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13 June 1983

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

No. 2767

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

FRANCE CONDEMNS TURKISH GOVERNMENT FOR 'GENOCIDE'

Cheysson's Statements at National Assembly

Paris LE MONDE in French 2 May 83 p 8

[Text] Armenian terrorism reminds us periodically of the genocide in 1915. This terrorism is maintained mainly by the refusal of the Turkish authorities to recognize their responsibilities in the extermination of more than a million Armenians. This is what Claude Cheysson regretted recently, on being questioned at the National Assembly on the occasion of the anniversary of the 1915 massacre: "The Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire were the victims of genocide which France condemns; the facts are the facts and it is not in anyone's power to change them or to have them forgotten; the French government deplores the position of the Turkish government, which continues to consider these events as the repression of a revolt following the offensive of the Russian Army." The minister of foreign relations added, "however, the present Turkish government cannot be held responsible for the tragedy which the Armenian people lived through more than 60 years ago. We cannot allow present generations to be blamed for old crimes."

As will be possible to confirm in reading the article of Adnan Bulak, Turkish ambassador to France, Ankara's position has hardly changed. This is all the more reason to emphasize the recent proposal of two Armenian organizations in the United States, the Armenian Educational Council and the Mamigonian Foundation, whose directors Messrs Parseghian and Gueriguian have just written to General Evren to condemn the assassination of Turkish diplomats and to ask him to accept the organization of a mixed team of historians which would be instructed "to better determine the historic facts" of the 1915 massacre.

Article by Turkish Envoy

Paris LE MONDE in French 2 May 83 p 8

[Article by Adnan Bulak, Turkish ambassador to France]

[Text] The increase of acts of violence and terrorism in recent decades has become a source of concern for all the international community, and especially for the western world whose security and stability is seriously threatened.

At a time when the struggle against this scourge requires determined and effective international cooperation, certain countries, because of indifference for political reasons, continue to tolerate the use of their territory as a base for terrorist activities or allow propaganda operations supporting terrorism. It is not surprising that these very countries are becoming more and more the target of international terrorism.

International terrorism, which is expressed in several forms, aims at Turkey through attacks carried out against its diplomats. Assassinations organized and committed by Armenian terrorism have killed more than 30 Turkish diplomats and nationals in recent years. In France alone, six Turkish diplomats have been victims of Armenian terrorism. In order to justify their criminal actions, the perpetrators of these assassinations are doing their utmost to orchestrate a campaign of racist propaganda based on a gross distortion of historical facts.

History cannot be changed by propaganda. However, since the historical facts are not well known and in addition are misrepresented extensively and systematically in France, it would be useful to recall the main events, which Armenian propaganda attempts to falsify.

The "Armenian affair" appeared on the agenda of the imperialist powers such as France, Great Britain and Czarist Russia toward the end of the 19th century. This period corresponds to the time when the Ottoman Empire is only a weakened country on the verge of breaking up and an easy prey for those who want to hasten its fall. Consequently, it is desirable to fit the "Armenian affair" in this historic context, designated as "an oriental question" by the western world.

Thus the colonialist powers used the Ottoman Armenians as an instrument of their policy, and for this purpose, the population of Armenian origin was stirred up, encouraged, armed and even trained and equipped for uprisings. As a result of this

continuous agitation, Armenian terrorist committees are organized, starting in 1880 and separatist activities expand in this community to lead to revolts, the first of which breaks out in Erzurum in 1890. It was followed the same year by riots in Istanbul, then at Kayseri, Yozgat, Corum and Merzifon in 1892-1893 and at Sassoun in 1894. Then there followed the Zeytun revolt, the attack on the Turkish Government in 1895, the Van uprising and the occupation of the Ottoman Bank in Istanbul in 1896, the second riot in Sassoun in 1903, the attempted assassination of Sultan Abdulhamid II in 1905 and the Adana revolt in 1909. In this way ended a harmonious coexistence between Turks and Armenians which had lasted several centuries and which had led to the Armenian Ottoman people being characterized as a "loyal and favorite community."

The Armenian terrorist committees established in Europe and America have never ceased describing these riots and all these revolts as so many Turkish massacres of Armenians. This type of propaganda aroused considerable emotion in Christian public opinion in the western world.

The Russo-Armenian Alliance

The missionaries, the consular authorities and various institutions of the great powers in Anatolia played an important part in spreading this propaganda through the press, thus serving the interests of the governments who wanted to arouse public opinion against the Turks, to facilitate the partition of the Ottoman Empire.

The entrance of the Ottomans in the First World War on 1 November 1914 was considered by the Armenian terrorist committees as the most favorable and long awaited occasion for the outbreak of a general revolt. This is admitted most clearly by Mrs Louise Nalbandian, an Armenian academicion: "The most favorable moment for starting the general revolt which would see the realization of immediate objectives was to be the moment when Turkey would be involved in war."¹

Thus the Ottoman forces which fought on six fronts, were exposed to attacks by Armenian bands in the eastern part of the country. When Russian troops penetrated Ottoman territory, beginning in 1915, they were guided by units made up of Armenian volunteers, of Russian or Ottoman origin, whom Armenian deserters from the Ottoman Army came to join. There is reason to point out that among the commanders of these units was also Karekine Pasdermadjian alias Armem Garbo, former deputy in the Ottoman Parliament.

Several documents exist which confirm this Russo-Armenian collaboration. For example, in his letter of 30 November 1918 addressed to Stephen Pichon, French minister of foreign affairs, Bogos Nobar Pacha, chief of the Armenian National Delegation to the Peace Conference in Paris declared that "the Armenians, since the beginning of the war, have been de facto belligerents.. since at the price of the greatest sacrifices and sufferings endured because of unwavering devotion to the cause of the Entente, they fought beside the allies on all fronts."²

The Armenian rebels, taking advantage of the circumstances of the war, indulged, on the other hand, in large scale massacres of the civilian Turkish population in eastern Anatolia, attacked the rear of the Ottoman troops and destroyed roads and bridges to ruin the combat effectiveness of the Ottoman Army. Two other former deputies, Hamparsoum Boyadgian alias Mourad and Papazian, acted as rebel leaders.

Following several appeals for order and warnings which did not receive any favorable response from the patriarchate and distinguished Armenians, the Ottoman government finally decided to react. This decision consisted in moving the Armenians living near the battlefields toward areas free from hostilities, such as Syria which, at that time, was part of the Ottoman Empire. It must be admitted that it involved a measure which many countries had already resorted to in the past against their own minorities.

Special instructions from the highest authorities in the empire had been given that the life and property of the Armenians be effectively protected. The Ottoman Council of Ministers decreed, in fact: "When these Armenian residents of the above mentioned towns and villages are moved to their new places of residence and more especially en route, one will look out for their welfare, the protection of their lives and their property..."³

It specified, moreover, "...You will see to it that they receive food and everything which they need, the various expenses will be charged to the budget provided for the emigres...The camps intended for the displaced persons will be regularly guarded: it will be advisable to look out for their welfare and take the necessary measures to assure order and security."⁴

No Deliberate Intention of Genocide

According to Armenian assertions, this movement and the events which took place cost the lives of 1.5 million Armenians. It is quite an absurd estimate because at the time the number of

Armenians living in the entire Ottoman Empire was hardly 1.3 million.⁵ Out of this number, about half a million Armenians living in eastern Turkey started to head for Russia as soon as hostilities began in that area. According to the Ottoman documents, the displaced persons numbered about 700,000 persons, of which a considerable part went afterward to Europe and the United States; after the war, 100,000 Armenians remained in Turkey. Certainly there were losses of human life on both sides. But they are explained especially by the battles which created havoc, by the activities of terrorist groups, by the clashes which took place between the two communities and especially by the famine and the epidemics which struck all the people of the area without distinction; a fact which is completely ignored, on the other hand, is the number of Turks who were killed during this period. Now it amounted to 2 million people.

However, it did not involve at all a deliberate intention which they insist today in attributing to the Ottomans, as if, one morning in 1915, they woke up unexpectedly, impelled by a sudden desire to annihilate this loyal community, which was so pampered and protected for centuries.

Several existing historic documents refute the assertions of the Armenian propaganda. It is time that one note this in France where this propaganda has free rein. It is also strange that certain important political personalities made official statements based on this propaganda. Historic research in progress will soon explain even more these events which are presented as "Armenian genocide." French archives and libraries are overflowing with collections and documents capable of throwing light on this "affair."

It should be pointed out that in all the areas where they have lived, the Armenians have only been a small minority. They were only in the majority in part of the Caucasus, where they ended up by creating a state, which signed a treaty of peace with Turkey recognizing its present frontiers and afterward joined the USSR.

The Treaty of Lausanne which the Republic of Turkey signed on 24 January 1923 with the Entente countries does not have any provision about the Armenians. This treaty, where France is one of the main signers, confirms Turkey's present frontiers and consequently clearly classifies the "Armenian record" both on the historical as well as legal level.

Everything above reveals unquestionably that, in recent centuries, the Armenians have been used in the service of foreign interests

in exchange for promises which have never been kept. Even today, there are circles which are interested in destabilizing Turkey and which still use Armenian terrorism for this purpose.

Insane Armenian terrorism cannot be justified either in the past or by today's moral standards. It is an inadmissible challenge to human values which our civilization is trying to defend. The only result of Armenian terrorism, accompanied by outrageous propaganda, can only be a long list of innocent victims.

FOOTNOTES

1. Nalbandian Louise, Armenian Revolutionary Movement, University of California Press, 1963, p 111.
2. Archives of French foreign affairs, Levant (1918-1929), Armenia, Vol. L. Folio 294-295.
3. Decrees of the Council of Ministers, Archives of the presidency of the council, Istanbul. Report of the Council of Ministers. Vol. 198, Decree 1331/163, mid-May 1915.
4. Archives of the Foreign Office, National Archives, London, 371/9158/E 5523.
5. The annual register (London): 1,056,000, official Ottoman census of 1914: 1,295,000 Encyclopedia Britannica (1910): 1,500,000 The French White Book: 1,555,000.

Appeal to General Evren

Paris LE MONDE in French 2 May 83 p 8

/Letter from Messrs Parseghian and Gueriguian on 3 April 1983 to General Evren/

/Text/ Certain events in which Turkey was involved in the First World War continue to cast an inauspicious shadow on Turco-Armenian relations, inciting to terrorism, in defiance of the rights of man and to unacceptable compromises with historical fact. Certainly the first decades of our century have been difficult for Turkey, which, in addition to its participation in the world war, was forced to overthrow the sultanate and modernize the state. It is in this light that we must try to understand the excesses of the period.

No doubt you know that these events have severely affected Turkish citizens of Armenian origin who have been mainly removed from

their ancestral homes. From the Armenian point of view, that was accompanied by the deportation and massacre ordered by the committee for unity and progress. The proof exists that many Turkish citizens resisted the application of this decree, sometimes to their detriment. Likewise, the postwar Turkish government set up court martials to condemn to death the leaders of those who had converted the country into a "slaughter house," with the resulting virtual elimination of one of Turkey's most active minorities. Due, no doubt, to the special political nature of the period, the Nationalist Party unfortunately believed it was desirable to repudiate this government's decision, even going so far as to deny the events as well as the historic presence of Armenians in this part of the world.

This policy of denial seems to continue until today. It is even suggested that the Armenians were the aggressors and not the main and for the most part innocent victims of events. You can quite understand that such historic distortions can lead some Armenians to killing Turkish officials, as the only means of attracting world attention to this problem. However, it is clear that terrorism in itself is not a practical solution.

Likewise, we do not accept the loss of innocent Turkish lives, no more than we can accept the unjustified loss of all human life. On the other hand, the civilized world cannot allow the continuation of this flagrant injustice which impels young Armenians to assassination, at the expense of their future, their freedom and even their life.

The gulf of misunderstanding between Turks and Armenians is affecting world peace. The cause of this misunderstanding resides, in part, in a difference of historic perception. But since we have many documents on the period in question, a certain number of trustworthy persons, among them Turks as well as Armenians, we think it is a propitious moment for an objective re-evaluation of Turkish, French, American, British and other documents, to try to better determine the facts of this period of history. This re-evaluation, undertaken by Turkish, Armenian and other historians, will help to close the gap of misunderstanding which separates us, as well as establish a basis for mutual respect. Certainly every historical revelation, risks reopening old wounds; nevertheless, that is the price which must be paid to try and solve every knotty problem. It is clear that such an effort of goodwill on your part can only enhance the prestige of Turkey and your government. It also seems to us that the Turkey of today can allow itself to participate in such an undertaking, because of the success of your initial efforts attempting to establish solid bases for Turkey's political and economic stability. We are convinced that such a study cannot be inaugurated without your approval and support.

Consequently, we request you to agree to open your own archives and allow the undertaking of the collaborative historical study which we propose. Points of procedure would be settled by mutual agreement, as soon as we receive a positive answer on your part. This effort would be supported by voluntary private contributions.

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CYPRriot PAPER DISCUSSES ARMENIAN ARMED OPERATIONS

Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 19 Apr 83 p 4

[Article from Nicosia APOYEVMATINI]

[Text] "The pashas organized the evictions and the massacres; they burned the babies with gasoline; they raped the women and the girls before the eyes of their kin; they kidnaped young women; they seized and looted the Armenians' properties; and they exiled their owners to Mosul in miserable conditions. They loaded thousands of innocent people on boats and drowned them in the sea. They sent the young women to houses of ill-repute. The Armenians suffered miserable conditions the like of which is not written in the history of any nation."

These words belong to Kemal Ataturk. He spoke them on 30 January 1920 while condemning the leaders of Ottoman Turkey. These words are taken from an American daily.

We do not know whether it is by coincidence or by design that the news agencies devote very little time, other than dry reporting, to the Armenian question. They talk about the Armenian question only with reference to acts committed by struggling Armenians in order to shed light on them.

On 9 March, two Armenian young men risked their own lives and shot the Turkish ambassador in Belgrade who died two days later. The Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide claimed responsibility for the assassination.

The Belgrade operation is the 16th attack undertaken by the Justice Commandos against Turkish diplomats since their adoption of the strategy of armed liberation struggle.

Below is the list of terrorist attacks undertaken so far by the Justice Commandos against Turkish diplomats:

Vienna on 22 October 1975; Paris on 24 October 1975; Vatican on 9 June 1977; Madrid on 2 June 1978; the Hague on 12 October 1979; Paris on 22 December 1979; Vatican on 17 April 1980; Sydney on 17 December 1981; Copenhagen on 3 April 1981; Los Angeles on 28 January 1982; Bern on 6 February 1982; Boston on 4 May 1982; Lisbon on 7 June 1982; Ottawa on 27 August 1982; Bulgaria on 10 September 1982; and Belgrade on 9 March 1983.

The Justice Commandos are not related to the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia, which is also made up of Armenian fighters who have chosen the path of armed struggle, but who also attack non-Turkish targets.

The Justice Commandos have attacked Turkish targets in Europe, America and Australia with perfect success.

The historically proven Armenian genocide took place in 1915 during which more than 1.5 million Armenians were put to the sword by the Turks. Vengeful fighters from the Armenian Revolutionary Federation assassinated Turkish leaders responsible for the genocide 5-6 years later.

On 15 March 1921, Tehlirian assassinated in Berlin Talat Pasha who was Turkey's interior minister in 1915.

On 6 December 1921, Shiragian assassinated in Rome Said Halim Pasha who was Turkey's prime minister in 1915.

These acts continued until 1922, and only about 50 years later came the Vienna assassination in 1975. Today, Armenians dispersed all over the world have begun to act. For many years the Armenians vainly tried, by peaceful means, to make themselves heard by the great powers with an eye to starting a form of dialog with the Turkish government. But the present arrangement of international forces does not favor such a proposal.

In the face of this indifference by the international community, the Armenians decided to fight.

In that respect, the communique issued by the Justice Commandos on 24 December 1982 and addressed to all the governments of the world and the international press and public opinion is very expressive. Before taking a look at the main points of this communique, it is worth mentioning two other events.

The Istanbul daily TERCUMAN says in its 20 October 1982 issue:

"The CIA has pledged to play a major role in the measures taken with the aim of curbing Armenian terrorism. It was with that goal in mind that CIA Director William Casey visited Ankara where, during his talks, Turkish government officials asked the CIA to take immediate steps on this issue, but Casey asked them to be patient for some time."

TERCUMAN also reports that the FBI has formed a special division to fight Armenian terrorism.

Two months after this report by TERCUMAN and 4 days after the Justice Commandos issued their communique, the following incident occurred:

On 29 December 1982, Apraham Ashjian, a member of the Lebanese Central Committee of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (established 1890), was kidnaped by strangers.

Investigations in connection with the kidnaping have shown to the Armenians that this inhuman act is the result of a devilish plot organized by the Turkish government and its secret agencies with the aim of strangling the struggle of the Armenian people to win justice, freedom and independence. This unorthodox style of warfare adopted by the Turkish government simply serves to aggravate the situation.

The recent terrorist attack in Belgrade shows that the Armenians are determined to fight and to overcome every difficulty. No matter how objectionable the use of crude force may be, we must not forget the speech made by Henri (Nocker), the president of France's human rights commission, during the trial of Hrair Kilinjian (22 January 1982): "Between 1939 and 1945 I committed many acts against the forces occupying France for which the French people honored me with medals. I am opposed to the use of arms when it is aimed against the Republic, but I cannot say the same thing about a nation that has resorted to arms in desperation after employing peaceful means for many years to solve its legitimate cause. The use of crude force for this purpose is clearly legitimate."

Returning to the communique of the Justice Commandos, it focuses on the passive policy of the great powers--the United States and Western countries in particular--which has forced the Armenians to resort to arms. It is worth quoting the fundamental thesis of the communique:

"Our disappointment and outrage reach their peak in the face of that greatest disregard and abandonment, when all the great powers of the world, but mainly and mostly the United States, fully support the Turkish fascist dictatorship economically, morally and politically in the name of their obscene strategic interests. It is those strategic interests for which the basic human and national rights of the Armenian, Kurdish and even Turkish people are victimized."

It is from this perspective that the Armenians frame their cooperation with other nations and plot their path of struggle.

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CSO: 4605/74

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

1915 MASSACRE COMMEMORATED IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

In Argentina

Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 3 May 83 p.1

[Text] Our comrades report from Buenos Aires:

Jose Antonio (Gueriara), the well-known Spanish journalist and the director of the Madrid daily PUEBLO, arrived by special invitation in Buenos Aires on 21 April. His participation in Martyrs' Day ceremonies aroused great interest among the local press, television and radio circles.

On 22 April, (Gueriara) held a press conference, sponsored by the Armenian Cause Commission, at the Panamerican Hotel. The local television and press extensively reported (Gueriara's) pro-Armenian comments which emphasized in particular the legitimacy of the Armenian cause and the need to solve it.

On 23 April, major local papers carried a one-page advertisement dedicated to the 68th anniversary of the Great Genocide and signed by numerous organizations and individuals.

The same day, in the evening, a youth rally was held where Comrade Osvaldo Jerejian and Jose (Gueriara) spoke. A night of vigil followed in the Mother Church. Later, the same night, 50 youths from the Youth Association of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation [ARF] put up anti-Turkish posters in the main squares and thoroughfares of Buenos Aires. Two youths were arrested, but later they were released.

On 24 April, after religious ceremonies, a political rally was held at the Opera theater. The speakers at the rally included former Prime Minister Dr (Lescano), author (Capdevila), Deputy President of the Bar Association Dr (Natale), former President of the Congress Dr Allende and Comrade Alberto Jerejian.

The march, with more than 5,000 participants, began at 1:30 pm. At 2:30 pm, wreaths were laid at the San Martin Memorial where Dr Bayramian spoke.

The local press, television and radio extensively reported the events and demonstrations of 24 April.

In Canada

Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 29 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] Our comrades report from Canada:

Between 21 and 24 April, numerous events were held in various cities of Canada on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the April Genocide.

On 24 April, a political gathering took place near the parliament in Ottawa with the participation of around 2,500 individuals from various parts of Canada.

During the gathering, speeches were made in French, English and Armenian. The Toronto symphony orchestra also took part in the gathering and played Armenian and Canadian songs. Representatives of the Armenian Cause Commission held interviews with attending journalists and gave them specially-prepared information packets. The gathering passed a resolution to be delivered to the Turkish embassy.

At 2:30 pm, the participants in the meeting began a demonstration march toward the Turkish embassy. The march was led by members of the [ARF] Youth Association who carried a banner saying: "Our patience has run out." A band played music during the entire course of the demonstration.

The demonstrators reached the Turkish embassy at 3:30 pm. A three-man delegation tried to deliver a memorandum to the embassy but was barred from doing so. Speeches in Armenian, English and French were made in front of the embassy. Also, the Turkish flag and effigies were set on fire. Heavy security measures were in effect, but there were no incidents.

The press and the media extensively reported this event which lasted for about an hour.

On 21 April, the Armenian Cause Commission sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. The same day, Quebec's parliament raised the issue of genocide and paid homage to the Armenian martyrs. These acts were the result of the efforts of the Armenian Cause Commission.

On 23 and 24 April, religious and other activities were also held in Toronto, Cambridge, St Catherine's, Hamilton, Windsor and Vancouver. Some of the activities were attended by government officials some of whom also spoke on the occasion.

In the United States

Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 27 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] Our comrades report from Los Angeles:

More than 13,000 Armenians took part in the ceremony commemorating the Armenian genocide held at the Martyrs Memorial in Montebello and organized by a special committee which represented the three Armenian parties and which was formed on the occasion of 24 April.

The ceremony was attended by government and political figures, in particular, California Governor George Deukmejian, congressmen Tony Kohl and Henry Waxman, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, state Senator David Robert and Los Angeles City Hall officials.

In addition to speeches by Armenian party representatives, Governor Deukmejian also gave a speech in which he referred to the crime of genocide and said that few parents of the present Armenian generation--including his and his spouse's parents--were spared "the crimes, the ferocity and the terror that marks one of the darkest pages of our history." He expressed outrage at the fact that for decades "the acts committed against our nation have been left unanswered and disregarded." He also announced a bill which proposes making 24 April a Day of Remembrance. He said: "Let us remember this day not only in order to recall the memory of lost loved ones but also to implement their legacy of living freely and in peace for which they lost their lives."

Let us note that flags on government buildings in almost all parts of California were flown at half mast on Thursday by Governor Deukmejian's orders.

Ceremonies commemorating the April Genocide were also held in Glendale, Hollywood Pasadena and San Francisco.

Local radio and television stations and the press extensively reported the ceremonies and the speeches made.

In Lebanon

Beirut ZARTONK in Armenian 27 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] The Lebanese-Armenian community, led by its three political parties and religious leaders and with the participation of its youth and cultural associations, paid homage to the memory of the victims of the genocide perpetrated by Turkey against the Armenian nation in public religious and secular ceremonies while reasserting its demands for the return of the occupied Armenian lands and reparations for its millions of victims.

Church Ceremonies and Vigils

Following the Holy Mass held in the Bourj Hammoud municipal stadium at 4:00 pm on 23 April, a night of vigil, organized by the TMM [expansion unknown] Student Association and the M. Portukalian Club of RAG [Democratic Liberal Party], began at the Tekeyan Center at 9:00 pm. The event, which was filled with lectures, readings and Armenian documentary films, was marked by a political question and answer session during which Comrade Vache Ghazarian responded to all the questions asked by the audience, most of which were about RAG's stance with respect to the Armenian cause. The vigil continued until 6:00 am, providing our youth with an opportunity for self-renewal.

About the same time, another event of vigil, filled with church music and talks, was taking place in front of the Martyrs' Memorial at the Mother Church in Antilias.

Public Rally

A public rally organized by the three Armenian political parties, the most important of this year's commemorative events, began in the courtyard of the Armenian Catholic Mesrobian School at 11:30 am on 24 April.

The large number of participants included leaders of Armenian parties and journalists from foreign papers, especially since Arabic and French language papers had previously provided extensive space to statements issued by the three Armenian parties.

A large screen at the back of the podium portrayed Mount Ararat and Mount Masis; a flower rising from the earth across from them symbolized the determination of the Armenian nation to survive.

Following the Lebanese national anthem, Hunchak Social Democratic Party representative Manuel Atamian rose to the podium and gave a historical account of the expansionist policy of Ottoman Turkey. Referring to the fact that the Armenian genocide was a premeditated crime, Atamian emphasized the need to expose Turkey's distortions of historical facts and to elucidate the general public.

The next speaker was RAG's representative, Comrade Hagop Kuyumjian. In his speech --which we will report separately in a future issue--Comrade Kuyumjian emphasized the importance of Armenian culture as a means of survival and stated that RAG is determined to continue pursuing the Armenian cause using diplomatic and legal means.

The last speaker was Armenian Revolutionary Federation representative Vache Prudian who talked about Turkey's reaction and the efforts being made in pursuing the Armenian cause in the light of recent events.

It was noteworthy that all three speakers emphatically underlined the law-abiding stance of the Lebanese-Armenian community and its support for the Lebanese government's efforts to consolidate its sovereignty over this country.

At the conclusion of the rally, a few young men burned a Turkish flag at the entrance of the courtyard.

Gathering at Vahan Tekeyan School

The same day, another gathering, organized by the Baykar Club of RAG, was held at the Barsamian Hall of Vahan Tekeyan School at 5:00 pm. The keynote speaker at this gathering was Comrade Hagop Avedikian. The gathering, which also included a cultural program, was marked by its realistic national-political content.

Rally in Tripoli

Another public rally, organized by the local branches of the three Armenian parties, was held at the National School in the capital of northern Lebanon, [Tripoli]. Representatives from all three parties gave speeches emphasizing the continuing Turkish genocide against the Armenian people. RAG was represented by Comrade Adruni Madurian who impressed the audience with his healthy evaluations.

Local Press

The local Arabic and French language press provided extensive space on 23, 24 and 25 April to the April commemorative events, interviews, reports and pictures and published the joint statement issued by the three Armenian parties. Extensive coverage was provided in particular by NAHAR, AMAL, REVEILLE, L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, ANWAR and SAFIR, which also reported similar events held in Paris, Marseilles, Athens, Jerusalem and Tehran.

Television

The Lebanese state television carried a 2-minute report in its evening newscast on 23 April about the Holy Mass held in the Bourj Hammoud municipal stadium. However, the television maintained a stony silence about the events of 24 April.

9588

CSO: 4605/76

CONGRESSMEN ASK STATE DEPARTMENT TO PURSUE ASHJIAN'S CASE

Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 23 Apr 83 p 3

[Text] In an official reply to the letter by the Armenian Cause Commission in connection with the kidnaping of Comrade Apraham Ashjian, the U.S. State Department has stated that its information about the kidnaping is gathered only "from press reports."

The Armenian Cause Commission of the Western United States had written to Secretary of State George Shultz and had requested from the State Department to launch an official investigation in connection with the kidnaping and to contribute to the efforts made in that direction by getting in touch with the Turkish and Lebanese governments.

Although the State Department has been told by congressmen and the Armenian Cause Commission about acts of kidnaping and human rights violations undertaken by the Turkish government against Armenian organizations, the department maintains that they "have no evidence showing that the Turkish government is involved in acts aimed against [Armenian] organizations."

The Armenian Cause Commission believes that this stance of the State Department, which refuses to see facts and evidence, is politically motivated and that it encourages the creation of an atmosphere where other terrorist acts may occur.

The Armenian Cause Commission is, therefore, not satisfied with the unconvincing State Department letter which obviously distorts facts.

Given that the United States maintains a military presence in Lebanon and that it has a strong capability to gather information in that region, the Armenian Cause Commission is convinced that the U.S. government has more information about this issue than what it states in the State Department letter.

In response to this vague reply by the State Department, congressmen Mervyn Dymally, Tom Lantos and Mel Levin, who are all members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, sent a letter to the State Department requesting an official investigation to determine the whereabouts of Comrade Apraham Ashjian and to take appropriate steps against those responsible for the incident.

In a similar attempt, California Assemblyman Howard Berman wrote a letter which expresses the hope for positive steps by the U.S. government and demands that "the U.S. government employ all the means available to pursue this case and to insure the safe return of Ashjian."

The Armenian Cause Commission will closely pursue the issue of the kidnaping of Comrade Apraham Ashjian.

9588

CSO: 4605/75

ACTIVITIES OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION DISCUSSED

Rabat ALMAGHRIB in French 27 Apr 83 pp 1-2

[Speech by Habib Chatti, OCI secretary general, entitled: "The Ummah and Duty," delivered for the 16th anniversary of the Islamic Conference Organization]

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization (OCI) was created 14 years ago to the day, on 12 Rajab 1389 (A. H.), as the concrete proof of the unanimous will of the leaders and peoples of the Islamic Ummah.

Although it was the despicable attempted arson of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, perpetrated in the year 1389 (A. H.) (1969 A. D.), which led directly to the creation of that organization, its establishment also answered a pressing need of the Islamic Ummah, to have at its disposal an organization capable of serving its interests, defending its causes and filling a void which the Ummah had recognized long before the OCI came into being.

Consequently, one of the goals set forth in the organization's Charter is the strengthening of the member states' solidarity, the consolidation of their cooperation, the defense of their causes at the vanguard of which stands that of Palestine and Al-Qyds al-Sharif and the correlation of their efforts to safeguard and free the holy sites.

Although the organization devoted a large share of its activities and potential to political action, due allowances being made for the scope of the political problems facing the Ummah, the fact remains that it endeavored at the same time to create institutions, commissions, organizations, centers and institutes dealing with various fields and with areas of concern just as varied. They did this to work coherently for the promotion of the development of Islamic solidarity and to allow the officials of Islamic countries to meet regularly under the organization's tutelage in order to discuss issues of interest to Muslims, study their conditions and favor their progress and prosperity.

In the field of politics, the organization placed the Al-Qyds al-Sharif and Palestinian issue at the vanguard of all the Islamic causes since, at stake, is a cause to which all Muslims through the whole world are committed, not just the Palestinians and the Arabs, so true is it that Al-Qyds and Palestine are the second motherland of all Muslims. In that context, the organization maintained steady

activities both within Islamic countries (for the purpose of making them aware of and correlating these efforts, in order to use these states as pressure points against Israel's allies) and outside the Muslim world.

Consequently, it established direct relations with the highest authorities and the heads of Western states, the Vatican and the United Nations.

In addition, the Al-Qyds Committee, chaired by His Majesty King Hassan II, took active steps and endeavored vigorously to make known to international, political and information circles the importance attached to Al-Qyds by the Islamic Ummah and to preserve the Arab-Islamic heritage of the holy city.

In the field of international affairs, the organization assumed, and is still assuming, an active role in the problem of Afghanistan in order to pressure the Soviet Union (occupying as it is a region which is a contributing part to the integrity of the Muslim world) and urge the Islamic states to aid the fighting Afghan people bilaterally, while, at the same time, also aiding the Afghan refugees.

In addition, the organization never ceased to promote the end of the Iraqi-Iranian war and this, since it began, and, more specifically, since the creation of the Islamic Peace Committee. Even though this Committee did not succeed in finding a solution to ending the hostilities, it nonetheless made tremendous progress in laying the groundwork for peace. As a matter of fact, the peace plan submitted to the two brotherly countries may be a useful basis for ending this war and establishing a durable peace between them, once the Committee succeeds in smoothing over the obstacles which continue to prevent a rapprochement in their position.

Other issues attracting the attention of the organization are the Muslim problem in the South Philippines, to which it continues to try to find a solution, and all the problems affecting minorities wherever they may live.

In addition to politics, OCI pursues all sorts of activities, loyally, enthusiastically and sincerely, through its various agencies, institutions and centers.

Thus, in the economic sector, OCI set up the Islamic Development Bank which is working with determination and efficiency for the development of the Islamic states. It also created the Islamic Center for Statistical, Economic, Social and Training Research in Ankara, the Center of Trade Expansion Among Islamic States in Casablanca and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Trade in Karachi.

The project to develop the Islamic states, supervised by the organization, is being implemented by the Development Fund of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (with a global budget of 2.1 billion dollars).

Still in the economic sector, OCI formulated an economic cooperation agreement among member states which forms a framework for all types of economic activities. This convention gave rise to agreements in various sectors, namely, among others, the guaranteed investment pact, the Islamic Union of Shipowners and the Islamic Civil Aviation Council.

In the cultural and social field, the organization created the Islamic Solidarity Fund whose mission is to see to the upgrading of the Muslims' cultural and social standards; to offer material aid to the Islamic communities; and to give its support to the implementation of building projects such as mosques, hospitals and cultural and educational institutions as, for example, the Islamic University of Niger (currently under construction), the Islamic University of Uganda and the Islamic School of Chicago.

In addition, OCI established the Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture (ISESCO) which began operations a year ago from its headquarters in Rabat; the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development in Jidda, the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture in Istanbul and the Islamic Center for Technical and Vocational Training and Research in Dacca.

In a few days, we will also witness the creation of the Islamic Sports Solidarity Foundation which will be headquartered in Riyadh. The Islamic Jurisprudence Academy will also be established late next month and will begin operations by holding its first commemorative conference in Mecca.

In the field of information, OCI created the Islamic International Information Agency (IINA) and the Islamic State Radiobroadcasting Organization (ISBO).

The list of institutions set up by the organization is, after all, too long for me to review them all.

The Islamic Conference Organization is an international organization which, today, works both, within an Islamic context, for stronger ties among Islamic states in all areas of endeavor and for the defense and triumph of Islamic causes in international cases.

In this context, I would like to send a warm appeal to all Muslims wherever they may be, urging them to support this organization, help it implement its goals and accomplish its entrusted mission to the best of its ability. The Islamic Solidarity Fund ensures the implementation of important socio-educational and cultural projects necessitating funds which the governments have been unable to raise as of this date. As for the Al-Qyds Fund, it is fulfilling a very important mission, namely, preserving the Al-Qyds Islamic sites and helping the town's Arabs residents to resist Zionist criminal practices.

Whether it involves education, culture or defense of the Al-Qyds al-Sharif cause, the problem concerns all Muslims wherever they may be. Islamic solidarity must not solely be limited to the governments or wealthy states, for it is the duty of each and every Muslim according to his or her means. If only we perceived solidarity as it should be perceived, we would be able to achieve all our projects and reach all our goals. This is why I reiterate my appeal to all Muslims--governments, institutions and individuals--that they may contribute financially to the consolidation of the activities of the Islamic Solidarity Fund, the Al-Qyds Fund and the "Waqf."

I want to thank all the leaders of the Islamic Ummah for the interest they share in the organization, the encouragements they give its activities and the material support they lavish on its projects.

May God grant us success for the welfare of our Ummah.

ENGINEERING STUDENTS PROTEST AGAINST NATIONAL DUTY ASSIGNMENT

Professor Reviews Protest

Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 23 Mar 83 p 8

[Article by Dr Milad Hanna]

[Text] Although membership in the Engineers' Union exceeds 120,000 on paper, the state of affairs in practice shows that the active membership that takes part in the elections is no more than 10 percent of this number. Thousands of engineers have not paid membership dues, entered the union building or taken part in any union, social or scholarly activity since they obtained their union booklet, upon graduation, as a weapon for getting work or establishing that they have actually obtained the title of "engineer."

Therefore, the next union head, who is expected to be Dr Mustafa al-Hifnawi, has a basic obligation, which is to study the reasons for the negativism and indifference that has become widespread and common among engineers in general, and young ones in particular.

Actual practice has proved that the engineers' interest increases the closer they get to 60, and they start to monitor the increases in pensions which the union council approves. The "professionals" among them generally play this note shrewdly and opportunistically.

To examine the cards of the case, in order to stimulate the union so that it can become a "union of young people," is an extremely important matter.

The young engineers' concerns are not different from the concerns and worries of young people in Egypt in general. These may simply be summarized by the basic right to obtain appropriate work which will satisfy their desire to apply what they have learned and to have this work compensated by a reasonable wage which will provide them with a good standard of living after many years of penury and suffering in hard, dry, unremitting study.

It is certain that since 1974 liberalization policy has given an incorrect impression, which is that liberalization will provide engineers with tremendous opportunities to work with investment companies.

The years have passed by, and Egyptians have been discovering the fraudulent ways in which liberalization advocates have tried to act manipulatively over the years. Here a generation is generating and giving birth to companies and organizations which are few in number and effectiveness, covering areas of activity that are limited and paltry when compared with the dynamism that dominated the era of industrialization from the mid-fifties to 1967.

The liberalization companies have indeed sought the assistance of some Egyptians, who have been carefully and scrupulously chosen for family ties and their "very special qualifications." These chosen few have received salaries that are far above what the "ordinary" Egyptian citizen, who has the same qualifications or expertise, gets. Thus, Egypt has become split into two Egypts.

However, the problems of young engineers go beyond the general problems of young people of Egypt, inasmuch as they are suffering at the present time from real unemployment, especially in specific areas of specialization - the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering, basically. This suffering appears in the long years that female engineers, in particular, have to wait, after graduating, to obtain work in the government and the public sector - where they run up against another problem, which is that the salaries, in spite of the recent increases, are still very meager and cannot cope with the various requirements of life, with the wave of inflation.

In another area, young engineers live among workers and for the most part head up production units in which there are some skilled laborers whose wages, or ability to earn from the job, or from work outside the job, exceed the salaries of the young engineers who oversee them many times over. Therefore there is a contradiction and disintegration in human relations, and this without a doubt has an effect on the matter of increased production, which the government is concerned with and has taken as a tentative slogan. Finally, let me take this chance to make a passing reference to indicate the anxiety that has become widespread among final year students in the engineering faculties, in the branches of architectural and civil engineering, now that the government has declared its intention to issue legislation that will give it the right to assign engineers to government service for 4 years to cope with the severe shortage in numbers of engineers in areas of specialization and places that graduates avoid, such as the Ministry of Irrigation, the housing departments in the governorates, and so forth.

Finally, I imagine that young engineers suffer frustrations when they help build residential neighborhoods and new towns, but their hopes of obtaining deeded or rental housing remain unrealized, if not out of the question, with their paltry salaries, if they continue to maintain their values of honor, integrity and probity.

It had been expected that the current head of the Engineers' Union, who is proud of the nickname "boss," as an expression of the fact that he is the "sheik of the contractors," would, in 4 years, have made some effort, if only modest, to provide housing for young engineers, especially since the "late president" gave him privileges and opportunities that time will not provide him again. However, most unfortunately, he concentrated on turning the union into liberalization companies.

The veracity of this was provided by the disclosure that has been made about the facilities given to people who had smuggled money out of the "Engineers' Bank," not to mention the hundreds of thousands that were squandered in the form of bonuses for "fortunate people" from the union council, which became a bad example and an opportunistic tradition for other unions.

The new union head will be facing massive problems if he is to restore the union to the point where it can protect the engineers' interests, so that there will be work for the young people and they can be unified, following the dissension, and confidence in the union movement in Egypt can be restored.

Al-Mansurah Engineers' Strike

Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 2 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] Students in the Civil Engineering Department of the [Faculty of] Engineering at al-Mansurah stayed away from classes on strike last Saturday, to protest against the draft law to assign engineers in the civil and architectural engineering branches to government service. They demanded that an official denial be published in the daily papers, that government service be made optional, that the wages of engineers on assignment be put on a par with the wages of engineers working in the private sector, and that an apartment be provided to every engineer who completes his assignment.

Students Protest Government Service

Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 9 Apr 83 p 4

[Text] Students in the Civil and Architectural Departments of the engineering faculties in Egyptian universities will hold a joint conference tomorrow, Thursday, at Cairo University to discuss the reports that have been published on their being assigned to work upon graduation. This was decided by the preparatory meeting which representatives of the engineering faculties in all universities attended the day before yesterday, Monday, at Cairo University.

Students at al-Mansurah, al-Zaqaziq and 'Ayn Shams had held a conference last Thursday in al-Mansurah in which they decided to reject the draft on government service and demanded that an official statement be issued by the Council of Ministers disavowing the reports published in that regard in a daily newspaper. The students said that the service assignment draft represents a blatant injustice to them, because of its low wages at a time when the burdens of living are increasing. They added that it conflicts with the international agreement on civil and political rights, which Egypt has signed, which explicitly prohibits the compulsory imposition of labor on citizens.

11887

CSO: 4504/329

EGYPT

AGRICULTURAL GRADUATES RECEIVE NEW LAND, FACILITIES

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Mar 83 pp 1, 14

[Article by Sami Kamil: "Mubarak Distributes New Land Deeds to Graduates"]

[Text] In his next field trips to the agricultural and industrial production projects, President Husni Mubarak will distribute deeds for the ownership of new lands in the Maryut, north and south Liberation [Province] and al-Nahdah sector areas to graduates.

This was stated by Dr Yusuf Wali, the minister of agriculture and self-sufficiency in food, who declared that his visits to graduates' farms to investigate their problems and distribute housing to them would be completed this week. The Ministry of Agriculture will investigate ways of providing production credits to owners of reclaimed lands, whether they be graduates or farmers. In addition, a study is being made on this matter by the Ministry of Reclamation. He said that the subject of cotton prices is still before the Council of Ministers' committees.

The minister declared that it had been decided to introduce wheat into this season's composition, so that producers could supply quantities ranging from 2 to 4 ardebbs. Agreement has been reached with sugar companies to take delivery of the sugar can crop at a specified price, without review of the sweetness content, so that it would be possible to facilitate farmers' delivery of the crop and eliminate their complaints in this area.

Dr Yusuf Wali said, "Agreement has been reached with the Governorate of Aswan to reduce the costs of farmers' use of agricultural machinery. Bottlenecks in superphosphate fertilizer have been eliminated in the al-Nashan area with the introduction of large quantities of this fertilizer, and the farmers will receive shares of it for summer farming before planting time."

This was stated in a meeting that Dr Yusuf Wali had yesterday with female National Party leaders at the Institute of National Studies. Attending the meeting was Ibrahim Abu 'Umar, political official in the institute.

The minister held a dialogue with students on a number of important agricultural issues related to production, land and the law on relations between landowners and tenants.

The minister of agriculture declared that poultry farms were being counted so that fodder and corn quotas could be distributed to them; the count would be completed at the end of March.

The quotas would even be distributed to farms for whose establishment permits have not been granted, as long as they have entered the production stage, and the question of the legal status of their establishment would be left to the administrative body so that it could adopt a decision in their regard.

He stated that 1,000 feddans would be planted in practice this year, as compared with 600 feddans last year, and that some of the production would be exported.

He declared that the construction of new poultry fodder plants had been suspended, since the capacity of the existing plants totals 3 million tons while our needs come to 1.9 million tons, though these plants are not operating at full capacity.

The minister of agriculture stressed the importance of linking new towns to agricultural projects so that they would not be a burden on other towns. In this regard, he praised the al-Salihiyah town project. He also asserted that the ministry was not inclined to dry out lakes, but rather to expand fish farms.

He said, "The issue of the relationship between landlord and tenant must not be subjected to party auctioneering. The ministry has been carrying out studies in this regard." He stated that he had prepared a memorandum which would be presented to the Governors' Council on the refusal to use lands inside the city limits in a short period of time.

11887

CSO: 4504/335

BRIEFS

LOW-COST HOUSING IN GIZA — The people's assembly in the Governorate of Giza has given agreement to allocate 300 feddans of land in the city of 6 October to its plan and to offer it for sale to people in the sections of Imbabah, al-'Ajazah, al-Duqqi, Bulaq al-Dakrur, Giza and the Pyramids to erect cemeteries in it. The New Communities Authority has also given agreement to consider these cemeteries an extension of the 6 October graveyard. This was declared by Maj Gen 'Ali Yusri, the mayor of the city of Giza, in the session the council held yesterday under the chairmanship of 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Abu Hamilah, chairman of the council, in the attendance of the governor, Dr 'Abd-al-Hamid Hasan, and Maj Gen Tal'at Husayn, the secretary general of the governorate. Eng Mahir Hasanayn Jabril, the director general of cooperation in the governorate, reviewed the plan before the council, stating that it included 2,000 low-cost units. One thousand units would be delivered next December, and the remaining 1,000 units would be delivered in the middle of next year, 1984. The reason for the delay may be attributed to some violations in the contract conditions, which resulted in the suspension of work on the project for the period of a year, until this matter was resolved by amicable means and the company resumed work as usual. The work is now proceeding properly. Eng Mahir Hasanayn Jabril stated that 635 pounds are paid as a down payment for a reservation for a unit consisting of three rooms and a living room by the person making the reservation, then 1,000 pounds in four instalments, and 400 pounds on delivery. The rest, or 4,000 pounds, is to be paid out over 30 years at a cooperative interest rate of 3 percent a year. For a unit consisting of two rooms and a living room, the member pays 535 pounds as an advance on the reservation, then 750 pounds in three instalments, then 300 pounds on delivery; the rest, 3,500 pounds, is to be paid over 30 years at a cooperative interest rate of 3 percent. [Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Mar 83 p 6] 11887

AL-MANSURAH UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL — The office of the public prosecutor in al-Mansurah has decided to imprison the secretary general of al-Mansurah University and the chairman of the Civil Department in the Faculty of Engineering for 15 days. The office of the prosecutor made an investigation into the accused persons regarding the charges that had been made against them of speculating with the money of the housing society of the University of al-Mansurah professors. The investigations covered the deputy minister of housing in al-Daqahliyah, who was released by the office of the prosecutor on a bond of 1,000 pounds. [Text] [Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic No 3052, 8 Apr 83 p 9] 11887

AL-MINUFYIAH UNIVERSITY CHARGES -- The violations committed by the president of al-Minufiyah University, Dr Mustafa Bahjat, which were levelled at him by the lady prosecutor 'Inayat Abu al-Yazid, included the charge that he had appointed himself dean of the Faculty of Medicine of al-Minufiyah although he is a graduate of the Faculty of Commerce, had bought an office room for 12,000 pounds from a liberalization company whose owner fled before the university took over the office, and had used the university telex in his own home! The committee on education and scientific research decided to delay reviewing it until a report from the Central Accounting Agency was received. [Text]
[Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic No 3052, 8 Apr 83 p 51]

CSO: 4504/335

SEMOLINA PLANT'S WORKING CONDITIONS, PRODUCTIVITY EXAMINED

Tripoli AL-MUNTIJUN in Arabic 9 Apr 83 p 5

[Article by Muhammad al-Nazzam: "Inside the National Semolina and Semolina Products Company: Providing the Maximum Amount of Food Is Part of the Comprehensive Mobilization for the Revolutionary Action Program"]

[Text] Food, particularly in the developing countries, has started to constitute a major, important area of concern, in regard to the area of food industries, which is a basic field and one which has great weight in necessary strategic plans to provide food of all kinds.

The industry of semolina and its byproducts, couscous and spaghetti, are considered among the most important food industries in the jamahiriyah. They provide food for most Libyan Arab homes, where they are considered a main staple.

This important food industry flourished after the great revolution of the First [of September] broke out; it gave great attention to food industries and provided them with all resources, along with great financial support and moral encouragement. The number of plants increased, productive capacity grew, and the Libyan Arab consumer and producer became partners, after they were liberated for once and for all from the dominance of the control of the employer, aware of their positive role in the importance of providing food out of the ground and under people's feet, in order to make reality of the statement that persons who do not produce do not eat, except for the disabled, and that freedom lies in need.

Inside the National Semolina and Semolina Products Company

The National Semolina and Semolina Products Company, which was established in February 1977, is one of the buttresses of the industrial resurgence in providing major foodstuffs for everyone. It is the company which has managed to pave its way toward greater achievements in terms of production and quality.

Proceeding from the role of the revolutionary forces in comprehensive mobilization, participation in increasing productive capacity at various production

sites, and the provision of a maximum of food and the consumption of the minimum of it, and in the framework of the resolutions the masses of the basic people's conferences made in their previous sessions which the general people's conference formulated in its past ordinary session regarding the guidance of consumption, especially with respect to food, and the effort to enlighten citizens on this subject through the quest to package consumer goods in suitable containers for individual and family needs, manufacture economically priced bread loaves and issue commodity consumer booklets:

Three Modern Machines

In order to carry out the resolutions which the masses in the basic people's conferences have made in this regard, our brother Mustafa al-Siba'i, the secretary of the higher people's committee of the National Semolina and Semolina Products Company, stated that the company has recently contracted, for the purchase of three modern machines for packaging in sizes of 20 kilograms instead of 50 kilograms in the case of semolina, and that there are other machines for which contracts will be made in the future for sizes of 5 and 10 kilograms to package other consumer goods such as sugar and rice.

He pointed out that in the context of this equipment, which will be installed in the semolina plants this year, a contribution will undoubtedly be made in limiting consumption, which was very largely wasted because the sizes produced were at variance with the scope of demand, especially since we, in our basic people's conferences, have decided that it is necessary to increase productive power and limit consumption in order to cope with the challenges embodied by the economic blockade being imposed by the American imperialist administration on the people of the jamahiriyyah, who, after the revolution of the first broke forth, found their way to freedom and sovereignty and have learned how to face these challenges with willpower and force of determination, to increase production, and to provide food elements from the ground and under people's feet, and have not and will not surrender or be subjected to the policy of dominance and starvation which colonialism has imposed on a number of peoples in the world.

We Have the Will To Challenge

He went on, "We are a people who have will, power, resources and arms. We will most emphatically resist colonialist schemes and will prove that by increasing production to the maximum, through the determination of the producers who are partners and caused the revolution of producers to burst forth on the first [of September] 1978, eliminating wages and trade forever, becoming true producers in management and production, and crushing what are called the employers, who traffic in the sweat and effort of toiling producers."

Our brother Mustafa al-Siba'i, the secretary of the higher people's committee of the National Semolina and Semolina Products Company, stated that after the revolution of the producers and partners per capita consumption in the jamahiriyyah rose to 18 percent a year, and he said that after the development plan in the area of food processing is completed, the rate of increase will reach 26 percent a year.

A New Semolina Mill

He stated that the al-Firnaj mill has been constructed in this context. This will handle Semolina, operating tests will start next July, and it will be opened during the holidays of the First [of September] this year.

He said that this is considered one of the biggest semolina mills in the jamahiriya; it produced 300 tons of coarse and soft semolina per day. Work in it is in three shifts per day, without interruption, and the number of producers in its various sections comes to 140.

He added that the Qaraji mill is now running and it produces 120 tons of semolina per day.

As far as the spaghetti industry goes, our brother Mustafa al-Siba'i pointed out that there is a new spaghetti production line on which tests started recently. The production in this line comes to 48 tons per day. In addition there are production lines in other plants.

A Plant for Couscous

On the construction of the couscous plant, the secretary of the higher people's committee stated "All the necessary studies on this plant, including financial allocations, have been completed, but the site has not yet been determined, since some difficulties are facing us on the part of the Secretariat of Agriculture and the municipality of Tripoli." He said:

A Contradictory Position on Agriculture and Health

"A suitable location has been set aside alongside the semolina plant in the al-Firnaj area; however, the municipality of Tripoli and the Secretariat of Health have resisted that, on the grounds that the plant is near the new hospital and is not appropriate in this regard."

Our brother al-Siba'i countered this by stating that food industries have absolutely no effect on what they call lowering the psychological comfort of the people staying in the hospital, and that these industries do not entail chemicals that have an effect on the air.

He added, "Why wasn't the Secretariat of Agriculture prevented from storing large amounts of locust insecticides (harmful chemicals) next to the al-Firnaj mill, which produces foodstuffs? Why, also, didn't the Secretariat of Health prevent the erection of a Tide detergent factory alongside the Qaraji mill and the spaghetti plant attached to it? There are many things that are much worse for public health."

An Industrial Study

On a study of the possibility of creating opportunities for industrial development in spaghetti in accordance with the jamahiriya's requirements for 1986

and 1990, our brother al-Siba'i pointed out that in this study a comparison will be made of the population's spaghetti requirements and the capacity of existing plants to respond to requirements in 1986 and 1990, to determine if there is a surplus or deficit in the capacity that exists now and to expand this capacity to respond to the jamahiriyah's requirements for this commodity, so that a suitable decision can be taken with regard to the addition of new productive units.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The study ended up with the following conclusions and recommendations:

Comparing the jamahiriyah's requirements for spaghetti, which have been estimated at 84,000 tons in 1986 and 98,000 tons in 1990, with production in the existing capacity in the factories now in addition to the expansions it has been determined will be made in these 2 years, which are estimated at 119,900 tons:

We find that this capacity's ability to produce will exceed anticipated requirements by about 35,900 tons in 1986 and 21,900 tons in 1990.

The Qaraji Mill

In the Qaraji semolina mill, our brother Muhammad Sharaf al-Din, the secretary of the people's committee in the mill, made some points regarding production in the plant. He said:

"First:

"The plant mills 120 tons of durum wheat a day; that is its actual capacity, and it is supplied by the National Supply Commodity Organization.

"The actual annual capacity of the mill is 36,000 tons of various products (semolina, shells, flour and bran). This capacity is computed on the basis of a year of 365 days, less 52 Fridays and 13 official holidays and vacations, that is, 300 days, multiplied by 120 tons, for a total of 36,000 tons. The mill also performs periodic maintenance activities and covers shutdowns arising from sudden maintenance, electric cutoffs and other shutdowns concerned with operations by operating on Fridays and holidays in order to maintain the productive capacity of the mill which is on record in the plan belonging to the Secretariat of Economy and Light Industries. The mill management, with technicians, monitors production every day so that it can follow up on the plan and work to meet any deficits that might arise from any sudden factors.

"Second, the number of producers in the mill is 77.

The Two-Shift System

"Third, the mill is working on the two-shift system, one shift every 12 hours. With respect to daily production, the mill processes 120 tons of durum

wheat to produce approximately 120 tons of various products -- semolina, bran and flour, in proportions of 72 percent for semolina and shells, 8 percent for flour and 20 percent for bran. Annual production is 36,000 tons, with monthly production of 3,000 tons, in the same proportions as above.

Annual Production

"Fourth, production in 1982 and January-March 1983:

"The mill produced 37,605 tons in 1982 of totally processed products, that is, operated 1,605 tons above capacity, because the producers worked some Fridays and holidays to cover expectations of the cutoff of electric power or sudden maintenance. This is an increase of 4.5 percent over capacity, and may be attributed to the efforts of the producers and their feeling that they are partners, and the followup by the people's committee in the mill of the production plan, and the orientation and encouragement of workers to produce. Data on production in 1982 was as follows:

"Couscous semolina, 301,566 50-kilogram sacks or 15,078 tons.

"Shells (for spaghetti) 26,025 50-kilogram sacks or 2,801 tons.

"Shells (machine made for the spaghetti factory), 214,820 50-kilogram sacks, or 10,741 tons.

"Number One flour, 16,976 50-kilogram sacks, or 849 tons.

"Bran, 162,720 50-kilogram sacks, or 8,136 tons.

"Total, 37,605 tons.

"The production from January to March 1983 was 11,189 tons, that is, 2,189 tons or 24.3 percent above overall capacity for the three months. A statement of this production is as follows:

"Couscous semolina, 50-kilogram sacks, 86,000 sacks, 4,300 tons.

"Couscous semolina, 20-kilogram sacks, 77, 183 sacks, 1,544 tons.

"Shells (for spaghetti), 50-kilogram sacks, 4,760, 238 tons.

"Shells (for the market), 20-kilogram sacks, 500 sacks, 10 tons.

"Shells by automated conveyor for the spaghetti plant, 50 [-kilogram] sacks, 45,300 sacks, 2,265 tons.

"Number One flour, 50-kilometer sacks, 10,280 sacks, 514 tons.

"Number One flour, 20-kilogram sacks, 200 sacks, 4 tons.

"Bran, 50-kilogram sacks, 46,210 sacks, 2,314 tons.

"Total, 50-kilogram sacks, 192,620.

"Twenty-kilograms, 77,883, or 11,119 tons.

Limiting Consumption

"That is to say, the mills filled 192,620 50-kilogram sacks with various products and also 77,883 20-kilogram sacks with semolina, shells, and flour. The mill began on 6 March 1983 to bag semolina, particularly in 20-kilogram sacks, filling 77,183 sacks with semolina, 500 sacks with shells and 200 sacks with flour. The situation requires increased efforts with respect to packaging, sewing and so forth. Nonetheless, the producers are working at maximum capacity to reach this level."

Our brother Muhammad Sharaf-al-Din, secretary of the people's committee in the Qaraji mill, observed, in stating,

"The mill is now engaged in packing these sacks (of 20 kilograms) because there were samples of sacks in storage in the mill before it was invaded. When the existing amount of about 300,000 sacks is used up, the use of these sacks will be suspended, and after that loading will be in 50-kilogram sacks only."

11887

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INTEGRATION, RECENT ELECTIONS DISCUSSED BY PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic No 3054, 22 Apr 83 pp 38, 39

[Interview with 'Izz-al-Din al-Sayyid by AL-MUSAWWAR; date and place not specified]

[Text] 'Izz-al-Din al-Sayyid, speaker of the Sudanese People's Assembly, spoke with AL-MUSAWWAR. He discussed the steps taken up to now to implement the decisions of the Supreme Council for Integration [SCI] and the means of supporting Arab and foreign capital for the Integration Fund. He asked that the various agencies working in the northern and southern regions of the Nile Valley show the same eagerness and enthusiasm as Presidents Mubarak and Numayri. He explained the unique electoral experience of the Sudan and the manner in which it developed. He discussed the function of the Nile Valley Parliament (NVP) and disclosed that he would appear this year for the first time as a member-observer at the International Conference of Parliamentarians. He also explained Sudan's role as a member of the executive committee of the conference and representative of the Arab and African states.

He spoke about the way in which the African parliaments are confronting and dealing with the split in the Organization of African Unity. He also spoke about the continuing Libyan threats against the Sudanese borders.

We began the interview by asking the Sudanese People's Assembly Speaker:

[AL-MUSAWWAR] As a distinguished member of the SCI, what has the integration pact achieved to date?

[Al-Sayyid] The SCI has made a number of decisions since it began to function. These include executive or administrative decisions and decisions other than those requiring legislation by the NVP and then by the legislative bodies in the two fraternal regions so that the decisions will be in a uniform law incumbent upon the two governments and implemented in a practical way.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] So integration is a hope and a program. What has the Sudanese side done to achieve this goal?

[Al-Sayyid] Almost all the administrative decisions have been implemented, among them the creation of an integration unit in every ministry that is attached to the office of the component minister. An integration unit has also been created in every region and attached to the office of the regional governor. Their purpose is to promote and deepen the philosophy of integration in every region and ministry and among the masses of the Sudanese people.

All that was done by a public decree issued by President Ja'far Numayri. It also included the decree on creating a special agency for integration affairs attached to the office of the president of the republic. To it will come all the matters assigned by the SCI, the NVP, and the integration secretariat that are relevant to the Sudan and require a decision by the Sudan government. This is to prevent papers getting lost between one office and another or drowning in the sea of bureaucracy.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What has been carried out by agreement between the two sides?

[Al-Sayyid] Some actions of the SCI included the formation of technical committees to study specific projects that are to be submitted to the NVP.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What can you say about them specifically?

[Al-Sayyid] I can say in this connection that the two sides implemented the trade pact. The Egyptian and Sudanese ministers of trade and their delegations met and discussed the problems that hinder activity between the regions of the Nile Valley. A public decree was issued in this connection by President Numayri in the Sudan and we are awaiting an analogous decree from the northern part of the Valley, which will subsequently be submitted to the People's Assemblies in the two countries and then to the NVP for its information.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Have the goods to be traded been specified as called for by the prepared program? Did it involve one list or more? And when will it be in force?

[Al-Sayyid] In fact we did designate the goods for the first list because, according to the pact, all these actions are to take place in 10 years. But we specified as a first stage a group of goods to be included in the exchange between the two countries. It will be followed by a second and then a third stage until we are through with these stages before the appointed time.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] When will the Nile Valley card be issued?

[Al-Sayyid] The two sides studied the issuance of this card once in Cairo and again, several days ago, in Khartoum. What is happening now is that the finishing touches are being applied. Thus, the card will be issued to facilitate transportation operations between the two countries. However, there are some secondary problems that have to be taken into account. They may take some time to resolve.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What are these problems?

[Al-Sayyid] Some of the problems have to be settled by legislation, for example, the right of possession and the right of residence. These matters have been studied and are now before the Legislative Committee. Then there are the legal issues that emanated from the SCI. That will mark the completion of all the legal aspects and its fundamental mission, determination of the laws that are to deal with such matters in both countries. Then a uniform law will be passed to remove these obstacles so that a beginning will be made on the presentation of the results of its work to the NVP for debate and to the People's Assembly in the valley. We are hoping to bring up these points during the first session of the NVP.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Due to the operation of the integration program, more than one project was proposed. Most of them are now in the offices of the experts. What is your comment on that?

[Al-Sayyid] Actually more than one project was set. The two countries are now examining these projects to evaluate them so that they will be the firm assets of the integration fund.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] I wonder which of these projects will see the light in a completed form in the real world. Will that come to pass in the near future?

[Al-Sayyid] I'll give you an example here of a large project like al-Damazin. It is being evaluated from all aspects so that it can be acquired by the fund, which consists, in turn, of both fixed and movable assets. Among the fixed assets are the projects undertaken under the auspices of the program. I assure you they will be limited and evaluated and their requirements studied.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Do you pin any hopes on investments coming from any particular Arab country?

[Al-Sayyid] The fact is our projects have not attracted capital and satisfied investors with respect to profit and sufficient return. So they will not be beneficial. That is true of both Arab and foreign capital alike.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Will the invitation to share in the Integration Fund follow a fixed procedure? What are the premises that govern the philosophy underlying this invitation?

[Al-Sayyid] The world is approaching a famine. There is no doubt of that. Every day we hear of millions dying of hunger in a great many countries. The problem is becoming even more grave...and permanent. Food, in my opinion, will very soon be a strategic commodity equal to nuclear weapons. Hence the importance of sharing in capital whether it comes from the Arab homeland or from any other place in the world.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] To what extent are the Arabs expected to participate in achieving this goal?

[Al-Sayyid] We expect our brother Arabs to be the first to participate because these projects will generate revenue from food for the Arab countries. Consequently, they will benefit from the existence of natural resources in the Nile Valley such as land, water, weather, and agricultural expertise, especially with compatible crops that are in harmony with the nature of their food.

In my opinion, they will have to unite and participate provided that they are offered thoroughly studied and sound projects. This is the duty of the bank and technical committees. Let us profit from the experience of the Egyptians and Sudanese who are participating in the preparation of these studies and the call for them.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Because of the absence of diplomatic relations between Egypt and a number of Arab countries some may think the Sudanese will bear a large burden in establishing these contacts to gain financial support for the fund. What is your comment on that?

[Al-Sayyid] As a matter of fact, economic contacts between Egypt and the Arab countries have not ceased, regardless of the authority making the contact. The important thing here is the project that promises economic benefit in order to convince and attract capital. Perhaps the first results of this sharing came from the Gulf.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] This brings us to the integration pact which calls for coordination in the field of external activity between the two countries. What is the form of this activity with diplomatic coordination?

[Al-Sayyid] In this connection and within the framework of the integration pact, there are no limits or models. A joint delegation will travel between the two countries. The Egyptian delegation may speak in the name of the Sudanese delegation and vice versa. There is also an agreement on using the embassies of the two countries. In the places where there is no diplomatic representation at the embassy level, the Sudanese embassy can be used in the contacts, and so on.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] You met President Husni Mubarak during your last visit to Cairo. What are the main features of this meeting, which Dr Sufi Abu Talib, speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly, attended?

[Al-Sayyid] I told President Mubarak about what was accomplished within the framework of the integration projects, including what was accomplished in Egypt. As usual, I found the president very enthusiastic and understanding. I believe the two presidents are most ambitious and understanding of the requirements of integration, especially in this stage of history. In this connection, the continuing meetings between the two presidents will ease many of our burdens and tasks, which are progressing in routine fashion.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Let us now talk about the NVP. What, specifically, is its function? As you know, the NVP is the legislative and supervisory instrument of the SCI. It is also an assembly that offers recommendations within the framework of the pact, on the one hand, and within the framework of execution of what the integration organizations oversee, on the other. Hence, the NVP must start with the decisions of the SCI in the first meeting of its first session in Khartoum next 25 May.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Regarding the steps to create the NVP, what has been done so far?

[Al-Sayyid] The Sudanese side has already completed the formation of the various committees originating from both the SCI and NVP, which, in fact, called a meeting of representatives as a parliamentary body for the southern region of the valley. A research project for a PVN bill has already been completed and blank forms have been distributed to the members to fill in with their desires to join the various committees.

We are waiting for comparable actions by Egypt. They will be followed by coordination between Dr Sufi Abu Talib, People's Assembly speaker in the northern part of the valley, and ourselves to assign all the members from both sides to the various committees in accordance with their wishes and as the work plan may require.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Based on the bill produced by the Sudanese side and on what you know of comparable steps being taken by the Egyptian side, what are the most outstanding features of the bill passed by the NVP?

[Al-Sayyid] I can say that the bill organizes the work of the Parliament. It is a blend of two bills of the People's Assemblies in the two countries aside from some expressions here and there. We are trying to combine them so that they can become the language of a single Parliament next month.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is the cause of the difficulty under these circumstances? Will the beginning of such a session as this be different from the beginning of ordinary parliamentary sessions in the two fraternal countries?

[Al-Sayyid] Allow me to compare the first sessions of the joint Parliament. The presiding officer at the session is like a university professor who lectures in the first part of the first year of study and meets students from all parts of the republic. They learn with the help of many professors and by different methods. The joint Parliament combines the parliaments of both countries, each with its own traditions, rules, and modus operandi. I believe the presiding officer at this session will be shouldering a very heavy burden in trying to unify the parliamentary modus operandi in the NVP.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Perhaps one cause of the difficulty is the difference in character of the members in the joint Parliament.

[Al-Sayyid] The fact is we are dealing here with four different types of members, each imprinted with his own customs. One of them worked as members of the Sudanese Parliament. The second worked in the Egyptian Parliament. The third type was not affiliated with any parliament after May. The fourth type did not come to any parliament after July in Egypt. Moreover, according to the pact, 30 will be elected from within the original assembly and 30 others chosen from the outside from each side. Some of them from both sides served either in some parliament in the Sudan before May or in some parliament in Egypt before July.

For this reason the assignment of a special bill for organizing the work of the joint Parliament to the brothers in the south was intended to assist the presiding officer at the session. This is what I want our brothers in the North to do so that everyone has a complete idea of all the functions and all the measures.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] In case the term of a member of Parliament from the first 30 who were elected ends--I mean the end of his term as a representative in the original Parliament--will he continue or is there some way of dealing with such a situation?

[Al-Sayyid] You have put your finger on a really important point. In such cases the member continues in office if he is still in Parliament. If his term in the original Parliament has ended, he continues until the original Parliament chooses his successor in the new session.

Allow me to raise here a question and answer it at the same time. How do we form a simple parliament from two countries one of which has a multiparty system while the other has a one-party system?

When a member of Parliament is elected, he becomes a representative of the entire nation. The one who is elected from the Liberal or Labor Party or the Grouping in the northern part of the valley takes an oath to become a member for the entire Egyptian nation. In the Sudan, a new representative swears he will do his duty as a member of parliament first, without fear or favoritism. This means he will not favor his department or fear his group. He swears he will honor the constitution for the well-being of the people, and so on.

In this capacity, I am close to members of a parliament with a multiparty system because each now represents the Egyptians in the northern part of the valley regardless of the party that he represents or even the electoral procedure that put him on a proportionate slate or...or... Hence, there is no sensitivity in confronting such a situation as this. You here are an inhabitant of the Nile Valley, north and south. What you must do is avoid fanaticism on behalf of your department or your party because you are representing the entire nation.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] The elections for President Ja'far Numayri's third term are almost over. A few weeks before that the regional assembly and Socialist Union elections were held. A month ago the People's Assembly

elections were held. The Sudan has had unusual experience with elections. Can you throw some light on them?

[Al-Sayyid] We have firmly established and truly distinctive electoral principles. Indeed, we are still building the foundations of a unique electoral system. We have a historical background in this field beginning with the first Sudanese parliamentary election at the time of independence through constituencies that we established and called graduates constituencies, five in number. Then we acquired experience in the second Parliament and established 15 constituencies. The purpose of doing that was to have in the Assembly (people with) a variety of experiences and cultures. The voter is a school graduate...and the candidate is a school graduate. After that we began a new stage following approval of the constitution. We created constituencies called federated forces constituencies like constituencies of engineers, veterinarians, farmers, scientists, jurists, and lawyers...university professors...young people...women, and so on. They were in addition to the well-known geographic electoral constituencies. Each time we work to make representation more comprehensive and have persons of experience in parliament. In this way we added to parliament different fields of specialization. Therefore, when draft laws affecting some particular groups are proposed, we will have a specialized opinion in addition to public opinion pressed by the mass electoral constituencies.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Can we touch on some of the negative features that appeared with the application. How did you eliminate them?

[Al-Sayyid] Just as experience revealed tangible positive features, it naturally revealed some negative ones, which we are constantly trying to change. For example, in the first elections the results of the graduate constituencies showed that lawyers filled the largest number of seats because at that time they were free to engage in politics. Hence, they formed a majority in the People's Assembly. Thereafter, in the second Assembly elections, we amended the electoral law so as to permit the establishment of federated forces constituencies alongside the geographic constituencies. We proceeded in this fashion even in the regional parliaments.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] So political activity here has become specialized work?

[Al-Sayyid] Without a doubt, for political work, indeed politics in general, no longer consists solely of speeches as in the past, but is specialized and planned. Draft laws require specialists from the sector that is to debate journalists. We therefore insist on a continuation of on the experience whose success has been confirmed. Moreover, we are continuously working to improve it. Indeed, we keep international groups in our field informed about our experience in various meetings. In this context, we shall hold a plenary meeting next October to bring together all the parliamentarians in the Sudan with a number of experts and foreign observers to continue the development and to strive for more knowledge and experience. This plenary meeting will go on for 15 days.

POSSIBILITIES FOR CULTURAL COOPERATION WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 14 Apr 83 p 4

[Text] Minister of Culture Bechir Ben Slama, who is currently making an official visit to Czechoslovakia, was received on Tuesday by Ulius Hanus, deputy chairman of the Czechoslovak socialist government, in the presence of Nouredine Majdoub, Tunisian ambassador to Prague.

During the interview, Bechir Ben Slama explained the work being done to promote culture in Tunisia as conceived and implemented by the supreme fighter, President Habib Bourguiba, who spares no effort to encourage cultural activity in our country.

Emphasizing the great admiration felt by Czechs and Slovaks for President Bourguiba and Tunisia, Hanus expressed his government's desire to strengthen the ties of cultural cooperation between the two countries and to explore the possibilities for outfitting the House of the People and the House of Culture in Tunisia as well as the National Conservatory of Music and Dance.

The minister of culture also expressed Tunisia's desire to see an intensification of exchanges in the field of museography and, in particular, of those for promoting the museums of the history of the National Liberation Movement.

Bechir Ben Slama and Hanus also agreed concerning the translation and study of anthologies of Tunisian and Czechoslovak literature and agreed to develop exchanges between the writers unions of the two countries.

Bechir Ben Slama also met on Monday and Tuesday with his counterpart in Czechoslovakia, Miroslav Valek, and with the deputy minister of culture and several other high Czechoslovak officials.

He also visited several cultural institutions in Bratislava as well as the National Gallery and the Cultural and Social Center in Prague.

Bechir Ben Slama also visited the Slovak National Theater, where he and his accompanying delegation attended an opera.

11798

CSO: 4519/204

TUNISIA

KUWAITI FUND PROVIDES LOAN FOR SILIANA DAM

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 16 Apr 83 p 5

[Text] A loan agreement for financing the Siliana Dam construction project was signed yesterday morning by Mansour Moalla, minister of finance and plan, and Faysal al-Khaled, director general of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development. The signing ceremony was held at the headquarters of the Ministry of Finance and Plan in the presence of Mohamed Sayah, minister of public works, Mizran Ahmad al-Hamad, Kuwaiti ambassador to Tunis, and others.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Kuwaiti Fund will grant Tunisia a loan of 7.5 million Kuwaiti dinars (about 16 million Tunisian dinars) to finance part of the Siliana Dam construction project. The loan, which carries an interest rate of 3 percent per year, is repayable in 25 years with a 5-year grace period.

Once completed, the Siliana Dam will make it possible to develop 4,000 hectares in the Gaafour and Laroussa zones. The total cost of the project is 23.35 million Kuwaiti dinars (about 55 million Tunisian dinars). Construction work will begin at the end of this year and will probably be completed at the end of 1985.

At the conclusion of the signing of this agreement, Mansour Moalla delivered a speech. He began by thanking the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development on behalf of the Tunisian Government for the help that it steadily provides for the completion of development projects in Tunisia despite the successive financial and economic crises that are constantly shaking the world.

The minister then expressed satisfaction at the wish expressed by the Kuwaiti side to continue the fruitful cooperation established between the two countries. In that connection, he stressed the importance of Kuwaiti participation in carrying out development projects in Tunisia. That participation now totals \$320 million, including \$165 million since 1980.

The next speaker was Faysal al-Khaled, who stressed the importance of Tunisian-Kuwaiti cooperation and the Kuwaiti Fund's participation in development projects in Tunisia. The fund's director general expressed the hope of seeing that cooperation continue--all the more, he said, since it has been built on sound foundations and is supported by serious action on both sides. Faysal al-Khaled also expressed his desire to work to strengthen the ties between the fund and Tunisia.

On Thursday morning, Faysal al-Khaled was received by Minister of Public Works Mohamed Sayah.

At the conclusion of their interview, the Kuwaiti guest said that he and the minister of public works had discussed the progress of development projects in Tunisia whose financing is being provided in part by the fund. In particular, they discussed the projects concerned with freeways and irrigation as well as the Sidi Salem Dam project.

The two parties also discussed certain future projects to which the Kuwaiti Development Fund might contribute, examples being freeway construction in the northern part of the country and the cleanup of lakes, especially Lake Tunis.

On Thursday afternoon, Faysal was received by Sadok Ben Jemaa, minister of transportation and communications, in the presence of Hedi Zghal, president-director general of the SNCFT [Tunisian National Railroad Company], and Mizran Ahmad al-Hamad.

During that interview, Ben Jemaa and his guest reviewed the progress of work to reinforce and double Tunisian railway track. The Kuwaiti Fund is contributing to both of those projects, particularly that for doubling the track in the Tunis-Hamman-Lif-Borj Cedria sections.

Lastly, Faysal al-Khaled was received yesterday at noon by Lassad Ben Osman, minister of agriculture.

Their interview was concerned with the strengthening of cooperation between Tunisia and the fund in the field of agriculture.

11798

CSO: 4519/204

SIX MORE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS SIGNED

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 15 Apr 83 p 4

[Text] During a ceremony held on Wednesday, six new national collective labor agreements were signed at the headquarters of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The agreements were signed in the presence of Mohamed Ennaceur, minister of social affairs; Mansour Moalla, minister of finance and plan; Habib Achour, chairman of the UGTT [Tunisian General Federation of Labor]; Ferjani Belhaj Ammar, chairman of UTICA [Tunisian Union for Industry, Trade, and Handicrafts]; and others.

The secretaries general of the union and professional federations and representatives of the affiliated unions in the sectors involved also attended the ceremony.

Speaking on that occasion, Mohamed Ennaceur pointed out that with the six new agreements now concluded, 34 out of a total of 39 collective agreements have now been signed. He announced that final agreement had been reached on two of the five agreements not yet signed. Those two agreements cover the flourmill and bakery workers, and the only remaining question concerns the financial effect that the pay increases agreed on will have on the Compensation Fund, which will have to bear the cost of all or part of those increases.

Concerning the other three collective agreements (textiles, garmentmaking, and leather and footwear), the minister announced that agreement had been reached on the wage scale and that negotiations on additional allowances were continuing. He expressed the hope that agreement on that subject would be reached very soon.

Referring to the interest that public opinion as a whole has in social negotiations, Mohamed Ennaceur explained that those negotiations go beyond [copy missing].

Ennaceur concluded his speech by emphasizing that thanks to continuous dialogue, Tunisia will make further progress on the road to prosperity and will see the feeling of national solidarity become even stronger.

For his part, Mansour Moalla expressed his satisfaction at the results achieved in the social negotiations.

The minister of finance and plan expressed the hope that the negotiations would go beyond the issues of wages and working conditions to include other areas of activity in the enterprises such as management and promotion of the firms. But for that to happen, he said, there must first be a calm social climate and an atmosphere of mutual trust.

Habib Achour also expressed satisfaction at the signing of the new agreements, describing them as important steps.

The chairman of the UGTT expressed the hope that the various parties would respect the agreements now concluded and work to conclude as quickly as possible the negotiations on the other agreements, particularly those concerned with the status of the civil service.

For his part, Ferjani Belhaj Ammar expressed his satisfaction at the conclusion of these new agreements. He pointed out that in UTICA's view, the country's prosperity depends on achieving prosperity for all classes of people. He added that the economic situation requires sacrifices by all the partners so that national unity can be safeguarded and the national economy protected.

List of Agreements Signed

1. National Collective Agreement for Banks and Financial Institutions.
2. National Collective Agreement for the Metal Fabrication Industry.
3. National Collective Agreement for Foundries, Metallurgy, and Mechanical Engineering.
4. National Collective Agreement for Tourist Hotels and Similar Establishments.
5. National Collective Agreement for the Plastic Processing Industry.
6. National Collective Agreement for the Insurance Industry.

11798
CSO: 4519/204

TUNISIA

BRIEFS

FINANCIAL COOPERATION WITH BELGIUM--During an official ceremony held yesterday morning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ahmed Ben Arfa, secretary of state to the minister of foreign affairs for international cooperation, and Rombaut Van Crombrugge, Belgian ambassador to Tunis, signed a financial cooperation agreement granting Tunisia a line of public credit totaling 125 million Belgian francs (about 1.7 million dinars) under favorable conditions. The line of credit will be used to finance Tunisian development projects. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Ben Arfa and Van Crombrugge examined the state of relations between the two countries in preparation for Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali's upcoming official visit to Belgium. [Text] [Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French. 19 Apr 83 p 5] 11798

CSO: 4519/204

CONFERENCE DISCUSSES VARIOUS PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURE

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 31 Mar 83 p 9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali Munis: "The 12th Annual Agricultural Conference: For the Sake of Agricultural Output That Will Realize People's Aspirations"]

[Text] The meetings of the 12th annual agricultural conference in Baghdad, which went on for 2 days and ended recently, were marked by exhaustive discussions, as they reviewed the agricultural production plan for the current year, set out factors to make it a success, and studied the numerous aspects of last year's production plan.

The holding of this expanded conference included farmers, and it was preceded by broad preparations which brought out a number of points, among them the democratic spirit which pervaded the preparation of the agricultural plans and the concentrated participation by all agricultural action cells in establishing the indices necessary to administer the entire agricultural process in the Iraq of resurgence and development.

After the inaugural session, five committees emerged in the conference: the committees on water and land reclamation; cooperation, marketing and credit; plant production; livestock production; and agricultural services. Discussions took place and opinions were presented under the slogan "There is no use in a nation that eats more than it produces and harvests less than it plants." That is the slogan of the conference, which was inaugurated by Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and first deputy prime minister. He laid emphasis on a group of points, among them accuracy and boldness in the presentation of opinions and recommendations and the reliance on comprehensive solutions to the basic issues that are facing the agricultural sector, especially in its vital segments.

Attending the conference were a number of ministers, members of professional bureaus, governors (in their capacity as heads of agricultural councils in the governorates), General Federation of Cooperative Agricultural Societies staffs, the Union of Agricultural Workers, and the Union of Agricultural Engineers. Everyone's guiding principle was to search for the best ways of spreading general welfare through the various areas of triumphant Iraq and enhancing production in order to guarantee the masses' needs for food and other agricultural commodities that enter into domestic industry, while guiding the consumption of seeds, water and machinery and using them in the optimum manner.

Features of the Plan in the Committees' Activities

In the activities of the committees, which were presented with recommendations and opinions and were totally cognizant of the matters they were dealing with, views clashed and diverged, then came together, to establish specific figures or recommendations for dealing with the matters that had been presented.

Mr Sadiq 'Abd-al-Latif, the minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, said that the preparation for the conference began, as is wellknown, a number of months in advance, through subdistrict conferences and cooperative societies, and that each party presented its problems, its future plans, its production commitments and its service requirements item by item, as in the districts, the agricultural project departments in the governorates and the authorities in the governorates, and then here in the conference.

All production figures were the result of lengthy discussion and constant review, and at the same time all parties were aware of what was required. When the annual agricultural conference began its activities, that was to discuss the outcome and approve the final plan, following its assembly, and to listen to problems and obstacles that were not aired in the branch and local conferences.

In a meeting, Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, the minister of irrigation, spoke to us about the importance of the conference in these circumstances, saying: "Our wise leaders, headed by the president and commander, the fighting man Saddam Husayn, have given exceptional importance to planning, and today, now that the second [sic] annual agricultural conference is being held and is being attended by this broad group of farmers who are concerned with land reform and increased land production, it is a source of pride for us Iraqis that the resolutions should be proper ones and that they should arise from collective views.

"Direct meetings between producers in the field and specialists are of extreme importance, so that the plans will meet the conditions for success and concentrate on scientific expertise and field experience. We are all confident that the bold frank discussions, along with the recommendations they contain for resolving problems, will contribute to generating recommendations that will serve production and make our rural areas more productive on behalf of our great people, the people of heroic acts, who have been fighting the Persian aggressors for 3 years, meanwhile demonstrating their ability constantly to sacrifice themselves without fatigue, because they are defending their firm rights to freedom and dignity."

Optimism Is the Hallmark of the Discussions

To become better acquainted with the nature of the committee recommendations, we held a number of meetings with the heads of the five committees, in which they talked about the most prominent recommendations that emerged from the discussions, which will make large contributions to advancing the agricultural process, in its productive and service sides, on behalf of the most lofty goal, which is to serve our domestic economy in strengthening the spirit of perseverance and triumph.

Dr Najib Yasin al-Rawi, the chairman of the livestock production committee of the conference, said, "The most prominent recommendations are those that assert

the need to conduct oversight over fodder and animal protein production in the socialist sector, in order to develop that, and, in private activity, to preserve the level of prices and production, to construct poultry slaughterhouses to accommodate field production, and to complete the al-Ta'mim and Irbil fodder plants, as well as the construction of the dairy plant in Wasit by the Ministry of Industry and Mines, as embodied in the General Food Industries Organizations, and the creation of rapid solutions for marketing the milk produced in the General Agricultural Organization's cattle farms."

With respect to the committee on water and land reclamation, Mr Nahil Hammudi, the chairman of the committee, said, "Emphasis on the guidance of water use throughout the agricultural projects has been one of the most prominent recommendations, in view of the importance of preserving resources, which has been dictated to us by the circumstances of our struggle with the Iranian regime, on grounds that water is an extremely precious resource and controlling it means reducing the activities of maintaining agricultural projects, in particular pumping stations and sluice-gates.

"The recommendations also centered on preserving reclaimed land through a number of methods connected to this goal."

Mr Muhammad 'Abdallah, the chairman of the cooperation, marketing and credit committee, said that a review of the base of the cooperative structure, proceeding from the working paper's recommendations to develop the agricultural sector and the overall changes that have occurred in the cooperative movement, such as voluntary membership and individual financing by the Cooperative Agricultural Bank, have all instilled a new working atmosphere and have inspired special aspirations to develop the cooperative movement as a whole.

It was necessary to place emphasis on this point in the committee's recommendations, along with the recommendation that a special conference be held on the cooperative movement to which specialists and people working in the movement would be invited, in order to set out new bases for action.

Regarding the recommendations of the plant production committee, the chairman of the committee, Mr Walid 'Abd-al-Qadir Farhan, mentioned the two most prominent of these, stating, "It has been decided to increase the area of corn, with everyone's agreement and commitment to do so, to 400,000 donums, to provide the requirements of domestic industry and the fodder plants; meanwhile, last year's plan was only a little over 100,000 donums.

"It was also decided to increase the area of the wheat and barley crops by about 1 million donums over last year's because of the importance of these two crops as food for people and support for the domestic economy."

Regarding his committee's activity, Mr Latif al-Ilwan, chairman of the agricultural services committee, stated that it took place in a good atmosphere dominated by brotherly discussions which were concerned with the attainment of progress in activity. The recommendations stressed the use of local fertilizers because their practical benefits, quality and suitability for the soil had been proved, and the demand that all agricultural bodies devote attention to training their personnel in accordance with the program set out for this purpose.

In the area of providing agricultural accessories, the committee recommended that it was necessary that all bodies cooperate to deliver these on time and to use them in the best manner, which can provide benefits for agricultural production.

In a meeting, we asked Mr Hasan Hamzah, representative of private activity in the Governorate of Irbil, who was taking part in the conference, about the significance of his participation and the issues he came to raise. He said, "There is no doubt that the conference is an occasion for presenting and discussing all views, especially those that deal with a specific problem related to me. I raised the problem of the drop in poultry production in the governorate, which has been affected by the high prices of fodder and incubating eggs.

"The conference heard the problem, a great deal of discussion on it took place, and it was stressed in one of the livestock production committee recommendations that it was important to complete the fodder plants in al-Ta'mim and Irbil in order to provide adequate supplies for poultry growers, in view of the relationship between those and the development of their production."

11887

CSO: 4404/333

BRIEFS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY--The National Assembly will start work in its first annual session for the present year under the chairmanship of Mr Na'im Haddad, the chairman of the assembly, this Saturday. In its session, the assembly will discuss a number of drafts and laws dealing with youth care, transportation, fares in taxis outfitted with meters in the city of Baghdad, the ratification of the first amendment to the contract to establish the Iraqi-Jordanian overland company, the 12th amendment to the amended Law 20 on the Regulation of Trade for 1970, and the charter for the permanent regional bureau of the Middle East committee for blind people's affairs. In the session, the National Assembly members will learn about the activities and work of the permanent committees of the assembly in the period between its two sessions. At its second session last year, the National Assembly approved a number of drafts of laws and plans; among other things it gave agreement to the annual plan, the import program and the general government budget. The discussions of the chairman and members of the National Assembly in the previous session were full of cogent ideas and opinions on all the drafts of bills and plans that were raised in the course of these discussions, with the end of developing them and realizing the aspirations of the leadership of the party and the revolution in the current stage, in view of the progress they entail for our giant forward march and the emphasis on greater work and participation in elevating and deepening our people's awareness in a manner that will serve the goals and programs of the revolution, under the command of President Saddam Husayn, and implant the principles and goals of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, on behalf of the new society, prosperous life, and the strengthening of the victories of our armed forces in our just struggle against the forces of the vindictive Iranian regime, the continued momentum, and the provision of the requirements for the supportive victory. [Text] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Mar 83 p 6]

CSO: 4404/333

ISRAEL

RELATIONS WITH SPAIN DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 22 Apr 83 p 5

[Article: "Relations with Spain"]

[Text] Knesset Member Shim'on Peres' visit with the socialist prime minister of Spain did not change anything in the history of the relations between the two countries.

The statement that Spain recognizes Israel in principle and that the implementation of the principle is only a question of time is an empty statement.

Spain avoids establishing relations with Israel because of Arab threats. But the main threat of Arab oil no longer exists, since there is a glut of oil on the world market and the prices have gone down. The fear has to do more with the overall relationship with the Arab world than with oil.

Portugal established diplomatic relations with Israel and was not harmed. The relations are one-sided. Portugal does not have representation in Israel.

We made a mistake in the past. A high level Spanish delegation came to Israel 35 years ago and offered to establish relations. Spain was isolated at the time and wanted to form relations with Israel in order to improve its image in the Western world.

It was the late Moshe Sharet who served as foreign minister at the time who rejected the offer because of the fascist regime of dictator Franco, despite the fact that most of Europe's enlightened countries had relations at the time with Spain. It should be mentioned that Franco was the only fascist dictator who did not disturb the Jews, and even wanted to issue Spanish passports for Jews of Spanish origin. Jews found refuge in Spain during the Holocaust, those who were able to cross the border, of course.

This mistake which we have made is now hurting us. But Spain wants to join the European Common Market, and Israel has ties with that market, which should accelerate the Spanish political process. Moreover, Spain will compete with Israeli agricultural production; and some sort of an agreement is needed in this area, since Spain cannot ignore Israel's existence under such circumstances.

Those who are intimidated by Arab threats put conditions to those relations: withdrawal from Lebanon, solving the Palestinian problem, peace treaties. They did not put such conditions on other countries. Spain avoids establishing relations with Israel for fear of Arab sanctions. But in effect Spain lacks courage to take this step and it remains the only country in Europe that does not have relations with Israel.

9565

CS0: 4423/128

NEW HEAD OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DEPICTED

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Apr 83 p 18

[Article by Tali Zalinger: "The Commander Who Is Used To Succeeding"]

[Text] In the corridor of the office of the chief of intelligence, a picture of the ninth outgoing chief of intelligence, General Yehoshu'a Sagi', will be hung. All the pictures of the heads of intelligence are hung on the walls of the corridors. A few of them finished their terms only with the hanging of their pictures, others were hanged. Statistically, every second head of intelligence leaves office in a storm. One who will enter in a storm--young, bubbly and impatient--is General Ehud Barak, who will be appointed next Sunday to be the chief of intelligence in the General Staff. If one is allowed to predict on the basis of statistics and the man's attributes--Barak will not leave in a storm; Ehud Barak will make sure that the nail which will hold his picture at the end of his term in office will not be a nail in the coffin of his career. That there is no life after death is hard to prove; but that there is no advancement after holding the office of chief of intelligence--this can be ascertained after a brief look at the history of the appointment. Being the chief of military intelligence is a respectable and responsible undertaking and every ambitious intelligence officer aims for that position, but not the one who is ambitious for senior command positions and who is glancing in the direction of chief of staff.

General Ehud Barak, the 10th chief of intelligence, is the youngest general in the IDF. (He is 41 years old, a native of Kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon, married to Nava, and the father of three daughters.) His military career has been multi-faceted, full of action, fascinating and primarily very rapid. He is a man of analytical ability, profound and quick-thinking, with the ability to calculate. Ehud Barak, say his opponents, knows and is interested and is preoccupied with whatever is good for Ehud Barak. His supporters, from the beginning of his military service, note with admiration the leaps that he has made from rank to rank while they remained behind him. His subordinates in the elite unit in which he served, first as a lieutenant and then as a commander, speak of him with admiration--his courage, his innovative ability, his resourcefulness, and his natural leadership. His is a mixture of authoritativeness, pleasantness and rationality. There are not too many senior officers in the IDF with his intellectual capability. As for his intellectual honesty--his opponents raise an eyebrow. Ehud will not say

what those who determine when Ehud and what Ehud will do do not want to hear--claim his opponents, and thus raise doubts on his chances for being a truly good chief of intelligence, since the position of chief of intelligence requires first rate intellectual honesty and courage. This position indeed requires keeping a secret, but also and primarily speaking loudly in the rooms where defense policy is determined and in which military procedures are determined.

However, no one can cancel the basic reasons for Barak's consistent success throughout his military career: his intellectual ability (he has a B.A. in mathematics and physics from the Hebrew University and an M.A. in Systems Planning from Stanford University) and his military and leadership ability. Barak has recommendations from three chiefs of staff. In the record of Ehud Barak, a kibbutz member who was recruited to the IDF in 1959, a number of daring operations, some of them still unknown, include his command of the incursion into Beirut and the liquidation of Fatah leaders in their beds in a daring operation exactly 10 years ago and his command of the operation to release the passengers of the hijacked "Sabena" airplane at the Lod airport 13 years ago. In the record of Ehud Barak there are professional transfers--from the paratroops to the armored corps, to service as a commander of a tank unit on the Suez Canal at the end of the war of attrition, until the position of the commander of the elite unit was vacated; tank regimental commander, commander of reserve units and later of a regular armored group; staff position in the operations division of military intelligence, command over various commander courses in the IDF, a commando course in France, then his name change from Brug to Barak. His record is full of positions, but a close look shows a consistent trend--consistent as his concrete successes--of jumping from one position to another, some of which were "interim positions." The fact is that, interim or not interim, he succeeded in all his positions.

When the question came up of whom to appoint as chief of intelligence as a result of the removal of Yehoshua Sagi after the Kahan Commission, many saw in Ehud Barak the natural and best candidate for the position--operational background, intelligence background, the ability to deal with material. But Ehud Barak did not want to be the chief of intelligence. His objective: a command position, preferably as the Northern District Commander; his aim: the race for the position of chief of staff the next time around (General Dan Shomron, by remaining in the IDF under the command of Gen Levi, lessens somewhat his chances for participating in the contest in the next round and his chances of attaining it.) Ehud, who knows the course of advancement of the intelligence officer and the stories concerning the nine whose pictures are hung on the walls of the corridor, did not want to be added to his predecessors.

The wave of the second appointments came to an end, forced to a certain extent, with the appointment of Gen David Ivri to the position of chief of Operations Branch and deputy chief of staff, a candidate with capabilities but a compromise candidate for an interim period until the anger subsides and until the next round, and with the appointment of Ehud Barak as chief of intelligence, with the feeling that this is "interim" until the desired

command position and not as the last stop and not to remain in place in a race where Ehud Barak is not the only participant.

Thus ended his assignment as the head of the planning branch in the General Staff, a position he held "interim" since he was promoted to general on 31 December 1981. In the lottery for the position of chief of intelligence, Ehud Barak won even though others--not many, but as good as he is--could have won in different times. Only the future will tell how long Ehud Barak will serve in intelligence and what kind of work he did there; the man who could, if he only wished, do a lot and do it well.

9944

CSO: 4423/129

BEDOUINS COMPLAIN OF HARASSMENT BY GREEN PATROL

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Apr 83 p 11

[Article by Mordekhai Artzi'eli: "The Wild West Patrol"]

[Text] Dozens of shaykhs, heads of tribes and Bedouin dignitaries from throughout the Negev, were invited a few weeks ago to the traditional reception in honor of Independence Day, which the man in charge of the Southern District and the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, hold. But, for the first time, the name of Minister Mordekhai Zipori was also on the invited list.

Many of the dignitaries wanted to boycott the ceremony this year. The activities of the Green Patrol and the disputes over the evacuation of the Bedouins from the airport site at Tel Malhata muddled the good relations which have existed in the past between the Bedouins and the authorities. A few minutes before the minister's speech, a dozen of the head shaykhs held a stormy discussion over whether to leave immediately and protest the reception. With respect to the minister, they decided to stay but they could not conceal their anger.

When the reason for their anger became known to the Israeli dignitaries, they did not understand; 2 hours before the beginning of the ceremony the Green Patrol had held an operation to remove 12 Bedouin families and in the process one of the tents caught on fire. Minister Zipori did not conceal his anger; an hour earlier he greeted his "Bedouin brothers" whom he said could serve as an example of the harmonious life between Jews and minorities in Israel. He gathered the head shaykhs and told them that immediately upon his return to Jerusalem he will report the incident to the minister of agriculture.

Shaykh Khalil Abu Rabi' said, "They invite us to a reception for Independence Day and at the same moment the Green Patrol continues to plot against us. This action is beyond brutality." A senior police officer stated: "I do not know how the tent was burned. But it was idiotic and stupid to have an operation against the Bedouins while there is a state reception in their honor." A senior government official commented: "It is hard to believe the story. It does not make sense that the Green Patrol held an operation today. An investigation will be held, and if the story is correct, someone will have to pay for it."

Two days later, Mr Barzel, who is in charge of the Southern District, met with Mr Alon Galili, the commander of the Green Patrol. Galili confirmed that he had headed the operation to remove Bedouin families from the Tel 'Arad region where they are staying without a permit, but denied that his people set one of the tents on fire. According to him, one of the Bedouins, Ahmad Darwish, became nervous and set his tent on fire. The patrol people helped to put the fire out and prevented the tent from burning. To Mr Barzel's question why the operation was held concurrently with the state reception, Mr Alon Galili did not have an answer.

The next day Ahmand Darwish, 76 years old, from the al-Nasirah tribe, who has 3 wives and 26 children was still shaken, angry and bitter. This is his story: "A few weeks ago I received an invitation to a party with the minister in honor of Independence Day. Last Wednesday, early in the morning, an officer by the name of Barukh came to my home. He said that the army has to train in the area, which is a firing area, and that I have to take all the families that are in the tents away and return at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. He said, 'Leave all the tents, nothing will happen to them.'

"I told the officer, all right. We all left, men, women, and children and returned in the evening. Then the officer told me that tomorrow also the army has to train. I said, all right. Tomorrow, too, we will leave and return in the evening. When we returned Thursday evening, the officer was there along with a man from the Green Patrol. He told me that also at night we can't stay in the area and that we have to immediately dismantle the tents and leave. He also said that if he finds the tents in the morning, he will burn them. He also demanded that we should immediately clear the goats' excrement from the entire area.

"I refused to dismantle the tents, but after they left I told myself that it is better not to get involved, and at 2 o'clock in the morning, I awakened those who were asleep and we began to dismantle the tents. Before the sun rose, we left with the herd to a distance of 2 1/2-3 kilometers, outside the firing area of the army. We settled on uncultivated lands which were leased last year to Shaykh Khali Abu Rabi', to Shaykh Ibrahim al-'Umar and to Shaykh Mustafa al-Nassarrah. Afterwards, I put on nice clothes, intending to go to the reception at the hotel in Be'er Sheva. But all of a sudden, six or seven jeeps of the Green Patrol, headed by Alon Galili, Dodo Levanon and also Moti, arrived. On the hill across I saw two jeeps of the border patrol, but they did not enter the tent area. Galili told me that we had to immediately evacuate the place."

Ahmad Darwish took out of his pocket two pieces of paper--permit number 22 dated 17 February 1983, request and authorization for a permit to tend a flock of 1,819 sheep in the firing area, beginning on 17 February 1983 until 15 May 1983. "I showed Galili the authorization and asked him what he wanted of our lives. But he threw the papers on the floor. I told him that this is a short Friday and that I am in a hurry to the minister's reception. They laughed in my face. I was angry and I was insulted. I said that I would not dismantle the tents and we would not move from here even if you burn them.

"Then Moti went to the jeep and brought a container. I don't know if it contained benzene or oil, and he emptied it on the front part of the tent. He did not empty all of it, just a little bit. He then took a match and lit it and the fire broke out. The women and children began to scream and cry. They ran to bring water, they threw water and soil to put out the fire. In the meantime Galili and the patrol people knocked down other tents and cut with knives the ropes that held them.

"I was very mad, I took the invitation to the minister's reception out of my pocket, tore it up and said that this no longer is a holiday for me. I immediately went to Shaykh Khalil Abu Rabi' and caught him before he left for the reception in Be'er Sheva and told him what had happened.

"In the afternoon, after the reception with the minister had ended in Be'er Sheva, Alon Galili, Yehuda Itzer and another man came to me in the tent camp and promised me that they will always allow me to remain in the firing area, but that I must promise them that I will not make a noise over what happened this morning, that I will not meet with journalists and that if journalists came, that I should tell them that nothing happened. I answered them that I would never forgive them for what they had done. That I will tell everything. That is why I am telling it to you. I am willing to swear on the Holy Koran that I told you all the truth."

The agencies in contact with the Bedouins in the Negev, such as the ministry of the interior, the army, the police, the office of the adviser for Arab affairs in the prime minister's office and the administrator for establishing the airport in Tel Malhata--were not surprised by the lack of sensitivity of the Green Patrol; a week before 30 March, "Land Day," a few of these agencies found out that the Green Patrol was about to hold an operation on 29 March to destroy Bedouin structures that had been built without permits. Indeed, the law should be upheld, but to destroy houses 1 day before "Land Day" when militants are agitating against the nation is more than stupidity. Alon Galili agreed to postpone the operation only after intervention by senior officials. He did not understand and asked what the connection was between Land Day and the destruction of structures and the upholding of the law.

A few months ago the IDF appealed to a few members of the al-Azazmah tribe, many of whom serve as scouts in the IDF and asked them to evacuate a firing area in the Tel Masos region and to move to another region decided by the Army. The Bedouins did not argue. A month later the Green Patrol people came and forced them to return to the place they had been asked to leave.

It was not the first time when officers in the Southern Command, and especially intelligence officers, were angered by the operations of the Green Patrol. In mid-February of this year the Green Patrol people destroyed the soil embankments of 'Id Abu Sarifah. This Bedouin had served for 10 years as a scout for the IDF and was released only on the day that his son volunteered to serve in the IDF. Before that he served for many years in Israeli intelligence, also beyond the borders. After the incident was published, an official in land administration promised to re-establish the destroyed embankments. Up until now the promise has not been fulfilled.

A great effort is put into evacuating the Bedouin families from the airport site in Tel Malhata. The financial negotiations are slow and nerve-racking. Two months ago, after discussions, 18 families agreed to be evacuated. However, 1 day before evacuation the Green Patrol arrived in the area and destroyed a miserable shack which had been built without a permit. The next day the 18 families announced their refusal to evacuate and they still live in the area.

These examples indicate that the Green Patrol does not coordinate its operations and put all the other agencies in contact with the Bedouins before a fait accompli: If the Green Patrol is allowed to continue to operate without supervision and without coordination, a split could be created, if it has not already been, that could not be healed between the Bedouins and the authorities.

9944

CSO: 4423/129

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

TOURISM BUREAU IN MADRID--The ministry of tourism will open by the end of the month a new tourism bureau in Madrid. This was agreed between Israeli and Spanish government officials 6 months ago. Because of the rapprochement between the two countries it was agreed to open the bureau as early as this month. The Israeli Tourist Bureau will open in one of the central buildings in Madrid, and will also encourage tourism from Portugal to Israel. The head of the bureau will be a Spanish citizen, a veteran of the Spanish tourist industry, who was interviewed and chosen by the Israeli ministry of tourism. The new bureau will work on stimulating Spanish tourism to Israel, forming contacts with tourism wholesalers, bringing tourists to Israel from South American countries who are visiting Spain, and stimulating tourism from Europe, whose first destination is Spain. The HA'ARETZ reporter was told yesterday that the new bureau and the newly established regular flights of the Spanish airline between Madrid and Tel Aviv are expected to bring tens of thousands of Spanish tourists to Israel each year. [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Apr 83 p 2] 9565

TEL AVIV-MADRID FLIGHTS--An El Al representative is now concluding an agreement in Madrid with the Spanish airline Iberia. According to the agreement the two airlines will begin flights in the Tel Aviv-Madrid route beginning in the middle of June. The negotiations between El Al and Iberia began in 1982 and were renewed soon after El Al was reactivated. Since Israel and Spain do not have diplomatic relations, it was agreed that the negotiations would take place between the two airlines without open intervention of the two governments. The senior representative of El Al went to Madrid 2 days ago to look into opening the El Al branch in the Spanish capital and possibly in Barcelona as well. It is believed that most of the tourists from Spain will be Christian pilgrims, and that 70,000 Israelis will use the new line during the first year. [Text] [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Apr 83 p 2] 9565

CSO: 4423/128

ERSHAD TELLS IMPROVEMENT IN WOMEN'S STATUS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 May 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt Gen H.M. Ershad yesterday emphasised the need for social awareness, education and economic independence to ensure the legitimate rights of the women, reports BSS.

Speaking as chief guest at the regional seminar on 'femicide' in the Pacific Asian countries at a hotel in Dhaka the CMLA said that the enforcement of law is not enough to stop persecution of women.

He pointed out that in a society like ours where women belong to diverse groups of religious and social background, it is not possible to change the law of person, overnight. Moreover, he added, we have to take sufficient care to ensure that our women are not cut off from their religious and cultural moorings.

Gen Ershad said that the position of women in Islam is clearly defined which strikes a wonderful balance in the relationship between men and women. He expressed the belief that proper adherence to the principles and tenets of Islam by all concerned will be the best guarantee for the rights of the womanfolk.

The Chief Justice of Bangladesh, Dr. F.K.M.A. Munim presented the keynote paper at the seminar while it was addressed by Mrs Meherunnessa Khatun, President, Mrs Azra Ali, Vice President and Mrs Sigma Huda, Secretary of the Bangladesh Jatiya Mohila Ainjibi Samity and Miss Daphne Kok, President of the International Federation of Woman Lawyers.

The seminar organised by the Jatiya Mohila

Ainjibi Samity is being participated by representatives from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, The Phillipines, Indonesia and Australia.

Gen. Ershad said that the government is aware of the rights of women who constitute half of the country's total population and is taking positive steps to ensure their legitimate rights. "Unless we do something to remove poverty and illiteracy, we cannot expect the desired results only from the enforcement of laws," he added.

Referring to the programmes launched by the present government to achieve economic emancipation of the people, he hoped that the women will take full part in these programmes and pave the way to attain the cherished goal. Attainment of this goal, he added, will solve many of the problems being faced by women and ensure their participation in all spheres of national life.

The CMLA said that apart from the women being qualified for contesting in election to different bodies, the government has kept certain seats reserved for them in those bodies. Realising the fact that women form the vital infrastructure of socio-economic development of a nation, the Government has created the Womens affairs Division to ensure their right and solve their problems.

DIRECTORATE

Gen. Ershad said that to serve as the field agency of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, a women affairs cell is run in Dhaka which is being proposed to be raised to a fullfledged directorate of women's affairs. Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Sangstha and Bangladesh Women's Rehabilitation and Welfare Foundation are the two semi-government agencies working under the ministry for the development and welfare of women, he added.

He said with a view to inducing women in development activities, it has adopted recruitment policy ensuring ten per cent quota for women candidates in all categories of vacancies in addition to the merit quota of 40 per cent where women were equally eligible to compete with men.

The Government, the CMLA said, had relaxed the age limit for the first entry into the service for women candidates upto 30 years while the general age limit for the purpose was 27 years. It has also taken up a number of projects and programmes to impart skill training to women and also run production centres to provide job opportunities to the trained women.

Gen. Ershad pointed out that to develop effective women managers, the Ministry of Women Affairs has taken up programmes to provide training in management and administration to roughly 1500 women engaged in government, semi-government and even non-government organisations who have some role in decision making.

Referring to the reformative measures the Government has taken to bring about a change in the social condition of women in the society, he said that dowry which has marred so many marriages and shattered so many happy conjugal lives in past is now a criminal offence.

The CMLA said under the

law, it is quite difficult now to have more than one wife. Our law also permits divorce by women under certain conditions. Immoral trafficking, abduction and violation of the modesty of women are all offences liable to heavy punishments, he added.

CHIEF JUSTICE

Earlier, in his key-note paper, the Chief Justice of Bangladesh said that women and their problems undoubtedly require utmost consideration, because they were 'unique and distinct', judging them from diverse points of views.

He stressed the need for establishing family courts and said its absence may be considered a factor hampering the speedy settlement of legal grievances of women which may otherwise go without remedy. Establishment of such courts may lead to yield positive results, at least in the matter of disputes arising from the breach of conjugal relation, maintenance and guardianship of children in case of broken families and the enforcement of property rights of women, he pointed out.

The Chief Justice said that irrespective of diversities of race, colour, religion, language and wealth, personality of women, like that of men deserve our fullest respect. "If we are prepared to honour our women and treat them on a basis of fairness and equity, only then can our claim of achieving the highest standard of moral and social development be conceded," he added.

The function was attended, among others, by Begum Roshan Ershad, the DCMLAs—Rear Admiral M A Khan and Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, Ministers, judges of Supreme Court, diplomats and high civil and military officials.

Later Begum Ershad inaugurated the handicraft exhibition organised by the Samity in connection with the seminar. Gen. Ershad and Begum Ershad went round different stalls and evinced keen interest in the handicrafts that were on display there.

'NATIONAL DIALOGUE' BEGINS WITH ERSHAD-KHAN TALKS

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 30 Apr 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by N.M. Harun: "Formal Dialogue Begins"]

[Text] So the beginning has been made—and not inappropriately with Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan, who is more of a prestigious political personage than leader of his Jatiya League.

Mr. Khan received on April 27 afternoon a 32-word communication from the office of the Chief Martial Law Administrator inviting him to a discussion on the "overall national situation" with the CMLA at his cantonment residence, "Sena Bhavan", the next evening.

The invitation was extended to Mr. Khan as an individual in the address of his Dhanmondi residence and was delivered to him by a high official.

Mr. Khan obliged the CMLA office by accepting the invitation and on April 28 talked to the CMLA General Ershad. He was allowed to take some other persons along with him and the CMLA was also assisted by a team, which included home minister Major-General Mahabbat Jan Chowdhury. The meeting lasted for about two and a half hours from 7 p.m. to 9-30 p.m.

Thus the much-talked-about "national dialogue", proposed by General Ershad on February 18 in the wake of student movement, was formally launched.

And it was launched rather in an informal manner. The modalities and basis of the dialogue were not spelt out.

Mr. Khan told this correspondent he was told by the CMLA's men that a long list of invitees to the dialogue was already prepared. Mr. Khan advised them to talk to all the political leaders of consequence.

THE TOPICS

There was no fixed agenda in Ershad-Khan talks. The talks, however, according to Mr. Khan, focussed mainly on the constitutional issues including the controversial proposal to allow the military a role in the statecraft, form of government, political transition, reforms measures of the government and student problem.

Mr. Khan said he told the CMLA that Martial Law and politics do not go together. He pleaded for political freedom. He was

told that problems like student agitation obstructed the restoration of full-fledged political activities.

Mr. Khan said he would love to believe that the CMLA was "sincere" in "restoring democracy." He found him concerned that no smooth transition of power took place in the country since independence.

Mr. Khan said he told the CMLA that he believed neither the military nor the political parties were capable of running the country singly. "I think there can be a coordination between the military and the political parties," he suggested.

The CMLA and his men, according to Mr. Khan, thought that not a military rule but a role of the military in the statecraft was essential for smooth sailing of the country. Mr. Khan pointed out that other groups like the civil bureaucracy, police etc. might also come out with the claim for such roles.

But the CMLA and his men, according to Mr. Khan, maintained that the military was a special category with the power and record of

unsettling constitutional development by intervening in the statecraft. They felt that the military should have a constitutional role in the statecraft as a "safety valve."

FLUID VIEW

Mr. Khan, however, said he found the CMLA and his men to be maintaining "a fluid" view on the constitutional issues.

Mr. Khan said that the CMLA did not yet decide on any particular form of government—presidential or parliamentary. He told the CMLA that West minister-type parliamentary democracy did not work in the country because the political parties did not develop as "a political institution" and American-type presidential system also did not work because the people did not attain "sufficient political maturity." Mr. Khan said he himself favored a French-type government.

Mr. Khan said he advised the CMLA to settle the student problem "politically" and for this to talk to the political parties. He pointed out that President Zia had made formation of student, labor, women and similar other fronts a legal requirement for a political party.

CSO: 4600/1152

DHAKA OFFICIAL MAKES KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT ESCAP MEET

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 30 Apr 83 p 3

[Text] Shah A.M.S. Kibria, Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has called for an Asian economic summit to help bolster the bargaining power of the region's developing countries on trade, finance and other mutual concerns at the global level, says a UNIC press release.

Most countries of the region have reached a certain stage of development that provides a basis for common and concerted action. But they have done little to exploit the "varied and extensive possibilities," said Mr Kibria.

In his key note address at the ESCAP's 39th annual session in Bangkok, Mr Kibria predicted "positive and even dramatic" results if Asian leaders evolve "a suitable mechanism for collective decisions aimed at increasing their influence and manoeuvrability on issues of mutual concern," he added.

"For example, access to markets in developed countries is vital for the growing manufacturing sectors in all these countries, as are remunerative and stable prices for their agricultural products. Last but not least in importance are readjustments and reforms in the trading and financial systems to accommodate this dynamic group of Asian countries."

The ESCAP chief, a former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, declared that "the possibilities that that fruitful co-operation would offer to these countries are so vast that an Asian economic summit would seem to be the most logical response not only to the gathering crisis but for their long-term progress and prosperity."

Mr Kibria said the idea of an Asian economic summit occurred to him while 'reflecting on how small groups of leading industrial nations are able to take concerted action, not allowing various differences to stand in the way of periodic consultation'.

Asian leaders of various middle-income countries could follow suit, "instead of drifting at the mercy of external circumstances."

His call for a top-level economic gathering came after urging member countries to exert more effort to increase trade and other economic co-operation within

The Asia-Pacific region particularly in the wake of generally lower economic growth rates in most of these countries last year.

Although lower by several percentage points in some cases last year, overall growth rates in a number of regional countries were maintained in the 4-6 per cent range, and Mr Kibria noted this was "well above the average growth of other regions or groups of countries."

He attributed this continuing economic dynamism to the fact that "industrialization is well under way in this region" and to the progress many Asian countries have made in transport, communications and other development infrastructure, as well as in developing their educational systems and reservoirs of skilled manpower.

"But continued industrial progress is being stifled now by the recession with its damaging effects of trade barriers and much reduced flows of foreign investment and technology," he added. "For most countries of the region, regaining the momentum of economic growth and industrialization will largely depend on these adverse conditions being alleviated."

The ESCAP Executive Secretary also called attention to the region's worsening rural poverty and appealed to the developed countries to heed "the crucial need for remedial action" in stabilizing the prices of primary commodities at equitable levels. The recent drastic drop in commodity prices has seriously eroded the already low purchasing power of farm families in Asia and the Pacific.

"The industrial nations, in my view, have not lent enough support to the integrated programme for commodities when one considers the millions of people affected, their desperate plight and the likelihood of instability in these societies if prices continue to fall," he said.

CSO: 4600/1151

TEXT OF BANGLADESH DELEGATE'S SPEECH ON NAMIBIA

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 28, 29 Apr 83

[Speech by Syed Najmuddin Hashim, Bangladesh delegation leader, at the international conference on Namibian people's struggle for independence; date and place not specified]

[28 Apr 83 p 3]

[Text]

Following is the full text of the statement made by Bangladesh delegation leader Syed Najmuddin Hashim at the international conference on Namibian people's struggle for independence :

"Mr. President, it is indeed a great privilege for me and the members of my delegation to attend the international conference in support of the Namibian people for independence and to reiterate the solidarity of the Government and people of Bangladesh with the long suffering people of Namibia.

We are also happy to see you preside over this important conference. For me personally having been fortunate to have witnessed your wise and mature stewardship of the first meeting of the standing committee on culture and information of the organisation of Islamic Conference in Dakar not to long ago, it is very reassuring to see you once again chairing this historic conference on Namibia. I need not Mr President refer to the outstanding contribution

of Senegal to the cause of Africa in General and Namibia in particular. We are confident that under your wise and able guidance the conference will be able to achieve the desired objectives.

I would like to thank the French Government for the kind hospitality extended to me. It is no coincidence that this historic city of Paris has been chosen as the venue of the conference. It was here that about two hundred years ago the weighty issues of liberty, equality and fraternity were fought for and won. Although the heroes of those bygone days are no longer with us, their spirit and dedication to the cause of freedom and justice will no doubt animate and inform our discussions and serve as a beacon light in our deliberations.

Mr. President the tragedy of Namibia is a tragedy for mankind. The attempt to subjugate the people of Namibia through ruthless economic exploitation and the sedulous application of

the obnoxious policy of segregation and apartheid is an offence to the concept of human dignity and freedom posing a grave threat not only to the peace and security in Africa but to the whole world.

For more than half a century the people of Namibia have been the victims of colonialism, racism and racial discrimination based apartheid. They have suffered indignity and ignominy, physical and mental persecution, harassment, detention and torture. It is a tribute to the courage and determination of the valiant people of Namibia that they have not faltered in the face of adversity. In fact their movement has gained in strength and vitality with every passing day and has earned the respect and support of the international community.

The position of Bangladesh on the question of Namibia is well known. It has been firm, consistent and unequivocal. It is based on our enduring and total commitment to support the oppressed peoples around the

world who are waging a just struggle against imperialism, colonialism, Neo-colonialism and racism. It is inspired by our deep and abiding faith in the charter of the UN and our strict adherence to the UNGA resolution 1514 (XV) embodying the historic declaration on granting of independence to colonial peoples and countries.

[29 Apr 83 p 3]

[Text]

Following is the remaining part of the news item captioned 'Text of Hashim's speech at conference on Namibia' published in our yesterday's issue.

Mr President, the Bangladesh position on the Namibian question has been stated in no uncertain terms by the President of the Council of Ministers, Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad. He told the 7th Non-aligned Summit and here I quote: "The persistent presence of colonialism and racism in Southern Africa is an outrage to humanity. It continues to pose a dangerous threat to peace and security in the region. Bangladesh is irrevocably committed to the cause of the oppressed people of Namibia and South Africa. We pledge our unstinted support in their legitimate struggle for freedom, liberty and human dignity. We are fully convinced that their efforts will ultimately triumph".

Time and again we have reiterated our support to the inalienable rights of all peoples to self-determination, freedom and independence. We believe that the process of decolonisation is irreversible. It is indeed intolerable that the regime of South Africa has with impunity flouted all canons of international law and all norms of civilised conduct. Pretoria's racist regime stands condemned as a criminal before the bar of world conscience and opinion. It has disregarded the

various United Nations resolutions including resolution No. 2145 (XXI) of October 27, 1966 which terminated the mandate of South Africa over Namibia. It has shown utter contempt towards the advisory opinion of June 21, 1971 of the International Court of Justice declaring her continued presence in Namibia as illegal. Far from abiding by the international opinion, South Africa has progressively undertaken steps designed to destroy the territorial integrity of Namibia. It has occupied Walvis Bay which is an integral part of Namibia. It has held mock elections, leading to the formation of a so-called national assembly, which has been declared null and void by the Security Council. It has undertaken a systematic fragmentation of Namibia along ethnic and racial lines by herding ninety per cent of the native population in noncontiguous so-called homelands in barren terrain and by stealing ninety per cent of the most fertile land for exclusive occupation by the expatriate white minority. It has massively deployed its armed forces to police the territory and rule the people by repression and terror. Such acts have not only been confined to Namibia but has spilled over to the neighbouring states where armed incursions have been undertaken by the racist Bandits. Countless Namibians who have opposed

the heinous policies of the Pretoria regime have been killed or condemned as terrorists and jailed.

Mr. President,

We can not remain indifferent to all the inhuman crimes being perpetuated by the government of South Africa. We can not remain mute spectators to the endless travel and trauma suffered by the Namibian people. Bangladesh believes that the independence of Namibia can and must be achieved in accordance with the principles embodied in these solutions of the United Nations, particularly Security Council Resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978). We are convinced that the security council resolution constitute the only viable basis for peaceful transition of the territory from colonial subjugation to independence. We condemn South Africa for its dilatory tactic in the implementation of the security council resolutions. We can not accept any formula outside the framework of the United Nations. We urge that the UN resolutions particularly the Security Council resolutions are implemented in full without any modification or amendment whatsoever.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh deeply appreciates the confidence shown in her in assisting and facilitating the UN special representative in carrying out the mandate

during the transition period to independence through the framework of UNTAG (United Nations Transition Assistance Group). As representative of the UN council for Namibia's delegation to the law of the sea conference, Bangladesh has always concerted her efforts with other like-minded countries to promote the cause of Namibia with particular reference to the exploration and exploitation of her natural resources, both on-shore and off-shore.

Mr. President, we salute the leadership of SWAPO for their struggle against the forces of apartheid. We appreciate their statesmanship and decision to sign a ceasefire agreement and for accepting a target date for the arrival of the United Nations transition assistance group that would set in motion the electoral process under United Nations supervision. We hail the rousing address of our dear brother—San Nujoma—who has committed his heroic combatants to make the price of illegal occupation of Namibia absolutely prohibitive. We should like to congratulate the leaders of the frontline states—Tanzania, Nigeria, Mozambique, Botswana, Angola, Zimbabwe, Zambia—for the courage and fortitude they have shown and the invaluable support they have extended to the cause of Namibia.

We would like to express our deep appreciation to the Secretary General of the United Nations, to the President of the UN Council for Namibia, to the Organization of African support for the independence of the Namibian people.

Mr. President, the struggle of the people of Namibia has reached a crucial point in history. Let us hope that the voice of reason prevails over the forces of irrationality. The compulsive blindness which South Africa has demonstrated to international counsel for moderation and civilised behaviour could only lead to the destruction of the apartheid regime but it will not long impede the inexorable march of history. Let us then together give a decisive push here of this conference to bring about the dawn of Namibian independence as envisaged in the UN plan embodied in the Security Council resolution 435, which must remain the only basis, without the introduction of extraneous and irrelevant issues, for a final and lasting settlement of the Namibian problem.

Thank you, Mr President.

DHAKA ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO SIHANOUK

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 May 83 p 1

[Text] Mr C.M. Murshed presented his credentials to Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Democratic Kampuchea with residence in Peking at the Kampuchean village of Phum Thmey on April 30 in a brief but colourful ceremony according to a message received Dhaka on Monday reports BSS.

Besides Bangladesh the Ambassadors of Malaysia, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mauritania presented their credentials to the Kampuchean head of state at the same ceremony.

While presenting the credentials Ambassador C.M. Murshed conveyed the warm greetings and sincere good wishes from President Ahsanuddin Chowdhury and the Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen H.M. Ershad to Prince Norodom Sihanouk and also the best wishes from the people of Bangladesh for the people of Democratic Kampuchea.

In his reply the Kampuchean head of state expressed his profound thanks to Lt Gen H.M. Ershad and his government for the support extended to him the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea. He requested the envoy to convey to the President and the CMLA of Bangladesh his profound gratitude and personal esteem. He expressed the hope that the government and the people of Bangladesh would continue to support the just struggle of the government and the people of Kampuchea for the restoration of their beloved country's independence.

Ambassador Murshed underlined Bangladesh's principled stand on the Kampuchean issue and reiterated that his government had always called for a political solution on the basis of withdrawal of foreign troops from the Kampuchea and thereby allowing the people of that country to decide their Destiny without any external interference and intervention. The Kampuchean President expressed full understanding and appreciation of Bangladesh's position.

CSO: 4600/1156

GOVERNMENT URGED TO TAKE FARRAKA ISSUE TO UN

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 3 May 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President of Krisak Sramik Party Mr. A.S.M. Sulaiman has urged the government to take the issue of Farakka with the United Nations without any further loss of time.

In a statement yesterday, Mr. Sulaiman, said violating all international laws and conventions, India had diverted the Ganges waters at upper stream of Farakka to Uttar Pradesh and Maharastra which, he said, had brought down the water flow at Farakka to an all time low level.

He said for last few years, the Ganges waters flow at Farakka had gradually been reduced and now it came to the present alarming level. India, he said, in fact creating pressure on Bangladesh by reducing the

flow at Farakka to make Bangladesh accept India's link canal proposal. Such pressure could never help resolve international problems, he said.

COMMUNIST LEAGUE

General Secretary of the Communist League Mr. Tipu Biswas and organising secretary of Jatiyo Krisak Samity Sree Bimal Biswas have expressed concern over the attitude of India with regard to the Farakka issue.

In a joint statement yesterday, they said India had taken the Farakka issue as a weapon to create political pressure on Bangladesh and the expansionist circle of India had been exerting its influence on the questions of Angorpota, Dahanu and Tin Bigha corridor.

CSO: 4600/1159

REPORT ON PRESIDENT'S MAY DAY MESSAGE TO NATION

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 1 May 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President Ahsanuddin Chowdhury has called upon the people to participate in the efforts to build a new Bangladesh, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of the historic May Day, president Chowdhury said that present government had taken in hand progressive programmes aimed at socio-economic development of the country. It had adopted liberal industrial and capital investment policy. Thana administration had been strengthened under the people-oriented and dynamic administrative framework by decentralising the administrative system. All these steps, he said, were directed towards generating country wide economic and social activities and employment opportunities.

Expressing his profound respect to the ideals of the great May Day and solidarity with the hopes and aspirations of the working people world over, the President noted that a kind of infrastructure was now being built in which the cooperation of each entrepreneur and each worker would be the fundamental ingredient for national economic progress.

He pointed out that the economic recession of the present time posed a great challenge to the working people. Hard work and human approach were the only weapons to meet the challenge. He expressed the confidence that the conscious community of peasants and workers would make continued contribution to the progress of the nation by successfully facing this challenge.

CSO: 4600/1155

FACTIONS MERGE TO FORM BANGLADESH MUSLIM LEAGUE

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 30 Apr 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Four factions of Muslim League were united today under the name and style of Bangladesh Muslim League with Justice B.A. Siddiqui as its President and Begum Razia Faiz as General Secretary.

The four factions were Sabur Group, Siddiqi Group, T. Ali Group and Gano Muslim League.

The unification of the party was announced at a meeting of four-party steering committee which was attended by 89 out of 116 members.

The meeting also elected A.N.M. Yusuf as Senior Vice-President and Alhaj Abdul

Hannan as Organising Secretary.

The ad-hoc committee elected today will act till the council session in next six months.

An 11-member "policy committee" was formed including members of the ad-hoc committee which will formulate organisational and political programmes.

Earlier, the steering committee for unification placed its report before the meeting presided over by A.N.M. Yusuf, among those who spoke on the report were Alhaj M.A. Hannan, Ismail Hossain Talukdar, Aftabuddin Chowdhury, Begum Razia Faiz, Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury, S.A. Awal, G.A. Khan, Ahsan Habib, Mir Kashem Khan, Abdus Salam, Mohammad Hossain Badsha, Nazmul Hossain Khan and Ibrahim Hossain.

CSO: 4600/1151

GANO MUSLIM OFFICIALS DENY MUSLIM LEAGUE MERGER

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 1 May 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Mr Abul Khayer, Vice President and Advocate Kazi Aulad Hossain, General Secretary of Gano Muslim League in a statement yesterday termed the announcement of merger by Muslim League (Siddiqui) as false and misleading.

They also said it was a conspiracy to frustrate the move to unite all the factions of Muslim League into one organisation.

They claimed that none of their party members were present in that meeting that was held at the City Mokhtar Library.

The Gano Muslim League leaders said that none would believe that a meeting on merger of the Muslim League factions could be held without the presence of Muslim League leaders like Mr. T. Ali, Kazi Kader, Al-haj Shamsul Huda, Mr M A Matin and Advocate Ataul Haq.

They called upon the workers of Muslim League not to be misguided by such propaganda.

CSO: 4600/1155

TEXT OF FINANCE MINISTER'S SPEECH TO GROUP OF 77

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Apr 83 pp 5, 6

[Article by A.M.A. Muhith: "Rationalizing Global Economy"]

[Text] About two decades back when the Group of 77 took roots, I wonder if the founding fathers visualised a gathering of the group in the circumstances of today. One would have expected sufficient restructuring of the global system during this period so as to avoid a crisis of the present dimensions. The crisis that the world economy has been passing through in the eighties is, indeed unprecedented. The Depression of the thirties could be blamed on a number of factors. The economic insensitivity of the Treaty of Versailles, the absence of global fora for financial and economic coordination or the lack of perception of global interdependence could be among the various culprits.

But this time it is difficult to find such scape-goats. The inadequacy of the Bretton woods twin is no longer a subject matter of academic discussion but its very obvious limitations are being dramatically experienced.

SDR's were created to meet the liquidity crisis, the floating exchange rate was introduced to replace the dollar gold parity, the extended fund facility was set up to look after the medium term balance of payments disequilibrium. The inadequacy of global supervision of the trade regime and the operations of transnational corporations was not only debated but attempts were also made to tackle them. The continuation of UNCTAD as a permanent agency or the establishment of the Commission TNC's were unfortunately only half-hearted measures. Global interdependence was always recognised but whenever efforts were made to translate this into specific action it was strongly resisted, particularly if this entailed any change in the decision making processes. Though development was considered so vital to the good health of the global economy, it has always been the first victim of any economic belt tightening. Measures for controlling information would cut down development assistance without trying to secure a balance between consumption and investment.

The crisis on our hands has deepened with the passage of time. 1982 has been the most dismal year of the century in an economic context. I would quote only a few facts to illustrate.

*Trade after becoming stagnant has declined by 6% after three decades of consistent growth. *Commodity prices have undergone the biggest slump in fifty

years. *Protection has become more acute than ever before and we are already witnessing a trade war which could have a catastrophic impact. *Debt-service of the developing countries has climbed to a new high of about \$130 billion. *The balance of payments gap of non-oil developing countries has been at an all time high of \$92 billion. *Growth rate in all economies has been in shambles, with developing countries experiencing a steady decline in per capita income. *Unemployment is at its post-war peak in the developed economies and the abysmal state of affairs in the developing countries better be not recounted. *Even with lower inflation rates, interest rates continued to be high and volatile. *Exchange rate volatility further destabilised trade and development. *Though investment declined all over, capacity continued to remain unutilized. *Defence expenditure however went on expanding reaching about \$650 billion or the combined GNP of all Asian non-oil developing countries. *The liquidity crisis has surpassed all past records. Availability of both development assistance and commercial credit to developing countries has been at an all time low level. *Austerity and contraction in developing economies have created an extremely precarious situation throughout the developing world where domestic instability and chaos will unquestionably pose a major threat to international peace and security.

The severity of the crisis has been so completely destabilising that there are now serious doubts about whether we can pull ourselves out of this downward spiral into which the global economy has been locked. There is talk today in some of the developed countries about a global recovery. But can there be a recovery in one or two countries independent of growth in the rest of the world? Can there be any sustained recovery without building up the trading capacity of Africa, Asia and Latin America? Can there be a recovery without growth and development encompassing the entire international community?

The Group of 77 does have clear answers to each of these questions, answers which we must now seek to negotiate in deliberations at Belgrade. We have assembled here in Buenos Aires at a critical moment of time to prepare for the Sixth UN Conference on Trade and Development. The regional meetings have given us the basis for an action programme both immediate and longer term. The Non-aligned summit has made our task easier. We have listened to the comprehensive and in a sense the keynote address given by the President of Argentina.

The Secretary General of UNCTAD has very rightly said that the sixth UNCTAD need not focus on one or two important actions, but it has to make progress on a package deal for the reactivation of the world economy and its ultimate restructuring. Bearing this in mind I would like to underscore a few points only to emphasise them rather than to initiate any debate.

First of all there are the promises to keep, the pledges to fulfill and action lies with us as well as the developed world.

*The Common Fund agreement was thrashed out long ago but it has still to come into being even in its truncated form. *The Code of Conduct on Transfer of Technology is only a step away. *The Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences has to come into force immediately. The small increase in IMF quotas that has

been agreed to has to be effective or at least access has to be increased in the interim. *Negotiation of IDA-VII has to be concluded shortly. The results of the Copenhagen deliberations do not look so propitious and the Williamsburg Summit must attend to this as a matter of priority.

*The Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed countries adopted less than two years ago with active support from all has not made any headway at all. By 1985 flow of resources to the least developed countries is to be doubled. The share of LDC's in ODA is to reach 0.15 per cent of GNP. The modalities of aid flow are to be substantively changed and improved. *Debt-relief measures for the developing countries agreed to five years ago are still to be fully implemented by some development partners.

Second we have to adopt measures to activate the stunted development process.

*Commodity prices have to be stabilised on the one hand and access of processed and manufactured goods to developed markets has to be expanded and ensured. International commodity agreements are lagging behind and a political push is urgently needed. *Protectionism in all forms must be checked. Structural adjustment in the developed economics call for accelerated investment by cutting down consumption and specially defence expenditure.

*The Compensatory Financing facility has to be expanded to take into account terms of trade deterioration. Its terms also must improve specially for the least developed countries. *The Special Assistance Programme of the World Bank and other regional banks has to be further expanded. Procedural formalities should be cut short to make it effective expeditiously. Specifically soft window operations under this programme has to be substantially expanded and made more imaginative. *Flow of official development assistance must expand rapidly not only for the sake of the development process but also for the sustenance of recovery in the developed countries. The direction of such flows should take special note of the needs of the least developed countries. *An immediate allocation of SDR's at the rate of \$20 billion per annum must be made. The liquidity crisis has never been so acute and only a sizeable SDR's allocation can meet this acutely felt gap. Quota increase will take time and GAB is of no avail under the present dispensation even for middle income countries. *Above all the problem of debt servicing needs urgent attention. ODA has to be treated separately. IMF repurchases and service charges are also a matter of serious concern for all groups of countries. Subsidisation policy, extension of repurchase period, review of service charges and partial grant of compensatory financing should be seriously considered in this context. For private commercial debt some rules of the game are essential even though mechanism may be designed on a case by case basis.

Third, economic cooperation among the developing countries is the dynamic force of the future. Here in Buenos Aires five years ago we assembled to consider TCDC. We felt at that time that we should have greater exchange of information about each other, we should build bridges across the south through contacts of all kind and above all we should break the attitudinal barriers to mutual cooperation. All these ideas are worth reiterating. It is in this

region that pioneering efforts were made in economic cooperation, particularly in the area of trade, and we need to carry forward those efforts. But economic cooperation is much more than a common market on a customs union. It encompasses joint planning, investment cooperation, production sharing, management coalition and technical and financial cooperation.

South-South cooperation has to become the engine of growth for the future. Scarcity of natural resources vis-a-vis demand for goods and services and threat to environment posed by acceleration in economic activities make it obligatory that more of production processes are located in the developing countries, more of output of goods and services is concentrated there. The demand of the third world more than that of the saturated developed world must fuel new production processes.

In fact such a process is slowly emerging. While world trade stagnated and declined during the last two years, trade among developing countries increased by 15%. In the developed world investible resources are claimed by unbridled consumption needs such as social security and defense. In the developing countries investment must be accelerated to utilise idle manpower and available natural resources for the purpose of enlarging the global product. Multinational enterprises of the third world must come up to exploit the benefits of better technology, better expertise, more efficient management command over larger resources and access to larger market. But such multinationals should be truly multinationals both in ownership and in operation they must reflect a world without borders.

In any scheme of economic cooperation among developing countries it is important to remember that for it to succeed there must be adequate allowance for the stage of development of the various partners. The weak must be helped to come up as an equal partner. It is not only for bargaining strength that we need collective self-reliance, it is needed more for a structural change in the global economy. ECDC must be a matter of public moment in the Third World. It is heartening to note that after a faltering beginning we have been able to resuscitate the spirit of Arusha. Our firm commitment to collective self-reliance was unequivocally reaffirmed through the adoption of the Caracas Programme of Action about two years ago.

The first step in implementing the Caracas Programme is the completion of the calendar of the thirty or so technical meetings on the eight sectors of the Caracas Programme. While it has not been easy to find venues we are happy to report that it will be possible to hold most of these meetings during the course of the year.

Secondly, a modality for follow-up action has been put in place. The core of assistants and a mechanism for close contact between the chapters of G 77 have been put in place.

Thirdly action at the national level has to be planned. Each one of us besides designating a focal point needs to devise specific national programmes which blend in with the Caracas Programme and which are responsive to the recommendations of the Technical Meetings.

In conclusion, let me stress that the experience of the last three years should amply demonstrate the futility of individual pursuit of even "enlightened" economic and financial policy by one nation without regard to its impact on other nations. This should also bring home the reality of economic interdependence. There are two ways of moving ahead. Men of prudence may bring about change in the system through consultation and agreement as it was done through the pioneering efforts of Keynes and White. Or else collapse of the existing system and chaos may usher in a new order. We have the option and the preparedness to launch the Global Round of Negotiations. The proposed International Conference on Money and Finance for development should be organized as early as possible under the United Nations auspices to tackle both urgent and long-term issues in this field. Reform of the international monetary system was attempted by the Committee of Twenty about a decade ago but it was abandoned in the wake of a dramatic change in international payments situation. It is time to restart the process. The assumptions of the system are no longer valid. Global control of liquidity is no longer there. The operations of transnational corporations have created a new regime of trade and finance which is largely outside international supervision. Coordination of economic and financial policies of sovereign nations is a pressing need that IMF is incapable of undertaking. The role of reserve centres in facilitating transactions is no longer that inescapable. Balance of payment disequilibrium problem is no longer that short term. Project aid and equity financing are not enough for development, programme assistance is much more important now. These and other well known changes of global economic parameters call for a reordering of the global system of trade, money and finance. Let us hope that we shall be wise enough to bring about change in an orderly process, we shall not surrender to chaos.

CSO: 4600/1144

'HOLIDAY' CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS LABOR MINISTER

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 30 Apr 83 p 1

[Interview with Aminul Islam, Labor Minister, Air Vice Marshall (Retd). by Jaglul Alam during week of April 18, 1983; place not specified]

[Text] The present government is not contemplating to change the existing labor laws of the country, says the Labor Minister, Air Vice Marshall (Retd) Aminul Islam.

In an exclusive interview with the HOLIDAY last week, the Minister pointed out that the labor laws are generally changed in accordance with the changing situation.

Since the labor situation has been improving the law does not require any change or revision at this moment, the minister opined.

Asked about the emergence of some non-political trade union organizations in the industrial regions, the Minister said that growth of such organizations was "a sign of development in trade unionism because the members of the non-political organizations would be able to get out of the clutches of the political parties."

He believes that it would ensure "a healthy situation" in the entire trade union movement of the country.

Replying to a question whether the present government intends to formulate any law prohibiting political affiliation of the trade unions, the Labor Minister parrying the question said that the trade union movement was by nature a non-political movement. "It is a movement for realizing the economic demands of the working people," he added.

The Minister opined that "use" of working people for the interest of the political parties should be prevented through public opinion and the political parties should not be allowed to use the working class for their party-interests.

New Situation

Answering to a question on the denationalized and disinvested industries and their impact on the existing labor situation, the Labor Minister said that the

labor unrest increased when the workers were deprived of their basic rights. He went on to say that under the nationalized system, the production ability and profitability of the industries decreased to the lowest level for which the government could not ensure the workers their minimum facilities.

But after the denationalization, the industries started earning profit and it removed the apprehension of unrest among the workers to a great extent, he added.

When asked why a large number of workers were sacked from their jobs from the denationalized industries, the Minister said that after denationalization about 17,000 workers were retrenched from different industrial units. "But most of the retrenchments were mutually agreed upon and the workers volunteered to be retrenched in order to receive a large sum of money as benefits accumulate during their service," he said.

He added that immediately after the retrenchment most of the workers had joined the same industrial units or somewhere else under a different service contract.

Replying to a question on the fate of the jobless employees such as the bank employees who lost their jobs for their participation in the strikes during the previous regime, the Minister said, it is "very difficult" to change a decision of the previous regime. He added that the employees, who had been jobless during pre-Martial Law period, had applied to the Labor Courts and they will decide the matter.

He assured that none of the employees, who sought protection under the law, would be deprived of justice.

Trade Unions

Asked why a number of trade union organizations had recently got their registration cancelled, the Labor Minister said that some of the organizations did not submit their annual returns in time which was a gross violation of the trade union rules.

The Minister said that the registration of trade union organizations cannot be cancelled unlawfully because there are labor courts to protect the interests of the workers and their organizations.

Replying to a question on the implementation and ratification of the provisions of the ILO Convention in our country the Minister said that out of the total 155 provisions of the ILO Convention, the government of Bangladesh had so far ratified 31 provisions. Among them, he said, the government had ensured freedom of association, rights of collective bargaining of the working people, different facilities for the working community through labor laws and had adopted other welfare measures in order to improve the conditions of the workers.

"The present policy of the government is to create trust and goodwill between the employees and the employers, mutual co-operation between them for achieving higher productivity, ensuring equitable distribution of [words illegible] and social justice and finally to establish congenial atmosphere in the mills and factories," the Minister said.

CSO: 4600/1152

EXPORT EARNINGS REPORTED UP OVER FIRST 9 MONTHS OF FY1983

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] The export earnings of Bangladesh showed an increase of 8.5 per cent in real terms during the first nine months of the current fiscal year over the corresponding period last year.

The total export earnings in terms of dollars during the period has been estimated at \$510 million as against \$470 million during the corresponding period last year. This year the export earnings is 40 million dollars more in nine months compared with that of last year.

In terms of taka the export earnings has been estimated at Taka 1189 crore in nine months this year as against Taka 917 crore last year during the same period. The export earning target has been set at Taka 1550 crore this year. Taking into consideration the fluctuating rate of dollar in taka terms the export earning has increased by 30 per cent during the nine months ending on March 31 last.

Except in leather the export earning has shown upward trend in case of all commodities. The export earning of jute goods has been estimated at Taka 547 crore this year in nine months compared to Taka 423 crore last year. Raw jute export earning has been recorded at Taka 200 crore till March last as against Taka 142 crore during the same period last year.

The earning from frozen food has increased to Taka 128 crore this year from Taka 81 crore. Earning from tea export has been estimated at Taka 97 crore compared with

Taka 65 crore till end of March last year. The export earning from readymade garments rose from Taka 10 crore to 17 crore this year and from fertilizer the earning is Taka 15 crore as against Taka one

crore last year. The export earning from leather and leather goods has dropped from Taka 96 crore in nine months last year to Taka 90 crores. But earning from naptha, furnace oil and betumen has increased from Taka 51 crore to Taka 53 crore.

Another redeeming feature of our export trade this year is that some new non-traditional items have been included in our export list. The items are Sword blade, Markin cloth produced by Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation and some hosiery products. Iran will import one million metres of Markin cloth from Bangladesh under a trade protocol signed recently.

Although the export earning is encouraging over the last nine months the world economic recession and keen competition in the international market will make the export trade difficult for the last quarter of the current fiscal year. An aggressive sales promotion drive is needed to overcome this difficulty to keep the pace of export earning at the level of last three quarters.

It is alleged that the trade offices abroad in certain places particularly in Middle East and Africa are not well equipped. The trading circle said that since Bangladesh finds a favourable market in Middle Eastern and African countries for semi-processed and finished goods the sales promotion in those places should be geared up.

GANGES FLOW AT ALL-TIME LOW IN EARLY APRIL

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 30 Apr 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Abu Mujtaba: "Living on Peril's Edge"]

[Text] The all-time low flow in the Ganges in West Bengal and Bangladesh, which occurred in the first week of this April, reminded the Bangladeshis that now they live on peril's edge. They also justifiably feel that they cannot rely really on someone else's grace.

Bangladesh used to benefit from all the 55000 cusecs of the dry season flow of the Ganges until India started taking away a large part of it beginning from 1975. This year the flow of the Ganges at Farakka barrage came down to 39000 cusecs on April 5. On that day Bangladesh got only 25,771 cusecs from the shrinking stream. This quantity is less than half of the water she used to be blessed with before India blocked the river with the [words illegible] and began draining it on her side. Use of Ganges water for irrigation upstream of Farakka in India has also increased at the same time.

The river Ganges is not creation of India nor does it flow through that country alone. There is nothing which can justify that India has the first charge on the benefits of the Ganges.

Bangladeshis thus legitimately ask: why should we go on making sacrifices when India goes on enjoying the benefits? If India is to be permitted to divert water by a covenant why should not the same document clearly stipulate that India too cannot draw any water at all after the Ganges flow at Farakka has reached a certain low point? When India is the winner from every point of view, why does she not agree to a solution of the problem which will permit the natural flow of the river to increase again?

India will not answer these questions because she is the winner and her interest now is to keep on winning. That is why New Delhi says that more water should be delivered to its West Bengal and Bihar states from the river Brahmaputra via an artificial river created across Bangladesh. This country may get in return a small part of the diverted Brahmaputra flow to replace what India is taking away of the Ganges from it.

A Design

The Ganges-Brahmaputra link canal, as the proposed artificial river is called, is actually a design to deprive Bangladesh of the water of the Brahmaputra too. The lean period flow of the Brahmaputra averages about 140,000 cusecs. India proposes that 100,000 cusecs of this flow should be taken to the Ganges and that above the Farakka barrage. New Delhi keeps on arguing that Bangladesh does not need all the water of the Brahmaputra just as she says the same thing about Bangladesh's need for the Ganges water. Indian irrigation minister Ramniwas Mirdha said in his country's parliament as late as on April 15, "SURPLUS water of the Brahmaputra should be brought into the Ganges through a link canal, this proposal should be seriously pursued." The fact is that the eastern and south-eastern regions of Bangladesh is as much dependent on the normal flow of the Brahmaputra as the western and south-western regions are on the Ganges.

The current Indo-Bangladesh negotiations at the Joint Rivers Commission, taking place within the 18-month frame-work created last October, has been rather barren. India does not yet accept that the natural flow of the Ganges should be increased by obtaining renewable surplus water of the river's own basin. It seemed to come quarter of a step forward when it proposed that Kathmandu might be approached by New Delhi and Dhaka separately but simultaneously and with a similar request for data for the pre-feasibility study of the augmentation proposal of Bangladesh. This proposal was put forward last February but soon afterwards India itself practically reversed its decision, a fact that has led to the unannounced postponement of the 25th meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission scheduled to be held in the third week of this month.

India has been singleminded in opposing a joint endeavour by herself, Nepal and Bangladesh for solving the Ganges water problem or to go for a basin development plan. This despite the fact the Indian irrigation minister has publicly stated, "since many of India's rivers originate from Nepal we will have to have meaningful dialogue with that country." A high-level Indian delegation also visited Kathmandu last week for this 'meaningful dialogue.'

Thus, Bangladesh will also have to resolutely push her claim on the waters of the Ganges. She will have to oppose any attempt at taking away from her any water of the Brahmaputra. At the same time, Nepal and Bangladesh need to push India together to make it accept such a development plan for the Ganges basin as would benefit all the three countries.

CSO: 4600/1152

MASTER PLAN UNDERWAY TO HARNESS WATER RESOURCES

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 May 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Kazi Montu: "Master Plan To Harness Water Resources"]

[Text] Preparation is underway to draw up a national water plan emphasizing even utilization of both underground and surface water through small projects at its first phase.

According to an official source, the objective of the master plan is to harness the available water resources in the long-term perspective and identify projects for the third five year plan.

The drawing up of a master water plan has become an imperative as the water agreement between Bangladesh and India will expire in May, 1984.

It may be pointed out that there are 57 international rivers flowing through India and Bangladesh. The national water plan, it is learnt, will give importance to these rivers in identifying projects for the third five year plan.

Meanwhile, grants have been committed by the World Bank and UNDP for preparation of

the national water plan and measures are being contemplated to train up the local technicians and experts both in the country and abroad.

The Water Development Board (WDB) has been assigned to submit a report identifying the projects for the third five year plan by April, 1984 and to examine various possibilities of utilizing territorial and international waters.

A recent meeting of the National Water Council presided over by CMLA Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad discussed various issues relating to utilization of water resources and preparation of the master water plan.

It was pointed out in the meeting that Bangladesh would soon reach the highest level of utilizing the deep and shallow tubewells and as a result, it would have to utilize river and tank water through small projects.

But another view opposed the idea of excessive utilization of river water for irrigation

saying that translating such an idea into action would raise the rate of salinity in the soil of southern parts of the country and would affect fish production.

Expansion of irrigated area was also stressed in the meeting to prevent the wastage of water and to fully utilize available irrigation facilities.

According to a suggestion, time should not be wasted for drawing up a long-term plan. The authorities should consider the retention of water in small rivers and canals at the end of the rainy season through short-term projects.

The suggestion envisages various ways to solve the navigational problems which are closely related to the question of retaining water in the rivulets and canals.

Importance was also given to small irrigation projects in the meeting since foreign aid would not be obtained for bigger projects unless consensus was reached with the neighbouring countries.

BRIEFS

TEA EXPORTS UP--A total quantity of 64.06 million lbs of tea has been produced in the country during the first nine months of the current financial year as against 61.16 million lbs of tea produced during the corresponding period of the last year a Press release said in Dhaka on Tuesday reports BSS. Though the tea crop was behind the last year's level till the first quarter of this year due to a drought prevailing in the early part of the season the shortfall has been recovered by favourable weather in the later part of 1982 and the crop has exceeded the last year's level by about 5 per cent. Total volume of export during July-March period of the financial year 1982-83 has been 61.58 million lbs as against 59.86 million lbs exported during the corresponding period of the last year 1981-82. Total foreign exchange earned during the first nine months of 1982-83 by exporting tea is Tk. 97.93 crore as against Tk. 65.48 crore earned during the corresponding period of last year. [Excerpt] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Apr 83 pp 1, 12]

DUTCH SHIPPING GRANT--Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha will receive a loan of DFL 14 million (Tk 13 crores approximately) from a Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) under an agreement signed in Dhaka on Tuesday reports BSS. The loan, first to be given as a special purpose credit line grant to a Bangladesh development finance institution, would be used to finance various industrial projects, a Press release of BSS said. Managing Director, BSRS, A.A. Qureshi and Mr F.J. Smith head of the section South and Western Asia of the project's Development Department and Mr W.L.P. Six, head of Legal Section of FMO, signed the agreements on behalf of their respective organisations. The credit would be utilised in the form of loan capital of DFL 12.5 million and equity of DFL 0.5 million and technical assistance of DFL 1 million. FMO had earlier participated in a number of projects in co-financing under arrangement of "loan administration" with the DFLs (Development Financing Institutions) of Bangladesh. The projects co-financed with BSRS include a jute yarn manufacturing unit and a modern ceramic project. It is expected that the present credit line will improve the foreign exchange resources of BSRS and pave the way for further credit resources from private sources. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Apr 83 p 1]

DAHAGRAM FARMER REPORTEDLY TORTURED BY INDIANS--Rangpur, April 26: Jahiruddin, a poor farmer of Dahagram enclave was severely injured following inhuman torture by Indian Border Security Force and some Indian nationals. Victim Jahiruddin on April 15 went to Mekliganj Hat in Indian territory to sell only

two seers of tobacco when some Indians identified him as an inhabitant of Dahagram enclave, caught him and beat him mercilessly on false allegation that he brought stolen tobacco to sell there. Later he was handed over to BSF who also alleged by beat him. BSF personnel however, dragged him inside Dahagram enclave it was then proved that the victim Jahiruddin went to Mekliganj Hat to sell his own produce. A local mediation was arranged by union parishad members of enclaves where BSF and concerned Indian citizens confessed their guilt and admitted to pay compensation of Taka 20 to victim Jahiruddin. BSF also obtained an agreement from the mediators that the incident would not be brought to the knowledge of Bangladesh government. Meanwhile, Dahagram Angor pota Sangram Committee alleged that similar torture on enclaves people coupled with thefts and robberies by Indian nationals and BSF were regular feature in three enclaves for a long time. They demanded immediate execution of Tinbigha corridor lease agreement to save the 12000 people of the enclaves. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 27 Apr 83 p 1]

AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY--The Government has decided to appoint Mr Mahbubuj Huq, at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United Arab Emirates, as Bangladesh Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, says an official announcement. Born on November 1, 1938, Mr Huq obtained BA (Hons) and MA Degrees in Geography from Dhaka University in 1958 and 1959 respectively. He joined Pakistan Foreign Service in 1964 and served in various capacities in the mission abroad in Canada, New York, Argentina, Iran, UAE and Soviet Union. He was Director-General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1978 to November 1981. Currently he is Bangladesh Ambassador to UAE with concurrent accreditation to the State of Bahrain. A keen sportsman, Mr Huq takes interest in shooting and painting. He is married. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 28 Apr 83 p 3]

AID FROM AUSTRALIA--Australia will extend a grant of dollar--A six million (approximately Tk. 15 crore) to finance the Bangladesh-Australia sugar industries project phase two under a memorandum of understanding signed in Dhaka on Thursday reports BSS. The memorandum was signed by the Joint Secretary of the External Resources Division Dr. Muhiuddin Alamgir and High Commissioner of Australia Dr. I.S. Mitchell on behalf of their respective governments. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Apr 83 p 1]

NEW ZEALAND ENVOY--The new High Commissioner of New Zealand to Bangladesh Mr David Keith Modowell presented his credentials to the President Mr Justice Ahsanuddin Chowdhury at the Bangabhaban in Dhaka on Thursday morning, says a PID handout. Presenting his credentials the envoy said that he would endeavour his best to promote further the existing bond of goodwill and understanding to the mutual benefit of both the countries. The President reciprocated the sentiments expressed by the envoy and assured him of all possible cooperation and support in the discharge of his duties and responsibilities. Earlier on arrival the envoy was presented with a salute by a smartly turned-out contingent of the President's Guard Regiment. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Apr 83 p 1]

TOAHA REPORTED ILL--Smayabadi Dal leader Mohammad Toaha has written letters to the leaders of the 15-party alliance informing them that he is seriously ill. Md. Toaha has written that he has been suffering from heart disease and

diabetes for quite some time. He fears that his right eye might get seriously affected by diabetes. He is trying to control diabetes by controlling diet but that aggravates the heart disease, he has written. He has complained that there is no scope for proper treatment in the jail. Md Toaha was arrested on February 20 in the wake of student movement and Ekushey observance by the 15-party alliance. Though all the political leaders who were arrested during the [words illegible] long been released, he is still behind the bars. He is now in the Dhaka central jail. [Text] [Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 30 Apr 83 p 1]

SRAMIK DAL EXECUTIVE--The Chairman of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Dal (Convention), Mr Shansul Huda Chowdhury has formed a 75-member national executive committee of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal with Mr S.R. Faruqi and Mr Mohamad Delwar Hussain Khan as President and General Secretary respectively a Press release of the party said in Dhaka on Monday reports BSS. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 May 83 p 1]

AMBASSADOR TO ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION--Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mohamed Hohsin on Sunday presented his credentials in Jeddah to Secretary General Habib Chatti, as permanent representative of his country to the Organization of Islamic Conference, reports BSS. Speaking after the ceremony, Mr Chatti lauded the "dynamic contribution" of Bangladesh to the activities of the OIC. He hoped that the 14th Islamic foreign ministers conference to be held in Dhaka next December would further promote Islamic solidarity. The Ambassador on the occasion, said the solidarity of the Islamic Ummah and better understanding and unity among Islamic states were a cornerstone of Bangladesh foreign policy. He reiterated his country's total commitment to Islamic causes saying the liberation of Al-Quds and occupied Arab lands is a matter of faith to all muslims. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 3 May 83 p 3]

CSO: 4600/1145

COMMERCE MINISTER ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON INDO-SOVIET TRADE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 May 83 pp 1, 7

[Text] India will increase its imports from the Soviet Union to balance its trade surpluses.

Informing this to Rajya Sabha Commerce Minister V.P. Singh said that the Indo-Soviet trade was based on the principle of parity, which required the two sides to keep their exports and imports balanced.

Mr Singh replying to points raised during a discussion on a calling-attention motion, said that India had a trade surplus with the Soviet Union, and was striving to increase its imports not out of any "compulsion or reason of sentiment" but purely for reasons of trade, which had proved to be mutually beneficial and in the national interest of India.

The motion was tabled by Mr Jaswant Singh and others. Mr Jaswant Singh referred to the surplus in favor of India in the Indo-USSR trade, and stressed that imports should not be increased under compulsion to balance it. He also alleged that India had become "overdependent" on the Soviet market in case of several commodities like tanned leather, acrylic, hosiery, cashewnut, tobacco, cosmetics and toiletries, coffee and drugs and pharmaceuticals.

Mr V.P. Singh said that one year's trade figures could not be made the basis for a change in basic policy and one need not overreact. Surpluses had occurred in the past as well and liquidated soon after. At times, surplus had turned into deficits at the time of settlement of final accounts.

National Interest

The trade with the USSR, Mr Singh added, was in India's national interest not only because the Soviet Union had responded to our needs by increasing imports from us, but also because India was sending finished manufactured goods to that country.

Over 60 p.c. of Indian export of nontraditional items went to USSR he added.

There were least complaints and least rejections of our supplies from the Soviet Union, which was importing light engineering goods and consumer durables

from us. The trade with the USSR had also helped us conserve our foreign exchange inasmuch as the trade was carried out in rupees.

As for suggestions to diversify our markets, Mr Singh said the Government was all for it provided there were outlets for our goods. Referring to Mr Jaswant Singh's suggestion that India should ask for payments of its surpluses from the Soviet Union in hard currency, as did the COMECON countries, the Commerce Minister said, "You can't have both--prices on international basis and exchange rates fixed to a peg."

Mr R.R. Morarka wondered why the Government agreed to changes in exchange rates in case of trade with the Soviet Union, when the trade was being carried in rupees.

Mr Singh replied that bilateral trade with the Soviet Union--had proved beneficial to India and in the national interest. Efforts would, therefore, be made to increase imports to balance exports.

Peak in 1982

The Indo-USSR trade had been moving satisfactorily over the years reaching a peak level of Rs 3,174 crores in 1982. India exported goods worth Rs 1,921 crores in 1982, Mr Singh said.

The annual trade plan for 1983, concluded on 24 December 1982, provided for imports of Rs 1,745 crores and exports of Rs 1,880 crores, he added.

So far, the Soviet Union had contracted to buy Indian goods valued at around Rs 1,185 crores--60 percent of the trade plan provisions up to mid-April this year, Mr Singh said.

Indian importers had also contracted for the purchase of Soviet goods valued at Rs 1,240 crores.

CSO: 4600/1134

INDIA

INDIA AGREES TO SUPPLY MORE WHEAT FOR NEPAL

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 May 83 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 6: India has agreed to loan an additional 3,000 tons of wheat to the World Food Programme (WFP) for meeting the urgent requirement in Nepal.

This country had earlier in January loaned 7,000 tons of wheat to the WFP to be sent to Nepal. These supplies were made in a record six weeks.

An agreement for the supply of additional wheat was signed here today by Mr A.R. Srinivasan, chief commercial manager of the Food Corporation of India, and Mr Gilmore, officer in charge of the WFP in India.

Under the agreement, the entire quantity of wheat will be delivered to Nepal from the FCI's warehouses at Mokameh in Bihar by June next.

Speaking on the occasion of signing the agreement, Mr Srinivasan said this was not the first time that India had responded to a request from the WFP. He said that India had also loaned foodgrains to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

Mr Srinivasan said that in addition to the agreement, the FCI had agreed to supply 15,000 tons of wheat as loan to Nepal. He also indicated that another agreement was expected to be signed within the next three or four days for the supply of another 10,000 tons. A delegation from Nepal is currently in New Delhi for talks with the Union government for the additional supplies.

Mr Gilmore was highly appreciative of the role played by India in the world food security programme. He said that India had always responded spontaneously to requests for foodgrains from the WFP.

Under the agreement signed with the WFP, the entire quantity of the loaned stock has to be delivered back within three months from the date of landing in the consuming country.

CSO: 4600/1135

OFFICIAL RULES OUT MEDIATION IN THAI-KAMPUCHEAN DISPUTE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 May 83 p 5

[Text]

Minister of State for External Affairs A A Rahim said in the Lok Sabha on Thursday that there was possibility of a political settlement on fighting along the Thai-Kampuchean border and ruled out any initiative on the part of India, as chairperson of the non-aligned movement to end the conflict, reports PTL.

Replying to Mr Ram Vilas Paswan and Mr Braj Mohan Mohanty, the Minister said 'we are very much anxious that a comprehensive settlement in the region is reached'.

Mr Rahim said that at the end of March and early April fighting flared up along the Thai-Kampuchean border, in which Vietnamese troops were also involved. Subsequently, Thailand is reported to have received some fresh military supplies from the US with whom it already has a defence arrangement.

He said it would appear that the fighting had tapered off and 'it is our earnest hope that it is ended and that it will now

be possible for all the countries of the region to resume their efforts at a dialogue for settling their differences peacefully'.

Mr Rahim said India had always believed that differences among South East Asian countries should be resolved amicably through discussions and dialogues, and that any great power rivalry in the region could only have adverse consequences.

'We regret that efforts to promote the dialogue between the parties concerned have not proved fruitful so far, and we earnestly hope that all concerned will pay due attention to the urgings of the non-aligned movement as contained in the declaration of the recent summit of the non-aligned movement held in Delhi he said.

The Minister, however, disagreed with the opinion expressed by Mr Mohanty that the United States wanted to have a base in the region and that it wanted to wean away South-East Asian countries from the non-aligned movement.

CSO: 4600/1134

SOURCES CALL INDO-PAK JUNE TALKS 'NONSTARTER'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 May 83 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 6. The first ministerial-level conference due next month in terms of the Indo-Pakistani joint commission is as good as a non-starter after Gen Zia-ul-Haq's virtual rejection of India's proposal for concluding a treaty of peace and friendship.

Competent sources dealing with India's Pakistan policy seem to take the view that the highest point in the bilateral relations has already been reached after establishing a joint commission which is yet to be meaningful in giving practical content to the relationship.

These sources were surprised at Gen Zia's contention that he could not accept India's proposal since it, among other things, sought an assurance from Pakistan that it would not allow foreign military bases to be established in Pakistan. Gen Zia also sought to undermine the spirit of the Simla agreement while rejecting the Indian proposal for all disputes between the two countries to be solved through mutual negotiations.

Gen Zia not without significance chose the media of a neighbouring country to make this important statement only a couple of weeks before the foreign ministers are due to meet in Islamabad next month. Gen Zia, who is due to visit Nepal this month, told Nepali correspondents in Islamabad that no country with a sense of self-integrity could accept the proposal on terms as suggested by India to conclude a treaty of peace and friendship.

Gen Zia's reservations, if not contempt, about the Indian proposal as indicated in his statement seems to confirm the Indian fear that his offer of concluding a no-war pact with this country is more a propaganda balloon than a genuine move to set the pace for normalising relations. Some of the Indian policy-makers have consistently maintained that Gen Zia's proposal for a no-war pact is designed to prepare the ground for eventually raising, perhaps, with the support of his friends in the West, the question of level of forces between the two countries.

This is directly aimed at scuttling India's independent option on issues concerning its security as well as influence in maintaining stability in the region.

FINANCE MINISTER SPEAKS AT MANILA ADP MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 May 83 pp 1, 7

[Text]

MANILA, May 5 (PTI)

INDIA'S Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee told the 16th Annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) here today that India looked to multilateral and bilateral sources of development assistance to bring about necessary structural adjustments in the face of massive balance of payments deterioration.

Mr. Mukherjee did not refer to India's pending request for a loan of two billion dollars from ADB, the first loan that it is seeking from the bank, but spoke how India had been the victim, like other developing countries, of price declines, weak external demand, and restricted market access.

Mr. Mukherjee said that India's continued ability to make adjustments would depend on an expanding trade environment and improved climate in external assistance. Such assistance was particularly important for India.

'At a time when the developing climate is far from satisfactory and the developing world needs support from multilateral developmental institutions, it is natural for the developing countries of the region to expect that a regional bank like ours would be sensitive to the needs and aspirations of its developing member countries', he declared.

The bank said in its annual report for 1982 that lending rose during the year by 3.2 per cent to 1.73 billion dollars.

'These figures would suggest

that the bank's lending programmes have registered a decline in real terms perhaps for the first time in many years. This cannot but be a cause for disquiet', Mr. Mukherjee said.

Mr. Mukherjee said India had been through a difficult year because of natural calamities such as a drought of exceptional severity, and had felt it prudent to import some grain.

But he said, 'inflation has been brought down to under five per cent on an annual average and the prospects for a recovery both in agriculture and industry this year are reasonably bright'.

India's prudence in not going for large commercial borrowing was shown not to have been misplaced, he said.

The Minister said that although there were some signs the world was pulling out of the recession the bank meeting was being held against a 'somewhat dismal setting'.

He said protectionism was spreading and despite some softening of oil prices the current account deficits of the developing countries were uncomfortably large. The financing of these deficits was becoming increasingly difficult.

Surpluses of oil exporting countries had all but disappeared he said.

CPI STATEMENT CALLS FOR LEFT UNITY AGAINST CONGRESS-I

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 May 83 p 7

[Text] The CPI has said that it stands 'for the unity of all secular-democratic and left parties for ensuring the defeat of the Congress-I, which has landed our country in the morass of a deep growing political and economic crisis and is carrying out antipeople, antidemocratic and proved interests policies.'

In a statement issued on Monday, CPI general secretary C. Rajeswara Rao added that the CPI would 'at the same time, will unite with all the patriotic, democratic and anti-imperialist forces, including those inside the ruling Congress-I, to foil the imperialist conspiracies and the nefarious activities of the communal and disruptive forces which are out to balkanise our country and endanger its security.'

The statement said the party, took note of the recent BJP call for building a national democratic front against the background of the expected mid-term elections to the Lok Sabha and thanked it for excluding the CPI from the proposed front.

The statement reiterated that the CPI 'will not have any front or electoral adjustment with a rabidly communal, promonopoly and pro-imperialist party like the BJP in the elections.'

Mr Rao added that 'all the demagogy indulged in by the BJP leadership about supporting the demands of workers, peasants and other sections of the toiling people, while at the same time opposing any curb on super-profits of monopolists and takeover of wholesale trade in foodgrains because it would hit the blackmarketeers, will deceive nobody.'

It is significant that the BJP leaders do not speak a word about the danger of massive US military presence in the Indian Ocean or about US imperialist backing to the internal disruptive forces aimed at balkanisation of our country.

All the cosmetics of 'Gandhian socialism' and 'secularism' put on by the BJP cannot hide its utterly reactionary character and its close connection with the rabidly communal fascist RSS. Hence, for any secular, democratic party to have any unity with the BJP would only harm the cause of the best interests of our country and of the left democratic forces.'

Janata Skepticism

Meanwhile, Janata Party general secretary Syed Shahabuddin virtually ruled out formation of the "national front" as envisaged by BJP unless the latter delinked itself from the RSS, adds UNI.

"History cannot be permitted to repeat itself in all its tragedy and the recent penetration in Assam movement by the RSS and its resulting deviation and distortion must be kept in view" he said.

Syed Shahabuddin said the latest BJP line on the formation of a national front made it obvious that it had come down from the high pedestal from which it proclaimed itself as the sole alternative to the Congress-I.

CSO: 4600/1133

SESSION OF CONGRESS-S COMMITTEE REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 May 83 pp 1, 7

[Text]

BHAGAT SINGH NAGAR, Cochin, May 9 (UNI)—A scathing attack on the Congress-I policies, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's alleged attempts to perpetuate her dynastic rule disregarding all democratic norms and stress on the need for unity of all left and democratic forces marked the deliberations at the All-India Congress Committee (Socialist) session here today.

Many an old war horse of the undivided Congress, including some of Mrs Gandhi's close confidants in the government and the party during the emergency days, were there to direct their guns at her policies and programmes.

RESOLUTIONS

The session adopted without amendments the resolution on the international situation moved by former AICC president D K Barooah, urging the Prime Minister to call a meeting of Opposition leaders to evolve a consensus policy towards China consistent with the country's national interests. It also called for an Indian initiative for regional cooperation among the countries of South Asia.

The session also adopted the economic resolution charging the government with abandoning the goal of socialism and systemati-

cally sabotaging the regulatory mechanism.

An amendment, incorporated in the resolution, calling for the inclusion of the right to work in the Constitution was adopted. Former Union Minister Raj Bahadur moved the resolution.

The political resolution, the draft of which was released to the press today, would be taken up for discussion tomorrow.

Party president Sharad Pawar set the tone for the deliberations when, in his address to the session, he charged the Government with callously frittering away the country's resources for promoting the 'five star culture'. Though the country was passing through the worst drought since independence, there was no sense of urgency, nor even desire, on the part of the Government to improve the situation, he charged.

CENTRE-STATE TIES

On the issue of Centre-State relations, the AICC-S empowered Mr Pawar, to meet the Chief Ministers and leaders belonging to non-Cong-I parties to evolve a consensus on issues to be presented before the Sarkaria Commission.

It, however, felt the appointment of a single-member commission was a 'highly inadequate response' to the situation, and hoped more members, including

experts, would be added to it and terms of reference announced without delay.

In a forceful speech, party general-secretary K P Unnikrishnan, said the ruling Congress-I had betrayed the ideology, philosophy and traditions of the united Congress once led by the Mahatma and Jawaharlal Nehru. Mrs Gandhi had forgotten her commitment to socialism and pledged to mount an assault on poverty. She now talked only about the new 20-point programme.

Mrs Gandhi, he said, was trying to divide industrialists into two camps and put one against the other forgetting the direction in which the economy was going.

Referring to the controversy on concessions given to investments by non-resident Indians, Mr Unnikrishnan said it was strange to hear Finance Minister, Pranab Mukherji, giving assurances to non-resident Indians and Mr Rajiv Gandhi giving assurances to resident Indians.

The AICC-S also adopted a resolution greeting Mr Chandra Sekhar Janata party president on his epoch-making Bharat Yatra. It felt there was an urgent need to promote awareness and spread knowledge and information and discuss the lines on which the present socio-economic system needed to be changed.

CSO: 4600/1133

CONGRESS-S LEADERS TALK TO PRESS IN COCHIN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 May 83 p 4

[Text] Cochin, May 7 (UNI,PTI)--Congress (Socialist) president Sharad Pawar today ruled out the formation of a new party by the merger of the Congress-S, the Democratic Socialist Party and the Gujarat Rashtraiya Congress during the four-day All India Congress-S session, which began here today.

Talking to newsmen on his arrival here from Bombay, Mr Pawar said one of the main issues to be discussed at the session was the relations with other like-minded parties.

The three parties have already formed a coordination committee and leaders of the DSP and GRC are attending the session.

Replying to a question, he said the BJP did not figure in the list of parties, which were ideologically and politically nearer to his party.

Mr Pawar said his party was very cautious about the formation of a new party, as it felt that unless there was unanimity in programmes and action, there was no meaning in making such efforts.

The Congress-S was very keen in achieving the unity of all parties which had a Congress thinking and were the products of Congress movements. The DSP and the GRC were two such parties with which the Congress-S had already held discussions regarding merger.

"Anyhow if a new party is formed, it will be a Congress," he added.

According to some political circles in Delhi, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was thinking in terms of holding general elections in June, he added.

However the Congress-S was preparing to face an election in near future, he added.

Party general secretary K.P. Unnikrishnan later told newsmen, while the working committee was in session that the CWC is discussing the draft resolution on economic affairs and would give its approval to it late tonight.

A statement on Centre-State relations vis-a-vis appointment of the Sarakaria Commission would also come up for discussion tonight.

Mr Unnikrishnan said the CWC which would continue its deliberations for the whole of tomorrow, would discuss mainly the political resolution.

The draft resolutions on international and economic affairs would be released tomorrow.

Besides Mr Pawar, those who took part in the deliberations of the CWC tonight were former Congress president D.K. Barooah, Mr Bhola Paswan Sastri, Mr Raj Rahadur, Mr Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, Mr V.B. Raju, Mr Narappa Reddi, Sardar Swaroop Singh, Mr Dharam Bir Sinha, Mr Nathuram Mirdha, Mr P.C. Chacko, Mr A.C. Shanmukha Das, Mrs Ambika Soni and Mr Unnikrishnan.

CSO: 4600/1140

G. K. REDDY ON PRE-ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 8 May 83 p 2

[Article by G.K. Reddy: "Hopeful Aspirants & Nervous Ministers"]

[Text] The 10-week long budget session of Parliament will conclude next week as uneventfully as it began in February in the wake of widespread speculation that the Prime Minister might go in for a snap poll at the end of it. The thoughts of the members continue to be glued to the elections, no matter when they take place. But between now and the due date even in the normal course, there are barely 18 months left for facing the people. It means that the ruling party and the opposition have just a year to prepare for this ordeal, before plunging themselves into the fight for a fresh mandate.

The election fever continues to catch on, no matter how remote the possibility of a snap poll this year. Mrs Gandhi is keeping her options open to spring a surprise early next year without waiting for the completion of her five-year term. If she sees no great possibility of a marked improvement in the economic situation, she might think that it would be more advantageous to go to the polls, earlier than later, before her adversaries get a chance to get together again.

Inherent Risk

At the moment she appears to be keeping her choices wide open while watching the politico-economic portents carefully for sizing up the present mood of the people. One of the penalties of a massive majority in a parliamentary democracy is that apart from breeding complacency and making those in power insensitive to public opinion, it renders the ruling party increasingly vulnerable to the vagaries of electoral fortunes. Faced with the remorseless logic of such political hazards in public life, the Congress (I) will have to contend with the reality of reduced strength, even if it manages to make the grade in the next elections.

It is this inherent element of risk involved in the gamble that seems to have made the party diffident about the balance of advantage in opting for a snap poll this year itself, when the country is passing through a severe drought.

The present political situation too is not considered propitious enough for an early poll since the prestige of the Congress (I) is pretty low in many regions.

But then it can be argued that by waiting till the last moment, the party cannot improve its political manoeuvrability before the disenchantment gets deeper, even if it does not become malignant, unless it has the capacity to make a bold bid during this interval to recapture the mood of the people.

Evenly Divided

The protagonists of an early poll within Mrs Gandhi's camp doubt the wisdom of waiting until the completion of her term since they fear that in doing so the Congress (I) would be playing unwittingly into the hands of its opponents by giving them in the bargain a badly needed breathing spell for deriving fuller advantage from the present psychic downturn, which might get worse and not better during this interregnum. But the advocates of greater caution who dispute this theory see no great tactical gain in pitching into the fray before the party is ready all because the opposition is weak at present.

The arguments for and against a snap poll are more or less evenly divided, while Mrs Gandhi continues to keep her options open without disclosing even to her close confidants her thinking on the subject. The result is that the inner party debate on the pros and cons of it has been taking place behind the scenes in a totally unreal atmosphere with hardly anybody, except perhaps her son, knowing what exactly she might do in this situation.

It is her characteristic penchant for surprise than an awareness of her intentions that has been strengthening the impression in Congress (I) circles that she might go in for a poll in January-February next year, if not earlier, barring unexpected developments.

Studied Silence

The Prime Minister's studied silence, combined with the disinclination to disclose her mind even to close party colleagues, has made some of them imagine that she is probably biding her time and getting ready to take the plunge at a moment of her choice to derive the maximum advantage.

One of her confidants was reminding an impatient Congress (I) M.P. the other day of what happened at the battle of Waterloo where Napoleon's strategy was to join battle as early as possible, while the Duke of Wellington wanted to delay it as long as possible. The lessons of such epic battles are not altogether irrelevant in the present-day electoral fights in which the element of surprise is equally decisive in determining the outcome.

Otherwise, the Lok Sabha has been going through the motions of the budget session against this general background, not knowing whether there would be a snap poll before the completion of its term. Consequently, the current session has been notable for what has been happening outside Parliament than inside the two Houses.

The session has been devoid of any great excitement since there have been no controversial issues to rock it, other than the routine debates on the Finance Bill and the anguished references to the crisis in Punjab or the tragedy in

Assam. There has been no informed discussion in depth on the complexities of the latest budget or any worthwhile contribution in the shape of any positive suggestions for an early settlement of the Assam and Punjab tangles.

The result is that the Government has had a relatively easy time during this session. It cashed in on the understanding national pride generated by the hosting of the non-aligned summit, which helped to enhance Mrs Gandhi's political stature and personal prestige in the eyes of her party colleagues.

The senior Ministers, especially Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Mr P.V. Narasinha Rao and Mr R. Venkataraman, displayed a greater degree of self-assurance in dealing with controversial issues relating to their respective charges, but Mr P.C. Sethi had to bear the cross and fight hard to carry some conviction about the validity of the Government's approaches to issues like Assam and Punjab that have been bringing the country a bad name.

As Finance Minister, Mr Mukherjee has given the impression that he was in full command of the country's economy, but his excessive identification with contentious policies like granting undue concessions to non-resident Indians and foreign nationals of Indian origin in the name of attracting foreign exchange has placed him in the unenviable position of defending some of these indefensible incentives that are being misused for totally unintended purposes. The budget has been passed, but this controversy will go on until it starts affecting at some point his political future.

The concessions offered to expatriate Indians were primarily designed to encourage men of success to invest in and also make available their expertise for starting new ventures, not for engaging in speculative bids for acquisition or control of well-run establishments.

The Finance Minister has not been able to dispel the impression that, apart from creating a new class of privileged Indians, the so-called investors from abroad can act, or have been acting already, as proxies and conduits for bringing back black money piled up abroad and converting it into white money by availing themselves of these concessions.

It was not long ago that the former British Prime Minister, Mr James Callaghan, told Mr R. Venkataraman who was presiding at the Rajaji lectures delivered by him, half jokingly in his capacity as a former Chancellor of the Exchequer, that Finance Ministers go on their own before their time is up or are made to leave under a cloud when they have outlived their utility to the party in power.

In India where there is no proper tradition of important portfolios being held by party stalwarts with enough political clout, the Finance Ministers have been frequent casualties in the course of Cabinet reshuffles.

It is in this context that some eye-brows were raised from the Congress (I) benches when Mr Mukherjee ignored Mr Rajiv Gandhi's powerful plea for limiting investments by non-resident Indians to two or three per cent of the paid up equity capital of a company and fixed the ceiling at five per cent.

This little incident has led to considerable speculation in the party circles that some of the senior Ministers also might be affected in the impending Cabinet reshuffle, perhaps the last and final installment of such changes before the elections.

Cabinet Reshuffles

It is often said in Britain that a successful Prime Minister must necessarily go through two or three major Cabinet reshuffles during his or her tenure, if only to demonstrate to the country one's unquestioned supremacy over the party and unassailable position in Parliament.

In India, Mrs Gandhi has chosen to make Cabinet changes in easy installments without a major shake-up to keep her colleagues on the tenderhooks and the aspirants in a state of constant expectations, without rocking the boat too hard and creating pockets of dissidence.

In all these years of her stewardship, there has been no appearance of any finality about a Cabinet reshuffle or expansion. Each installment is followed by reports that a bigger one would follow after some time, with the result that even those who have been left out are not discouraged from imagining that perhaps their luck might prevail next time. The very process of nursing one's ambitions, a legitimate exercise in a democracy, tends to condition the reflexes of the aspirant to the point of ensuring one's loyalty to the leader even in moments of disappointment.

The talk of a major Cabinet reshuffle this month, coupled with the continued speculation about the timing of the next elections, has made some of the present Ministers rather nervous about their future, while those who have been waiting for their turn are now as much concerned about their renomination as party candidates as inclusion in the Cabinet. And in the merry-go-round of parliamentary politics, if nobody feels too secure, nobody imagines either that his future is dim, since those in power and without power are equally sustained by the thought that at the next turn of the wheel, their political fortunes might start showing up again.

CSO: 4600/1139

REPORT ON GANDHI SPEECH TO FOREIGN SERVICE PROBATIONERS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 May 83 p 7

[Text] Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on Thursday said the Government has never allowed hostility or friendship to influence its decisions, reports UNI.

India firmly believed in following the right path and has never tilted towards any power or bloc, Mrs Gandhi said addressing Indian Foreign Service probationers attending the seventh appreciation course in Parliamentary procedures.

"We stick to our policies not because we are rigid but in national interest, which is guided by our geographical location and historical experiences."

Reiterating India's desire to forge friendly relations with all, Mrs Gandhi said "we do not allow hostility or friendship to influence our decisions."

Mrs Gandhi explained to the probationers that the foreign service now dealt more with economic matters and advised them to remain in touch with trade commerce and business relations.

She exhorted the future career diplomats to energise the local Indian community at the place of their postings, to be good citizens and to make friends.

Mrs Gandhi regretted that Indian diplomats abroad did not meet enough people nor did they have wide range of interests.

She impressed upon them to maintain high standards so that 'foreigners did not look down upon us.'

Dwelling on the drought situation in the country, Mrs Gandhi said the country was in for an extremely difficult situation. It was, however, no comfort to know that countries all over the world were facing similar natural calamities.

Asked about the usefulness of hosting conferences like the recently concluded nonaligned summit and the Commonwealth heads of government meeting scheduled for November, Mrs Gandhi said policywise there was nothing common between India and these countries. "One develops personal relations which are quite helpful in the long run."

Asked whether she was hypersensitive to criticism in Western press, she said India was no more sensitive to criticism in the Western press than any other country.

If one did not object to what appeared in the Western press, they got the feeling that India had accepted their version. "It was therefore necessary to correct inaccuracies and explain things in their proper perspective," she added.

CSO: 4600/1134

GANDHI GIVES INTERVIEW TO TATA HOUSE PUBLICATION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 May 83 p 6

[Interview with Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, by THE ECONOMIC SCENE in Bombay on May 8, 1983]

[Text] BOMBAY, May 8 (PTI).

THE Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has said that removal of many controls on industry could become easier under certain circumstances but has categorically ruled out removal of all controls.

"Our direction has always been towards not having controls where they are not necessary. Where they are necessary either to safeguard a smaller man or some larger interests of the country, they have got to be there," Mrs. Gandhi said, adding, "We do not nationalise for the sake of nationalisation, but only if certain situations arise."

In an interview in the latest issue of "The Economic Scene," a fortnightly publication of the house of Tatas, Mrs. Gandhi said the pace of liberalisation depended on the pace of development. It would be easier to remove many controls and to liberalise rules and restrictions as the economy became stronger, the industrial structure more diversified and agricultural production more stable, she added.

Mrs. Gandhi said the goal of self-reliance should always be kept in mind. "In a developing country like ours we cannot afford to give up all controls and restrictions and choice of new items of manufacture and the

priorities in development planning — scarce resources should be deployed in such a manner as to serve development priorities. Some degree of protection and control is inevitable at this stage of our development," the Prime Minister added.

Asked whether her recent statement in Parliament about domestic industry being reluctant to stand on its own feet and face competition, having been protected for long, implied that the time had come to remove protection, Mrs. Gandhi said, "Our policy tries to ensure a balance between the needs of the manufacturer and the user and to create an involvement which will enable the manufacturer to produce goods at reasonable prices using the latest available technology and at the same time exposing them to some competition so that they do not exploit the users."

Mrs. Gandhi pointed out that controls had been imposed as a measure to achieve the socio-economic objectives of the nation. The industrial policy provided protection to the small-scale sector by reservation of items and the import policy provided protection to domestic manufacturers against unequal competition from abroad, including dumping.

But many of the controls had been liberalised where it was possible to do so without hurting any particular sector.

"The approach is to liberalise in such a manner that this results in increased and better production and export but not at the cost of the small manufacturers and the small artisans whose heritage we have to preserve," Mrs. Gandhi said.

The Prime Minister said the real impact of liberalisation would be felt when procedures also were liberalised and streamlined. "We have started this but much more remains to be done," she added.

At the outset Mrs. Gandhi stressed the importance of planning which had enabled the country to reach the present stage of development with a much stronger and more diversified industrial structure and agricultural basis.

"I think you will agree with me that plan investment by the government is beneficial to the private sector too. Its emphasis on the industrial infrastructure — power, transport, coal, steel, fertilisers — stimulates private activity and historically private investment expands when public investment increases. So the two are clearly complementary and not substitutes for each other," Mrs. Gandhi said.

20-POINT PLAN

Mrs. Gandhi denied the charge that agencies entrusted with the implementation of the 20-point programme are only interested in "paper performance."

"We have set up a complex monitoring and evaluation system which enables us to know what is actually happening in the states in certain cases where achievement figures indicated very good performance not at par in the field, so remedial measures could be initiated immediately. However, we do have a constraint in resources and cannot hope to achieve all our aims overnight," Mrs. Gandhi pointed out.

In reply to a question on the hike of prices of petroleum products, the Prime Minister said the resources which would become available would be used to provide budgetary support to the oil industry for approved schemes, "and not to cover up any outlays on non-development activities."

It was important to rapidly develop oil exploration and production to achieve self-sufficiency in this sector, the Prime Minister added.

CSO: 4600/1141

DETAILS OF GANDHI INTERVIEW WITH SAUDI PAPER

Assam, Nonaligned Summit

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 May 83 p 1

[Interview with Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, by ARAB NEWS in New Delhi on May 8, 1983]

[Text] New Delhi, May 8 (PTI). The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, suspects "considerable foreign" interference in the Punjab and Assam situation.

In an interview "ARAB NEWS," Saudi Arabia's first official newspaper, Mrs Gandhi said: "Well, there is considerable foreign--it's very difficult to say a 'foreign hand'--but we can only judge from what is happening in other countries and what is now being publicised about it, that at all stages when certain foreign power had said that they have not interfered now we get the new books about it whether it is the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) or other bodies that we find they have interfered. It is from their own mouth, from their own pens."

The question asked was: Some of your colleagues have said that they see a foreign hand in Assam and Punjab. Do you actually see any foreign bid to unsettle your regime by keeping you under severe tension all the time?

The Prime Minister said there can never be any hard evidence on such attempts. Even in those countries where it had happened, and "where the CIA had said it, those countries did not have the evidence of those who did it and who say we did it," she added.

About Assam, Mrs Gandhi said India did not have the type of intelligence or surveillance which could pinpoint foreign interference.

"But it does look very suspicious," because on a number of occasions the agitators had come to within a hair's breath of agreeing and then suddenly had said "no we can't agree, I mean they have gone back to Assam or gone back home here (New Delhi) and telephoned that we are sorry, we can't agree,"

"So obviously, somebody has interfered in between," she said.

Akali Demand

Talking about Punjab, the Prime Minister said the agitation in the state was led not by the Sikhs, but by one party called the Akali party.

She said even the Akali party was not talking of independence. "There are one or two individuals who are in Canada or the United States who are talking about independence."

The others, said the Prime Minister, had certain demands--religious which had been agreed, and some others concerning other states about which "we are not in a position to say yes or no."

Referring to Assam, Mrs Gandhi traced the long history of the problem and how it got entangled due to the shifting stand of leaders of the agitation and even the role played by some opposition parties.

She said the holding of assembly elections in the state was a constitutional obligation which could not be avoided.

The government, she said, knew there would be violence, but "we could not guess it would be on this scale."

On Pakistan, the Prime Minister said "on our part, we are trying to do everything possible to have friendship and better understanding."

Replying to a question, Mrs Gandhi said India was worried not because of re-arming but because "they have suddenly acquired such sophisticated weapons which we do not have."

When pointed out that India was buying Mirage, the Prime Minister replied "we are buying something but it takes time before they come. But the point on which we are upset is that it makes us spend money even though our expenditure is much much less than Pakistan or almost any other country in the world," Mrs Gandhi said.

In replying to another question, Mrs Gandhi said the recently held non-aligned summit in New Delhi went off very well, and the movement had been consolidated. She also said India was certainly not neglecting Asia.

When asked how as chairperson of the non-aligned movement and as Prime Minister of a country having special relations with Arab countries she proposed to end the Iran-Iraq war, Mrs Gandhi replied the war could not be ended in a hurry.

Maneka 'a Trojan Horse'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 May 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, May 8 (PTI). The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, has said that Mrs Maneka Gandhi was put there (in the Prime Minister's house) by some "forces" from the very beginning to embarrass her.

"This whole thing was planned right from the beginning and this has been her behaviour all the time," Mrs Gandhi said in an interview to "ARAB NEWS".

Mrs Gandhi initially declined comment on the 'Maneka factor' but subsequently spoke rather bluntly.

Question: Is your daughter-in-law trying to embarrass you and have you felt that she is making use of your Gandhi name to her advantage? Do you consider her a threat?

Mrs Gandhi: I don't want to comment.

Question: The opposition which was hounding your son, Sanjay Gandhi, when he was alive, has welcomed the party started by your daughter-in-law and some of them are trying to promote her and the party. Is it a tribute to Sanjay? Do you see your grandson Varun (son of Sanjay Gandhi?) How often?

Mrs Gandhi: Well, this answers your previous question, that she obviously was put there by some forces from the very beginning. This whole thing was planned right from the beginning and this has been her behaviour all the time.

Question: Had you seen any such thing during the life of Sanjay?

Mrs Gandhi: Yes. But it was a situation in which nothing could be very open, naturally, but I never saw great sympathy in her, or ideals for which we felt strongly.

Question: But he couldn't have known about it?

Mrs Gandhi: Yes, he did discover.

Question: ...That she might be manipulated by ...? He did know of it before he died.

Mrs Gandhi: No, not that way.

Question: She had her own ideas?

Mrs Gandhi: Well, it is not just ideas but... well, I don't know how to put it but I can say that he was very unhappy.

No, she doesn't allow me to see my grandson. Firstly he was allowed to come every Sunday. But one day she just said, "No, he can't come", and he has not been allowed to come since then.

Question: Let me say, Madam, that the activities of Maneka are a tribute to Indian democracy?

Mrs Gandhi: Well, all the groups and political parties are evidence of that. I don't think that is a tribute because it is one of the weaknesses I would say.

Commenting on Rajiv Gandhi, Mrs Gandhi said she is not promoting him as she had not promoted the late Sanjay Gandhi.

"There is no question of his being leader or successor. That just depends on the future, on what the country wants and what sort of position he can make by his own work," she said.

Mrs Gandhi said when Sanjay died there was a feeling that "one from our family" should contest election to parliament and specially Rajiv. In fact, when I visited the constituency (of Sanjay Gandhi) for some development work, everybody said that Rajiv should stand for this seat.

"So, he is there and at the moment trying to help me," she added.

CSO: 4600/1141

INDIA

REPORT ON ARMY CHIEF'S BLACKMAIL OF GANDHI DENIED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 May 83 p 7

[Text] Defence Minister R. Venkataraman on Monday described as 'utterly irresponsible' and 'ridiculous' a report published in a Delhi journal that the Army Chief had 'blackmailed' the Prime Minister for securing certain benefits for the army, reports UNI.

Mr Venkataraman made the statement in the Lok Sabha when Congress-I member Maj Gen R.S. Sparrow (ret'd) drew the Defence Minister's attention towards the report through a special mention.

The Defence Minister said he had verified the report from the Army Chief who had said that there was 'no truth' in the report and that the details given in the article were a 'figment of imagination'.

The report had alleged that the Army Chief, General K.V. Krishna Rao met the Prime Minister on 25 January, and stated that 'if all the demands already sent to her were not conceded his resignation be kindly accepted, after the Republic Day function'.

Maj Gen Sparrow said he was 'shocked' to go through the article which had appeared under the caption 'Did the army chief blackmail the Prime Minister'.

He said on 25 January the Defence Minister announced concessions to the armed forces costing more than Rs 30 crore such as free rations, educational facilities, separation allowance, etc. which had been welcomed by the armed forces and also by all members of Parliament.

However all this appreciation had been 'totally ignored and the journal has now come forward with an article which has painted the Army Chief in the darkest hue', Maj Gen Sparrow said.

Replying Mr Venkataraman also said that in the face of the sense of duty and discipline displayed by the Chief of the Army Staff and the Defence Services the report appeared 'ridiculous'.

'I add that the report is utterly irresponsible', the Defence Minister said.

CSO: 4600/1133

BJP EXECUTIVE ENDORSES CALL FOR DEMOCRATIC FRONT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 May 83 pp 1, 9

[Text] Bombay, May 8--The national executive of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today endorsed its president, Mr A.B. Vajpayee's call for a national democratic front.

The executive decision was unanimous, Mr L.K. Advani, general secretary, said while briefing newsmen.

The executive passed a resolution stating that the front will not be open to the communist parties and the Muslim League. Asked if the Akali Dal, which is avowedly communal, would be welcome, Mr Advani replied in the affirmative. "I do not bracket the Akalis and the Muslim League together," he observed, but declined to give the reason.

Mr Advani, however, said the BJP would insist upon an unequivocal condemnation by the Akali leaders of the demand for the so-called Khalistan and of the cult of violence preached and practised by a section of the Dal. He claimed that there was a vast difference between Akali leaders Sant H.S. Longowal and Sant J.S. Bhindranwale.

The front would also close its doors to the National Conference (NC) "which along with the Congress (I) formed two sides of the same coin." He bitterly criticised the "Anti-national" Jammu and Kashmir Resettlement Act which was brought into being by the NC and also lambasted the Congress(I) for its alleged weak-kneed response to the step. Even though the governor, Mr B.K. Nehru was bound by the advice of the council ministers, he could have referred the bill to the supreme court the first time it was forwarded to him by the legislature, Mr Advani remarked.

He said the executive did not take cognisance of the Rashtriya Sanjay Manch or the allegedly pro-Soviet Democratic Socialist Party with regard to the formation of the front. The details would be worked out by Mr Vajpayee.

Mr Advani denied that the front idea was mooted as a panic reaction to the possibility of mid-term elections. The probability of a snap poll was one of the factors considered while raising the issue, though, he added.

Mr Advani told this paper that since the formation of the BJP in December, 1980, he and other leaders did not have any illusion about the party quickly

emerging as the only national alternative to the Congress (I) even though some workers might have attempted to project such an image. If the BJP fancied itself in that manner, then its national executive (at its meeting in February, 1982 at Bhubaneshwar) and the national council (at its Surat session in June, 1982) would not have favoured electoral adjustments with other opposition parties, he noted.

Today's decision went a step ahead and favoured the front. In case the front did not become a reality, the BJP will have seat adjustments with other national democratic parties, he added.

It was reliably learnt that at least one executive member suggested that

the party be not averse to a merger with other like-minded bodies. But the resolution makes it clear that the party would maintain its separate identity.

The issue of BJP's ties with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) also cropped during the discussion. A member made a scathing attack on the RSS and alleged that its volunteers in the party were progressively attempting to acquire a vice-like grip over it. This was resented by the non-sangh segment. He warned that the question of dual membership, over which the Janata split, would rear its

head again if it was not resolved immediately. He later told this paper that a number of executive members shared his views in private "but did not air them in party forums lest they be edged out by the sangh."

One of the participants stated that he primarily favoured the front since the RSS would find it more difficult to operate under that set-up. Mr. Advani observed that the "so-called" dual membership issue would not be a hurdle to the formation of the front. The latter concept presupposed that the front partners would agree to a common programme and work in concert even while retaining their respective character. He noted that the issue did not crop up when the Samyukt Vidhayak Dals were formed in the sixties.

Party observers point out that today's decision of the executive only reflected its painful awareness that the organisation, despite its 3.8 million members, is unable to emerge as a serious contender to the Congress (I) and if an alliance is not formed with other bodies then parties like the Telugu Desam would fill the void.

The BJP would soon sound the Janata, the Congress (S), the Lok Dal and other parties on the front. Talks have already begun with the Lok Dal. (An executive member today suggested that the front leadership should be given to Mr. Charan Singh, if he insisted upon it). The formation of the front is not likely to be smooth, party sources conceded. For example, the Janata president, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has insisted upon the resolution of the dual membership issue before an alliance is formed.

Mr. Sharad Pawar, Congress (S) president, is reportedly working for a merger of his organisation with the Democratic Socialist Party and the Rashtriya Congress led by Mr. Ratu-bhai Adani. A decision in this regard is expected to be taken at the forthcoming session of the AICC (S) at Cochin. Mr. Pawar is not opposed to a dialogue with the left parties, unlike the BJP.

Today's meeting was attended, among others, by Mr. Sundar Singh Bhandari, Mr. Ram Jethmalani, Mr. Jagannathrao Joshi, Mr. Shanti Bhushan, Mr. Satish Agarwal, Mr. Jaswant Singh, Mr. A. K. Subbaiah (who was allegedly eased out of the presidency of the BJP in Karnataka by the RSS), and Mr. J. P. Mathur.

Meanwhile, a BJP spokesman clarified today that Mr. Vajpayee went to New Delhi last night to attend a pre-arranged public function. He returned this morning. He is shortly leaving for the United States "to attend a wedding."

INDUSTRY MINISTER SPEAKS TO ADVISORY PANEL 6 MAY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 May 83 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, May 6. The Union minister for industry, Mr N.D. Tiwari, expects the tempo of economic activity to pick up significantly during 1983-84.

Addressing the central advisory council of industry here today, Mr Tiwari observed that even those sectors of the economy which had nose-dived up to November "have been showing promising signs of revival." "On the balance more sectors of the economy have shown positive growth," he added.

Conceding that some areas in the capital goods sector presented contraindications, the industry minister hoped that this imbalance would be corrected since the government was already paying particular attention to this area.

Mr Tiwari was optimistic that the incentives provided in the budget in terms of higher excise rebate coupled with the new import-export policy, would help in stepping up the tempo of developmental activity.

To take full advantage of the tax incentives provided in the budget for non-resident investment, Mr Tiwari said a separate cell had been set up in his ministry for according approval for industrial installation from non-residents on a priority basis.

Mr Tiwari hastened to add that this had to be clearly distinguished from portfolio investments and investments in shares of existing companies. The government was aware of the concern expressed in this area and the finance minister had already announced a ceiling of five per cent for non-resident investments.

The industry minister, on the basis of improvement in the liquidity with the banks, hoped that the investment needs of the corporate sector in the remaining period of the sixth plan would be "fully met by internal generation and external capital motivated sources."

He said that the prospects of 1983-84 were promising. Besides improvement in the textile situation, "we are expecting a large rabi crop to be followed by a reasonable monsoon and a good summer crop."

Mr Tiwari explained that the emerging profile of growth in 1983-84 had to be viewed in the backdrop of 1982-83. Statistically, the rate of growth in 1982-83

was lower than in 1981-82. But substantively, the growth rate was , in fact, more real in the context of a variety of contra-factors witnessed during 1982-83.

The first was, of course, the virtual disfunction of textile, jute and allied industries for the bulk of the period. This was important because these industries have over 27 per cent weight in the index of industrial growth.

Investment Ceiling

The second was a succession of natural calamities depressing agricultural production and necessary diversion of productive resources. The third was a high rate (8.6 per cent) of growth in 1981-82. As a result 1982-83 started on a much higher plateau than in 1981-82.

Mr Tiwari told the august gathering that the endorsement of production capacities of cases based on production up to 1981-82 had, by and large, been dealt with, applications had now been invited for re-endorsement on 1982-83 production.

Investment ceiling for registration had been raised from Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 5 crores. This would substantially help the middle sector entrepreneurs, the number of which was increasing in a very encouraging manner. Industrial approvals had not only stepped up to a record number of 1043 in 1982.

The government had also, in the last three years, issued industrial approvals in 432 cases to large houses as against 2,473 cases in others.

In capital goods clearance, in 1982, MRTP companies accounted for 32 per cent while in foreign collaborations, large houses were accorded 17 per cent of the collaborations, 83 per cent went to others.

It would, therefore, be seen that in the entire gamut of industrial approvals, there was a discernible shift to middle-level entrepreneurs, which Mr Tiwari considered to be one of the most prospective trends in the industrial economy.

Speaking about the power problem faced by the industry, he said the government had liberally allowed power generation. In cement industry alone, captive generation would have reached a level of 300 MW by 1982-end. "We shall consider any rational captive generation proposal with care and speed," he assured.

On the issue of updating of technology, the industry minister said, "we have initiated a technology forecasting system in six industry groups to start with. Quality circle movement which is, indeed, the most effective form of participation by workers, has been initiated and will catch on."

CSO: 4600/1135

ANALYST ON PUNJAB, HARYANA LEADERS IN DELHI

Madras THE HINDU in English 8 May 83 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy: "CMS Fail To Narrow Differences on Akali Demands"]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 6.

The Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana, Mr. Darbara Singh and Mr. Bhajan Lal, who had been called to Delhi for talks on the territorial and river waters issues, had separate meetings today with the Home Minister, Mr. P.C. Sethi, but no tangible progress was made in narrowing down the differences between the two States.

Apart from restating their respective positions over these contentious issues, they came forward with no new suggestions that would be broadly acceptable to the Akalis and others in both Punjab and Haryana in the present context of strained relations.

As Chief Ministers of Congress (I)-ruled States, Mr. Darbara Singh and Mr. Bhajan Lal are subject to party discipline and cannot ignore the wishes of the Central leadership if it decides to make some further concessions to the Akalis on these two issues to settle the Punjab problem. But they are entitled to forewarn the Centre about the consequences of a one-sided award aimed at placating the Akalis since it is bound to alienate Hindu opinion in both the States.

The two Chief Ministers were due to have a further round of separate talks with Mr. Sethi later tonight, since he was scheduled to go to Hyderabad tomorrow to attend some cultural functions. They were staying on in Delhi to meet the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and also Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the Congress (I) General Secretary, before returning to Chandigarh to consult their colleagues.

The Punjab Chief Minister is known to be backing the Akali demands on both the territorial and river waters issues up to a point without going the whole hog in openly supporting them. But the Haryana Chief Minister is not prepared to soften his opposition because he is afraid of a revolt within his Cabinet with many of his colleagues already campaigning for his removal to prevent a split of the Congress (I) in the State.

The Rajasthan Chief Minister, Mr. Shiv Charan Mathur, who is also being called to Delhi for consultations, is in a less vulnerable posi-

tion, since the river waters issue has not aroused the same sort of inflamed passions in his State.

No big stakes: It has also no big stakes in the territorial controversy in the sense that the demand of the Akali moderates for some marginal readjustments is quite different from the insistence of the extremists among them on carving out a bigger Punjabi-speaking homeland for the Sikhs by redrawing the present boundaries of not only Punjab and Haryana but also of Jammu, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The river waters issue as such is not posing any great problems since both Punjab and Haryana have agreed in principle to refer the issue to the Supreme Court subject to some minor reservations.

It is the territorial issue, especially the future of Chandigarh and the inter-related question of Abohar and Fazilka tehsils that is posing problems, since the Centre has not been able to evolve yet a package that would be equally acceptable to both the States.

The Centre is keen on taking some initiative to avert the threat of further violence in Punjab, while the talks go on for an overall settlement of the Akali grievances. But it is also in no great hurry to extend an invitation to the Akali chief, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, for resuming the dialogue, until the ground has been well prepared for it.

The Central leadership of the Congress (I), especially Mrs. Gandhi, is certainly in a position to make the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan fall in line with the policy decisions taken in Delhi for appeasing the Akalis in the larger national interest. But it has to be quite clear in its mind whether any concessions made even at the risk of alienating the Hindu opinion in these States would really mollify the extremists among the Akalis, especially the militant group led by Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Longowal's move welcomed: The Centre has welcomed the step taken by Sant Longowal for what it is worth in screening those who had taken refuge in the Golden Temple complex to ascertain whether the alleged

culprits wanted by the police were hiding there. It is viewed as a helpful gesture even if the Akali chief is not going to carry the move to its logical conclusion of handing them over to the police.

But the situation in Patiala continues to cause concern because of the tensions created in other parts of Punjab by highly exaggerated reports of atrocities against each other by the two communities and police excesses there. The Centre does not want to react too strongly to these sad events with a firm resolve to restore order at any cost, nor act too feebly giving the impression of vacillation in the face of provocation.

The intention is to restart the talks with the Akalis as early as possible, but opinion is divided whether it is wise to engage in substantive discussions amidst these inflamed passions when a failure of the dialogue, could cause greater harm, or wait for a week or two until the situation in Punjab has been brought under control and the trouble makers are made to realise the Government's determination to be quite firm with them.

CSO: 4600/1137

DELHI APPOINTS COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ASSAM EVENTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 May 83 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy: "Judicial Probe Ordered Into Assam Carnage"]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 6.

The Centre has met the Opposition demand for a full-fledged judicial inquiry into the recent carnage in Assam half way by announcing the appointment of a one-man administrative committee, the former Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. T.P. Tiwari to inquire into the tragic events.

The committee's terms of reference and details about the procedure for the conduct of the inquiry would be announced soon by the Assam Government.

This was stated by the Union Home Minister, Mr. P.C. Sethi, today at a meeting of the informal consultative committee of Parliament in the face of a united demand by both Congress (I) and Opposition members for some sort of probe into the allegation that, in their determination to go ahead with the Assembly elections, the local authorities paid no heed to the warnings of impending violence.

Administrative tribunals: The Home Minister also informed the members that all sections of the local people would be represented on the administrative tribunals to be set up in each Assembly constituency to detect the foreign nationals whose names were included in the voters lists. This work would commence shortly without awaiting a settlement with the leaders of the Assam agitation.

The Centre had released, Mr. Sethi said, about Rs. 20 crores for the relief and rehabilitation of riot victims and more funds would be given, as and when required. The families of those affected by the riots would be given construction material to rebuild their damaged houses, besides Rs. 5,000 in each case.

White paper sought: As expected, the Assam situation dominated the discussions, although the issue had been debated at length yesterday in Parliament. A Congress (I) member, Dr. Rafiq Zakaria pleaded for the issue of a white paper on the events that led to the carnage. The BJP leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, maintained that normality could not be restored until the cycle of charges and counter-charges being made by various sec-

tions had been fully inquired into and necessary steps taken to restore the shattered confidence of the people in the ability of the Assam Government to deal with this situation.

The announcement of the decision to set up a one-man administrative committee did not satisfy the Opposition which continued to press for a fuller judicial inquiry. But there was some satisfaction in at least the Congress (I) circles that the Government had tried to meet the demand half way by appointing the committee which would evidently have full powers to inquire into all aspects of the massacre of over 3,000 people.

Mandal report: The other subjects covered during the meeting included a demand for an early decision on the Mandal Commission's report, the continued atrocities on women and the worsening law and order situation in several States.

As the meeting lasted less than two hours, other agenda items including the Punjab issue could not be discussed. But even otherwise the Home Minister would not have liked to engage in a detailed discussion on Punjab while the Government is engaged in private contacts with the Akali leaders in an effort to resume the negotiations with them.

Rebuilding places of worship: In Gauhati, the Assam Chief Minister, Mr. Hiteswar Saikia today told newsmen that the Government would grant funds to reconstruct the places of worship damaged during the anti-foreigners' agitation. (reports PTD).

This and other decisions were taken at a Cabinet meeting last night, he said.

Widows or legal heirs of Government employees killed in the agitation would be entitled to the full salary inclusive of all allowances and increments up to the date of the deceased's normal superannuation. After the date of superannuation, they would draw pension under normal rules.

New districts: To tone up Assam's administration, the Cabinet also decided to create four new districts and six more subdivisions. With this the total number of districts will be 14 and the subdivisions 28.

CAPTURE OF TERRORIST MAY BREAK TRIPURA UNDERGROUND

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 May 83 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, May 8--The recent arrest of the dreaded Chuni Koloi, the right-hand man and most trusted lieutenant of Bijoy Krankhal, the Tripura National Volunteer Force leader, in a CRPF operation in the Longtharai range of Tripura, is likely to break the backbone of the underground movement there.

With this arrest, the Union Home Ministry thinks a severe blow has been struck at insurgency in Tripura, as it has of late been done in neighbouring Mizoram and other regions of the north-east.

Chuni Koloi was taken into custody along with three of his associates, Kanak Tarak Koloi, Prafulla Deb Burma of Khowai and Utpanna Mohan Tripura of North Dhumacherra. The Central Reserve Police Force is preparing for another all-out operation in the State and a large number of tribal extremists are likely to surrender shortly, it is stated.

Since Chuni Koloi has now been arrested Bijoy Krankhal may be in a quandary as to whom to hand over the operational responsibility of his TNVF. Some time ago, the Tripura insurgents split into two groups--TNVF and the ATPLO (Army of the Tripura People's Liberation Organization), which is led by Binanda Jamatiya. It is felt that in the face of the CRPF onslaught Jamatiya will come closer to Bijoy Krankhal.

The CRPF, thus, feels that their job in Tripura is not yet over and it is essential to sustain the pressure built up by it at present. The extremists are said to have plenty arms and ammunition with them still which they can use to rebuild their organization and continue their insurgency. The strategy, therefore, is "to go all out and with the help and cooperation of the State Government and the public crush them once for all".

According to reports, the State Government had been negotiating with the underground extremists, including Chuni Koloi and his associates, and had even offered to withdraw all cases of murders, dacoities, mass massacre and looting of arms and ammunition. But even as the negotiations were going on, the CRPF had been able to lay hands on Chuni Koloi and his men. The CRPF is now asking for the cooperation of the State police force to arrest the other extremists and capture their arms and ammunition that would put an end to insurgency in Tripura.

There were large-scale disturbances and mass massacre in the State in June, 1980. Since August 1982, when Bijoy Krankhal once again went underground, there had been a sudden spurt in insurgency leading to the killing of many policemen and civilians and looting of weapons. During the visit of the Director-General of the CRPF, Mr S. Datta Choudhury, to Tripura in February, 1983, he discussed the matter with the State Chief Minister, Mr Nripen Chakravarty and the Chief Secretary and impressed upon them the need for intensive combing operations by the CRPF. The suggestion was accepted by the State Government.

On April 5, Chuni Koloi's gang struck in the Dudhpur forest area and two days later at Karamchera, where it looted three shops and fired five rounds, injuring one person who died later. As soon as the information was received at Manu, Mr Malagar Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police of the CRPF rushed to the spot and combed the area, closing in on the gang from different directions at Machli Bazar.

One of the extremists whipped out a pistol, but Sub-Inspector Khushali Ram grappled with him and succeeded in overpowering him. Four people were caught and identified later. The CRPF seized a revolver, ammunition, grenades, a flash camera, a diary with valuable information on their operations and the seal of the "General of TNVF".

CSO: 4600/1141

BUSINESSMAN, MINISTER ON ECONOMY, TAKEOVER DANGER

Business Leader on Takeover Danger

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 May 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, May 3. In spite of the ceiling of five per cent imposed by the government on non-residents' investment in equity shares, there are still serious misgivings in the minds of industry of speculative take-over of Indian companies by Indian expatriates because of the attractive investment opportunities in this country.

Stating this here today, the president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Assocham), Mr Jahar Sengupta, said return on equity in India "is better than anywhere else in the world". European and United States economics were currently passing through difficulty, he added.

Mr Sengupta told newsmen that the imposition of restriction on non-residents' investments was a measure of recognition by the government of the genuine fears expressed in industrial circles.

When asked whether the danger still existed of control being taken over of Indian companies by the non-residents, Assocham chief said that he could not give a categorical reply.

Mr Sengupta, who talked about the entire gamut of economic activity, seemed to share the official optimism when he said that despite the deceleration witnessed during last year, industry should be able to achieve a seven to eight per cent rate of growth during 1983-84.

He, however, cautioned that power could continue to be a "critical factor in industrial production and any shortfall in this infrastructure facility would lead to substantial unutilised capacity". He, therefore, underlined the need to step up capacity utilisation in the power sector.

Mr Sengupta suggested that the government should seriously consider involving the private sector to generate thermal power either on their own or in the joint sector leaving the distribution to the state sector.

He welcomed the new import policy as an instrument for ensuring adequate inputs for higher production and also to make Indian goods more competitive in the world market.

On the vexed issue of inflation, Mr Sengupta said that prices might go up during the current year. The increase in prices of food articles, mainly caused by a fall in kharif production, might continue till the next kharif season. Besides, the increase in procurement and issue prices and the concomittant increase in open market prices would push up the agricultural price index by a good margin-- eight to 10 per cent. Prices of industrial products were also bound to go up due to the pre-budget and the budget levies, increase in railway freight and communication expenses.

Mr Sengupta, noted with concern the deteriorating industrial relations. For the first time in Indian industry, more than 100 million mandays were lost due to strikes and lock-outs in 1982. Even if one excluded the impact of the Bombay textile strike, the mandays lost in 1982 were nearly as high as in 1979 (43-44 million). He wanted labour, industry and the government to work together to ensure that strikes, lock-outs and labour-management tensions did not affect production processes in the country.

On the industrial policy, he complimented the government on the recent relaxation on the exemption limits for licensing and for providing further incentives to accelerate the development of backward areas. On units coming under MRTTP Act, Mr Sengupta made two suggestions. First, the limit of Rs. 20 crores should be raised to Rs. 50 crores to compensate for at least 50 per cent of the inflation recorded since 1969. Secondly, the government should come out at an early date with a list of industries which were to be excluded from the purview of the MRTTP Act in the national interest.

Answering a question regarding the main reasons for recession in certain sectors of the economy last year, Mr Sengupta said buyers' credit and slackening demand were the two main causes.

Mr Sengupta who is also on the board of directors of the Reserve Bank, however, made it clear that credit requirement for productive purposes were met by and large. He defended the restrictive credit policy. These curbs on credit were essential for containing inflation.

He told newsmen that the Marathe committee report on credit authorisation was expected to be submitted to the Reserve Bank within this month.

Finance Minister in Rajya Sabha

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 May 83 p 1

[Text] Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Monday all non-resident Indians, whether or not they are Indian citizens at present, are entitled to invest in up to five per cent of the shares of Indian joint stock companies.

Replying to the Finance Bill debate in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Mukherjee rejected the demand that people who have taken up

foreign citizenship be barred from investing in Indian companies as it would destabilise them. There could be no such bar, the Minister said, as many Indians had to take up foreign citizenship because of the municipal laws in the country where they were living.

They still had deep interest in their motherland. "Also, there

can be a situation like in Sri Lanka and Uganda some years ago. If these Indians have to leave their country of residence, we could not close our borders, he said.

The Rajya Sabha later adopted the bill.

In his 45-minute speech, in which he assured all help to States to meet, natural crises,

promised comprehensive tax legislation as soon as possible and said that the Government would discuss salary issues directly with the employees.

He wondered why members of Parliament were so concerned about big business, though in the past the same MPs had greeted his announcement by saying it would give a fillip to investment. He said good managements had nothing to fear, for their support lay in the confidence the shareholders had in them.

As it was, the Government through the public financial institutions was the majority shareholder in these companies. The businessmen had still been assured that the financial institutions would support them if there was a threat of takeover or destabilisation.

But, Mr Mukherjee warned, this was only so far as the management of the companies was good and invited the confidence of the shareholders. "Who will protect them if the Government, as the majority shareholder, de-

cides to change them", Mr Mukherjee asked, wondering why the Government was not being taken at its word.

The private sector opposed controls, but now wanted controls in its own interest, he said.

The Finance Minister made a broad survey of the economic situation, and admitted that progress had not been up to projections or expectations. The growth had come down to three or two per cent from five per cent, but it was not a negative growth.

Mr Mukherjee stoutly defended the Government's agriculture policy and said there had been no distortion. The policy had paid dividends though perhaps not as much as was warranted by the investments.

He said the Supreme Court decision on pension had forced rethinking on various aspects of staff demands. The Government would now think twice before offering benefits to current staff in negotiations as it would have to be extended to all previous employees also.

CSO: 4600/1132

BRIEFS

CPI ON RAO VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA--The CPI has expressed its surprise over External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao's "choosing this time to visit South Korea" saying it will cause apprehension in the anti-imperialist circles all over the world. Party secretary N.K. Krishnan in a statement on Saturday said the Nonaligned Summit had adopted a resolution on the peaceful reunification of Korea and had demanded the withdrawal of foreign troops to facilitate it. There are still 40,000 American troops in South Korea and they have now been armed with nuclear weapons. The puppet regime bolstered by the US had deprived the people of all democratic rights. The US-sponsored triple alliance with the Japanese militarists, which carried out wide-ranging military exercises recently, posed a new threat to peace in the region. Against this background, the visit of the External Affairs Minister would cause misapprehensions, Mr Krishnan said. The CPI called on the Government to take concrete steps for the implementation of the NAM decisions on Korea and demanded that the US troops leave South Korea immediately. [Text] [New Delhi. PATRIOT in English 8 May 83 p 4]

MIZOS PLAN TERROR WAVE--Shillong, May 7--The Mizo National Front is planning another wave of violence and terror in the Union Territory as the monsoon sets in. The "traditional" quit notices to non-Mizos, or Vais, are expected to be issued shortly, according to reliable sources. Small mobile packs of MNF personnel are believed to have infiltrated into Mizoram in the first week of May, and the process may be continuing. Quit notices in the past invariably led to selective and gruesome murders. Security forces are on a general alert. Intercepts reveal that the MNF tactical headquarter issued instructions in April specifying the tasks. First, collection of taxes from non-Mizos through harassment or intimidation, or both, if necessary secondly, exerting psychological pressure in a phased manner, initially to drive out senior non-Mizo officers, like heads of department in the administration, and later, other Vai staff, thirdly, using surprise tactics to get at the weapons and ammunition of the security forces, fourthly, restricted action against Mizos, unless expressly approved of by their "Tac Hq." Restricted action is a euphemism for selective murder. The MNF evidently has had to respect the feelings of the community, which was outraged by the wanton spilling of Mizo Christian blood in the two "anti-Vai" campaigns since 1978, aimed primarily at toppling the People's Conference Ministry under Brigadier Sailo. The campaigns were also timed to strengthen the hands of Mr Laldenga when he was negotiating with the Centre. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 8 May 83 p 9]

CPI-ML ON CPI-M, CCP--The establishment of fraternal relations between the Communist Party of China and the CPI(M) has evoked a vitriolic attack by the CPI(ML) on the CPI(M). There is a feeling now among the leaders of the CPI(ML), which was once recognized by the CPC as the only genuine Communist Party of India, that they have been left in the lurch. The CPI(ML) general secretary, Mr Satyanarain Singh, said on Friday that the CPC, headed by Mao Zedong, had correctly branded the CPI(M) as a party of revisionism and class collaboration, but the present leadership of the CPC had recognized the same revisionist party as a Marxist-Leninist party. Asked if his party would now describe the CPC leaders as social imperialists as it characterized the Soviet party leaders, Mr Singh said that they had not come to a conclusion on the basis of their assessment of the CPC. There was now an enormous material from China and the CPI(ML) leaders were studying them. By September, his party would be in a position to finally assess the developments in China, he added. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 May 83 p 3]

AKALI DAL GROUP DEMANDS PUNJAB, GANGANAGAR MERGER--Jaipur, May 9--The 'Shahidi Conference' organised by the Rajasthan Akali Dal at Ganganagar yesterday demanded the merger of Ganganagar and 'other Punjabi-speaking areas of Rajasthan' in Punjab. The conference, organised to pay homage to the 'martyrs' of the Akali agitation in Punjab was attended by former Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal and SGPC president Gurcharan Singh Tohra. According to reports, the conference made 22 demands, including the merger of the Ganganagar district in Punjab, reserved Assembly constituencies for the Sikh community, end to 'harassment' of Sikhs in the name of land ceiling, broadcast of Gurubani from Suratgarh AIR station, etc. Mr Badal, offering a solution to the Akali agitation in Punjab, suggested that the present tension would end if the Akali demands were referred to a commission or the Supreme Court. District Akali president Ujagar Singh criticised the Rajasthan Government for 'searching' the Sikhs coming to the conference 'for arms'. However, despite prohibitory orders, many Akalis were seen carrying arms at the conference. A purse of Rs 16,000 was given to Mr Tohra on behalf of the Budha Johar Gurdwara and another purse of Rs 21,000 was presented for those died during the present agitation. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 May 83 p 1]

CSO: 4600/1136

PROSPECTS FOR TRADE WITH SCANDINAVIA SAID TO BE BRIGHT

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 5 May 83 p 3

[Text]

The Export Development Board has flown a team of six exporters to push a wide range of Sri Lanka primary produce and finished goods on Scandinavian markets.

The mission to Scandinavia, selected on export performance during the past two years, is considered to have bright prospects of winning markets abroad for their products.

Funded by the Commonwealth Secretariat and led by EDB Deputy Director Percy Thenuwara, the team going to Scandinavia consists of representatives of Creations Ltd. (garments and readymade wear), Renuka Enterprises (spices / packeted tea), Ceylon Leather Corporation (leather products) Magpek

Exports (handicrafts / woodcrafts / basketware / reed ware), Lumbini Aquaria (live fish / aquarium plants) and Santhitra Batiks (batik fashion garments).

The Scandinavian market for Sri Lanka products came into focus two years ago following a proposal by Trade Minister Lalith Athulathmudali for a buyer / seller meet in that region. The first buyer / seller meet held in Copenhagen in April 1981 attracted 25 exhibitors from Sri Lanka who displayed a range of 200 products which earned 1.5 million US dollar sales.

The current mission which is a follow-up has narrowed the product range to eleven items considered "strong favourites" on the Scandinavian market. Buyer / seller meets will be held this time in Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland. Also on the cards are visits to individual importers in these four countries.

The EDB export strategy for the Scandinavian countries involves close liaison with the import

promotion offices in Norway (NORIMPOD), Sweden (IMPOD) and Finland (PRODEC), to draw buying missions here.

The EDB has had the best success to date in the handloom sector where these organisations have assisted with several buying missions to Sri Lanka.

The seventh handloom buying mission is now in the country, and EDB sources said orders to date have totalled Rs 10 million. These buying missions from Scandinavia, which come here on subsidies have also helped boost the country's tourist earnings.

"Export performance following buyer / seller meets and trade fairs will be closely monitored to identify promising areas. We will also help exporters to consolidate their gains by constant product evaluation", an EDB spokesman said.

CSO: 4600/630

1984 BUDGET TO SQUEEZE PUBLIC SECTOR

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 28 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] An early warning of a stringent economy drive in the 1984 budget has been sent out to the public sector by the Secretary to the Treasury, Dr. W.M. Tilakaratna.

He has stressed that applications for new staff will not be entertained in 1984. The Treasury will disallow applications for new projects next year too, the secretary said.

These indicators are included in the instructions that went out from the budget division of the General Treasury last week, giving the general principles and guidelines governing the preparation of the 1984 budget estimates.

The circular has been sent to all secretaries of Ministries, heads of departments and chairmen of corporations.

Some of the important points made in the circular are:

--Ministries and departments have been required to maintain recurrent expenditure at present levels and no increases will be allowed except for some specified purposes. These include payment of increments, meeting the cost of the recent Rs. 100 per month wage increase and payment of customs duty and BTT on government imports.

--All foreign aid negotiations should be conducted by the Director of External Resources and such negotiations will only cover projects admitted to the medium-term investment plan.

--As no new staff will be allowed next year, the public sector will have to meet additional staff requirements by re-deploying existing staff.

--All government and corporation imports will be liable to customs duty and BTT from January 1984.

Dr. Tilakaratna has drawn the attention of all secretaries and heads of departments to the need to move the public expenditure pattern from nonproductive areas to productive outlays.

"Every effort should be made to maintain recurrent expenditure at current levels in order that more resources could be released for development needs. Projects or activities that can be scaled down or abandoned should be specifically indicated," he said.

POLICE OFFER REWARD ON TERRORISTS

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 3 May 83 p 1

[Article by Srimal Abeyewardene: "1m. Reward for Lead on Terrorists"]

[Text] Police yesterday announced the posting of Rs. 1 million in reward money for information leading to the arrest of the Northern terrorists responsible for murdering policemen, servicemen, politicians, informants and members of the public in a savage orgy of killing that has continued unabated for many months.

Police headquarters said that half this reward money will be paid for hard information that will enable the authorities to round-up the Friday killers who cold bloodedly cut down two candidates standing for election to the Point Pedro and Chavakachcheri urban councils and the bodyguard of the UNP's Jaffna district organiser.

The security authorities strongly suspect that the gang responsible for last week's killings was also behind the murder in May 1981 of ex-MP A. Thiagarajah, who was heading the UNP list for the Jaffna DDC election.

Senior officers believe that Velupillaj Prabakaran, the terrorist leader who was arrested some months ago in Madras and released under police supervision pending trial there, had generalised the Friday killings.

"We've already paid Rs. 600,000 in reward money to policemen and servicemen who were able to get some of the terrorists. These payments were made over a 4-year period", a police spokesman said.

The rewards already paid include Rs. 1 lakh to the naval patrol who arrested Kuttimani--nominated to parliament by the TULF while he was under death sentence--while he was trying to slip across to India.

"Any information we receive will be treated with the strictest confidence. We will pay the reward at any place nominated by the informant provided the information is accurate and leads to the arrest of these 'most wanted' men", the spokesman said.

He added that the Rs. 100,000 reward already offered for information leading to the arrest of terrorist leaders Uma Maheswaran and Prabakaran still stands. "Anybody apprehending them and handing them over to us will be entitled to the rewards", he said.

COMPANY PLANNED TO HELP ENTREPRENEURS

Colombo SUN in English 5 May 83 p 1

[Article by Winston De Valliere: "A Big New Company To Help Entrepreneurs"]

[Text] A public company with a massive initial capital of 1,000 million rupees is being set up by the National Development Bank to meet medium and long term risk capital requirements of private sector industrialists.

The company, to be set up under the Companies Act of Sri Lanka, will provide for a tax exemption up to twice the initial paid-up capital set at 800 million rupees if this amount is placed in reserve and not paid out as dividends.

The objective, officials said, was to ensure that the company would be able to make maximum use of tax benefits and build up a bigger reserve fund to meet future contingencies. This is seen as vital in view of the anticipated massive growth in demand for risk capital which would have to be met.

Currently established financial institutions, including commercial banks, have shown the door to industrialists looking for risk capital without any collateral.

Several commercial banks and the state banks are expected to contribute to the equity fund in this new company.

The reserve fund of the new company will have to be exclusively made up of the profits of the company.

It is learnt that several banks and private institutions are in favour of the setting up of this new company since they expect to be able to channel a part of their reserves into the equity participation in this venture. An additional attraction is that investment in this venture would guarantee a very competitive return on investments over a long period.

Unlike in several other countries of the region, the risk quantum in any industrial venture in Sri Lanka is generally estimated at 40 per cent of the total investment. Long term funding at exorbitant rates of interest from commercial banking and other sources has resulted in dozens of very viable industrial projects being scrapped over the past two years. This has been causing serious

concern to the government which has been keen on assisting such long term gestating projects in an effort to strengthen the industrial base of the country.

NDB sources said this was the reason for the setting up of the new equity fund concept to help establish the more important bigger types of industry in Sri Lanka.

CSO: 4600/630

WORK ON HUGE DRY DOCK BEGINS

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 4 May 83 p 9

[Text] The world is an arena of competition, and so it was in the sphere of ship building where the country was forging ahead thanks to the experience gained from Colombo Dockyard said Trade and Shipping Minister Laltih Athulathmudali on the occasion of the earth-breaking ceremony which signalled the commencement of construction on the 90,000 ton dwt Dry Dock in the Port of Colombo yesterday.

The Minister said that it was the biggest single investment in the GCED to date--over Rs. 1100 million--and it was going to make a qualitative change in the marine traditions of the people. The major share holders in the new venture were Colombo Dockyard Ltd., the Ports Authority, and the Employees' Trust Fund. The ETF investment was one of its biggest since its inception, and it augured well for democracy in the country because the ETF was 'owned' by nearly 2 1/2 million people.

There were several factors that assured the success of the project and among the foremost was Colombo's strategic geographical location on the trade routes of the world. Besides, more ships were calling at Colombo with the increasing transshipment cargo handled here. Other factors were the high level of general education of the labour force, together with its ability to acquire skills quickly, and the fact that labour costs here were very competitive. The experience gained through Colombo Dockyard was something that was going to stand them in good stead the Minister said.

He added that Colombo Dry Docks was to be run on sound business lines, and it was his desire to see the work completed ahead of schedule as in many other ventures undertaken in the Port.

Chairman, Colombo Dry Docks Ltd., M.L.D. Caspersz said that the venture which would be operational in 1985, would begin to pay dividends in 1986. He assured the Minister that Colombo Dockyard Ltd., would soon build Sri Lanka's first fully equipped cargo vessel.

Chairman Port Authority, Wimal Amarasekera, said that the handling of containers by the Port of Colombo had hit a new high in 1982, with nearly one third of the total volume being transshipment cargo, that had earned the country 20 million rupees.

Managing Director Colombo Dockyard Ltd., A. Ragunathan said that he was proud to say that the Minister had not only offered his fullest cooperation in the running of CDL ever since he took over the Ministry, but had also never interfered in the working of the venture. Though the total expenditure on Colombo Dry Docks Ltd. was going to be in the region of Rs. 1100 million he was confident all expenses would be recovered in five years.

The Minister then operated a bulldozer ripper to commence the earth breaking ceremony.

CSO: 4600/630

BRIEFS

REPLENISHMENT OF JAFFNA'S WATER RESOURCES--President Jayewardene has initiated a major effort to replenish the Jaffna peninsula's ground water resources and provide a new fresh water source by converting the Elephant Pass lagoon to fresh water. The President who chairs the cabinet sub-committee on economic development and the committee yesterday met an expert group and discussed resuming the lagoon conversion project which was abandoned in 1952 after half the work was done. The Irrigation Department has been directed to technically modify this project which in addition to providing a new fresh water source, will also enable the cultivation of 11,000 acres of marginal land around the lagoon. Irrigation Director A.L.P. Ponrajah told the committee that the job could be done in three years with construction expected to commence in 1985 once the financial allocations were made. In 1980 its cost was estimated at Rs. 21.5 million. Prime Minister Premadasa and other members of the cabinet sub-committee senior government officials, Prof. Thambiah and two retired Deputy Directors of Irrigation, Messrs. S. Arumugan and K. Shanmugarajah were present. [Text] [Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 5 May 83 p 1]

COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION--Cabinet yesterday approved a recommendation by Education Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, that a National Advisory Committee on religious education be appointed for a period of three years. Members of the council shall consist of the Mahanayake Theros of the Malwatte, Asgiriya, Amarapura and Ramanna chapters, leading Hindu and Islamic dignitaries, the Archbishop of Colombo, a religious dignitary from a non Catholic church and government officials from the relevant ministries and departments. [Text] [Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 28 Apr 83 p 1]

CSO: 4600/630

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