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Near East/South Asia Report

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21 November 1985

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

BEIRUT DAILY: TURKEY ATTEMPTS TO BLACKMAIL ARGENTINE SENATE

Beirut ZARTONK in Armenian 11 Aug 85 p 2

[Article: "Turkish Government Attempts to Blackmail Argentine Senate"]

[Text] We draw our readers' attention to the contents of a letter written by the commercial attache of the Turkish Embassy in Buenos Aires (reprinted from the local newspaper ARMENIA), directed to the honorable members of the Argentine Senate, the aim of which is to put pressure on each and every senator, by means of lies, commercial and political blackmail, with the objective of hindering them from expressing positive opinions on the Armenian Question.

"As we know, it was because of propaganda efforts by the Armenian Interunion Council that the Argentine Chamber of Deputies and Senate voted affirmatively on a motion to instruct Argentina's Ministry of Foreign Relations to raise the question of the Armenian Genocide.

"Turkish reaction was once again neutralized, thanks to Argentina's hospitable people and justice on the part of its thoughtful government, thanks to the trust it has in the devotion of the Armenian people and its dedication to the defense of human rights.

"We would have ended our report at this point had we not noticed between the lines of the letter a shift on the part of the Turkish Government.

"All of us today expect to hear and read how the Turks deny the 1915 massacre, ignore the existence of Armenia, distort history and declare that the Armenians murdered 3 million Turks.... A somewhat less clear and obvious element, however, appears in the final paragraphs of the letter, in the guise of government blackmail: making reference to government terrorism directed against the honorable members of the Argentine Senate, making it clear to them that if they decide to take a position favoring the Armenians, the Turks will hinder Argentine Middle Eastern trade, will not buy its nuclear technology, and will vote against Argentina in international forums such as the United Nations.

"Although we feel that the Turk has shifted to the defensive in Argentina as a consequence of our efforts, we as loyal Argentinians cannot permit any government, and in this instance the Turks in particular, to blackmail the members of bodies protecting Argentine democracy. This constitutes intervention in Argentina's internal affairs."

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

TURKISH JOURNALIST LABELS ST. LAZAR 'ISLAND OF ARMENIAN GRUDGE'

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 18 Sep 85 p 1

[Text] In its latest edition, GUNES carries an article by correspondent Reha Erus who claims that the Armenian seminary of St Lazarus [in Venice] publishes voluminous material about the Armenian genocide and keeps alive the Armenians' grudge and hatred [against Turkey]. The article is accompanied by several photographs depicting the island where the seminary is located, a memorial water fountain, parts of the monastery, the statue of [founder] Father Mukhitar, the manager of the monastery's printing shop, Father Gomidas Manugian and the front page of the journal "The Armenian Family."

The correspondent writes that anti-Turkish propaganda has been disseminated for a long time from this island where several articles and forged photographs are displayed about the events of 1915. The article insists that the Armenian Catholic monastery of St Lazarus, built on an island in Venice, has served as the strategic center of the Armenian terrorist organization ASALA [Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia] and that the monastery suffered major losses recently and was faced with bankruptcy as a result of various dark dealings, as reported in the American press. The article adds that despite the usually heavy entry restrictions the said correspondent managed to enter and to tour the monastery unhampered. According to the correspondent, at one time the monastery was out of bounds for all Turks, and strict measures were taken to prevent any Turk and particularly any journalists from entering the premises.

The correspondent then adds that he went to St Lazarus by a special invitation from the monastery's spiritual leaders and observes that he did not encounter any special security measures or restrictions and that it is very easy to go to the monastery by a small boat from Venice.

[The article says:] This island is the center of all anti-Turkish publications which fuel the Armenian movements around the globe. The island is also the site of a memorial dedicated to the so-called genocide. It is clearly evident that intense work is under way here to establish an Armenian state on Turkish soil.

The monastery is headed by Father Parsegh Sepetian who makes no attempt to conceal their efforts in that direction and declares: "Yes, we are working for our homeland. In our prayers we always remember our one million martyrs, but we never condone terrorism as a means of promoting the Armenian cause."

We realized the attitude and the disposition of Armenian monks toward Turkey and the Turks before we arrived on the island from the name of the boat carrying us: "Lake Van."

The population of the island of St Lazarus changes continually. The monastery's students, their instructors, the employees of the printing shop built in 1776 and other workers all live on an island the size of Sedef island near Istanbul. There are approximately 50 people on the island. In addition to the monastery's official journal "The Armenian Family" which constantly reiterates the Armenian allegations, the printing shop publishes hundreds of booklets each year and also prints commercial books and material. The printing shop works well, it produces good work and earns a considerable amount of money. There are two memorials on the island. The first one is the statue of Father Mukhitar who founded the monastery in 1717. The second one is dedicated to the so-called Armenian genocide of 1915. Also, the monastery's museum has on display several forged documents and various articles, maps and photographs pertaining to the events of 1915. Visitors to the island are always given a tour of the monastery.

The head of the monastery, Father Parsegh Sepetian, is now 75 years old. He was born in Kutahya [Turkey.] While he led me on a tour of the island, he said: "You can see with your own eyes now that everything is out in the open here and there are no restrictions. There are no caged windows, no fences, no roadblocks, no doors, no locks, and no one checks papers for landing on the island. Yes, there is an Armenian question, but we oppose the use of arms, violence and bloodshed as a means of resolving it. We are opposed to terrorism. Consequently, we are not in any way linked to ASALA or any other terrorist organization. Not a single firearm can be found on this island. The Armenians are the Europeans of Asia. Today, 2 million Armenians have made homes for themselves in various parts of the world, and they live peacefully and honestly. Of course, it would have much better if we could all live in one homeland."

We were joined in our conversation by Father Gomidas Manugian, a native of Istanbul: "Just as you want to preserve the integrity of Turkey, we yearn for a unitary homeland for all Armenians of the world. With our publications we are trying to make the entire world aware of our cause."

All the monks cross themselves when they pass by the memorial dedicated to the so-called genocide of 1915, and thus they remember their kinsmen.

The journal "The Armenian Family" is reportedly circulated among the most influential circles in the world. When we leafed through the April edition of the journal, we came across articles which we expected to find. This was a special edition to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the so-called genocide. It contained related poems, biographies, stories of heroism, photographs of various memorials, a map of Armenia, abstract paintings depicting the events of 1915 and other similar material.

Father Sepetian added: "This is the only way we make ourselves heard around the world."

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

FRENCH TV TELECASTS SPECIAL PROGRAM ON ARMENIAN CAUSE

Beirut ZARTONK in Armenian 11 Aug 85 p 2

[Article: "French Television Presents the Armenian Question"]

[Text] On 17 July French Television Channel B devoted a telecast to the Armenian Question on its "History Begins at 2000 Hours" program, running from 10:45 to 11:30 p.m. Program host (Mark Vero), stating that terrorism has made the Armenian Question a modern-day issue, presented the Genocide in a fairly objective manner, summarily dismissing Turkish denials that the events ever took place, explained the reasons for the "delayed" awakening of the Armenians and stressed that the sinking of Willy Brandt to his knees at Auschwitz constituted a stimulus for the Armenians. Recalling that this year Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres condemned Armenian terrorism along with other terrorism, (Vero) drew attention to the fact that "memory is short," since Israel was also born by terrorism.

The host devoted considerable attention to the activities of ASALA, prompting comments by A. Yenigomshian concerning that organization's independent character.

Returning to the Turkish denial, the program host stated that he could understand the reason behind it, which is nothing other than the fact that acknowledgement of the events must be followed by indemnification for confiscated lands and property. The host stated in continuation that Turkey's position turns it into a (k'are t'as), of threatening detriment to Washington, which is forced to come to the support of its ally.

The host then proceeded to reflect on the Republic of Armenia and its successor, Soviet Armenia, with pictorial accompaniment. He mentioned the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial, stating that its dedication took place on the anniversary of the October Revolution and commemorated that event. In actual fact, however, the dedication ceremony was held on 29 November 1967, on the date of the anniversary of Sovietization of Armenia. First Secretary Anton Kochinian clearly stated at the dedication ceremony: "We have gathered here to dedicate this memorial, which will perpetuate the memory of the victims of Turkey's reactionary regime during the years of World War I and the deathless memory of our people."

During the program scenes were also shown from the movie "Nahapet" [Patriarch], as well as of terrorist acts, from the Alfortville Cultural Center, which took place in Berlin, Ankara, Orly, and Lisbon.

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

ANKARA DENIES REPORTS ON TRAINING OF ARMENIANS BY IRAN

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 21 Aug 85 pp 1, 4

[Article: "There Are Those Who Seek to Harm Turkish-Iranian Relations: The Story Concerning the Training of 100 Armenian Terrorists Is False"]

[Text] As we reported earlier, a number of reports have reached Ankara, according to which the Turkish Embassy in Iran received the demand that passports be issued to 100 Armenians who are Turkish nationals. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs supposedly took action at the behest of Iran's 110th Armored Battalion, which pertained to Armenians who had gone to Iran, received training, and were to return to Turkey to engage in agitation and terrorist activities. Documents to this effect were also published in a number of foreign newspapers, together with photocopies of the Persian-language originals. Tehran authorities have insisted that these are phony, deliberately fabricated stories, aimed at harming Turkish-Iranian relations.

It is now becoming known that such stories are being systematically spread by circles in opposition to Khomeini, since leaflets containing similar claims have recently begun to appear, intended to harm Turkish-Iranian relations, as well as leaflets against Ataturk, insulting his person and his reforms.

A statement issued by the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Ankara asserts that such stories are totally unfounded and that Iranian authorities display the highest concern for maintaining excellent Turkish-Iranian good-neighbor relations.

In this connection President of the Republic Kenan Evren yesterday sent a special message of congratulations to Ali Khamene'i on his reelection as head of state and took this occasion to declare his firm conviction on the benefits to be derived by continued Turkish-Iranian brotherhood.

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CSO: 4605/220

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

ARMENIAN DELEGATES PARTICIPATE IN NAIROBI WOMEN'S FORUM 1985

Paris GAMK in Armenian and French 15 Aug 85 p 2

[Article: "Status of Armenian Woman in the Diaspora Examined at UN Forum"]

[Text] The Final conference of the Women's Decade (1975-1985) sponsored by the United Nations Organization was held on 10-19 July in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, under the designation Forum 1985.

The conference in Nairobi addressed various issues contained in two main agendas, headed by the three principal themes of the decade.

A. Women's Decade -- examination of programs and ultimate goals concerning the main topics of equality, improvement of conditions, and peace.

B. In connection with the above-mentioned topics, development of long-range programs and their implementation, and formulation of guidelines for implementation up to the year 2000.

In parallel with the above-mentioned conference and under its sponsorship, the UN Non-Governmental Organizations Forum also convened, to address numerous issues, including economics, diet, exploitation of women, violence in the family, the plight of elderly women, and the issue of forced resettlement of rural and urban population. The above-enumerated issues were examined at corresponding discussion sessions.

In addition to the above-mentioned working sessions, a special session was convened under a general title on the Armenian woman and questions pertaining to realities in the Diaspora, culture and the individual.

A three-member delegation, under the auspices of the Middle Eastern Church Council, presented "The State of Existence of the Armenian Woman Throughout the Diaspora" from the woman's point of view.

The delegation at the conference is headed by Mrs (Teni Simonian-Piri), also representing the Middle Eastern Church Council at the conference.

Mrs Manushak Boyachian, lecturer in Armenian history at the International Institute of Armenian Studies, presented the historical past of the Armenian people and present-day realities.

Mrs Alin Papazian presented a specially prepared study, the subject of which was phenomena in the Diaspora concerning the matter of the identity of the Armenia woman.

The delegation also presented materials pertaining to Armenian books, manuscripts and culture to the special exhibition pavilion. The topics addressed at the session were as follows:

- a) A people which has been uprooted and subjected to various events and conditions throughout the Diaspora.
- b) Organization and structure of the Armenian emigre communities.
- c) The question of culture and identity in today's peaceful political affairs.
- d) How the question of identity is viewed in Armenian communities by its members, especially identity of women.
- e) Phenomena related to the question of identity, including relationship with the homeland, culture, religion, organization of communities, social, economic activity, etc.
- f) Questions relating to continuing emigration and settlement in non-Armenian and Armenian communities.
- g) Role of the international community in the above-mentioned process of settlement in the two types of communities.
- h) Conclusion: practical proposals -- improvement of conditions and continued existence.

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CSO: 4605/214

EGYPT

PROPOSAL TO FORM NATIONAL FRONT DISCUSSED

Motives For Forming Front

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Jul 85 p 15

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi]

[Text] I wonder, What is the interest of the foreign and Arab press in the so-called green march? What is the secret behind this strong interest?

Moreover, what interest do these circles have in seeing a group of our innocent, religious and well-meaning youth march, carrying the Koran and demanding implementation of the Islamic Shari'a, considering that the legislative council (the People's Assembly) has already unanimously approved its implementation?

These circles' interest in the march should be no secret to those instigating or planning the march or to our masses. It is a suspicious interest.

The march is no longer significant and it no longer has a goal. It demands implementation of what has already been implemented and of what is on its way to being implemented without the need for a march to make the demand.

Those advocating the march know that the march will change nothing because what it demands is already a reality. God help them if they are planning and stirring up the march aimlessly and futilely or in pursuit of sedition.

However, the inevitable and indisputable outcome of the march will be sedition.

What if copies of the venerable Koran fall on the ground, get trampled on, and, God forbid, get soiled with mud and perhaps even with blood? Who will shoulder the responsibility for this crime? Wouldn't they be the advocates of the march?

What if our masses reject this march? Will they reject it because they don't understand or accept it and because they have no time to waste on such matters? Our masses suffer enough and they reject coercion and all methods of intimidation.

What if the masses reject this march and then a clash occurs between these masses and their sons and brothers, the well-meaning religious youth?

What if people fall dead or wounded?

Who would then be responsible for this pure blood? Wouldn't they be the advocates of the march solely? Yet, they still call it a green march!

Moreover, what if other radical or non-radical groups stage counter-marches, if the two sides clash and if the lives of brother Egyptians are wasted?

Who would be responsible for the innocent lives if they are killed, God forbid?

Who other than the advocates of the march, which they call a green march? What if the police forces that are responsible for keeping law and order clash with the participants in these marches and if brothers and sons fall dead?

Who would be responsible for all these crimes? Wouldn't it alone be the advocates of these marches, which they call green marches?

What is sedition if it is not these clashes which will inevitably result in disastrous evil!

Caution is part of the faithful's intelligence. When God orders the faithful to obey Him and obey His messenger, He adds:

Let our youth beware of becoming cats' paws and let them beware of letting good will, piety and zeal for Islam lead them in to doing what they do not wish, in to doing the opposite of what they wish.

Let them beware so that they may not turn into mounts ridden by evil knights who seek to achieve their concealed objectives, all of which are evil.

Let them beware of a sedition that will not particularly hit the unjust but whose woes will afflict all the innocent of this country and the future of the country itself.

Let our religious youth remember that those who spur them to stage the so-called green marches are only using them as an instrument to ignite yellow sedition. If the state were to apply to these youth the Islamic Shari'a in the indiscriminate and demagogic manner which their instigators want, then the state would punish them as seditious inciters and sedition is worse than murder, if they realize.

But we do not wish for them or the country a fate we and they hate, as I said in last Saturday's article.

I thank God for those who have responded to what I wrote last Saturday. I am certain from their telephone calls and their warm letters that they are young men who believe in their God and who seek the right path. If they have sought right and missed it, they are still capable of finding what is right and what is wrong and of abandoning what is false for what is true. They, God be thanked, uphold the ethics of Islam in dialogue.

They thanked me for the advice, but there should be no thanks for what is a duty. Religion is advice.

Rather, I thank them for returning to the truth and for realizing that a march that will inevitably lead to sedition and to mourning in this homeland cannot be a green march but rather a truly black march. God spare the country the evils of such a march.

Some of them have written to me appealing to religious scholars to save them from the makers of deception. Others have written to me appealing to radio and television not to permit the merchants and mercenaries of religion to poison the people's minds, especially the minds of religious youth. I have appealed and will continue to appeal to radio and television to save the listeners and viewers from the mercenaries who spread accusations of atheism against enlightened thinkers and from those who poison the people's hearts and minds with trivialities and harmful and tempestuous passions.

Let these mercenaries ladle as much money as they wish out of the coffers of Egypt's enemies. But they must not be permitted by radio and television and by the officials in charge of the mosques and publications to distort Islam and its teachings.

Islam came to perfect the virtues but these mercenaries soil Islam's whiteness and ruin the souls of those who embrace Islam! They want to create deformed monstrosities, not religious youths whose hearts are filled with the tolerance of Islam and whose minds are brightened by the light of knowledge and by the love of justice and freedom.

Rescue our podiums before they turn into bridges for falsehood instead of remaining as platforms of guidance. Rescue our mosques, our radio and television and our printed media before they turn them into dens of sedition and corruption from lighthouses of goodness and integrity.

To Fahmi 'Umar, dear friend, to our daughter Samiyah Sadiq and to the other officials, do not permit anybody to address the people through you, except those proposed by the Islamic Research Academy, and to not broadcast anything other than what al-Azhar's Religious Legal Opinion Committee approves. Not everybody and his borthor and not every reviler is fit to address the people over radio and television. Enough poisoning of minds, enough distortion of Islam and enough incitement of sedition.

He who destroys the mainstays of religion, strains the spirit of Islam and fills the heart with hostility instead of fraternity finds his full opportunity on radio and television and in some magazines. Enough, enough. Do not allow them to plunder the honor of religion.

Some magazines that call themselves religious magazines spread darkness in the name of light, spread their poisons without shame and can do nothing but distort, revile, fabricate cheap lies and engage in base slander and low-level instigation. They do all this in the name of Islam.

If the archenemies of Islam wanted to distort Islam, they would not be able to achieve what such magazines, some imams and some merchants of religion who speak on radio and television achieve. I do not mean here the rhetorical mistakes they make--mistakes which expose flagrant ignorance. I mean the distortion of Islam and presenting it in the form of religion, a religion whose mainstay is dialogue, using public defamation. I mean the faulty judgments these people make and their stooping to repulsive levels of vituperation and obscenity in the name of zeal for Islam!

God ordered the advocates of Islam to preach it with wisdom and by a good example. God ordered them to debate the infidel and the atheist with kind words and here we are, more than 14 centuries after the revelation of these divine orders, afflicted with mercenaries who debate Muslims with insolence and base revilement and who advocate God's path with stupidity and uncouthness.

Who is responsible for the deluge of dirt dumped by AL-MAJALIAH on the people in the name of Islam, and who is responsible for the darkness this magazine spreads in the name of light? It is the Liberal Party [hizb al-ahrrar] which owns this magazine.

Most of the party's leaderships have abandoned it out of disgust with this magazine's approach and with the blackmail in which it engages in the name of Islam.

What is surprising is that some of the remaining leaders of this party denounce the magazine strongly, cast doubts on its sources of financing and declare that they are unable to correct its deviations because the party chairman and the magazine's chief editor have joint interests!

I cannot understand this and nobody can accept it. The matter is serious and can withstand no jesting. It is the issue of the country's future and unity and of the minds of its youth which are threatened, shattered and soiled by this magazine.

The party leaderships can either reform the magazine or disavow this disgrace and declare this magazine's objectives and its financial sources, which they claim are suspect.

There is no doubt that this semi-underground magazine uses cheap provocations and fabrications to raise its circulation figures. However, this baseness in the name of religion and this throwing of mud in Egypt's bright faces cannot enhance the circulation figures but can lower the people's esteem for magazine.

What good does it do the owners of this magazine which spreads darkness in the name of light to win millions if they lose their souls and the respect of others?

This magazine has its counterparts in other Arab countries. I recall that when I visited Kuwait to attend AL-'ARABI symposium, one of these magazines published strange lies about me. So one of the prominent Arab speakers said: I have read

today in a Kuwaiti religious magazine statements about 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi which make one want to vomit. That magazine's chief editor did not respond. However, I asked this chief editor after the meeting to publish an apology and deny what he had published, or else I would have Kuwait's prominent lawyers sue him and force him to abide by the press code and by the ethics of Islam.

On the following morning, the magazine's chief editor presented to me the new edition of the magazine with the required and adequate apology.

I once wished that the religious magazine published by the Liberal Party [hizb al-ahrar] would follow the path of the Kuwaiti magazine, since the two do not deny the relationship between them. But it seems that the chief editor here has not learned his Kuwaiti colleague's virtue of modesty or of returning to what is right. Or it is perhaps in this chief editor's interest to persist in his path.

The truth is that I don't know why the Liberal Party clings to him and why the Journalists Union remains silent on him, and I don't know what the Muslim scholars' position on this magazine's affront to Islam and the Muslims and to Egypt and the Egyptians is. I met a young engineer whose mind has been shaped by this magazine and I found in him petrification of intellect, misunderstanding and bad manners.

In truth, I have been more complimentary to this youth than angry at him.

What is the fault of this youth and his likes? I pray to God that there are no others like him, and I don't think that it is possible that there are others like him. May God cure him of what this magazine, its writers and his religious leaders have done to him and may He save him from what he has become afflicted with.

I ask this youth and his likes, and God forbid that there be others like him, who will benefit from sedition if it flares up? Will the beneficiary be Islam, will it be the country or will it be the advocates of these marches which these advocates call green?

Sedition will be beneficial only to our enemies.

Let our well-meaning religious youth remove that numerous foreign intelligence agencies tamper with Egypt and let them Egypt to raise their heads and to fill their coffers with their petrodollars seek to lower Egypt's head in their struggle for leadership over the Arabs.

It is a disgrace for any Egyptian man or woman to help achieve this malicious and shameful objective.

Think well, Egyptian youth, as to who benefits from inciting sedition in Egypt. Who benefits, other than those who plant all the snares, thorns and mines in their possession in the path of Egypt's progress? Who benefits, other than those people who plant in the paths of the Arabs tens of mined vehicles instead of democratic institutions and those who destroy the conscience for no reason other than the fact that their conscience has turned into ruins.

We truly wonder: Where are the advocates preaching God's path?

It is true that bad money chases good money. But this happens in economics only and is not a law of life. Come out, advocates of God's path, and build the world with your sound religious legal opinions because poisonous reptiles disappear where there is construction and because the clamor of corrupt interests cannot drown the voices of truth.

O honorable protectors of virtuous ethics, of the values of religion, of human rights and of justice, of freedom and charity, let your esteemed voices instead of the croaks of crows rise from mosque podiums and from the television.

Let your noble words fill the pages of magazines and newspapers instead of the slanders, revilements and the foul begging words written by the swindlers and the merchants of religion with one hand while the other hand is extended to those who use these writers to make urgent demands for a price.

The matter is serious and can withstand no jesting. The country's future can withstand no jesting, no silence, no courtesies.

O information media and officials in charge of the radio, television and press: Enough.

Do not broadcast or publish any more that which arouses wrath. Tell the people something good or hold your peace.

What is surprising is that in this terrible struggle, a television station brings back a silly announcer to impose him on the people anew after the people have heaved a sigh of relief when it got rid of this announcer's silliness and impudence. Is this what you offer our youth in these critical days? Don't the lady officials in charge of television realize that the people's nerves can take no more provocation? Some youths are excused if they become radical. The information media are what push this youth toward this radicalism at times with their irresponsible acts. The radicalism of some youths is, therefore, nothing but a normal reaction.

Then there is this truly respectable daily announcer. Why does she read the news bulletin with half her arm exposed? Doesn't this entail meaningless provocation in an atmosphere turned tense with radical calls, some innocent and some not? I appreciate this announcer, who is an educated and virtuous lady. However, her exposing half her arm is a mistake which I hope will not be repeated.

We don't want television and its great and commendable efforts to be wasted because of some minor mistakes.

We ask you for some vigilance and some caution, ladies and gentlemen.

I also ask the scholarly advocates of religion: Where is your clarification of the principles of Islam. Teach our youth the truth of the Shari'a and the greatness of its principles. Teach them that all legislation dictated by

the public interest and violating none of the religious rules is legislation from the Shari'a.

Teach them that the Shari'a consists of a number of principles that build a society that flies on the two wings of justice and freedom to achieve self-sufficiency and equality for all and to guarantee all of man's rights.

These are principles that build a world in which relations between peoples are founded on mutual respect. Teach the youth that religion is high morals and rules for dealings among people on the basis of guaranteed rights and under a merciful canopy of solidarity, compassion and fraternity. Khalid Muhammad Khalid did well when he reminded the advocates of the march that they are like al-Khawarij and His Eminence Dr Muhammad al-Tayyib al-Najjar did well with the advice he gave this youth. May God compensate us for the absence of Dr al-Nimr and the other departed.

Let the silent speak. Do not allow the swindlers and the merchants of religion to corrupt the minds of youth, to distort Islam and to spread the darkness of ignorance.

Now, what is the objective of the instigators of these marches? Do these instigators who are lying in wait to stir the marches anew everywhere and to paralyze the security forces want to imitate the Iranian marches?

Let them say it frankly: Do they want to rule us as the Muslim revolutionaries rule Iran? Moreover, what is their opinion of the disagreements among the revolutionaries there and of the consequences of these disagreements?

However, the Islamic Shari'a holds that rulership belongs to the fittest. If they claim that they are the most pious, and nobody agrees with them on this, then Islam's jurists and imams have been unanimous from the day Islam was revealed and up to this day that rulership belongs to the fittest. Perhaps the jurist favored by the march advocates is Ibn Taymiyah. Then read "The Shari'a Policy" book by Ibn Taymiyah and the clarifications of Ibn al-Qayyim, Ibn Taymiyah's disciple, on his teacher's opinions and you will find that Ibn Taymiyah stresses that rulership in Islam is for the fittest, not the most pious. This is why God's messenger and Abu Bakr after him put Khalid Ibn al-Walid in command of the war and favored him over more pious people, including Abu 'Ubaydah al-Jarrah, the nation's trustee.

Consult Ibn Taymiyah's jurisprudence so that you may rest assured that you will never rule because even if you are the most pious, and this is something on which not many people agree with you, you are not the nation's fittest to take charge of the nation's affairs.

What do you want, you who mislead our youth? Have the fear of God for our youth because they are the nation's hope, its strength, its weapon and its future. enough distortion of our youth's minds, enough poisoning of our youth's ideas and enough crushing of our youth's personalities.

Rest assured that our youth is too intelligent to be misled. With their good affiliation, true faith and intelligence, our youth can discover your objectives.

Those who are behind you have not given any thought to inciting sedition in any Arab country controlled by the despotic grip of the individual ruler. But they have infiltrated through Lebanon's democratic climate to tear Lebanon apart. When Israel occupied Lebanon, the United States blessed Israeli terrorism and is still protecting this terrorism even from a resolution international condemnation that amounts to no more than words.

Do you want to mislead the religious among Egypt's youth and to exploit the democratic climate prevalent here to turn Egypt into another Lebanon?

Woe unto them and how gravely do they misjudge!

They will never push Egypt to the rule of the despotic individual and they will not tear this homeland apart. Democracy will continue to be a bastion protecting the people--an impregnable bastion which they will not penetrate and which the people will defend to the end.

However, the situation requires a new policy and new positions to confront the dangers. The matter requires a proper formula. The period is critical and the danger is creeping forward like a snake.

We call for unity of all the forces in order that we may be able to confront the enemy.

Let us struggle in united ranks.

A capable and strong national front must be declared. All the national forces, all the political parties, all the intellectuals representing the popular forces with the various opinions and tendencies, all Muslims and Christians and all men and women are urged to unite in a capable and strong national front. We urge them to pull the nation and pull themselves and their sons out of the horror of the sedition which will ram all with its horns and which will trample young bodies under its hooves.

We call for a firm national front consisting of all the parties, of those who belong to no party and of all the tendencies, ideas and creeds to agree on a single path on which to lead the country to security, to self-sufficiency for all citizens, to guaranteed justice and to protected freedom and a protected future.

There is no solution to the country's problems except through such a national front and through taking advantage of all the opinions, ideas and capabilities.

I laud the opposition's stance in the People's Assembly, especially the Wafdist Committee's opposition.

A greeting to this great national consensus which has been reflected clearly in approval of the personal status law.

A greeting to friend Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, the People's Assembly speaker, who has led the session with historic ability.

This consensus must shake the advocates of chaos and sedition at home and their financiers abroad. It must shake them so that they may see, hear and realize the true nature of the people and genuine character of this country and its ability to unite and overcome pettiness and trivialities in the decisive moments.

Do they have ears with which to hear, eyes with which to see and hearts with which to feel, or are their hearts locked?

All the partisan papers and all the conflicting political forces must rise above the subsidiary conflicts and turn their attention to the great struggle to rescue the country, to achieve the common goals and to protect the one destiny.

No more pettiness and no more trivialities. This is not the time for settling cheap personal accounts or even settling internal conflicts. All the forces must unite to struggle in close ranks which nothing can penetrate or infiltrate. We are facing a conflict that is more serious and dangerous than all the internal conflicts. Let us face it capable.

It is a disgrace for any of us to be preoccupied with trivial issues when great issues are about to pounce to crush our heads and hearts.

I have called for a firm national front for a long time. Has the time come!

There is no longer time for waiting and silence. If we wait for the catastrophe it will hit all without exception and it will hit all equally. Let one of the parties take the initiative to form this front.

Let us move before the catastrophe dawns. Move, fighters for the nation's honor, future and freedom. Let us immediately form a firm national front because it is the guarantee of salvation and safety.

Front's Structure, Goals

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Jul 85 p 15

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi]

[Text] I have gotten accustomed to publishing "Free Notions" in Wednesday's page of AL-AHRAM which has allocated this page for me for years. If the page is occupied by a topic other than "Free Notions," I wait until this page is available, and I may have to wait a long time.

But weighty events have come upon us suddenly this year and have forced me to use another page, namely Saturday's page. However, I will return to Wednesday's page, God willing, when I complete publishing "The Fifth of al-Rashidun Caliphs" so that I may make Saturday's page available for others or for those who AL-AHRAM feels are fit to occupy the page.

My apology to the gentlemen readers, both those praising and those rebuking, because I have not read the letters I received months ago and since I announced that I would devote myself to a literary work, namely "The Fifth of al-Rashidun Caliphs." I have only read the letters I received in comment on what I wrote two Saturdays ago. If the old letters contain that which the senders believe must be read and answered, then I beg the senders of those letters to send again what they consider to be important. I beg them to be brief, with the letter not exceeding a single typewritten page or a page written in a clear hand so that I may be able to read it because, at times, I cannot answer the letters not because I am too busy for their senders but because I cannot read them. The words may at times be unintelligible not only because they are written poorly but because the pen used is light and does not leave on the paper an adequate trace. This makes it impossible to publish such letters.

Let me return to what I have been urging for some time and what I again urged in the article published last Saturday. Let me return to urging all political and social forces with their various opinions, ideas and creeds and to urging whoever feels responsibility in any position to establish a national front. The national front path is the path of salvation and there can be no salvation on another path. The national unity and the interests of this country can only be protected with the establishment of an impregnable bastion, namely the front.

Somebody asked me: What about the people with religious tendencies, how do you ignore them?

I believe that I was clear when I urged people from all tendencies and from all creeds, ideas and religions to meet, unite and struggle in defense of the homeland as if they were a strong edifice with no gaps through which deceiving, plotting or venomous reptiles can penetrate.

But there must be a realistic formula for this national front. How is it to be established? What is its objective and how does it survive and lead in a sea of struggle of thoughts, creeds and interests?

Because of this struggle and this assault, the front must be established and it must live to unite the struggle capabilities and to direct the assault in its entirety against the common enemy to save the single destiny.

What use is this struggle when the fire threatens all? What use is the conflict that is turned into antagonism at times when the common enemy is preparing to pounce on all the conflicting factions without exception?

As for the front's objective, it is to agree on what is common and on a meeting ground in which the various forces fortify themselves in defense of the citizen's rights, liberties, dignity and future and in defense of the future of the country itself.

The national and religious forces must seek what is common between them in order to meet and to examine the ways available to achieve these common goals.

There is no doubt that all the forces, regardless of how strongly they disagree, do agree on the country's right to security and peace in the face of all enemies.

They also agree on the need to guarantee the citizen's right to enjoy a prosperous life and proper housing, to have the state safeguard his dignity and to guarantee him a beneficial education and a culture that lights up the heart and the mind, in addition to guaranteeing his right to justice, to equality and to democratic liberties, led by freedom of speech, in a reassuring climate of health and social care, of equal opportunities, of secure and comfortable means of transportation and of easy services in an atmosphere in which he can breathe and produce--an atmosphere that is not polluted by noise or by the accumulation of poisonous car and motorcycle exhaust fumes. None of the political or social forces disagrees on the need to struggle in defense of the country's independence, safety and security or disagrees on the need for ceaseless day-and-night efforts to insure happiness, justice, tranquillity and reassurance for every citizen.

The major general objectives are common objectives. The disagreement between the parties is a disagreement over the means or over less important objectives.

There is no party that calls for the domination of a certain class or blesses the exploitation of a certain class.

There is no party that calls for discrimination or for making distinctions between the nation's classes and there is no party that calls for impoverishing the poor and enriching the rich.

No party can call for discrimination in rights or duties before the law.

There is no party that calls for violating the country's sanctities, for oppressing the citizen or for oppressing one faction for the benefit of another.

There is no party that calls for subjugating the country to a foreign force or calls for whatever may violate the country's liberties. If there are in the ranks of this or that party a handful of men and women who collect their dues from an Arab or foreign circle as the price for distorting what is bright in Egypt, there is no entire party that agrees to be used by the others, even if they do use a handful of such men and women.

In this respect, I am pleased to address a special greeting to some leaders of the Liberal Party who have decided to suspend this publication temporarily and to investigate its financial sources.

Therefore, the contradictions between the political parties or between the social forces cannot reach the depth of the conflicts between all these forces on one hand and the common enemy on the other.

The common danger dictates national solidarity and establishment of the national front. We will not get tired of saying that this front is tantamount to

protecting the national unity. But how is this front to be established? The front itself is not the objective but rather the only means toward the noblest objective: elevating the country and the citizen's comfort.

One of the political parties or representatives of one of the social forces must rise to draft a charter acceptable to all.

This charter should include common national goals and a constitution for action.

The problems are ferocious and lethal and they are frustrating the country's sons.

Not a single party has a final solution to all these problems. But the meeting and exchange of ideas will indisputably produce a satisfactory solution. Each party may have the ideal solution for a certain problem but no party has magical solutions to all the problems.

Trading in religion threatens the homeland and acts of oneupmanship shatter the innocent.

No single party among all our parties rejects or fights religion. Despite this, the silence of these parties and of the prominent ulema on the merchants of religion has nearly created a sedition that will not hit the unjust in particular but will tear apart the entire homeland, shatter its historical unity, threaten the future of the homeland and of all its citizens and hit the very future in the heart.

As for the political party that should undertake formation of the front, I asked the National Party to undertake this task 2 years ago. But a prominent official of the party got angry, rejected the idea and made the party reject it. This official, may he rest in peace, said to me: I know what the other parties have, and nothing they have is beneficial. So why are you urging us to form a coalition cabinet? I said to him: If you knew what the other parties have, you would not say what you said. Moreover, what the National Party alone has will not solve all the problems. If what this party has could solve all of the country's problems, it would have solved them and we would live in peace. The issue is not one of ruling and of interest in positions. It is the issue of the entire country and of concern for all its interests. In any case, Mustafa al-Nahhas was the nation's leader in 1936. When dangers threatened the security of the country and of the citizen and when the leader wanted to solve the national problem in a manner satisfactory to all, he formed a national front in which he included all the parties, some of which had no popular base, such as the Union Party. The nation's leader and the holder of the overwhelming majority then included independent personalities with a patriotic past--personalities who enjoyed no popularity at all.

Mustafa al-Nahhas was the leader of a real majority and he could have dispensed with the formation of that front. But he insisted on forming it. Al-Nahhas and Makram 'Ubayd, secretary general of al-Wafd at the time, struggled until they were able to form the strong front which was able to find a solution to

the national issue. The fruits produced by that front included the 1936 treaty and abolition of the foreign concessions which were an insult to Egypt's history. Some investment laws are about to again spread the detestable shadows of those concessions in our bright Egyptian life!

That prominent official, may God have mercy upon his soul, was not convinced and maintained his opinion that I was advocating the formation of a national front in order to form a coalition cabinet that would perhaps remove him from his position or restrict his powers!

I don't think that this is the opinion of friend Dr Muhammad Subhi 'Abd-al-Hakim, the National Party secretary general.

However, a coalition cabinet is not a formula that scares us. It may be the living and effective expression of the national front.

The National Party cannot claim that it represents all the creeds, groups, classes, opinions and ideas present in Egypt.

If the National Party engaged in as much activity as a party with a parliamentary majority should, the suspect calls would not have been able to destroy the minds of some people in the name of religion, the party's subcommittees would have moved to fight the falsehood and they would have done what the Wafdist committees did when al-Wafd was the majority party.

The national movement's book contains magnificent chapters on those committees' bolstering of the national unity and on their rescuing the country from the merchants of religion.

On the pretext that the National Party is involved in the government some parties and forces may find it wrong to respond to a call from the National Party for a unified front. Therefore, the only way out is to have the biggest opposition party undertake the call for the national front. The national front is a national and Wafdist legacy from the critical and decisive days of this country's history. I don't think that our country has passed through moments more critical and decisive than these days. This requires the New Wafd to seek inspiration from the legacy of Egyptian al-Wafd and to recall the positions of its two immortal leaders, the late Sa'd Zaghlul and Mastafa al-Nahhas.

I am not a Wafdist and I do not belong to any political party. But I do trust Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din's wisdom and experience and his zeal and ability. With the inspiration of this wisdom, he may perhaps withdraw his angry and protesting resignation from the Wafd's chairmanship in order to preserve and protect what he and his generation represent. He does represent, even though I disagree with him, a righteous, venerable and noble remnant of that beautiful time--the time of the struggle for democracy--that is dear to the country's heart.

There is also the prominent Ibrahim Faraj, the Wafd's secretary general, the spiritual son of Mustafa al-Nahhas who has inherited all of al-Nahhas' brightness, virtues and firmness and the valiant struggler for national liberation, liberty and democracy.

There is also the venerable Dr Wahid Ra'fat who was recently honored with the state's meritorious award and who has taught us and taught generations before and after us at the law school and in public life how to struggle and exert efforts so that man's rights may triumph. He is the master professor of constitutional and administrative law and the Wafd's deputy chairman.

These three men, the Wafd's chairman, secretary general and deputy chairman, are a leadership of national and democratic struggle and they are a magnificent fragrance from the perfume of the time of pride in this strange age.

With their leadership of the New Wafd, and the New Wafd in its entirety, they are the political force most entitled to call for the national front, to draft a charter for this front and to determine its objectives so that all the political and social forces despite their different ideas and opinions, may meet in this front to form a stronghold that protects the country's and the citizen's rights and a lofty lighthouse that disperses all darkness around it, that lifts man from humiliation, fragmentation and the disaster of need and that repels from the homeland the tempests of plotting, caprice and treacherous reptiles.

I urge the New Wafd to undertake this task, despite my extreme regret for the position of its deputies toward President Mubarak's call. Would they have been able to behave in this manner if the advocate of the call was Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir? I urge the New Wafd to undertake this task even though the Wafd's page is stained with that which does not befit the name of the Wafd.

But the Wafd is capable of correction.

I don't believe that anybody will find anything wrong if the New Wafd called for this national front. The Wafd is not in power and there is no suspicion that anybody will support the front to flatter the government. Moreover, the opposition parties and all the independent forces will undoubtedly welcome the front and it behooves the ruling party to welcome it because there is no doubt that the country's interest is the goal of all.

If the Wafd is not convinced of this task, then let the group led by 'Umar al-Talmasani, the pious, righteous and zealous man, undertake the task and call all the parties, including the Liberal Party even though it has not purged itself of the disgrace--meaning the underground weekly which calls itself a religious magazine of having suspect financial sources, have not tried to lift this disgrace from their party, have not asked this publication about its financial sources and have not tried to protect religion and the country from its destructive role. Let the righteous man take the initiative.

However, I hope that while forming the desired front, the parties and the political and social forces will move their members in every position to fight those seeking to incite sedition in the name of religion. This is not only the duty of the government and security forces alone but also the people's duty. I wish the popular forces would enlighten and rescue those misled by the merchants of religion, those engaged in oneupmanship and the forgers.

I wish that these popular forces, which represent the parties and the forces that do not belong to parties, would confront the danger with good advice, wisdom and gentle words.

I wish the prominent religious ulema and advocates would rescue the country with their wisdom, learning and piety from the merchants of religion who threaten the country.

I wish radio, television and the publishing houses would rescue the country from the falsehood of the merchants of religion who assault the people morning and evening with their demagogic words and their ignorance of both language and religion.

I wish the officials in charge of the mosques would give the honest and sincere preachers the opportunity to spread the light they carry in their hearts instead of the revilement, vituperation and deception with which some people distort the face of religion. Officials in charge of spreading religion, which is high morals, why don't you give sincere advice? Are not the leaders of paganism always striving? We will never say that they have capitulated but we do warn them of a day when the intercession of the mediators will do them no good.

Saving our youth from the control of the mercenaries and of the merchants of religion must be one of the tasks of the desired national front which, with the rich ideas and given facts it will possess, will be the only circle able to achieve for the country what it wants and for the citizen all his aspirations for an honorable, free and happy life.

I wish television would steer away from the faults with which it provokes our religious youth whose reaction to television's action is almost threatening with sedition on their part--a sedition created unwittingly and out of goodwill and a zeal for noble morals.

I don't know why television is eager to impose on the viewers a provocative youth whose removal was a popular demand because he is a detestable reflection of youth. I warned of this last week but television is determined to provoke us by imposing this youth on us, as it had insisted previously on imposing some mercenaries and merchants of religion on us. The lady and gentlemen officials in charge of radio and television are aware that the situation can stand no courtesies nor negligence. The sedition may erupt as a result of petty excesses.

Therefore, these officials must seek accuracy and correctness with their utmost efforts. I am aware of their good will, but good will does not justify errors. As I have already said, do not allow anybody to speak about religion except those nominated for you by the venerable al-Azhar, represented by the Islamic Research Academy. I mean the prominent ulema members of the academy and not the departments under the control of the Research Academy. Do not broadcast on religious affairs except what is approved by al-Azhar's Religious Legal Opinion Committee. This protects religion and the country and protects you, lady and gentleman officials, from being embroiled in errors that may seem small.

to you but will bring evil to the entire country. Would you shoulder the responsibility for the call urging withdrawal of all monies from the banks? You did broadcast an opinion to this effect by some of your speakers. Through committing grave mistakes in the use of the Arabic language, some of these speakers push the listeners and viewers, if they believe the speakers, to the darkness of ignorance. Other speakers mount the horse of the Islamic Shari'a, race it through the valleys of misguidance and shatter the nation's unity. The nation's unity, gentlemen, is its dearest sacred value.

I advise you, and advice is a duty, not to re-impose programs already cancelled and not to reinstate male or female announcers except with the approval of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees in the authority that must lead and plan. It is the side that shoulders before public opinion the disgrace for reinstating somebody who has already been removed because this person's appearance on the television screen is a provocation to the living conscience and an insult to the image of Egyptian youth.

Belief by the lady and gentleman official of radio and television that a collective leadership is the kind most likely to make the right decision is what will compel these officials to respect the powers of the Board of Trustees. I don't believe that this board is an ornament or a decor piece. The Board of Trustees is more capable of making decisions that do not provoke the viewers or the listeners and that do not evoke reactions that may lead to a sedition of which you may not be aware. But the Board of Trustees must be bolstered those with pioneering capabilities, such as al-Sayyid Budayr, Sa'd Labib, Mahmud al-Sabba', 'abd-al-Rahim Surur, Tamadur Tawfiq, Samirah al-Kaylani, Salah Zaki and Tahir Abu Zayd.

I also thank the prominent Dr Marbit Butrus Ghali and Amin Fakhri 'Abd-al-Nur for the two cables they sent me expressing their enthusiasm for the national front. I thank them for their kind praise and greet them for their zeal for the nation's interest. Welcome to them among the vanguard of those working for the establishment of a national front and then an Arab front.

The talk about the Egyptian national front reminds us of the importance of a pan-Arab national front.

Arab rights have been violated only since they became divided. The plot against the Arabs has penetrated through the Arab division and has hatched and succeeded.

Through this division, the land of Palestine has been lost since 1948. When the Arab leaders, except for one leader, united in 1973, the Arabs triumphed, all came to respect them and they truly became the sixth world power.

Then they split anew and Israel launched a war of annihilation against the Palestinian people and occupied, divided and violated Lebanon. Israel's barbaric armies had no mercy for old men, women or children. They kidnapped hundreds of Lebanon's citizens and incarcerated them in their jails, torturing them mercilessly while the world stood watching with more contempt on its lips than compassion in its eyes.

Thus, the Arab division has helped U.S.-Israeli terrorism succeed. It is not only the United States which has planted Israeli terrorism in our countries and then protected it from the condemnation of the Security Council. The U.S. administration has indeed done this. But the U.S. administration could not plant and protect Israeli terrorism if the Arabs were united in a single firm front. If the Arabs had stood like a firm edifice, terrorism would not have found a gap through which to penetrate.

Could Israel have annexed the Golan, invaded Lebanon and refused to evacuate the West Bank if it had been faced with united Arab resolution?

But some Arabs volunteered to perform Israel's role and thus launched a brutal war of annihilation against the unarmed Palestinians in their camps.

Then they, regrettably, turned Arab weapons against the Arab heart.

Some Palestinians have spared their enemies the need to make any efforts and have themselves shattered the unity of the PLO which, the Arabs have unanimously agreed--in the very few times in which they have not disagreed--is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

We Arabs, who are united by history, language, common goals and interests, have failed to be like the Europeans who have agreed on constitutional institutions, have failed to be like the Europeans who have agreed on constitutional institutions despite the differences in their historical origins and their languages and even though what divides them is greater than what unites them!

I sent a few months ago cables to President Hafiz al-Asad, to Nabih Birri, leader of the Shi'ite Amal Organization, and to others appealing to them to stop the bloodshed and to act in solidarity to protect the Palestinian people instead of annihilating them in the camps. I expected good to come out of those cables but was surprised with an agreement that **called** for disarming the Palestinians.

But this weapon protects the Palestinians from Israeli terrorism.

Secure the area against terrorism, restore the usurped rights to their Arab owners, especially the Palestinians, **establish justice in the area and make sure that the U.S. administration will no longer protect Israeli aggression or terrorism and then disarm the Palestinians.**

The disintegration, destruction and death suffered by Lebanon are the inevitable consequences of Arab division. This is what makes Lebanon a playing ground for international terrorism.

It is astonishing that Arab kings and presidents have been unable to meet, not even individually.

Gentlemen, if you do not meet, even if one or two leaders do not show up, then this will be the ultimate and eternal division and the Arab head will never be raised again.

What are you differing over? Is it over the Arab future? Are there among the Arab kings and presidents any who bless the Israeli occupation or U.S. terrorism?

Could Israel and the United States do to our countries what they are doing if they realized that you are a united front.

Search and you will find that the meeting ground is much broader and vaster than what you disagree over. We wonder: Why don't you meet?

Our peoples wonder: What is the grave matter over which they disagree? Which of you wants to hand over Arab land to Israel or the United States? Nobody can think of this.

Which of you wants to annihilate the Arab nation or impoverish the Arab peoples? Are there among you any--even those who engage in and bless terrorism--who wants this? No one, indubitable.

Therefore, you must unite, kings and presidents, because the rise of a pan-Arab national front protects your peoples and protects you personally, and you know this.

You have tried division and have seen what it has brought you.

Let rise among you those who call for a pan-Arab front to fight the common enemy, to protect the common destiny and to protect you personally. Would you do this or do you have to wait until everything and all the Arabs tumble down and until you personally tumble down while watching?

But who is to begin? Which of you is to begin? You are all qualified to begin, and for this beginning let the competitors compete. Remember, moreover, that the United States has withdrawn from UNESCO and has almost destroyed it because UNESCO considered Zionism, like fascism, a fascist call. Would the United States have done this if the Arabs had faced it in a united front?

Regarding Negligence

Cairo suffers from the highest pollution rate. I received a terrifying letter from Dr Khalil Masihah coupled with a photograph of Cairo's atmosphere taken by the U.S. satellite. Some U.S. scientific magazines have commented on this picture, which warns Cairo's inhabitants of great woes and major catastrophes because those who live in Cairo inhale doses of poison with their air, not to mention the noise that threatens these inhabitants with total deafness day after day. This noise raises the blood pressure and causes heart and nervous diseases. These are scientific facts known to all.

It is regrettable that noise and air pollution have also come to characterize Alexandria to which people rush in the summer, seeking quiet and clean air. What is to be done then? It is gross negligence.

Alexandria suffers from inadequate and troubled services, especially the telephones which carry recordings in disagreeable voices despite the availability of beautiful and expressive voices that can do the job. These recordings whose ugly voices match the voices of some reciters on the venerable Koran radio, these recordings with startling voices give the speaker unclear instructions and may ruin the speaker's call and may prevent him from completing it, keeping in mind that most of Alexandria's telephones have been installed only recently!

I know that numerous complaints have accumulated before the governor of Alexandria against the noise in the city and on the corniche, especially on the single-lane sections. Numerous complaints have also been sent to the governor about the mad speed on the corniche and about the saturation of Alexandria with poisonous fumes.

Despite this, the governorate has exerted no effort to protect the people's lives from what the people complain about: noise, pollution and mad speed.

Nobody has made any effort to improve services. As a result, people have abandoned Alexandria for quieter, cleaner and more secure summer resorts where the air is cleaner, the people dealing with the summer vacationers less exploitative and the governor is more concerned with his citizens' affairs. Has the governor of Alexandria tried to cross the corniche, unknown and without any guard, at a one-direction site, for example? Has he tried to stay a day and night in a home overlooking these annoying sites which are drowned in a mad tumult that drives away the seekers of relaxation who love or used to love Alexandria in the summer?

Isn't there in the country a law which prohibits the use of car horns and prohibits cars and motorcycles from emitting exhaust fumes? What is the matter with the gentleman governors who let their subjects, especially the public transport drivers, violate the laws and regulations in the security of their knowledge that they are safe from punishment? It is as if the state has lost its presence and the law has lost its authority in some governorates.

The scientists have despaired of respect for the law and of imposing its authority on the heedless. This is why they have begun searching for something to rescue Cairo and the major cities from pollution.

One of these scientists is Dr Khalil Masihah, a physician and scientist. Research has led him to a solution that will save Cairo and the major cities from pollution, namely to increase the green spaces. He has found an easy way, namely to plant 2 meter high trees on the medians and along the sides of the streets. These trees will fill the air with the oxygen which the exhaust fumes of motorcycles and cars chase away and will absorb the poisonous fumes emitted by the vehicles.

This matter requires the attention of all officials. Let those concerned with the matter and whose hearts are consumed with enthusiasm contact Dr Khalil Masihah, whose telephone number is 939464, from Cairo, al-Jizah, Alexandria and other cities where the pollution rate has risen and which are afflicted with the flouting of the law and with poor taste.

I put this proposal before the health authorities.

Concerning Train Incident

Some citizens victimized by the train times and by the squalor on the trains have sent me amazing stories. One of them said that all is useless because they have been complaining for a long time, but to no avail.

Others said that they suffer daily from the delays of the trains which may or may not run between Cairo and the nearby cities carrying employees who are involuntarily and inexplicably late for their jobs. Still others said that they carry with them pieces of cloth to clean their seats in the trains. All are unanimous that it is hopeless.

However, I want to reassure them that Engr Sulayman Mutawalli has referred for investigation the issue of the gross negligence about which I wrote two Saturdays ago. So he is concerned when he becomes aware. But is it his fault when he does not know? He is a gallant and helpful man from al-Minufiyah. This is true Engr Sulayman Mutawalli is a man who appreciates the responsibility and is eager to secure a comfortable service to the citizens. It is certain that he does not know of the problems about which the train victims complain.

I urge these victims to send their observations to him again and then I urge Engineer Mutawalli to ride these trains whose victims complain. I urge him to take his rides in the second and third-class sections without identifying himself to anybody so that he may discover for himself the deficient aspects and may realize what hardships the people suffer. I also urge the railroad authority chairman and the authority's officials to leave their offices and ride the various trains so that they may be able to deal with the problems and correct the flaws.

Let the railroad officials remember that the railroad's golden age came under the administration of Shakir Pasha, may he rest in peace. The trains were then a model of cleanliness and good service and people used to set their watches by the trains. Train time used to be cited as an example of punctuality and the reason what that Shakir was more often on the trains than he was at his office. He used to inspect the trains and stations for cleanliness, watch the train times and proceed to correct the flaws immediately, rewarding and punishing!

It is the duty of the officials at every site to check on the progress of work, thus providing the citizens with the desired service and making life more comfortable for them and for others. Activity is a blessing. Inspecting the work sites is better for those who are of the age of the high-ranking officials than sitting behind desks and riding cars. It is more beneficial to them physically. This is what the doctors say, and let the officials ask them.

Inspecting the work sites and proceeding immediately to correct the mistakes and deal with the flaws are the primary responsibilities of a public job. The holders of prominent jobs must perform this duty according to what conscientiousness and sensitive awareness of the responsibility dictate.

They do not accept it for themselves and nobody accepts it for them so that they may be lax. "When one of you does a job, God loves him to do it well."

Gentlemen, stay away from the impudent among you and if you are afflicted, then be discreet.

The call is addressed to all the parties and he who initiates implementation of the call for the front will have the honor of the initiative.

Nationalist Left's Support

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Sep 85 p 15

[Article by Mahmud Tawfiq]

[Text] On the 6th of last July and in the wake of the so-called "green march," of the incidents connected with it and of the intensifying feeling of the dangers of sectarian sedition and of terrorism hiding behind the robes of religion which the march and the incidents evoked among many people, "Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi published in AL-AHRAM an article entitled "The Front Is a Must."

In this article, al-Sharqawi explained his opinion on the phenomenon of the intensifying intellectual and political terrorism in the name of religion and on how closely this terrorism is tied to secret and evil foreign schemes and with the activities of the mercenary and hireling elements that work in the service of these schemes. Al-Sharqawi also warned of the evident connection between what is sought in Egypt as a result of escalating terrorism in the name of religion and what has already taken place in Iran and Lebanon at the hands of such forces and elements and of the consequences brought upon these two countries and upon the entire area.

Al-Sharqawi concluded by addressing a call to the Egyptian people, represented in "all the national forces, all the political parties, all the intellectuals representing the various opinions and tendencies" to unite in a strong national front "to pull the nation, themselves and their children out of the horror of the sedition."

Explaining the front's objectives, al-Sharqawi added: We call for a strong national front consisting of all the parties, of those who belong to no parties and of all the tendencies, ideas and creeds to agree on a single path that lead the country to security, that guarantees justice and that protects freedom and the future."

He then said: "There is no solution for the country's problems except through this national front and through taking advantage of all opinions, ideas and capabilities."

Further Clarification of Front's Nature and Objectives

In a second article published in AL-AHRAM on 13 July 1985 and entitled "To Whom Goes the Honor of the Initiative," 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi reaffirmed and further clarified his idea, stating that he addresses his call to all the political and social forces with the ir various opinions, ideas and creeds and to whoever feels responsibility in any position to establish the national front, that the national front path is the only path to salvation and that "the national unity and the country's interests cannot be protected except with the establishment of an impregnable stronghold, namely the front."

Al-Sharqawi also stated that he does not exclude the advocates of the religious tendencies from participation in the front.

He then proceeded to clarify further the front's objectives in the following manner:

The front's objective is "to agree on what is common and on a meeting ground in which the various forces fortify themselves in defense of the citizen's rights, liberties, dignity and future and in defense of the future of the country itself."

Further detailing the front's objectives, al-Sharqawi added:

"There is no doubt that all the forces, regardless of how strongly they disagree, do agree on the country's right to security and peace in the face of all enemies. They agree on the need to guarantee the citizen's right to enjoy a prosperous life and proper housing, to have the state safeguard his dignity and to guarantee him a beneficial education and a culture that enlightens the heart and the mind, in addition to guaranteeing his right to justice, equality and democratic liberties, especially freedom of speech, in a reassuring climate of health and social care, of equal opportunities, of secure and comfortable means of transportation and of easy services and in a quiet atmosphere in which he breathes and produces--an atmosphere unpolluted by noise or by the accumulation of poisonous car and motorcycle exhaust fumes."

Al-Sharqawi then proceeded to stress a number of general principles that constitute the front's political and social base as follows:

"None of the political parties or the social forces disagrees on the need to struggle in defense of the country's independence, safety and security or disagrees on the need for ceaseless day-and-night efforts to secure happiness, justice, tranquillity and reassurance for every citizen.

"There is no party that calls for the domination of a certain class or blesses the exploitation of a certain class. There is no party that calls for discrimination or for making distinctions between the nation's classes and there is no party that calls for impoverishing the poor and enriching the rich. No party calls for discrimination in rights or duties before the law.

"There is no party that calls for violating the country's sanctities, for oppressing the citizen or for oppressing one faction for the benefit of another.

"There is no party that calls for subjugating the country to a foreign force or calls for whatever may violate the country's liberties."

Finally, al-Sharqawi summed up his idea of the front and of its motives and objectives by saying: "The front itself is not the objective but rather the only means toward the noblest objective: elevating the country and the citizen's comfort."

Al-Sharqawi is not content with what he fundamentally proposes for the Egyptian national front. Ultimately, he pointed out the required pan-Arab content of this front, saying:

"Talk about the Egyptian national front reminds us of the importance of a pan-Arab national front. The Arabs' rights have been violated only since they became divided." Al-Sharqawi recounted how the phases of the Zionist colonist plot against the Arabs have been tied to Arab divisions and concluded with the words: "Thus, the Arab division has helped U.S.-Israeli terrorism succeed. It is not the United States alone which has planted Israeli terrorism in our countries and protected it from the condemnation of the Security Council. The U.S. administration has truly done all this. But the U.S. administration could not plant and protect Israeli terrorism if the Arabs were united in a single firm front."

Thus, we find that 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi suggested to the proposed national front all the fundamental issues and tasks in our lives, ranging from the national issue with its pan-Arab dimension to the issues of democracy in part and parcel, to the class, economic, social and cultural issues in their entirety and, finally, to the issue of environmental protection. In his article published in AL-AHRAM on 24 August 1985 and entitled "You Do Not Swim in the Same River Twice," he even reviewed other problems that have been raised for the proposed front, such as pollution, squalor, noise, transportation, housing, sanitation, food, clothing and the other economic, social cultural and moral problems and the negative aspects of social behavior. He entrusts the proposed front to cure all these maladies, urging all theu nite without partisanship or fanaticism to find solutions to the people's problems.

How is the front's program to be formulated?

With all that al-Sharqawi proposed as the front's objectives and tasks, he did not claim that he is porposing its program but left the formulation of this program to all of the front's forces, saying in this respect:

"One of the political parties or representatives of one of the social forces must rise to draft a charter acceptable to all. This charter should include the common national goals and a action constitution for action."

In a lengthy interview published in AL-SIYASI on 28 July 1985, 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Tawilah asked al-Sharqawi about this front's program as he visualized it and al-Sharqawi answered:

"I fully abstain from projecting any program for it. All the political forces must meet and project their ideas and visualizations and must agree on whatever they agree on so that it may become the front's program"

Explaining this position, al-Sharqawi said:

"The problems are ferocious and lethal and they are frustrating the country's sons. No single party has a final solution to all these problems. But the meeting and exchange of ideas will indisputably produce a satisfactory solution. Each party may have the ideal solution for a certain problem but no party has magical solutions to all the problems.

Al-Sharqawi and a Front-wide Position

When 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi issued this appeal to his people, he was not doing so suddenly or unexpectedly. His appeal emanates from a firm position which he holds and which is well known to all. He expressed this in his first article in AL-AHRAM, saying: "I have called for a strong national front for a long times. Has the time now come?"

All note for al-Sharqawi the fact that he has always followed the national, front and unity-oriented line, and that he implemented this line leadership of ROSE AL-YUSUF in the 1970's and in his ceaseless call for national dialogue and harmony as an alternative to the futile and destructive antagonistic struggle. All recall that al-Sharqawi urged such a dialogue under the most difficult and complex circumstances in 1979 despite the distress and exhaustion he suffered for this call.

Moreover, all remember that al-Sharqawi also followed this national, front and unity-oriented line in his chairmanship of the Egyptian Solidarity Committee and the International Solidarity Movement, thus transforming the Egyptian Solidarity Committee from a limited symbolic entity into a broad and respected national front entity.

With his positions, al-Sharqawi contributed most significantly to establishing a fundamental line for the nationalist left in Egypt. This is the line of sincere and constant adherence to the national, front and unity-oriented position.

In addition to this principled position, al-Sharqawi derived his front-oriented position from the legacy of the Egyptian national movement and from the legacy of the Egyptian left. In this respect, he said:

"This call is not new. The Egyptian national movement's store abounds with the experiences of establishing national fronts since the days of Sa'd Zaghlul and of Mustafa al-Nahhas." He also said:

"The Egyptian left adopted this call after World War II and this call produced the famous front known by the name of the National Front for Students and Workers."

Al-Sharqawi believed that "there is no sincere thinker or politician, be he rightist or leftist, who has not called for the cohesion and unity of the people's forces to confront any serious problems faced by the country.

In his ceaseless call for the front, al-Sharqawi is not a dreamer nor an idealist. He does not imagine that the mere call for the front or even the establishment of the front will end all the differences or contradictions among its parties. Rather, he is fully aware of the nature of the controversial relations that develop in such a front, saying in this regard:

"The call for the front does not deny the presence of disagreement. Fronts are founded on two principles: unity and struggle, i.e., both agreement and disagreement together."

In his current call for the front, al-Sharqawi proceeds from a realistic and sound assessment of the country's present political situation and from the realization that the current cabinet and its party cannot alone solve the numerous and complex major problems experienced by the country. In this respect, he said:

"The National Party cannot claim that it represents all the creeds, groups, classes, opinions and ideas in Egypt. If the National Party engaged in as much activity as a party enjoying a parliamentary majority should, the suspect calls would not have been able to destroy the minds of some people in the name of religion."

In addition to the national front, he pointed out the country's need for a coalition cabinet, saying:

"A coalition cabinet is not a formula that scares us. It may be the living and effective reflection of the national front."

Why Has Grouping Party Rejected Front?

In his call for establishing the national front and in his visualization of the bases for the creation of this front and of the front's objectives, al-Sharqawi not only expressed himself but also expressed the ideas and positions of the Egyptian left generally or, to put it more precisely, the ideas and positions of the predominant current of the left which we call the "nationalist left." This is the more vigilant and mature current. It is the current with a stronger feeling of responsibility and the one more closely tied to the Egyptian people's life, heritage and feelings.

Therefore, it is normal for this current to express its satisfaction with and support for al-Sharqawi's call for establishment of the national front and for the bases and objectives he has proposed for it, since al-Sharqawi represents the Egyptian left and has spoken in its name.

The positive responses to al-Sharqawi's articles in Egyptian leftist circles and among the majority of this left's representatives reflect this position. This was evident in the articles published in the papers at the time. We do not doubt that the up-coming period will witness further expressions of this position.

But countering this positive stance of the predominant current of the Egyptian left, namely the nationalist leftist current, there is another position taken by the other current within the left, namely what we call the "adventurous left." Inasmuch as the nationalist left is characterized by a positive spirit and by a front-type pro-unity approach, the adventurous left is so much characterized by negativism and by isolationist and divisive positions.

On 31 July 1985, AL-AHALI carried a statement by an official spokesman of the Grouping Party saying:

"The party has decided not to respond to this call and has not yet understood either the motives or the bases on which such a front can be established."

After all al-Sharqawi has written to explain his call and to clarify his motives, as well as the bases and objectives he demands for this front--all of which we cited in detail in our previous article--one needs an extraordinary degree of incapability to understand or of ability to claim an incapability to understand in order to be able to say what the Grouping Party's spokesman said.

In any case, it became quickly evident that the claim of an inability to understand has been no more than a screen for the Grouping Party's decisive rejection of al-Sharqawi's call for a front. The party quickly declared this position in two successive articles by AL-AHALI's chief editor, published in the paper on 21 and 28 August 1985 under the title of "Dialogue with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi'"--a dialogue conducted unilaterally because 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi did not take part in it and was not aware of it.

AL-AHALI chief editor exhausted himself and exhausted his readers in explaining justifying the party's position toward al-Sharqawi's call, citing a lot that can be answered and refuted. But we need not answer all that we oppose or object to in the chief editor's two articles. We will be content with discussing some fundamental points in what he has written.

Of all that AL-AHALI chief editor has written, the following phrase stands out to sum up for us the party's position:

"We reject his definition of the enemy and of the parties to the front and the lack of clarity in the front's objectives."

We have already pointed out how al-Sharqawi explained in detail the motives that urge him to call for establishment of the front. The reader perhaps perceives that these motives are natural and self-evident and that they are sufficient and convincing to anybody who is willing to be convinced. But the Grouping Party's official spokesman and the chief editor of the party's newspaper insist on not being persuaded of the soundness or weightiness of these motives, as if there has to be a secret or conspiratorial motive behind every form of behavior, even if it is normal!

The fact is that what truly evokes surprise and urges one to look for secret motives is not al-Sharqawi's call for establishment of the national front but the Grouping Party's rejection of this front.

AL-AHALI chief editor said:

"This clear definition of the enemy and of the front's objective also defines the front's parties," and he goes on to add, "we reject his definition of the enemy, we do not agree with his definition of the front's parties and we don't understand the front's objective."

For logic to be set aright in this equation, let AL-AHRALI chief editor permit us to rearrange its elements and say: The clear definition of the front's objectives is what defines its parties, as it defines its enemies.

Al-Sharqawi has, as we have already pointed out, defined the front's objectives and tasks in detail. Yet the Grouping Party is determined not to understand and insists that what al-Sharqawi's articles say in this regard is nothing but a "bunch of general words that define no specific objective and that are content with abstract slogans that bear more than one meaning and interpretation."

Al-Sharqawi said that he is not projecting a program for the front and that he leaves this to the front's parties themselves. He thus leaves the door open for agreement between the front's parties. Despite this, the Grouping Party does not wish to take a positive and constructive stance toward the issue in its entirety and to express its readiness to clarify and complete the front's program. On the contrary, neither the party's official spokesman nor the chief editor of the party's newspaper pauses and gives himself or his party the chance to test how serious the matter is and how possible it is to exert an effort to correct whatever flaws he sees in the front.

Who Front's Enemies Are

AL-AHALI chief editor insists that "al-Sharqawi has left no room for doubt that the front he calls for is aimed against the radical religious groups and the merchants and mercenaries of religion who ladle monies from the coffers of Egypt's enemies."

To begin with and to correct the facts, we assert that al-Aharqawi did not demand that the front be aimed against the "radical religious groups," as AL-AHALI chief editor says, but that, on the contrary, he stated the following verbatim in his interview with AL-SIYASI:

"My disagreement with and my criticism of some of the radical religious currents does not negate my belief that these currents are a part of the national forces and that they must be invited to the dialogue and to join the front."

So from where and why has AL-AHALI chief editor come with his statement on which he builds an important element of his position in rejecting the front urged by al-Sharqawi?

The truth is that al-Sharqawi started his articles by talking about the "green march" and then proceeded to warn against the danger of being swept up by those using religious sentiments to serve evil secret schemes and the danger of the activity of the mercenaries and hirelings who ladle monies out of the coffers of Egypt's enemies in the name of religion to spread intellectual and political terrorism which could ultimately lead Egypt to a fate similar to Iran's and Lebanon's fate. Was 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi wrong in his assessment and his warning about these dangers?

It is evident that the Grouping Party does not share al-Sharqawi's assessment of this danger and that this party believes, as the chief editor of its newspaper said, that "the religious groups and religious currents that engage in violence in their activity, that help ignite the fire of sectarian sedition and that reject the dialogue are not, despite our evident rejection of their logic, the main danger or the primary enemy threatening the country and the citizen in this phase."

The chief editor further said: Violence in Egypt is still much less than the violence experienced by numerous societies. He cited as examples in this regard the United Kingdom, India, Spain, Germany and Italy.

It seems to us that there is behind the Grouping Party's underestimation of the danger of terrorism and violence in the name of religion a tendency to tolerate the phenomenon of political violence and terrorism generally, especially if this violence is used against foes. This position is alien to the Egyptian left, which rejects intellectual and political violence and terrorism in principle and in all cases. This is perhaps the reason for the longstanding sympathy on the part of the Grouping Party, and of the adventurous left generally, for Khomeyni's regime in Iran on the pretext that it is a revolutionary socialist regime. This is also perhaps the reason for these leftists' sympathy for al-Sadat's assassination in the platform incident. This sympathy is in complete contradiction with the Egyptian left's principled position.

Despite all this and even though al-Sharqawi considers the forces of terrorism and violence in the name of religion a danger which the front must face, he does not consider this terrorism and violence the sole danger nor the main enemy against the front forces. Anyone who reviews the front's objectives as presented by al-Sharqawi will not find it difficult to discover that the main enemies of the front's forces are themselves the enemies of this people's liberation, democracy, progress and prosperity and that these reactionary and exploitative forces and the internal forces tied to them. Discovering this does not require much effort on the part of the Grouping Party but it does require a degree of objectivity and a spirit of fairness.

The Grouping Party does not agree with al-Sharqawi's definition of the front's forces. It does not, in particular, agree with considering the existing regime, both party and government, a part of these forces. This is the heart of the matter in the Grouping's entire position vis-a-vis al-Sharqawi's call. In this respect, AL-AHALI chief editor said:

"The front cannot accommodate a party or a government that defends the policy of subservience to the United States, that clings to the Camp David accords and to the peace treaty with the enemy which undermines Egypt's sovereignty over the Sinai, that imposes normalization with Israel and that supplies Israel with oil."

This statement is tied to a fundamental position taken by the Grouping, namely the position that considers the front's enemies, and Egypt's enemies, as "this unholy alliance between the United States, the Israeli enemy and the subservient government of the parasites and of big capitalism." Therefore, the front's objectives should be the objective of "saving Egypt from subservience, from the loss of national will, from corruption and parasitism and from the rule of the minority."

Thus, the Grouping, and the adventurous left generally, consider this regime a treasonous and lackey regime and an ally of U.S. imperialism and of the Israeli enemy. This applies to the government and to its party because they represent the parasitic groups and big capitalism which are subservient to imperialism and Israel. Consequently, there is no hope of any change within this government or in its tendencies, regardless of how great the pressures of the real situation and of the masses are. The only hope for changing the conditions can only be realized by toppling this regime.

Thus, the Grouping, and the adventurous left generally, have reached the ultimate in radicalism, despair and isolationism.

Even though the nationalist left is also against U.S. imperialism and other forms of imperialism, against the Israeli enemy, against Camp David and the peace treaty with Israel, against subservience and against corruption, parasitism and the rule of the minority, and even though it has its reservations on some of the regime's tendencies, this section of the left disagrees with the Grouping Party and with the adventurous left generally insofar as the regime is concerned. The nationalist left trusts in the patriotism and integrity of President Husni Mubarak, considers the regime as a whole, despite its mistakes, a patriotic regime and understands the extreme difficulties and complexities under whose canopy this regime moves.

Therefore, the nationalist left accepts and supports 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi's invitation to the National Democratic Party to participate in the front and hopes that this party's participation, should it materialize, will constitute the beginning of a new phase of national cooperation and national unity and of the devotion of serious and effective attention to tackling all of the country's problems. The nationalist left realizes, as 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi said, that "the call for the front does not deny the presence of disagreement. Fronts are founded on two prominent principles: unity and struggle, i.e., agreement and disagreement."

The Grouping Party's position on the front urged by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi represents a new failure for this party. Why does this party fail, as the adventurous left usually fails, to rise to the level of national responsibility and of a national position?

It fails to do so because it is afflicted with intellectual petrification and with the inability to see reality clearly and to interact with it. The adventurous left is incapable of doing so because of its isolation from the masses and its tendency to separate itself from the masses and to act independently "on behalf of the masses."

It is incapable of doing so because of its love for revolutionary oneupmanship and of always reflecting itself as more revolutionary than others.

Finally, it is incapable of rising to the level of national responsibility and a national position because it is extremely sensitive to and strongly influenced by the positions and opinions of some outside circles in the Arab world which are wagering on Egypt's destruction and on the disintegration of its conditions.

Front Is Path of Future

As 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi said, the problems from which we suffer and which weigh down the hearts seem to be enormous. Egypt is going through one of the most difficult phases of its history and it is faced with numerous complex and intricate problems at all political, economic, social and cultural levels.

First, there is the difficult and ever-present national issue of preserving our national political, economic, cultural and minority independence in the face of extremely dangerous and influential pressures.

Behind the Egyptian national issue, there is always the pan-Arab issue which Egypt cannot afford to disavow or disregard, namely the issue of the Arab nation's liberation, progress and unity.

At the center of this issue lies the problem of the need to confront the imperialist-Israeli Zionist aggression, to impose the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to liberate all the Arab territories occupied by Israel, at least the territories occupied since 1967.

There is no doubt that Egypt's restoration of its role and status in the Arab nation and its achievement of an adequate and then ever-increasing degree of Arab solidarity represent the main link in this direction.

It is also indubitable that containing and then ending the independent solution embodied in the Camp David accord is considered a new step in this direction. Moreover, securing the realistic given facts for this step, which is the duty of all Arabs, represents the real path toward this objective.

Egypt's freedom, securing its independence and underlining its nonalignment and its positive Arab role are not luxuries or mere matters of pride but essential conditions for achieving Egypt's progress and for securing sound solutions for its economic, social and cultural problems.

Second, there is the democratic issue, which is the issue of completing Egypt's democratic structure, of releasing public liberties, of securing full guarantees for human rights and of abolishing all the laws and conditions that conflict with democracy, restrict liberties and undermine human rights.

Third, there is the extremely difficult and complex economic issue which requires, first of all, stemming the serious drain resulting from the consumption-oriented open-door economic policy, finding quick solutions for the tragedy of the foreign debt and establishing a balance in trade balance, the balance of payments and the general budget. This issue also requires speedy efforts to achieve adequate economic growth rates, to enhance industry and agriculture and to reorganize domestic and foreign trade in a manner that protects the citizens and the national economy from exploitation and from parasitic activity. This issue further requires speedy efforts to eliminate economic bottleneck, to solve the masses' urgent problems and to move forward effectively on the path of raising the living standards of the masses, especially of the working classes and groups.

There is, fourth, the main social issue of establishing social justice, of closing the gaps between the classes and of moving forward effectively toward establishing a consolidated and humanitarian socialist society.

There are also the numerous and complex partial social issues, such as the issue of the need to solve the problems concerning women, family, childhood, youth and old age.

There is, fifth, the chronic and painful issue of illiteracy in whose captivity more than 70 percent of our people live and which is considered a mark of disgrace on Egypt's forehead. This issue requires the formulation of national programs and projects to solve it as quickly as possible.

Sixth, there are the problems of education and of the need to enhance it and to develop for Egypt a truly fruitful educational system.

There are, seventh, the health problems and the need to enhance them to a befitting level and to insure health-care delivery to every citizen, either free of charge or at the lowest cost possible.

Eight, there are the problems of utilities, water, electricity, and sewerage and the problems of services, such as transportation and housing, and of prices--all of which are difficult, chronic and complex problems that require mighty efforts to solve.

There are, ninth, the cultural problem and the need to exert efforts to raise our country's cultural activity to a level befitting Egypt's status and history and to secure proper and adequate cultural services for the masses in the urban and rural areas.

Tenth, last but not least, there are the environmental problems and the need to protect the environment and the citizens from the dangers of pollution, squalor, overcrowding and noise.

General National Action Program

These are just the headlines of the basic issues and problems facing our people. If we were to plunge into the details, we would have before us hundreds of problems and tasks that require a quick solution.

If we want to solve these problems scientifically and in an organized manner, we must formulate a unified general program for national action--a program that acts as a basic constitution for this action in the various spheres, provided that all our detailed programs and executive plans rely on it and seek its guidance and that all our political and executive legislation and regulations be channeled toward its realization.

It is evident that our problems are so difficult and numerous that they can only be solved over a long period and through an accurate and complex planning process. Therefore, the general national program must be implemented over a long period of time. We estimate this period at 20 years as a minimum. This is the period we need to solve the major problems we are facing now and to introduce into our country's political, economic, social and cultural reality a decisive fundamental change capable of achieving a decisive renaissance in the various aspects of our lives and capable of securing a firm material and moral base for our country's independent future development.

National Front Is Definite Must

Who can formulate this general national action program in the best manner and who can shoulder the burdens of its implementation and watch over the continuity of this implementation throughout the required long period?

Any government or party, regardless of how great their abilities, cannot alone shoulder these burdens.

Insofar as planning is concerned, it is indubitable that the best solutions for our problems are the solutions we reach and on which we all agree or, at least, on which the overwhelming majority of the national forces and the citizens agree. Therefore, we must seek a common ground on which we can stand together vis-a-vis the various issues.

As for implementation, it is indubitable that the solidarity of all the forces or of the overwhelming majority of these forces and, consequently, of the overwhelming majority of the citizens is the ideal guarantee for the seriousness, efficiency and soundness of implementation and for securing the maximum possible degree of success for our national action.

Participation in planning and cooperation in implementation and the occurrence of all this under a canopy of fraternity and of the spirit of unity are the guarantees of success for national action.

Such participation in an effective and steady manner can be achieved only through a clear political and organizational framework that defines this participation.

There is no doubt that the best framework for this purpose is the common national front. The credit for advocating the creation of such a front goes to al-Sharqawi.

Nature of This Front

It is our opinion that the main element determining the nature of any front is its program and the tasks entrusted to it. This is because this program and these tasks determine in turn the forces that stand with the front and the forces that stand against it.

The tasks suggested for the front proposed by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi and supported by the nationalist left are national, democratic and progressive tasks. Whoever accepts this front's program and agrees to join it agrees by necessity to stand with the democratic and progressive national forces. The future will make its judgment on the forces that join the front and on which of these forces will continue to work sincerely under the front's canopy to achieve its program and on which forces will lag behind or will drop out of the lines during the long march.

We will say here what 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi said in explaining the nature of the front and of front-oriented action, namely that the call for the front and joining and even working within the front do not deny the presence of differences. All that there is to the matter is that the parties to the front abide by what is agreed on and adhere to dealing with the differences that crop up between them through dialogue and democratic means and with a spirit of a common desire to achieve a joint solution.

Front's Preparatory Committee

The nationalist left supports al-Sharqawi's proposal for the formation of a preparatory committee comprising representative of the forces and parties that agree to join this front and some influential independent national figures capable of front-oriented action. Let this committee initiate its activity by drafting the front's basic program and drawing up a draft to complete the front's organizational structure, provided that the two drafts then be subjected to a broad national dialogue that precedes their final approval and the complete formation of the front's structure.

Let 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sharqawi's proposal for establishment of the Egyptian national front and the sincere and honest effort he has made in this regard constitute the real beginning for the birth of a lofty Egyptian national front, and let the establishment of this front be the beginning of a shining phase in the history of national action for Egypt.

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EGYPT

MINISTER OF AWQAF DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT POLICY TOWARD MOSQUES

Cairo AL-SIYASI in Arabic 15 Sep 85 p 8

[Interview with Dr al-Ahmadi Abu-al-Nur, minister of awqaf, by Ibrahim Abu-Dah:
"Minister of Awqaf in Frank Interview with AL-SIYASI: 'The Ministry Does Not
Impose Ideas on Mosque Preachers; Annexation of Mosques Is a Custom Followed by
All Islamic States; Formation of Committees To Discuss Illegally Appropriated
Waqf Properties and Lands'"; date and place not given]

[Text] In the first comprehensive interview that he has granted to AL-SIYASI,
Dr al-Ahmadi Abu-Nur, minister of awqaf in the new government, stated that
annexation of mosques is a custom followed by all Islamic states. He said:
"I challenge whether there are any mosques not subject to the supervision of
the executive religious authority."

"It is not true," said the minister, "that the government imposes its ideas on
mosque preachers. Work is going on toward permanent residences for Islamic
preachers, and this will be a principal factor among the factors leading to the
success of their mission. Also, the establishment of training centers for
preachers will support their mission."

[Question] Is it the right of the Ministry of Awqaf to annex mosques and super-
vise them? How can supervision possibly be carried out given the large number
of mosques in Egypt?

[Answer] People talk a great deal at certain times about the annexation of
certain mosques--the al-Nur mosque, for example. However, everyone should
realize that there is no mosque in the Islamic world not supervised by the
state and by the ministry concerned with mosques. I challenge anyone to show
that there is a mosque in any country of the Islamic or Arab world not subject
to supervision by the state or by the ministry responsible for mosques.

I would like to direct a question at everyone who talks about this subject:
Is it the right of any doctor in the world to open a private clinic or hospital
without obtaining a license from the ministry responsible for health?

Who says that it is possible for any person in any place in the world to build
a private school in which to teach whatever he wishes without following the
programs, outlines and curricula laid down by the ministry of education? That
is impossible; it cannot be.

Similarly, there has to be an agency responsible for mosques. There is only the Ministry of Awqaf that can shoulder responsibility for this authority. States that are civilized supervise the organizations within them, whether these be public or private.

We do not impose a particular opinion or idea on any imam or preacher. All we demand of them is that they work on the basis of the Koran and prophetic tradition and share the life of the people.

The ministry supervises mosques through the ministry's imams and preachers, with assistance from the professors of al-Azhar University and from al-Azhar graduates working in various ministries and agencies for compensation of up to 50 Egyptian pounds.

Seeking Help from Experts

[Question] Is it the plan of the ministry to inventory and recover waqf properties and lands that have been illegally appropriated in the various governorates?

[Answer] The ministry will seek the assistance of experts from all the ministries, administrations and organizations that might render service to the Ministry of Awqaf, especially in solving the problems of illegally appropriated waqf lands--for example, the waqf of Sidi Bishr in Alexandria and the waqfs of Damietta and al-Minya. Committees will be formed at the special level to begin freeing the land of the Sidi Bishr waqfs in Alexandria. These committees will continue to exist until the ministry finishes with the problem of the illegal appropriation of the waqfs.

Institutes for Preachers

[Question] What is the ministry's plan for the coming period for meeting the shortage of imams and preachers required by the mosques?

[Answer] The ministry is preparing a study dealing with the establishment of an institute for preachers. It would be entered by al-Azhar secondary diploma holders of various ages who are unable to enter the university.

Establishment of this institute would be a first step toward the establishment of other institutes for preachers, institutes that will grant their students a diploma qualifying them to undertake the responsibilities of preaching.

This institute will provide many al-Azhar secondary diploma holders working in the Ministry of Awqaf with an opportunity to improve their level of religious knowledge and their literary style.

For the first time the Ministry of Awqaf has begun to train preachers on a decentralized basis including those in all the governorates. Training centers have begun to operate in Cairo, al-Mansurah, al-Buhayrah and al-Sharqiyah in cooperation with the professors of Islamic preaching in the regional branches of al-Azhar University.

Permanent Residence for Preachers

[Question] Is there a new view regarding permanent residences for preachers? How can a place to live be provided for the imam who works in village mosques?

[Answer] One of the ministry's most important concerns is to continue the policy begun a year ago concerning the provision of living quarters for imams and helping them become settled.

The ministry is also concerned that any mosque it takes under its authority include provision for the residence of the imam who will serve in it, so that he can live with the Muslim populace and respond to their questions.

As for already annexed mosques that do not provide a residence for the imam, the ministry is eager to have the governor in each governorate join in obtaining a suitable imam's residence to be an official residence.

In addition, the ministry is undertaking the construction of housing units set aside for imams. The cornerstone has been laid for the construction of 80 housing units in the city of Alexandria set aside for preachers.

As for mosques established in villages, there are two ways to provide a residence: either to appoint preachers for these mosques from the village or neighboring villages, or to have the people of the village (if they are unable to provide a residence for the imam) turn over a piece of vacant land on which the ministry can build a residence for the imam.

The ministry has begun to survey open and vacant land suitable for the construction of official residences. The ministry will undertake the construction of these residences so that preachers can have a permanent place to live. If the imam and preacher have a permanent place to live, the mission with which they are entrusted will succeed.

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EGYPT

OPPOSITION PARTIES COMMENT ON ECONOMY

Cairo AL-SIYASI in Arabic 15 Sep 85 p 4

[Article by Muhammad 'Alam: "Where Will a Remedy for the Economic Problems Begin?"]

[Text] AL-SIYASI asked opposition party economists for a first impression of the economic issues which, from their point of view, it is desirable for the new ministries to implement in the coming period.

Two former ministers from the Wafd and Grouping Party leaderships participated in the discussion, and the chairman of the Liberal Party submitted his ideas on urgent government economic issues.

Wafd Opinion

Dr Ahmad Abu Isma'il, former minister of finance and chairman of the economics and finance committee of the Wafd Party, said to AL-SIYASI:

"We demand that the new government increase the infusion of hard currency into the country, whether from the savings remittances of Egyptians working abroad, from tourism or from investment. This circulation would guarantee a gradual improvement in the price of the Egyptian pound by increasing demand for it. I think this is a major responsibility which requires the government to consider it one of its priorities.

"Further more, the government must work to reduce gradually the deficit in the Egyptian balance of payments and work to increase the country's income from wages. This means the necessity of providing for the needs of production. The needs of production here mean increasing production and national income and lowering the rate of inflation and prices, in addition to increasing sovereign resources as a result of increasing investments. This means reducing the deficit in the budget of the state which, in turn, decreases the rate of inflationary price increases.

"In addition, the government must protect the public sector. This large sector requires an improvement of its financial structure, that is, an increase in the capital investment of the companies to an appropriate amount so that these companies do not expand by loans from banks and open withdrawals, a fact which

leads to an increase in credit, which leads, in turn, to an increase in prices. Disclosure of the budgets of these companies shows that they have a loss, due to the fact that payments and interest on the loans swallows most of the returns on investment. The expansion of credit certainly has a great negative effect, particularly on the psychological condition of the workers and on the profits of the companies as well.

"The products of the public sector require a price review so as to sell them at an economic price, that is, cost computation. In short, to review the organization of the particular public-sector companies and evaluate their work."

Grouping Opinion

Dr Fu'ad Mursi, the former minister of the economy and chairman of the National Unionist Grouping Party, said to AL-SIYASI:

"In my opinion, the primary issue before the new government is confronting the waves of high prices. I think that the basic cause of them is the deficit in the general budget of the state. This deficit is financed annually by having the bank print bank noted paper. Because of this we demand, first, to be released from the deficit in the balance of payments. This is the first point.

"The second point is that we think it is the policy of the state to try to lower expenditures before increasing income. We demand the opposite, provided that the increase in income be accompanied by an examination of the tax system, which is chiefly at the expense of the people in the form of indirect taxes and various fees. Thus, we demand elimination of all tax exemptions granted to whatever is designated an open-door project. We also demand an increase in the taxes of millionaires. We also demand increasing resources, since there are feasible possibilities by which to realize greater resources, especially in industrial projects, to produce that which is imported from abroad.

"It is also possible to suggest development bonds with the goal of financing projects intended for development. If the possessors of wealth are sure that their wealth will take its place in increasing production and development of the country, they will offer their wealth with confidence.

"We demand that the government eliminate importation without the transfer of currency, which leads the deficit in the balance of payments. Whoever begins slowly to import what he wants, even if to meet the goal of consumption, does so at the expense of development.

"This past year we exported goods equal to 4.5 billion pounds while we imported goods equal to 9.5 billion pounds. The deficit was 5 billion pound. The real cause of this deficit goes back, unfortunately, to the debts which were, in 1973, in the area of 1 billion, which now have reached 31 billion. Consequently, the government must debate the question of rescheduling its foreign debts and work to lower the cost of interest, benefiting from the reduction of the interest rate in the international financial market.

"I am not here calling for abandonment of the debts, but I am calling for a review of some of the debts from which Egypt has not benefited at all. I propose, in this regard, convening an international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to discuss the problem of the debt of the Third World."

Liberal Opinion

Mustafa Kamil Murad, chairman of the Liberal Party, said to AL-SIYASI:

"Among the most important and serious problems which Dr 'Ali Lutfi's new government must confront is the financial structure of the 5-year Plan. The private sector's share is no more than 8 billion pounds, while its share of the national income is 45 percent. That is to say, the volume of private-sector investments is less than it should be. The public sector's investments amount to 28 billion pounds, a 78 percent share of the plan, while its share of the national income is 55 percent. In other words, it invests more than it is able to invest, forcing it to borrow an average of 2 billion pound a year at home and abroad.

"This means, as a consequence, an increase in the burden of foreign debt services, which are at least 200 million pounds a year, and an increase in the domestic debt burden, which is at least 300 million pounds a year. The remedy for this, in my opinion, is to encourage the private sector and increase its investments in the plan. This can be done by the following means:

"- By giving the private sector confidence concerning its investments by canceling all emergency laws and returning to normal laws, as well as some tax and customs reductions as incentives for the private sector. The new government need only review the tax system to learn that the various taxes in Egypt are becoming increasingly heavy and that the customs duty on a large number of commodities has risen to such a degree as to be called a 'smuggler's house.' This reduces the country's customs revenue.

"- Submission of projects whose benefits have been studied.

"- Simplification of administrative procedures necessary for the construction of economic projects, whether in organization for investment or in the corporate sector, and speeding up the issuance of construction permits.

"When we talk about foreign currency liquidity, it is enough to know that during the 10-year period between 1974-1984 Egyptians working abroad transferred 15 billion dollars and that they had foreign currency amounting to twice that, an amount greater than Egypt's foreign debt. The new government must take under consideration the currency policy, according to which there are five rates with respect to the dollar: 40, 70, 84, 130 and 156 piasters per dollar. This is a strange situation requiring review. The matter requires an agreement with the IMF concerning a new monetary policy. The commercial money market is the necessary means to reform monetary policy and to restore the Egyptian pound to the position it had before its decline."

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EGYPT

DEFENSE LAWYER FOR CONTROVERSIAL BOOK INTERVIEWED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Sep. 85 pp 48-50

[Interview with Sabri al-'Askari by Sharif al-Masri: "I Fear That Verdict in 'Arabian Nights' Case Will Open Door to Falsification of Cultural Heritage"; in London, date not specified]

[Text] Lawyer Sabri al-'Askari is one of the most famous attorneys in Cairo who adopt literary, intellectual and fine arts causes. When the problem of confiscating copies of "The Arabian Nights" broke out a few months ago, he defended the "Nights," which is respected by the entire world, which was influenced by it before we were. He also explained the position of the educated people on this case before the court which tried it and ruled that all available copies on the market be confiscated. The court justified its position by claiming that these copies were morally offensive.

Sabri al-'Askari is not just an attorney for authors and artists and not just the attorney for the Egyptian Writers Union. He is also an author, novelist and a member of the said union.

AL-DUSTUR interviewed al-'Askari during a brief visit to London.

[Question] When did the problem begin?

[Answer] The problem began at the beginning of the year when a young police officer submitted a report to the public morals prosecutor saying that he had found a book entitled "The Arabian Nights," as though he had been unaware that "The Arabian Nights" was one of the most famous Arabic books, not only locally but worldwide as well. He went on to say that the book contained morally offensive expressions which might have an adverse effect on the upcoming generation. He asked the prosecution to issue an order to confiscate the copies printed by the Lebanese al-Tawfiq Publishing House and sold at some Egyptian bookshops.

[Question] Was the police officer aware of the different "Arabian Nights" editions? Was he aware of the importance of "The Arabian Nights"?

[Answer] It was clear from the police officer's conduct that he was not aware of the importance of "The Arabian Nights" just as he was not aware either

that there were three Egyptian editions on the market, two popular editions published by the Subayh Printing Press and al-Halabi Bookshop as well as the original Egyptian edition printed more than 80 years ago. This is a famous edition which is kept at Egyptian public libraries and many bookshops and was preceded by a first edition known as the Bulaq edition, which came out 115 years ago. Therefore, he was surprised by the Lebanese edition, which he thought was the only one in circulation.

[Question] What did the prosecution do?

[Answer] The prosecution responded to the police demand by arresting the Lebanese distributor and the director of his publishing house, the Egyptian-Lebanese Library. It seized 600 copies and brought the distributor and the director to a summary trial before the Morals Court.

[Question] Why the Morals Court in particular?

[Answer] Because this court tries cases of crimes committed against public morals, be it an offense involving speech, a gesture, an illustration or writing.

[Question] Do you think that the "Arabian Nights" book should be subject to the special law safeguarding public morals?

[Answer] A look at the history of this law reveals that it was promulgated as a part of the Egyptian Penal Code of 1937. The same text was contained in the series of Egyptian penal codes promulgated at the end of the last century. Consequently, these laws came subsequent to the publication of "The Arabian Nights" in Egypt, where it was put on the market. Had the Egyptian legislator wished to apply his provisions to the books that were in circulation at the time the law was promulgated, "The Arabian Nights" would have been confiscated a long time ago, and not only "The Arabian Nights" but all the original versions of our literary heritage published by the government or by individuals before and after the promulgation of the penal code, because all these books contain more passages and expressions that depart from the modern standards of public morals than does "The Arabian Nights." There are many examples such as "The Ultimate Goal," the book of poems by al-Nabighah al-Dhubyani, the seven collections of Arabic qasidas, the book of poems by Bashir Ibn Bard, the two books of poems by Abu-al-Nawwas and most songs.

[Question] Did the legislator take these books into consideration when he enacted the law?

[Answer] The legislator did not imagine that this law would be used as a means for banning our cultural heritage because this heritage is a basic component of our general education and popular culture. This heritage has become an inviolable part of the people's consciousness.

[Question] What happened after the prosecutor intervened?

[Answer] The case was brought before the competent court where it was demonstrated that the matter was not just a misunderstanding but rather a

position defined intellectually on two premises. One premise is that the government had the upper hand in what books may or may not be put on the market. The other is that morally offensive things in the contemporary, narrow-minded sense are offensive to life in general and therefore constitute a crime regardless of any literary, artistic or philosophical considerations. Herein lies the danger of this case.

[Question] Do you say this in your capacity as an attorney and a man of the law or as an author?

[Answer] The case would have been easy had we handled it from the legal point of view because we could have denied any knowledge by the defendants of any morally offensive passages in the confiscated edition in order to gain an acquittal. But such an acquittal would have meant an indictment of the book. Therefore, I preferred to handle the case from the political and literary standpoint. From the literary standpoint, it was very difficult for anyone devoted to literature to renounce "The Arabian Nights." From the political viewpoint, it was difficult for anyone concerned about issues of freedom to give the government and its institutions the right to decide what will or will not be published, hence the conflict which erupted during the trial.

[Question] What was the position of educated people?

[Answer] All the educated people stand on one side and the government on the other side.

[Question] Who are the educated people you are talking about?

[Answer] All the educated people from the various intellectual, political and literary currents defended "The Arabian Nights" right to exist.

[Question] Did the educated groups include religionists and Islamists?

[Answer] These people came in later. It was as though the government sought their help after finding itself in an unenviable position before public opinion. It was openly accused of ignorance, shallowness and a dominating attitude.

[Question] Who directed this accusation at the government?

[Answer] All the educated people without exception save for a delegation of Islamic studies writers at a later stage. Take, for example, Tawfiq al-Hakim, who said: "The judge who confiscates 'The Arabian Nights' will make a world mockery out of the Egyptian judicial system." Take also Dr Ibrahim Bayyumi Madkur, chairman of the Linguistic Synod, who said: "The confiscation of 'The Arabian Nights' is a crime". Many other people of various intellectual currents followed suit.

[Question] Were these opinions on the case heard in court?

[Answer] Unfortunately, these opinions had an adverse effect. The government, finding itself in a battle with the educated, felt that it had to win lawfully

or otherwise. It also considered the pronouncement of these counterviews by the educated a violation of its right to keep the Egyptian street under control. The interior minister went so far as to announce to the press that the seizure of copies of "The Arabian Nights" was in his view a part of the campaign to bring the Egyptian street as a whole under control. Thus we were surprised by the Islamic studies representatives joining the institutions of suppression.

[Question] Do you consider the judiciary a part of this government which you say has the upper hand?

[Answer] The government in any society comprises the legislative power, the executive power and the judicial power. Therefore, considering the last power as one of the collaborative parts of the government in any society is not arbitrary.

[Question] Therefore the judicial power is not independent?

[Answer] The judiciary's independence does not actually mean it can revolt against the other powers or that it works in a vacuum. Relations between all the powers are stronger than the elements of independence existing within them.

[Question] Did anyone try to remind the judiciary of its independence and impartiality, arguing that the time that the "Arabian Nights" book has been available on the market makes it a part of our cultural tradition?

[Answer] This and much more were argued by the defense in court and the educated group outside the court. But I think that the judiciary pronounced its verdict to confiscate the copies on the premise that it is independent. Indeed, it wished to affirm that it possessed the powers of this independence. The prosecution, an arm of the judicial power, was not satisfied with the decision and hastened to announce in the press its insistence on exercising its powers without outside interference, even by specialists. It was thus revealed that the educated people and these powers had conflicting positions and the whole matter became subject to mutual charges or a cultural controversy. Each side based its viewpoint on its own special premises without any inclination to forsake its position.

[Question] As I understand it, the decision was to confiscate copies of the book, which means that the judiciary affirmed the viewpoint of the executive power. I also understand that this case is being appealed. Do you think that the judiciary's position will shift during the appeal?

[Answer] I cannot predict the decision of the court of appeals. But I think that the matter will not and should not, under any circumstances, stop at that. The case should ultimately go to the court of cassation due to its gravity, not only with regard to "The Arabian Nights" but also due to its effect on other classic books and on contemporary literature as well. The decision the court handed down adopted a very dangerous viewpoint from the intellectual standpoint. It said that the court was not concerned with whether the expressions under

indictment were mentioned in a book or elsewhere, regardless of the value of the book. This viewpoint separated the sphere in which educated people were talking from the sphere in which the judiciary operates. By generalizing this viewpoint on all the classics and on contemporary-literature production, the court will make a large number of books subject to confiscation through enforcement of the verdict in handed down.

[Question] Following the decision, why did the Egyptian press give the impression that the case had been closed and that the court judged the seized copies a distortion of the original text?

[Answer] This attempt came later in an endeavor to soften the impact of the decision on public opinion. It is a baseless attempt because the Egyptian Subayh edition that was confiscated is the exact copy of the government's Bulaq edition kept at the libraries and the Lebanese al-Tawfiq Publishing House edition, which was also confiscated. It is also an exact copy of the al-Halabi Bookshop edition, which has not yet been confiscated.

[Question] Why was this last edition not confiscated?

[Answer] I believe that its turn has not come yet.

[Question] Does that mean the police have not discovered it yet?

[Answer] I think it has been discovered, but good politics dictate that the current storm, which the government did not anticipate, should be allowed to die down.

[Question] What was the position of the Writers Union?

[Answer] The union's board issued a decision that the government had no right to infringe upon the cultural heritage. It clearly announced its position in the press and to the court.

[Question] Did the court solicit the union's opinion?

[Answer] The union promptly submitted its position in writing to the court for consideration during the trial. The union is still studying the verdict. It has formed a committee consisting of its president and two board members to study the verdict and expose its negative effects on freedom of expression in general.

[Question] Is there anything you would like to say?

[Answer] The most dangerous aspect of the verdict, whereby specific copies of the book were confiscated without comparing them to the other editions, is that it made every publisher a censor of the classic books he puts out by burdening him with the responsibility for pre-publication editing to delete what, in his own view, is or may be incompatible with public morals, as defined by law. This will open the door to falsification through a multiplicity of deletions

based on the publisher's interpretation and ability to predict what is offensive to or compatible with the government's way of thinking, especially since Egypt does not yet have an accredited cultural institutions with the right to issue a unified opinion concerning what classics may or may not be published.

I would like to add, with regard to how all this relates to Egypt's cultural reality, that we are going through a stage of intellectual stupor wherein it is difficult to define positions accurately. The conflict between the proponents of Salafi [reform] thought and secular thought has been crystallized through the "Arabian Nights" experience. It is not certain that this conflict will be settled any time soon.

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EGYPT

TAXI DRIVERS, PASSENGERS, POLICE DISCUSS FARE INCREASES

Cairo AL-SIYASI in Arabic 15 Sep 85 p 2

[Article by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hamid: "Gasoline Prices Rise, the Insanity of Taxi Fares Increases, Passengers Cry out That the Taxi Has Turned into a Merciless Ghoul and Traffic Authorities Announce That the Solution Lies in Issuing a New Rate Schedule for Taxis"]

[Text] Statistics indicate that Cairo alone has 30,000 taxis driven by 30,000 drivers who deal with nearly 10 million citizens every day.

Taxi problems have become well-known. What is new these days is that the meter is in most instances disregarded and that drivers are demanding insane prices from passengers, especially after a gasoline price increase of only about 5 piastres per litre.

This trifling price increase has given the driver an excuse to impose whatever price he wishes, grossly mistreating the public and throwing overboard all the regulations that govern taxi rates. As a result, dealings between drivers and the public have turned into something like enmity--the problem from which the Egyptian street suffers every day.

In the following article, AL-SIYASI interviewed drivers, passengers and traffic authorities to answer the question: When will the taxi problems end?

Opinion of Passengers

Wafqi Muhammad Mustafa (engineer with Rural Electrification in al-'Abbasiyah): "I am forced to use the taxi a lot. After the recent rise in gasoline prices, I noticed that taxi drivers raised the fare a great deal. I used to pay 75 piastres to go from al-Zahir District to my office. I was surprised by a driver who asked me for 1.50 pounds--and there was no meter or posted fare! In fact, the driver was carrying four passengers and took a separate fare for each passenger even though that violates the law. And when we talk to the driver or object, he says: 'Gas prices are up.'"

Buthaynah 'Abd-al-Karim (with the General Conscription and Statistics Agency): "We are at the mercy of the driver's personal whim and temperament. We have

to accept the high fare he demands from us, or else we could not do what we have to do and get to work. The driver is a dictator whose word is law and who rules the public unseen by the eyes of the authorities."

Hajj Muhammad 'Antar (merchant at Bab al-Sha'riyah): "Usually, the taxi driver defines the area in which he wants to operate and avoids workingclass and crowded districts. All of this is at the expense of the rider's time and welfare."

Ahmad 'Abd-al-Maqsud (army officer): "We see many taxi drivers going through the streets of Cairo and paying no attention to people signaling them, even if the person signaling is a pregnant woman or an old man, and even if the cab is empty--which means that the passengers do not match the driver's fancy."

Tahir Mustafa Shalabi (of the Academy of Scientific Research): "The ethics of drivers nowadays have become intolerable. Either we throw up our hands and accept the driver's route and high fare, or we face a torrent of abuse and curses. I had an argument with a driver who conducted himself in such a manner, and I entered a complaint at Qasr al-Nil police station. The case between him and me is still pending."

Mrs Nazik Hanna Tawfiq (housewife): "My daughter and I waited 2 hours on Tal'at Harb Street for a taxi to take us to the al-Bakri district. Finally, one driver came and asked for 5 pounds. All we could do was give in. When we asked him about the high fare, he told us: 'The car is special!'"

Dr Salih al-Fiqi (a loan worker in Kuwait): "The worst kind of exploitation practiced by Cairo taxis is what we see at the airport. Not satisfied with the established fare, the driver quadruples it, not to mention the tip. What a tip might mean, I do not know!"

"Perhaps the minister of the interior was referring to exploitation by taxis when he stated at last August's conference for overseas Egyptians that there is a 'taxi empire' in Cairo. He even said that there is a 'taxi mafia.' It was an open confession by the minister that the taxi situation is distressing in Cairo, the city that ought to be the showcase of Egyptian culture."

Opinion of Drivers

If these are the opinions of one side, come and let us listed to the opinion of the other side, the drivers.

Yusri 'Abd-al-Wahhab (driver of taxi No 23281, Cairo): "We are being treated unjustly; no one lets us explain. Everyone forgets the special troubles we face in our business. First of all, there is the congestion: a trip that should take 1 hour takes 4, and one that should take 10 minutes takes 1 and ½ hours because of the traffic lights. Since waiting at traffic lights eats up galosine, that imposes an additional burden on us if gasoline goes up in price. On a fast road a car gets 160 km per gas can. In Cairo, a can is used up in only 80 km; the difference is burned up uselessly while

one waits at lights. The price of a can has gone up a pound, i.e. a can now costs 4 pounds instead of 3. This is what leads us to raise the flag occasionally so that the car brings in a reasonable profit instead of a loss."

Isma'il Muhammad al-Shafi'i (driver of taxi No 20086): "The taxi business has become a disagreeable one for us. There is the rise in gasoline prices, the daily problems with customers, mechanics and repairmen, the many expenses that the taxi demands, all of which leads us to load up with a group of fares at once. It does not inconvenience the passengers, particularly if all of them are going in the same direction. Their interests are served, and it makes it easier for them to solve their problems. Mostly, I prefer to travel twice a day round-trip to Alexandria rather than work the unbearable streets of Cairo."

Mustafa Ibrahim al-Mahdi (driver of car No 75293): "I am an official with a license to engage in alternate employment during the afternoon. The public needs to know what the taxi driver suffers: a yearly tax, insurance, fines. The public also needs to know about the long circuit the driver has to go through at the motor vehicle offices with their long lines before he can carry out his business."

'Ali 'Id (owner of taxi No 59741, Cairo): "The drivers who discredit the profession are few, but since their odor spreads rapidly, people believe that all drivers are that way, which is wrong!"

Opinion of the Union

'Ali Qurni (member of the Land Transportation Workers Union, Cairo Governorate): "The union is against any taxi driver who mistreats the public. We always tell the drivers that the taxi is the passenger's property until he gets out. There is a regulation applicable to anyone who violates the regulations--we cooperate with the traffic police and authorities. Yet, if the truth is to be told, nowadays the taxi business is no longer profitable. The expenses are greater than the income from it. Consequently, some drivers are forced to ignore the flag and to charge by the person. It is wrong to do so, and through the union we call to task anyone who falls into the practice; but a new fare schedule has to be set, one that will allow the driver and vehicle owner a reasonable profit and that will make the taxi business a profitable one. This is especially true in Cairo, where taxis do not return a profit on account of the traffic lights, congestion, lost time and wasted fuel, all of which cause losses to driver and passenger alike."

Opinion of the Traffic Police

AL-SIYASI submitted the problem to the traffic authorities.

Major General Rida 'Abdallah, chief of the Cairo traffic police: "The Cairo Traffic Departments is at the service of any citizen. It is fully prepared to move immediately to investigate citizens' complaints against taxi drivers who commit violations. Any citizen who encounters a violation on the part of a taxi driver should telephone 825243, 824582, 838205 or 838146, so that the traffic police can apprehend the vehicle that committed the violation and turn it over to the traffic prosecution for legal action."

"The individual citizen is an important factor in enforcing traffic discipline. If the citizen is concerned about his rights, it will make it much easier for us, for we never neglect any complaint. Directives have been issued to all regular and secret forces to deal with vehicles whose drivers demand fares above those that have been set and to turn them over immediately to traffic prosecution. Offenders are to be punished with a fine of between 50 and 100 pounds, together with suspension of license for up to 30 days. All of this depends on the citizen's informing us of the violation.

"Every citizen must demand his rights. He should not allow taxis to be ridden without a meter or flag, and he should inform the police about drivers who do not use the meter or flag or who pick up too many fares. Everyone should know that there is close cooperation between all the departments of the police and the traffic administration in receiving and responding immediately to citizen's complaints."

Brigadier General Hafiz Badawi, assistant chief of the Cairo traffic police for licenses: "Taxi control operations within Cairo requires the participation of three parties: driver, passenger and traffic police. The driver's concern is to obtain a satisfactory fare, one that is equivalent to the real cost of the trip and that will realize a reasonable profit margin so that he can stay in the business of driving a taxi. The passenger desires only to arrive at his destination at a price that is reasonable and not burdensome to him. The traffic policeman desires only that both parties be disciplined and abide by the traffic rules and regulations.

"In accordance with the directives of the minister of the interior, a study was carried out by professor from Cairo and 'Ayn Shams Universities, the General Traffic Department and the Cairo Traffic Department. In it, they studied all the changes that have led to an increase in the cost of a trip, especially after the rise in the price of automobiles, spare parts, repairs, labor, automobile taxes and other changes.

"The study concluded that it is necessary to set a new rate schedule that is fair to all parties. In fact, this new rate schedule for taxis has been drafted and approved by the National Democratic Party and the Supreme Committee on Policies. All that remains is that it be approved by the People's Assembly. When it comes out, 90 percent of the passengers' problems with taxis will disappear because the rate schedule will be fair and satisfactory to all parties."

Commenting on the proposed new rate schedule, Major General Rida 'Abdallah, chief of the Cairo traffic police, said:

"It is our hope that the problems between passengers and taxi drivers will disappear after the promulgation of this new rate schedule."

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IRAQ

NORTHERN COMMANDER RECOUNTS SAYYID KAN BATTLES

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Jul 85 p 8

[Interview with Staff Maj Gen Diya'-al-Din Jamal, northern-sector operations commander, by Hashim Hasan: "Northern Operations Commander Recounts to AL-THAWRAH Details of Swift and Decisive Battles in Sayyid Kan"; date and place not given]

[Text] The recent battles in Sayyid Kan were characterized by their intensity and violence and by their extraordinary nature which underlines the great accomplishment achieved by our valiant forces in a mountain range that is most complex and is isolated and that only permits brave men with the greatest degree of superior military skill, heroic steadfastness and daring zeal to hold its peaks. Thus, the commando, infantry and other branches of the northern-sector operations have been extraordinary men in an extraordinary and glorious battle.

On the meanings, values and future horizons that these battles signify, we interviewed Staff Maj Gen Diya'-al-Din Jamal, the northern-sector operations commander, who personally supervised the minutest details of the battles from the first moment of the preparations to repel the enemy and throughout the subsequent battle.

The northern-sector operations commander said: In the wake of the abysmal and successive failures suffered by the enemy in all the battles throughout the 5 years of war, especially in his latest offensives in which the crowning battles were the immortal Hawr al-Huwayzah battles, the enemy has become extremely frustrated and his units have become certain that they are incapable of confronting the Iraqi forces and of assaulting their fortified defenses which are impenetrable as a result of their firmness and of the defensive means with which they are equipped. Even the hordes which the enemy throws into the death incinerator in front of the Iraqi positions realize their inability to break the firm advanced-defense wall which has been rendered stronger and more fortified by the fighter's magnificent valor and steadfastness, by his highly efficient use of the various modern weapons and combat instruments and by his skillfull implementation of the modern arts of war.

Staff Maj Gen Diya'-al-Din Jamal, the northern-sector operations commander, went on to say, that in addition to these reasons, the enemy's awareness of

the need to deal with the state of disintegration, frustration and constant decline in morale is what motivated the oppressive gang to look for new directions and paths, thinking that these would not be prepared to stand fast and to wage major battles. Thus, the gang deluded itself and its people, who are afflicted with this gang's tyranny, into believing that they have scored victories in a new sector of the front.

Reading Enemy's Intentions

As the northern-sector operations commander said, these intentions were not secret to the armed forces general command or to the field commands which had diagnosed these intentions since the first days, which had observed them with utter caution and detail and which had taken at an early time the effective steps capable of foiling the enemy's hostile intentions and of burying them in the cradle. This is confirmed by the outcome of the battles and by the destruction inflicted on the Iranian forces.

[Question] Are there other factors which motivated the enemy to choose this specific sector?

[Answer] In addition to the above-mentioned reasons, a factor which motivated the enemy to choose this sector for his current operations is his belief that the area's terrain would reduce the efficiency of some weapons in which the Iraqis have become well known for their overwhelming superiority and his belief that his large concentrations of infantry forces--thousands of whom have been killed in every battle without any concern shown by this enemy--would enable him to achieve some results in this sector. But what happened is the exact opposite because we succeeded in efficiently utilizing all the factors and elements which the enemy considered weak points and in turning them into strong points in defense and offense. This includes utilizing the factor of the terrain to our benefit and exploiting our rugged high mountains and their soaring peaks to fortify our defenses further and to crush the hordes of aggressors in a short time. It has truly been a surprise to the enemy and to the forces which tempted it to wage this losing battle in which he incurred enormous losses in personnel and equipment. You must have seen on the mountain tops, the foothills and the valleys large numbers of Iranian bodies scattered over large areas of the battlefield.

Leader's Instructions Are Basis of Victory

The staff major general in command of the northern-sector operations pointed out that in the phase of preparation to repel the attack, the field command constantly focused on utilizing and effectively implementing the detailed and clear instructions of Leader President Saddam Husayn on organizing the defensive position and the combat methods and on decisively using the various weapons in a manner compatible with the terrain in order to counter the enemy's methods and intentions capably and firmly. There were, moreover, the field visits made by Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, the armed forces deputy general commander and the minister of defense, which provided the field command with numerous instructions that helped to develop a clear view of the importance

of the various barriers ['awarid] in the area, the relationship between them and the means to defend each of them in a manner that swiftly foiled the enemy's plans and prevented him from achieving his objectives. With this and with the valor of our brave officers and soldiers, we have achieved the great victory. It can be said without any conceit and with reliance on the facts in the field that we, in light of the command's instructions and of the nature of the preparations, realized that the outcome of the battle had been decided in our favor even before the battle occurred.

Cohesion Between Commanders and Troops

[Question] What are the most significant lessons learned from this battle?

[Answer] The area's mountainous terrain, especially in this sector, highlights the role of the individual combatant and of the qualities he possesses, including courage, skill, physical fitness and the ability to stand fast, to maneuver and to deal with the various possibilities, such as the emergence of the enemy from the rear and from unexpected places. The battles which took place recently in Kushinah, Ra's al-'Abd and other sites have highlighted distinguished facets of the Iraqi soldier in this respect. The enemy tried to select sites flanking the defensive positions in isolated (sites) to achieve a victory which the enemy imagined would be easy. But the Iraqi combatant's magnificent steadfastness and experience enabled him to employ the rugged terrain in the service of an effective defense, to direct his fire accurately and in a coordinated manner, to destroy these offensives and to inflict heavy losses on the enemy through ideal counter attacks which forces the enemy to abandon his losses in personnel and equipment in the battlefield. This has happened repeatedly in numerous sites and battles.

The fighting units in the Sayyid Kan battle have been cohesive from the level of the general command to the level of the private in the defensive trench. This cohesion was embodied in the presence of members of the armed forces general command side by side with the field command and in the presence of the commanders with their fighters in the advanced trenches to observe the fighters' march instant by instant. This portrait of ideological and human cohesion gave the fighters enormous morale and combat momentum, a great degree of steadfastness and other factors which contributed to achieving the victory.

Outcome of Battle and Its Ramifications to Enemy

The outcome of this battle will be reflected in a positive and fundamental manner on the outcome of future battles in this and other sectors of the front because the enemy has incurred enormous losses and profound psychological defeats. He has not made any gains, despite the major difficulties to which he has been subjected. The enemy had led his units to believe that the battle would be easy and that the paths would be open to them. This fact is confirmed by what the enemy prisoners themselves said, because they have pointed out the decline of morale among the enemy troops because of the losses, because of the difficulty of combat in this area and because of the weakness of the Iranian preparations and of the meagerness of the provisions and equipment

they received during the battle and after it. We may wonder about the fate that will meet the new Iranian concentrations which the oppressive gang will throw into the area, knowing well the outcome of the first battle in the sector. The outcome, God willing, will be more ruinous and destructive to them and to their supporters, the descendants of treason and those who are Arab in name only.

Concluding, the staff major general commanding the northern-sector operations underlined the superb role performed by the air force, saying that the air force men were true knights in all their activities, including providing fire support, moving the units, maintaining the steady supply of combat requirements for the ground units and smoothing many of the difficulties posed by the area. The artillery and armor forces and the other branches also performed a memorable role in the battle's various chapters. Because these battles occurred in the northern part of the country, the Kurdish citizens of the area contributed prominently and many of them fought well and stood fast side by side with their brothers in the military units which waged the battles in this sector.

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IRAQ

INDUSTRY MINISTER DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENTS IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 27 Jul 85 pp 36-37

[Interview with Subhi Yasin, minister of industry, by As'ad al-'Aquli]

[Text] The pressures of the war are perhaps among the reasons for the development of scientific research tasks in Iraq--a development embodying the principle that "need is the mother of invention." Iraqi industry has advanced in long strides, relying on local efforts, has in some instances surpassed competing foreign products and has moved from local markets to export markets.

Subhi Yasin, the Iraqi minister of industry, stressed in an interview conducted with him by AL-TADAMUN in Baghdad that last year alone saw 66 industrial projects, most of which rely on Iraqi scientific ideas and invention patents, and that the number of such projects will rise to 70 this year.

The new inventions cover all fields, beginning with preventing iron oxidization and the production of cement bags and ending with the production of fiberboard wood and Formica. All these inventions appeared during the war and it can be said that this war has been a motive for research and development to replace imports with local products.

Following is the text of the interview with Subhi Yasin:

[Question] Would you kindly define for us the meaning and underline the objectives of the industrial research and development activities and the nature of the steps to which the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources has resorted to achieve the set tasks and objectives?

[Answer] Industrial research and development mean direct exploration which is aimed at discovering scientific knowledge with an economic value for production or the producer, at reducing costs at creating a high marketing capability for the product and at developing quality and the ability to compete with similar products. This research is aimed at the same time at developing the product through the ideal use of the technology employed and through the use of local raw materials to replace imported materials.

To achieve the tasks and objectives of industrial research and development, the ministry has undertaken to introduce this research to all the organizations and installations under its control. The departments that are specialized in this field, which were introduced in the past 4 years and number 24, exert efforts to enhance the contribution made by the locally invented technology to the progress and advancement of industry on the basis of sound scientific planning and through the preparation of detailed annual programs and plans for the research projects initiated and implemented by the ministry's industrial installations.

As a practical translation of the tendencies adopted in the research and development projects linked to enhancing the capability of the industrial installations, a number of industrial accomplishments have been achieved, resulting in invention patents and in scientific experience.

[Question] Can you give us an idea of the accomplishments achieved in the sphere of industrial research and development and of invention patents, and what are the fields covered in this regard?

[Answer] There are in fact several industrial accomplishments and invention patents achieved through serious effort in the fields of industrial studies, research and development, especially the following:

In the sphere of industry's contribution to bolstering agricultural development, we can note agricultural mechanization, particularly mechanization in servicing date palms. A complete project is being currently implemented in this sphere with the participation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and the Scientific Research Council.

One of the problems facing the sponge iron industry is the problem of the oxidization of this iron at a high rate when exposed to the elements for a short period. There are numerous technical industrial processes to tackle this problem. But they are all protected by international invention patents and require imported processing materials. The industrial researchers at the institute who are specialized in engineering industries have been able to develop a new process, using Iraqi raw materials to protect sponge iron from oxidization. The process, which is done by coating the balls that are produced with wax by passing them through melted wax, has proven successful and has been registered as an invention patent inside and outside the country. The process was recently applied with full success to a quantity of sponge iron shipped from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Iraq. The process is considered an Iraqi technological lead forward. Meanwhile, cooperation with the Saudi brothers represents the first applied scientific industrial cooperation effort between two Arab countries.

In another respect, the institute researchers have been able to innovate a process to carbonize steel and give it the needed resistance, using local raw materials. This process is currently applied in the Public Industries Establishment. The process is distinguished from the previously employed process by giving steel better qualities.

There used to be a fundamental problem in extracting sulfur from al-Mishraq mines, namely the problem of its being mixed with tar impurities in the extraction sites, with this tar content increasing with the continued utilization of the mines. A team of industrial researchers in our ministry, in cooperation with a number of researchers from Mosul University, have been able to develop a process to separate the tar content from sulfur with high efficiency and at a low cost in comparison with the currently used process. This new process has been registered as an invention patent and efforts are currently underway to develop the scientific expertise needed to apply the process industrially. It is worth noting here that the project is the fruit of the cooperation between the industry and the university. This is something which enjoys the attention of our ministry and of all the industry officials.

There is also in al-Mishraq the problem of the accumulation of the waste left over by the sulfur purification processes. This waste not only poses a danger to the health of the area's workers but also represents a dangerous element to environmental pollution. A team of researchers at the Public Mineral Resource Establishment has been able to develop a process to utilize this waste and to recover the sulfur it contains for the production of sulfuric acid. This process was crowned with success when applied.

Insofar as paper manufacturing is concerned, the foreign firm with the contract for the Maysan Paper Mill has faced certain difficulties, especially its inability to produce cement bag paper according to the specifications agreed upon in the contract. The mill workers have tackled this problem and have been able to solve it, using the local bagasse at the right mixture rate and introducing the necessary modifications to the production steps. The production of cement bag paper in the proper quantity and quality has actually begun. The necessary steps are also now being taken to use this paper in the plants for the production of cement bags. It is worth noting that the experiments to use reed pulp for the production of cement bags by mixing it with imported pulp have succeeded.

One significant accomplishment concerns an industry which was considered until a year ago an uneconomical industry and shows how the concerted efforts have succeeded in enabling this industry to stand on its own feet. This is the fiberboard industry. The plant was designed to produce fiberboard from palm fronds but was faced with the problem of securing and processing this raw material and the product itself needed to be developed not only to enable it to take a competitive position against similar product but also to make it possible to use in new spheres. In fact, the plant workers have been able to coat the fiberboard with melamine and decorative paper, thus producing a commodity similar to Formica which can be used for various carpentry and decorative purposes.

[Question] To what degree have the scientific research projects increased in recent years?

[Answer] The planned research and development projects amounted to 46 projects in 1983, of which 28 projects were completed. The number rose to 66 projects in 1984, of which 18 projects were carried over from 1983.

The number of research and development departments in the establishments amounted to 16 departments in 1982, rising to 24 departments at present. The 1985 plan calls for the implementing 70 projects in the various industrial sectors and branches, especially in the field of engineering industries, for conducting a technical study on a project to produce a medium-size bus, for developing the handling and packaging process, for replacing the electrical iron used in water pumps with ordinary iron and for developing designs and technology for modern agricultural equipment.

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IRAQ

DECREASE IN DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY SOUGHT

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 14 Sep 85 p 27

[Article: "Iraqi Industrial Construction and Planning Organization; Incorporation of Technology To Lessen Dependence on Foreign Experts"]

[Text] In the course of expanding and intensifying their social, economic and developmental growth, Third World countries find themselves at critical junctures with regard to the kind of influence that the nature of their dealings and economic relations with the advanced industrial countries and their multinational companies has had, particularly in the sphere of copying, adapting and incorporating advanced technology. The advanced countries, or the regions of the "north," try to impose a perpetual exploitative character on their services and the equipment deals concluded within the scope of so-called bilateral cooperation with developing countries, particularly by offering ready-made or "turn-key" projects thus keeping the concerned country a captive of the constant need for subsequent services, including operations and maintenance. But a growing group of Third World countries is trying to go beyond the conventional exploitative relationship as well as to adhere to the principles of equality in building relationships and to establish a common understanding of the recognized remedies for problems arising in this regard. Consequently, this group believes that breaking this technological sheaf is one of the most important means to narrow the margin of exploitation, a process that entails the amassing of expertise and experiments, the resetting of priorities on the basis of establishing a fixed, sophisticated positive work ethic and the training of specialized technical cadres who are able to perform the required tasks.

Of the Third World countries which have achieved tangible progress in adopting and searching for ways and means to copy and incorporate suitable technology, India, Pakistan, Brazil, Argentina, Iraq and Egypt stand out in this field.

To explore the features of the Iraqi experiment, AL-TADAMUN met with Engr 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid, director of the General Industrial Construction and Planning Organization, which year after year has proven its ability to work to realize self-reliance by accomplishing more work related to feasibility studies, the selection of suitable technology, project monitoring and completion and training for related services. Engr 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid began his talk by going back to the origin of this organization. He said: The history of this organization goes back to the end of the fifties when the

General Department for Industrial Construction and Planning was formed after the Development Council had been abolished. This department took over the activities of the Third Technical Authority of the said council which was in charge of studying and implementing industrial-sector projects established by national development plans. A considerable number of these projects have in fact been completed in accordance with capabilities available at the time, notably the pharmaceutical plant, the engineering industries complex, the textile project and others, in cooperation with the General Industrial Building Department, which was created at the time to meet the needs of civil engineering projects in particular.

Work proceeded in this fashion until 1970 when Iraq opened up to industrial projects and adopted the motto of construction, utilization of national resources and building a diverse national economic structure, including the adoption of various formulas which are likely to stimulate the development process and help competent departments meet their obligations. Hence the General Industrial Construction and Planning Organization was created by Law No 90 of 1970 to replace the general department, which had the same name, by incorporating a number of general administrations and departments which performed similar or related tasks.

In light of this, the organization fulfilled its key role of implementing various industrial projects included in national development plans with their various specific sectors with a few exceptions. This role includes: project conception, preliminary studies, detailed economic and technical feasibility studies, preparation of technical specifications and bids for approved and publicized projects, analysis of tenders, negotiations with international and local contracting companies, preparation and signing of contracts, examination of blueprints and technical specifications, supervision of the various construction stages all the way to the operation stage, presentation of contractual warranties and handing over the project to the beneficiaries. This is in addition to its role in training operating crews and overseeing project performance during the 12-month maintenance warranty. It is noteworthy that the organization's role did not change following the creation of the Light Industries Ministry in 1982, but was limited to the activities of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, specifically the chemical, engineering and mineral industries.

Following the great headway it made and the technical expertise it acquired, the General Industrial Construction and Planning Organization evolved into a consulting firm in its field. It offers technical consultation and other functions to a number of organizations and ministries in the country. These activities have been expanded to include the task of studying the designs and specifications of a joint Arab project under construction in Iraq and providing field supervision for the project all the way up to the operation stage. It won this contract by competing with a number of Arab and international companies and organizations.

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IRAQ

HIGHER OIL EXPORTS FROM NEW PIPELINE EXPECTED

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 23 Oct 85 p 43

[Article: "Higher Iraqi Oil Exports"]

Next September is the promised month for improvement in Iraqi oil revenues. This was revealed by the Iraqi deputy minister of oil, 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Shalabi, when he affirmed that September would witness the innauguration of the first stage of the new oil pipeline project linking the southern fields with the Saudi port of Yunbu' on the Red Sea with a capacity of 500,000 barrels a day [bpd].

In preparation for this new development, the Baghdad government asked OPEC to raise its production quota, set at 1.2 million bpd, to allow for the newly created pumping capacity.

Iraq had accepted the quota set for it because it was impossible for it to export more than 650,000 to 700,000 bpd and because it wanted to preserve OPEC's unity and cohesion.

Al-Shalabi emphasized that his country would have no problem in disposing of the additional production. This coincided with a news item in a Japanese newspaper that the government Oil Marketing Institution had informed Japanese refineries of the need to draw Iraqi crude oil from the port of Yunbu' as soon as the new pipeline went into operation.

It is noteworthy that Japanese companies currently import Iraqi oil from the Turkish port of Dritol in fulfillment of a deal to barter 80,000 tons of Japanese pipe to be used in the construction of the second stage of the pipeline, which passes through Saudi territory.

On the other hand, Iraq concluded the formalities of the agreement with Turkey to build a second pipeline through Turkish territory with a capacity of 1.5 million bpd. Work is scheduled to be completed in early 1987 whereupon Iraqi oil exports through Turkey and Saudi Arabia are expected to reach 3.1 million bpd in 1988.

Iraq still receives revenues from the sale of its share of oil from the Neutral Zone in the amount of 300,000 bpd, 175,000 of which are marketed by Saudi Arabia and the remaining 125,000 by Kuwait.

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

FUNDS CUT FOR CANAL PROJECT--The Ministry of Energy has frozen the transfer of funds to the Mediterranean-Dead Sea Co which administered the "seas canal project," claiming that the continuation of its activities will cause an irregularity in the ministry's budget. The director general of the Ministry of Energy, Natan Arad, confirmed that he instructed the delaying of the transfer of funds to the company until it supplies proof to the ministry that its activities would not cause an irregularity in funding for the current fiscal year. The Ministry of Energy explained its step by saying that in fact, there is no justification for the existence of the company since it was decided to cease its operations. The government decided to prevent the flow of funds for the continuation of testing on the research tunnel at the base of Mount Ya'ir above the Dead Sea, thus leaving the company without a budget except for the necessary expenditures to dismantle it. The company, maintained by the ministry's allocations, has not ceased its activities since its managerial council has not yet decided that there is justification for its dismantling, since the government has not yet made a final decision. /Text/ /Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Aug 85 p 8/

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CSO: 4423/15

LEBANON

HIZBALLAH 'GUIDE' SUPPORTS SYRIAN PRESENCE

Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 2-8 Sep 85 pp 14-15

[Interview with Subhi al-Tufayli by Subhi Munzir Yaghi in Ba'labakk:
"Leftists in Lebanon Displeased with Confrontation with Israel; Security in
al-Biq'a' Is Syria's Responsibility and the Syrians Respect Our Tendencies";
date not specified]

[Text] He is the guide of Hizballah as the Ba'labakk-Hirmil Khomeyni'ists refer to him. As for me, I told him that some people call him the "religious Carlos." His only reply was a mocking smile on his face. He agreed to answer my questions only after he knew what I was going to ask him. The following is the text of the interview:

[Question] Can you introduce us to Subhi al-Tufayli?

[Answer] Subhi al-Tufayli is an ordinary man, a Muslim in this country. I received my education in the school system in Qum, then came to Lebanon to perform my legal duty of enlightening and reforming people and to fight for the sake of God.

[Question] What is the truth about your "disciples" who live in the Buraytal wasteland?

[Answer] We do not have disciples or anyone else living in the Buraytal wasteland. I am a Muslim who goes through what they go through. I strive, and the Muslims strive, to fulfill our legal obligation and nothing more. I do not have any disciples. I am just a reformer.

[Question] Did you have anything to do with the bombing of the Marine headquarters in Khaldah and the headquarters of the French forces? It has been alleged that prior to these two operations, you held meetings in Syria and Iran. Is that true?

[Answer] First of all, I am confident that the sides who bombed the Marine headquarters, those who defeated the NATO forces in Lebanon, are from the believers. There was no need to include my name in the list of names mentioned in the mass media in connection with this matter. This does not mean that I disavow this act. Quite the contrary, if I had been asked to participate in or lend support to these operations, I would have done so. But I was not asked

and was not told who carried out these operations. Hence, there were no meetings in or encounters in Syria and Iran because I did not know about this matter in advance.

[Question] How do you regard the Christians under the auspices of your Islamic state?

[Answer] It is true that we believe that the only way to solve people's problems and establish human justice on earth is through our belief in God Almighty, as stated in the Koran. We believe that man will remain lost in the maze of injustice and subjugation so long as he is alienated from the Koran and its teachings. The killing, annihilation, oppression and injustice we see in the world today are the result of travesties committed by the world's rulers. Hence our conviction in Lebanon and elsewhere that our only salvation is Islam. But we do not force this conviction on people. We try to convince people of our convictions. Even the Koran does not approve of forcing our convictions on people just as we do not stand for others forcing their convictions on us. Departing from this viewpoint and from Hizballah's message to the Lebanese and other peoples, we announced clearly that we support full freedom for the true Lebanese people to choose the system of rule they want. Naturally we would like them to choose our convictions, but if they do not, they have to bear the consequences of their choice. We regard any solution based on tutelage over the people, on hegemony and on the imposition of solutions from above as an injustice and an aggression against us. Therefore, we oppose any attempts of this kind in order to allow all the Lebanese to choose their system of rule. Accordingly, when the Lebanese choose their system of rule, the Christians naturally will have the right to participate in setting up the new system. Therefore, we have no idea on the form of rule they might choose. If they choose Islam, Islamic precepts will be the law. As for the allegations that we will impose this by force, this has never been a consideration because we do not have the legal right to do so. However, some people who imagine the possibility of manipulation and the imposition of a certain authority, similar to their attempts in 1982 through the Israeli invasion and the NATO forces, will face the same kind of resistance they met from us and the same kind of force we employed. We categorically refuse to allow the enemy to force its point of view on us.

[Question] Is there a joint command for Hizballah in Ba'labakk and for Hizballah in Beirut or are you one party independent of Beirut?

[Answer] Hizballah is comprised of believers and God Almighty gave the believers this name. Hence, Hizballah is a Koranic term and we adhere to the rightful religion. God asked the believers to be one body under the leadership of the Prophet or the legislator, as stated in the Koran: "If ye realize this not, ask those who possess the Message."

Our legal conviction dictates that all Muslims must abide by the higher authority and observe its instructions and orders. Imam Khomeyni, may God protect him, is the Muslims' higher authority. We stand united for the sake of exalting Islam. The brothers in the al-Biqa', Beirut and the south are one body and one reality. We do not have branches or separate bodies. We are all one rank and one command.

[Question] What is the difference between Hizballah and "Islamic Amal"?

[Answer] There is no difference. There is total cohesion between Hizballah and Islamic Amal in view of their total commitment to the Koranic line and to the leadership of Imam Khomeini, may God protect him.

[Question] What about your relationship with the "Islamic Unification Movement" in Tripoli?

[Answer] We respect this movement under the leadership of Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban and maintain relations with it. We are in the same position and ask God to help all Muslims unite in the service of Islam and grant power to the Islamic front to stand up to Israel, America and others.

[Question] Who is responsible for security in Ba'labakk?

[Answer] The Syrians are in charge in Ba'labakk and, naturally, we help them. Each side operates in its own domain.

[Question] What repercussions has the Iraq-Iran war had on the Lebanese situation?

[Answer] The war in Lebanon broke out before the Iraq-Iran war. The Iraq-Iran war affected the Lebanese situation in that it separated the partisans of the Islamic resistance and this land from those who collaborate with America and Israel. The war in Lebanon sorted out those who truly wish to fight Israel from those who feign this while deep down their loyalty lies with Israel and colonialism. It is clear that Saddam Husayn is backed by all those who support Israel. They want him to stand in the way of the Islamic revolution to prevent it from fighting Israel and liberating Jerusalem. This is one of the most important by-products of the Iraq-Iran war. Another by-product of this war, of course, is our endeavor to get out of the state of despair the Muslims in this region are in because of their struggles with Israel. It is no secret that we reached a state of despair as a result of the policy followed by the region's rulers and the victories scored by Israel. But now, after Islam sounded its appeal for the liberation of Palestine and Jerusalem, we believe that hope will be restored to our hearts. This is an important point in our efforts to liberate Palestine.

[Question] What is your position on the Shatawrah Conference resolutions?

[Answer] The Shatawrah Conference had some positive aspects clearly manifested in the final communique issued at the end of the conference. However, there were some matters we cannot accept and which we regard as a red line. These include:

First, the suggestion that the resistance in the south was a nationalist resistance and that the nationalists were the ones who drove out the Americans and Israelis although people know that the fighting Muslims are the ones who did that. In contrast, the leftists were displeased with the confrontation with Israel and America.

Second, this conference dealt with the issue of religion in an ambiguous and ill-mannered way. This is an Islamic land and no one has the right to impose his tutelage over it or to manipulate the people.

Third, this conference established a constituent body. This body must be chosen by the people themselves of their own volition to avoid the creation of a constitution similar to the one of 1943 which was drawn up in behalf of the people with the dire consequences we are now experiencing. Therefore, we regard any system devised by any other means and contrary to the people's will as one of tutelage and as one that is totally unacceptable. Just as we do not like to impose on anyone a formula in which we believe, we oppose any formula forced on us, even if it came from Israel, America, the Phalange, the Lebanese Forces or any other side because we cannot and will not be accomplices in the betrayal of the people.

[Question] What do you think of Walid Junblatt's position on renouncing the national flag and anthem?

[Answer] Three years ago we renounced the Lebanese flag, which was devised with the mentality of Lebanese nationalism, the mentality of founding a Maronite nation. We reject any slogan, any symbol signifying that Lebanon is Maronite or an entity unto itself or that one group is privileged over the other. Accordingly, we are against all such manifestations and against the Lebanese flag. We advocate that Lebanon be a truly interacting part of this area.

Now, the matter of Walid Junblatt and his convictions is one thing and that of whether the Lebanese flag is for all the Lebanese or not is another thing. Therefore, the Lebanese flag was devised by a colonialist mentality.

[Question] What is the alternate flag?

[Answer] The one on which all Lebanese can agree.

[Question] What do you think of the conciliation between Elie Hubayqah and President Sulayman Franjiyah?

[Answer] We understand this event purely within the framework of Maronite interests and nothing more. In short, Maronite political interests mean domination and injustice. Any endeavor for the sake of injustice and oppression is unacceptable. Accordingly, so long as the Elie Hubayqah-Franjiyah meeting moves in this direction, I regard this meeting as an attempt to strengthen the Maronite political hand in the country and a new attempt to pounce on the aspirations of the downtrodden people of this country. We oppose this reunion.

[Question] What is Hizballah's position on the Lebanese regime?

[Answer] We regard the Lebanese regime not only as that system headed by Amin al-Jumayyil but also as one organized according to the 1943 formula as well. This formula is a colonialist formula devised by France, one aimed at containing a certain group of people. It was created as a hostile colonialist

tool against the Lebanese and other peoples in the area. We regard it as a colonialist fabrication, a French colonialist one in particular. Everyone is aware of how the Lebanese regime under the Elias Sarkis cooperated and collaborated with the Israeli invasion although its duty was to defend its people. The government went even further than that, seeking the help of all countries to impose its authority and domination on the people. This is an "authority of predators," not of rulers who want to protect the country's interests. It is an authority not brought about by the 1943 system or constitution but by the mentality of orientation, association and practice. This mentality is known today as the "Phalange" and in the past it was known as the "Crusade" mentality. We believe that we are not the only ones who have suffered from this relationship with the Lebanese authority. Our predecessors have suffered as much and even more.

We cannot exist with this mentality. We reject the Phalange authority, the Phalange Party and the Phalange way of life. Therefore, we, the self-respecting inhabitants of this country, refuse to coexist with those people unless they are judged to be traitors to this land, to man, to everything. They deal with anything and everything to impose their domination. From this point of departure, we believe that the tendencies of this authority, be it at this time or in previous times, are hostile to the Lebanese people and to the region in cooperation with Israel. Therefore, we must fight these tendencies to rid Lebanon of any person who may consider cooperating with the enemy.

[Question] With regard to the situation in Ba'alabak, what kind of relations do you have with the parties in the area?

[Answer] Relations of neighborliness and cooperation in which each knows what his role is.

[Question] What about your relations with Syria?

[Answer] We have total respect for Syria and the Syrians respect our tendencies. We would like to make one important thing a matter of record. As far as we are concerned, we see the Arab regimes panting after conciliation with Israel and believe that the stumbling block in this regard is Syria. Therefore, we regard Syria's anti-Israel stance an example to be followed by the Arab countries. It is the board of salvation and redemption. We ask God to spare us the disgrace of loving Israel and help us maintain the minimum stand, which is hostility to Israel.

[Question] What do you think of the Arab summit that was held in Casablanca?

[Answer] This was an Israeli-American summit. There is no difference between those people and Begin and Sharon. They are assiduously seeking conciliation with Israel. Indeed, I am certain they are seeking to preserve Israeli hegemony and Israel's presence in the area because they are convinced that their seats of power are linked to Israel's presence. We must view those rulers the same way as we view Israeli rulers.

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

POTENTIAL JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN DELEGATION MEMBER INTERVIEWED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Aug 84 pp 23-24]

[Interview with Fayiz Abu Rahman in Amman: "Fayiz Abu Rahmah, Member of the Impossible Delegation: Israel Will Not Negotiate with Us As Palestinians Even if We Recognize It"; date not specified]

[Text] A few hours before U.S. envoy Richard Murphy arrived in the Jordanian capital from Cairo on his second visit to Amman during his recent tour in the area, Jordanian prime minister Zayd al-Rifa'i held a press conference for Arab and foreign correspondents who focused on one topic only: the American-Jordanian/Palestinian dialogue and the matter of the joint delegation, or the impossible delegation as some observers called it. This is due to the disputes surrounding its formation.

Among the questions asked during the conference was a direct and concise one by THE WASHINGTON POST correspondent, who asked: "What Palestinian names did the list you submitted to Washington contain?" The prime minister's reply was direct and concise as well, saying: "There is no need to mention names until American approval is obtained."

However, notwithstanding all the caution and official silence about who will be included in the delegation, these names have become known and the question asked no longer deals with their identity, but rather with what names will "win" Washington's approval to sit at the negotiating table.

Among the names submitted to Washington and already published in AL-DUSTUR were Fayiz Abu Rahmah, a lawyer from Gaza, and Hanna Sanyurah, editor-in-chief of AL-FAJR, published in Arab Jerusalem. They were in Amman before, during and after Murphy's recent visit to the Jordanian capital. One of them, Hanna Sanyurah, was in a room next to Murphy's room at one of Amman's luxury hotels.

AL-DUSTUR met with lawyer Fayiz Abu Rahmah and opened with him the complete file on the joint delegation and that of the dialogue with the United States. This is how it went.

[Question] Are you a member of the joint delegation?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] How were you selected for the delegation and who nominated you?

[Answer] It is difficult at present to talk about this matter in detail. I will be returning to Gaza shortly and every word I say will be weighed and considered from all angles. But the idea of participating in the dialogue was always on my mind. I firmly believe that we must explore all possible avenues to put a stop to the suffering our people are experiencing under the occupation.

[Question] Have you met with Richard Murphy?

[Answer] Yes, we met twice in Jerusalem. Each time we had a long and comprehensive conversation, talking about opportunities available to us as Palestinians as well as those available to Israel as an occupation force. Murphy used to emphasize all the time that the current American administration inherited from the previous ones the matter of non-recognition of the PLO and adherence to Resolution 242 as a basis for mutual recognition and, consequently, a comprehensive settlement.

[Question] Before we go into detail, let us say that you are not well known to the people and very few are aware of the role you play. Who are you and what, in your opinion, are the characteristics that qualify you to represent the Palestinian people in a dialogue with the United States or any other party?

[Answer] You may be right. I have been transplanted to Gaza, which is under constant siege at the hands of the occupation forces and, unfortunately, under a media blanket on the part of the Arabs. Therefore, I am not surprised by your question. I would like, however, to mention some facts which ought to be recognized. I have been head of the lawyer's union in Gaza since 1979 and a member of the Nablus al-Najaj University board of trustees. More importantly, I am a lawyer who deals with the concerns and anxieties of the Palestinian people whom I have been representing in court for 30 years. (Abu Rahmah is 55 years old.) I specialized in defending prisoners and detainees from the time of the 1967 occupation until 1983 when I had a severe heart attack during a court proceeding. Moreover, I am very active in the public field, both internally and externally, and maintain wide contacts which have taken me to conferences, meetings and political, cultural and intellectual circles in most Arab and European countries. I have met with Arab and foreign leaders and personalities, always presenting the problems of the Palestinian people and seeking to gain additional friends for the Palestinian cause. For example, I gave a presentation at the French city of Marseilles which lasted 14 consecutive hours with 1 hour for lunch. I was able to win considerable sympathy and to sign an excellent treaty with France whereby the French government assigned a full-time university professor to teach at Gaza University and agreed to admit 140 Gaza students a year to French universities.

[Question] It has been said that of all the names of the delegates submitted to Washington, the Israeli government will only approve two, namely you and Hanna Sanyurah. Is it true? And what does it mean?

[Answer] I have not yet been notified of the Israeli government's approval of my participation in the delegation. I do not think that Hanna Sanyurah has

been notified either. I think that neither Israel nor any other party has the right to interfere in our people's choice of their representatives. I have personally conveyed this opinion to Shimon Peres more than once. I told him that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that Israel had to realize that if it was concerned with reaching a solution with us.

[Question] Do you meet often with Peres and Israeli officials, and why?

[Answer] I beg forgiveness for the brothers who raise this question even though it casts doubts on my national loyalty. I excuse them because they do not know the meaning of occupation nor how to deal with it. Occupation is a reality and there is an urgent daily need to deal with it. There are living and crucial problems which have to be solved so that life may go on. All this is impossible without contact with the Israeli side. Accordingly, at times we are summoned by the Israeli military governor or someone else and at other times we initiate contacts ourselves. But in all cases, we adhere to our basic convictions and established rules that safeguard our rights and national identity.

[Question] Fine. You are a member of the joint delegation and believe in the need for a dialogue with the United States and, perhaps, Israel. You therefore believe in the possibility of all this resulting in a solution. Do you think that Palestinian public opinion shares these convictions?

[Answer] Yes, I am almost sure that 80 to 90 percent of our people are convinced of this view and support the Amman agreement and the Palestinian-Jordanian initiative.

[Question] What do you think are the general circumstances that may lead to such a conviction, especially since they are contrary to human nature which rejects injustice and occupation and tends toward armed resistance as a natural reaction to this situation?

[Answer] It is difficult for those who have not experienced occupation, Zionist occupation particularly, to realize the enormity of the Palestinian people's suffering. The people under occupation and this land are subjected to a daily war of destruction through plunder, a tight job market (there are 20,000 unemployed graduates in Gaza alone), arrest campaigns and exorbitant taxes. All this leads to displacement and relocation and, consequently, to the realization of the occupation's greatest objective. This means that time is against us and not on our side, as we used to say in the past. By accepting the idea of dialogue, we seek to put a stop to this war of destruction, particularly the vicious psychological war whose most prominent manifestation is that a new generation of our Palestinian people under occupation has come to view the Israeli soldier as a "superman" who cannot be resisted or dealt with an equal. This material and spiritual destruction must be stopped. This is what we aspire to and this is what makes us confident that we are on the right track.

[Question] Even if we were to accept such logic, the facts indicate that Israel does not accept it in any way because it is contrary to its objective nature as an hostile expansionist military entity.

[Answer] If we can find the appropriate language to converse with the world, Israel will not be able to ignore the logic of peace or to turn its back on the entire universe. Israel is very adept at portraying us, the Arabs, as terrorists who are thirsty for blood. We must find a way to erase this image from the mind of the world because the perpetuation of the notion of war and destruction is the only guarantee for Israel's survival. As for the notion of peace, it is the greatest source of danger to it. It knows that as does the United States.

[Question] Don't you think that you are overly optimistic or that you oversimplify the matter of war and peace?

[Answer] I am optimistic despite everything and I am aware that Israel does not want peace and that it is placing impossible obstacles in its way. Indeed, I am aware that it will not negotiate with us as Palestinians even if we were to recognize it. I do believe, however, that nothing is impossible and that we must not despair so that our voice may be heard all over the world, our demands may be achieved and we may determine our destiny ourselves and return to our land. This is an obvious historic necessity.

[Question] Let us go back to the American dialogue with the joint delegation. Why did you come to Amman at this particular time? Were you expecting negotiations to get underway?

[Answer] Not at all. I did not come to Amman to negotiate. I have commitments and circumstances, which have nothing to do with negotiations or politics, that required my presence. Moreover, the occupation authorities for 14 months refused to give me a permit to come to Amman even when my name was announced as a candidate for the joint delegation, whereupon I applied for a permit five times before I was allowed to come to Amman.

[Question] Do you know when negotiations are supposed to begin?

[Answer] No, I do not know nor do I know whether the United States has approved the joint delegation.

[Question] Should negotiations finally get underway, what will you say and what, in your opinion, are the red lines which must not be crossed?

[Answer] There are two lines which must not be crossed. The first one is the right to self-determination which we translate into an independent Palestinian state. The second is the right of our displaced people to return to their land. The important thing is to take the first step whereupon other things will be considered.

12502/12859
CSO: 4404/464

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

NEW ISSUE OF JERUSALEM MAGAZINE--A new issue of AL-QUDS AL-SHARIF magazine, published by the Jerusalem secretariat, has come out. This issue includes several important topics and studies. Engr Ra'if Najm wrote about the Islamic architectural heritage in Jerusalem and Dr Salim al-Kiswani wrote Part 3 of the study on Jerusalem's legal status, analyzing whether war is considered a way of taking over the region. The issue also included the recommendations of the Conference for the Preservation of the Islamic Heritage held in Istanbul last April. Jamil Barakat wrote about the Israeli aggression against Hebron. There were other topics dealing with Jerusalem's history and heritage. [Text] [Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Jul 85 p 3]

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QATAR

BRIEFS

INVITATION FOR OIL EXPLORATION--The Petroleum Affairs Department of the Ministry of Finance in Qatar has decided to invite the international petroleum corporations that are operating in the field of oil exploration and production who want to obtain joint production agreements to examine available geologic and seismic reports concerning the three open regions. 'Abdallah Husayn Salat, the director of the Petroleum Affairs Department, said that inviting these international corporations comes within the framework of the Qatar's policy to develop petroleum resources and encourage research and exploration activities with the objective of achieving new petroleum discoveries. He explained in a statement to the Qatari magazine DIYARUNA that these three regions are as follows: The first is a dry, onshore area that comprises the whole of the Qatari peninsula except the area surrounded by the Dukhan field. The second region is offshore and is located north of the region of the offshore producing fields and Jalul Island and stretches to the borders of the geographical region for the northern gas field. The third region is also offshore and includes a geographical strata which is higher than those of the northern gas field. /Text/ /Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 15 Aug 85 p 3/

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CSO: 4404-33

AFGHANISTAN

KARMAL'S SPEECH CELEBRATES LITERACY MOVEMENT

Kabul ANIS in Dari 9 Sep 85 pp 1-2

[Text] My honorable and noble compatriots!
On the occasion of 17th of Sonbolah [8 September], International Literacy Day, I express my best and warmest congratulations to sisters, brothers, teachers, professors all over the country in cities, villages, offices, factories, in the Armed Forces and among the tribes and heroic people who are busy with the noble, patriotic and Islamic cause of literacy and enlightening the mind of the general public with heroism and self-sacrifice, and to all of you brothers and sisters who are applying yourselves to learn how to read and write.

The generalization of literacy and the complete elimination of illiteracy is one of the pressing needs of our society and one of the main goals of the Sawr revolution, since the final victory of the revolution without proper realization of the cultural revolution is not possible and generalization of literacy comprises the basic foundation of a cultural revolution.

The oppressive and tyrannical regimes of the past, according to their true character of class differentiation, did not pay the slightest attention to the matter of literacy, on the contrary in order to insure their own domination and control for the continuation of their rule they would do their best to keep the people at the lowest possible level of knowledge and awareness. However, after the advent of the victory of revolution, the true power has been transferred to the toiling class of people and thus they've become the master of their own destiny, but it should be noted that only an aware and cognizant people can truly be the master of their own destiny and continue to run all the affairs of the society whether be it political, social, economic or cultural.

To guarantee the completion of this process the undisputable and final victory of the revolution is a must and it is for this reason that the exported counter-revolution, imperialism and reaction--with the United States at its head--continues to direct its savage and anti-Islamic assault at the teachers and instructors of schools and other cultural and educational organs. These harbingers of ignorance, backwardness and adversity can only continue their sinister life when and where they can deceive and bamboozle the toiling people while taking advantage of their low level of political awareness and knowledge and lead them to a direction which is not contrary to their own best interests.

The very act of the United States in pulling out of UNESCO or the organization for the science, culture and training of the United Nations is in itself the best evidence that imperialism hates and is hostile to science. Right now, there is 10 percent illiteracy in the United States, this cradle of civilization of capitalism.

Nonetheless, the process of current events in revolutionary Afghanistan manifestly indicates that the vain and vile activities of the counterrevolutionaries, which have the complete support of imperialism, reaction and Chinese hegemonism from the political, financial and military viewpoint, have been foiled and that they've completely lost their social base. Only with the support of their foreign bosses can they carry on their sinister life. The historic assembly of frontiers tribes of Afghanistan, the beginning of elections for local organs and state power and the readiness for the convocation of a grand tribal assembly shows that our people are now practically in command of their own destiny.

At present, despite the difficult situation as a result of the undeclared war of imperialism and reaction, our people have achieved great successes in the area of literacy, training and education, and other cultural spheres.

Right now, 20,000 literacy courses are being actively held throughout the country and 400,000 individuals are enrolled in these courses in order to learn how to read and write. During the years after the advent of the revolution over 1.15 million persons have become literate and the literacy movement has been transformed into a nation-wide movement.

The creation of centers for the completion of training and instruction or the establishment of adult education classes are vital, important and worthy measures which should be ever more expanded.

Today, all the members of the PDPA and members of other organs of the government of the DRA, National Fatherland Front, Guild Unions members, the democratic organizations of young men and women of Afghanistan, other social organizations and the political departments of the Armed Forces are all actively participating in the fight against illiteracy.

Notwithstanding, along with the growth of revolutionary projects in the country and availability of more favorable conditions, the literacy movement should be ever more buttressed and expanded. The motto of each literate individual ought to practically carry into action by teaching three to five individuals how to read and write. The literate individuals and those who are being taught to become literate ought to become familiar with the reality of life and know their enemies and friends very well and take steps toward realizing the ideals of the revolution. In addition, the process of work and education with the new graduates of the literacy courses should be organized in such a manner so that they will be encouraged to continue their search for knowledge after graduation.

From now on all the military conscripts who finish their military service ought

to do so with a certificate indicating completion of their literacy courses. Officials ought to pay particular attention to the matter of literacy of the frontiers' tribes.

All the literate, perceptive and patriotic individuals and members of social organizations, teachers, professors, intellectuals, clerics and the tribal leaders ought to be attracted to the cause of promulgation of literacy.

In conclusion, while I praise the useful and effective measures which have been carried out in this area, I congratulate those individuals who played their worthy role in this great cause and particularly the employees and teachers of the Literacy Department and I wish them further success on the way of expanding the literacy movement.

May the general literacy movement in the country be successful!

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CSO: 4665/8

AFGHANISTAN

KARMAL TALKS TO COOPERATIVES REPRESENTATIVES

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 10 Sep 85 pp 1-2

[Text] On the evening of September 8, Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council received thirteen representatives from agricultural cooperatives of Zekrollah Shahid from Jowzjan, Zardkamar from Qonduz, Shabdiani from Nangarhar and Ghaleh Ahmad Khan from Kabul provinces. The attending farmers expressed their warm sentiments and undiminished happiness by applause and donations of wheat ears as a symbol of their guarantee of hardwork in order to produce more agricultural products.

During this meeting, in an atmosphere filled with sincerity, Babrak Karmal while addressing the farmers stated: I am very happy today to be able to meet with you, the representatives of our country's honorable farmers and pioneering agricultural cooperatives. Through your cooperatives you have demonstrated a good way of fine work in fulfilling your own interest, the interest of other members of the cooperative and those of the economy of the country. Your actions have been exemplary in enhancing the effective utilization of the land, water, machinery and government assistance in better organizing the work and agricultural activities of the cooperatives. Similarly, your active endeavors in advancing our revolutionary projects such as the implementation of land and water reform, the elimination of illiteracy, the construction of schools and mosques, the creation of security headquarters and so forth are very praiseworthy.

Babrak Karmal added: The people's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the people's government have always announced that they intend to be a sincere servant of the people of Afghanistan, particularly the respectable farmers. To this end, they strive to fulfill the farmers' historic ideals, their happiness and prosperity. Likewise, the main objective of land and water reform is also the happiness and prosperity of the farmers. As a result of the implementation of land and water reform, not only do the farmers with no land or little land become owners of free land, but as a result of eliminating feudalism, the middle-class farmers will be relieved of centuries' old pressure and the injustice of the cruel and inhuman treatment of the landowners. Very assuredly I would like to point out that land and water reform is going to be beneficial to all farmers since the elimination of inhumane feudalistic relationships and the progress and development of the society as a whole will benefit each and every farmer.

Babrak Karmal went on to say: One important issue in our land program is the implementation of land and water reform through the participation of the farmers

themselves. Even though other operational groups such as worthy sons of the people and devoted officials are selected to carry out the reform in accordance with the policy of the party, yet we would like to see that farmers are directly involved in the implementation of water and land reform. Since the farmers can better understand their own needs and with proper consideration of the common law and tradition, existing circumstances and the holy decrees of the Islamic religion, they can assure a fair and just utilization of land and water and distribution of relevant revenues. The method of participation of the farmers in the reform projects as determined by the laws and decrees of the government is achieved by the establishment of the Village Farmers' Councils which come about by direct vote and participation of the farmers.

Babrak Karmal added: Another vehicle for farmers' participation in the land and water reform project and execution of other progressive transformations in the villages are the cooperatives. These cooperatives are democratic organs which are created by the voluntary unification of the farmers and other toiling individuals and they become effective tools through the participation of all members who are guided by their elected leaders. No one can impose his ideas on the cooperatives, the government only assists in guiding them and supports their beneficial and progressive experiences.

Babrak Karmal also stated: Government support of cooperatives comprise our principal policy and we will continue to follow this policy in the future, and even with the improvement of government possibilities and an increase in the brotherly assistance of the Soviet Union this aid and assistance will grow. If we continue to give certain priority to some cooperatives it is only because well-organized and established farmers can make better use of this aid toward their own improvement and betterment or development of the country's economy.

Babrak Karmal continued: We are well aware of the farmers problems as far as water shortage in farming is concerned. These problems will be solved in the future principally by constructing large dams over some of the turbulent rivers of the country. At the present time, despite all the mischief-making of the exported counterrevolutionaries, the government continues to do all it can in order to ensure an undisturbed flow of water in all the irrigation systems of the country; however, in order to make maximum use of the existing irrigation system and to ensure a just and reasonable distribution of water in agriculture, we continue to rely on the farmers love and spirit for justice. It is the farmers who should through Farmers' Committees--which is another democratic organ in our villages--and is created through free elections and direct participation of all the water users and enjoys extensive legal authority, should make wise and legally justified use of water and farming practices and additionally, they should play an active role in the cleaning and dredging of the canals and irrigation systems as a whole.

Babrak Karmal also alluded to the undeclared war by the imperialist and reactionaries against our country and revolution and stated: The undeclared war of the imperialist and reactionaries against our country continues. Counterrevolutionary elements are being armed in Pakistan and dispatched to Afghanistan in order to

play havoc and slaughter human beings--but one thing should be said and that is that imperialism and reaction cannot ever penetrate the will of the freedom-loving people of Afghanistan. Revolutionary Afghanistan and its people of whom you, the farmers are an exemplary representative, will continue to fight for our revolution and its accomplishments courageously. Our struggle is just and our people will be victorious.

In another part of his speech Babrak Karmal stated: For the first time you will witness the election of true representatives of the people throughout the country and notice the people's revolutionary excitement in the matter of elections through their participation and decisive cooperation with the party and the government.

Here it should be noted that during recent days a grand assembly composed of the various tribes will be convened in Kabul. This assembly demonstrates a decisive manifestation of the tribes and people of the country for their support of the Sawr revolution and its higher humane objectives.

In conclusion, Babrak Karmal stated: Once more I would like to say that the PDPA and the people's government are your servants, however the realization of our objectives cannot be achieved without your direct participation. Thus let's create our happy and prosperous home in the holy land of our courageous fathers through joint cooperation.

At the beginning of this meeting Abdollah Bahar introduced the official in charge of the agriculture branch and cooperatives of the PDPA Central Committee to Babrak Karmal and said: Today is an unforgettable day for all the farmers of the country. Despite all your engagements, you dear comrade have taken the time to warmly receive the pioneer farmers who are active in the matter of production and the defense of the revolution--the representative of the revolutionary farmers of our country.

Thereafter, the representatives of farmers' cooperatives of Mesrabad of Jowzjan, Zardkamar of Qonduz, Shabdiani of Nangarhar and Qaleh Ahmad Khan of Kabul provinces talked respectively about the activities of their relevant cooperatives and all promised to take active participation in implementing the land and water reform policies of the party and government headed by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

At the end of this meeting, Babrak Karmal installed a "medal of sacrifice" on the lapel of all the participant farmers and congratulated them on the great occasion. Also, at this meeting, Abdul Ghafar Lakanwal, minister of agriculture and land reform and Ahmad Shah Sorkhabi, minister of irrigation were present.

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CSO: 4665/7

AFGHANISTAN

REFORMS SAID SUCCESSFUL DUE TO GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 4 Sep 85 p 2

[Text] In the extensive session of the Central Committee Commission of the PDPA and the Council of Ministers of the DRA which was recently held in order to continue the implementation of land and water reform, the growth of the democratic land and water reform and the concrete and tangible progress which has been made during the past year and the first quarter of the current year was successfully evaluated. The figures demonstrate the success of the reform very clearly. For instance, the land reform operational groups, which consisted of 45 groups in 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984], increased to 69 groups in 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] and their activities cover every area of the country. In 1363 more than 300,000 acres of land were properly distributed and all relevant disputes were resolved for 37,000 families which represent an increase of 4.5 percent over the year 1362. Similarly, in 1363 more than 55,000 land deeds were distributed among farmers while in 1362 only 11,000 land deeds were distributed. In joint cooperation with the village Farmers' Councils, the land reform operational groups succeeded in distributing 48,000 acres of land gratis among 10,110 farmers' families with little or no land at all. In 1362 merely 310 such families became land owners. In a like fashion, the total area of land distributed during last year was eight times more than the previous year. The democratic land and water reform projects during the current year had more success and progress. For instance, in the first two months of the current year twice as many land deeds were distributed compared to the same period of a year before, and in the same period 1,561 farmers' families received free land while this figure for the previous year stood at only 41 families. Similarly, during the first quarter of the current year the number of operational groups have increased to 72 and furthermore, the number of the village Farmers' Councils which were about 423 until a year ago, have increased to 637 by now and the work on settlement of land disputes have doubled.

The figures thus presented clearly demonstrate that under the auspices of the PDPA and the revolutionary government of the DRA and as a result of pertinent decisions made in this regard, the work of implementing democratic land and water reform has been carried out with certain substantial victories. This victory which is one of the achievements of the revolution in the area of land reform should not be taken lightly. As has been pointed out by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council of the DRA, stated: "Certainly, we should not take lightly our accomplishments in the area of land reform which are but an undeniable result of the

every-changing mood and support of the revolutionary transformations..." Above all the implementation of democratic land and water reform is considered one of the most important facets of our national and democratic revolution in our society. And it is for this reason that we can truly consider the victory of the land and water reform as a true victory for the revolution and a means for strengthening its foundation and consider that victory a manifestation of the highest objectives of the revolution. There is no denying the fact that every single step which is taken towards democratic land and water reform reflects the very ideals of our toiling masses which are but the ideals of our party and revolutionary government--and this again is a victory for the revolution and its lofty objectives and humanitarian ideals.

On the other hand, considering the conditions and the circumstances under which we are implementing the democratic land and water reform--while the cruel and savage undeclared war of imperialism and reaction ever more intensifies its action against our people and revolution--then we will ever more understand the significance of the great and historic achievement and victory which can at the same time be a decisive blow to our enemies and counterrevolutionaries.

12719

CSO: 4665/7

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET ASSISTANCE SAID REASON FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 8 Sep 85 p 3

[Text] The fifth session of the permanent commission of USSR-Afghan on economic cooperation was held in Moscow. Sarwar Mangal, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Afghan branch of the said commission had an interview with Vladimir Gunirollov, correspondent of the NOVOSTI Press Agency which appears below.

Question: What can you tell us about the results of the fifth session?

Answer: The fifth session of the permanent commission on economic cooperation between USSR and Afghanistan was the continuation of joint cooperation between our two countries which first began in December 1978. The main result of our work was the emphasis on mutual cooperation for the expansion and development of economic relations between the two nations. So far the results of technical and economic cooperations between USSR and Afghanistan bear successful evidence of this cooperation. However, in the protocol which was concluded in this session particular decisions were made concerning the development and reactivation of the industrial institutions which are under construction and also joint cooperation for further projects was similarly foreseen. The Soviet Union expressed its readiness to help the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in the future in realizing the major economic transformations which were begun by the Sawr revolution of 1357 [April 1978].

Question: How do you evaluate the cooperation between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan?

Answer: Economic relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union enjoys a rich history. This cooperation began after the complete independence of Afghanistan was restored. As of that date the Soviet Union has always been protective of our mutual friendship and in order to achieve this end, it has reorganized its cooperation with our country in such a manner as to be able to answer the needs and interests of the Afghan people and ever strengthen the sovereignty of our nation.

The people of Afghanistan call all the projects or buildings which have been carried out through the assistance of the Soviet Union "friendly projects." Over 70 percent of all the products of the government sector fall under the said projects. The Soviet Union provides for our domestic needs in the form of chemical

fertilizers, natural gas and the construction of residential units. Power generation factories, which have been built through aid and assistance from the Soviet Union, comprise over 55 percent of energy resources of Afghanistan. The irrigation complex of Jalalabad is an example of the Soviet Union's assistance in modernizing our agriculture. The aforementioned complex transformed the previous barren and rock-laden area in the province of Nangarhar into a blooming oasis. In the land region within the above-stated complex are two government mechanized farms which are engaged in the process of improving quality of citrus fruits and olive.

Question: What has Afghanistan gained as a result of cooperation with the Soviet Union after the advent of the Sawr revolution of 1978?

Answer: To a large degree, the success which has been achieved by our people in Afghanistan in the new way of life--which ensued from the national and democratic Sawr revolution--should be attributed to the assistance of the Soviet Union. Imperialist forces, with the United States at their head, not only have continued an undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan but they've consistently tried to stifle our efforts in the economic arena. The United States in 1979 discontinued all its assistance to Afghanistan including projects which were in the middle of completion. Similarly, some other capitalist nations, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund, as a result of pressure from Washington, desisted from granting assistance to Afghanistan. Likewise, the European Economic Community desisted from exporting foodstuffs to the young revolutionary state of Afghanistan. Under such circumstances, the assistance of the Soviet Union became a major factor in the economic growth of Afghanistan.

Among such gratis assistance we can mention wheat, cotton, and beet-seeds, phosphate and other mineral fertilizers from the Soviet Union to the DRA for the purpose of agricultural development and helping the farmers and agricultural co-operatives as major and significant aids. Some of the economic projects which have been started by the Soviet Union have already become operational. Moreover, the discovery of oil in Pole-charkhi, olive-canning factory in Jalalabad, baking plants in Mazar-e Sharif [Kabul area], construction of flour mills in Pole-khamri and Mazar-e Sharif, construction of three motor transport stations for service and repair of trucks and creation of technical service institution for oil tanker-trucks in Kabul are some of the other assistance from the Soviet Union. The fourth energy block [station] of the thermal energy factory which is part of the fertilizer complex in Mazar-e Sharif has already become operational. Furthermore, in the provinces of Balkh, Jowzjan, Herat, Baghlan and Kabul five tractor service stations have become operational.

The transmission of electrical energy from the Soviet Union to the town of Mazar-e Sharif in Afghanistan has already become a reality. Soviet instructors and technicians are active in various fields of instruction in helping our national cadres. About 100 Soviet medical personnel are working in the various hospitals and polyclinics of Afghanistan.

AFGHANISTAN

WORKERS HEALTH SAID RECEIVING GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 11 Sep 85 p 2

[Text] Not only does the government of the DRA have the great task of improving and enhancing the living conditions of the toiling people, but it also provides the opportunity for the workers and other toiling individuals to enjoy and benefit from the freedom and rights afforded by a democratic society. In this regard providing health and social security for all the toiling people is considered to be one of the rights reflected in the principal charter of the DRA and the 4th section of article 29 of the above-stated charter which reads: For the purpose of developing networks of governmental health institutions and where feasible the expansion of free medical care and social security services for the toiling people who have become immobilized or those people who cannot do productive work as a result of old age or where the bread-winner of a family is deceased, it is the government's duty to make proper decisions in order to combat these problems.

In contemplation of the abovementioned section of the charter and taking into consideration the fact that healthy workers can play a more effective and productive role in the growth of the economic products, the matter of health and hygiene of the workers has received the all-out attention of the Central Council of the Guild's Unions. Right now, in more than 60 of the economic institutions, equipped health clinics are active in attending to the workers health problems and the majority of these clinics are active on a 24-hour basis. However, the clinics of the workers and economic institutions normally attend to workers' accidental or minor emergency cases such as receiving a minor concussion during work and similar accidents. If the workers of such institutions are found to have serious illnesses they will be dispatched to the hospitals through Guild's Unions. Furthermore, until now a large number of the workers who are members of the Guild Unions have been introduced to the Central Clinic for workers and employees of such institutions in order to undergo the necessary treatments. In order to insure the safety and health of the toiling workers, the Guild Unions do not even desist from granting financial aids to workers where it is deemed necessary.

By the same token, through the initiative of the Guild Unions, for the purpose of securing workers' proper rest and repose, a number of workers are sent to Jalalabad resort area annually and likewise some of them are sent to other friendly countries for rest and recuperation. To this end, until now 196 workers have

been sent to Jalalabad resort facilities and 115 other workers have been dispatched to some friendly countries for specified periods of time in order to make it possible for them to rest and recuperate. Moreover, in order to provide an environment of fewer hazards for the workers in the majority of the factories there are certain proper courses which are being offered to the employees together with films and slide-shows.

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CSO: 4665/6

AFGHANISTAN

EFFORTS TO IMPROVE INSTRUCTION METHODS UNDERWAY

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 7 Sep 85 p 4

[Text] The party and the government of the DRA have always endeavored in all areas, particularly the area of teaching and training to introduce new methods and solutions for improving the process.

For the purpose of training school teachers, the department in charge of the kindergartens has recently started a short, 6-month course for the instruction cadres and so far 120 instructors have enrolled in this course.

As regards the above-stated subject a responsible source from the Department of Kindergartens stated: The instructors who are receiving training through this course are high-school graduates who are being taught by experienced teachers twice a day. Further, it is intended that proper provisions be made for all the instructors of the kindergartens of the capital and other provinces who have not had professional training to deal with kindergarten-age children to benefit from the advantages of such a course in order to make it possible for them to prepare the pre-school children for school according to the new all-out systematic method of teaching.

It ought to be noted here that altogether there are nine major subjects which specifically deal with the training of pre-schoolers both theoretically and practically.

The basic subjects covered by this course of study include psychology, pedagogy, politics, primary mathematics, Dari literature, strengthening of mother-tongue and recognition of the immediate environment, natural science and health instructions. Alongside the above-stated subjects other secondary subjects such as music, painting, stage acting and physical training are also taught.

The subject of pedagogy provides enough knowledge for the instructors who are enrolled in the short-term course regarding the proper instruction of pre-school children. Since without a primary knowledge of the pedagogy, an understanding and apprehension of the methodic subjects would not be possible. The instructors who are enrolled in these courses become familiar with the basic information and pedagogical phraseology and will become conversant with the needs of the pre-schoolers. These instructors are taught to handle everyday pedagogical problems in order to be able to prepare the kindergarten children for school. Similarly, they learn about the psychology of the pre-schoolers and their proper development in a revolutionary spirit.

Additionally, these instructors become familiar with some of the aspects of working with pre-school children in the area of evolutionary and instructive psychology. Besides, they learn the basics of teaching methods which will eventually prepare them to deal with their important role in the development and evolution of the individual's personality, since it is important to recognize the psychology of a child before school years begin and try to induce proper development pedagogically.

Also, in this short-term course the instructors learn how to engage children in visual and cognitive activities as envisioned by the teaching and training program and likewise, they are taught to help children through the science of psychology to improve and develop their personality in a much beneficial way.

Support of health and proper assistance to children, strengthening and engaging them in work and activity and their development is but a social cause which ought to be recognized by all who are responsible for the training and teaching the younger generation.

12719

CSO: 4665/8

INDIA

SOUTH ASIA: POTENTIAL FOR INSTABILITY ANALYZED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Oct 85 p 3

[Article by Sajid Rizvi]

[Text]

Is South Asia headed for an explosion? Trouble brewing in various parts of the subcontinent, from the Punjab to Sri Lanka and Sind to Nepal, could spark a wider conflict drawing in the superpowers. Certainly, elements of a crisis can be found in any of the several different problems faced by the subcontinent, according to a new study published by the London-based Institute for the Study of Conflict.

South Asia—India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan—has lived in fear of an apocalypse of its own making since Britain withdrew in 1947.

It survived a Sino-Indian border clash in 1962, an India-Pakistan war over Kashmir in 1965, and another that culminated in East Pakistan becoming Bangladesh in 1971.

It has seen the Soviet subjugation of Afghanistan from 1978-79 onward, and lives in precarious proximity to the longest war in the region's recent history, that between Iran and Iraq since 1980.

But is something about to give? India has been marked by unprecedented violence over the last year; tiny Sri Lanka is beset by the Tamil-Sinhalese carnage; Bangladesh has seen military-civilian tussles; and Pakistan faces pressures from sectarian strife, Soviet arm-twisting and Afghan air raids on the border.

Even Nepal's King Birendra was,

shaken by anti-monarchy opposition challenging the traditional power base in the strategic Himalayan state.

GREATEST THREAT

According to Dr. Partha S. Ghosh, author of the London study, regional, ethnic and religious conflicts pose the greatest threat ever to peace in South Asia, and could seriously destabilise the subcontinent.

Ghosh, a member of the Indian Council of Social Research in New Delhi and currently a Humboldt Fellow at the South-East Asia Institute of Heidelberg University, West Germany, believes the crisis stems from the dilemma posed by India, largest state in the region.

India, he said, is neither unanimously accepted as the regional superpower, nor is it willing to allow bilateral solutions among others.

The result is a diffusion of power that defeats any reasonable solution.

Nor is an early resolution in sight. In the study, "Ethnic and Religious Conflicts in South Asia," Ghosh said India is unlikely to be accorded regional leadership by all concerned, nor will it sacrifice its vantage position.

That can only mean regional tension will be exacerbated, exploited by outside powers, with pressures on security enhanced.

In an introduction to the study, the Institute said the dangers in an inflammable situation might at any time become unmanageable, especially as a result

of self-interested dabbling by foreign elements who do not share the historic inhibitions and restraints which have mostly prevailed since independence."

With nearly one million men under arms, India has the third largest army in the world, after China (three million) and the Soviet Union (1.8 million), and ahead of the United States. But the numbers are more a source of regional friction than stability.

"The spectre of India's nuclear potential... has not helped especially in the light of Pakistan's own nuclear research," wrote Professor William Gutteridge in the introduction.

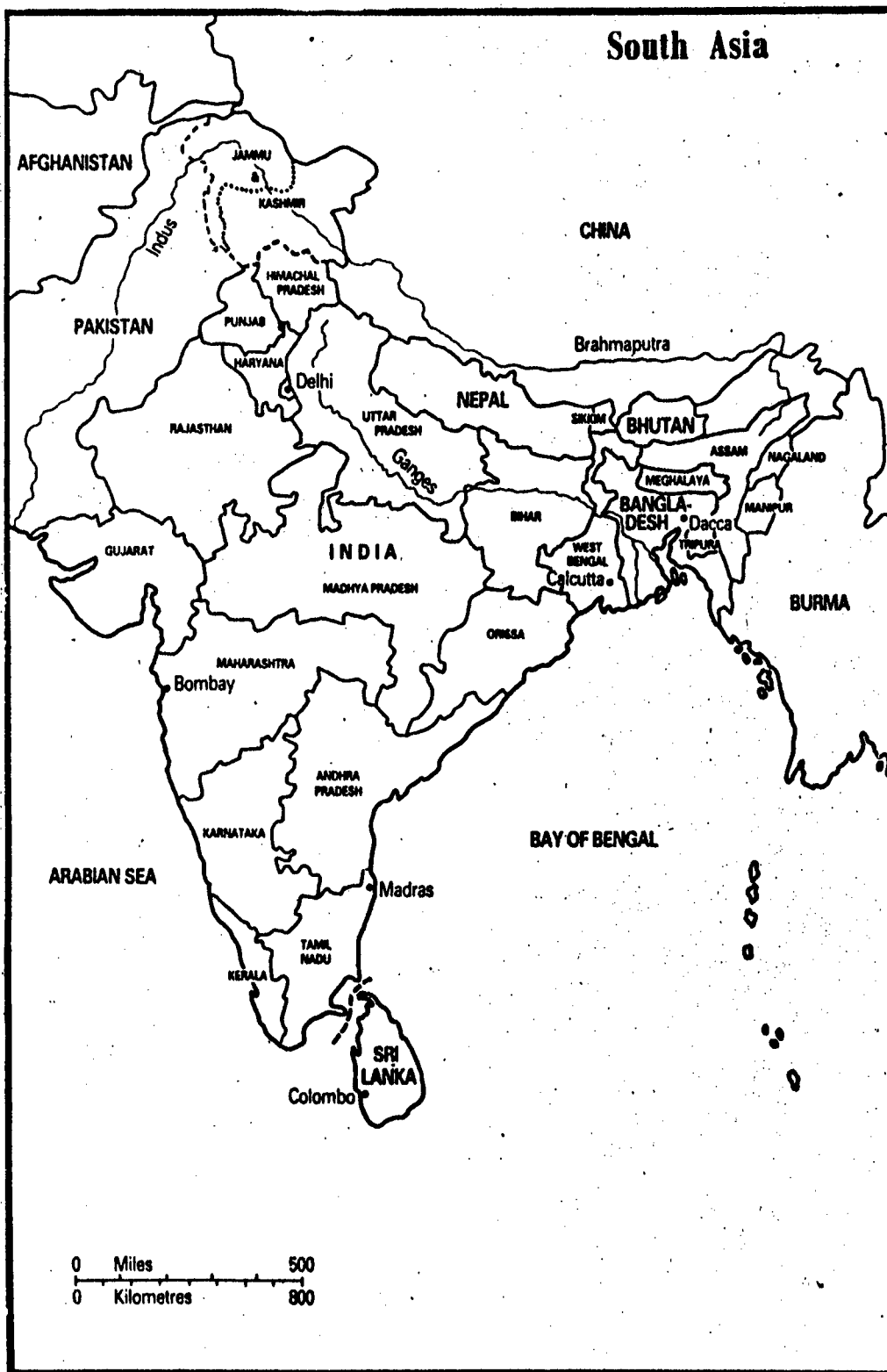
MILITARY RIVALRIES

But while military rivalries are an obvious source of tension, deeper undercurrents of discord and potential conflicts originate in religious and ethnic problems.

Ghosh said the Islamic revival was the better trumpeted phenomenon, but Hindu resurgence as no less significant. "Hindu fanaticism (has) prevented India from becoming a fully secular society," he said.

"The growing nexus between religion and politics in India" had soured India's relations not only with Pakistan but also with Muslim Bangladesh.

"There is a sneaking apprehension that the Hindu population of Bangladesh might, at some point, feel threatened by the Islamisation drive of the present military regime.



INTERNAL POLITICS

"A sudden deterioration in the delicate communal balance in Bangladesh would drive hundreds of thousands of Bengali Hindus to the adjoining Indian states. . . causing enormous tensions there."

Already continued Bangladeshi migration to India in search of jobs 'carries the potential to destabilise Indo-Bangladeshi relations,' Ghosh said.

India's ties with its southern neighbour, Sri Lanka, show no sign of improving, and there are further risks inherent in New Delhi's hands being tied by the influential position of its own Tamil community.

Not only are India's 55 million Tamils—against Sri Lanka's 2.6 million—entrenched in the administration, media and intellectual and academic establishments, they are also drifting away from Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party.

Internal politics could determine India's attitude towards the civil war in Sri Lanka. At least one Tamil rebel already has urged India to send troops to the island as guarantors of Tamils' security.

In Nepal the emergence of Indians as a key community is a potential source of friction.

Although the exact ratio of immigrants vis-a-viz the local population is unknown, a recent official Nepalese commission reported 72 per cent of immigrants in the Kathmandu valley were Indian and elsewhere in Nepal they were 98 per cent.

The official report indirectly accused the Indians of illegal practices and tax evasion, and warned that an "unrestricted flow of immigrants can have political implications affecting international relations."

Ghosh said, "The enormity of South Asia's cross-national ethnic and religious problem makes one pessimistic about current efforts toward building a regional consciousness."

"Since the rise of ethnic-religious disaffection primarily relates to nation-building, and since the process of nation-building in South Asia is itself plagued with inherent contradictions, the centrifugal forces often assume the shape of ethnic and religious protests," he said.

The source of the problem was not merely economic, as widely believed, he said.

"The belief that ethnonationalistic demands recede as economic well-being is achieved by the concerned groups has often been proved wrong," said Ghosh. Witness the Sikh resurgence despite broad-based Sikh prosperity.

BASIC RELATIVES

The ethnic-religious issues inevitably were reflected in superpower reactions towards the subcontinent. Ghosh listed five "basic realities:"

- * India, as the most powerful nation in the region, aspires to be accepted as regional housekeeper.
- * The Soviet Union is willing to concede India such status, but not the United States.
- * China, which aspires to a similar role, also refuses to give India that position.
- * Pakistan does not accept such India preponderance at all, nor do other countries suspicious of India's size and power.
- * Smaller nations thus find support and sympathy in the United States and China.

"These complexities, coupled with ever-growing turmoil in the superpower relationship, have made the ethnic-religious problems of the region extremely difficult," said Ghosh.

"The present strategic division (in South Asia) means that nothing very positive can really be expected."

The only hope, said Ghosh, lies in individual governments exercising the utmost restraint and making the best of their regional relationship.—KT-Compass Service

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CSO: 4600/66

IRAN

ENVOY IN ANKARA: ALL MEANS TO BE USED TO TOPPLE SADDAM

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 22 Sep 85 p 2

[Text] Ankara—The Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Ankara gave a press conference yesterday (Saturday) attended by a large group of correspondents. He announced: While we will endeavor to maintain amicable relations with friendly countries, we will use every legal means to topple the Iraqi regime.

Speaking at the beginning of War Week on the sixth anniversary of the imposed war, he discussed the Baghdad regime's bloodshed in its attack on Iran and its initiation of the aggression with the aim of overthrowing the government of the Islamic republic, which has been affirmed by Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan. He said: After enduring repeated defeats and being driven from the soil of the Islamic republic, the aggressor Iraqi regime, unable to achieve the goals defined for it by world imperialism, is now calling for peace. He stressed: How can we trust a regime that unilaterally abrogated the 1975 Algiers Treaty, and, in violation of international law, attacks residential areas, transport aircraft, and shipping lanes? What are the guarantees that a peace treaty would be honored? How can it be known that this treaty would not suffer the same fate that befell the treaties that preceded it?

Noting the Islamic Republic of Iran's righteous conditions for ending the the imposed war, the Ambassador from the Islamic Republic of Iran stressed: Saddam is a war criminal. He and his regime must be punished. This is an Islamic, humanitarian, and logical demand, and an honorable peace is only attainable in this way.

Continuing the press conference, the Ambassador from the Islamic Republic of Iran stressed Iran's friendly relationship with Turkey, especially in economic affairs. He stressed that while the Islamic Republic of Iran will endeavor to maintain amicable relations with friendly countries, it will use every legal means to topple the Iraqi regime. A correspondent asked him, in the course of Iran's employment of these legal means, will any harm come to Turkey? He answered: We will do everything we can to prevent any harm from coming to our relationship with Turkey.

A correspondent asked the Ambassador from the Islamic Republic of Iran to assess Turkey's position concerning the Iran-Iraq war. He answered:

We want the whole world to know the aggressor and to act on Iran's righteous conditions. Turkey has a policy of neutrality, and we respect it and keep it in mind at all times in the interest of both sides. Despite all this however, and even though Iraq makes extensive use of Turkish resources,

it does not use the necessary sensitivity concerning Turkey's policy. For example, it attacks ships flying the Turkish flag. In the last few days it has repeatedly bombed Turkish border areas, and this will produce a public and official Turkish reaction.

With regard to the likelihood of achieving Iran's conditions through political means, he said: You have seen that in recent days world public opinion and international organizations have been taking a realistic view of the war. The Iraqi regime has lost its leverage in such circles. Countries that formerly supported the Iraqi regime militarily and economically have changed their positions after the crimes the Iraqi regime has committed. The Iraqi regime has been unable to put down the dissidents in that country. On the one hand, Iraq's military position is getting worse every day. It now owes 33 billion dollars and has the highest debt of all Arab countries, and this is weakening the Iraqi regime. We will try to resolve the issue through political means, but if we do not succeed in this way, we will naturally achieve results through military means.

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CSO: 4640/16

IRAN

IRP ORGAN CLAIMS 'WAR IS DIRECTED BY PEOPLE'

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Sep 85 pp 1,12

[Text] In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate—In the five years of the imposed war, the role of the people in directing this war has been discussed regularly, and the various dimensions of this fateful participation have been studied. Now, concurrent with War Week and the anniversary of the criminal Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq's invasion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is necessary as a general summary that we discuss the valuable experiences that have accrued from the the great nation of Iran's sacrifices, devotion, bravery, and extensive effort, and to recall some points in this area.

"The people direct the war." This is a sentence that is constantly heard from the people and the officials, and it is true enough. However, little is said about who "the people" are. If we want the valuable participation gained from the people's participation in this war to be preserved for future generations, to light our way constantly and to be useful for others as well, the reality must be recorded in history that the true directors of this war are those people who are oppressed in the true sense of the word. This unspoken secret of the history of the imposed war and the Islamic revolution must be clearly repeated for history. The point must be made everywhere and constantly that the war has not been and is not being directed by capitalists. The war is not being advanced by those whose lives are comfortable. The war is not being directed by people who live lives of ease and find new ways every day to amass wealth. The war is not being directed by people who hoard and sell at high prices and keep wealth in their own circles. These people are themselves at war with this nation and this revolution in another way, and that war is much harder, more aggressive, and uglier than the imposed war of the Ba'thist Zionist Iraqi regime. It is much more dastardly and criminal than any military war. These people are making war on a revolution through economic terrorism, directing their forces against a people who have given everything they have to Islam, and who risk their lives at the fronts in order to protect the Islamic revolution, which is dearer to them than life.

These people do not direct the war. These people, the liberals, the hypocrites, the monarchists, and those who pray facing Moscow and Washington, are all doing their utmost to undermine the revolution and sabotage the war. They are waiting for a day when the situation of the past will return, and they will be able to feather their own nests, fill their own pockets, and attain prominence and position with greater freedom.

The war is being directed by the same people to whom the Imam referred as the real owners of the revolution, the barefoot, the deprived, and the oppressed. They are the same people who go into the streets whenever necessary and display the nation's power, the same ones who go to help at the fronts with scant provisions, who send their youth to the fronts whenever necessary, and go

themselves in the event of greater necessity, even if they are old and white-haired. The war is being directed by people who go into the streets with empty stomachs on Jerusalem day, under heavy bombardment from the bombs and missiles of the Iraqi Ba'thists, and cry "war, war until victory," not those people who retreat to the vacation sites around the fringes of Tehran and rent a chicken's nest for tens of thousands of toman per month! The war is being directed by the people of the religious theaters and the mosques, people whose love is Islam, people who know no limits in the establishment of divine rule, and whose first gift on this path is their own lives. They live with hardship and endure shortages, and at the same time they use whatever simple and inelegant belongings they have to support the fronts, and in so doing they dash the Great Satan's hopes and make the situation even more hopeless for his unpaid domestic lackeys.

The revolutionary guards are the same people, the mobilization is made up of the same people, the komites are the same people, the reconstruction crusade is made up of the same people. These people have become martyred, imprisoned, and wounded, and still appear everywhere, and the revolution continues thanks to the blessing of their presence and concern.

One must speak of these people on the anniversary of the war. For the benefit of future generations, it must be written into the pages of history that this revolution was made victorious by people who have been beaten down, and they are the ones who have kept it on its feet. It must be said everywhere and to everyone that these people are the ones keeping the fronts hot, and they are the ones handling logistics behind the lines.

These words and writings are not enough. The value of these people must be understood, and the road must be cleared to realize their wishes and hopes of several centuries. These people have no wish except to achieve the rules of Islam. The Islam that these people love is the Islam of the deprived and the oppressed, not the Islam of the comfort-seekers, the powerful, and their taskmasters. Therefore the way must be closed to the return of past circumstances in whatever form. The remnants of the idolaters must not be given authorization under the banner of law to renew the situation that was eliminated at the price of a torrent of blood. To do so would be to challenge religious law and to install in power the same Islam being sought by comfort-seekers and bullies.

The people who have made the revolution victorious and directed the war so far will continue henceforth to sacrifice their lives and property to protect the revolution and carry this war to its final victory. It is natural that the such people will remove any kind of obstacle standing in the way of implementing the genuine aspirations of the revolution, and the hand of God is always with these God-seeking people.

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CSO: 4640/17

IRAN

NEW CUSTOMS REGULATIONS ANNOUNCED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Sep 85 p 23

[Text] Yesterday morning Hashem Taheri, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and the Chief of Iran Customs, gave a press conference with Hoseyn Behnaz, Chief of Mehrabad Customs, Ahmad Karaji, Customs Technical Deputy, Yahya'i, General Director of Imports and Exports, and Hoseyn Ekhvan Kerbasi, General Customs Judicial and Legal Director.

The customs director began by discussing the area of activity of Iran Customs. He said: Customs has the responsibility of collecting part of the country's taxes, which it takes as fees and commercial taxes. Another phase is the affairs of travelers. The most important customs stations are at Mehrabad, Bazargan, Mirjelveh, and Bandar 'Abbas.

Then Behnaz, Director of Iran Customs, said concerning the issues of travelers:

Customs regulations for the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran are designed to serve the people, not businessmen, but along with this responsibility, customs prevents the importation of unnecessary luxury items, boutique goods, and the activities of professional travelers.

Every year each traveler is entitled to exemption from customs duties for 5,000 tomans, and is also entitled to import another 5,000 tomans in goods with customs duties paid. For subsequent trips, 5,000 tomans' worth of goods will be released from customs with the payment of duties, with the exception of goods not allowed to be imported such as narcotics, weapons, and video equipment.

In carrying out its responsibilities to create facilities, provide services for the people, and separate the 99 percent ordinary travelers from the one percent of professional travelers who are doing unauthorized things, the Customs Department has prepared declaration forms, which will be tested early next month in customs, God willing. In this way, incoming and outgoing passengers will register their baggage on the declaration form. At the outset we will base the matter on the truthfulness of the people and belief in them and accept these declaration forms. This will prevent delaying ordinary and foreign travelers, and flights will not be delayed.

The traveler will give this declaration form to the appraiser who will have the option of accepting it, or, if it is doubtful, of opening one or all of the parcels. Therefore, there is no guarantee that we absolutely will not open any parcels if we have a declaration form.

Then Yahya'i, Director of Iran Customs Imports and Exports, said: What we ignored in the Export and Import Law was the special situation of Iranian travelers living outside the country, around 400,000 of whom are employed in the Persian Gulf with their families in Iran. They come into the country at least twice a year, and they bring everything their families need into Iran annually. Article 38 has established new regulations on the right to import goods for these people. We face these problems in our country's southern customs stations.

The Customs Technical Deputy then said: In the regulations for annual imports and exports, an item is either authorized, meaning it requires no permission, conditionally authorized, meaning authorization to import is need from one or several pertinent organizations, or its importation is prohibited.

The 10,000 tomans' worth of goods mentioned in Article 38 can only be accepted for authorized goods.

He added: More than 5,000 tomans' worth of merchandise, if authorized or conditionally authorized, may be accepted with authorization from pertinent officials. Unauthorized or prohibited goods cannot be cleared, however. They must be reexported within a specified time.

The Director of Iran Customs discussed the anti-bribery campaign in customs. He said: Since the beginning of the year 1363 [21 March 1984], a total of 541 people have been fired from customs on the accusation of accepting bribes.

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CSO: 4640/12

IRAN

THREE HUNDRED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ARRESTED FOR BRIBERY

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Sep 85 p 3

[Text] Esfahan—KEYHAN correspondent—More than 300 government workers in four offices in Khomeyni-Shahr in Esfahan were arrested on the charge of accepting bribes.

Our correspondent reports that the accused persons were from the Urban Lands Office, the Treasury, the Public Records Office, and the Mayor's office of Khomeyni-Shahr. They took billions of rials from the Muslim public treasury and tens of millions of tomans in bribes.

An informed official from the Esfahan Islamic Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office announced this. He told our correspondent: Several months ago a series of officials told us about embezzlement and bribery in the Urban Lands Office, the Treasury, the Public Records Office, and the Mayor's office of Khomeyni-Shahr, and in the course of an extensive investigation by the proper organizations more than 200 persons who were involved in these corrupt affairs were arrested.

He added: Of all the employees in these offices, only two persons in each one escaped arrest. The rest were violators, and 15 middlemen were also arrested in this connection. What is extremely important is their method of taking bribes. When clients reported to the Mayor's Office, they placed obstacles in their way in various ways, and outside the Mayor's Office, middlemen, using their connections in the Mayor's Office, collected bribes from the people reporting there. It is of course necessary to note that the ones paying the bribes are violators also and must be punished.

This informed official announced to the people that if they have business in an office, and if the employees do not do their work and ask them for bribes, they must be patient and report the situation to the appropriate officials. Officials must also open their doors more so that if someone is oppressed he may report directly to officials. The acts of such people do great damage to the country's economy which cannot be repaired.

A questioner reminded him that recently there a great many similar cases have been known in the Province of Esfahan. In explaining the basic reasons, he said: One motivation for people to do this ugly act is the small salary of workers. A person will see that his classmates in school, who may even have been very poor students, have acquired good wealth today in the market. This disparity causes great psychological pressure for them, and ultimately leads to this. Another issue is the proliferation of workers in the offices. They have placed 20 people in an office whose work can be done by a five-person system. Another issue is the failure to establish the crime of the briber, who is guilty according to the sacred laws of Islam.

9310
CSO: 4640/12

IRAN

MONTAZERI: PAPERS MUST BE PEOPLE'S REFUGE, NOT GOVERNMENT ORGAN

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Sep 85 p 2

[Text] Morning and evening newspaper officials met last Thursday with Ayatollah al-'Ozma Montazeri.

At this meeting, he was first given a report on a state of the press, and Ayatollah al-'Ozma Montazeri then gave a speech:

I take refuge with God from Satan's menace. In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

As I welcome the gentlemen who have honored me by coming here to what is really their own home, and as I thank them for their trouble and activity with all the problems we have in our country now and with all the work there is to do. Ultimately, you have served the country's culture, religion, and revolution, and continue to do so. I am a straightforward man, and I say what I think. I am not 100 percent sure, and you may say that it can't be done, but I must say what is on my mind. While I welcome you and thank you, in short, what has been on my mind for some time is that your use of the term "state" to describe newspapers is wrong.

This is actually the case, that there were state newspapers under the former regime and there are state newspapers now also. Under the former regime it was more or less this way. There was force after all, and they did exactly what the government and the SAVAK wanted. Actually, they used to say that the SAVAK gave them copies of what to print. The newspapers were organs of the government and the state. In a sense it is the same way now in the sense that our government and our state are the Islamic republic. If someone comes here from abroad, it is in his mind that the newspapers are just what the government wants and just what the what the president wants. They follow the same line, and in many cases they even collaborate with each other.

In short, the problem in my mind is that under the former regime, when someone came to Iran he saw that the newspapers were organs of the same government of that day. Now also, if someone comes to Iran and sees the newspapers, it is as if the newspapers are spokesmen and organs of the state and government of Iran. I am not saying, God forbid, that the newspapers ought to come out with slander. One thing we respect is Islam, we respect the Prophet and the pure Imams (Peace Be Upon Them), and we respect the leader of the revolution.

Sanctity must be preserved to some extent, but it is not true that the newspapers follow the same line of the state, the president, and government. There may be people in the country who are opposed to the present government or the president and who are also Muslims who believe in the revolution. There may be a minority which is opposed to this line. For example, someone may in some way be opposed to the manner of holding the elections, some may in some way be opposed to the manner of government. These people cannot say what they have to say in the country. In my view it is necessary...

However, the newspapers must have a kind of freedom, while maintaining respect for these primary principles, meaning God, the Prophet, the Koran, and the revolution, the principle of the revolution and the principle of leadership, and they must reflect the desires of the people, whatever they are. For example, the people may be unhappy with the government of Iran, or they may be unhappy with election procedures. They must be able to express these things in the newspapers. That is, our newspapers must be so free that if someone comes from abroad he will say no, the newspapers of Iran are not organs of the government. They are not spokesmen for their government, they think freely for themselves. The majority that supports the government and the state can say what it has to say in the newspapers, and those who are opposed the government or the president can also respectfully speak in the newspapers. Suppose someone has a problem with the president and writes to you, you should print his article. In short, there must be freedom of some kind in the newspapers. If this does not happen today, in any case we must move in that direction. It is this way in the world. That is, it is not as if, even in America, the newspapers are mouthpieces for the government. They write against their own government and their own state. Conditions should be such that all the people consider the newspapers their refuge. Suppose the people in Esfahan have a problem with the government or the state, and wrote a respectful article. Respectful does not mean slander. Slander is wrong. However, the newspapers must reflect the ideas of the minority and the ideas of the majority, based on the primary principles Islam has envisioned. In England, for example, no one has the right to attack the queen, but they attack the government. There are various articles and newspapers. Some may be government organs, but some are also opposed to the government. If newspapers are this way they will have more readers, be more self-sufficient, and it will raise the cultural level of the people. All three newspapers should not print whatever the radio says, each a copy of the other. It appears that now the newspapers are like this to some extent. Whatever the radio says, the newspapers write. If someone says something in opposition, they boo him, and this is wrong. You must print his article.

In short, the newspapers must be a place for the expression of dissident thought, and there must be two sides to that. One is that the world's political issues must be analyzed very well, and another is the scientific issues being considered. There is also the geography of countries. For example, several times we saw that JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI began writing on the geography of Islamic countries. This was a good thing to do, but it was deficient. There are a billion Muslims, and they must study all the circumstances of Islam and its geography everywhere in the world. Then they must present their culture, their language, their mosques, their libraries, and their characteristics. These things are appealing to the people and increase their knowledge. Thus the geography of Islam must be presented, political issues in the world must be analyzed well, and various ideas in the country must be reflected.

Whoever comes here must know that in Iran the newspapers are not state newspapers. They are not affiliated with their government. They think freely, and they print whatever they think proper to inform the people and raise the level of their culture.

It must not be that they are simply spokesmen and organs for the government.

If the people see a newspaper as their refuge, and realize that if they have no refuge anywhere else, they can say what they have to say to a newspaper reporter and the newspaper reporter will write it clearly, this will correct the errors to some extent, raise the level of the people's thinking, and make the people feel free. Our newspapers must be independent. They must have their own views. The newspapers must contain items from the president and the government, as well as reflecting the views of those with problems and complaints. There must also be scientific articles, possibly from university professors. There may be clergymen who will write something, who believe in the Islamic republic as well as the revolution and its leader, but who have problems with the president or the state of the government. If they write an article, it is not printed, or if it is printed, people will ask why it was printed. This is wrong. If a person writes something good that helps the people, even if the government, the revolutionary guard, and the facts are against it, but we know that the writer believes in the Islamic republic, his article is useful and effective, either scientific, historical, geographical, or constructive for the thought of the people, such an article should be freely printed.

9310

CSO: 4640/11

IRAN

WORKERS DEMAND MAJLIS LOOK INTO HOUSING

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Sep 85 pp 1, 22

[Text] KEYHAN Political Service—At a meeting last week at the Workers' Home, attended by representatives of the Housing Bank, the Worker's Welfare Bank, and several representatives of the workers' housing cooperatives, various problems and issues pertaining to housing cooperatives were discussed and studied.

A worker began the meeting by discussing the granting of loans to cooperatives, the Ministry of Housing's new plan for public participation, and the place of the workers' housing cooperatives in this plan. It is clear that one of the basic needs of workers today is housing, because these people usually cannot procure and pay very much in deposits and rents, and are subject to the pressure of eviction notices every day. On the one hand, the workers have expectations from the housing cooperatives, but of course on the other hand the intent behind procuring worker housing through these organizations is not to give every worker a home in Tehran without regard for rules and regulations.

He added: The importance of solving housing problems in connection with economic issues is no secret to anyone, and the goal of these organizations is to provide serious solutions to housing problems through coordination with all concerned officials. For capitalists, whether housing exists or is authorized is of no concern, because they will obtain it in any way they wish. Bank loans are of no concern to capitalists. For rich people, the procurement of construction materials or the matter of government prices are no problem for housing. The situation is otherwise for workers, however, because these people are constantly faced with problems such as deposits of more than 100,000 tomans and expensive rents. In view of these problems, workers expect the cooperatives to procure urban land, to secure the proper authorization, to obtain construction materials at government prices, and, most important of all, they expect the cooperatives to solve the financial problems. Qualified members of housing cooperatives who have succeeded in accumulating funds have done so by selling the necessities of life, and they have reached a point of no longer being able to sell anything in order to be able to continue the construction project. It is in view of this situation that we are faced with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction's new project under which members must save a minimum amount of money and then wait 10 months to five years to obtain land or a housing unit.

As the meeting continued, the representative from the Housing Bank answered questions from the audience. He said: It must be made clear to workers and all housing cooperative members that when it is said that three to four million rials in loans will be given to applicants, this entire amount cannot be simply paid outright. These loans may be disbursed in view of tables that have

been prepared and various other factors. Then the representative of the east Tehran cooperatives asked: Is it true that for a three-million-rial housing construction loan, the interest is almost as much or more?

In answer to this question, the representative from the Workers' Welfare Bank said: In view of the rates and the payments set by the central bank, this is true.

A worker then said: How can a worker pay so much interest, especially when a bank loan this size cannot meet the financial needs of applicants? In view of the full current cost of construction, every member must provide two to five million rials of his own. Why is no use made of the resources of the Social Procurement Organization for this purpose? Isn't the goal of the Social Procurement Organization the welfare of wage-earners, especially workers?

A statement was made at the end of the meeting: The ultimate goal is to produce fundamental solutions to the economic problems, especially housing problems, so that workers and those who turn the economic wheels of the government of the Islamic republic may pursue activities in the economic trenches with peace of mind and slap the superpowers hard in the mouth. Such measures cannot be taken without cooperation and coordination from all organizations and practicing institutions, and any sabotage in this regard will be a slap against the Islamic revolution and lead to dissatisfaction among the oppressed people of society.

We call upon the respected Majlis representatives, who are the ones answering to the problems of this revolutionary nation in the sacred trenches of the Majlis to resolve the problems caused by the Urban Lands Organization and even the new program and guidelines to procure housing for workers' housing cooperatives. We also ask you to call upon concerned officials to take steps as soon as possible to solve housing problems. We especially call upon the Majlis Article 90 Commission and the Majlis Housing and Urban Construction Commission to pursue this decisively.

9310

CSO: 4640/11

IRAN

GOODS, SERVICES INDEX DROP IN JUNE-JULY

Tehran BURS in Persian 10 Sep 85 pp 1,8

[Text] The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a report giving the index for consumer goods and services in Iran's urban areas for the month of Tir [22 June-22 July 1985] of the current year.

According to this report, the index for consumer goods and services in Iran's urban areas for the month of Tir [22 June-22 July 1985] 1364 decreased 3.9 percent from the previous month, but it represents a 1.3 percent increase over the same month last year.

The average for this index in the first four months of the current year [21 March - 22 July 1985] has increased 3.6 percent over the same period last year.

In the month of Tir [22 June-22 July 1985] 1364, the index for the foodstuffs group dropped about 10 percent. A sharp drop in the price of fruits and fresh produce caused by the season and a 35 percent market surplus not only played the biggest part in reducing the foodstuffs indicator, but it was the most important factor also for the entire decrease in the index for consumer goods and services in the country's urban areas.

Among the foodstuffs, the usual price of bread increased, the price of the rices studied increased slightly, but the overall price of grain remained unchanged.

The index for eggs and dairy products grew somewhat faster, but the price of red meat dropped slightly because of the season and a relative drop in the level of consumption. During this month the prices for restaurant food followed an upward course due to the increase in price for some raw materials, as well as wage increases, but the the price of tobacco products dropped about two percent.

Among non-food items, the indicator for the clothing, furniture, and household goods group, due to the relative stability of the price of most of the items in the group, remained more or less unchanged. Inactivity in carpet trading and the drop in their prices was also one of the very effective factors in the reduced growth of the home furnishings index in this period.

In the housing and fuel group, the price of construction materials decreased about one percent, but construction worker wages increased slightly despite inactivity in the construction business.

For the month reported, the price of passenger cars on the open market increased due to the beginning of the summer season and increased demand, and the indicator for the transportation and communications group ended higher than the previous month.

Following increases in wages for health care services, there was an increase to some extent in the index for the health care and hygiene group, but the index for the recreation, education, and study group decreased slightly as the result of the drop in prices for some electrical, audio, and photographic equipment. In the current month the price for most decoration and hygiene items as well as the price for gold coins followed an upward course, and therefore the index for the miscellaneous goods and services group increased to a certain extent.

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY reports that in comparison with the month of Tir last year [22 June-22 July 1984], the index for the clothing group increased about one percent, construction services increased five percent, construction materials increased two percent, residential housing rents increased 13 percent, urban transportation and travel costs increased four percent, health care and hygiene costs increased eight percent, recreation and education costs increased 12 percent, personal expenses increased 20 percent, and tobacco products increased 56 percent, but the index for the foodstuffs group and the home furnishings, goods and services group each increased about three percent, while gold coins decreased 15 percent.

9310

CSO: 4640/28

IRAN

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX DROPS IN JULY-AUGUST

Tehran BURS in Persian 18 Sep 85 p 2

[Text] According to a report from the Central Bank's office of economic statistics, the Iran wholesale price index for Mordad of 1364 [23 July - 22 August 1985] at 383.8 percent decreased one percent from the previous month, and increased 2.3 percent from the same month last year. The seasonally adjusted wholesale price index is 2.4 percent higher than the index for Tir [22 June-22 July 1985] of 1364.

In the first five months of the current year [21 March - 22 August 1985] the average Iran wholesale price index increased 3.7 percent over the same period the previous year.

The decrease in the wholesale price indicator for this group was mostly due to the seasonal drop in the prices of fruits and produce (except leafy vegetables, which increased in price), while the prices for grains, livestock, mineral ores, hides, woven and silk cloth, and carpets decreased. However the prices for seeds, dairy products and eggs, unginned cotton, photographic and cinema film, leather, iron beams, wire, nuts and bolts, and electrical home appliances increased, offsetting to some extent the decreases in the above items.

Groups in the Wholesale Price Index

1. Goods Domestically Produced and Consumed

For the month reported, the index for goods consumed and produced in the country, at 420.4, decreased 1.3 percent from the previous month.

The drop in the index for goods consumed and produced in the country was mostly due to the seasonal drop in the prices of fruits and produce (except leafy vegetables, which increased in price). In this group the prices for grains, livestock, mineral ores, hides, woven and silk cloth, and carpets decreased, but the prices for grains, dairy products and eggs, unginned cotton, sheep and goat hides, clay, beams, and electrical home appliances increased.

The seasonally-adjusted index for goods produced and consumed in the country increased 3.2 percent.

The index for this group increased 1.4 percent over the same month the previous year.

2. Imported Goods

The index for import goods for Mordad of 1364 [23 July – 22 August 1985] increased 0.5 percent due to increases in the prices of photographic and cinema film, leather, iron, wire, and nuts and bolts.

The seasonally adjusted index for this group increased 0.2 percent over the previous month.

The index for imported goods increased 6.4 percent over the same month the previous year.

3. Exported Goods

The index for exported goods decreased 1.6 percent due to the decrease in prices for hides and mineral ores. The seasonally adjusted index for this group decreased 1.4 percent from the previous month.

The index for exported goods increased 1.7 percent over the same month the previous year.

Main Groups for the Indicator

Foodstuffs and Livestock

The 9.2 percent seasonal decrease in the prices of foods and vegetables (except leafy vegetables which increased 6.1 percent) had the largest share in the two percent decrease in the price of foodstuffs and livestock. In this group, grains decreased 3.2 percent, meat, poultry, fish, and their byproducts decreased 0.2 percent, spices, tea, coffee, and cocoa decreased 0.1 percent, and livestock decreased 0.8 percent, but the prices of seeds and their byproducts increased 2.5 percent, dairy products and eggs increased 1.3 percent, and animal and vegetable oils increased 0.4 percent.

There was a 5.3 percent increase in the seasonally adjusted index for this group compared to the previous month.

The price index for foodstuffs and livestock increased 0.2 percent from the same month the previous year.

Textiles and Clothing

The 0.4 percent decrease in the prices for wool and cotton, the 0.3 percent decrease in the prices for various threads, the 0.5 percent decrease in the prices for woven cloth and silk, and the 1.7 percent drop in carpet prices led to a 0.6 percent drop in the index for textiles and clothing. In this group the wool fabric and clothing groups both increased 0.1 percent.

There was a 1.6 percent drop in the seasonally adjusted index for this group compared to previous month.

The index for this group decreased 1.2 percent from the same month the previous year.

Machinery and Transportation Equipment

The 1.6 percent increase in the prices for electrical home appliances was offset by the 0.7 percent decrease in the prices for non-electrical machines, resulting in no change in the index for the machinery and transportation equipment group.

This index increased 2.8 percent from the same month the previous year.

Specialized Groups

Agricultural and Livestock Products

The index for agricultural and livestock products dropped 2.6 percent during this month as the result of a 3.1 percent drop in the agriculture group and a 0.2 percent drop in fish and livestock prices.

The seasonally adjusted index for this group increased 6.8 percent over the previous month.

The index for agricultural and livestock products increased 0.6 percent over the same month the previous year.

Construction Materials

For the month reported the indicator for construction materials increased 0.9 percent, the result of the 1.7 percent increase in the prices for metal construction materials and the 0.3 percent increase in the prices for non-metal construction materials.

The seasonally adjusted index for this group decreased 0.1 percent from the previous month.

The index for this group increased eight percent over the same month the previous year.

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CSO: 4640/28

IRAN

THERMAL POWER PLANT TO BE BUILT IN HAMADAN

Tehran BURS in Persian 5 Sep 85 pp 1,8

[Text] Concurrent with the auspicious birthday of Imam 'Ali ol-Naqi (Peace Be Upon Him), ground breaking ceremonies were held for the 1,000-megawatt thermal power plant in western Iran to be built on a 400-hectare site in Hamadan's Faminin Plain. The ceremonies were attended by Dr Hasan Ghafuri, Minister of Power.

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY reports that these ceremonies were attended by the Imam's representative, the Hamadan Friday Imam, the Governor-General, deputies from the Ministry of Power, officials from the Tavanir Company, executive officials from this project, as well as local Hamadan Province officials. The Minister of Power gave a talk discussing the country's need for reconstruction and self-sufficiency and the essence and accomplishments of the enemies of the revolution. He discussed the sacrifice and wholeheartedness of the faithful partisans of God specialist forces in our country in the Ministry of Power and other organizations in work to eliminate needs and shortages, and he stressed that the need of having vigor and courage in implementing great projects and measures have themselves been the main reason for success and will continue to be. He then discussed the measures and basic steps which have been taken to relieve shortages of water and electrical power in the country, such as carrying out great projects like the Pishin Dam, the Neka Power Station, several natural gas lines and steam and gas power stations. He said: In our work and our thoughts we use our talents to oppose the enemy who wishes to deprive us of our initiative and creativity. He added: Just as we have no problem of any kind installing and putting gas power stations into operation, we also have no problem or difficulty with electrical power lines and relay stations. These affairs have become routine tasks for us. We hope to see greater victories in the future in this area and others.

According to this report, all of the executive operations of this power station, which has four steam turbines, each with a capacity of 250 megawatts running on gas as a primary fuel and fuel oil as secondary fuel, are carried out by committed specialists from our country.

The same report states that in order to carry out the 1,000-megawatt power station in western Iran at Hamadan, 60.750 billion rials have been budgeted, and the project is expected to be completed and put into operation in 42 months. The Japanese Mitsubishi company is working on the implementation of this project as a contractor for the procurement of some of the power plant's equipment in cooperation with the Iran Tavanir Arak-Hamadan electrical power production and transmission corporation. The report of the correspondent from the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY also says that the Minister of Power visited the 230-megawatt electrical power line and relay station which has been completed by the country's specialists and was put into operation last week. With the utilization of this line and relay station, which cost 3.107 billion rials, all the

current electrical power shortages for the municipality of Hamadan and the surrounding area are now eliminated, and in the future, with the completion of the distribution network, shortages elsewhere in the province as well as some of the electrical power shortages in the Province of Kordestan will be relieved.

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CSO: 4640/26

IRAN

HAMADAN POWER PLANT EQUIPMENT PURCHASE SIGNED WITH MITSUBISHI

Tehran BURS in Persian 28 Aug 85 p 8

[Text] A contract between the Japanese Mitsubishi company and the Tavanir company was signed for the purchase of turbogenerator equipment and precision machinery for the 1,000-megawatt Hamadan power plant. The ceremony was attended by Mr Ghafari-Fard, Minister of Power, and Mr Tanaka, the Chargé d'Affaires at the Japanese Embassy in Iran.

The Public Relations Office for the Tavanir Company said that the Tavanir Company's deputy of projects and reconstruction and the director of power production projects signed the contract for Tavanir, and Mr Yunida, Director of Foreign Trade, signed for Mitsubishi.

The Hamadan Thermal Power Plant with a capacity of 1,000-megawatts, including four 250-megawatt units, will be built based on preliminary studies and in view of self-sufficiency policies in the area of construction and installation. Construction operations for the power plant will be carried out in the Qamenin area, 45 kilometers from the Municipality of Hamadan on a 400-hectare site.

The power plant will not be constructed on the basis of turnkey contracts. Most of this project will be carried out by domestic contractors.

Preliminary studies for the construction of this power plant were carried out by the the Tavanir Company's engineering and technical study management. Afterwards competitive bids were solicited from 12 reputable international companies for the purchase of turbogenerator equipment and accessories for this power plant. After proposals were received from contractors, a technical analysis was carried out by the experts and engineers of Qods Power Consulting, a company affiliated with the Ministry of Power, and the Competitive Bids Commission, composed of experts from the Tavanir Company, and the Mitsubishi project consultant from Japan. The winner of the bidding was then announced in view of technical and financial proposals.

The necessary talks concerning the conclusion of the contract were held in five technical, mechanical, electrical power, precision and chemistry machinery manufacture groups and one legal group, and after detailed talks and the acceptance of the requirements of the Tavanir Company, the approximately 15.8 billion-rial contract was signed.

Based on the scheduled plan, the construction, installation, and inauguration of the plant will take 42 months. The plant is expected to be ready to go into operation in 1368 [21 Mar 1989 - 20 Mar 1990].

The primary fuel for this plant will be natural gas, which will be obtained from the national gas pipeline, and fuel oil will be used as a secondary fuel in emergencies.

Competitive bids were solicited from 14 reputable international boiler manufacturing companies for the purchase of the power plant's boilers. After the receipt of contractor proposals, evaluation of technical documents from participants in the bidding will begin, to be carried out by engineers from Qods Power Consulting, and this study is now being carried out.

For the first time in the Iranian Electrical Power Industry, the major part of the construction, installation, and equipping operations for this plant will be carried out by Iranian specialist contractors.

9310

CSO: 4640/26

IRAN

BRIEFS

TEHRAN COURT OFFICIALS--According to a Central News unit report Moqtada'i, member and spokesman of the Supreme Judicial Council, today presented a report on last week's Supreme Judicial Council meetings. He said: Following the introduction of new organizational procedures at Tehran's Islamic Revolution Court the following appointments were made: Mr Zargar, deputy revolution prosecutor of Tehran and supervisor of the fight against narcotics; Mr Ra'isi, deputy revolution prosecutor of Tehran and revolution court supervisor in charge of minigroups; and Mr Ramazani, deputy revolution prosecutor of Tehran and revolution court supervisor in charge of economic affairs. It was decided that new regulations should be formulated concerning the duties of each official. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Oct 85 LD]

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT--According to a Central News Unit report, the Department of Standards and Scientific Research of Eastern Azarbayjan Province announced: During the month of Mehr [23 September--22 October 1985--] more than 1,120,000 kgs of agricultural products, including dried apricots and onions having a value of 23,352,750 rials, and 62,412 packets of various types of animal products, including dried [word indistinct] having a value of 18,015,820 rials, have been exported abroad. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Oct 85 LD]

WHEAT PURCHASES--The quantity of surplus wheat purchased from farmers now totals 1,750,048 tons: Compared with the same period last year, this shows an increase of about 623,791 tons. Of this amount, which has been purchased by rural cooperatives since the beginning of the harvest season up to 22 October, 1,731,170 tons has been delivered to wheat silos. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Oct 85]

NAVY SEEKS SCIENCE GRADUATES--The Islamic Republic of Iran Navy has invited the holders of diplomas in the fields of mathematics, mathematical physics, the practical sciences, commerce or industrial arts, electronics and auto mechanics to cooperate with the Navy's officer cadre. Volunteers can use the forms which will be published in the country's numerous newspapers to register for this purpose. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 26 Oct 85 LD]

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CSO: 4640/52

PAKISTAN

ASSEMBLY MOTIONS RAISE VARIOUS ISSUES

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Oct 85 p 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 10: Mr. Zain Noorani, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs today said the Government of Pakistan follows reports of Indian troops' deployment on Pakistan's borders with the care and attention they merit.

Mr. Noorani said while a state has a right to deploy its forces as it deems necessary, Pakistan cannot of course ignore the implications for the country's security.

Speaking on two identical adjournment motions sought to be moved by Sahibzada Noor Hassan and Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Mr. Noorani reassured that the Government is fully alert to the situation and has taken appropriate measures.

The movers referred to reports of latest concentration of Indian troops which they said is on the increase since June last and observed that national security and integrity is threatened by such concentration of troops on Pakistan's borders. Mr. Rashid said Indian designs against Pakistan's solidarity were quite evident and the present instance of deployment of additional troops should not be underrated.

Mr. Zain Noorani opposed the admissibility of the motion on technical grounds saying it did not relate to a matter of recent occurrence and instead was a continuous process as stated by the movers.

However, Mr. Noorani said, given the importance of the subject and the profound public interest that it has aroused, he was making some observations.

The Minister said the Government of India has inducted additional military forces into the area adjoining our border since 1984, with effect from September 1, 1985, additional Indian armed forces have been deployed close

to the Pakistan border and the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to reports emanating from Delhi, the Government of India has taken this step for "sealing the border" and to meet any law and order situation there.

He also referred to the Indian Prime Minister's statement of September 2 that these actions were taken in view of the internal situation and it was not something Pakistan should worry about.

"While a state has a right to deploy its forces as it deems necessary, the Government of Pakistan cannot of course ignore the implications for the country's security", Mr. Noorani remarked.

Three adjournment motions on an identical matter relating to reported damage to a PIA plane were not pressed by the movers—Shah Turabul Haq (Karachi), Abdul Mustafa Al Azhari (Karachi) and Sheikh Rashid Ahmed (Rawalpindi) — after Mr. Zain Noorani denied the reports and said incident took place in September.

The movers, who were relying on Press reports, urged the Minister to issue timely denials of such news items.

Five other adjournment motions by Mr. Usman Khan Noori, Malik Aslam Kacheela, Sahibzada Mohammad Ahmed, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed and Allama Abdul Mustafa Al Azhari quoted Press reports that thousands of maunds of wheat had been damaged at Port Qasim, Karachi, because of the negligence of the concerned staff.

Qazi Abdul Majid Abid, Minister for Agriculture, said there has been some damage of about 1500 maunds of wheat because of "untimely rain in July". This stock has been disposed of for animal feed and every precaution has been taken to ensure that nobody mixes it to sell adulterated wheat for human consumption.

The Minister said steps have also been taken to introduce mechanised system of unloading at the port which would considerably minimise the damage.

Seven adjournment motions were sought to be moved by Haji Yunis Elahi Sethi, Malik Abdur Rauf, Maulana Gauhar Rehman, Mr. Mohammad Salim Khan, Rai Ahmed Nawaz, Malik Mohammad Aslam Kacheela and Javed Iqbal Abbasi on Dharam Panj (Havelian) incident in which five members of a family were murdered. The members said the incident was one of a chain of similar mysterious murders in Rawalpindi and Dhok Khabba allegedly by an organised gang commonly known as the "hammer group". They felt that such incidents have created a sense of insecurity among the people and urged the Government to take stringent measures to safeguard the lives and property of the people.

Interior Minister Aslam Khattak said intensive investigation is continuing on all these incidents but regretted that so far there has been no clue despite best efforts as to whether these incidents are correlated or isolated acts and whether any organised gang is behind them.

Mr. Aslam Khattak assured the House that Government would utilise all its resources to make the occurrence of such incidents almost impossible. He, however, mentioned certain difficulties of resources felt by police and said there are some police stations which have only three staff members and yet have to control areas spread over hundreds of square miles.

He said Government is fully seized of the serious nature of the incident and would do all it can to investigate its root cause.

Interior Minister of State, Mr. Pasha Khuro, said the present Government has taken various steps to control crimes.

The movers did not press their motions.

Mian Mohammad Zaman (Okara) moved for the adjournment of the House to take up his privilege motion regarding non-issuance of arms licence by Deputy Commissioner Okara on the recommendation of a Federal Minister.

Shah Mohammad Pasha Khuro Minister of State for Interior responding to the motion told the House that the D.C. Okara misunderstood the recommendation letter. He, however, added the Ministry of Interior has issued clarification letters to the administration authorities all over the country for honouring the recommendations made by the Ministers or MNAs of their respective areas for issuance of licences.

On the clarification made by the Minister, the member did not press his motion.

In another privilege motion, sought to be moved by Mr. Ghulam Din Marwat, it was pointed out that the telephones in the Frontier House, Islamabad have been disconnected for the last three days. The member added this was causing inconvenience to many MNAs who are staying in the House.

Mr. Mohyuddin Baluch, Minister for Communication, opposed the motion, saying that the telephones of the Frontier House have been restored.

The telephone connections were suspended due to non-payment of outstanding dues against them for the last two years.

The motion was not pressed.

Another privilege motion was regarding the name of Dr. Shafique Chaudhry. The Speaker disposed of the motion without hearing as the matter referred to in the motion was related to National Assembly's affairs which, he added, could not be raised in the House under the rules. The member staged a token walkout against the ruling of the Speaker.—APP

PAKISTAN

TI LEADER QUESTIONS ASSEMBLY'S MANDATE TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Oct 85 p 8

[Text]

LAHORE, Oct. 9. Aitzaz Ahsan, a noted jurist, said here today that the 8th Amendment bill was not merely an amending legislation but was intended to accomplish the abrogation of the 1973 Constitution. Even a sovereign Parliament, he argued, had no power to abrogate the Constitution though framed and enforced by that body itself. The passage of the said Bill would, therefore, mean abrogation of the Constitution by an assembly which had no locus-standi in the said matter.

Speaking at the "Tajzia" programme of the Lahore Press Club, Aitzaz Ahsan said Parliaments in Britain and India, well known for their sovereign character, had no power to abrogate the Constitution and could only amend the Constitution according to the procedure provided in the Constitution itself and even then not to the extent of a basic change in the constitutional structure. The right to abrogate or basically change the Constitution vested only in the people as had been reaffirmed in various rulings of the superior courts in those countries.

Elaborating his point, Mr. Aitzaz said the Parliament in a democratic system had the dual character of being a constituent as well as a legislative body only when the parliament had been created with an express mandate to that effect. In this respect he cited the example of the Constituent Assembly that emerged just before Independence in United India. The people voting for the said Assembly knew clearly that the Assembly for

which they were going to vote would frame the future constitution. Similar was the case with the constituent assembly that came into being in 1955 after the verdict by the Supreme Court of Pakistan and even the Assembly that came into existence under the LFO in 1970.

The present National Assembly, he said, had no such mandate even under the PCO and RCO nor had the people voting for this Assembly been told that they were going to elect a constituent assembly empowered to abrogate the 1973 Constitution and to frame a new constitution.

On this score he argued that the 8th Amendment Bill, now before the National Assembly, was in no way an amending legislation but for all practical purposes was intended to abrogate the 1973 Constitution and replace the same by an entirely different and new constitution because the amendments would completely change the whole pattern of the said Constitution.

Elucidating his point Mr. Aitzaz said the Constitution of 1973 was identified by four characteristics which in fact formed the basis of the said Constitution and those were: (a) Parliamentary system of government with the Prime Minister as chief executive, elected by the Parliament, (b) Federal character of the State with a prescribed quantum of autonomy for its federating units, (c) A democratic system of government guaranteeing the fundamental rights of the

people together with independence of judiciary, freedom of the Press and similar democratic institutions, and.

d) supremacy of the elected representatives of the people over the armed forces.

He said the 8th Amendment Bill seeking validation of all laws and regulations enforced during Martial Law and further protection for framing and enforcing whatever laws the rulers may require would practically demolish all the four bases of the 1973 Constitution.

In this connection he spoke at length about the powers envisaged by the Bill for the President and said the bill if passed would change the parliamentary system into a presidential one, would turn the federal system into a sort of unitary system, would replace the democratic norms by totalitarian ways and would make the armed forces supreme over the elected representatives of the people.

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CSO: 4600/59

PAKISTAN

DEBATE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SAID FRUITLESS

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 10 Oct 85 p 18

[Article by Ayaz Amir]

[Text]

AS THE Constitution (Eighth Amendment) Bill, especially its Article 270-A which lies at the core, keeps the National Assembly in a state of suspense, it is diverting attention from another feature of the revised Constitution which can have profound implications for the future course of political developments.

There is a widespread misconception that once Martial Law is formally lifted, the CMLA-President will automatically relinquish his position as Army Chief of Staff. But nothing could be farther from the truth since this question has been settled to the entire satisfaction of the powers that be, by the Revival of the Constitution Order (RCO), 1985, promulgated this year in March.

Article 43

The misconception arises from that provision of the 1973 Constitution (Article 43) which states that:

"The President shall not hold any office of profit in the service of Pakistan or occupy any other position carrying the right to remuneration for the rendering of services."

But this Article, explicit as it is, has been superseded by another in the RCO. This is Article 7 which states, equally categorically:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in this Article or Article 43 or any other Article of the Constitution or any other law, General Muhammad Ziaul Haq, in consequence of the result of the Referendum held on the nineteenth day of December, 1984, shall become the President of Pakistan on the first meeting of the Majlis-i-Shoora and shall hold office for a term of five years from that day . . ."

From this it becomes clear that there is nothing in law which prevents Gen. Ziaul Haq from remaining President and Army Chief of Staff for at least the next five years. He may of course run into problem within his own constituency but that is a separate matter. Any constitutional disability there might have been against wearing these two hats simultaneously has been done away with.

Not the substance

If this indeed is the case (and there is no reason to assume that it is not) the whole idea of civilianising the regime is called into question. The form of Martial Law can be lifted but the substance will remain. The President's power can be tempered and circumscribed but so long as he remains in effective command of the Army, the fore-

most and most puissant organ of the State, what will it matter?

Let us bear in mind the fact that the source of Martial Law is not a piece of Paper, the PCO, or even the Proclamation of July 5, 1977. These are subjects for lawyers and retired High Court judges who can deliver their verdicts when the chief actors in the drama have played their part and departed from the stage. No, the source of Martial Law lies in the power of the armed forces. And so long as that power remains with the CMLA-President, the political situation, in its quintessence, cannot change. There is, after all, no reason to contest Chairman Mao's dictum that power flows out of the barrel of a gun, especially not in Pakistan where there is a premium on the gun and little on legality.

What then becomes of the Eighth Amendment? It is doubtless important. But not because it will vest extraordinary powers in the person of the President who already has all the powers he can desire. But because its passage will make the National Assembly a party to the mutilation and the de facto abrogation of the unanimous Constitution of 1973. Martial Law will be validated for the future because Article 270-A is asking the National Assembly to affirm, endorse, adopt and declare valid everything from the proclamation of Martial Law in 1977 to the RCO in 1985. Martial Law Orders and Regulations will also not lapse with the lifting of Martial Law but will remain in force until specifically repealed. If one keeps all these provisions in mind, it immediately becomes clear that the national security council was a redundant piece of furniture in this constitutional lumber room. Striking it off may have temporarily assuaged the feelings of the Official Parliamentary Group but it has changed nothing, nothing whatsoever of substance.

Points to ponder

So these facts must be kept in mind before we give a name to this

latest experiment in our stormy history. Is the army really retreating to the barracks when the Chief of Staff has one foot in Army House and the other in the Presidential Palace? Can Martial Law even conceivably be lifted (forget about the formal announcement) when Martial Law edicts and decrees are made a part of the Constitution? And, finally, can Parliament entertain even the notion of sovereignty under these circumstances?

To repeat an earlier point, the Eighth Amendment is important but it should not obscure the wood for the trees. With or without it the military regime has enough weapons in its arsenal to defend the status quo and ensure its continuation. Let there be no doubt on this score.

The MRD had an opportunity which it lost when it decided to boycott the elections. Had its leadership shown some flair or audacity, we might have witnessed an impressive political mobilisation. But they were weak men, faint of heart and poor of imagination and so blew the first opportunity they were getting in eight years. But the predicament of the MRD does not ease the situation for the Independent Group in Parliament which is fighting a Quixotic battle against heavy odds and for that reason is ultimately bound to fail.

The initiative, therefore, is still with Gen. Zia and will remain with him so long as serious reverses on the foreign policy front, or a critical economic crisis, do not unleash large-scale domestic unrest. Till that time arrives the MRD is doomed to remain on the sidelines and the IPG doomed to stage token walkouts in a bid to move the stars. But we know that stars do not move unless greater things in heaven come to pass.

PAKISTAN

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS PROTEST OVER AUTONOMY ISSUE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Oct 85 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 10: A number of MNAs from Sind led by Mr. Abdul Hamid Jatoi and a few members belonging to IPG were seen wearing black arm-bands in the National Assembly lobby soon after the morning session was adjourned for 'Zuhr' prayers.

The members took off their black arm-bands later during the afternoon session.

When asked to explain the reason behind this gesture, the veteran parliamentarian, Mr. Jatoi, told this correspondent that it had been done to convey their protest against 'the proposed usurpation of provincial autonomy' by the authors of the Constitution Amendment Bill.

Besides MNAs from Sind, Mr. Javed Hashmi and some other IPG members were also seen wearing black arm-bands. It was stated that more bands were being prepared so that they could be distributed among all those who agreed that the Bill would deprive the provinces of even "the limited auton-

my provided in the 1973 Constitution".

Meanwhile, according to informed sources, about 20 MNAs belonging to the OPG met last night under the chairmanship of Mr. Jatoi and decided to appoint a 5-member delegation to be led by Federal Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali to meet President Ziaul Haq and discuss the issue with him. The rest of the deputationists will be Messrs Jatoi, Ghulam Mohammad Chishti, Pir Bakhsh Khaskheli and Dil Murad Jamali.

The move appears to be a last-minute effort on the part of some of MNAs from Sind to snatch some concessions in respect of provincial autonomy. That the move may also have the blessing of some influential OPG members is indicated by the fact that a Federal Minister for Baluchistan has agreed to lead the deputationists. According to a source, some more MNAs may be included in the deputation.

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CSO: 4600/59

PAKISTAN

PPP LEADER TALKS ABOUT HIS PARTY, ITS ROLE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Oct 85 p 5

[Article by Maleeha Lodhi]

[Text]

LONDON, Oct. 10: Rana Shaukat Mahmood, Secretary General of the Punjab PPP who is presently visiting London, has claimed that it is in response to popular pressure in their constituencies that some members of the National Assembly have taken a stand against the Constitution (Eighth Amendment) Bill.

Talking to 'The Muslim', Shaukat Mahmood rejected the suggestion that the MRD had once again been pushed to the sidelines by the current debate in the National Assembly. He also expressed scepticism that Martial Law would be lifted, arguing that neither the Assembly nor the Government could live without its cover. But he pointed out that what counts is whether President Ziaul Haq will continue to be the Army Chief of Staff since this, according to him, would mean 'The Army Chief effectively running the Assembly like a staff college.'

On the question of whether he supported a wider political alliance, Shaukat Mahmood said: 'we crossed that stage in February 1981 (when the MRD was formed), by agreeing to sit with the PNA parties in the larger national interest.' He asserted, 'If some other parties now feel that military rule is damaging the country and that they are doing their duty by endorsing the MRD's stand, then why should we question that?'

Shaukat Mahmood strongly disagreed with the idea that the PPP's inability to do anything tangible to press for its leader, Miss Benazir Bhutto's release highlighted

its present organisational ineffectiveness. He said that Miss Bhutto's arrest came as a 'big shock' in view of assurance from the highest government quarters that she was free to return and had complete freedom of movement. But, he said, 'we are part of the MRD; we cannot suddenly decide to launch a movement on our own'. He added, 'As Secretary-General of PPP in the Punjab I want to assure that our party is competent and mobilised not just to campaign for Miss Bhutto's release, but for the larger goal of restoring democracy, for which Miss Bhutto has consistently struggled.'

Supporting the PPP Central Executive's decision to expel Front leader Mumtaz Bhutto and Hafeez Pirzada, he said this was the proper thing to do as their stand on confederation would have hurt the People's Party. 'Our party,' he said, stands for the 1973 Constitution and it cannot approve of anything that goes beyond it.' 'Secondly', he continued, 'any question about the quantum of autonomy should be taken up at a proper forum, in an assembly that is freely elected.' Referring to the NDP's recent change in policy on the issue of provincial autonomy, he said 'this is not the time to raise these issues because there is no forum where we can go and this is exactly what the Government wants'. Shaukat Mahmood warned that 'we should not fall into this trap.' However, he held out the assurance 'as a Punjabi politician' that 'there has been a definite change in attitude in the Punjab, in that we understand the point of view of the smaller provinces and feel there is truth in it.' He also

claimed that the Punjabi politician no longer feels he is "the godfather of Pakistan."

Shaukat Mahmood maintained that the People's Party was firmly united and dismissed talk of dissension in the rank and file over the appointment of General (Retd). Tikka Khan as party Secretary General and Jahangir Badar as Punjab President. He explained that in the two meetings of the Party's Punjab Provincial Committee, attended by all the presidents and secretaries of districts and tehsils, unanimous resolutions were passed endorsing the "hailing" these appointments. He said "the resolutions were moved by Aslam Gurdaspuri and myself." When asked whether the appointment as Secretary-General an ex-General, given his past role in the then East Pakistan and in Baluchistan, would send the wrong signals to the smaller provinces at a time when regional tensions have heightened, he said "if smaller provinces have any grievances, the question can always be considered by the PPP's acting Chairperson". "Miss Bhutto", he said "is competent to appoint and to review the appointments."

Acknowledging that there was pressure from party workers for elections within the party, he said "The PPP has never been afraid of elections." But he identified two important constraints on holding elections, the fact that a large number of the party's activist cadre had been in "constant detention" and, second, that a large party like the PPP needs the freedom to organise elections in every district and tehsil whereas it has never been permitted to hold "a peaceful

party convention wherein elections could be held." He nonetheless called the idea of an electoral college to organise interim elections a "valuable suggestion."

Asked whether the PPP's leaders in London and Europe had any political future in Pakistan, he said "their importance lies only within the framework of the party; it is not individuals who count, but the party." When asked whether Ghulam Mustafa Khar still mattered in Punjabi politics, he said, "He matters only if he comes back and is assigned a role by the party." He added, "nobody can go outside party discipline and assign a role to himself."

Shaukat Mahmood was critical of the activities of exiled PPP circles when asked to comment on their squabbles and quarrels here. He said that the PPP and especially its workers had made tremendous sacrifices in their struggle for the cause of democracy, without any regard for personal benefit. "In this type of party", he said, "whenever we hear of dissent and differences among the PPP's exiled elements, it hurts our morale". He continued, "It kills those workers in jail to see that while they are offering sacrifices in fighting Martial Law, people outside the country, who could have been merciful in keeping quiet, continue to voice their differences." "We cut a very sorry figure before the MRD's component parties and the inmates of jails". Finally, Shaukat Mahmood urged that "differences should not be voiced through Press statements," which he said only weakens the democratic struggle and strengthens the Government.

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CSO: 4600/59

PAKISTAN

SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S KARACHI VISIT SAID TO 'CLEAR MISGIVINGS'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Oct 85 p 6

[Article by Kamran Khan]

[Text] Karachi, Oct 15: The New Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Rehman Oglu Vezirov, today completed his first visit to Karachi, since he took over the charge last month.

During his five-day stay in Karachi, the new Soviet envoy held detailed discussions with politicians industrialists, intellectuals, journalists and Government functionaries, and successfully cleared the misgiving created by a rather harsh statement by his predecessor, M. V. Simrnov, while leaving the country.

During his meetings in the city, the Soviet Ambassador did not answer controversial questions, but he underlined the need for Pakistan to have a better relationship with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Vezirov notably brushed aside nearly all questions relating to Pakistan's attitude towards the Afghan problem. During an interview with a local daily, he did not reply to many questions about what could be described as fragile Pak-Soviet relations.

Unlike his predecessor, who had made certain open remarks about, Pak-Soviet relations, Mr Vezirov adopted a cautious stance and told the select gathering at the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs on Thursday that the Soviet Union has always stood for and continues to stand for good neighbourly relations with Pakistan". In answer to a student, the Soviet Envoy also promised to send more books about the Soviet Union and its foreign policy to the Institute.

Mr. Vezirov, who seems to have come to Pakistan with a fresh message of friendship and cooperation, held most meetings with businessmen in the industrial capital of the country.

Addressing politicians and businessmen at the residence of Abid Zubeiri, a local politician, the Soviet envoy said 'we have demand for every thing from Pakistan and we can supply any item to this country". In his address at a

dinner hosted by Pak-USSR Trade and Industry Committee of FPCCI at a hotel, Mr. Veziro repeatedly said that Moscow was ready to assist Pakistan in its economic development.

Among the politicians he met he held exclusive discussions with Pir Pagara and Mir Ghous Bux Bizenjo. He also shook hand with Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi at Abid Zubeiri's dinner last night.

The Soviet envoy also paid courtesy calls on the Governor of Sind, the Chief Minister and the Speaker of the Sind Assembly.

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CSO: 4600/65

PAKISTAN

MOVE FOR RETRIAL OF MILITARY COURTS CASES DEFEATED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Oct 85 p 8

[Text] Lahore, Oct 15: The Punjab Assembly today disallowed a private resolution seeking fresh trial of persons sentenced to imprisonment terms by the military courts under Martial Law Regulations in ordinary courts of law. The move after heated discussion was defeated by overwhelming majority with only nine voting in favour.

The resolution originally sought to be moved by Jian Mohammad Afzal Hayat of Gujrat District was allowed to include an amendment by Begum Bushra Rehman to the effect that fundamental rights of the people as ordained by the 1973 Constitution and the independence of superior courts should also be restored. The mover had sought a recommendation by the Provincial Government to the Federal Government on the subject.

Mian Afzal speaking on his motion said that the subject matter involved in the resolution was not inspired by mere sentiments but had its moral, Islamic as well as practical aspects in view of the unanimous resolutions approved by this House and the National Assembly seeking forthwith lifting of Martial Law and the firm assurance by the Prime Minister in this respect. He said that the law and procedure governing the military courts did not come up to the universally recognised norms of justice. Not all the decisions by the military courts could necessarily be considered to be lacking in proper judgment yet there were apprehensions to that effect as the military courts in arriving at their conclusions did not observe principles of evidence as were prevalent in the country or ordained by Islam. He said it was the duty of the members of this House to uphold the fundamental rights of the people and the rule of law as they had promised to the people.

Begum Bushra Rahman, a co-mover, said that the fundamental rights of freedom of expression, freedom of movement, freedom to live according to one's own belief, equality of women in all fields and the supremacy of judiciary were the rights recognised by all civilised societies.

Khwaja Ghulam Haider Wyne, also holding the Law portfolio, opposing the move said that the resolution had come at a time when the process of lifting of Martial Law and complete restoration of democracy had reached a critical juncture. The National Assembly busy with the 8th Amendment Bill was striving hard to hasten the process. We must therefore exercise utmost caution and should avoid doing anything that may hamper the way to democratisation.

The Minister claimed that the people of Pakistan participated in the February Elections with huge majority unprecedented in the democratic history of the country. The people, he said rejected the MRD, which preached confrontation through boycott', and voted in favour of the forces who believed in retrieving the country from the Martial Law by mutual cooperation. Now, re-opening all the cases decided during the Martial Law would open up a Pandora's box and would threaten to halt the march towards democracy.

Syed Hasnat Ahmad opposed re-opening of the cases decided under Martial Law, which, according to him, ran into thousands. He, however, favoured right of appeal in superior courts in cases decided by the military courts.

After much discussion the Speaker, Miam Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo, put the move to voice vote which was against the move. At this juncture various members, including the movers, stood up in their seats and pressed for a count in the House, which ultimately had overwhelming majority against the move. Fazal Hussain Rahi repeatedly insisted that number of members favouring and opposing the move should be announced in the House, which was not acceded to. There were, however, nine members including two ladies, seen standing in their seats for the move.

The day reserved for private members business included a resolution from Begum Bushra Rahman landing Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's firm announcement of lifting of Martial Law before the Jan. 1 and expressing confidence in his efforts towards democratisation. The resolution was deferred to accommodate in it a number of amendments moved by various members.

The House rejected by voice vote another move by Begum Bushra Rahman to introduce a private bill which had sought representation for the provincial Assembly members in the Social Security institution. The Law Minister opposing the move said that the institution had come into being through Federal legislation combining all the four provinces. Furthermore, any interference with the Tripartite system in labour affairs could spark severe reaction by the labour organisations.

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CSO: 4600/65

PAKISTAN

CAUTION URGED ON FOREIGN AID 'ADDICTION'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Oct 85 p 4

[Text]

DR. Mahbubul Haq as Finance Minister sees clear advantages to him in seeking a new six-year aid package of 6.5 billion dollars from the U.S. between 1987 and 1993 after the current 3.2 billion six-year package ends. He can get his annual instalments on an assured basis, the repayment is spread over a long period — 50 years — with a grace period of 10 years, and the rate of interest is only 2 per cent. If he is to borrow such money at home he has to pay 11 to 15 per cent interest or more, and there is no grace period. So at his meeting with the Director of USAID, Peter McPherson in Seoul he has asked for the doubling of the aid over the next six-year cycle, and he has requested that the defence half of the new aid, too, should be on very soft terms (instead of 11 to 14 per cent interest, with seven-year repayment period and a three-year grace period, which the current defence sales credit carries).

If the U.S. increases aid in this manner and keeps the terms really soft, Dr. Haq will be able to request other industrial nations, too, to increase their aid and make the terms relatively soft. It is obvious that if Dr. Haq has his way, the quantum of aid, as part of our development outlay, will keep on increasing, although the percentage of the aid in the overall development expenditure may come down. He is clearly encouraged in his quest by the fact that the 10 billion dollar foreign debt which Pakistan has to repay seems small compared to the 100 billion dollar with which Mexico and Brazil are burdened.

He has also been assured that Pakistan will be able to get much of the enlarged aid he is seeking as the U.S. regards it as a front-line state in its confrontation with the Soviet Union, and is carrying a burden of 3 million refugees, with more of them coming each day. The question immediately arises whether Pakistan's

increasing dependence on larger U.S. aid — for a six year period from 1987 — postulates prolongation of its strained relations with the Soviet Union and continuation of the Afghan crisis despite the current U.N. mediation efforts. Evidently, Pakistan is not planning for stepped-up aid from the socialist bloc countries.

Dr. Haq has been impatient with the four billion dollar aid blocked in the pipelines which is not readily available to him. So he is pleading for more commodity aid so that the commodities could be sold quickly and the cash utilised for development purposes. He has asked for doubling of PL-480 commodity aid for edible oil. Will not such aid increase our dependence on imported edible oil which now costs 500 million dollars annually? Clearly, despite the plans and programmes to move rapidly towards self-sufficiency in edible oil, not much is being done. Between the plans and their execution there is a wide gap.

If the businessmen feel that Dr. Haq is going back to easy aid instead of trying hard to earn more through trade, they are not wrong. He finds it easier to ask for aid because of the front-line status of Pakistan in Western eyes due to the confrontation with the Soviet Union than go for the kind of hard measures imperative to step up exports. The country has to be cautious about the perils of its prolonged and increasing aid addiction as all aid, particularly U.S. aid, and more so under Ronald Reagan, comes with visible and hidden strings.

It is easy for Pakistan to ask for larger aid because of its current external political leverage but repayment, including interest payments, can become tough if the rupee continues to be devalued in the manner it has been. In rupee terms it takes Rs. 6,000 crore more to repay the 10 billion dollar loan as a result of the devaluation. This critical aspect of the debt burden should not be ignored as he seeks more and more loans, even on soft terms.

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CSO: 4600/59

PAKISTAN

EXPORT TARGET FOR FISCAL YEAR FIXED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Oct 85 p 8

[Text] Karachi, Oct 15: The Federal Government has fixed the total export target of 3.1 billion dollar during the current fiscal year against the import target of 6.3 billion dollars.

This was stated by the Federal Commerce Minister Salim Saifullah while addressing a news conference here this afternoon.

He said that Pakistan export during the first quarter of the current fiscal year stood at 594 million dollars registering an increase of 45.5 per cent and hoped that the target of 1.5 billion dollar till Dec. 31, 1985 would be achieved.

He called for concerted efforts by exporters and government agencies to achieve the target. He added that during the last four years, country's exports did not touch three billion mark.

The Minister said that sustained efforts were all the more required in view of the fall in prices of different commodities in the international market. He said the government believed in the motto of export or perish. Increased export is the corner stone of the government policy, he added.

Answering a question, the Minister said, he was not in favour of continuing the compensatory rebate. It should be phased out, he said, and added that the government was already drawing up a programme to do away with compensatory rebate. He said that compensatory rebates are given on 22 items. To another question Mr. Saifullah reiterated the government policy of ensuring support price to the growers of cotton, rice, etc.

The Minister agreed with a correspondent that the country's liberal import policy should be streamlined. He said steps were already underway in this regard which had yielded positive results in the first quarter when the import has gone down by seven per cent. He added that the import by the end of the second quarter of the current fiscal year would be below the target set for the period.

Mr. Saifullah said there were thousands of exporters in the country although their total exports stood at 1.8 billion dollars last year.

PAKISTAN

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS FIGURES NOTED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Oct 85 p 7

[Text]

KARACHI, Oct. 10: Pakistan's Balance of Payments recorded a current account deficit of Rs 3 915 million during the quarter January-March, 1985 as against the deficits of Rs. 1,592 million and Rs 3 561 million in October-December, 1984 and January-March, 1984 respectively. The deterioration by Rs. 2,323 million in the current account position compared to the previous quarter was mainly due to large trade deficit under merchandise account (13 per cent to Rs. 2,950 million) offset partly by larger net receipts under unrequited transfers (5 per cent to Rs. 12 016 million). The net capital inflow at Rs 2,571 million resulted in an overall deficit of Rs 1,344 million during the quarter as against the surplus of Rs 271 million in the previous quarter and the deficit of Rs. 1 105 million in the corresponding quarter last year.

The merchandise trade deficit amounting to Rs 12 981 million in January-March, 1985 was higher by Rs 1 503 million over the previous quarter (Rs 11,478 million) and lower by Rs 448 million over the corresponding quarter last year (Rs 13,429 million). The deficit on service transactions increased to Rs. 2,950 million during the quarter from Rs 1,537 million in the preceding quarter and Rs. 2,820 million in the corresponding

quarter of 1984. The unrequited transfers denoted net receipts of Rs. 12,016 million in January-March, 1985 as compared with Rs. 11,423 million in October-December, 1984 and Rs. 12,688 million in January-March, 1984.

Net capital inflow during the quarter January-March, 1985 stood at Rs. 2,571 million as compared with the inflows of Rs. 1,863 million and Rs. 2,456 million in October-December 1984 and January-March, 1984 respectively. The foreign loans/credits amounted to Rs. 3,912 million, Rs. 2,637 million and Rs. 3,723 million respectively while receipts on account of grants stood at Rs. 1,373 million, Rs. 918 million and Rs. 1,353 million respectively in the quarter January-March, 1985, October-December, 1984 and January-March, 1984. The repayment of foreign loans/credits during the quarter stood at Rs. 3,160 million as against Rs. 1,301 million and Rs. 2,413 million respectively during the previous quarter and the corresponding quarter of the preceding year. In the backdrop of an overall deficit of Rs 1,344 million, reserve position showed a net decrease of Rs. 1,728 million leaving a balancing entry of Rs. 384 million.

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CSO: 4600/60

PAKISTAN

JUNEJO, ZIA PLEDGE SUPPORT TO AZANIAN PEOPLE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Oct 85 p 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 10: Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said that the Government and people of Pakistan pay tribute to the people of Azania for their heroic struggle against oppression and injustice unleashed by the White racist regime in Pretoria.

In his message on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Political Prisoners of South Africa being celebrated on Oct. 11, the Prime Minister said.

'On this Day of International Solidarity with the Political Prisoners of South Africa, the Government and people of Pakistan pay tribute to the people of Azania for their heroic struggle against oppression and injustice unleashed by the White racist regime in Pretoria.

The abhorrent system of apartheid imposed by the racist regime is an affront to the conscience and dignity of mankind. This evil system is being sustained by a policy of terror, persecution and the use of brutal force. Yet it is the verdict of history that this repressive system must eventually give way to the inexorable forces of freedom and justice in Southern Africa.

On this solemn occasion, the Government and people of Pakistan express their total solidarity with the people of Azania. Their great sacrifices for the cause of justice, freedom and human rights have won our lasting admiration.

We pay homage to the memory of the martyrs who have laid down their lives and salute the courage of those who have been incarcerated or extorted for upholding the values of our civilisation.

In strongly denouncing the South African regime for its innumerable unconscionable acts against the people of Azania, we urge the international community to take all appropriate measures to secure the release of all political prisoners and patriots including Mr. Nelson Mandela who are languishing in South Africa's prisons.

Pakistan, once again, pledges its unswerving commitment and support to the just struggle of the people of Azania. We are convinced that no amount of terror and repression can contain their indomitable will for justice, freedom and dignity.'

The President also issued a statement as follows: "Pakistan joins the world community in observing the International Day of Solidarity with the Political Prisoners of South Africa. This solemn occasion provides us an opportunity to reaffirm our resolute support for the heroic and just struggle relentlessly waged by our brothers and sisters in Azania to dismantle the abhorrent structure of apartheid imposed by the racist Pretoria regime.

Today, the people of Azania are daily demonstrating by their sacrifices and defiance that the indomitable will of a people for freedom and dignity cannot be extinguished by the use of brute force. Pakistan denounces the sharp intensification of Pretoria's repression, which is symbolised by the wanton destruction of the home of Azania's imprisoned leader. Such acts of deliberate destruction and murder betray the growing desperation

and degeneration of the South African racists.

On this critical juncture in the history of Southern Africa, it is the political and moral duty of all those who value human dignity and freedom to extend effective support to those struggling to eliminate the abhorrent system of apartheid in South Africa. Such measures must include the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions by the United Nations against the Pretoria regime.

Guided by the Islamic principles of justice, human dignity and equality, Pakistan has always extended unstinted support to all peoples struggling for their freedom and independence from racist, colonial and alien domination and oppression. On this Day we call for immediate release of all political prisoners in South Africa, including Mr. Nelson Mandela, and for the return of those who have been exiled. Pakistan renews its pledge of solidarity with the people of Azania in their epic struggle for freedom and justice whose success, we are convinced, is close at hand.—PR

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CSO: 4600/60

PAKISTAN

LAUNCHING OF BOOK SPARKS DISCUSSION ON PUNJAB

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 3 Oct 85 p 19

[Article by Husain Naqi]

[Text]

AS THE NATIONAL debate on its political future continues, serious issues are being taken up by serious men. One such exercise was the launching of Mr. Hanif Ramay's book, 'Punjab Ka Muqqadama' (A Case for the Punjab) last week.

The audience was large and representative, involved and anxious. Mr. S.M. Zafar was the only listed speaker who did not turn up. However, the sharp exchanges between Mr. Majid Nizami, the 'Nawa-i-Waqt' Editor and Dr. Mubashir Hasan, the former Finance Minister, made it quite a lively evening.

Mr. Majid Nizami's bid to browbeat the generally polite and soft-spoken Dr. Mubashir Hasan into submission backfired. Mr. Nizami can, at times, be needlessly gruff which is good neither for his health nor for his listeners.

Mr. Nizami began by saying that he wondered whether Mr. Ramay's book was a case for or against the Punjab. To this Mr. Ramay responded by saying in his concluding remarks that nobody was willing to take up the Punjab's case. Hence the brief was invariably entrusted to government-appointed counsel who fleeced the petitioner to its last drop of blood. Mr. Ramay said his book was an attempt to extricate his client from live wires with the help of a wooden staff.

Thesis Dismissed

Mr. Nizami warned Mr. Ramay that his espousal of non-Muslims in pre-and post-partition Punjab as heroes would once again force him to live in exile in the United States. This thesis was quietly dismissed by the audience.

When Mr. Nizami said the reason for the Punjab's dominance in national affairs was because of its population, the hard-working nature of its inhabitants and its higher ratio of literacy, Dr. Hasan quoted from the 'Nawa-i-Waqt' itself, building up a case against East Bengal which then was the majority province.

Dr. Hasan also recalled how the 'Nawa-i-Waqt' had acclaimed the dismissal of the Khawaja Nazimuddin Ministry, the sacking of the United Front Ministry in East Bengal, the high praise it had showered on the administrative acumen of Gen. Iskandar Mirza and Mr. N.M. Khan. He recalled how Begum Liaquat Ali Khan's sartorial preferences had been ridiculed, how the issuance of trade licences to Bengali traders had been criticised, how adult suffrage had been opposed and how the newspaper had rejected the idea of accepting Bengali as a national language.

Useful debate

Dr. Hasan praised Mr. Ramay's book because it had generated an extremely useful debate on a very important issue. He asked Mr. Ramay to attempt another volume of his 'Muqqadama'.

Dr. Hasan disagreed with Mr. Ramay that the Punjabi elite had ignored the Punjab's language because of an inherent inferiority complex. He thought that the Punjabis in power preferred Urdu to their own mother tongue because they found it a handy instrument with the which to exploit others. At the moment, Punjabi could not serve their interests because it had no elitist base. He urged the Punjabis to respect criticism by non-Punjabis and stop being self-righteous.

Mr. Ramay concluded a fruitful discussion by calling upon the Punjabis to get rid of the bureaucratic deadwood which was keeping the whole country down. He said his book was an attempt to save Pakistan from further dismemberment. He exhorted the Punjabis to shed their self-complacency.

One last word in praise of the audience : they proved that a serious debate on critical issues in an orderly, democratic manner, is still possible in Lahore. Other things remaining the same, a very healthy sign, indeed. Among these other things, I do not, of course, include Martial Law.

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PAKISTAN

POLICE ARREST STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY FIRING CASE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Oct 85 p 6

[Text]

KARACHI, Oct. 10: While tension persists between the Sindh Students Federation and Pakhtoon Students Federation of NED Engineering University and Dawood Engineering College in Karachi, five police parties have been dispatched to different districts of Sind to locate the students involved in the shooting incident at the NED University last week in which one student was killed and two others had been injured in the incident.

"The Muslim" has learnt that one of the five police parties returned back to city from Mirpurkhas yesterday with one Ghulam Mustafa, a third semester student at the NED University. The police said he was one of those students who had been named by Pakhtoon students for being involved in the incident.

The Engineering University and its affiliated Dawood Engineering College had been shut down and all examinations were postponed early this week following the clash between the two groups of students. The trouble followed a nomination of a hostel monitor from a group different from that occupying the hostel.

Following the closure of the University and the College, the

Vice-Chancellor of NED University also ordered students to vacate the hostels, but the police did not help the University in getting the hostels vacated despite claims from the rival groups that a lot of arms and ammunition was dumped in the hostels.

Despite repeated requests many students continued to stay in the hostels. On receiving information that some of the students who were involved in the firing are staying at the old hostel of NED Engineering University, the rival group reached there late last night and fired upon the hostel building. These students later escaped when people from adjoining building gathered around the hostel building.

Amidst tension and threats of revenge by the rival groups of students, Prof. A.T. Khan, Vice-Chancellor, NED Engineering University called a meeting of his senior teachers yesterday and discussed the current situation. A committee has been appointed to look into the affairs of the hostels. Meanwhile, the Provost of the hostels at the University has been removed from his post, on the demand of Pakhtoon Students Federation.

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PAKISTAN

POLICE REFORMS: NEED URGED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Oct 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Reforming the Police"]

[Text] While a vigilant police force for the maintenance of law and order and to track down criminals, of whom a large variety exists in the land including dacoits, petty thieves, murderers and misanthropic maniacs like the hammer groups that have lately been stalking the country and indulging in motiveless killings and leaving the citizens panic-stricken, is essential for the State, notice also needs to be taken of the onerous responsibilities entrusted to police constables whose low emoluments are not commensurate with the duties they are called upon to perform. Whenever a VIP is to arrive in the land or depart from it, the police force is deployed in large numbers to line the roads for hours on end with little consideration for the rigours of our climatic conditions like sizzling summers. Those who man the police are also human beings with the natural limitations of their endurance. Some of these factors make them lose their patience and misbehave with the citizens who are not responsible for their predicament. The Frontier police is an exception for being courteous in their demeanour. Not so the Punjab police.

The police also needs to be delinked with the country's intelligence agencies. It is this aspect of their duties that breeds corruption in their ranks as anyone hauled up, with or without reason, on the pretext of being associated with "anti-government" elements often has to buy his ransom. Those entrusted with intelligence work should execute their assignments honestly and conscientiously and bring their true findings to the notice of the relevant authorities for action where necessary. The virtues of veracity should be inculcated in the rank and file of the police force to minimise, if not eliminate, the possibility of misreporting in lieu of consideration handed down in cash. The tendency to ask for or go for illegal gratification can greatly be countered by an upward revision of their salaries and other fringe benefits.

Reforming the police should be institutionalised. Reforms need to be introduced to improve their efficiency and to militate against their proclivity to strive for unearned income. If they are adequately paid for their pains, and their salaries revised in the light of the currently spiralling prices of essential commodities and they are trained to realise that they would make a dignified force if they diligently perform their duties and eschew the lust for easy money, many of the ills with which they are afflicted today can effectively be remedied and their moral health restored.

PAKISTAN

LETTER WRITER COMPLAINS OF CORRUPTION IN CUSTOMS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Oct 85 p 4

[Article by Khalid Hyder]

[Text]

ACCORDING TO the official Indonesian magazine "Nusantara", to be selected as a customs official in Indonesia had traditionally been the equivalent of finding a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow: of winning top prize at the races and of being given the Midas gift of the golden touch, all rolled into one. In short, Indonesian customs officials traditionally have had it made for life. The graft within the customs department had reached a point where the word customs had become synonymous with corruption.

But President Suharto was determined to end this state of affairs in the customs department. He disbanded the department and handed over its responsibilities to a Swiss company "Society General de Surveillance"—or SGS for short, and in no time the curse of corruption in the customs vanished. The Nigerian government, which was facing a similar problem with its customs, also utilised the SGS for rooting out corruption.

Does the above situation ring a bell anywhere? Our fat cats in customs are getting fatter — with Mercedes cars and stylish homes in the posh areas of our cities—at the expense of the standard of living of the vast mass of their less-

privileged fellow countrymen. Corruption is so deeply ingrained in our society that one may ask whether it can ever be wholly rooted out, and there is a very strong precedent for believing that removal of some of the corrupt officials will only make more room for other corrupt officials.

Prime Minister Junejo has repeatedly stressed that he is going to rid the country of the evil of corruption. Let him start with the Customs Department. The Government should contact the SGS and ask them to take over such basic customs duties as the inspection and assessment of dutiable goods. With this function in the hands of the SGS, corruption in the customs will vanish. It is said that the SGS is very cheap in the long run. In Indonesia, the fee granted to SGS is less than one per cent of Indonesia's total import value, a figure which does not leave a great deal of surplus money to be invested in corrupt practices.

And while the Prime Minister is at it, he should also look for some other international firms who are willing to run the WAPDA, the Railways, the Police, the T&T, the Income Tax Department, the CBR, the PWD and the FIA, for us!

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PAKISTAN

LETTER WRITER DISCUSSES CAUSES OF CORRUPTION

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Oct 85 p 4

[Article by J. Rahman]

[Text]

MR KHALID HYDER has advised the Government to disband the Customs Department and to hand over its responsibilities to a Swiss firm (Muslim : October 5). The rampant corruption in the Customs has led your correspondent to suggest such a drastic remedy. He has asked Prime Minister Junejo that WAPDA, Police the CBR, the Railways and the PWD should also be contracted out to some international firms. Your correspondent's concern is well founded but if we were to take his advice to its logical conclusion then we might as well ask the British to come back and run the country for us.

The Government seems to be deeply concerned with the evil of corruption but does not appear to do anything practical about it. The newly elected National Assembly has also passed a resolution asking the Government to eradicate corruption. The President and the Prime Minister have both admitted that corruption is on the rise and both on several occasions have promised to rid the country of this evil. The fact of the matter is that the successive governments in Pakistan have themselves been instrumental in generating corrupt practices in the country. Over the years these practices have acquired legal umbrella too. What we are faced with today is not corruption in its ordinary sense but institutionalised corruption duly sustained by the government.

I am not talking of dispensation of political patronage which is the right of a political party victorious in elections. Such patronage is confined to appointments to high

offices of people who had helped the party to power. When such patronage takes the shape of distributing state wealth to relations, friends and hangers-on then it turns into outright corruption.

Governments employ various methods for generating corruption in the society. Some methods have been legalised and others are applied through a device called 'discretionary powers'. I shall name but a few rules which are nothing but legalised methods of corruption.

1. A selected number of high government functionaries are permitted to import cars of their choice and value without paying customs and other duties. By importing one car the privileged official can enrich himself by half a million rupees at the expense of the public exchequer.

2. The concerned federal minister is empowered to grant permits for trucks and cars to anybody at his sweet will. Thus the recipient is enriched overnight at the expense of those who are awaiting their turn in the queue.

3. A number of seats in the universities of Pakistan are put at the disposal of the high government officials. Admission to these seats is not on merit but at the discretion of the designated officials.

4. The concerned federal minister is empowered to sanction a telephone connection to anyone he pleases. The others have to wait for years in the queue.

5. Plots in Islamabad may be allotted at the discretion of the CDA. The difference in CDA and market prices is enormous. Hence an allottee of a plot in Islamabad becomes a millionaire overnight. The list of allottees of plots in Islamabad which has recently been placed in the Senate should be an eye-opener. It is a star-studded Who's Who of serving and retired government servants, their wives, children and relatives.

I have enumerated only a few examples of those rules and laws which are perpetuating and generating corruption in the society. The list is endless. It is not the people but governments which are responsible for the present state of affairs. Corruption cannot be eradicated by enacting punitive laws and creating one anti-corruption force after another. If the present government genuinely desires to rid the society of corruption then it should start by abolishing the discretionary powers it enjoys through the state functionaries. Secondly, the law should be the same for everyone, rich or poor, high or low. By creating a privileged class in the society, corruption is further encouraged and not abated.

One is reminded of the old fable that if the king were to start stealing from the public exchequer the people will follow suit.

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PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

INTERPOL APPROACHED ON MASSACRE--Rawalpindi, Oct 15: The Rawalpindi Police have established contact with Interpol in connection with the investigation into illegal stay of Mauladad, one of the 11 killed in Dhoke, Khabba two months ago, in West Germany, a senior police official disclosed here today. Talking to this correspondent, he said "The possibility of narcotics illegal monetary transactions and fraud in recruitment were not totally ruled out". Interpol has been asked to scan all his contacts in West Germany for the Rawalpindi Police. The exchange of information will certainly help in putting the pieces together, he said. He added that the findings of the local police on Mauladad's contacts here and abroad have also been fed to Interpol. Referring to similarities in Dhoke Khabba and Dharampani massacres, the official said that a detailed discussion with the doctors who conducted the post mortem established that in these two cases there was not much similarity. He, however, parried the question on what similarities were found in Dhoke Khabba and Dharampani killings. The official categorically denied the report that the police had sent someone to West Germany to be available to Interpol. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Oct 85 p 3]

KARAKORUM HIGHWAY TOURIST GROUP--Islamabad, Oct 15: The first ever 25-member group of Pakistani tourists and businessmen is expected to leave for China by the end of this month via Karakorum Highway. A private sector tour operator said here today that the group would be the first to travel via KKH since it was completed in 1982. It will also be the first tourist group to travel by road to the Xin Jiang Province since the relationship of diplomatic relations between the two fraternal countries. Discussing the itinerary of the group, the tour operator said that the group will visit Sust, Taxkurgan Kashugar, Yarqand, Khutan, Turfan and Urmuchi. Meanwhile, reliable sources disclosed here that a five-member delegation representing Chinese Foreign Ministry and Tourism Promotion Bureau will soon be arriving in Islamabad to discuss details for opening the KKH for foreign nationals other than Pakistanis. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Oct 85 p 3]

AGRICULTURE INCOME: NO TAX PLANNED--Islamabad, Oct 15: Ch. Nisar Ali Khan, Parliamentary Secretary for Finance, today described as pure conjecture the reports that government is considering to impose tax on agriculture income. Speaking on an adjournment motion sought to be moved by Mohammad Aslan Kacheela in which the mover referred to press reports and said the National Taxation Reforms Commission has also invited suggestions regarding imposition

of tax on agricultural income, the member said the rural population which forms over 70 per cent of the population and depends on agriculture is already paying many other types of taxes and cannot afford any further burden. Mr. Nisar opposing the motion on technical grounds contended that it was hypothetical and based on conjecture. He said the Commission on Taxation has been formed in accordance with the budget speech of the Finance Minister which contained this proposal. Its main task is to reform the entire taxation system. The Commission has hardly started its work. When it submits its report, the Cabinet will discuss it and later the recommendations would be submitted in the National Assembly for consultation and giving legal cover to them. The motion was not pressed. [Excerpt] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Oct 85 p 8]

LABOR LEADER RELEASED--Lahore, Oct. 10: Sadiq Awan, a labour leader from Murdike industrial area, was released from Sahiwal jail. He had been sentenced to 3 years imprisonment under Martial Law. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Oct 85 p 6]

IMPRISONMENT, LASHES FOR STUDENTS--Oct. 10: A Special Military Court has awarded one year's rigorous imprisonment and five lashes each to four students belonging to the banned People's Student Federation (Sind) for chanting anti-Martial Law slogans. According to BBC the four were arrested at Karachi Airport on August 21 when the body of late Shahnawaz Bhutto arrived from Zurich for burial in Larkana. They were tried under MLR 9 & 13 and the proceedings were held in camera. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Oct 85 p 8]

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