. Abdelhalim Khaddam, we agreed to take two steps:

1 — to form a bilateral committee between the Party and the Movement that will have two missions:

a — the first mission will be to investigate the events that took place, the harassment, arrests, assassinations and displacement operations, in a bid to prevent their recurrence.

b — the second mission will be to coordinate bilateral relations, and to renew cooperation on all levels, including cooperations in national resistance against the Israeli occupation and to stop the Phalangist partitioning project, and cooperation against the economic collapse, and to defend the masses in helping them gain their livelihood decently.

2 — To organize the bilateral relation between the Party and the Movement on a sound basis, because the problem is mainly that of the national action, and not a problem between a party and a movement.

When the member of Amal is able to move freely and struggle freely, and when the Movement is able to establish an office for political struggle in Sidon, the mountain, the Bekaa, the North, and when the member of the Progresssive Socialist Party also moves freely and establishes an office in Tyre, Nabatieh, Zahranl, Sidon, the mountain, Bekaa and North Lebanon, and when members of the Baath Party, the SNSP, the Nasserite People's Organization and the Lebanese Communist Party, all of them establish offices for political activities in Tyre, Nabatieh, Zahranl, Sidon, the mountain, Bekaa, the North, the southern suburbs and Beirut, and all of them commit themselves to a democratic charter of action, through which these parties respect each other — then the problem between the Communist Party and Amal will be solved, and a national project will be established.

Press reports have quoted Samir Geagea as saying that the return of the displaced Christians to the suburbs of Sidon is possible at any time, but the delay was due to the insistence on a comprehensive plan to restore all the displaced Christians to their

**regions. What is your comment ?
Are we heading towards new
military battles ?**

Unfortunately, Dr. Geagea is not a specialist on restoring the displaced to their homes. He is an expert in displacing people, and had it not been for him, the Christians would not have been displaced from Sidon, the Iklim (north east of Sidon) and the suburbs.

Our Party and the Progressive Socialist Party exerted great efforts, prior to the Iklim battle in 1985 to find a solution that would extricate the Phalangists and the «Forces», and would temporarily maintain the inhabitants of these regions, with the hope of reaching a political solution that would prevent displacement. But the obstinacy of the «Forces» under the command of Samir Geagea led to the displacement of the people, and proved that their plans were aimed at displacement.

Thus, Geagea proposals are for local consumption. Effectively, his plan was to displace the rest of the Christians who were still outside the ghetto, so that he would establish a Christian state on a part of Lebanon. He is among those who believe that the major mistake of the Maronites was that they accepted the idea of a Greater Lebanon. He longs for a day when the

Christians will be «like seashells within little Lebanon. He is mistaken to believe that the safety of the Christians is through becoming ensconced in a particular piece of land, and in transforming this land into an armed arsenal, similar to the Zionist (partition of Palestine). The strength of the Christians cannot be transformed into a threatening factor for Lebanon's unity and for the Arab nation as well. There is a wide difference between the nature of the Zionist project in Palestine and the illegal and destructive greed for which Dr. Geagea and his aides are planning to transform the Christians in Lebanon

into a Zionized cause or a Zionized entity, similar to the Israeli entity. Insistence on this course will not only lead to the displacement of the rest of the Christians who are still outside the Christian ghetto, but will also lead to a renewal of fighting.

Geagea is preparing to declare a «government of independence.» In other words he plans to declare partition, to impose on the Christians a war whose end none can foresee, and it will definitely not be in the interest of the Christians, nor will it be in the interest of Lebanon's survival as an independent, sovereign and free state.

We call on those who are backing Dr. Geagea to pour cold water on their hot heads. Their method will not restore the displaced. The first step towards restoring the displaced would be through abandoning the partition plan, and through rallying around the democratic framework of a solution to the Lebanese crisis, which above all will unmask and punish the assassins of Prime Minister Karami, and will pave the way for the Lebanese national dialogue on a sound basis. The return of the displaced is now dependent on the displacement of Dr. Geagea and his supporters.

British Ambassador John Gray has said that August will be the month of accord and of a solution to the Lebanese crisis. Do you agree with his opinion ?

When such illusions are taken up by ordinary Lebanese citizens, we understand their logic. But when they are quoted by a representative of a great country, we wonder if the West and Israel are planning a new adventure in August or September under the pretext of accord. This question is made in connection with the escalation of the tone of the Lebanese Forces, in the context of talk of a «Government of Independence,» with President Gemayel seeking to provide «cover» for such a step.

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CSO: 4400/262

AFFLUENCE GIVES PLACE TO ABJECT POVERTY IN LEBANON

Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 20-26 Jul 87 p 9

[Article by Michael Kull]

[Text]

With thin and wrinkled hands, 88 - year - old Wardeh Ramez searched slowly through the rubbish tip looking for scraps to eat.

«We used to have fields of lettuce, a house, servants. Now look what I have collected.» she said, showing a handful of thyme. «This is now our food.»

At dawn, at dusk, singly and in families, Lebanon's poorest comb rubbish heaps for food and ragged clothes in small but growing numbers unthinkable even a year ago.

There are still many rich Lebanese, but after 12 years of civil war, an economic crisis is finally catching up with a society that used to boast that barrow - boys owned cars.

Lebanon recently asked the World Food Program (WFP) to help feed 1.25 million needy Lebanese — more than a third of the population — Acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss told Reuters.

«No Lebanese were that poor before... they are now a considerable portion of Lebanese society,» said Amin Hajj, a professor of economics at the American University of Beirut.

The failure of the economy is epitomized by the 97 percent collapse of the dollar value of the Lebanese pound since it started its steep decline in February 1984.

Inflation is running at an estimated annual 170 percent so far this year, a level not seen in Lebanon for several decades, and is certain to soar further.

Lebanon imports 80 percent of its consumption, while the dollar value of the average salary has fallen from an annual 5,300 dollars in 1975 to some 600 dollars today.

DRAMA

Remittances from abroad have also fallen, from some 2.4 billion dollars in 1981 - 82 to an expected 600 million dollars this year, the independent *an-Nahar* newspaper said.

Unofficial estimates put unemployment at 30 percent, but for those in work, the official minimum wage is a bitter joke at 4300 pounds (27 dollars) a month.

«On the outside Lebanon may look the same, the traffic, the buildings, the rich in new cars — but inside those buildings the change is often dramatic,» said the son of a priest.

People queue for hours at mosques and churches to receive handouts of cheese and other dairy products. New foreign fashions loved by Lebanese are giving way to Lebanese and home - made clothes. Thefts and daylight street robberies are widespread.

Servants from the Indian subcontinent are leaving and poor Lebanese are taking their place.

In a small country where the family is all - important, the Islamic Orphanage said it received 17 abandoned infants in the past three months, some of them found in piles of rubbish.

The orphanage said the increase from four such infants found in the previous three months showed a «collapse in social values... extreme poverty and much family suffering.»

Priests say marriage proposals are now frequently conditional on the wife working and not having children for a few years. Some cannot even afford a traditional wedding, let alone a room of their own or furniture.

Malnutrition has led to a decline in Lebanese children's intelligence and some are even fainting from hunger or eating paper in classrooms, senior Lebanese academic George Freiha said in a recent public lecture.

Desperation to feed children can know no bounds, despite increasing foreign food aid.

«I bind my eyes with a black tie so that I do not see my shame. Then I get under men to win their money,» said a tearful young wife with a two-year-old child.

«My husband does his best to provide us with food and shelter but it is not enough. I have to help him. I found no other way. May God one day forgive me,» she said.

Newspaper editorials and caricatures depict the anguish of Lebanese at the economic collapse, but diplomats doubt social upheaval or famine is around the corner.

OUTCOME

In fact, diplomats and Lebanese leaders say the huge expense of arms and ammunition in local terms has helped consolidate a three-month lull in civil war fighting.

«It's not in the Lebanese nature to

rebel because they are poor. Anyway there is no such leader for such people,» said one ambassador. «They ask their cousin in Australia for another hundred dollars. They'll get by somehow.»

But on a recent television show, shouted insults and blame showed a new depth of feeling among the middle classes, who have seen their formerly European standard of living melt away.

Families are running into debt, especially the 120,000 government employees on fixed salaries. Many take two jobs or work longer hours, go out for picnics instead of restaurant meals and put off medical treatment.

«Patients do not come to us unless they feel badly sick,» said Henry Dagher, a doctor. «They take aspirin and pain killers to convince themselves they feel normal.»

«The term middle class is no longer applicable. We struggle just to maintain some aspects of our previous status,» said a Sunnite Moslem housewife.

For almost all, children's education takes priority. «The teacher said I should keep my son at school, even if it meant stealing,» said office cleaner Umm Warden.

Pleasure trips abroad, once taken for granted by the middle classes, are a thing of the past. Of at least 20,000 people who left Lebanon in June, travel agents say as many as a tenth may have gone for good.

«They take one-way tickets, or excursion fares to cash in on arrival,» said one travel agent. «It's too difficult here. They go abroad to find work, a new life.» ●

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CSO: 4400/247

CIVIL SERVICE BUREAU URGES HALT ON EMPLOYMENT ON NON-SAUDIS

Riyadh ARAB NEWS in English 15 Jul 87 p 2

[Text]

RIYADH, July 14 (SPA) — The need for intensifying research work aimed at ensuring sound planning of Saudi work force so as to derive maximum benefit in the public and private sectors has been underlined in a report released by the Civil Service Bureau.

The report stressed the need for stopping employment of non-Saudi cadres and the scarcity of Saudi work force in vocational fields.

The bureau has called for boosting cooperation among the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Manpower Council and chambers of commerce and industry in streamlining the requirements of labor market such as the vocational and professional hands, the degree of required expertise and the level of education and training.

It has also suggested the preparation of a vocational register of the Saudi work force in each vocation separately. This will serve as a database of Saudi labor. The register

should cover the number, vocational classification, academic and training levels, experiences and degree of expertise of the Saudi work force. It should also specify the level of wages in every stage, the report pointed out.

Companies and business establishments should be asked to receive the graduates of training centers and give them practical training on nominal wages for specified periods in order to complete the training process, the bureau has recommended. The companies should also be compelled to employ a certain percentage of Saudi technical labor, the report said.

The need for boosting media services to create awareness about the importance of technical education and its role in the society has also been highlighted in the report. The attitude of the society toward this kind of education should be changed, the report has pointed out.

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CSO: 4400/265

MUSLIM MINORITIES GIVEN PRIORITY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Riyadh ARAB NEWS in English 24 Jul 87 p 2

[Article by Javid Hassan]

[Text]

RIYADH, July 23 — Muslim students from non-Muslim countries will be given preference for the award of WAMY (World Assembly of Muslim Youths) scholarships provided they fulfill the conditions of eligibility, an assembly spokesman told *Arab News*.

He said students from the European countries can also apply, but their educational expenses, unlike those of the scholars from the Muslim minority countries, will be partially covered.

The WAMY scholarship program is for students wishing to pursue post-graduate studies, including Ph.D., in the sciences and humanities. Apart from covering their full educational and boarding expenses, WAMY also recommends their admission to any university in the Kingdom.

Currently, some 63 students are receiving WAMY scholarships and pursuing studies in King Saud University, of Riyadh, and other academic institutions. But as the number of applications for scholarship is snowballing, WAMY has clarified the conditions for their eligibility.

These are: 1. An applicant must be a Muslim, 2) the applicant must have obtained A or A+ grades (GPA=3.5 where A=4) in his last examination, 3) he must be studying in a renowned university in the field of the candidate's specialization, 4) in order to renew the scholarship for the subsequent year, the candidate must secure a good pass

grade in his examination or satisfactory progress in the research area along with maintaining noble character and obedience to the fundamentals of Islam, 5) he should be proposed by an Islamic organization which should enclose an undertaking by the applicant that he will work somewhere in the region of the organization, 6) he should submit a bond that the amount of the scholarship/assistance will be returned to WAMY (or to whosoever WAMY may nominate in the country of the candidate) in regular monthly instalments of at least 20 percent of the candidate's monthly income. If the candidate fails to deposit any one instalment, the total amount remaining unpaid will fall due immediately, 7) the candidate will have to produce a guarantee to the above effect from two persons who should undertake to repay the amount to WAMY in case of the candidate's default in payment, and 8) in case of the candidate's death during or after completion of his studies no amount of scholarships paid to him will be claimed either from his family or guarantor.

The spokesman mentioned Muslim students from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Malaysia, Fattani (Thailand) as well as those from Australia, U.S.A. and the European countries as being eligible for the two types of scholarship program.

Apart from WAMY's own resources, he said, the organization also receives assistance from philanthropic individuals who come forward to sponsor some meritorious candidates. "We really appreciate the noble gesture of these donors," he said.

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CSO: 4400/265

KING FAHD MEDICAL CITY TO BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR

Riyadh ARAB NEWS in English 25 Jul 87 p 3

[Text]

JEDDAH, July 24 — Work on the SR2 billion King Fahd Medical City in Riyadh, considered the biggest health facility in the Middle East, is making steady progress. The complex comprises four modern hospitals and several clinics as well as 2,561 housing units and other public utilities.

The project, which is expected to be completed this year, includes a 510-bed general hospital, a 217-bed pediatric hospital, a 254-bed maternity hospital and a 300-bed psychiatric hospital. Riyadh Governor Prince Salman laid the foundation stone for the complex located along the Al-Islam Street in the Olaya region on Nov. 3, 1984.

Other medical facilities at the complex are a kidney transplantation center, a 144-bed rehabilitation center, out-patient clinics and a burn treatment center as well as pharmacies, laboratories, operation rooms and X-ray units. The project was planned and is being constructed following the latest architectural designs and specifications.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony, Health Minister Faisal Al-Hujeilan had said the complex was designed to extend wide range of medical services to citizens and residents. "It will help meet most of the medical requirements of the public", he told reporters. Facilities for making researches are also available at the complex.

Saudi Arabia now boasts of 142 major hospitals and more than 1,430 clinics spreading over different parts of the country including remote townships and hamlets. The number of beds in the hospitals under the Health Ministry increased from 2,400 in 1983 to 5,000 this year while that of Saudis working in the health sector jumped from 14,226 in 1985 to 24,153. In addition to 31 private hospitals, there are 184 non-

government clinics with a total of 3,440 beds and 3,234 doctors.

The development of the Kingdom's health care sector required a large finance. During the Third Five-Year Development Plan (1980-1985) the ministry spent SR40.38 billion. Under the current development plan, the Ministry of Planning forecasts total spending on the health sector, excluding Ministry of Defense and Aviation and National Guard facilities, at SR62.24 billion.

The general hospital at the complex will have special sections for internal medicine, maternity, pediatrics and orthopedics in addition to eight operation rooms, intensive care units, a blood bank, a laboratory and 10 X-ray rooms. The hospital kitchen can supply 5,000 meals to patients daily.

The ground and first floors of the five-story hospital is streamlined for X-ray, laboratory, kitchen and operation while the second, third, fourth and fifth floors are allocated separately for male and female patients. Each room is to be provided with television sets and three nurses will be assigned to look after 20 patients.

At the northern side of the hospital a special 40-bed section will be opened for first-aid and emergency services. The two sections will be provided with wireless facilities. A computerized equipment linked with television will be installed for warning on fire hazards.

The outpatient clinics at the complex have special facilities for operation, internal medicine, dental and eye treatment etc. The dental clinic has 13 chairs equipped with the latest equipment. At the eye clinic there are special facilities for checking the vision like ophthalmoscope etc.

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CSO: 4400/265

SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBER DISCUSSES DOMESTIC SITUATION

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 17 Jul 87 pp 29-30

[Interview with Dr 'Ali Taj-al-Din: "We Have Put the Sudanese House Back in Order"; in Cairo, date not specified]

[Text] Notwithstanding the fact that the visit that the Sudanese Supreme Council Member Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj-al-Din, made to Cairo was a private visit and not an official one, it presented an opportunity for searching for answers to many bewildering questions about conditions in the Sudan. AL-HAWADITH met with Dr Taj-al-Din at his home in the Muhandisin area [near al-Zamalik] of Cairo.

[Question] In light of recent strong and persistent rumors about a chill in Egyptian-Sudanese relations, how, from your perspective, do you assess these relations 4 months after Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to Cairo and the signing of the brotherhood pact?

[Answer] There is no doubt that relations between Egypt and the Sudan are historic and eternal. There is a natural and mutual integration, notwithstanding the geographic boundaries. These relations rise above political systems and any ideological differences. When some speak of a chill in relations, they observe only the superficial and totally overlook the essence, concentrating only on the negative sides in total disregard for the positive aspects of these strong relations. In the wake of the devastation brought upon the Sudan by the Numayri regime, a democratic system has been established following elections for which the whole world has attested to their honesty. It was natural that the two countries should look for an avenue of cooperation after the Sudan put its internal affairs in order. Relations culminated in the brotherhood pact last February, and although my visit to Cairo was a private and not an official one, the special relations between the two countries allowed me to meet with President Husni Mubarak and the prime minister, Dr 'Atif Sidqi. I informed them of developments in the Sudan during one year of government action, and we discussed all the issues of mutual interest to the two countries as well as Arab and international conditions.

[Question] But some people view the abrogation of the joint defense treaty as a symptom of the tepidity in Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

[Answer] The brotherhood pact addresses the general and universal framework of all issues, including defense and security in the two countries. This is in addition to all economic, social, political and foreign matters. One negative effect of the joint defense treaty was the Aden alliance that included Ethiopia, Libya, and Aden. Let us say that should the Sudan come under foreign attack, the special relations with Egypt, even without the joint defense treaty, call upon Egypt to support the Sudan. Moreover, the brotherhood pact supersedes all other previous agreements because it laid new foundations for our relations. This pact has enabled us to shift from slogans to tangible implementation and practical reality. In the last 30 years slogans became supreme and the number of agreements between the two countries grew without tangible results, especially in the field of security.

[Question] Don't you think that a careful review of the pact would reveal a pitfall of slogans, and generalizations in dealing with various issues?

[Answer] The pact sets the basic principles and does not go into detail. It lays the course of relations and leaves the details to a large number of institutions which are responsible for approving and implementing projects. The pact, like a constitution, requires laws, bylaws, and institutions which are in the process of being formulated. The pact has addressed the security issue, and the competent authorities must debate this issue and set up the proper formula for Nile Valley unity, while confronting all the perils originating from the eastern and southern fronts of this valley. This also applies to various other issues, especially the economic ones. There are dozens of projects approved under integration which have not yet seen the light, and it is our duty to try to revitalize them within the brotherhood pact.

[Question] We return to the chill in Egyptian-Sudanese relations related to the postponement of Egyptian prime minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi's visit to the Sudan, which was scheduled for this month.

[Answer] We want to avoid the negative interpretation of all issues. Why do we always look for the negative and overlook the positive? From a procedural point of view, the brotherhood pact was signed last February, and it stipulates that the joint committees of the two countries meet within 6 months. Only 4 months have passed, during which Egypt was busy with the parliamentary elections and the Sudan was busy putting its internal house back in order following an evaluation of government performance. The result was the dissolving of the Sudanese council of ministers. I carried a message from the Sudanese premier, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, to Dr 'Atif Sidqi, proposing the holding of a joint preliminary ministerial meeting this month to define an elaborate vision of the brotherhood and to set up special projects and institutions. This is so that Dr 'Atif's visit to the Sudan may be fruitful and not turn into a discussion of details usually taken up by ministers and advisors, and so that specific projects and institutions may be established.

[Question] You have talked about what you called putting the Sudanese house back in order, which suggests that the reexamination has clarified the

negative and positive aspects of the Sudanese uprising and government performance. What is your final assessment of this matter?

[Answer] The Sudan has gone through several phases and various systems of government. Between 1956 and 1958, we had a multi-party parliamentary system of a democratic nature, followed by the setback that lasted from 1958 to 1964 in the wake of the military coup. The Sudan lived through its second democratic experience from 1964 to 1969. Following the Numayri coup and 17-year regime and the resulting impact on the Sudan's economic and social fate and a \$10 billion debt, the Sudan was declared a defaulter nation, and many international economic establishments stopped granting it loans because it did not guarantee its projects or even its loan payments. Then we had the September laws which were an affront to the Islamic shari'ah, and one of their adverse consequences was the war in the south and the return of the rebels.

The first step after this was the free honest elections which no party won, so the two large parties, the Ummah and the [Democratic] Unionists, had to meet their responsibilities at a delicate stage, namely the stage in which the vestiges of the Numayri legacy were eliminated. The experience of one year in the life of the coalition government, from April 1986 to April 1987, brought to light a large number of negative and positive sides.

[Question] What are the positive aspects of one year in the life of the cabinet, particularly since there are those who claim that no tangible changes took place at any level throughout this year?

[Answer] The Sudan has become self-reliant in financing its oil imports, and has not had to beg as al-Numayri did. It now has a food surplus of 5 million tons of corn, 400,000 tons of fava beans and 350,000 tons of sesame. It is now able to export, and has regained the trust of Arab and international institutions. During the Riyadh conference in June 1987, the Sudanese economy regained its reputation, and projects that had been suspended came back to life, as did the IMF when it sent delegations to Khartoum to discuss debt rescheduling.

Another positive aspect is the Sudan's active return to foreign policy, for the international committee entrusted it with mediating a settlement for the Chadian-Libyan conflict.

[Question] What about the negative aspects which were disclosed by the reevaluation of government performance in the Sudan?

[Answer] Several negative aspects of the performance of the Supreme Council and the government came to light, particularly the "collective responsibility" of the government. The performance of some ministers used to be criticized in the media in disregard for the cabinet's "collective responsibility." There was also some negativism regarding the unjustifiable food shortages caused by an unsuccessful policy of the minister of commerce. There was also negativism regarding the Constituent Assembly's failure to erase the negative May vestiges by enacting economically favorable laws and legislation to replace the September laws. This necessary reexamination was a healthy phenomenon from the standpoint of the government, for it admitted its mistakes, examined

the negative aspects of its performance, and drew up alternatives to overcome them.

[Question] Don't you believe that the outcome of the examination was limited to and reflected in the replacement of 4 ministers, which could have been done without a cabinet resignation?

[Answer] We have to admit that the legacy is a heavy one, and a comprehensive cabinet reshuffle totally incapacitates the executive power. Some ministers have developed an appreciation for the real problems and have begun to devise and implement solutions to them. The replacement of these ministers robs the government of a clear view of the problems and places us in a trial-and-error situation. Certain other ministers, such as the minister of finance, maintain relations with international institutions. Such a minister cannot be replaced after starting a dialogue with international monetary establishments. The cabinet reshuffle was limited, but was governed by a pact signed by the two coalition parties and a memorandum of understanding based on specific terms and systematic plans, in addition to the participation of the 7 parties of the south, including the Federal Labor Party, the Progressive People's Party and the Political Grouping Party of Southern Sudan.

[Question] Was the partial repeal of the September Islamic shari'ah laws within the framework of the current reexamination process, and is this part of a deal to consummate conciliation with John Garang?

[Answer] We have the so-called Sudanese pact that recognizes cultural and ethnic diversity in the Sudan, and the Sudanese identity is defined based on this. We have total participation in the distribution of wealth and services among the people of the Sudan and we have the position on government and politics. This leads us to the agreement to repeal the September laws and to enforce new laws for 1987 based on the Sudanese legal legacy of the sixties and seventies. Therefore, the repeal of the September laws and the enforcement of new laws are one of the terms of the Sudanese pact, and this refutes a large part of the Garang allegations about the absence of freedom of religion and the full rights of citizenship for the Sudanese people.

[Question] Do you think that the recent February escalations by the Garang forces was in retaliation for the repeal of the September laws?

[Answer] Outlaws are always active in the fall by virtue of the fact that weather conditions form natural barriers for large vehicles. Jokau region, a border area between Ethiopia and the Sudan, has been penetrated with artillery support from Ethiopian territory guided by foreign elements, Cuban in all probability. The Sudanese armed forces are now working to regain the region. It is easy to have gaps in battles of a special nature and the regular forces are working to regain them.

[Question] This brings us to the latest developments in Sudanese-Ethiopian relations.

[Answer] We believe that Ethiopia has its own problems, just as we have ours. We also believe that the problem of the South will only be settled within the

framework of a peaceful rather than a military option. We ask that the Ethiopians appreciate this matter on the basis of coexistence between the two countries. The prime minister has put forth specific proposals aimed at reaching out to John Garang and the Ethiopians and there are ongoing endeavors to mend the rift so that the Ethiopians may halt their support of John Garang.

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CSO: 45040289

DIVISIONS IN SOUTHERN PARTIES REPORTED

Khartoum HERITAGE in English 20 Jul 87 p 2

[Text]

The divisions in some of the Southern parties continue unabated. The resignations in the Sudan African National Union (SANU) for example see no end. Just a few months ago two executive members of the party resigned from it sighting disregard for SANU principles by those at the top, another executive member of the party has resigned. He is Anthony Achor Michael

In his letter of resignation which was dated 6th July 1987, Achor said that for the last two years, there has been a total lack of cooperation at the helm of the party leadership." A nation divided against itself will not stand," Achor said. Achor, a former minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources in Bahr el Ghazal said that he will only return to the party when it is reorganised on the basis of mutual understanding.

In the Sudan Peoples African Congress (SAPCO) there have also been serious quarrels.

In early July four out of the seven members of parliament of SAPCO decided to form a new wing of SAPCO. The four are Paulino Zizi, Father Nereo Lope, Benjamin Basara and Elisama Torose. The four say that they had taken the decision due to lack of party unity on such issues as the September laws and the future of Southern Sudan and the dictatorial attitude of the party boss, Morris Lawiya.

The main wing of SAPCO however maintains that there is no disagreement on these two issues and it describes the four who have opted to form their wing of the party as none other than job seekers.

The Secretary General of SAPCO Richard Mokobe says that in May 1986 Father Lope had for

example applied directly to the Umma party for a ministerial post without consulting the executive committee of the party.

Also on the 13th and 14th of March 1987, three of the four members (excepting Father Lope) threatened, according to Mokobe, Lawiya in writing that they would resign from the party unless the Azandes were given portfolios of Administration or finance plus the provincial commissionership of Western Equatoria.

Also on the 27th of May, Mokobe says the four M.Ps, wrote directly to Sadiq el Mahdi nominating Father Lope for a ministerial post even if they knew that the executive of the party had already nominated him, Mokobe, for that post.

Another post which appeared to have also created problems in the party is the head of a committee in the Assembly which is reserved, singly, for all parties taking part in the government. That job is normal

ly given to the parliamentary leader of the party.

The four M.Ps say that post, a state ministerial one, had been reserved for the Azandes and Paulino Zizi in particular when the Tobosa (in the form of Father George Kinga) had been given the post given to SAPCO in the Southern Council in February 1977.

However the four note that the post in the Assembly had been manoeuvred by Morris Lawiya to go to Joseph Lasu, a Kuku.

The Lawiya group says the Azandes have two ministerial positions and one commissionership and are therefore sufficiently represented in the various governments.

The Kuku they note are not represented anywhere. In any case, the Lawiya group says SAPCO executive members in both Juba and Khartoum all voted for Lasu.

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CSO: 4500/124

REASONS SOUGHT FOR SYRIA'S BREAD CRISIS

Drop In Bread Production

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 Jul 87 p 7

[Article by Marwan Darraj: "Bread--From Crowds At the Bakeries To Substandard Specifications for Bread:]

[Text] When it occurred to us to write about this topic, we hesitated at first, feeling that there was no use bringing up something we had already written about. Just a few months ago we had devoted an entire page to this topic, but unfortunately we received no response to what we had written. At that time, the problem was just beginning, and it would have been possible to set it right before it got to the point it did late last month.

This time, we hope that we won't be filling up a leaky waterskin, or shouting in a deep valley where only the echo of our voice can be heard.

The topic, quite simply, is the citizen's everyday food--bread--a staple which, in view of the tangible progress and development we are seeing on all levels of life, ought to be available to everyone. Does it make sense for us to be unable to guarantee the citizen's daily bread? Bread is not some everyday item which can be dispensed with on occasion. For example, sometimes people can do without cooking fat, or oil, or some kinds of fruit, but bread is the only foodstuff which has no substitute. In any case, our topic is not sacred, and we don't want to inflate things out of proportion. We will be dealing with the topic on two levels, the first being the crowds which gather around the bakeries because not enough bread is being produced, and the second being the inferior production of the loaves themselves.

Ample Resources

To begin with, no doubt we all noticed, late last month, that the comings and goings, or more properly the crowding, around the bread windows was unusual. We all noticed that there were more black market bread sellers in the vicinity of the bakeries than there had been before. Near one bakery I even saw scores of children carrying packages of bread, selling them for 2 or 3 Syrian pounds a bag, saving the citizens the trouble of waiting 1 or 2 hours.

The question we are bringing up again is: why this sudden crisis in the availability of bread? There are ample resources, and the experience of the automated bakeries over the past few years has shown that they are capable of filling the gap which had existed before their establishment, and perhaps even of showing much better results than anticipated. However, why haven't these bakeries been able to keep up their previous pace of work? Has the people's consumption of bread increased suddenly? Or do some people consider it a commodity, like medicines, for example, to be smuggled to neighboring countries because it is so cheap here? Of course, neither alternative is the answer. It is a fact that most people are less apt to consume bread and other food during the summer, due to their strong preference for liquids, particularly water. Therefore, there must be a problem, or a group of important factors, which have clearly contributed to this crisis.

The Core of the Crisis

In the course of our investigations, it became clear that several factors had come together suddenly to cause this crisis. It is our belief that the lack of control over supplies, aggravated over the past few months, was the main reason why the situation reached the pitch it did about 2 weeks ago. But how did it happen? Initially, we thought that supply control was responsible for the problem, because when the crisis began we thought that the Supply Ministry had already taken certain measures, such as reducing flour allotments to the bakeries, and that the crisis was therefore a direct reflection of this reduction. After we questioned the officials involved, it became clear to us that nothing of the sort had happened.

First of all, the production capacity of each bakery, whether it is an automated, reserve, or privately owned bakery, is known. Each bakery is allocated flour according to its need, its plan and its location. Should a bakery produce less than its plan, on the basis of which flour was allocated, this would indicate some negligence or shortcomings. However, if the production plan is held up for some reason beyond the bakery's control, the bakery can in this case be excused for being unable to process all of its flour allocation. Even if this should happen, surely it would not cause a crisis in a big city like Damascus, which has scores of bakeries. Thus we must go back to the core of the concept we are discussing: most of the bakeries in Damascus and the surrounding countryside are actually not working at their full production capacity. In order to prove this, we offer the following figures showing how much of the flour usually allocated for production was not being made into bread at the bakeries. About 6,978 tons of flour had accumulated at the automated bakeries in May, and about 6,616 tons in June. As for the reserve bakeries, the figures were about 6,000 tons of flour in May and 5,600 tons in June. The private bakeries had about 5,594 tons in May and 6,378 tons in June.

Who Is Responsible For This Decline in Production Capacity?

Without a shadow of a doubt, both the supervisors and the workers are largely responsible, but the supply authorities still bear most of the responsibility, since they presumably make periodic visits to the bakeries to find out at first hand why the production capacity is declining, and to try to keep the

crisis from getting worse. The truth of this statement is confirmed by the fact that the supply authorities, particularly the Damascus Supply Directorate, were actually able to contain the crisis after having made the rounds and seriously pursued the matter. This is why early this month most consumers in Damascus observed that the crisis had let up noticeably. So why aren't the eyes of control always open, since matters are so easy and all that is required is true dedication and that each employee of the supply supervision offices play his part properly? This time we are afraid that this sudden control over supply is just a sudden gust of wind, as happened a few months ago when there was a supply control clampdown over fruit and vegetable sellers.

Other Reasons

There are other reasons, which the supply director for Damascus told us about when we met with him, which we must stop to mention. However, we are not convinced that they are the essence of the crisis, since they are both old and new and have not changed. For example, most bakeries' production, particularly of bread, is out of proportion to their flour allocations--meaning that they are smuggling flour, or else producing other more profitable pastries.

We believe that this situation will continue as long as the state does not find an alternative to it. Therefore, no matter how much of their flour allocations these bakeries smuggle, the figures are still small and do not constitute a crisis. According to Mr Umri there is another reason--some merchants obtain daily approval from the State Bakery Company or from the Supply Ministry to buy large quantities of bread and sell them in outlying areas and quarters. Damascus Supply Director Mr Umri has said that he has advised most bakery supervisors to stop selling bread this way, because whatever bread a bakery produces should go to the people who live nearby. The Supply Ministry has set the flour allocations for bakeries, particularly privately-owned ones, on this basis, i.e. in keeping with the population of the area.

Poor Production

Now that we have discussed the reasons for last month's bread crisis, let us move on to the other half of our topic: poor bread production, particularly by the automatic bakeries. Before we start, let us point out that poor production of bread varies from one bakery to another, and from private to reserve to automatic bakeries as well. For example, we have actually observed that at the reserve bakeries the quality of the bread is not as bad as in the automatic bakeries, although the reserve bakeries rarely add preservatives to the flour, unlike the automatic bakeries. However, the only other fault we can find is that the reserve bakeries usually sell the bread hot, which makes the bread crumble on the way home. In addition, once the bread dries it loses at least 20 grams for every kilogram of original weight.

Before we start discussing the automatic bakeries, we must point out that we are making these observations because of our strong concern for the reputation of our automatic bakeries, which cost the state hundreds of millions of

Syrian pounds. It has already been proven, over a period of time, that such bakeries are capable of producing enough bread to meet local consumption needs, but there are still reservations about how well the bread is being made. Now we will return to our topic, and do our best to summarize our observations about the quality of the bread being made in our automatic bakeries.

1. Most of the time, the bread is not completely cooked or is doughy, because of gaps in the oven walls or because the bread is packaged in plastic bags while it is still hot.
2. Other times it is the reverse--the bread is overcooked, having been exposed to the fire so long that it appears almost burned.
3. There are many bugs and foreign bodies in the bread because the machines which knead the dough, or the places where the flour is kept, are not clean.

The observations we have made are not just ideas; they are based on our actual observation of the bread-making process. Many such observations have been recorded by supply supervisors in their notebooks on automatic bakeries. Whoever doubts the truth of what we are saying can read for himself what the supply supervisors wrote about the Yarmuk Automatic Bakery on 30 December 1984, 1 March 1985, 11 October 1985, and 12 March 1987. In addition to the points we have mentioned, there is another point to be made about underweight loaves of bread, which we will not discuss here because we have already featured this matter in our previous articles. After mentioning these observations, we ask: why is there such negligence in making the citizens' daily staple? Weren't the automatic bakeries introduced as an alternative source of good bread for the citizen? There is no comparison between the resources of both types of bakeries, since the automatic bakeries have the latest machines and equipment. So where is the problem? According to the information we have, the workers, supervisors and technicians at these bakeries are not devoted to their work. If this is not so, then why do the privately-owned bakeries, with their primitive equipment, produce better bread? The materials used in making the bread are the same. Furthermore, the automatic bakeries usually have preservatives, which are not available to the private or reserve bakeries.

A Question

Now that we have dealt with our observations on poor bread production, whether at the automatic, private or reserve bakeries, we repeat our question: why has the production of bread become so poor, and why wasn't it this way in the past? After careful inquiries at the supply control authorities, we found that there are several facets to our question, which we can summarize as follows.

The supply control officers, during their regular tours of the bakeries to inspect the quality of the bread being produced, usually apply regulations concerning anyone producing substandard bread. This control has actually been able to achieve results which, if not good, are at least acceptable. But

what has happened? In our opinion, what we will mention next is the essential reason for the recent decline in the quality of bread, especially since what we will be talking about has more or less coincided with the drop in loaf production and its poor quality.

Applying the Regulations Is Not Allowed

Even though regulations had been applied to bakeries which were not producing good bread, almost all of which responded and improved their bread production, the Supply Ministry has issued a decree prohibiting the "immediate" application of these regulations as a result of the inspectors' observations. Doesn't this arouse your curiosity and amazement? Doesn't the Supply Ministry trust its people during their bakery inspections?

In any case, we will quote the decree, and allow our readers to make any comments they feel appropriate. The text of the decree is as follows.

TO: Supply Control Department, Damascus Supply Directorate

In implementation of Supply and Domestic Trade Ministry Letter No. 1276/1100 of 11 August 1986, the second paragraph of which said "When disciplining violations by automatic and reserve bakeries, the following conditions shall be taken into consideration: excessive moisture, sticking together of both sides, insufficient raising, lack of raising, the bread's inability to keep its appearance and natural aroma, and burnt bread," original samples of the substandard bread shall be taken and sent to the bakery concerned to determine the violation according to a laboratory analysis certificate, which shall be binding in the future.

What does this decree mean? What was the point of issuing it? First and last, it benefits the supervisors and workers at the bakeries, who one way or another can cover up the violation and prevent any disciplinary measures from being taken. Sending the samples to the bakery and examining them takes considerable time. This leaves room for the bakery supervisors to find some way to wriggle out of the situation and prevent the rules from being applied. Thus we can now see that this decree has figured prominently in substandard bread production, particularly at the automatic bakeries, over the past few months.

In Closing

Because the automatic bakeries have such abundant, readily available resources, we feel that the State Bakeries Company should re-examine the bread industry. Vast resources must be invested wisely, and the bakeries must commit themselves to working at their previous level of production. As for the Supply Ministry, it must re-evaluate its decree. Those we met with at the Damascus Supply Directorate more or less agree with us that this decree actually contributed to the recent substandard bread-making. Will the decree be abolished?

Contributing Factors

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 Jul 87 p 7

[Article by Muhammad al-Hasan: "How and Why Is the Bread Deteriorating?"

[Text] The quality of the bread being produced has dropped off noticeably, while the quantity has increased. This means that bread production has deteriorated qualitatively and improved quantitatively.

In spite of the crowds which can be seen around the automatic, reserve and privately-owned bakeries these days, anyone who has been following bread production has noticed that the amount of bread being produced is constantly increasing, and also that bread production has not been significantly affected by the shift, by many private sector bakeries, to producing cakes and pastries. The only effect of this shift has been an increase in the amount of bread produced by the public sector bakeries in order to meet the shortfall which has resulted from these other bakeries' shift to cakes and pastries.

The consumers' observations indicate that the quality of the bread has declined significantly, which has led to an increased wastage, not just in production, but also with respect to usage dates. Right now the bread is doughy, it doesn't hold together, the two sides stick together, and the top is burnt. In short, the product does not meet the specifications set for a loaf of bread, which call for the bread to puff up, for the sides to not stick together, and for the loaf to be fully cooked and clean.

How and Why Is The Bread Deteriorating?

Consumers in every province are asking this question. The answer shows to what extent the officials involved in bread production agree on the reasons for the decline. They ought to put an end to it themselves, since they are involved in this matter, and the work factors are in their hands. The consumer sees only the poor quality, and has no idea or information as to the reasons and factors behind this decline in production quality. Actually, the consumer is not at all involved in this matter, because he is not responsible for production. His role here is limited to consumption. What he wants is fully cooked, clean, healthy bread. He feels that his optimism over the past few years over the qualitative leap in bread production is now being shaken. He is beginning to feel pessimistic again, just when he had thought that he was satisfied with the bread, and that a major problem from which he had suffered greatly had been finally resolved.

While the consumer is concerned over the loaf of bread, there is no doubt that those working to make those loaves are also concerned. The poor quality of the bread keeps them awake at night. They don't like it that the result of their toil, effort and vigilance is a poorly-made loaf of bread which the consumer complains about and which does not satisfy the officials concerned with bread-making. Furthermore, as they confide to each other in their own social circles, they are not the only ones responsible; there are other

parties involved as well, parties directly involved in all phases of bread-making, beginning with the grains of wheat and the flour made from them, and going on to the yeast, the electricity, the spare parts, the wages and compensations, and all the other factors surrounding the bread-making process.

In the face of this substandard bread phenomenon, a new phenomenon has emerged--the widespread consumer acceptance, in Damascus, of "hamburger" and "sandwich" buns. Whereas production of this type of bread had previously been limited to a single bakery in Bab Tuma, more and more bakeries are now making buns, particularly now that the Ministry of Supply and Domestic Trade has decreed that bakeries must limit themselves to a single type of product. The ministry was justified in making the private bakery owners choose between making bread and making pastries, instead of making both types. The latter type, hamburger buns, are considered pastries. The reason the ministry does not allow private bakeries to produce both bread and pastries is that the owners of those bakeries were using the supply flour intended for bread production, which is provided to them at low cost because of the state's subsidy for bread, to make pastries so as to increase their profits, because pastry flour differs in price. The use of supply flour to produce pastries has some side-effects. The citizens are deprived of the benefits of bread subsidies by this switch in production, which contributes to the overcrowding around the public sector bakeries and the consumer's shift to public sector bakeries to make sure of getting his bread. Although this shift has put increased pressure on the public sector bakeries, it has enhanced the consumer's feeling of security and has led to increased confidence in the public sector. Furthermore, in spite of the higher prices for hamburger and sandwich buns, they are becoming more acceptable day by day. We don't feel that this is why the quality of the bread is declining, nor do we feel that increased consumption, or a desire for a more luxurious type of bread, sufficiently explains this obvious shift in consumption. Indeed, many people with limited incomes eat this kind of bread, which they did not do when it was produced at the automatic bakeries. Poor quality may not be enough reason why buns were not consumed at that time; in fact, the positive improvement in local bread was an important reason why French-type bread was not readily accepted.

There is no better indication of the widespread consumption of sandwich buns, in spite of the obvious and oppressive difference in price, than the increasing number of bakeries producing them, and their sale on sidewalks and in grocery shops in many of the city's quarters, particularly the poorer ones. Al-Mazzah al-Qadimah is an obvious example of this.

How and Why Is the Bread Deteriorating?

This question can be answered with the following points.

1. There is no follow-up.
2. The quality of the flour varies from week to week, if not day to day. Its spoilage rate varies from 80 to 100 percent, whereas in the past, even during the crises, the spoilage rate had never exceeded 90 percent.

3. The other ingredients which assist the bread-making process, such as sugar, milk and milk products, are left out. Thus the bread loses not only its quality, but its aroma and flavor as well.

4. Wages and compensation for the workers have declined, which has forced bakery officials to hire minors. This is against the law, and anyway these workers lack experience in bread-making. The skilled bakers are leaving for overseas, or are going to work in private sector bakeries.

5. Electricity is often interrupted.

6. There are more and more technical breakdowns.

7. Spare parts are unavailable.

8. The yeast is a problem.

9. The bread is packaged in plastic sacks while still hot.

10. The bread, especially that produced by the reserve bakeries, is taken to the shops in automobiles.

To all these reasons can be added a new one--about a year ago a shortage of plastic bags developed. This problem has not yet been dealt with seriously, and it threatens us with increased spoilage and a shift towards producing a mixed-grain [alafi] bread [which doesn't need to be packaged in plastic bags]. Looking at the above-mentioned points, we can see that there are objective reasons behind the declining quality of bread which must be dealt with quickly. There is yet another reason for which there is absolutely no excuse--the lack of follow-up. This means that the agency which actively supervises bread production must be set in motion in order to give greater attention to this item so fundamental to the life of each citizen.

8559

CSO: 4404/437

TUNISIA

NEAR EAST

5 YEAR PLAN TO LESSEN DEPENDENCE ON OIL

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 25 Jul 87 p 12

[Text] Tunis, 24 Jul (Reuter)--Tunisia's parliament today adopted a new five-year plan intended to guide the country's economy away from dependence on its fast dwindling oil reserves.

The 1987-1991 plan, which highlights tourism, phosphates and agriculture as principle future growth sectors, was approved unanimously, the official Tap news agency said.

The plan predicts that Tunisia will become a net oil importer in 1991, with a deficit in the sector of about 50 million dinars (\$60 million).

Tourism overtook crude oil last year as the country's main net foreign currency earner. Tunisia imports some grades of crude and refined petroleum products which it cannot produce locally.

The plan predicts average annual growth of four percent in the Gross Domestic Products, after minus one percent last year and a 2.9 percent average increase during the previous five-year plan.

/9274

CSO: 4500/128

TUNISIA

NEAR EAST

BRIEFS

SHOTS FIRED TO DISPERSE DEMONSTRATORS--Early this afternoon about 100 people assembled in the heart of Tunis. They were quickly dispersed by the police who fired shots in the air. For the moment, it is not known who is responsible for the demonstration, but Muslim fundamentalists have been seen in Tunis in recent months. [Text] [Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 16 Jul 87] /9604

'ISLAMIC' DEMONSTRATORS STONE POLICE---Tunis, 16 Jul (AFP)--Islamic fundamentalist demonstrators stoned police and set fire to several cars in Tunis city centre before being dispersed by tear gas, eyewitnesses reported. Local residents said dozens of protesters torched several vehicles before police fired shots and tear gas grenades and made several arrests during the disturbances in a commercial area of the city. A Western resident said the demonstrators threw stones at police, but there were no reports of injuries. Witnesses said Thursday's demonstration, accompanied by shouts of "Allah is great," was the first for 10 days, after fundamentalists launched a campaign of demonstrations in April. Tunisian police have made several arrests among Islamic fundamentalists, whom they accuse of having set up a pro-Iranian organisation and observers said police had stepped up their presence in recent days. A number of activists were recently jailed for between 2 and 6 years. Sheikh Rashed Ghannouchi, leader of Islamic Tendency, the main fundamentalist group, is in custody, with no date yet set for his trial. [Text] [Paris AFP in English 1459 GMT 16 Jul 87] /9604

CSO: 4500/127

CONCERN OVER DELHI REQUEST FOR MILITARY SUPPLIES NOTED

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 21 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Knowledgeable quarters are worrying themselves over the question as to how would Dhaka react to New Delhi's request for moving military supplies through Bangladesh in the event of a Sino-Indian border conflict.

These circles have reasons to believe that there are possibilities of such a request for using Bangladesh as a corridor by invoking the transit provisions under the 25-year Friendship Treaty signed between Dhaka and Delhi in 1972.

A report published in the July 16 issue of the Far Eastern Economic Review says:

"Bangladesh is worried that in the event of a Sino-Indian border conflict, New Delhi may request permission to move military supplies through Bangladesh to India's northern border by invoking the transit provisions under their 25-year Friendship Treaty signed in 1972.

"Dhaka would like to maintain strict neutrality in any dispute between its giant neighbours, ...if New Delhi insists on the transit rights.

"Peking has been Dhaka's only steady and reliable source of military hardware for several years. China understands Bangladesh's dilemma and is unlikely to cut off the vital arms link."

/9274

CSO. 4600/1881

FOREIGN OFFICE DENIES INDIAN REPORTS ON TNV, SABOTAGE

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 31 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Bangladesh Government yesterday categorically dismissed some recent press reports in Indian media suggesting that a guerrilla-force named TNV had been formed to curb Shanti-bahini activities, reports BSS.

When his attention was drawn to a news item published in a section of the Indian Press in Agartala in this regard, a Foreign Office spokesman described it as 'totally false, concocted and baseless'.

He categorically denied formation of any such force in Bangladesh and reiterated that there has never been any connection of the Bangladesh Government with TNV leaders.

SABOTAGE

Bangladesh denied an Indian press report that Bangladesh officials had crossed into India to sabotage a dam in that country.

A spokesman of the Foreign Office described as 'absolutely baseless, mischievous and a figment of a fertile imagination, Press Trust of India report of July 29, charging that Bangladesh officials have crossed into India and sabotaged a dam.

The spokesman made his comments when his attention was drawn to allegations, reportedly made by West Bengal Irrigation Minister Mr. Debabrata Bannerjee, that Bangladeshi officials had crossed the border and breached a dam in Srirampur town causing floods in vast areas.

The spokesman said that the Foreign Office was still awaiting the full text of the statement reportedly made by the West Bengal minister but emphatically denied the allegation carried by the PTI.

/9317

CSO: 4600/1883

PRESS REPORTS, COMMENTS ON 'ARAFAT VISIT

Ershad at Seminar

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President H.M. Ershad on Friday inaugurated a two-day seminar on the 'role of International Court of Justice in maintaining world peace' reiterating Bangladesh's total commitment to promote peace both regionally and internationally.

President Ershad told the seminar which was also addressed by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Mr. Ni Zhengyu, Judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that Bangladesh would continue to put its effort in promoting peace. He stressed that the ICJ should be entrusted with increasingly greater responsibilities for ensuring a peaceful world where the "doves of peace may fly freely without being threatened by the hawks of conflicts and conflagration".

Organised jointly by Bangladesh Society for Rule of Law and the UN Information Centre in Dhaka, the seminar was presided over by Vice-President Mr. Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam, the chief patron of the Society for Rule of Law. Secretary general of the Society for Rule of Law Advocate Abdus Sobhan also addressed the inaugural session which was attended by Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, members of the cabinet, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Judges, members of the diplomatic corps, lawyers, jurists and members of the intelligentsia.

Bangladesh Society for Rule of Law conferred "World Justice Day Award" on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, late Prime Minister of Sweden Olaf Palme and former

Chief Justice of the then East Pakistan late Mr. Justice Syed Mahboob Murshed. President Ershad handed over the medal and the crest to Yasser Arafat lauding the role of the PLO Chairman for his relentless struggle for ensuring a lasting peace in the Middle east through establishment of sovereign Palestinian state. The Charge d' Affaires of the Swedish Embassy in Dhaka received the award from President Ershad on behalf of the widow of late Swedish Prime Minister Olaf Palme. Begum Laila Murshed, widow of late Mr. Justice Syed Mahboob Murshed received the award at the seminar from President Ershad.

President Ershad said that the award given to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was yet another recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people. He said that the life of brother Yasser Arafat was a long and sustained struggle to achieve the inalienable right of freedom and justice. He added "brother Arafat is not an individual but incarnation of freedom struggle". The President reiterated the unstinted support of the people of Bangladesh for the people of Palestine.

In his address President Ershad said that global peace was being threatened today not solely due to turmoil in international relations but also due to geo-political situation giving birth to trouble spots in many different corners of the world. Regional conflicts disturb world peace and destabilise international situation, he added referring particularly to the problems of Palestine.

Al-Quds and apartheid of the white minority regime of Pretoria. He observed that had the rule of law been upheld and the jurisdiction and the authority of the ICJ been more encompassing, the sufferings of the Palestinians and the afflicted black majority in South Africa would not only have been minimised but their inalienable rights restored.

The President reminded all of the consequences of armed conflicts that cause colossal loss of human lives and destruction of civilization. He observed that the causes of potential threats to peace were occurring every now and then and if fail to contain the armed conflicts the world might expose itself to nuclear holocausts which will totally erase the entire human civilization. He felt that the International Court of Justice was destined to play a very vital role in the maintenance of world peace.

Turning to the situation in Bangladesh President Ershad said that the government had steadfastly upheld the cardinal principle of rule of law in all spheres of the national life. The age old civil and penal codes had been updated to suit the needs of independent Bangladesh and he added, the judiciary had been decentralised bringing it to the doorsteps of the common people. "Real people's democracy had been established and firm democratic institutions and infrastructures were being meticulously built up," he said.

Addressing the seminar the ICJ Judge Mr. Ni Zhengyu stressed the

need for settlement of global and regional disputes through peaceful negotiations. He said that peace was close to dispensation of justice and reminded all that establishment of rule of law could save that world from injustice, misuse of power.

political tension and armed conflict. He said that the establishment of International Court of Justice forty years ago was a great hope for world peace. He stressed that justice and equity should be maintained world wide to remove the threats to global peace.

'Arafat at Seminar

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The visiting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat who was conferred with the 'world justice day award' by President Ershad at a seminar on the 'role of International Court of Justice in maintaining world peace' on Friday termed the Palestinian issue as the greatest example of the violation of the sovereignty of international law in our modern age.

Addressing the seminar which was inaugurated by President Ershad and also addressed by the judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Mr. Ni Zhengyu the PLO Chairman said that the Palestinians were confronting a state which had been defying international will and violating international legality and rejecting all UN resolutions.

He observed that the Israeli insistence to negate the very existence of the Palestinian people with the support from the American administration had threatened the peace process in the Middle East and created obstacles to the implementation of the international law and UN resolutions.

The PLO Chairman reiterated that peace and justice in the Middle East could be established by convening an international conference to be attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO, on equal footing, with the participation of the permanent members of the UN Security Council. He informed that the proposal for the international conference, adopted by the 18th session of Palestine National Council, the Parliament of the Palestinian People, had been endorsed by the Arab summit, OIC, the Non Aligned Movement, socialist countries and even by European Economic Community (EEC).

The 58 year old PLO Chairman who symbolises the unity and free-

dom struggle of the Palestinian people said that his organisation had declared its acceptance of international legality and it had been abiding by all international charters and conventions. He asserted that the Arab Palestinian people waged its struggle against Zionist Israel on the basis of international legality for the regaining of its inalienable national rights as affirmed by the UN charter.

Chairman Yasser Arafat reminded all that international peace and security were dependent on the respect of the sovereignty and justice of the peoples. He said "justice is that our people practice their right to self determination and establishment of their sovereign independent state in their homeland".

Narrating the atrocities perpetrated by the Israelis against the Palestinians the PLO Chairman sought the help of all conscious people to ensure justice towards the Palestinians on whom "the greatest injustice in our recent time has befallen". He said "our causes are multiple and our causes are big and we can not summarize them because each individual of our people is an ordeal and a cause".

In his usual eloquent voice Chairman Yasser Arafat asserted "we are confident of the justice our cause and we trust in the judgement of the honourable men". He concluded his speech quoting from the Holy Quran which says (in the pilgrimage 22:39) "permission to take up arms is hereby given to those who are attacked, because they have been wronged. Allah has the power to grant them victory, those who have been unjustly driven from their homes, only because they said: 'our Lord is Allah'".

The PLO Chairman drove straight from Zia International Airport on his arrival here on a two-day state visit to the venue of seminar to receive the award. Wearing the medal round his neck the PLO Chairman said "the honour is not for me but for my people who are fighting for victory against repression and injustice". Chairman Yasser Arafat received a standing ovation when President Ershad was putting the medal of the 'world justice day award' given by the Bangladesh Society for Rule of Law round his neck.

Ershad at Banquet

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad in Dhaka on Friday night categorically stated his country's full endorsement to the idea of an international peace conference on Middle East and support to the efforts of the UN Secretary General towards that direction, reports BSS.

President Ershad was speaking at a banquet given by him in honour of the PLO Chief YASSER Arafat at Bangabhaban.

The President said his country firmly believes that the international conference, in order to be successful, must have the participation of the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinians, on an equal footing with all other parties directly concerned.

He referred to the recent UN General Assembly Resolution 41-43 reiterating the call for an international peace conference, on Middle East and urging the UN Secretary General to continue his efforts towards convening such a conference and said, "We understand that the Secretary General has recently

spoken of encouraging signs in the Security Council with indications that progress can be achieved in this regard.

President Ershad said the unresolved problem of the Middle East

The banquet was attended among others by Vice President Mr. Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam, Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Ministers, Judges of Supreme Court, diplomats, and high civil and military officers and members of the entourage of PLO Chairman.

remains a source of continuing anguish for the entire Islamic world. He said the tragic sufferings of "our Palestinian brethren" and uninterrupted process of Judaization of the holy city of Jerusalem and other occupied Arab territories by Israel make the heart of all Muslims bleed.

He said Bangladesh has underscored in unmistakable terms that a just and lasting peace in the area can be established on the basis of complete and unconditional withdrawal

of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories including Al-Quds Al-Shrif and restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinians including their right to have a state of their own in their homeland under the leadership of PLO, their sole and legitimate representative.

The President said the visit of PLO chief symbolises growing ties between the people of Bangladesh and their Palestinian brethren. "It has provided us yet another opportunity to continue the process of consultations on wide-ranging issues of mutual interest", he said adding: "Though your visit is short, we believe it will serve to further strengthen the bonds of friendship between our two peoples."

President Ershad said the people of Bangladesh are greatly impressed to see the ceaseless efforts the Palestinian people have been making for realising their national goal under the sagacious and dynamic leadership of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

'Arafat at Banquet

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Friday called for united efforts by the Islamic World to resolve problems facing the Islamic ummah which is gripped with fundamental crisis in the Gulf war side by side the Palestinian question, reports BSS.

Speaking at a banquet hosted in his honour by President Hussain Muhammad Ershad at Bangabhaban, Yasser Arafat apprehended that the Iran-Iraq fratricidal war is taking a new dimension with the escalation of the conflict and involvement of many a parties in the crisis.

The PLO Chairman mentioned the East Bashra war in the Gulf in which tens of thousands of Muslims

on both the warring sides met martyrdom and hoped that the "known wisdom of President Ershad for Islamic ummah will continue efforts and met with success in bringing an end to the Gulf war."

Mr. Arafat lauded the role being played by Bangladesh President in peace initiative in the Gulf under the aegis of OIC Peace Committee and said peace is imperative for the sake of consolidation of Islamic ummah.

Speaking about the active support and brotherly position pursued by Bangladesh under the leadership of President Ershad towards the cause of Palestinian cause he said, the relations between us is based on

common destiny, brotherhood, common civilization, thinking and principles.

The PLO Chairman expressed his gratitude to President Ershad and the people of Bangladesh for brotherly position taken by them to the Palestinian question including participation of Bangladesh Mujahidins in Palestinian war and their heroic performance there.

'Arafat Press Conference

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has made an "urgent appeal" to all the Muslim countries to hold a summit soon for ending the prolonged Iran-Iraq war.

Mr Arafat made the appeal at a press conference yesterday at the state guest house Sugandha at the end of his two-day visit to Bangladesh.

Expressing his serious concern at the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war to the Persian Gulf, the PLO chief said efforts should immediately be made to end the conflict. "Otherwise we will face a disaster in the Gulf area," he warned.

He said an Islamic summit could be convened for a day or two only to discuss the Iran-Iraq war in order to bring an end to the prolonged conflict between the two Muslim countries.

"The fratricidal war goes against peace and against the Islamic ummah, Mr Arafat said and urged both the warring nations to end the conflict for the sake of Islamic ummah.

The PLO chairman said he had talks with President Ershad on convening an Islamic summit with this objective and he would also discuss this with the leaders of other Muslim countries in view of the urgency of the situation.

He suggested that the Islamic summit could be held in Kuwait as it is the current Chairman of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Mr Arafat emphatically said

the fratricidal war between Iran and Iraq should be stopped by all means as it remained an obstacle to peace efforts in the Middle East.

"We are facing now escalation through the presence of naval ships in the Gulf caused by the Iran-Iraq war", he remarked. It was nothing but a war of attrition that was continuing between the two Muslim countries he said.

Asked about PLO's relations with Egypt he said officials of his organization and Egypt had talks recently. Despite clouds we will continue efforts to improve the relations.

On relations with Syria he said mediation was on to improve relations between the Palestinians and the Syrians.

The PLO chairman who flew in Dhaka on Friday afternoon, said I am happy to be here again in a brotherly and friendly country. He described his talks with President Ershad as constructive and positive.

He paid tribute to the "heroic Mujahedins of Bangladesh" who were fighting for the people of Palestine and said "I had the honour of taking part in many a battle with these heroic sons of Bangladesh."

The PLO chief affirmed that such ties between the Palestinians and the people of Bangladesh would continue till the victory of the struggling people of the Palestine. "Insha Allah, we will liberate Jerusalem", he added.

He said that he had discussed with President Ershad about the proposed international con-

ference on the Middle East. He stressed that such a conference, to be attended by all parties including the PLO on an equal footing, must have the mandatory powers to implement the agreements reached in the light of the United Nations resolutions on the Middle-East crisis.

Replying to another question, Mr. Arafat said the proposed conference must be decisive and effective and not an eye-wash for any peace move.

Asked how he viewed the conference since a section of the Israeli leaders also welcomed such a conference, he said that those people might be thinking of "a Camp David type agreement" at the conference. He, however, noted that the Camp David agreement signed by President Sadat, Premier Begin and President Carter could not stop war and three wars took place after the agreement was signed.

Replying to another question on the Soviet proposal for removal of all naval ships from the Persian Gulf, the PLO chief gave a curt reply "we want peace in the region."

He told another questioner that his organization emerged "stronger" after the Algiers conference on closing the ranks among different PLO factions.

Health and Population Planning Minister Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, who was minister-in-waiting to the PLO chief, was present at the press conference.

Force of Peace, Moderation

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 13 Jul 87 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text]

This was not the first visit of the PLO leader Yasser Arafat to this country. But the visit acquires an added significance at a time when the Muslim countries of the world need to pool all their efforts and energies to break the stalemate in the Gulf with a view to ending the seven-year-old fratricidal war and mount an all-out struggle for establishing the rights

of the Palestinian people. Addressing a seminar on the role of International Court of Justice jointly organised by Bangladesh Society for Rule of Law and United Nations Information Centre, the PLO chief reiterated his call for convening an international conference on the Middle-east crisis. Such a conference, he said, must be attended by all parties concerned including the PLO on an equal footing. He further said that the proposed international conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council should have the international guarantee to ensure the implementation of the agreement to be reached at the conference without any precondition.

By endorsing the call for a world conference on Middle-east President Ershad has echoed the sentiments of the entire countrymen who are wholly committed to the cause of the Palestinians. Mr Arafat has also made an urgent appeal to all the Muslim countries to hold a summit soon for ending the prolonged Iran-Iraq war. He further suggested that the Islamic summit could be held in Kuwait which currently chairs OIC.

Conferences on Middle-east have been held in the past, but even when the PLO was represented, it was not given a status of equality to the other participants. The emphasis in Mr Arafat's call on "equal footing" is, therefore, understandable. Taking the advantage of this ambivalence of the world towards the Palestinian cause, the Zionists have been intensifying their belligerency and consolidating their illegal occupations. A world conference on the issue would be timely.

In a world that is tragically short of statesmanship Mr Arafat represents the forces of peaceful struggle and moderation. A peaceful struggle has its own price and is always long-drawn. But it must triumph. The peace-loving world is with the PLO.

FIVE BILLION PEOPLE— AND THE FUTURE

The world, it would seem, cannot take any more pressure as far as population growth

is concerned. But, then, there have been crisis in earlier times too and the international community did quite well in the matter of preserving itself and its institutions. That is not to say, however, that with a population of five billion people now, men and women everywhere can afford to take things easy particularly because of the fact that the jump from four billion to five has occurred in a mere thirteen years between 1974 and 1987. It is now only a question of time before the five billion turn into six, thus increasing the concern that the world faces as it strives to cope with the numerous problems that affect and even retard its advancement. Of course, one could always say that the development of technology has significantly lessened the fear of premature or early death and hence people now live longer, if not necessarily better, lives. That is the optimistic aspect of it, but the pessimism lies in the truth that with a rapidly increasing population, the planet that we inhabit may soon be stretching itself to the limit.

Statistics made available by the United Nations reveal that in 1830, world population stood at one billion. A century later, following the Industrial Revolution and its attendant modernisation, the figure increased to two billion. Thirty years later, in 1960, it stood at three billion. Fourteen years after 1960, the figure became four billion. Thirteen years after 1974, that is, today it is five billion. It is not that life is not valued in our times. Indeed, the preservation of life and all that it symbolises has been an essential feature of the developed—and developing—sensibilities of men and women particularly in the last quarter of the twentieth century. But the fact is that the increase in global population has naturally meant a depletion in the earth's natural resources and a decline in the bounty that the natural environment has always offered. In other words, it is a situation where too many people have too few resources and opportunities to share. The UN Population Statistics indicate that the rate of population growth is gradually showing down, but for population to reach a stage of stable growth will take another century or so. Too late? Perhaps yes—and then again, no. But the point is that if efforts are

not intensified now towards an effective and a drastic control of growth in population, goals will quickly dissolve into experiments in disappointment.

The Third World, more than any other political region on the globe, faces the bleakest of prospects in that over the years its population has grown rather alarmingly, the average rate of increase being 2.4 per cent. On the other side of the picture, average population growth in the northern hemisphere has been well below two per cent, with countries such as Switzerland even showing zero growth. The difference between the under-developed and developed nations reveals one important fact. It is simply the idea that given education and motivation, it is possible to arrest population growth and then utilise human resources in the matter of putting the world and its shrinking as well as untapped resources to good use. At present, one hundred and fifty babies are born every minute the world over. In future times, more people will be living in cities than in villages. The trend is a regrettable one, but it is there just the same. But it also gives the world community an opportunity to pool resources through a necessary coordination of activities between nations with the overall aim of giving to life the dignity that it naturally ought to have.

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CSO: 4600/1878

COMMERCE MINISTER ADDRESSES GENEVA UNCTAD MEET

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 17 Jul 87 p 3

[Text]

Bangladesh has called upon the international community to devise an inter-related multilateral strategy for revitalising development growth and international trade in a more predictable and supportive manner preserving international environment through multilateral co-operation, a message from Geneva said, reports BSS.

The call was made by the Bangladesh Commerce Minister Mr Mohamud Abdul Munim while addressing the plenary session of UNCTAD-VII at the city's UN headquarters on Tuesday. The UNCTAD conference began on July 9.

The Minister called for making constructive dialogue to stimulate growth and development for the world economy as a whole particularly keeping in view the potentialities of the developing countries. In this context, he strongly advocated for the creation of supportive climate by the macro-economic policies of the major trading partners in the international economy.

Expressing grave concern over the resurgence of more sophisticated protectionist trends in trading deals with developing

countries. Mr Munim called for halting this menacing element with a view to helping developing countries to progress towards self-sustained growth. In this connection, the Commerce Minister referred to the new and increasing restrictions being imposed against import of textiles and clothing from the developing countries. He said even the Least Developed Countries, whose share of world trade is only 0.4 per cent, have not been spared from such protectionist measures. Bangladesh, he pointed out, has launched a bold programme of structural adjustments but unfortunately the country has been facing severe quota restrictions in respect of garments.

Referring to the worsening economic conditions of the Least Developed Countries, the leader of Bangladesh delegation strongly advocated for the wholehearted support of the international community for the accelerated implementation of the fundamental policy reforms adopted by them in consonance with the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA). In this context Mr Munim deeply appreciated the offer of President Mitterand of France to host a

highest level conference to consider and adopt SNPA for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

About the establishment of the new international economic order the Commerce Minister called for restructuring the world economic relations by adopting immediately an integrated set of policies encompassing immediate measures in critically important sectors in the developing countries particularly in the least developed ones. In this connection, he referred to the ministerial meetings of the Group of 77 in Dhaka and in Havana which had assessed the situation and formulated both short-terms and long-term policies and measures with a view to finding reasonable and practical solutions of the current world economic problems on the basis of mutuality of interests. Mr. Munim welcomed the decision of the Soviet Union to join the agreement establishing the common fund for commodities.

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CSO: 4600/1879

MAJOR OPPOSITION LEADERS CALL FOR GOVERNMENT DEMISE

Awami League Chief Hasina

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 19 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The opposition leader in the national parliament and the chief of Awami League, Sheikh Hasina underlined the urgency of unifying all streams of the opposition on a common platform to deal a death blow to the present 'autocratic' government to hasten its early fall, reports ENA.

Talking to media at the National Press Club yesterday afternoon she observed with a measure of certainty that if the opposition parties close their ranks and stand united like a firm rock to deal a crushing blow to the government, it would certainly collapse like two pins.

The Awami League chief thought it would be a blunder to waste valuable time in formulating strategy and drawing up a programme of action for that would give an opportunity to the government which is our political opponent to drive a sharp wedge in the opposition camp and foil the movement. What is necessary right now is to take timely and correct steps to lead the movement to its ultimate victory, she added.

Asked if Awami League members of the parliament would resign en bloc as a mark of protest against the passage of the District Council Bill, Sheikh Hasina prevaricated her reply by saying that her party was trying to expose the real character of the Ershad administration and at the same time highlighted the socio-economic condition of the country by staying in the parliament and parti-

cipating in its proceedings. She said the opposition is using parliament as a forum to articulate the voice of the people and register their protest against all what she called anti-people actions of the present government. She said while we continue the fight inside the parliament on the streets will not be redundant in anyway.

Rejecting the proposal for hammering out a basis for unity in the opposition camp, she spelt out in clear terms. "There could be no real unity across the table." She was of the view that real unity could be achieved through a common movement on the streets.

Refuting charge labelled against the Awami League for its participation in parliamentary polls last year, she declared that her party had not betrayed the cause of the popular democratic movement by taking part in the polls. On the contrary, she said, those who boycotted the polls stood in the way of carrying forward the movement to its ultimate objective of toppling President Ershad's administration. She was more expressive when she said that if Awami League and BNP had participated in polls, Jatiya Party would have found it extremely difficult to have an easy sailing to the electoral success.

When her attention was drawn to the futility of all conventional democratic means including hartal to topple the present regime she referred to the experiences of the

mass upsurge of 1969, '70 and '71 that blunted the deadly arms of Ayub and Yahia. She expressed her conviction that the present regime could also collapse through a countrywide mass upsurge.

She said there are risks and lurking dangers in the movement the opposition has embarked upon. Knowing all these we have taken to streets and launched the movement to carry it to its ultimate victory, she said.

When the media representatives pointed out the failure of the opposition to offer an alternative to President Ershad, she said, "People will decide who will take over the reins of the administration after Ershad—Awami League or BNP".

During the encounter with the media President of BFUJ Mr Reazzuddin Ahmed, President of DUJ Abed Khan, President of the Press Club Gias Kamal Chowdhury, General Secretary of DUJ Abu Kalam Azad exchanged views with her.

Alliance Chief Zia

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 19 Jul 87 p 1

[Text]

Seven-Party Alliance chief Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday renewed her appeal to "all political parties who want real democracy and fall of the present government to unite on the street."

"We have always stressed the need for unity among those who want democracy to carry forward the people's movement" Begum Zia told newsmen at Jatiya Press Club yesterday during a meeting with them to exchange views regarding the action programme of the alliance.

When a newsmen sought her comments on the claims that the parliament had been useful to the opposition "to unmask the authoritarian face of the government", Begum Zia said that "the government would have gone on March 21 last year. It would have been possible to unveil the face of the authoritarian government then", she added while referring to the parting of company with the Eight-Party alliance over parliament election issue.

When asked whether they were going to call 'bandh' as suggested by Sheikh Hasina, leader of the Eight-Party Alliance, Begum Zia said that she had always given call for hartal or 'dharmaghat' not 'bandh.'

Begum Zia was accompanied by her party and alliance leaders. K.M. Obaidur Rahman, Secretary General of BNP, in a brief speech described as a success Begum Zia's visit to the Press Club to exchange views with the mediamen about the future movement.

/9274

CSO• 4600/1880

PRESS NOTES ISSUED ON 22, 23 JULY DEMONSTRATIONS

22 July Demonstrations

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The government on Wednesday reiterated its determination to take all possible measures to ensure the security of peace-loving and law-abiding people, reports BSS.

A Press Note issued by the Home Ministry made it clear that the government would under no circumstances tolerate activities against law and order. The government sincerely hoped that all concerned quarters would refrain from activities against law and order in the national interest.

It said that (Wednesday) hartal failed to get spontaneous support of the people.

The Press Note said that attendance in government and semi-government offices and autonomous organisations was satisfactory despite "provocative activities and misleading efforts" of anti-social elements.

Twenty-six persons including 22 policemen were injured as a result of clashes between the supporters and opponents of the hartal and throwing of brickbats, the Press Note said.

The following is the text of the Press Note: "Some political parties and alliances gave a countrywide

54 hour hartal call from 6 a.m. today (July 22) in support of their various demands.

It should be mentioned here that earlier, on June 30, Opposition political parties and alliances had given a call for half-a-day hartal. Again, on July 12, a 38-hour hartal call was given. Besides causing adverse impact on the economic activities of the state, repeated hartal calls disrupt normal life of the people who fall victim to untold sufferings.

Consequently, Wednesday's hartal call failed to get the spontaneous support of the people.

On the first day of hartal, unruly mobs indulged in anti-social and destructive activities in various parts of the country including Dhaka metropolis and peace and discipline were disturbed".

"As a result of these undesirable happenings some public property was destroyed. Five B.R.T.C. buses, nine vehicles of Agrani Bank and one vehicle of Rajdhani Unnayan Kortripokhya were damaged. Two government offices, including Education Information Statistical Bureau located at Azimpur, were ransacked and set on fire. Five vehicles belonging to these offices

were also burnt down.

Four persons were injured following clashes between pro-hartal and anti-hartal supporters at Motijheel Commercial Area. They are under treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Police fired tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

Twenty-two police personnel including one Ansar sustained injuries when an unruly mob threw brickbats at them. Police arrested a total of 85 persons in the interest of peace and discipline.

Train communication was disrupted as the miscreants removed fishplates at a place called Hyderabad between Tongi and Dhirasram. Train service resumed after the line was repaired around 9.30 a.m.

Police force removed the barricade put up by unruly mobs on the railway line at Bhairab junction. The unruly mob also tried to obstruct train communication at different parts of the country.

In spite of provocative activities and misleading efforts by the anti-social elements, the rate of attendance of employees in government, semi-government and autonomous body offices was satisfactory.

23 July Demonstrations

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Jul 87 pp 1, 8, 3

[Text]

The government once again expressed the hope today that all concerned quarters would

refrain from illegal activities in the greater interest of the country and the nation and to check the deterioration of law and order situation, reports BSS.

A Press Note issued by the Home Ministry last night described how the unruly mobs attacked police on duty and destroyed public and private properties in Dhaka city and elsewhere in the country on the second day yesterday of 54-hour countrywide hartal programme.

Five persons, including two in Dhaka, were killed when police opened fire on attacking mobs, the Press Note said.

The Press Note said that 51 police personnel including the Officer in Charge of Motijheel Thana were injured, some of them seriously in yesterday's incidents in Dhaka.

The following is the text of the Press Note:

Some opposition political parties and alliances continued their 54-hour hartal programme for the second day yesterday (July 23) in support of their various demands.

In Wednesday's Press Note, the government had drawn the attention of the people to the adverse impact on the national economic activities and serious repercussions on public life as a result of repeated hartal programmes by different political parties and alliances.

It is a matter of great misfortune that uninterrupted hartal programme is being continued without taking into consideration the question of unbearable hardships and untold sufferings of the people as a sequel to hartal. Consequently, the law and order situation is being seriously hampered.

Destructive activities, arson, hijacking and looting resorted to by disruptive elements have caused immense damage to public and private properties.

Yesterday at 9 a.m. some unruly people obstructed the movement of traffic by putting up barricades at the crossing of plassey.

They also launched attack on the police on duty. They attacked Education Statistical Bureau and another office. The police had to open several rounds of blank fire to disperse the aggressive crowd.

At 10 a.m. yesterday a procession comprising pro-hartal political parties, labour and karmachari fronts, minor boys and unruly youth while proceeding towards dainik crossing from shapla square attacked allahwala building in Motijheel commercial area. When the police on duty intervened they became more violent

and threw brickbats at them.

At one stage the aggressive disruptive elements tried to cause damage to the building and furniture by setting fire to it. Police resorted to lathi charge and used teargas shells in self-defence to disperse the unruly crowd. These disruptive elements then attacked with more frenzy. At one stage these disruptive elements hijacked a police havildar named Altaf and unlawfully detained him. Having no other alternative police had to open fire. This resulted in the killing of two persons on the spot and injuries to two others, now under treatment at the hospital.

At the same time, the unruly crowd attacked the first floor of the Bangladesh Biman's head office and caused damage to furniture, doors and windows and looted various articles besides damaging a few other adjoining buildings. An unfortunate and shameful incident took place in which three journalists were injured while performing their duties in attack by disruptive elements.

At 10 o'clock in the morning damage was done to a fire service ambulance in front of Public Works building by stone throwing. At the same time damage was done to a BRTC bus in front of Mirpur Dar-es-Salam and a microbus was set on fire at Motijheel.

At 10-30 a.m. the strikers hurled three hand bombs in front of the Nabisco factory in Tejgaon industrial area.

Altogether 51 policemen including the Officer-in-Charge of Motijheel thana were injured in yesterday's incident. The condition of some are very critical.

At 3 p.m. between three and four hundred unruly people carrying sticks launched an attack on the Motijheel Al-Helal police box. Police later dispersed the attackers. Several policemen were injured in the incident.

Fifty-two persons have been arrested in the Dhaka metropolitan area.

At about 1.30 pm, a group of 25/30 supporters of the hartal launched an attack on an office of a youth organisation in Tongi police station with firearms lethal weapons, "ramda," spears, etc. and beat up innocent people. During this attack, the supporters of the hartal hit a member of a labour organisation with "ramda" causing serious injuries to him, the injured person was now under treatment in the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and

his condition is critical. This incident has caused severe agitation among the people of Tongi. The rowdy elements fled the area in the face of united resistance of the people.

Railway communication was disrupted in Adelpur railway station of Natore district by removing the fish plates. Two trains were stopped in Sarishabari station in Jamalpur district. The students supporting the hartal detained a train in Mymensingh Agriculture University station. The pro-hartal elements ransacked the anti-corruption office in Mymensingh.

One worker was killed during clashes between the jute mills workers and the police in Daulatpur of Khulna and a policeman was also injured.

A police sub-inspector and twelve Constables were injured when an unruly mob attacked policemen on duty near Darul Fazal market at Chittagong. Two persons received bullet injuries when police opened fire in self-defence. One of the injured persons later died in the hospital.

A rowdy crowd attacked the upazila court in Kazipur upazila in Seraiganj district at about 11 a.m. Four policemen were injured in clashes with the unruly mob when the police tried to bring the situation under control. The condition of one of the injured is critical. The police had to open fire in self-defence and to protect the government property at the instruction of the Magistrate on duty. One person died in the firing.

Till the time of issuing the Press Note Wednesday there was information that nine international and nine domestic flights operated during the day. But it was learnt afterwards that a total of 14 international flights and 16 domestic flights operated on Wednesday.

The Bangladesh Railway yesterday dispatched on schedule 17 trains from Dhaka Division, four from Chittagong Division and eight from Lalmonirhat Division.

The Bangladesh Biman yesterday operated 14 international and eight domestic flights.

The government once again expresses the hope that all concerned quarters would refrain from illegal activities to stop the deterioration in the law and order situation and in the greater interest of the nation and the country.

SRV PRIME MINISTER PRAISES INDIA IN PTI INTERVIEW

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Jul 87 p 7

[Text]

Ho Chi Minh City, July 15 (PTI)— Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Hung wants India to be one of the guarantors of an international agreement on Kampuchea.

"...For her position and role, India is undoubtedly able to make a valuable contribution to the settlement of the whole Kampuchean issue... India should be one of the guarantors for an international agreement on 'Kampuchea', 74-year-old hung told PTI in an interview.

The Vietnamese leader who answered question on bilateral and regional issues, spoke feelingly about his visit to India along with late President Ho Chi Minh and recalled how he climbed the Minar at Taj Mahal.

Mr Hung said that being a large peace-loving country in Asia, India occupied a very important position in the three Indo-Chinese countries' struggle for peace. India contributed considerably to implementation of the 1954 Geneva accord on Indochina and the 1961-1962 Geneva accord on Laos. It also did its share in ending the 'war of aggression' against Vietnam.

"India asserted its role by recognising the People's Republic of Kampuchea and is intensifying relations in all fields with the legal Government of Kampuchea", the Vietnamese leader said.

Mr Hung said a political solution to Kampuchea, if any, should pay heed to the position of every party concerned. "Laos,

Kampuchea and Vietnam require the elimination of the genocidal Pol Potists. The other side wants the Vietnamese troops to leave Kampuchea. The other side rejects the Pol Potists' elimination. This is where the main stumbling block lies", he said.

The Vietnamese leader said that for several decades, without interruption and through huge sacrifices, the Vietnamese people fought against aggression by French colonialism and US imperialism to retrieve national independence and liberty.

When "the Pol Potists and other reactionary forces" committed aggression on the southwestern and northern border areas, the Vietnamese people had again to take up arms to safeguard their motherland's territorial integrity. "This is the right of self-defence vested in all nations", Mr Pham Hung said.

He added that the Vietnamese troops also joined hands with the people and armed forces of Kampuchea in their combat against the genocidal Pol Potists at the request of the Kampuchean people, he said.

The Pol Potists had committed an abominable crime — genocide against the Kampuchean people as was known all over the world. But, over the last few years, the dreadful nightmare had given way to a wonderful resurrection: the People's Republic of Kampuchea, with President Heng Samrin at its head, was gaining strength in all fields, Mr Hung said.

"With the accord of the Kampuchean Government, we

have been carrying out partial troop withdrawals for several years and are to complete the pull out by 1990", he said.

Answering questions on Indo-Vietnamese bilateral relations, Mr Hung said bilateral cooperation at state level or between counter parts from various sectors and professions was expanding in all areas, be it in politics, economy, science and technology or culture.

The visit to India of late secretary general of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Le Duan, and the visit to Vietnam of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi signified a steady development in cooperation.

He said that potential was still available in the two countries for enhancing, in the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement, the relations of friendship and cooperation in all fields, especially in economy and science and technology.

Asked to comment on the challenging tasks on hand, the Vietnamese leader said the coun-

try's dual strategic task was construction and defence of the motherland.

Mr Hung said that after enduring for over 30 consecutive years the ravages of a war of aggression, the Vietnamese people eagerly aspired to "a peaceful juncture".

"The supreme task for us in the coming years is to stabilise the situation in every aspect and get ready for industrialisation to start at the next stage", he said.

"To help make this feasible, we are right now conducting institutional reforms geared to eradicating the bureaucratic and subsidy-based management system and replacing it with an economic-account-based one so to gather all energy for executing the three-fold major programme (production of food and foodstuff, consumer goods and export items)".

Many difficulties still lay ahead. "But our people will definitely overcome all obstacles and achieve such targets as have been fixed", he affirmed.

/13046

CSO: 4600/1869

INDIAN BUSINESSMAN ON COOPERATION WITH SOVIETS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Jul 87 p 9

[Text]

Shaking off its earlier penchant for industrial tie-ups only with the public sector, the Soviet Union is now poised to enter into major collaborations with the Indian private sector, including large business houses.

A large number of Indian business groups, including a textile giant and a top soft-drinks manufacturer, have already offered to set up joint ventures with Soviet enterprises. In view of the Soviet Union's recent expressed desire for such tie-ups, there is a good chance of these proposals fructifying.

Speaking to newsmen on Tuesday, president of the India-USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry Manubhai Shah said that 13 Indian firms, including Parle and a "leading textile company", have proposed to collaborate with the Soviet Union for manufacturing a wide range of goods, including consumer durables.

The fields in which the joint ventures are proposed include synthetic polyester fibre, colour television, soft drinks, wooden cable drums, mango and fruit pulp, leather goods, ceramic computer components and dye intermediates, said Mr Shah.

This would also indicate that the Soviet Union is now ready to collaborate with Indian companies not only for setting up heavy machinery plants but for a host of

other goods. Such a step is likely to take Indo-Soviet economic cooperation to a qualitatively new level.

Parle Exports, the top Indian soft drink manufacturers that controls 60 per cent of the domestic market, has offered to set up a joint venture project in the Soviet Union for manufacturing soft drinks. It has also put forward an alternative proposal for providing the Soviet Union franchise for manufacturing its cola drink.

The "leading textile company", which Mr Shah refused to identify, has proposed to set up a Rs 50 crore polyester fibre plant in the Soviet Union. Mr Shah also refused to identify the other 11 companies on the ground that "things were still at an early stage".

Mr Shah, who recently led a high-powered Indian delegation of leading public and private sector enterprises to Moscow, said that the delegation participated in the first plenary session of the Soviet-Indian trade and economic committee held on 9 July. The plenary session was attended by 140 top representatives of the Soviet trading and manufacturing organisations and different ministries of the Soviet Government, he said.

The Indian side comprised members of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI)

and chief executives of State Trading Corporation (STC), Mines and Minerals Trading Corporation Corporation (MMTC) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (Nafed).

Mr Shah said that the two sides discussed plans to raise the trade between the two countries to Rs 10,000 crore from the current level of Rs 4000 crore. A plan for raising trade to Rs 5000 crore by 1988-89 has already been drawn up, he said.

The main plank in the strategy to raise mutual trade would be to ensure that India buys more Soviet machinery and machine tools. The Chamber has commissioned the Tata Consultancy Services to conduct a survey on the possibilities of increasing imports from the Soviet Union. Six Soviet experts are expected to join the TCS team. The TCS's report is likely to be ready in three-four months, he said.

The Chamber's proposal to divide the Indo-Soviet committee into eight groups so that they could meet more frequently has been accepted by both the sides, he said. Accordingly, eight groups have been formed.

These groups are for: agricultural commodities, fruit and fruit products; chemicals and fertilisers; organic chemicals; intermediates of dyes and drugs and pharmaceuticals; petrochemicals, plastics synthetics and polymers;

textile and synthetic fibres and filaments; electronics and computers; consumer products, leather goods, spices and plantation crops and machinery and machine tools.

These groups would have top 10 technocrats from both the countries who would meet frequently to draw up macro and micro level programmes of trade and joint ventures, he said.

Mr Shah said that the main emphasis in the discussions was on setting up joint-ventures in both countries as also in third countries. More than 120 offers from India for production cooperation units to be set up in India and 147 transfer-of-technology offers have been sent to the Soviet authorities, he said.

An Indian delegation led by DGTD secretary P R Latey would be going to Moscow shortly to discuss the details of the proposed transfer of technology.

Mr Shah said that the delegation led by him pointed out to its Soviet counterpart during the talks that USSR should give a list of products which they were ready to buy from India so that Indian industries could offer to set up the necessary production-cooperation projects in India.

The present procedures of sending proposals for production-cooperation between India and Soviet enterprises were far too cumbersome, he said.

/13046

CSO: 4600/1868

WRITER SUGGESTS GANDHI RESIGN PARTY POST

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Jul 87 pp 1, 9

[Article by Girilal Jain]

[Text]

IN these days of quick developments, it is difficult to be sure that this piece will not be overtaken by events before it gets into print. But hopefully that should not affect the substance of the issues under discussion — Mr V. P. Singh's offer of resignation from the Congress party and the Rajya Sabha and Mr Rajiv Gandhi's refusal to accept it on the ground that the resignation is "conditional".

Mr Singh's resignation was conditional. His letter said: "However, if throwing me out of the party will help the party, I am ready to offer this supreme political sacrifice also and co-operate on that count, too, by submitting my resignation from the party. In that case, this letter may be treated as my resignation." In plain terms, Mr Singh did leave it to Mr Gandhi to decide whether or not his exit would help the Congress.

In his capacity as Congress president, Mr Gandhi could well take the position publicly that, in his view, Mr Singh's exit would harm the Congress and that he had, therefore, decided not to accept the offer of resignation. But he has not done that. On the contrary, he has contented himself with the observation that the offer has been rejected because it was "conditional".

This legalistic hair-splitting typical of the kind of third-rate lawyers, who have wormed their way into Mr Gandhi's entourage, will not convince the Indian people. They are interested in the substance of the issues at stake and they will draw their own conclusions.

Four points are notable in this connection. First, Mr Singh has been the chief dissident in the party since April 12 when he resigned as defence minister. Second, on July 15, Mr Gandhi expelled Mr Arun Nehru, Mr Arif Mohammed Khan and Mr V. C. Shukla in a determined bid to end dissidence in the Congress. Third, for reasons which have not been spelled out, he did not simultaneously act against Mr Singh. Fourth, Mr Singh lost no time in denouncing the expulsion of his three colleagues in pretty strong terms: indeed, he even challenged, though indirectly, Mr Gandhi's title to expel Congressmen, for he called the set-up as "nominated and ultimately non-elected" and held it guilty of acting in an "undemocratic" and "feudal" manner.

In logical terms, this called from Mr Gandhi a response different from the one he has made. Apart from some clever-clever men in his own set-up, it is difficult to find an Indian who would have expected the rejection of Mr Singh's offer of resignation on the technical ground that it was "conditional".

Mr G. K. Mooppanar, one of the AICC general secretaries, who was apparently not even informed in advance of the expulsion decision on Wednesday (July 15) and had apparently to ring up someone in the Prime Minister's set-up to confirm the AIR-Doordarshan report, has obliged the country with the "information" that the three expelled men had tried to subvert the loyalty of Congressmen in connection with the presidential election. One implication obviously is that

Mr Singh has been spared because he did not engage in a similar effort. But who is going to buy this proposition in the face of all evidence to the contrary? No, the three men were not opposed to Mr R. Venkataraman's candidature for presidency. Some reasonably informed people will, in fact, go so far as to say that by their dissidence they obliged, at least partly, Mr Gandhi to opt for Mr Venkataraman who can be depended upon not to be anybody's rubber-stamp.

If this assessment is not wide of the mark, it follows that either Mr Gandhi and his aides did not think through their decision to expel Mr Nehru, Mr Khan and Mr Shukla, or that they have a rather poor opinion of Mr Singh and expected him to abandon those who have accepted him as their de facto leader, or they have developed cold feet in the face of Mr Singh's defiant, angry and yet carefully calculated response. None of these possible inferences can be flattering to them. But surprising though it may appear to casual readers of this newspaper, we would say that

Mr Gandhi's retreat from the brink can be a blessing in disguise if he is willing to make some relevant moves.

Mr Amitabh Bachchan's resignation from the Lok Sabha is a step in the right direction, though it is difficult to say whether his belated decision has been determined by the foreknowledge of a sensational disclosure regarding the purchase of a flat in Switzerland by his even more controversial brother, Mr Ajitabh Bachchan. Mr Gandhi's other cronies, who have, rightly or wrongly, attracted adverse publicity, too should follow suit if they are truly his friends and not parasites on him and his reputation. But this is not what I have in mind in connection with the issues under discussion.

Arguing strictly from his own point of view, the crisis which has been threatening to overwhelm Mr Gandhi for the last four months has been the product of the activities of Giani Zail Singh and the allegations of corruption in high places in connection with the HDW submarine and the Bofors gun deal. It should have been apparent to him that he could overcome this crisis only if he could unite the Congress party behind him. In theory two approaches were open to him for achieving this objective. He could either seek to resume a genuine dialogue with the dissidents in the party, especially the most influential of them, Mr V. P. Singh, or he could throw them out.

Success was not assured in either case. In the event, he became, to quote Mrs Vijayalakshmi Pandit's famous phrase in respect of Mr Lal Bahadur Shastri, a prisoner of indecision. Finally, he has taken the second option but only

half-heartedly. If Mr Singh was now to act unemotionally and go about his by now familiar visits to various places saying what he has been saying, Mr Gandhi will find himself in an unenviable position. It is reasonably certain that dissidence in the Congress will mushroom. The party units in all states have been in suppressed ferment for years. It does not require much political foresight to anticipate that he shall not be able to cope with rampant dissidence.

To avoid unnecessary misunderstanding, let me add that I have not even favoured and I do not favour the expulsion of Mr V. P. Singh. Indeed, it is precisely because I favour a wholly different approach that earlier in this piece I have welcomed Mr Gandhi's retreat from the brink on the issue of Mr Singh's resignation.

In an article entitled "Politics of debate: only way out for Congress" (July 1/2), I had welcomed the possibility that Mr Singh and Mr Nehru might have come together to form a group in the Congress and had written: "It is necessary to revive debates in the Congress if it is to gain some measure of health and vitality." Even at that stage I had hoped that this might just be possible with Mr Gandhi still functioning as Congress president. Indeed, I might disclose that I had discussed this proposition privately with some of Mr Gandhi's critics. They too were not without hope and the most important of them all even told me that it would not be in the party's interest for Mr Gandhi to give up its presidency for some time, presumably till the present storm over the kickbacks had subsided.

The situation has clearly changed since. The expulsions, Mr Singh's offer of resignation and the upsurge of dissidence in the state legislatures, encouraged by the weakening of Mr Gandhi's position in New Delhi, have transformed the scene. It has now become essential to think of a new approach. The objective remains the same — uniting the party behind the besieged Prime Minister and revitalising it by allowing freedom of debate in it — but the solution has to be different. I make the proposals that follow with great hesitation and I do so only because I remain as convinced as ever that the survival of the Congress is vital for the survival of Indian democracy. In my opinion:

1. Mr Gandhi should voluntarily step down as Congress president immediately.

2. He should urgently convene a meeting of the extended Congress working committee, as he did on April 18 when he got it to adopt the destabilisation resolution.

3. The extended working committee should elect an acting president in Mr Gandhi's place.

4. The acting president should withdraw the recent and previous expulsions.

5. The acting president should summon a meeting of the present AICC which should either confirm him or elect someone else as president, pending organisational elections which should be pushed through without any further delay. Whatever its size, bogus membership should not be allowed to serve as an excuse for perpetuating the "undemocratic and nominated set-up" at all levels.

/13046

CSO: 4600/1872

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE SINGH RESIGNS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Jul 87 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 18.

MR Arun Singh, minister of state for defence, today resigned from the Union cabinet. His resignation has been accepted by the President.

He is understood to have submitted his resignation to the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, early this month, but Mr Gandhi chose to forward it to the President for acceptance only today.

Though a childhood friend of the Prime Minister and an especially trusted colleague, relations between Mr Singh and Mr Gandhi have been severely strained for the past few months.

It was known in political circles that during the Indo-Pak border crisis, which looked like escalating into a conflict at the end of last year, Mr Singh did not enjoy access to the Prime Minister for a period of almost ten days.

More recently, the minister of state for defence is understood to have favoured mounting pressure on Bofors to disclose the names of four persons who are said to have received payments in the purchase of Howitzer guns from the Swedish company.

The matter is believed to have been subsequently discussed by the political affairs committee of the cabinet, but no final decision on it emerged.

Today, Mr Singh also cancelled a scheduled visit to Calcutta to commission the naval warship, INS "Magar."

A former company executive, Mr Singh entered the Rajya Sabha three years ago.

With Mr Gandhi becoming Prime Minister, he was first made a parliamentary secretary when he was said to have enjoyed Mr Gandhi's complete trust.

Subsequently, he was made a minister of state for defence, when the Prime Minister himself held charge of the

portfolio. In this period, Mr Singh was regarded as the country's de facto defence minister.

His powers and area of work were later considerably reduced as more junior ministers were brought to the defence ministry. A further whittling down of his influence became evident when Mr Gandhi relinquished the defence portfolio in favour of Mr V. P. Singh, thus landing Mr Arun Singh in a ministry with which the Prime Minister was himself not associated.

In a rapidly snowballing political scenario in which the dissident faction appears to have the upper hand at this stage, Mr Arif Mohammed Khan today zeroed in on the Prime Minister, saying in a tongue-in-cheek style that there was no reason to disbelieve his statement that there were no middlemen in the Bofors deal as the Prime Minister himself was in it directly.

Significantly, two not-so-prominent Congress MPs from U.P. have demanded that the Congress president, Mr Gandhi, "step down" to save the credibility of the party and the government. These MPs are Mr Ram Pujan Patel of Phulpur constituency in Allahabad district (from where Jawaharlal Nehru was elected to the Lok Sabha) and Mr Raj Kumar Rai from Ghose constituency in Azamgarh district.

Another MP, Mr Manavendra Singh from Mathura, regretted that the party leadership had resorted to expulsions instead of initiating disciplinary action against those members whose "doubtful" activities had brought the party into a crisis.

Mr Patel and Mr Rai echoed the demand voiced by Mr V. P. Singh and Mr V. C. Shukla that criminal proceedings be initiated against the Bachchan brothers that the passport of Mr Amitabh Bachchan be impounded and that a case under FERA be registered against him. Mere resignation of Mr Bachchan from the Lok Sabha was not enough, they said.

Mr Khan's focus on the Prime Minister is seen as part of the progressively escalating political attack on the prime target of the faction opposed to Mr Gandhi. Yesterday, Mr Shukla had contended that a prima facie case of corruption existed against the Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, the police said the two shots heard at the residence of Mr Arif Mohammad Khan during yesterday's alleged assault might have been fired in the air by Mr Khan's security men.

PTI adds: The president of the Indian Youth Congress, Mr Anand Sharma demanded the arrest of Mr Arif Mohammed Khan and some of his followers alleging that they had assaulted, abducted and forcibly confined some Youth Congress workers.

Referring to yesterday's incidents at Mr Khan's residence, Mr Sharma told newsmen "the drama was enacted by Mr Khan to attract attention and cheap publicity".

According to reports in political circles, some other close associates of the Prime Minister, who have become controversial or were under a cloud, might also quit.

Several opposition and Congress leaders came out with statements condemning the attack on Mr Khan. Among them were the CPI, BJP and the former Bihar chief minister, Mr Jagannath Mishra.

Raipur (TOINS): The expelled Congress leader, Mr V. C. Shukla, is arriving here tomorrow to meet his supporters in his home town.

According to reports, 42 Congressmen from the Mahasamund parliamentary constituency have already resigned from the party in protest against the party leadership's move. They include two district Congress committee members.

/13046

CSO: 4600/1872

PAPER GIVES DETAILS OF V.P. SINGH EXPULSION FROM PARTY

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Jul 87 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 19.

The former Defence Minister, Mr. V. P. Singh, is finally out of the Congress(I).

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in his capacity as party President, today expelled Mr. V. P. Singh, for indulging in "anti-party activity", thus putting an end to a prolonged phase of uncertainty.

Mr. V. P. Singh had virtually cast his lot with the three dissident leaders who were thrown out of the party last week but had not formally joined them. All four of them will now constitute a nucleus of anti-Rajiv MPs till recently belonging to the Congress(I), with the avowed aim of expanding it. And with that begins the liveliest yet phase in the country's politics after Mr. Rajiv Gandhi assumed office.

The three to be expelled earlier were Mr. Arun Nehru, former Minister for Internal Security, Mr. Arif Mohammed Khan, former Minister of State, and Mr. V. C. Shukla, who was once in Mrs. Gandhi's Cabinet.

No show-cause notice

Two days ago Mr. V. P. Singh had volunteered to quit the party but Mr. Gandhi and his senior colleagues regarded it a "conditional offer" which was "not amenable to any action". Instead he was expelled today by Mr. Gandhi who, as in the case of the three leaders last week, invoked his "inherent powers". And, in keeping with the earlier practice, Mr. V. P. Singh was not given any show-cause notice nor given specific charges.

The expulsion was announced in the afternoon by the AIICC(I) General Secretary, Mr. G. K. Moopanar. In a cryptic statement, he said: "The Congress(I) President has expelled Mr. V. P. Singh for his anti-party activities". He declined to elaborate the point.

Mr. Gandhi, it appears, did not want to give Mr. V. P. Singh the respectability of having resigned from the party on his own. The Prime Minister, therefore, chose to ignore his offer on the technical plea that it was not a straight resignation. This was what Mr. V. P. Singh had said in his letter to Mr. Gandhi on July 16: "If throwing me out of the party will help the party,

I am ready to offer this supreme political sacrifice also and cooperate on that count too by submitting my resignation from the party. In that case, this letter may be treated as my resignation. It will save the leadership from the embarrassment of expelling me". And as a natural corollary, he attached a letter of resignation from the Rajya Sabha as well.

The leadership however did not mind the "embarrassment" of expelling him; on the contrary, it appeared to derive satisfaction from this course—in the belief that it would not invest the former Defence Minister with the halo of martyrdom. The coming days will show whether their calculations were sound.

AIICC sources did not confirm the general belief that Mr. V. P. Singh's letter to Mr. Gandhi yesterday demanding "forthright action" against the film star Amitabh Bachchan, was the immediate cause for action. In his letter Mr. V. P. Singh had sought the prosecution of the film star's brother Mr. Ajitabh Bachchan on the basis of the allegations that, contrary to his professions, he had acquired assets abroad.

The Prime Minister, according to these sources, had himself initiated an inquiry into these charges even before a local daily brought to light documentary evidence to disprove Mr. Ajitabh Bachchan's contentions. This process was initiated, according to this account, long before Mr. V. P. Singh's letter to the Prime Minister on the subject.

Change in attitude

The action was taken, it was explained, on the basis of an overall assessment of Mr. V. P. Singh's activities—particularly on the basis of reports that he, along with others, was involved in the move to persuade the President, Mr. Zail Singh, to run for a second term. This, of course, ran counter to the earlier clean chit given to Mr. V. P. Singh on this count by the AIICC(I) office-bearers. The change in the attitude of the leadership—or of Mr. Gandhi to be precise—was ascribed to Mr. V. P. Singh's 'duplicity' in offering his desire to remain in the party, on the one hand, and secretly trying to mobilise support among the MPs on the other.

When the three leaders were expelled on July 15, Mr. Gandhi chose not to touch Mr. V. P. Singh obviously with the idea of dividing those seeking to emerge as a ginger group within the party. But later the High Command realised that its inaction might be misconstrued as a sign of weakness, born out of a fear of inconvenient disclosures. The strike against him, too, was intended to be pre-emptive.

Whatever the two sides may say now, Mr. V. P. Singh's stay in the party had become untenable. The expression of surprise by him over his expulsion was as odd as earlier satisfaction by the High Command with his conduct. There was enough to indicate that the parting of ways was inevitable. Two days ago, Mr. V. P. Singh, indulged in some significant prevarications, in an hour-long question-and-answer session with journalists. Asked what he thought of Mr. Shukla's demand that Mr. Gandhi get himself cleared of various charges, Mr. V. P. Singh gave a cryptic reply 'No comment'. Did he still regard Mr. Gandhi as his leader? 'I want to know whether I am still in the Congress(I)' was his reply.

No prevarication

There will however be no case for prevarication. They all will be on one platform with Mr. V. P. Singh automatically acquiring the mantle of leadership. Uttar Pradesh, the home State of Mr. V. P. Singh, Mr. Nehru and Mr. Arif Khan, will be the first to be affected by the fall-out of the developments at the Centre. This was evident from the resignation of the two pro-V. P. Singh, Ministers of State. They quit at the instance of the Chief Minister, Mr. Bir Bahadur Singh.

Mr. V. P. Singh's expulsion and the demand for the resignation of the two U. P. Ministers could well be part of a coordinated strategy by the high command to deal with the new challenge. Already instructions had gone to the PCC(I) to keep track of the activities of the dissidents and inform the high command, with suggestions for action. Mr. V. P. Singh was quick to assail the 'dismissal' of the two U. P. Ministers.

A statement jointly issued by them and three other MPs described the dropping of Mr. Zafar Ali Naqvi and Mr. Surendra Singh as 'political vindictiveness and intimidation'.

'The process started by restrictions and bans on the public meetings in U. P. And the manner in which people were subjected to difficulties and misery in Gorakhpur was clearly indicative of a vindictive streak', it said.

As regards the 'arbitrary' expulsions and the recent "planned attack" on Mr. Arif Khan, the statement said "operation intimidation cannot and will not succeed". The other signatories to the statement were Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh, Mr. Manvandar Singh and Mr. Satyapal Malik.

Mr. V. P. Singh's expulsion was a major event both for his detractors and supporters.

His critics in the Congress (I) Parliamentary Party could not conceal their joy over the action. Mr. K. K. Tewary, Minister of State for Public Enterprises, for instance, expressed surprise over the 'certificate of party loyalty' given to Mr. V. P. Singh by Mr. Moopanar two days ago. "It is now clear that Mr. V. P. Singh is the kingpin of an elaborate internal and external conspiracy to destabilise the Congress party and the Government and pave the way for India's balkanisation by its traditional enemies. One is at a loss to understand Mr. Moopanar's vacillation at a time when Mr. V. P. Singh has applied the butcher's knife to the throat of the Prime Minister and other Shylocks in the party are also mounting relentless pressure on him for their pounds of flesh."

Mr. Kalpnath Rai, M.P., welcomed the expulsion "although it has been somewhat delayed." He was happy that the High Command has seen through his game

"It is now the duty of Congressmen in all parts of the country to expose the treachery and betrayal of Mr. V. P. Singh who, like Brutus did to Caesar, stabbed in the back of Mr. Gandhi who had reposed immense confidence in him and raised him step by step to a virtual Number 2 position in the hierarchy. There is no parallel in the history of India to Mr. V. P. Singh's betrayal except that of Jaichand."

/13046

CSO: 4600/1875

JANATA REACTS TO EXPULSIONS FROM CONGRESS-I

Remarks by Chandra Shekhar

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 19 Jul 87 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 18.—The Janata Party president, Mr Chandra Shekhar, thinks the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had set a dangerous trend by allowing himself to be "manipulated" by foreign powers. His efforts to discuss domestic problems with "foreign dignitaries" was an unprecedented step that could weaken the Government.

These remarks of Mr Chandra Shekhar were reported by a party spokesman to the reporters in the afternoon after the party's national executive began its session here today.

The Janata Party president reportedly said that through "various dealings now made public, Mr Gandhi has made himself vulnerable to foreign forces". He is open to blackmail by them (foreign powers).

Besides, in gross violation of all norms, Mr Gandhi discussed the internal problems of the country with "foreign dignitaries" (an obvious reference to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev) and sought their help and cooperation. This, in the opinion of the Janata Party president, had weakened the Government and its capacity to act effectively at home and abroad.

The spokesman said the national

executive of the party condemned the attack on Mr Arif Mohammad Khan at his house yesterday, allegedly by some Youth Congress (I) supporters. The incident showed that the Congress (I) was trying to "stifle the voice of dissent through the help of hooligans". The national executive of the Janata Party regarded it as a "very disturbing trend in Indian politics" and hoped the ruling party would put a stop to this forthwith.

Mr Chandra Shekhar told the members of the executive — a record 57 of them — that the fast-changing political scene in the country presented both a challenge and an opportunity to all secular, democratic, and progressive forces in the country.

According to the spokesman, the present ferment in the Congress (I) was described as "dissident and not as dissidence" by Mr Chandra Shekhar. He also felt that the response of the ruling party to the problems of the country was a cause of "considerable concern".

Mr Chandra Shekhar referred to the growing caste and communal violence within the country and, in particular, referred to Delhi, where one part or the other of the city had been under curfew for two months. In Punjab, Mr

Chandra Shekhar saw no ray of hope. While he condemned the killings by terrorists, he felt the Government had no policy on Punjab, except to make some "bold announcements" which only invited retaliatory violence by terrorists.

Mr Chandra Shekhar also criticized the lock-out in the IEC, Ranchi, which had rendered 20,000 workers idle for two months. He urged the Government to open negotiations with the "real" representatives of workers.

The Janata Party assured the people of Kalahandi in Orissa that more help would be sent to the drought-stricken there. He described the situation in the north-eastern part of the country as fast deteriorating with daily killings and growing tension — all of which was unnecessary. The situation in Meghalaya was "explosive" and needed to be handled with care.

Answering questions about Mr Shahabuddin, the party spokesman said that his case was not discussed when organizational matters were taken up in the morning. He added that a reply was awaited from Mr Shahabuddin, who was served a show-cause notice after he failed to vote in the recent presidential election.

National Executive Decision

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Jul 87 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 19.—The Janata Party decided today to launch a mass movement to press for the resignation of the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The party's national executive took this decision because it felt that Mr Gandhi had "failed to clear himself of the widespread allegations of corruption."

He had also led the nation to "economic ruin". While the nation was "reeling under mass murders and communal frenzy, the Prime Minister is engaged in petty manipulative politics", the party said in a resolution.

The national executive of the Janata Party today asked its political committee to "work out the modalities" of a proposal to bring together like-minded Opposition parties "within a definite time frame".

These like-minded parties, in its view, are the two Lok Dals, the Congress (S) and the People's and Workers' party of Maharashtra.

Mr George Fernandes, who, about two weeks ago, had proposed that Janata and the Lok Dal led by Mr H. N. Bahuguna merge, is a member of the five-man political committee of the party along with Mr R. K. Hegde, Mr Biju Patnaik, Mr Madhu Dandavate and Mr Indubhai Patel.

Mr Chandra Shekhar had called for a revival of the spirit of 1977 and broader Opposition unity last week and Mr Ajit Singh of

the Lok Dal (A) had welcomed this call.

Mr Yashwant Sinha, general secretary of the Janata Party, was unable to specify the "definite time frame" within which the Opposition parties' unification proposal was to be formulated but added that a "broad front" to launch a mass movement against corruption and unemployment was also favoured. Electoral adjustments were also being thought of.

UNI adds: Replying to questions, Mr Sinha said the issue of a merger would not be taken up with parties like the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Communist parties as they had made their positions against any merger clear.

He said the political committee had been authorized to start a dialogue with various like-minded parties on the merger issue. The meeting welcomed the fight against corruption within the Congress (I) and expected it to be carried to its logical conclusion.

The Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr L. K. Advani today said that Mr Arun Singh's resignation from the Government added a new and significant dimension to the Bofors deal.

In a statement here, Mr Advani said the Bofors scandal was getting "curiouser and curiouser" and the full facts of the deal could not be known until the Prime Minister stepped down from office.

/13046

CSO: 4600/1873

HOME MINISTRY PANEL DISCUSSES TERRORIST DEVELOPMENTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Jul 87 p 9

[Text]

THE government today conceded "that Chinese-made arms continue to be smuggled into India from across the border not by individuals but in collusion with a power.

The BJP president, Mr L. K. Advani, told newsmen that the minister of state for home affairs, Mr P. Chidambaram, made the statement at a meeting of the consultative committee of his ministry, here.

He said Mr Chidambaram had admitted that a number of arms recovered from the terrorists in the recent past were "loaded Chinese arms."

The minister, however, did not name the country which was behind the smuggling.

Mr Advani said opposition members criticised the government for its failure to maintain law and order in Punjab.

He said this sparked off an animated discussion centering around a cable the government had received from the Indian high commission in Canada on June 12 and by the home ministry three days later. The opposition members wanted to know the reasons for the delay.

The cable had related to a tip-off by a Sikh in Canada, who had overheard

that "bomb blasts" were likely to take place in Delhi and Haryana just before the Haryana poll.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, who presided, felt that even if the cable was received in time, nothing could have been done since the contents were vague.

However, the BJP, Janata and a Congress member, Mr B. N. Sen, were of the opinion that it was the "collective responsibility" of the government. Had action been initiated earnestly the incidents could have been averted, Mr Advani said.

Mr Buta Singh explained at the meeting that he had "never accused" the Haryana chief minister, Mr Devi Lal, of failing to maintain law and order.

Mr Ramdhan also wanted the government to arrest the Akal Takht acting chief, Mr Darshan Singh Ragi, for his "highly inflammatory speech" made recently.

Mr Advani drew the home minister's attention to reports that the terrorists had stripped women before gunning them down in the bus massacres.

Mr Buta Singh said he had not received any such complaint when he visited the spot and met some of the injured in the hospital.

/13104

CSO: 5650/0165

CPI-M ORGAN URGES NEW PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] The CPI-M has demanded that the present Union Government be dissolved and fresh elections held since the "split" in the ruling party has made it incapable of discharging its responsibilities.

In a strongly-worded editorial, titled "Congress Convulsions", appearing in its central organ, *"People's Democracy"*, the CPI-M has charged the Congress leadership of Mr Rajiv Gandhi with undemocratic expulsions of its party members.

This stand taken by the Marxists would dispel the impression that was sought to be created by some that CPI-M was backing the Rajiv Government in the current political crisis. The very fact that it has commented at length on the internal affairs of another party would also indicate that it feels the manner in which Mr Gandhi has tackled the crisis was aggravating it rather than resolving it.

The CPI-M has accused Mr Gandhi of sparking off the crisis within the Congress by expelling Mr Arif Khan, Mr Arun Nehru and Mr V C Shukla on the morrow of the Presidential poll, without even going through the procedure of giving them a charge sheet.

"Democratic norms in any political party demand a corresponding democratic procedure even in the cases of disciplining one's own party members", says the editorial. "But the Congress brand of democracy has conveniently dispensed with all democratic procedures, announcing its expulsion orders in the public press".

Commenting on Mr V P Singh's expulsion, it says that he has faced action "for no other crime of his than voicing some demands for the democratic functioning of the Congress party and the Government". It has added that it

was difficult to foretell how these disciplinary actions will snowball.

The CPI-M is certain that the recent development in the Congress "is not a revolt of a handful of discontented and demoted Congress leaders but an expression of a split in the ruling party". It would, therefore, not be surprising if disciplinary action is now taken against a larger number of Congress MPs and State leaders.

In the light of these undemocratic acts as also the physical attack on Mr Arif Khan by Youth Congress workers, it would appear that the Congress has ceased to be an organised and functioning body. It was now "an unruly rabble huddling around political power and angling for crumbs".

In such a situation, it would not be sufficient to accept the Congress Government just because a credible Opposition with a concrete programme and policy was not in sight. "Life and events will force an alternative to the forefront to meet the Congress disarray".

The CPI-M feels that Mr Rajiv Gandhi can no longer salvage the situation through the "inspired resignation of Mr Amitabh Bachchan from the Lok Sabha and the eye-wash enquiry ordered on his brother, Mr Ajitabh Bachchan". Mass discontent was "fast enveloping" both the Congress and its Government.

The Marxists feel that in view of the Congress disarray, which is coinciding with all-round deterioration of the situation in the country — characterised by extremist killings, communal violence and general worsening of the law and order situation — the ground has been prepared for "gleeful" exploitation by imperialist forces to undermine the country's unity and

integrity.

"There is an urgent need to galvanise the Indian people to face up to these challenges", which, however, was difficult to do with the Rajiv Government in power. Therefore, it was time for Mr Gandhi to seek a fresh mandate rather than cling on to power.

/13104

CSO: 4600/1876

CPI DRAWS UP PLAN TO FIGHT COMMUNALISM

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Jul 87 p 2

[Text]

The CPI has decided to organise a counter-offensive to communalism in the western districts of UP. The party will hold district-level conventions which will culminate in a regional convention in Meerut in October, reports CNS.

This was decided in a two-day meeting of district-level party cadres of western UP which concluded here on 12 July. The meeting was attended by over a hundred CPI activists from 15 districts. Almost all the district secretaries were present in the meeting which was presided over by CPI national council secretary A B Bardhan.

Besides CPI UP council secretary Sarjoo Pande, who opened the discussion and CPI general secretary C Rajeswara Rao who summed up the deliberations, there were about 50 participants who took part in the discussion which centered on the disturbing developments connected with the ghastly communal violence in Meerut.

The meeting adopted a resolution detailing the programme of action against communalism.

The resolution points out that the Meerut riots has to be seen in the background of countrywide offensive of the communal forces of all hues. It says that Hindu and Muslim communalists are working for the communal polarisation of the population.

Organisations like RSS-VHP and Jamaat-e-Islami provide the ideological background to the offensive of communalists who have also floated their militant wings like the Bajrang Dal, Hindu Shiv Sena and Adam Sena.

The resolution exposed the attempts of communalists to mix up secular and religious part of community life to broaden their base.

It severely criticises the attitude of the administration and ruling Congress-I towards communal and chauvinist forces and takes exception to the lukewarm attitude of other bourgeois parties on the issue of fight against communalism.

The resolution enjoins upon the party units and mass organisations under its influence

to conduct a consistent campaign against communalism by organising meetings, seminars, padayatras and wall writings.

The resolution suggested several administrative steps for curbing communalism and to avert communal riots. Apart from demanding ban on communal propaganda and communal senas, it demands reorganisation of PAC and sufficient representation for minorities and other weaker sections in it. Another important demand in the resolution suggests non-use of PAC for searches. It further suggested that women police should be used for searches and a magistrate must be present during the search.

The resolution demanded ban on use of places of worship for political and other sectarian purposes. These places of worship must not instal loudspeakers outside their premises.

The CPI has decided to mobilise and involve all secular and democratic forces and individuals in the campaign against communalism.

/13046

CSO: 4600/1869

BRIEFS

MEGHALAYA CABINET CHANGES--Shilong, (PTI): The Meghalaya chief minister, Capt. Sangma, on Thursday re-allocated five major Cabinet portfolios vesting the home portfolio on his revenue minister, Mr P.R. Kyndiah. The move fills a crucial vacancy caused by resignation of the then home minister, Mr D.D. Lapang, on June 21. The finance portfolio also held earlier by Mr Lapang, had been allocated to the minister for law and parliamentary affair, Mr Grossell Myllemngap. The PWD minister, Mr Salseng C. Marak, has been allotted taxation. The transport minister, Mr Rowell Lyngdoh, has been given town and country planning and housing, while the minister for village and cottage industries, Mr Medistar Warbah, has been allotted sericulture and weaving and handloom. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 17 Jul 87 p 5] /13046

TRADE WITH MALAYSIA--New Delhi, July 8 (PTI): The first meeting of the Indo-Malaysian business cooperation committees, which met recently at Kuala Lumpur, agreed to double the two-way trade to \$1,000 million in the next three years. The meeting held within the framework of the agreement concluded by the FICCI and National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia in November, 1986, noted that the complementary nature of the two economies offered good scope for larger bilateral commercial exchanges. India could increase its exports of wheat and rice, iron ore, fresh fruits, light engineering goods, textile machinery and components and chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Malaysia on its part too could increase its exports to India of items such as palm oil, rubber products, fatty acids, tin, ammonia, urea, methanol. The FICCI delegation, led by Dr Charat Ram, had wideranging discussions with its Malaysian counterpart. [Excerpt] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 9 Jul 87 p 9] /13046

ANTARCTICA POST OFFICE--New Delhi, July 17 (UNI): The department of posts will open a post office at the Indian Antarctic station to be known as "Dakshin Gangotri." The post office will become operational when the seventh scientific expedition team reaches Antarctica around Christmas time this year. One of the team members will act as the postmaster according to an official release here today. Polar philately has been gaining importance in recent years throughout the world. The purpose of opening the post is to provide special philatelic can- [as published]. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 18 Jul 87 p 7] /13046

NEW MISSILE COVER--New Delhi, June 28 (PTI): For the first time, an advanced material to cover the nose tip of missiles which have to withstand high temperature at a high speed, has been developed by scientists of the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) here. The material, known as "Three directional (3D) carbon-carbon composite" is being evaluated by the defence scientists in Hyderabad. Results of preliminary tests conducted so far show that it meets the specifications, senior scientists of the laboratory told PTI. The composite, the scientists said, have been examined by x-ray holography and are found to have uniform density throughout. The "3D orthogonally woven preform" were densified using liquid impregnation. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 29 Jun 87 p 4] /13046

BREAKAWAY INTUC FACTION--New Delhi, July 19. The Rashtriya Mazdoor Congress, a breakaway faction of the INTUC, has changed its name to Rashtriya Shramik Congress, and appointed Mr. S. Varadarajan Nair of Kerala as its president in place of Mr. J.S. Dara. The Executive Committee of the RSC at a meeting here demand the scrapping of the National Rural Labour Commission as it is not necessary and its 'composition is anti-labour'. The Central Government, it said, should have implemented the recommendations of the standing committee on rural labour and brought in legislation to provide service conditions for them. The ILO convention giving protection to office-bearers of rural workers' trade unions should also be implemented, it said. "The problem is not one of appointing a new commission but of the political will to implement decisions already taken", said the RSC. An all-India session of the RSC will be held in Kerala towards the end of this year. Mr. S.W. Dhabe, ex-MP and general secretary of the RSC, said in his report that 670 unions in different parts of the country are affiliated to it.--Our Special Correspondent. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Jul 87 p 6] /13046

GUNS FROM BOFORS--New Delhi, July 16. The Indian Army will acquire a total of 1400 FH-77B howitzers made by Bofors. Reliable sources told THE HINDU that the guns will be used to replace an equal number of howitzers being fielded by the Army today. As per the agreement which has now run into controversy over the payoffs to some unknown person/persons as "winding down" charges and other heads of payment, Bofors has been contracted to supply India with 400 guns on an "off-the-shelf" basis. The other guns will be manufactured in India through the usual routine of first assembling a certain number for CKD kits and progressively manufacturing sub-components, leading to complete manufacture in India. It is still not clear whether India will draw up another agreement for the additional 1000 guns. Defence Ministry sources say that the initial deal, worth some \$1.3 millions, covers the entire acquisition programme. They say that having acquired a certain minimum number of "off-the-shelf," Bofors was willing to throw in the transfer of technology free of charge. The Indian Army is also currently assessing the possibility of using the gun on a Vijayanta hull to make a self-propelled gun for which the nation has a considerable requirement. The turret for this hybrid SP gun has been designed by Vickers, the company whose design was used to make the Vijayanta in the first place. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Jul 87 p 1] /13046

INDO-SOVIET 'FRIENDSHIP TRAIN'--Moscow, July 7. A friendship train carrying an Indian and Soviet youth group has arrived in the ancient Russian city of Kaluga, 150 km south-west of Moscow, to an affectionate welcome, reports Tass. The youth laid flowers at the Lenin monument, saw city sights, attended a mass rally at a turbine plant and visited the summer rest camp for children of the factory staff. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 8 Jul 87 p 9] /13046

HARYANA MINISTRY EXPANDED--Chandigarh, July 18--The four-week-old six member Devi Lal Ministry was expanded today with the inclusion of three more Ministers and a Chief Parliamentary Secretary. Those inducted today were Mr Parmanand, Mr Dharambir and Mr Manphool Singh, raising the strength of the Ministry to nine. Mr Parmanand was administered the oath of office and secrecy as a Cabinet Minister and the other two as Ministers of State by Governor S M H Burney at a colourful function here. Mr Ran Singh Maan, elected from Badhra in Bhiwani district was later administered the oath of office and secrecy by the Chief Minister and made the Chief Parliamentary Secretary. He will hold an independent charge of public relations while being attached with the Chief Minister. Later talking to newsmen, Chief Minister Devi Lal said he would expand his Cabinet further depending upon the political situation and the workload. He said he would take care of all castes and women while expanding his Cabinet in future. The BJP which has only member in the Cabinet may also be given more representation. The Chief Minister also announced the renaming of Haryana Agriculture University, Hisar after the name of Lok Dal chief late Chaudhary Charan Singh. The Chakravorty lake at Karnal has also been renamed as the Karna Lake, he said noting how the successive regimes had been changing the name of the lake. [Excerpts] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Jul 87 p 6] /13046

SUPERCONDUCTIVITY RESEARCH--The Government has constituted a high level apex body and a programme management board to promote superconductivity research and its application, report agencies. The apex body will consist of the Prime Minister, Human Resource Development Minister, Finance Minister, Minister of State for Science and Technology, scientific adviser to the Prime Minister, chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, University Grants Commission chairman, Cabinet secretary, finance secretary and heads of concerned agencies. The secretary, Department of Science and Technology, will be the member secretary. The body will make necessary budget provisions, acquire services of personnel from India and abroad and procure goods and services. The programme management board would have such executive and financial powers as are necessary for pursuing the area of research, development, engineering by a number of scientific and technological and engineering institutions of the country. The board will consist of Prof C N R Rao, chairman, Scientific Advisory Council of the Prime Minister, finance secretary, two scientist members of the apex body and heads of concerned agencies. The secretary, Department of Science and Technology, will be the member secretary. Superconductivity is the physical phenomenon in which materials lose their electrical resistance when they are cooled below certain temperature, called the superconducting critical temperature. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Jul 87 p 5] /13046

TIES WITH ALGERIA--India and Algeria have agreed to give a fillip to the economic and political relations, reports UNI. Urban Development Minister Mohsina Kidwai, who represented India at the 25th independence day celebrations in Algiers, held detailed discussions with the Algerian leaders on further cementing economic and trade ties. Mrs Kidwai, who carried a message from Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for Algerian President Chadli Benjdid, returned to Delhi on Wednesday. During her stay in Algeria, she held talks on political situation in West Asia and North Africa and met representatives of various economic ministries with an aim to further promote bilateral trade. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Jul 87 p 10] /13046

BREAKTHROUGH IN GALLIUM--India has achieved a breakthrough in a critical electronic material, gallium, through an indigenous technology development effort undertaken over the last five years, reports PTI. A pilot plant for extraction of gallium from the bayer's liquor of the aluminium plant of Madras Aluminium Company (MALCO) in Tamilnadu has been set up by MALCO, under a jointly financed programme with National Research Development Corporation (NRDC). The pilot plant is based on a process developed by the Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI) of CSIR while the engineering, erection and commissioning has been done by MALCO with the assistance of CECRI. The gallium from the pilot plant has been analysed both by CECRI and the Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad and found to be better than 99.9 per cent pure. At a high level meeting organised by Mr Ashok Parthasarathi, additional secretary, department of Scientific and Industrial Research, at MALCO last week, experts from NRDC, CECRI, MALCO, the Nuclear Fuel Complex and the Department of electronics declared the project successful. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Jul 87 p 5] /13046

SUSPECTED CORRUPTION PROBED--Central and State intelligence officials have unearthed a corruption racket involving senior officials at Cossipore Gun and Shell Factory and an American business representative whose firm supplies items to the defence production unit. A raid, conducted while a dinner party was on at the Inspection Bungalow of Cossipore Club on June 12, reportedly found three senior officers closeted with the foreigner in what was, according to official sources, a meeting to discuss "kickbacks" on supply. The representative, belonging to a firm with offices in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Calcutta among other places, had reportedly hosted a dinner at the bungalow. The Intelligence officials taped the conversation between the factory officials and the American. The three senior officers and the foreigner were detained the next day and interrogated. The American was detained for another four days in Calcutta. Seizures, which included documents and money, were made. A departmental inquiry into the alleged transaction has been initiated. The sources said another line of investigation was on to find out whether national security had been jeopardized, given the sensitive nature of the Factory. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Jul 87 p 1] /13046

CSO: 4600/1877

TURKISH SEPARATISTS REPORTEDLY BACKED BY IRI

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Jul 87 p 16

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] Despite the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war over the last 80 months, Turkey, neighbor to both of these countries, has made great effort to refrain from leaning to one combatant or the other, thereby preserving, as far as it can, its very sensitive neutral position. The intensification of the crisis in the waters of the Persian Gulf and America's increased military presence in the area has prompted Turkish leaders, by way of emphasizing their neutrality, to deny America permission to use military bases in Turkey for the purpose of putting greater pressure on the Islamic republic.

The newspaper HERALD TRIBUNE, quoting a high-ranking Turkish official, writes:

Turkey will not allow any party to use bases on this country's soil to fight in the Persian Gulf. We have made this point very clear, to our NATO allies, our neighbors, as well as to the Arab nations. Our position on this matter is very clear. We do not wish to allow ourselves to be drawn into these events.

The HERALD TRIBUNE adds: In the last few weeks, both parties to the war have slapped Turkey's pride in some way. Recently, one of this country's freighters, which was carrying chemical fertilizer to an Iranian port, was attacked by Iraqi aircraft. Several days later the prime minister of the Islamic republic refused to visit the grave of modern Turkey's patriarch, Kamal Ataturk. This gesture from Mir Hoseyn Musavi drew a very sharp reaction from Turkey.

The newspaper added: In both instances Turkish officials tried to ignore the issue and not to make a sharp official reaction.

A Turkish diplomat said: In order to maintain its neutrality, Turkey must endure many provocations without comment.

Political observers do not confine their search for the reason for Turkey's desire for neutrality in the war between the Islamic republic and Iraq to political affairs alone; they attach great importance to the economic roots of the situation as an explanation for this position.

Turkey currently buys crude oil from both the Islamic republic and Iraq. That nation's commercial exchanges with Iraq and the Islamic republic is more than four billion dollars per year. Iraq transfers about one million barrels of crude oil per day to world markets by way of a

pipeline through Turkey, and this figure will soon reach 1.5 million barrels with the opening of a second pipeline. In return, Baghdad gives Turkey oil and pays fees for the use of the pipeline. Turkish officials maintain that they will neither sell arms and ammunition to the two warring parties in the Persian Gulf, nor will they allow anyone to transport arms through their country bound for either the Islamic republic of Iran or Iraq. Turkish officials said that they have lost millions of dollars in profits as the result of not selling arms to the two sides.

In another part of the article, the HERALD TRIBUNE writes: Turkey, with some 800,000 soldiers, is one of the most powerful NATO nations. Despite this, this nation has not yet succeeded in quelling the rebellion by Kurds living in its Kurdish areas. Kurdish separatists are seeking independence and self-determination for some 20 million Kurds living in parts of Turkey, Iran and Iraq.

Quoting Western diplomats living in Ankara, the newspaper writes:

The Islamic republic has sided with Kurdish separatists in Turkey and thereby threatened Turkey's political stability.

The HERALD TRIBUNE adds: Turkey is afraid of the Islamic revolution of Iran. Ankara regards the Islamic republic with suspicion because of its secret assistance to Turkish Muslim fundamentalists. During Mir Hoseyn Musavi's last visit to Ankara, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Özal warned him that the Iranian regime must respect Turkey's secular government, and in return he was assured that Turkey will retain its neutrality in the war between the Islamic republic and Iraq.

9310

CSO: 4640/0153

IRAQ'S OIL PRODUCTION QUOTA TO EQUAL IRI'S

London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Jul 87 p 8

[London KEYHAN in Persian weekly; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] With the opening of a second oil pipeline through Turkey to the Mediterranean Coast, Iraq will increase its crude oil exports to 2.2 million barrels per day. The second Iraqi oil pipeline through Turkey will go into operation in early September (two months from now). International petroleum experts expect that if construction is completed on the second Iraqi oil pipeline through Saudi Arabia, Iraq will be able supply world markets with three million barrels of oil per day without using maritime tankers.

Mehdi Vaziri, an international oil expert, in an article published in the publication INTERNATIONAL OIL REPORTS, published by the Kline-Wertgriveson investment institute of London, notes that contrary to the expectations of many economic observers and energy experts, at the last OPEC meeting in Vienna Iraqi Minister of Petroleum Chalabi was able to convince the organization's members of the necessity to raise his country's quota. At that meeting, several member nations proposed that Iraq's production quota be raised to equal that of the Islamic republic. Iraq's production quota is currently 1.54 million barrels per day, while the Islamic republic's production quota is 2.369 barrels per day. Continuing his article, Mehdi Vaziri writes: At the Vienna meeting, four important OPEC members, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Indonesia and Nigeria, supported the proposal to equalize production quotas for Iraq and the Islamic republic. These ministers, to confirm the necessity for this measure, also proposed that other OPEC member nations consent to proportionate decreases in their production quotas in order to make it possible to increase Iraq's production and equalize it with the Islamic republic's production quota.

The above expert added: There is a strong possibility that the issue of raising Iraq's production quota will be resolved during the year 1988.

With regard to the level of oil consumption by the Western industrialized nations, the International Energy Agency, in publishing its monthly statistics, predicted that in the second half of the current year this consumption will reach 35.2 million barrels daily. The average daily consumption of oil in the Western industrialized nations did not exceed 34.8 million barrels last year.

In its report, the International Energy Agency stated: In the second quarter of the current year the average daily production of 13 OPEC member nations will reach 16.9 million barrels daily. Last June OPEC produced 17.3 million barrels of crude oil daily. Like most international energy experts and analysts, this agency's researchers predict that OPEC's daily production will exceed

16.6 million barrels in the second half of the current year, rising to 18 or 18.2 million barrels. The publication THE ECONOMICS OF ENERGY, published by an American research institute, writes concerning the results of OPEC's latest meeting: The short, quiet and fateful OPEC meeting in Vienna was transformed this time into the scene of a victory for the minister of petroleum of the Islamic republic and several other hard-liner oil ministers from the organization's member nations. During this meeting the Islamic republic was able to convey its views to the chair on raising the price of oil by holding down production.

The price of Brent crude oil on the open market at the end of last week reached \$19.45 per barrel. Experts predict that the price of this substance will reach \$20.00 or higher in the next few months.

The economic weekly MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST (London) writes concerning the price of oil on the international market: Among OPEC member nations, Qatar lost more because of the oil price established at last December's meeting in Geneva. The price fixed at this meeting caused the level of Qatar's oil production to drop to 100,000 barrels per day last April. Qatar's production quota was set at 285,000 barrels per day.

9310

CSO: 46400154

OFFICIAL REJECTS DEVALUATION OF RIAL TO BOOST EXPORTS

London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Jul 87 p 8

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] The nation's foreign exchange income in 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] through 1364 [21 March 1985 - 20 March 1986] was 44, 19, and 15 billion dollars, respectively for the three years. This income dropped to less than ten billion dollars in 1365 [21 March 1986 - 20 March 1987]. In view of the fact that the national economy has formed on the basis the use of 12 to 15 billion dollars in foreign exchange, there was no shortage until the year 1365. After 1365, however, in view of the difference between income and minimum needs, the nation's foreign exchange needs were prioritized.

The above statement was made by Mazini, a foreign exchange official at the Central Bank of Iran, during his participation at a one-day conference for directors of companies under the mantle of the Bank of Industry and Mines. Continuing his remarks, he stressed that by expanding the production of equivalent products in the nation's industry, to some extent the vacuum in production capacity can be filled. The Central Bank currency official discussed the Central Bank's established policies to create a foreign exchange balance. He said: Measures taken to create a foreign exchange balance include the use of barter contracts, the use of bi-lateral scheduled contracts, buy-back contracts, and these of local payment mechanisms.

The Central Bank foreign exchange official said: The Central Bank intends to regulate the future rates of foreign exchange for buying and selling in such a way that importers and exporters will be able to cover likely rate fluctuations without suffering losses.

During the meeting of directors of companies under the mantle of the Bank of Industry and Mines, Arami, acting director of this bank, said that in the future the foreign exchange available for the industries under this bank's authority will be reduced. He explained the activities of the Bank of Mines and Industries, adding: We hope that this seminar will be effective in making known the obstacles to exporting, the presentation of solutions, and the coordination of national export policies.

During this conference 'Ali Majedi, deputy minister of economic affairs and finance, gave his views concerning the expansion of non-petroleum exports. He mentioned the reduction of the value of the nation's currency as one method of expanding non-petroleum exports. Officially such a policy has not been adopted. Since the year 1359 [21 March 1980 - 20 March 1981] the country has followed a policy of stabilizing foreign exchange rates.

Floating Rates for Foreign Exchange Produced by Non-Petroleum Exports

The deputy minister of economic affairs and finance added: Since the year 1364 [21 March 1985 – 20 March 1986] we have accepted, for some export policies, a kind of floating rate for foreign exchange produced by non-petroleum exports, and foreign exchange has been allocated in the market for the current year's imports.

'Ali Majedi stressed that the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance is not seeking to increase non-petroleum exports by cutting the value of the rial. Non-petroleum exports must have relative merits, and they must be produced abundantly so that they can establish a place for themselves in world markets. In another part of his talk, he mentioned the increase in the price of export foreign exchange. He said:

If it is a basic goal of the government to tether inflation, it must adopt a policy that neither harms non-petroleum exports nor the stability of prices, or at least one that allows them to influence one another at a relatively acceptable level.

The deputy minister of economic affairs and finance then discussed how fluctuations in the rates of export foreign exchange influence exporters and the market for Iranian goods abroad. He said: We must get control over the rate of export foreign exchange and stabilize it at a level where we can have the highest foreign exchange income with the least volume of export and the least inflationary effect.

9310

CSO: 4640/0165

BUILDING OF SHELTERS NEAR COMPLETION IN OVER 1,000 SCHOOLS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Jun 87 p 3

[Text] At a press conference, a Tehran municipality war affairs official discussed war affairs activities and the construction of shelters in the municipality of Tehran.

Hoseyni, a municipal war affairs official, began by saying: Since early 1365 [21 March 1986 – 20 March 1987], following the visit by the minister of the interior and the mayor to the city of Fatemieh, or Faw, all municipal services for the city of Faw have been transferred to the municipality of Tehran, and Faw has now become a free city. In terms of services and hiring, the city of Faw is administered by Tehran municipality. Each of the mayors of the various parts of Tehran serve as mayor of the city of Fatemieh, or Faw, for a period of three months. Currently the mayor of Tehran's District Seven is serving as mayor of the city of Fatemieh.

He added: In addition to city management, a 20-kilometer road in the southern part of the country is being built with credit of 100 million tomans. In addition, forces from Company One and fire department personnel have been active at the fronts since early in the war. Even now, 15 fire departments have been built by fire department personnel at the southern fronts, which are on 24-hour alert.

He discussed gifts given as aid by municipal personnel during the years 1363 [21 March 1984 – 20 March 1985] to 1365 [21 March 1986 – 20 March 1987]. He said: In addition to the help they have given in the neighborhoods, at the Friday prayers and in other areas, municipal personnel have collected 39,416,284 rials as a special gift which was sent to the fronts. Likewise, 283 pieces of machinery have been sent to the front.

Hoseyni then discussed the municipal personnel who have been sent so far to the fronts of the war of the Truth against Falsehood, including combat, service, support and specialist personnel. He said: We have sent more than 14,403 persons, including 8,000 specialists.

He discussed the service activities that have been carried out in the city of Fatemieh. He said: The municipality collects about eight tons of garbage in the city every day; 13 kilometers of streets in four parts of the city of Faw have been repaired and asphalted. From the month of Mordad last year [23 July – 22 August 1986] to the end of Ordibehesht this year [21 May] about 800 truckloads of asphalt have been poured. All of the streets of Faw have been asphalted by the municipality, and the Faw-Basrah and Um al-Qasr roads have been completely repaired. All of the trees within the city and around the emplacements of combatants are sprayed daily, and ten ablution pools for prayer are operated in this city.

In one location an English class has been established for combatants, and at the Faw Mosque classes on the Koran and the principles of Islam and Islamic thought are taught by the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, the Islamic Propagation Organization and the War Propagation Staff.

He noted: All of the municipality's war families are given services by the war office. In the year 1365 [21 March 1986 - 20 March 1987] these families went to Esfahan, Shiraz and Mashhad. On New Year's Day this year [21 March] about 400 municipal members of martyr's families were hosted for seven days in sacred Mashhad.

Hoseyni then discussed the construction of shelters. He said: The responsibility for all shelter affairs has been transferred to Tehran municipalities. Since the month of Bahman of last year [21 January - 19 February 1986] the supreme shelters council has given priority to schools. Shelters are now being constructed at more than 1,085 schools in Tehran, with more than 80 percent of the work completed. Their total area is 87,753 square meters. In addition to these, public shelters have been built by the municipality along the principal thoroughfares. In some areas the preliminary accounting has been done for tunnels to be used in the construction of shelters.

In conclusion, he added: A quantity of 400,000 gunny sacks has been delivered to municipal areas for transfer to groups and organizations for use in the construction of shelters.

9310

CSO: 4640/0162

BRIEFS

SARKHUN GAS TRANSFER—The National Iranian Gas Company plans to build a gas pipeline and use it to transfer Sarkhun reserves (located near Bandar 'Abbas) to the Sar Cheshmeh copper mines and several small cities in the Province of Kerman. This pipeline is to be 400 kilometers long and 24 inches in diameter. The National Iranian Gas Company will soon invite international companies to submit to its officials their proposals for equipping and building the pipeline. The economic weekly MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST of London reports that the National Iranian Gas Company began extensive operations some time ago to exploit the natural gas reserves at Sarkhun. Petroleum experts have estimated the Sarkhun natural gas reserves at more than five million cubic feet. A private company named the Iran Gas Company is now building a refinery at Sarkhun. The above weekly publication added: In 1988 the National Iranian Gas Company also plans to build a liquefied natural gas production complex on Qashm Island, near the Strait of Hormoz. Currently about 25 million cubic feet of natural gas are extracted from the Qashm Island reserves and transferred by pipeline to the Bandar 'Abbas electrical power plant. The National Iranian Gas Company also plans to carry out a ten-million-dollar project to increase the capacity of the oil refinery on Lavan Island, and to improve the quality of this refinery's output. The Lavan refinery produces 6.667 barrels of gasoline per day. This refinery was built in 1974 by the Yugoslavian company Ingra, and later expanded by the Japanese company Shoyuda. In addition to the plan to expand the Lavan refinery, the National Iranian Gas Company has also made plans to expand the Tabriz oil refinery and increase its capacity. The daily capacity of the Tabriz oil refinery is now 120,000 barrels. [Text] [46400167a London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jul 87 p 8] [London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh] 9310

PARENTS FACE ARREST—The parents of students who have used forged identity cards or certifications of completed military service to leave the country and are now studying at foreign universities and institutions of learning will themselves be arrested if they do not turn their children over to the military service office as soon as possible. Concerning this, the Tehran public prosecutor said: Until they turn their children over to the military service office, parents who have sent their children abroad in this way will themselves be held under arrest. A gang engaged in forging certificates of completed military service led by someone named Manuchehr was recently arrested in Tehran. To date 47 persons in Tehran and other municipalities have been apprehended in connection with this, but a larger number of insiders and persons familiar with the laws and regulations of military service within the military service office and other interested organizations have cooperated with this group. The members of the gang, whom officials are seeking to arrest, would take between 100 and 400 toman from each person eligible for military service and then issue him a certificate of completed military service. In all of the thefts, forgeries of documents, academic credentials, visas, driver's licenses, issuances of fraudulent organization authorizations by the mayor's offices, and other such violations, the primary agents of administrative and social corruption in the Islamic republic have been persons employed to replace the old educated, purged elements in experiments by new officials, on the recommendation of the Islamic societies in the offices and organizations, and by virtue of their Hezbollah affiliation and their beards. [Text] [46400167b London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jul 87 p 15] [London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh] 9310

LASER MISSILES FOR IRAQ—Mir Hoseyn Musavi disclosed that France intends to provide Iraq with a quantity of Super Etendard warplanes. The Islamic republic's prime minister threatened that Iran will make the necessary response. Mir Hoseyn Musavi, who was speaking at a seminar for infantry forces, added: The Iraqi regime has the support of world imperialism. The Soviet Union and France give weapons to Iraq, and they are trying to confine the Islamic revolution within the borders of Iran. Musavi mentioned the siege of the Islamic republic's embassy in Paris, and the expulsion of the regime's diplomats from Britain, and noted that Iranian diplomats have also been attacked in Spain. He connected all of these events to world imperialism and America. At the same time a French newspaper revealed that France will give Iraq some new advanced rockets. The newspaper FIGARO, in its confidential news column, wrote that these rockets will be laser-guided. [Text] [London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Jul 87 p 1] [London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh] 9310

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION RISING—Experts in Tehran have warned that the consumption of alcohol in the home, especially among women and young girls, has risen greatly. These experts have said that many of these alcoholic beverages are made using industrial alcohol, or using primitive or improper methods, and are a health hazard. Currently, in addition to the vodka, cognac and alcoholic beverages made and sold by some Armenians in Tehran, alcoholic beverages made in Iraq also come onto the black market. Bottles of vodka and brandy made in Iraq are readily available in Tehran, and the labels are left on them in many cases. Knowledgeable persons say that alcoholic beverages made in Iraq come through Kordestan and into the country by way of Kermanshah in bottles or gallon-size containers. They are then distributed in Karaj, Qazvin and Tehran. Revolutionary guards and komiteh members in various parts of Kordestan and along the country's western borders have a hand in these Iraqi alcoholic beverage exports, and have created a profitable business for themselves. In addition to Iraqi alcoholic beverages, foreign and Iraqi cigarettes also come the nation's cities by the same route. [Text] [London KEYHAN in Persian 16 Jul 87 p 3] [London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh] 9310

PATIENTS QUEUE FOR SPECIALISTS—In Tehran the people lay out their beds in the halls of government hospitals the night before in order to see a specialist the next morning when the hospital opens. Some people who spent the night on the sidewalk of Sa'di Street and along the walls of Amir 'Alam Hospital said: We went through all of this hardship just to have hospital officials call us and say that the wait is up to five months for a tonsilectomy and up to nine years for other kinds of operations. The situation is exactly the same at the capital city's other hospitals. One must wait up to three years for an appointment at the heart hospital; this is usually for emergency patients, and these may not live for more than 24 hours afterwards. A number of patients who wait on the sidewalks from the afternoon before to get an appointment, in the Iranian and revolutionary style, believe that if the current lamentable situation continues, in the very near future patients will have to wait several days in advance on the sidewalk in order to see a doctor. With this method of obtaining appointments, the buying and selling of places is also commonplace. Those who have more desirable places and become tired of waiting sell their places at astonishing prices. There may be people who take places in the hospital waiting lines for this very purpose. A patient waiting in line told news correspondents: Sometimes a patient, through great effort, gets a hospital bed but the materials for his treatment are not available. For example, the last time I was having heart pains. After a period of effort I found a bed at Sina Hospital and was hospitalized, but there they didn't have the heart machine; therefore they sent me to other university hospitals so that one of them could take care of me. Concerning the inspection of hospitals, the head nurse at a hospital said: These inspectors sometimes visit the hospital, but they drink tea in the hospital president's office, and after talking and telling a few jokes they go back to their offices. [Text] [46400167c London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jul 87 p 15] [London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh] 9310

CSO: 46400167

GOVERNMENT BLAMED FOR ENCOURAGING G.M. SYED, SEPARATISTS

46560101a Karachi JANG in Urdu 17 Jul 87 p 3

[Article by Z.A. Suleri: "Crazy Man!"]

[Excerpts] Khan Iqbal Ahmad Khan, secretary general of Pakistan Muslim League and federal minister of municipal committees, has called G.M. Syed, founder of the Jiey Sind Movement, a crazy man. The basis of this analytic decision are the speeches that G.M. Syed made during his recent visit to India. He told Indian people that Sind desires to separate from Pakistan. In case it fails to get total independence from Pakistan it would join India (probably the old Bombay presidency). God help us! What is happening? There was a time (before the Indian independence) that the most serious problem before the Muslim leadership was the separation of the Muslim majority province [Sind] from the Hindu majority province of Bombay. Not only Muslim League but other parties also presented this issue on their agendas. Even Muslims who were member of the Congress party were in support of separation of Sind from Bombay. In other words, this was demanded by every Muslim in the subcontinent. This was the result of combined efforts of the Muslim League in India that the Government of India Act of 1935 was passed to separate Sind from Bombay. Thus, Sindhi Muslims were freed from the rule of majority Hindus. This division of Sind and Bombay paved the way for division of the subcontinent itself. Sind was also the first Muslim-majority province to demand division of this subcontinent into Hindu and Muslim countries in 1938. This demand later proved to be the foundation for establishing Pakistan! It worries us to notice how our line of thought has changed during the last 50 years. We are regressing toward a demand to make Sind a slave state of Hindus again! Iqbal Ahmad Khan can dismiss G.M. Syed, the a crazy man from his lofty position as the secretary general of the majority party and as a federal minister. The people are shocked to hear G.M Syed's views expressed in India. They wonder about the future of this country. We have also heard that Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan has willed that he should not be buried in a "slave" country like Pakistan and has desired to be buried in a "free" country like Afghanistan! We always thought that the Khan family was faithful to Pakistan and only complained about the lack of a democratic government here. Now it appears that he never accepted the independent status of this country. We have to say that since the last words of dying persons are always respected. His son's pro-Pakistani statements must be some kind of courtesy conversation. People who consider Pakistan a "slave" country and believe that the Soviet occupied Afghanistan is

"free" are the kind of bigots we will never be able to understand.

The main question is why was this anti-national sentiment allowed to prosper for the last 40 years? What kind of protection was provided for it to grow? How did this Jiye Sind become so strong if it was led by a person Iqbal Khan calls a "crazy man?" Anyone discussing politics now calls Sind our number one problem! In Sarhad, the Khan family campaigned again and again for a Pakhtoonistan. Their so-called struggle for freedom was exposed by the developments in Afghanistan. They never could make much progress in their efforts. Jiye Sind movement, however, never lost its momentum. What is more, the Muhajir Qaumi Muhaz [Refugee group] established to demand rights for the Muhajirs also joined forces with the Jiye Sind movement! The atmosphere here has become equivalent to what we had once in East Pakistan. No doubt the party that helped bring Pakistan to existence, the Muslim League, is ruling the whole country. It is, however, too occupied with the administration at high level. It is not much involved with the grassroots people. Perhaps, that is the reason that it does not react appropriately to various national issues. We do not think that it is appropriate to provide international platforms to traitors so they can express anti-national sentiments. Ghaffar Khan and Wali Khan were provided these privileges from the very beginning. Ghaffar Khan used to travel to Delhi to spread poison against Pakistan and his son went as far as England and encouraged librarians there to buy and circulate anti-Pakistani books. G.M. Syed, however, did not get an opportunity to visit abroad and he had continued to do his work from his village. Our government, however, did not want to be unfair! It sent Ghaffar Khan and Wali Khan abroad and did not want the Sindhi leader to be deprived of such a privilege! G.M. Syed was sent as a government representative to visit Ghaffar Khan in India, the center of world news where representatives of news media from all over the world are always present. A word said in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, or Delhi is heard in every corner of the world. Even though G.M. Syed's interview demanding Sind's "independence" was published in the Times of India only, its echo was heard in every corner of the earth. Indian newspapers carried big banners announcing this news. The "crazy man" worked miracles even in his craze! The world news media which always downplays the Sikh movement fearing Indian wrath, always compete with each other in printing bad news against Pakistan. G.M. Syed was a gift from God and the world media became very eloquent in quoting G.M. Syed. The world press had bad mouthed against Pakistan during the riots in East Pakistan and our military action against it. Believe us, thanks to our government and Indian news media, the world now is well aware of G.M. Syed's designs to break up Pakistan. Therefore, it is us who are crazy and not G.M. Syed. We are so helpless that we cannot even protect our nation's honor. God! why cannot these fancy politicians notice the problems Indian Muslims are facing? Cannot they feel sorry for the Sikhs who are suffering so badly? Why are they ready to throw themselves and their blind followers into this fire? Why? There must be some reason for this. We must find that out when Pakistan is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its independence. We must diagnose our sickness and remediate it. We do not want to have fake celebrations. This sickness slowly could eliminate our nation!

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CSO: 4656 /101

FIRM GOVERNMENT ACTION TO CURB VIOLENCE DEMANDED

46560101b Karachi JANG in Urdu 17 Jul 87 p 3

[Editorial: "Assurances Are Not Enough"]

[Text] Various segments of our nation have expressed their reactions to the excessive violence that occurred in Karachi on Tuesday evening. President Zia, who had visited Karachi only a day earlier, decided to return to Karachi and inspect the damages done by the bombings himself. He also visited the surrounding areas and talked to the wounded. He gave assurance to people while talking to the newsmen and asked them to be patient. The president assured us that strict action will be taken against the instigators. He said that all government agencies were alerted to apprehend these troublemakers immediately. The prime minister also has expressed his concern over the calamity in Karachi. He cancelled the remaining part of his trip and is returning home to investigate the situation and take necessary action. The Sind government under the leadership of the governor and the chief minister is also trying to take control of the situation. It has done what it could do. Pakistanis are expressing their grief all over the country. There was total strike in Karachi. The industrial and business groups have demanded that the government be more alert in protecting life and property of citizens. Similar reactions were being expressed in Lahore and other prominent cities. Strikes were being observed to express their concern. All this is understandable and natural. We question whether these steps will rectify this problem. Is it possible to curb violence by these means? We believe that our government must focus all its energy to solve this problem without any further delay.

President Ziaul Haq told newsmen that the bomb blasts in Lahore and Karachi are connected with our Afghanistan policy. He added that the country was passing through a very delicate period and more bomb blasts were expected. The president even said that these incidents were just the beginning and asked people to be brave and be mentally prepared for such violence. When asked if his warning might cause a panic among the people, the president said that he did not want to give them false sense of security by assuring them that there would be no more bomb blasts. People would be greatly disappointed if there were more violence after my assurance that there would be none. He further said that people have to be realistic and take actions that can protect them. We believe that informing people about such dangers is a very good idea. However, warning them is not enough. The government must take strict action in

curbing these incidents. The fact remains that despite all kind of assurances the government had little success in controlling these incidents since they began in Sarhad, Punjab and Sind. It could not even find out the people or groups behind these violent acts. The government must have learned from people's reaction over the Karachi incident that they want results now. If the main cause for these bomb blasts is our Afghan policy, then we must find a way to effectively implement this policy without compromising our principles. Similarly, telling the people that these bloody incidents were just the beginning and they should prepare themselves for further shocks is not enough. People do not expect just to be warned about the future calamities, but be protected from these. This would help reduce the sense of insecurity that Pakistanis are feeling right now. We suggest that the government study the whole situation at high level and implement action using all of its resources in assuring that such incidents do not happen again. God forbid that such incidents happen again. The anger of people will make them reckless and they will cause difficulties for the government. Therefore, the government should consider that its back is against the wall. It should gather all its resources and work toward establishing a peaceful situation so that the people can go back to work feeling secure and protected.

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CORRESPONDENTS REPORT FROM EASTERN FRONT ON FIGHTING

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 5 Jul 87 p 8

[Article by Rohan Gunasekera and Norman Palihawadene]

[Text]

The dull thud of a distance explosion came when we had travelled north about one mile on foot beyond the Pulkunava STF camp on the Amparai-Maha Oya Road. It was followed by another. Seconds later the walkie-talkie in SI Mirando's hand cackled.

"Jumbo One calling Jumbo Two".

Jumbo One was our base camp — the Bakkiella police. Jumbo Two was us — a mobile patrol going towards Arantalawa, where 31 Buddhist monks were massacred recently.

"Jumbo One calling Jumbo Two. We heard the sound of explosions. Is there any trouble?"

"It's alright, Jumbo One," replied SI Mirando, one of the two Sub-Inspectors leading the patrol. "That was probably the new STF batch doing their 'jungle' at Pulkunava".

Communications

Satisfied that we were alright, the radio operator who had been monitoring our communications ever since

we left the Bakkiella Police Station, about 15 miles north of Ampara town, acknowledged our reply.

We were going along what is known here as a "Black Road". Troops using any road which has been designated "Black" by the JOC must always travel on foot. They can't go in vehicles — not unless the road has been pronounced safe by foot patrols first, explained Mangala Silva, the other SI who was in our party. The two other categories were "Grey" and "White". "Grey" meant vehicles could be used but unsafe stretches had to be done on foot. White meant that road was safe for troops in vehicles.

The two jeeps from which we had dismounted a few hundred yards past the newly set up STF camp at Pulkunava came behind our patrol, their engines idling. Ahead two groups of policemen, dressed in camouflage and carrying automatic rifles, filed along either side of the road.

Training

Beyond, a few others combed the adjoining scrub jungle. They were looking for the command wires leading to landmines and grenade necklaces.

These men were from the IOT (In-Service Operational Training) Platoon — policemen given commando training at the newly established Military Training Centres — manning the Bakkiella police station. Others are deployed in police stations and outposts throughout the Amparai District.

As a young constable, who appeared to be still in his teens, explained, the Liberation Tigers' technique was to plant the landmines on the road or in the adjacent scrub jungle and also lay grenade necklaces at "cover points" — bushes or small rocks behind which troops would dive for cover in the event of trouble.

This way they were sure of making a kill. If the

troops managed to escape the landmine blast, these booby traps laid at the only points where they could take cover, could be detonated.

Progress was slow. This was the routine for these men every morning. Sometimes the route was cleared by their counterparts at the Mangala Oya camp further north. Recalled SI Mangala Silva: "A few years ago this road was very unsafe. Terrorists used to lay ambushes at night, stop vehicles and rob the passengers after taking them deep into the jungle, and then hijack the vehicles".

But the regular police patrols had stopped that. It was also more difficult now for the Tigers to lay landmines. Explained SI Mirando: "They need several days at the very least to lay a mine. First they have to infiltrate into the area. Then they have to monitor our movements to choose the best time in which to lay the mine".

Instructions

Along the way we passed trenches and pits dug by Home Guards on the instructions of the police to make it difficult for hijacked vehicles to be taken by the militants eastwards through the dry zone jungle and outcrops of rock to the coast. It is from the Tamil villages along the eastern coast that the Tigers infiltrate into Amparai. From Pudukunava, Kokkadicholai, the main Tiger base in Batticaloa, captured in February, is only about ten miles away, towards the north east.

We also passed the abandoned homes of Sinhalese peasants, now damaged by wild elephants who roam the area at night. The villagers had fled their homes in the remote areas and congregated in more secure places after the recent massacres at Arantalawa, where terrorists sneaked into homes at night, tied up the occupants and taken them out one by one and slashed their necks — all done in silence to avoid raising the alarm.

According to H. G. Michael Perera, a Home Guard chief in Borapola, Arantalawa, almost all the residents fled after the massacres of civilians. The few who remained, mainly because they had nowhere else to go, live in constant fear, and have been provided with underground bunkers near their houses in which they can hide.

The bunkers are a new phenomenon introduced in Amparai after the recent massacres of civilians by the Tamil terrorists. The idea is to provide them with pro-

tection and induce them into staying in their villages. Constructed on the advice and under the supervision of the police, each home in remote villages in Amparai, will have a bunker dug nearby. In the event of an attack village Home Guards have been given sirens to alert the closest police post and also signal the residents to crawl into their bunkers and hide. With the residents in their bunkers, the entrances camouflaged, terrorists would have some difficulty in finding them and the police could also be fairly sure the villagers will not get caught in the cross fire.

Borapola is also one of the villages earmarked for the establishment of "cluster settlements" to provide protection for peasants against terrorist attacks. The aim of these cluster settlements, two more of which have been initially planned for in Thottam and Pottuvil, explained Amparai Superintendent of Police, S. M. H. B. Seneviratne, is to locate the people in one central area, so that the defences can be concentrated there, rather than have the people living scattered over a wide area, as they do now, which would be more difficult to protect. Each settlement will be provided with a police post and talks have now begun for the allocation of land.

The massacres of civilians and monks at Amparai has also led to restrictions on travelling at night. Vehicles are generally discouraged from proceeding beyond the Siyambalanaduwa checkpoint after

nightfall. If they do go they do so at their own risk. It is only in the morning that traffic is officially allowed through.

Our journey on foot ended after we had travelled about four miles. We climbed into the two jeeps as we neared the Mangala Oya STF camp, another of the newly established camps in Amparai, opposite which was a Buddhist temple, Mangalaramaya, whose Chief Incumbent was kidnapped by terrorists early this year. We were in for a surprise here, for waiting for us was a Special Task Force Sub-Inspector who was in the party which had killed "Reegan" — the LTTE leader reportedly responsible for the recent massacres in Amparai.

As the SI explained his party consisted of ten Police Commandos and one man from the National Auxiliary Force (NAF). They had been on a recce to investigate the finding of a dirt track, which "Reegan", who was reported to be in the area, had cleared through the jungle from Unnichchi to Mangala Oya, apparently intending to attack the village. Travelling through the jungle, the SI explained, they had surprised a group of men near a hut at a place called Kopaveli. It was around mid-day. The men had started to run on seeing the advancing party of Police Commandos, who had then opened fire. The exchange lasted for about ten to fifteen minutes. Six of the militants had been killed and four had escaped. They had learned "Reegan" had

died in the encounter only later through the interception of Tiger radio messages.

Recovery

"Reegan" had apparently not been in the area long — probably not more than four or five days, the SI said. But the most interesting find was probably the recovery of a sniper rifle, of a type even the security forces do not have. The weapon was a 7.62 mm single shot carbine which fired armour-piercing ammunition. And it had been assembled locally, according to the Sub-Inspector. He said they had showed it to the former SAS personnel now training the STF and even they had not been able to identify the weapon. The armour piercing ammunition, or "mercury rounds", were probably intended to attack armoured helicopters. The Police Commandos had also found the carcass of an elephant near the temporary LTTE camp.

The Acting Chief Incumbent of Mangalaramaya, the Ven. Dehigama Gnanaratana Thero fears his predecessor, the Ven. Mangala Thero, kidnapped by the militants when he was travelling with the GA earlier this year, will never return. The terrorists, he said, disliked the Chief priest because of his efforts in organising the Sinhalese villagers in the area.

Massacres

He says there were about 340 families in the village but some had left the area after the recent massacres. Life is so difficult for the villagers the priest adds,

that they can't even provide alms to the temple incumbents at times. He is also angry with the Batticaloa GA over the distribution of food stamps. The GA, he complains, distributes the stamps in the Tamil areas first. "We always get them late, and sometimes not at all," he laments. A police escort is now provided the acting chief priest, even when he goes to officiate at funerals.

At the 36th Colony, close to the Bakkiella police station, D. M. Karunaratne, the Home Guard chief says the villagers frequently hear shots and live in fear. Some want to leave, he says, but continue to stay because of the police presence. Like most villages in the area, the colony is guarded by Home Guards who man bunkers at entry points. Residents say there have been a few times when the militants had approached the villages but had been beaten back by the Home Guards.

Only the day before, says a police officer, a group of about 20 militants were spotted in the area. But they disappeared when reinforcements, summoned from the Velaveli police station, arrived at the scene.

The Officer-in-charge of the Central Camp Police Station, a few miles north east of Amparai town, is a newly promoted IP named Jayantha Bambarenda. He has been there for one year and eight months ("I love to stay in the operational areas" — is how he

explains his prolonged stay, when the normal stint of duty is six months). He says he has 13 Sinhalese colonies to protect which are alongside Tamil villages. The police station, like others in Amparai, is surrounded by barbed wire obstacles, trenches, and bunkers.

Protection

Wire nets, rising 20 feet high, have been strung on poles in front of the station. This is to provide protection against rocket propelled grenade (RPG) fire.

Travelling with IP Bambarenda along the few miles from Central Camp to the Chavalakadai police station the IOT escort gets down at every culvert to search for landmines, while the constables search the ground and sometimes the water under the culverts, IP Bambarenda is examining the trees. "Sometimes", he says, "Claymore mines are mounted on trees to catch the unwary foot patrol".

Occasional

Frequent patrolling by troops has reduced the chances the militants have of laying mines, but they do unearth the occasional mine, he says. Troops are more careful when they approach Muslim villages. The LTTE favours planting mines in these areas because they know troops can't afford to retaliate against the surrounding villages for fear of turning the Muslims against them. On the other hand, information the Muslims supply to the troops, make it difficult

for the Tigers to operate in these areas.

Police say they do collect a lot of intelligence from the village people, but it generally depends on who controls the area. As one officer said: "If people know we control a certain area, then they give us information".

Militants

The Chavalakadai police station holds an important position in the area. It stands along the route the militants use to travel from Mandur to Kalmunai. If the police station was not there, explained an officer, the militant groups can move more freely. Only the previous night they had received information of some movements, probably militants moving northwards to avoid an STF operation in Tirukovil begun on Sunday, police said.

Officers say the Tigers operate in the area in small groups, usually consisting of five or six men — at the most ten. And they don't stay in one place, instead they shift their positions constantly.

Residents in the coastal towns, which are predominantly Tamil and Muslim, say the main militant groups operating in Amparai are the LTTE and EROS, after the LTTE "decimated" the TELO and EPRLF and banned the PLOTE.

Cordon and search operations are a common feature in these parts. Says a worried father whose eldest son has just turned fifteen: "This is the time the trouble starts. He (the son) is now liable to be

picked up and taken for questioning.

Residents say large numbers of Tamil youth are kept in the numerous camps in the area for purposes of investigation, to allow the wounds of torture to heal and to ensure the bases are not attacked by the militants. There have been no mortar or RPG attacks on these bases so far.

In the mainly Muslim town of Akkaraipattu, Ahmed Lebbe, a sub-postmaster says the idea of a separate Muslim provincial council is not feasible. "Our geography will not allow it," he says. "That's because you get paddy lands owned by Muslims in predominantly Tamil areas, and Tamil-owned land in the Muslim areas".

If any separation comes, he says, we will have to cross Tamil areas. It does not suit us. "The Tamils and Muslims have been living in mixed communities here for hundreds of years," he adds. "It

is like a pittu".

In Kalmunai, Mr. Kumaralingam, an attorney-at-law, says the relations between the Tamils and Muslims which were strained after last year's riots there, have improved, but fears the coming local government elections

may ignite violence again. The scars of the rioting can still be seen. Houses lie abandoned. Others are only now being repaired.

It remains to be seen whether the elections can be held. Already the LTTE has reportedly put up posters calling for boycott. And some of those planning to campaign have been warned not to participate. The "Boys" residents say are determined to disrupt the by-elections.

BANDARANAIKE INTERVIEWED ON GENERAL ELECTION

Colombo THE ISLAND in English 5 Jul 87 p 7

[Interview with Sri Lanka Freedom Party leader Sirimavo Ratwatte Dias Bandaranaike by Lasantha Wickremetunge]

[Text]

Q: The S.L.F.P. with five other parties have decided to boycott the local elections. Hasn't this led to disenchantment among sitting S.L.F.P. council members?

A: No, there is no disenchantment. Some members were disappointed because they felt the S.L.F.P. could have won most of the councils they represented. Therefore they could have liked to contest. But once the party made the decision to boycott, they fell in line and made the sacrifice for the greater objective of forcing the government to hold a General Election.

Q: You have said the S.L.F.P., will not contest any local elections or by-elections until the Government holds a General Election. How long do you think it will take the six parties to force the Government's hand?

A: It depends on how forceful and effective our campaign will be. We have already seen signs of UNP panic.

President Jayewardene said after the Pettah bomb blast, no elections can be held till terrorism is put down and that a referendum may be held to postpone the elections. But last week he said elections will be held in 1989 on the due date and not before. That shows he has come down a bit from his earlier stand of holding a referendum to now saying a General Election will be held in 1989. So within two months, he has changed his mind.

Further, he has also contradicted his position that a General Election cannot be held because of terrorism by announcing by-elections in the terrorism affected North and East in addition to nationwide local polls. This is virtually a mini-election.

Q: Are the leaders of the six parties prepared to court arrest to win the demand for a General Election?

A: If it becomes necessary, Yes. We will not court arrest but if as I said it becomes necessary,

yes. You cannot carry out a campaign of this nature being frightened of the Government.

Q: The Presidential election is due before the General Election. Will the S.L.F.P. contest it?

A: Yes, we will. The President had earlier hinted, he would have a referendum for this election too. I think the Government realises they will be defeated at an election. That is why they are talking in terms of Referenda. I challenge Mr. Jayewardene to hold a Presidential election, without being frightened of me.

Q: Don't you think an agitational campaign at this stage would further destabilise the country?

A: I don't think so. The only way to get out of this mess the UNP has got us into is by defeating it and electing a new Government which has the support of the people. Can you expect the people to keep suffering by saying don't upset the Government, it has a lot of problems?

Further if the Government can hold mini elections throughout the country and by-elections in the North and East, I don't see any reason why it cannot hold a General Election.

The division within the Government is so wide, they fear to go before the country because there is no unity among them.

The fact that a Minister has resigned over a dispute with the son of a District Minister is a pointer to this.

Q: The L.S.S.P. has said Opposition MPs should also resign from Parliament if the campaign is to agitate for a General Election. Do you see this happening?

A: The LSSP says so because they have no representation in Parliament. We will not do it just because the L.S.S.P. wants us to do. As our campaign gathers momentum and it becomes necessary, the MPs possibly may.

But we must also remember, it is the only forum available to us at the moment. In the light

of all this a decision will be taken at the proper time.

Q: Do you see the six party alliance being extended to a General Election in the event of a General Election?

A: That is a little too early to say. Under the present system of elections, it is not possible to have a no contest pact. Let us wait and see how things develop.

Q: There was much controversy following the Indian airdrop on June 4. As a former Prime Minister whose cornerstone in foreign policy was friendship with India, how do you view the Indian action?

A: Well, our friendship with India has always been very good. But the airdrop is something we have to condemn. The Government is also to blame for bringing about this situation.

But apart from friendship we have to condemn India for violating the sovereignty of a defenceless country.

Would India like if Pakistan dropped food aid in Punjab?

This also showed another face to our problems. We are without friends in the world because of the disastrous foreign policy of the government. We are isolated. Only China criticised India strongly.

Sri Lanka supported Mrs. Margaret Thatcher over the Falklands issue to the consternation of the non-aligned, movement. Only Sri Lanka, Belize and Oman supported Britain. By even Mrs. Thatcher did not come out in support of us.

However, in 1971 we were able to get assistance from India, Pakistan, UK and US. The US supported us even though our foreign policy was not acceptable to them. They respected our foreign policy because we were consistent. China and other countries too supported us. But this Government could not even get a few words of consolation. Even the Israelis did not support this regime.

Q: Do you feel, the Government made the right decision by subsequently allowing the relief ships to come in the name of "good neighbourliness?"

A: The Government should have been consistent on this issue. If they so wanted, the ships should have been allowed to come in at the very beginning. But by allowing the airdrop, the weakness in our defences were shown. It would have been far better to have allowed the ships to come in without later caving in despite government leaders saying our territorial integrity will be protected at all costs.

But let us look at another aspect of this. The Government has allowed India to bring in food for the Jaffna peninsula. The Government is also unloading food stuffs there. That is all well and good. But what about the Sinhala refugees who are in welfare centres due to the terrorists.

What about the Muslim refugees? Why aren't people concerned with giving humanitarian aid to the people of Jaffna, also provide relief to

these people. Nobody is concerned about them. Why are there two sets of standards.

Neither the Government of Sri Lanka or other concerned people are thinking about these people who are suffering because of terrorist massacres.

Q: Can Sri Lanka afford to pursue a non-aligned foreign policy in the wake of an aggressive India.

A: I think only being in the non-aligned movement will help us.

In any case, I do not think any country will want to sign a defence pact with us.

When the late Mr. Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan came to Sri Lanka before the non-aligned conference, he told me that even being a member of SEATO did not help him during the East-West Pakistan war.

This was when India intervened on behalf of East Pakistan.

Even if a big country signs a defence pact with a small country, you cannot depend on them to sincerely come to our aid in the event of a crisis.

But the question of India being aggressive towards Sri Lanka has arisen only because of the confrontationist attitude towards India by the UNP Government.

When we were in office, this threat was never there. It is the UNP Government that has brought upon this insecurity into the lives of our people. This alone is sufficient grounds for the Government to resign and remove the tension that is building up.

Q: How does the S.L.F.F. hope to repair the damage in Indo-Lanka relations?

A: We don't need much of an effort on this score. Relations between India and us have always been very cordial. We hold the same view in foreign policy.

As an initial step, we will remove irritants to India. I don't think this will pose us any problems.

Q: If your call for a General Election is met and the S.L.F.F. forms a Government how do you hope to settle the ethnic problem?

A: It is important to use India as a mediator. This Government invited India as a mediator and now India is involved vis-a-vis terrorists in Tamil Nadu.

You have to communicate to the Tamil groups through India.

Therefore India's assistance is necessary to find a solution to the problem.

First and foremost, relations with India have to be improved. This will not happen as long as the UNP is in office because they have been antagonising India since 1977 and I don't think India trusts them.

Further, the negotiating process should not be limited to the LTTE or Prabhakaran. All Tamil groups must be spoken to. There are over 1.3 million Tamils. Can anyone legitimately say Prabhakaran represents them all.

If the Government is to negotiate only with Prabhakaran, then the Tamils must say they accept him as their leader. This can be done only if a referendum is held among Tamils to ask if they accept Prabhakaran as their leader. Otherwise, the Government must talk to all. That is what we will do.

The Tamils will be given a chance to elect their representatives. Whoever is elected can negotiate with the Government in office. That is what this Government is now planning to do. We have been saying this right along. I am glad the Government has now come around to our way of thinking.

Q: Do you think, SLFP giving less autonomy than what the UNP has already offered will be acceptable to the Tamil groups?

A: The basic problem is the Tamil groups not trusting the leadership of this Government. It maybe their demands are high because of the UNP is in office and they don't expect the government to honour any agreement reached.

But with a new government and a fresh approach their attitudes could change.

If they stick to their demands we will persuade them to be more reasonable.

Q: In your view, will the sole issue at next Presidential or General Election, whichever is held first, be the ethnic problem.

A: I don't think it will be any means be the sole issue. There are so many economic issues. Even this ethnic problem to a great deal is economic. The Finance Minister himself has said Sri Lanka is among the 20 poorest countries in the world. This situation came about after 1979. This is with all the aid the government boast about.

During our Government we were free to go to the North. Can the President or Prime Minister go there now? At that time, it was a few young fellows who were trying to create some unrest. They did not have the support of the masses.

They did not have this support because the people were self sufficient and busy with making a living.

But with the advent of the UNP their economic situation deteriorated. The people of Jaffna then began supporting the more militant element.

Even the leader of EROS Ratnasabapathy has said the basic problem was economic.

Q: The Government boasts that despite all the problems it has got aid from abroad that no

other Government has been able to muster. Can the S.L.F.P. keep to this record.

A: They are getting aid because they agree to every dictate of the World Bank. They want to privatise everything. The Government is even going to privatise public companies which are making profits like the Distilleries Corporation. If we also agree to dance to every tune, the World bank plays unlimited aid can be obtained.

Further, most of the aid the Government is getting is project aid. Now to use this aid one must have the local component. Only then can this money pledged be utilised. The Government will not be able to find the local component because the national income is being spent to fight the war.

Further, if we have got large amounts of aid during the past 10 years, why are we still one of the 20 poorest contries in the world. If is the mismanagement, colossal waste and corruption that has brought us to this economic situation. So, I don't think they can boast legitimately.

Q: You have called for an International Monitoring Committee to monitor the next General Election. Isn't this providing ground for foreign interference in our internal affairs?

A: There is precedent for this. President Aquino did it. We have grounds for asking for such a Monitoring Committee. The Election Commissioner's report on the referendum alone is sufficient.

In fact, I have already sent this report to leaders of the democratic world with covering letters. Acknowledgement have already been received from the leaders of Canada, Australia, West Germany, U.K. and several others. We have also written to the International commission of Jurists, Amnesty International, Human Rights Commission and several other organisations as well.

In addition to the referendum, the manner in which by-elections were conducted, the DDC elections in Jaffna also stand testimony to the way in which the Government conducted the polls.

Further, if the true wishes of the people are to be given expression, then a free election has to be held.

Therefore, we will have to ask for a Monitoring Committee. The Government will try to block it. But we will see. I do not think it amounts to interference, because we are protecting the interests and wishes of the greater public.

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