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23 September 1985

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EGYPT

AL-BAZ EXPRESSES MUBARAK'S VIEWS IN KHARTOUM

Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 26 Jun 85 p 3

[Report on interview with Dr Usamah al-Baz, head of President Husni Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs, at the Khartoum Airport and at the National Palace in Khartoum on 24 June 1985, by Muhammad Latif: "President Mubarak's Statements Have Not Closed the Door to the Demand That Numayri Be Extradited, But He Did Clarify Egypt's Basic Positions"]

[Text] "We are prepared to review any agreement if Sudan requests this."

Dr Usamah al-Baz made a short visit to Khartoum during which he delivered a private letter from President Mubarak to Gen Siwar al-Dhahab. During his visit he gave an interview to AL-AYYAM and answered our questions concerning various issues that were brought up.

When Dr al-Baz arrived at the Khartoum Airport the day before yesterday, he stated that contacts between Sudan and Egypt were, of course, continuing and on-going. He also said that President Mubarak felt that it was necessary to have consultations and an exchange of views with Gen 'Abd-al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab and his colleagues. He went on to say that the letter which he was carrying contained an appeal to continue discussing issues which had previously been brought up for discussion such as problems dealing with increasing cooperation between the two nations in certain fields and matters relating to the situation in the Middle East, the dimensions of this problem, and the latest developments concerning it.

Dr al-Baz went on to say: "Egypt is not remote from the Arab arena. This is a matter which is merely a formality and concerns Egypt's membership in the Arab League while it is in the middle of the events which are taking place. I believe this situation will come to an end. However, it will not at all affect Egypt's national commitment. Egypt will maintain a presence, even though it is formally and theoretically absent."

Broad-Based Arab Initiative

Dr al-Baz continued: "We must undertake a decisive collective Arab initiative to prevent the situation from deteriorating further and in order that there

be a united position, with regard to developments in the area, which the Arab nations can be demanded to adopt. If we allow the situation to deteriorate like this, without adopting a united position, the idea of Arab unity will become a shallow one, devoid of all meaning. This is why we say that it is necessary for us to adopt a united position with regard to all the important Arab issues, especially concerning what is going on in Lebanon and concerning what our Palestinian brothers are going through. These issues should be of great concern to the Arab nations. If the Arab League is not able to accomplish this through its own channels, then this means that the Arab League will be unable to undertake its assigned pan-Arab responsibilities and it will be overtaken by events."

Integration Is Not the Essence of the Relationship

Concerning the integration of Sudan and Egypt, Dr al-Baz said: "Sudan and Egypt have both reaffirmed their commitment to the eternal relationship and common destiny which binds them together. Integration is merely the manner in which this relationship has been formulated. It does not constitute the essence of the relationship between the two countries, but is instead one of the forms by means of which the two nations have expressed the legality of this relationship and are attempting to put it into practice." Concerning the relationship, Dr al-Baz went on to say: "It goes beyond integration, goes beyond other treaties, and goes beyond the forms in which they have been cast. This is why integration is not something which is vital as such. The thing which is really vital is that there exist a constant desire on the part of the single nation of people in both countries [to be united]. They should believe that a special relationship exists and that this is a relationship which is above the level of current events, above the level of personalities, and above the level of governments, regimes, and legal systems. This relationship is something which is expressed by means of the masses of people [of Egypt and Sudan] associating with each other and being in contact with each other on all levels." Dr al-Baz went on to say: "If we feel, at some time or other, that the formulation [of this relationship] can be achieved through integration, then so be it. But if we reach the opinion that some other form is more appropriate, then we will not at all hesitate [to implement it]. We do not feel bound, like prisoners, to integration or to any any other formula--neither in Sudan nor in Egypt."

Cooperation Between the Two Countries

Concerning the role which Egypt could play in helping Sudan to overcome its complicated economic problems at the present time, Dr al-Baz said: "We do not view our relationship with Sudan in terms of giving aid to Sudan, but rather in terms of solidarity with Sudan. That is, we are not saying that Egypt helps Sudan. Actually, Sudan has helped Egypt a lot. But we do not say that Sudan has helped us. What we say is that Sudan has stood by our side in true national and pan-Arab solidarity. When we stand by Sudan's side, we are merely returning some of the favor done for us by the Sudanese people."

More Contacts

Dr al-Baz reiterated the fact that his visit to Sudan was taking place within the framework of an effort to increase contacts and consultations between the two nations. He said: "An agreement has been reached to have more such contacts during the next few weeks." He added: "It is quite clear that Egypt and Sudan view pan-Arab issues from virtually the same standpoint since this is in the common interest of the two twin-brother nations."

At the National Palace, after being received by Gen Siwar al-Dhahab, head of the Transitional Military Council, Dr al-Baz stated that they expected to be receiving some Sudanese officials in Cairo in order to have further consultations and continue the dialogue between the two nations.

Arab Summit Conference

Dr al-Baz, during his interview yesterday, said that during his meeting with Gen Siwar al-Dhahab, they did not discuss how much success might be achieved by holding the emergency Arab summit conference being called for by Morocco at the present time. He added: "The meeting dealt with the situation in the Arab world in general--especially the situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon and what contribution the two nations could make as far as this was concerned. As far as what the upcoming summit conference was going to deal with, we did not discuss the conference's agenda or [even] the likelihood of the conference being held."

Extradition of Numayri

In answer to a question by AL-AYYAM about whether or not the statements made by President Mubarak had closed the door concerning the matter of the demand for Numayri's extradition, Dr al-Baz said: "Within the framework of relations between the two nations there is no occasion for closing the door, concerning any matter, to any contacts being sought by our Sudanese brothers." But he went on to say: "We want to make the situation crystal-clear to our brothers. We consider that this matter (the matter of Numayri's extradition) should not be one which constitutes a point of dispute. It should not be a question which is brought up to damage the close relations which exist between the two nations. The basis of Egypt's position regarding this matter is that any Sudanese should be treated as would any Egyptian in such cases. He has the right to be in Egyptian territory. We do not dispute the right of the Sudanese people to choose their own government and to call former leaders to account for their actions. All of these rights have been decided upon by the Sudanese people of their own free will. Previous rumors to the effect that there were no relations between Egypt and Sudan, but rather only between Egypt and the regime of Numayri, were not true. Events have borne this fact out. Relations between Sudan and Egypt are profound ones, and they go beyond regimes, policies, and rulers. All of these matters are things which we primarily discuss together as brothers, with an open heart, rather than discussing them from legalistic and formalistic standpoints as we would with other groups of people. President Mubarak has clarified the existence of a certain

tradition which, for some time, has been consistently followed by Egypt. This tradition is the principle that Egypt refuses to extradite any political refugee under any circumstances. As you know, a few weeks ago Egypt hosted the first Arab human rights conference. Let us take this into consideration and also remember the special relationship between our two nations which means that any Sudanese in Egypt is also considered to be in his own country. So the issue goes beyond that of taking a position with regard to a given person. Egypt is a country which is open to all of the inhabitants of Sudan under all circumstances. Egypt does not allow itself to be utilized as territory from which any political activity or any other hostile actions may be undertaken against Sudan. Also, Egypt does not allow itself to be a party to any action taken against the interests of Sudan. Furthermore, Egypt does not allow itself to be neutral in such matters because the interests of Sudan are the same as the interests of Egypt. This is why we feel that we are always obligated to work in favor of Sudan's interests. We also believe that Sudan should bear the same burden with regard to Egypt." At this point Dr al-Baz emphasized this point of view by adding: "Any Sudanese party is entitled to exercise its legitimate right to submit this demand to Egypt, and we respect this right. But we also respect Egypt's legitimate right to adhere to the principles which it openly stands for in this regard."

Even If He Were a Criminal

AL-AYYAM asked: "Would you apply the principle of protecting a political refugee even if he were a criminal?"

Dr al-Baz answered: "My opinion is that we should not blow this matter out of proportion. In my opinion, if I were a Sudanese--and I do consider myself a Sudanese who has the right to talk about this subject--I would say that we, at the present time, are confronted with a definite challenge. This challenge contains more positive features than it does negative features. There is a need for action essentially from within to be taken which should be supported by action from outside. My idea is that the matter of former President Numayri should be one of the elements within the framework of this great initiative. He is certainly an element whose importance should be kept in its proper perspective. We also view him within this framework. We realize that there are basic issues such as maintaining the unity of the Sudanese nation and dealing with Sudan's economic problems, the effects of the drought and encroachment of the desert, issues concerning the building of democracy, selecting the most appropriate formula for protecting Sudan from all outside intervention and interference, etc. As for international initiatives, on the 18th of next month the African summit conference will be held. On this occasion Egypt and Sudan will be in need of a large-scale initiative and more contacts with the other nations." In view of all of this, Dr al-Baz went on to say: "The situation of any given individual should be viewed only within this perspective and should not be blown out of proportion." Dr al-Baz then once again stressed the following theme: "With regard to any issue, Egypt does not take a position which is hostile to Sudan, nor does it take a position whose aim is to cause trouble to the Sudanese. We are prepared to help Sudan and to give absolutely top priority to any matter involving Sudanese issues."

Existing Agreements

Concerning the possibility of Egypt agreeing to review agreements dealing with the waters of the Nile and mutual defense as well as the integration treaty, Dr al-Baz said: "We have no objection to having a general discussion with our Sudanese brothers concerning the forms of the relationship which governs cooperation between us and them. These issues should be discussed with no reservations or restrictions, although the existence of our special relationship should be safeguarded. Also, this review or appeal should not be utilized to serve as a screen behind which some people can hide when they cast doubts on the special relationship that exists between our two countries. If a well-intentioned appeal of this sort is made to discuss and develop the forms of the relationship, then we fully welcome this and are prepared to do this. I believe that some people have tried to give the impression that some of the agreements, such as the Nile waters agreement, constitute an effort to swindle and oppress Sudan. Bringing up these issues all at the same time, one after another, has tended to cast shadows of suspicion on this appeal. We have no objection to discussing any agreement from the technical point of view if it furthers the interests of the two brother nations. We also fully welcome the opportunity to discuss all of the issues dealing with integration and other matters within a peaceful and objective framework which does not involve resorting to sensationalism and picturing the issue as being one involving the usurpation of Sudanese rights which it is now high time to regain."

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EGYPT

JOURNALISM PRIZES ANNOUNCED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Jul 85 p 6

[Article: "Prizes for the Egyptian Journalism Contest: The Prime Minister Will Hand Them Out on Thursday"]

[Text] Next Thursday evening, the day after tomorrow, Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the prime minister, will attend the ceremony which will be held in order to hand out the Egyptian journalism prizes for the best 25 works published in the various fields of journalism and submitted by those who participated in the contest organized by the Freedoms Committee in the Journalists Union.

The ceremony will also be attended by Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, president of the National Assembly, Dr Subhi 'Abd-al-Hakim, president of the Consultative Council, a number of ministers, heads of political parties, and representatives from the Arab Journalists Federation, and a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors as well as heads of departments and editors in chief of the national and party newspapers. The total value of the prizes amounts to 18,000 Egyptian pounds, and part of this amount was contributed by prominent journalists.

Who Are the Winners?

1. Winners in the field of investigative reporting. First prize was a tie--won by both Buthaynah al-Bili of the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR for a report concerning the experiment involving giving the ownership of land plots to young university graduates, and Badawi Mahmud of the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH for a report entitled "And We Are Importing Maids." Second prize went to 'Izzah 'Ali of the newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI for a report concerning a plan to save Egypt's exports. Third prize was won by Husayn Shahbun of the newspaper AL-AHRAM for a report concerning people who left their civil service jobs in order to participate in the program to push back the desert.
2. Winners in the field of analytical articles. First prize went to 'Abd-al-Qadir Shuhayb of the newspaper AL-SHA'B for an article on the dangers of foreign aid. Second prize was a tie--won by both 'Asim al-Qirsh of AL-AHRAM for an article called "Tears in the Eyes of the Israelis," and al-Sayyid Zahrah of AL-AHRAM's Studies Center for an article about the Iraqi-Iranian war and those who are benefitting by having it continue. Third prize went to 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sa'id of AL-AHRAM for an article concerning the strategic concept of the October War and the technology of weapons and Soviet-U.S. relations.

3. Winners in the field of news coverage articles. First prize was won by Sharif Riyad of the newspaper AL-AKHBAR for seven investigative articles dealing with the National Assembly elections. Second prize went to Tharwat Shalabi of the newspaper AL-AHALI for coverage of the [court] sessions dealing with the "jihad" case. Third prize was won by Khalid Muhammad Jabr of AL-AKHBAR for an article about the tragedy of the doctor who fell from the airplane in Shuqayr.

4. Winners in the field of foreign affairs investigative reports. First prize went to Ihsan Bakr, assistant chief editor of AL-AHRAM, for his report entitled "Six Days With the Palestine Problem." Second prize was won by Usamah 'Ajja of the magazine AKHIR SA'AH for an article about the confessions made by prisoners taken during the Iraqi-Iranian war. Third prize went to Diya'-al-Din al-Hajiri of AL-MUSAWWAR for an article about the origins of Israeli terrorism and the organization Gush Emunim.

5. Winners in the field of journalistic interviews. First prize was won by Shafiq Ahmad 'Ali of AL-AHALI for an interview with Kamil al-Kafrawi. Second prize went to 'Adil Hammudah of the magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF for an interview with the minister of defense. Third prize went to Jamal-al-Din Husayn of AL-SHA'B for an interview with Mahmud Riyad.

6. Winners in the field of journalistic cartoons. The first prize was not awarded, and it was decided to wait till next year's contest to award it. Second prize went to the artist Sharif 'Ulish of the magazine SABAH AL-KHAYR. Third prize was won by the artist Jum'ah Farahat who does cartoons for both AL-SHA'B and ROSE AL-YUSUF.

7. Winners in the field of journalistic photography. First prize was won by Antun Albayr of AL-AHRAM, second prize went to Makram Jadd al-Karim of AL-AKHBAR, and third prize was won by Ibrahim Dahdah of AL-SHA'B.

8. Winners in the field of sports coverage articles. First prize went to Ayman Ibrahim of AL-AKHBAR, second prize went to Jamal Bakhit of SABAH AL-KHAYR, and third prize went to Muhammad Hasan al-Banna of AL-AKHBAR.

The prizes will be handed out at 8:30 pm in the al-Jazirah Sheraton Hotel.

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EGYPT

PALESTINIAN SCHOLAR ASSERTS NATION'S TIES TO GAZA

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Jul 85 p 7

/Article by Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani: "Questions about the Gaza Strip"/

/Text/ What is the legal status of the Gaza Strip?

What is the special relationship which links Egypt to the strip?

These two questions have been raised a number of times this week. Two Western correspondents studying the conditions of the Gaza Strip today and the circumstances of people from the strip who are living outside it have raised them.

Two Asian scholars who are visiting the area in the course of returning to their home country from the United States have raised them.

The two questions have also stood out in the course of a conversation in which a son of a noble brother, Eng Fahmi Faruq al-Husayni, told me "My father talked to me about the glorious week in the history of the Gaza Strip, extending from 7 to 14 March 1957, when the whole strip rose up to reject the international administration and demand the return of Egyptian administration, in the wake of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai and the strip. How I would like to know more about what happened that week and the results which followed this uprising of the people of the strip!" The father of the person talking to me was my brother and friend the late Faruq al-Husayni, who was one of the major figures in the strip. We were colleagues together for years in the Palestine Liberation Organization, after we had participated in its establishment, and he was chosen a member of its first executive committee, then maintained his membership in its National Council and Central Council and the board of directors of the National Fund. He combined this with his work as a senior official in charge of legal affairs in the department of the governor general of the Gaza Strip and, in his sacred struggle, pursued the career of his father the lawyer Fahmi al-Husayni, who was mayor of the city of Gaza.

I presented my answer to the two questions a third time, then found myself drawn into a discussion of further detailed information in their regard. When I asked a noble brother, who was a distinguished figure in the strip, about sources which had been brought up that week, he told me, "I cannot

mention any book which talks about that in detail. We are memorizing what is happening there, and it is still being held in storage, in men's hearts," I returned to my office to review the contents of some books on the Palestine cause with respect to the two questions, in order to write this article to urge the people concerned and competent bodies to make a legal and historic study answering the two questions.

The expression "Gaza Strip" emerged, in its current meaning, in the wake of events which took place in Palestine during the withdrawal of the British forces from Palestine, the declaration of the establishment of the "state of Israel," the entry of Arab forces on 15 May 1948 and the outbreak of the first war in the Arab-Israeli struggle. The significance of the expression assumed definite form, and the outlines of this strip were drawn up, in the Rhodes agreement which both Egypt and Israel signed on 24 February 1949 to establish an "armistice" between themselves. This agreement contained the definition of the armistice lines relative to the Egyptian forces in the Gaza and Rafah area, in accordance with the definition that appeared in the deputy mediator's instructions on 13 November 1948, so that the armed forces were not to move beyond their existing positions in the Bethlehem-Hebron area in accordance with the definition that appeared in the deputy mediator's instructions on 13 November 1948. It also stipulated respect for the boundary line dividing Egypt and Palestine, provided that Egypt would have the right to cross over the borders in the Rafah area in order to reach the Gaza and Rafah area, and a reduction in Egyptian forces in the Gaza-Rafah area and the Bethlehem-Hebron area "to defensive strength."

The Gaza Strip remained Palestinian territory under Egyptian administration after the conclusion of the Rhodes agreement. The Egyptian army had entered Palestine from the south and established itself in Bethlehem, Hebron, Bayt Jabril, Ashdod, 'Arraq Suwaydan and al-Falujah. The process then, finally, after the developments of the events of the war and the conclusion of the first and second armistices led it to remain in the Gaza-Rafah area. On the 23 September the Arab Higher Commission declared the establishment of the general government of Palestine from Gaza through the convening of a Palestinian national council. This government was not fated to perform its responsibilities, for numerous reasons. At the same time a Palestinian council met in Amman and this stipulated that the activity which had taken place in Gaza was not legitimate. Then the Jericho conference was held on 1 December, declaring the unity of territory of Jordan and Palestine. The late al-Hajj Amin al-Husayni, in his book "Facts on the Palestine Cause," relates how he invited al-Nuqrashi Pasha, the Egyptian prime minister, to go from Gaza to Cairo after 10 days he had spent there, on the argument that Gaza was a "war zone," and Muhammad 'Izzah Daruzah, in his book "The Palestinian Cause," wrote how the league council, in the fall 1949 session, avoided inviting the representative of the general government of Palestine out of concern for Jordan, which insisted that its cabinet represented both banks. The government of Jordan held conversations with the government of Egypt on the annexation of the eastern Arab portion of Palestine to Jordan and the Jordanian Kingdom's exploitation of the port of Gaza which Egypt was administering; however, these discussions were not consummated.

Egypt administered the Gaza Strip from 1948 until the tripartite aggression occurred, on 29 October 1956, and Israel occupied the strip and Sinai after its secret understanding with Britain and France. When Israel was compelled to withdraw from Sinai, less than 2 months later, then from the Gaza Strip, it tried to create an international administration of the strip in its wake and demanded that that be internationalized. It also demanded the deployment of international emergency forces in Sharm al-Shaykh and the islands of Tiran and Sanafir. It succeeded in the latter but failed grievously in the former.

This grievous failure is attributable in the first place to the stand taken by the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip, who greeted the emergency forces with hostility. One young person in their midst met his martyrdom bringing the United Nations flag down from the flagpole, and the inhabitants closed the schools and courts went out to demonstrate, demanding the return of the Egyptian administration. The government of Egypt responded to this demand and appointed an administrative ruler for the strip in the manner which had been customary before the aggression. The United Nations representative, Gen Burns, could only overlook this measure, and the United Nations, as Burns relates it, arrived at a "gentlemen's" agreement with the Egyptian government in accordance with which Egypt undertook not to send military forces to the strip and not to permit the guerrillas to use it to carry out their activities.

The Egyptian administration returned to the Gaza Strip, which continued to be Palestinian territory governed by Palestinian law, and the years which followed, from 1956 to 1967, were full of events. Then the bitter setback of June 1967 occurred and Israel occupied the Gaza Strip once again, up to this day. From the standpoint of international law, the strip has been considered territory, same as the West Bank and Golan, and Sinai before the Israeli withdrawal from it, and Egypt's responsibility toward the Gaza Strip remained in being.

Egypt continued to be the entity that dispensed travel documents to the Gaza Strip Palestinians and officially assumed charge of following up on their affairs through the department of the governor general of the strip. It should be pointed out that the treaty Egypt made with Israel in March 1979 stipulated, in its second article, which deals with the borders, that "the permanent boundaries between Egypt and Israel are the recognized international boundaries between Egypt and Palestine under the mandate, as is clear in the map in the second appendix, without prejudice to matters related to the status of Gaza."

What is meant in this stipulation by "the status of the Gaza Strip?"

The need for a clear legal answer to the legal status of the Gaza Strip is urgent today, since that is Palestinian territory that fell under Israeli occupation in 1967 and that Egypt had administered since 1948.

Such a clear legal answer will make it possible to provide a sound definition of the relationship which must link Egypt and the people of the Gaza Strip together as far as the matters of movement, residence, education and work are concerned.

It is clear that Egypt's assumption of the administration of the Gaza Strip since 1948 has established a special relationship between the strip and Egypt. This relationship has embraced all aspects of life in the Gaza Strip, whether economic, social, cultural or political. It is also clear that the bases and roots of this relationship go back thousands of years before 1948 and constitute part of the relationship between Egypt and Palestine. The discussion will occupy us for a long time if we continue to describe this relationship.

The Palestine Liberation Organization, since its establishment, has been aware of the nature of this special relationship which links the Gaza Strip to Egypt, and it has acted under the inspiration of this awareness and has been concerned continuously to strengthen this relationship. It should be pointed out that Egypt, in turn, has always been cognizant, as it administered the strip, of the importance of its acquittal of its responsibilities toward it.

The Gaza Strip, as is well known, is a narrow coastal strip on the southern coast of Palestine. It is no more than 248 square kilometers in area and its only overland outlet is Egypt's territory in Sinai. Its population density is very high, since its native population comes to about half a million. A number of these people are working in Arab countries, and the burden of the Israeli occupation over the strip has become intensified. It should be pointed out that the first Egyptian memorandum the government of Egypt presented to the United States after the conclusion of Camp David contained Egypt's demand, regarding the strip, that "restrictions on water use for irrigation of the farms of Gaza should be alleviated and the imposition of any restrictions on arabs producing citrus in various stages of production should be averted," among the "measures of building confidence" it contained.

Clarification of the legal status of the Gaza Strip will help determine the character of the strip inhabitants residing in Egypt, because the expression "foreigners" does not exactly apply to them; they are not like other foreigners. In addition, the expression "Arab countries" does not apply to them exactly, because the Gaza Strip is not a country and the administration there was Egyptian and because the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, does not exercise practical sovereignty over Palestinian territory under Israeli occupation. What exact expression must then be used to refer to the people of the strip? How can one proceed from there to draw up a policy toward the two?

That will help clarify the legal status of the strip and also the pursuit of a policy to seek to liberate it from the occupation, as part of the effort to liberate the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, will provide firm ground for positive movement to take initiative on various levels to hamper the Israeli occupation and racist Zionist statements, and will offer practical answers to a question which should remain fixed before our eyes: how can we act to liberate our land?

We can be confident of our ability when we put the idea into practice and rely on a comprehensive view to offer correct answers to these questions connected to the Gaza Strip, in order to strengthen a blessed relationship between Egypt and Palestine which cannot be sundered.

11887

CSO: 4504/452

LIBYA

ZIONIST INFLUENCE IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, MEDIA APPRAISED

Tripoli AL-JAMAHIRIYAH in Arabic 19 Jul 85 p 8

[Article by Sa'id al-Marughi: "Who Rules America?"]

[Text] That is a question which seems to be raised everyday in numerous papers and magazines, some of which are well-intentioned, some of which ignore even the structure of the question and yet others of which try to give us a lesson in fear and terror over the unknown fate that will come from our learning who rules America, because we must fear this Zionist lobby which passes judgment on every small detail, indeed almost dominates every facility, vital and non-vital.

Zionism and its vindictive followers are spread about in every facility and corner of American policy, from laundries to newspapers, the Senate and Congress, and the Pentagon, which devises high-pressure American policy, as they say.

Whoever sees Reagan's pageantry, which resembles the pageantry of the Russian Bolshoi theater, must indeed think that it is the stupid Reagan who is governing, passing judgment, controlling, giving directions and managing American policy, which is hostile to the emergent peoples and the peoples who are setting forth for the sake of building their brilliant future. This is what someone who watches television will think, or someone who follows the news through the press agencies, especially those run or owned by Zionists or people who sympathize with them on grounds that they are the oppressed people against whom the whole world is conspiring (which is how they always portray themselves, as people oppressed and tyrannized by all other peoples).

However!

Who rules America at all times?

Zionist groups with strong influence, which are the ones that make the decisions. They are a government hidden under the government of any president who attains the peak of power through false propaganda which says that he came in through the Jews' vote. Is it true that the Jews' vote is powerfully

influential, so that the president cannot get to the White House without it, or are these votes only the exertion of various forms of influence, perhaps indirect, to cause a candidate to succeed or fail?

Moreover, if we accept the power of the Jewish votes in terms of numbers, the former candidate, Mondale, who was more Jewish than the Jews themselves, lost. Why? Where are the Jewish votes he was promised?

Where were the Jews' votes in the time of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and others?

These are many numerous questions which one cannot imagine in the crush of the incessant news that is conveyed concerning the Jewish influence in America, the Zionists' amazing ability to formulate American decisions through the Jewish will, and the compliance of every president who comes to power by the traditional method of showing off clothes and the ability to speak and lie to the people by orders and instructions issued from the main den of Zionism, which is directly behind the president's bedroom.

There is no doubt that the Jews have distinctive influence in the United States and there is no doubt, either, over their ability to thwart any draft of a decree which emerges against their will or behind which they sense a plan which is less than the one that preceded it or is even only slightly fair concerning the apportionment of attention to various interests.

However, they certainly are not as strong as we imagine them to be, and they are not as concentrated as it seems to us, just because we hear of this terror which is being spread over their terrific abilities and resources in administering all decisions and affairs in America or in many other, European countries.

We can evaluate this tremendous strength of the Jews of America. It cannot be greater than several hundred thousand. Therefore their strength has terrified us greatly, but they are thousands which are organized, contrary to the Arab thousands present in the West in the form of immigrants and non-immigrants.

The Jews are organized in organizations and groups and are used to put pressure on everyone who tries to deviate from the line Zionism prefers. They include people who control the media in general and the press and television in particular; they control, command and own 140 papers which distribute an equivalent of 3.75 million copies, and they control all the American television networks. They have a large amount of organization in the American universities, as in the lawyers' profession, in which they have a professional presence of about 20 percent.

In Congress, there is a committee formed and chosen by 14 Zionist organizations, which is what is known as the American Zionist public relations committee. This is basically concerned with whetting the concerns of all members of Congress to support their statelet. One of the committee's tasks is to intervene in elections, whether general ones or elections by Congress of its various committees, and to appoint advisors and assistants to these members.

Let us listen to one of the heads of this committee, who talks about his committees and tasks; (Keneen) says:

"When any initiatives toward any orientation which is not in keeping with our tendencies begin to appear on the horizon, we sent letters to no less than 700 members who are major leaders of the Jewish minority in America. We get in touch with the local representatives of the Jewish American bodies and convey the names of the members of the Senate who do not want to sign resolutions on our behalf. We begin the campaign with letters and various protests, and these do not keep on long until all members are made to submit and yield to our decrees."

Regarding this sort of scheme the Zionist Jew Maurice Amitay, who works as an assistant to the chairman of the committee, states:

"It has never happened that we have lost a real battle for the sake of 'our little state' in the American Congress. We all well know and have strong relations with all employees of the American intelligency agency and the Departments of State and Defense."

Who rules America?

A minority of no more than 3 percent of the population of America, which includes Arabs, Indians, blacks and various European nationalities, and which nonetheless took the advice of David Ben Gurion, who visited America at the end of the third decade of the 20th century, found them fragmented and unable to act or influence American life, and told them "You must organize and be like cancer, which is broken up only if the body is broken up along with it, and does not die until it kills its victim."

Thus, directly after the London conference, Jewish Mafia organizations started to appear and the Zionist elite or cream started to engage in their perverse activities and interventions through their economic contributions at times and at other times through support for people running for membership in the Congress and Senate, until finally they were able to banish these traditional families which dominated the Republican and Democratic parties and replace them not just with Jewish families but with a group of secret and open societies, to run the election game and shut out any candidate who was not in agreement with the Zionists' tendencies, as Keneen said.

Even people who tried to operate with some conscientiousness and a revival of national feeling met only with dismissal or disgraceful apology, as happened with Gen Brown, chairman of the American joint chiefs of staff, who only made the statement that it was not acceptable that the American people should be so stupid as not to act to put a limit to the Jewish influence in the country.

This general, accused of anti-semitism because he made this statement, was ultimately compelled to declare frankly and more than once that he did not mean what he had said, because he did not believe in what he said, that is, contradicted everything he said, just because these Jewish movements in America got into action.

Who rules America?

It is a question which still needs more discussion, but we will defer it, in order to present you with this table, which shows the facts about who governs America.

It also shows that Reagan, or any American president, and the American people themselves, are not people who can speak for America or express the American view, as long as these terrorist organizations are present in America in an organized, accurate manner.

It appears that we will need to give up the feasibility of flattering America or flattering the alien entity. Is it more feasible to fight America or fight this cancer which has been implanted in the body of the Arab nation?

Jewish Members of the Important Committees of Congress

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives:

Out of 42 members, this contains 10 Jews:

1. Stephen Solarz.
2. Howard Wolpe
3. Sam Gejdenson
4. Tom Lantos.
5. Larry Smith.
6. Howard Berman.
7. Mel Levine.
8. Ted Weiss.
9. Gary Ackerman.
10. Ben Gilman.

The Middle East Committee of the House of Representatives:

This contains five Jews:

1. Tom Lantos.
2. Larry Smith.
3. Mel Levine.
4. G. Ackerman.

5. Ben Gilman.

The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee:

This contains two Jews:

1. Rudy Boschwitz.

2. Ed Zorinsky.

Out of 18 members.

The Appropriations Committee:

This committee controls foreign aid and among its members are the Jews:

1. Sidney Yates.

2. William Lehman.

Out of a total of 12 members.

Footnote

The table has been taken from AL-QABAS, international edition, No 42.

11887

CSO: 4504/461

LIBYA

LIBYAN DIPLOMACY IN NORTH AFRICA YIELDS FEW RETURNS

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English 17 Jul 85 pp 6, 7

[Text]

Col. **Moammar Gadaffi's** pledge of \$10m to an OAU famine fund is unlikely to produce diplomatic benefits, least of all the eventual chairmanship of the OAU — a post to which he still aspires. Overall, Libyan diplomacy in north Africa has yielded little in the past year other than the Oudja Treaty with **Morocco**, whose King **Hassan** has exploited the treaty to Morocco's advantage, and **Sudan**, where financial and domestic political pressures are behind the re-establishment of Sudanese-Libyan relations.

Relations with **Algeria** are fraught, not least because of the Oudja Treaty: we understand that since April Algerian troops have been stationed 40km into the nominally-Libyan part of the disputed gas-rich Ghat enclave in south-west Libya. A month ago Gadaffi apparently sent to Ghat his director of personal security, **Khalifa Hunaysh**, to speak to the commander of the Algerian troops. They refused to move. Gadaffi is threatening to take the Ghat dispute to the International Court in the Hague. Algeria, which has long claimed part of south-west Libya, says the Ghat enclave was wrongly handed to Libya under the same Franco-Italian treaties which Gadaffi uses to justify Libyan occupation of the uranium-rich Aozou strip in northern **Chad**.

The trouble in Ghat started early this year when Algeria protested to Libya about Libyan airforce aircraft based at Ghat overflying Algerian airspace around Djanet. Gadaffi responded in March by referring to the "artificial borders" between the two countries, and inviting, in the name of Arab solidarity, President **Chadli Benjedid** to use the Ghat base for himself. Gadaffi evidently did not expect the offer to be taken literally.

Relations with **Tunisia** are frozen, largely because of the Tunisian government's perception of Gadaffi as a threat to Tunisia's stability. The maritime dispute (see box) and the recent Libyan ban on 100,000 Tunisian workers in Libya are but two manifestations of the malaise. The only way for

foreign manual workers to get work in Libya is through bilateral government agreements. Hence, in present circumstances, only Moroccans are welcomed in Libya. (On 6 July the two countries even agreed to establish a 60-man joint legislature).

In reality, however, measures such as the banning of foreign workers, most recently 70,000-80,000 **Egyptians**, is more a function of Libya's drastically declining oil revenue. Official production is 890,000 barrels a day (b/d), actual production is about 1m b/d, implying annual revenue of about \$7bn compared to \$10bn in the previous two years and \$20 bn in 1980. In the past year nearly 350 international contracts, mainly construction work, have been cancelled. The prestige projects such as the Misurate steel works and the Zwara aluminium smelter are seriously behind schedule, and overseas suppliers suffer increasingly from non-payment of goods. By April foreign exchange reserves were down to \$220m, a level critical enough to prompt suggestions of a devaluation of the Libyan dinar, currently standing at \$3.38.

Ironically, Gadaffi's financial saviour might be his former arch-enemies, the **Saudis**, who have been studying Gadaffi's vast "Man-made River" project for at least a year and a half (AC Vol 25 No 1). Gadaffi's cousin and main fixer, **Ahmed Gadaffadam**, has spent much of his time this year in Riyadh. Though the Saudis are rapidly becoming obsessed with the sharp decline in their own oil revenue, Saudi finance for the river project will probably be forthcoming when, or if, the Saudis believe Gadaffi can be swung into the moderate Arab camp.

Elsewhere in the Middle East Gadaffi's foreign policy is a mess, as was highlighted during the recent *Trans World Airlines* hijacking in Beirut. **Lebanese** Shia leader **Nabih Berri** logically could expect to receive fullsome praise from Gadaffi. Instead he was castigated as "worse than **Sharon**" and as "an agent of Zionism". The antagonism between the Lebanese Shia and Libya dates to 1978 when the Shia religious leader, the Imam **Moussa Sadr**, (married to the niece of Ayatollah **Khomeini**) was invited by Gadaffi to visit Tripoli. As a Sunni muslim, Gadaffi was annoyed that the Imam, while receiving funds from Libya, was not supporting the **Palestinians**. The Imam arrived in Tripoli and was never seen again.

But his ghost still haunts Gadaffi. The latter complains that the episode prevents him from acting as a power-broker in Lebanon. He has called a number of times for the Shia to forget their allegi-

ance to the Imam, whom Gadaffi damns as an agent of the late Shah of **Iran**. The Shia, however, have never been placated. Last year one of Gadaffi's aides just escaped the assassination attempt in Madrid for which two young Shias were sentenced last month by a **Spanish** court.

The feud with the Shia obviously sits uneasily with Libya's close relations with Iran, the Shia' "big brother". Throughout the Gulf war, in solidarity with its main Arab ally, **Syria**, Libya has supported Iran. Latterly, however, Libya's relations with Syria have deteriorated, mainly it seems because of Damascus' failure to support Libya's Palestinian allies during the recent bombardment of their Beirut camps by Berri's Shiite Amal militia. As a result Libya began to explore the possibilities of an alliance with Syria's (and Iran's) enemy, **Iraq**. Libyan foreign minister **Ali Treiki** was in Baghdad last month to patch up relations. (A **Kuwaiti** newspaper predicted Gadaffi himself would visit Baghdad shortly). However the Iraqis are sceptical of Gadaffi's motives. Apparently he wanted them to hand over Libyan opposition figures based in Baghdad. It was not long before Gadaffi somewhat ignominiously was forced to return to the Iranian fold. Hence the signing last month of the new 'strategic alliance' between Tripoli and Teheran. But Libya's embassy in Damascus remains closed.

CSO: 4500/191

LIBYA

IDEOLOGY OF PRODUCTIVE MASS SOCIETY ADVANCED

Tripoli AL-JAMAHIRIYAH in Arabic 19 Jul 85 p 12

[Article: "The Significance and the Goal"]

[Text] It is very natural that is the masses, the interested party, which fully realize the importance of the model city for applying the mass society, because no one is more concerned over their own interests than the masses.

However, we can state, in articulating a platform to the masses of the people's conferences, the importance of the diminutive mass city, which is embodied in the following:

First: The Appearance of the Productive Society

The appearance of the productive society means a free society which has been liberated from all foreign restrictions and on which subordination had been imposed, making that society totally unimportant. The appearance of the productive society means the cessation of dependence and laziness and reliance on the disbursement of salaries generously given out by the Secretariat of the Treasury for consumer services.

Second: Organized Collective Action

With the appearance of the integrated productive society, organized collective action of necessity stands out, because liberation from subordination imposes self-reliance in all areas. For example, the construction of roads and the building of buildings require mass action which carries these things out by organizing the masses into organized work teams to which these tasks are assigned. Doing without outside labor, that is, "from outside the city," will further implant the masses' freedom and their feeling of responsibility.

Third: Use of Resources and Capabilities

It is well known that the elements attracting communities of inhabitants are what have made these communities mandatory, and consequently there must be

economic capabilities and resources for living in these communities' locations. With the appearance of the productive society, it is inevitable that all these resources will be exploited and imports will be limited, whether these resources are agricultural or industrial.

Fourth: The Appearance of the Defensive Armed Society

With the conversion of all the people of the city -- men and women, old people and young -- into personnel trained in weapons, and with the transformation of homes into military barracks, this society will become free and preserve its gains and it will be difficult to steal its assets, in the form of power, wealth and weapons. This is to be considered the most important consequence of the mass city. Defense of the city is a responsibility which its own people assume. There is no acting on others' behalf with respect to defense, just as there is no acting on others' behalf with respect to power, and each city has its own means of defending itself and the type of weapons it uses.

Fifth: Assertion of the Principle of Mass Power

The attainment of the principle of mass power is reaffirmed through the intensification of mass decrees which are carried out through the basic people's conference, the democratic instrument through which the projects the masses of the city carry out through the single executive committee which is responsible before the masses are realized. In this manner, the importance of incorporating the branch people's conferences into a single conference and a single executive committee is reaffirmed to us.

11887
CSO: 4504/461

LIBYA

PROBLEM OF PROPER ORGANIZATION OF RETAIL OUTLETS REVIEWED

Tripoli AL-JAMAHIRIYAH in Arabic 19 Jul 85 p 11

[Article: "They Have Been Turned into 'Shops'"]

[Text] The numerous ongoing giant accomplishments of civilization, the construction and development and the constant social changes the revolution has created affirm to us in a manner which leaves no room for doubt that we are not going back to the years of oppression, servitude and exploitation. Thus, since the revolution burst forth, it has determined to embark on struggles in industry, agriculture, construction and renewal, depending upon the civilized method as a progressive platform for the sake of proselytizing humanism with the end of the eras of dictatorship, exploitation and monopoly, curbing the people who control people's destinies and subject them to the power of the sword and the power of the bourgeoisie. Thus we will always say that seriousness is the principle and goal and that the international theory is a platform through whose civilized humane statements we may seek out a new road.

Specifically, here, the consumer societies are socialist institutions which were created in order to provide the best services to the citizen and realize the socialist goals which will provide essential requirements for individuals and families without middlemen or exploiters. By way of affirmation, if we look at the consumer societies, we will find them spread about in all the towns and villages of the Jamahiriya, which is an absolute affirmation. This also means that all citizens can obtain their essential daily requirements whenever they wish without middlemen or exploiters. However, by observing the occurrence of some mistakes in application, that is the factor which caused these societies to fail and caused them to decline and not achieve what was desired. This may be attributed to the infiltration of some corrupt, vengeful elements into the socialist transformations and applications and the grant of an opportunity to them to work in these societies, which led to the destruction and frustration of these societies. After this, what is the solution? The masses of the people's conferences considered that the alternative should be the combined people's markets, but what then? How can every citizen buy his requirements as quickly as possible and by the easiest means?

The masses of the people's conferences, the sovereign entities, considered that the alternative, once again, should be the societies, provided that they be defined in accordance with rules which would not permit the exploitative elements to infiltrate into them again. However, unfortunately, the societies were turned into shops and dens of exploitation. There are people working in some societies who buy and perhaps steal the citizens' requirements, such as refrigerators or soap, for instance, in order to sell them in homes at the highest prices. The citizen had to reject the farce of the invoices on this subject. Here, perhaps, the question presents itself: what is the fate of the consumer booklets? Here the necessity seems to be very urgent, after these farces in the form of theft, intercession and neglect which occur within the consumer societies, for the departments of economy to take the initiative of setting a limit to this laxity and neglect and not for their part to participate by looking on, which confirms that they are supporting the game of the exploiters, who are exerting all their effort to bring us back to the era of the exploiters' shops. In summary, one can say, does a vision of the consumer societies and the consumer booklets, departments of economy, exist, especially now that the consumer societies have become weak owing to impotence and bankruptcy, have been converted into shops for exploitation and have no aim of realizing savings in citizens' requirements so much as they aim at exploiting the needs of the citizen to realize destructive exploitative goals of self-interest which will lead us to backwardness, exploitation and servitude?

11887

CSO: 4404/461

SUDAN

GENERAL INERTIA SAID TO PREVAIL OVER GOVERNMENT

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English 14 Aug 85 pp 7, 8

[Excerpts]

There is a serious lack of decision-making at the highest level of government. The division of power between the superior transitional military council (TMC) and the civilian cabinet is blurred, individual members of the TMC are disagreeing with each other on important issues, and the civilian cabinet barely holds together. The inertia could not have come at a worse time. Unless the interim structure of government is rationalised, perhaps by giving the civilians full legislative power, or by merging the TMC into the cabinet, it will merely be a question of time before another coup is mounted. It would almost certainly be a bloody affair.

The absence of government is disastrous for the millions of Sudanese threatened with death by starvation. It has also meant the virtual absence of diplomatic moves to reach a negotiated end to the civil war in the south (AC Vol 26 No 11). Indeed, judging by the amount of military activity in the south today, the army command under head of state Gen. **Abdel Rahman Sower el Dahab** has embarked on a more military-orientated policy than ever. The south continues to descend into internecine war.

Failure to reach any sort of agreement with Ethiopia has resulted in an acceleration of Ethiopian support for the southern *Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Army* (SPLA) under Col. **John Garang**. For several months Ethiopian Mi-8 helicopters have airlifted supplies to the Ethiopian garrison of Tiergol (due east of the town of Akobo), occasionally straying into Sudan. We understand the Mi-8s are now landing from time to time in Sudan, particularly in the area of Bukteng between Akobo and Nasir, ostensibly to provide food for refugees. The Ethiopian pilots are not in uniform. Any hopes Khartoum might have had of throttling the SPLA diplomatically have presumably been abandoned.

Equally predictable, the military offensive against the SPLA concentration around Bor has yet to yield

any tactical gain for the government. The cost of the operation, which included flying at least 1,500 troops into Juba in *TransArabia* DC-8s in June, has been high. About 10,000 troops appear to be involved. By the end of July they had advanced only as far as Mongalla, a quarter of the distance from Juba to Bor.

Malakal promises to become increasingly a battlefield, a fear doubtless shared by the local military commander and governor of Upper Nile, Maj-Gen. **Abdel Salaam Ahmed Salih**, who has spent only a month in Malakal since his appointment four months ago. The acting commander, Brig. **Mohammed Zein el Abdeen** (previously artillery commander in Atbara), loathes the place. Relations with the southern deputy governor, **Peter Mabil**, are fraught, not least because Mabil is considered an SPLA sympathiser. In June Mabil complained to Khartoum that troops in Malakal were rampaging about at night firing weapons. The government sent from Khartoum a delegation of officers to investigate the episode, in which at least four locals were shot dead.

In July government troops also took advantage of a lull in seasonal rains to send infantry sweeps along both banks of the White Nile north of Malakal. For several months guerrillas have operated in the area, making impossible the passage of steamers on the Nile (AC Vol 26 No 11). We understand the guerrillas are in fact members of a small SPLA offshoot called the *Melut Liberation Front*. After the infantry sweeps a steamer with badly-needed supplies was dispatched from Renk to Malakal, the capital of Upper Nile which remains practically cut off. The SPLA, after months of being harassed by the mainly Nuer *Anyanya II* guerrillas, is trying to reassert itself in and around Malakal. On 4 August the SPLA claims to have killed *Anyanya II* leader **William Abdullah Chuol** during a battle in the Fangak area close to the river. The government, using the garrison town of Waat as a base, continues to support the remnants of *Anyanya II*, whose leadership is now uncertain. (The government also sends weapons and supplies to the Murle tribe along the Ethiopian border (the Murle traditionally have rustled the Dinka's cattle), the Anuak tribe around Pibor on the Ethiopian border, the Gaajak Nuer near Nasir, and the Mundari tribe in Lakes province north of Juba).

But as Abdeen and most other senior northern officers in the south acknowledge, the generals in Khartoum comprehend inadequately the south's problems, quite apart from frustrating regional military commanders by not informing them properly of military operations in their own sectors. The Malakal command, for instance, has no authority

over the Bentiu area - the domaine of Khartoum and the "Oilfields Special Protection Force"² stationed at Muglud to the north-west of Bentiu. Bor, though in Upper Nile province, is logically under the Equatorian commander. But at the least it would be both politic and tactically wise for closer communication between the Malakal and Juba commands.

Unconfirmed reports suggest there is now an embryo of an anti-government guerrilla movement operating from **Zaire** in parts of western Equatoria. No engagements with government troops have been reported so far. References have been made locally to the *Sudanese Liberation Army*. Conceivably the group comprises Moru and Zande activists. Earlier indications that eastern Equatorians, notably the Latuka people around Torit, were contemplating a new guerrilla movement, have yet to be borne out.

Footnotes

1. **Gordon Kong Chuol**, the *Anyanya* II commander who has worked closely with government troops and Gaajak Nuers in attempts to damage the SPLA around Jikawo in the Ethiopian border area, for several months competed with William Abdullah Chuol for the *Anyanya* II leadership. After the Jikawo operations, which Abdullah refused to participate in, Gordon Kong won over nearly half Abdullah's men. Another *Anyanya* II commander, **Paul Deur**, who operates in the Bentiu area, also split from Abdullah.
2. The 5,000-strong force is led by the late Gen. **Abboud's** son, Brig. **Ahmed Ibrahim Abboud**, under the title of acting director of military operations. The force was formed in 1983 after the American oil company *Chevron* had been refused permission to finance its own special protection unit.

CSO: 4500/193

IRAQ

OIL PRODUCTION SAID UNAFFECTED BY WAR

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 20 May 85 pp 10-11

[Text]

Q: What is the current level of Iraq's oil exports?

A: Some 850,000 b/d, which is going out through the Turkish pipeline.

What is the position of the proposed pipeline through Jordan to Aqaba?

We and the Jordanians are moving towards implementation of the project with Bechtel [the US engineering group]. We have defined the sort of guarantees we need for the pipeline and these have been presented to Bechtel. They have approved our reasons behind the request for these guarantees, which are related to the location of the pipeline. We've had meetings with Bechtel and potential financiers and we have examined their preliminary proposals. The Jordanians believe as strongly as we do in the need for guarantees, since the greater part of the pipeline will be in Jordanian territory and, thus, their investment is the greater.

Bechtel's initial estimates put the cost of the whole pipeline at \$950mn, but we think that it should be 20 per cent lower than this. We think the price is higher than it needs to be because Bechtel had no competitors - they were the only company to submit a proposal, on the assumption that only they could provide the guarantees necessary to operate the line. We found the estimated price is 20 per cent above what it should have been if it had been in competition with other companies.

Take, for example, the first stage of the Iraq-Saudi Arabia pipeline. When we put this out to tender, prices were very competitive. In comparison, the line through Jordan shouldn't cost more than \$750mn. Even with the high cost, the pipeline should give a good financial return throughout the lifespan of the project, especially for Jordan, whose economy is limited and who cannot normally invest in huge projects without a guaranteed return on investment.

We [Iraq and Jordan] have asked the financing companies to agree to prevent our losing revenue should the operation of the pipeline be interrupted. We do not want to have to bear the cost of repaying loans and interest when we are not exporting crude.

Concerning implementation, Iraq and Jordan signed an agreement of understanding on February 26th 1984 to implement the project. We are waiting for the engineering and financing houses to respond.

What is the position of the Iraq-Saudi pipeline?

The first stage of the pipeline is going very well and according to plan. Saipem of Italy are working on the Saudi part of the line, and the French company, Spic, are working on the Iraqi side. The pipeline is expected to start up on September 1st, 1985 with a capacity of 500,000 b/d of crude from our southern oilfields.

Will you ask for a higher Opec quota when the pipeline is finished?

Yes. We have lost a great deal recently. Many countries have increased their production at the expense of Iraq. We have the right to increase our quota to take account of the export capacities of the pipelines through Turkey and Saudi Arabia, plus local consumption.

Isn't the pipeline through Turkey supposed to operate at a higher capacity than the 850,000 b/d you are now exporting?

As you know, we are abiding by our Opec quota of 1.2mn b/d. We consume 350,000 b/d at home and export 850,000 b/d.

The "tanker war" has apparently affected Iranian exports; but what has been the impact of the war on Iraq's production?

Iraq has no intention of harming oil tankers belonging to other countries. We have never attacked any tanker without previously warning that there is an

area in the northern reaches of the Gulf that is a military zone and that any tanker entering this zone is subject to attack. We have sent maps all over the world defining this military zone. Unfortunately, there are war merchants who have taken no notice of our warning and have entered the zone.

We have attacked many tankers and will continue to do so as long as we are prevented from using our own ports. Nobody has the right to prevent the free navigation to any country on the Gulf. But the Iranians have prevented us exercising this right of free navigation since the first day of the war. The Iranians have attacked our ports, our refineries and some oilfields.

Are your exploration and development efforts affected by the war?

We have not stopped exploration throughout the war. Iraq has great potential: our proven reserves of oil are 65bn barrels and we could add a further 40bn over the next 15 years.

Some Opec countries — Iran, for example — have made oil-barter deals. Has Iraq done this?

Iran does not abide by Opec decisions. It discounts the price of its oil and uses all illegal means to export. We do not have barter deals and we sell our oil at official Opec prices. However, we do have contracts and we do repay some debts in oil, on the basis of official Opec prices — not on barter terms. We have done this with Brazil, France and a number of friendly countries.

What is your full productive capacity today?

It is 4mn b/d — the same as it was at the beginning of the war.

CSO: 4400/237

IRAQ

CHINESE WORKERS BUILD FACTORIES IN IRAQ

Beijing ZHONGGUO JIANCAI [CHINA BUILDING MATERIALS] in Chinese Vol 6, 13 Jun 85 pp 42-43

[Article by Ren Dayi [0117 1129 0001] and Gao Wenxi [7559 2429 6007]: "A Trip to Iraq"]

[Text] On the eve of the Spring Festival in the year of the ox, we went to Iraq, where we called on the more than 3,000 Chinese workers in Iraq working on building materials projects under service contracts, held discussions with the Chinese technical teams there and visited various types of cement, glass, floor tile, core brick, gypsum and asbestos products factories and mines. We also met with responsible persons of the Building Materials Industry Company of Iraq. These activities increased our understanding of the present state and future prospects of contracting for labor and services in foreign countries.

China's building materials departments began to provide labor and services in Iraq in July 1981. What began as a few projects and 200-300 workers has now developed into 36 technical teams and more than 3,000 employees. Chinese technical experts and workers have played an important role in production at Iraq's key enterprises in the building materials field. They have won the confidence and admiration of the Iraqis. The form of labor cooperation has developed from simple labor to contracting for production lines and to production and management of entire modern large enterprises. The Iraqi managers of the Al-Kufah Cement Plant, the Al-Fallujah White Cement Plant, the Al-Fallujah Floor Tile Plant, the (Al-Khatasiyah) Brick Factory, the Ad-Diwaniyah Brick Factory and the Ar-Ramadi Glass Works all spoke highly of the managerial and technical competence of the Chinese technical teams and the diligence, skills and service of the Chinese workers. They sincerely hoped that we would continue the contracts and expand the scope of services. The achievements and reputation are not easily won. As there are many other foreign workers serving in Iraq, competition is keen. We are unfamiliar with and unadjusted to their equipment and management methods and are faced with many difficulties in language, living and work. Moreover, the country is at war, commodities are in rather short supply, and imported parts and raw and semifinished materials are hard to get. In the face of numerous difficulties, members of our technical teams put the stress on friendship, abide by contracts and meet difficulties head-on, demonstrating the fine qualities of

the Chinese working class who have ideals, are well organized, observe discipline and are willing to study hard. By utilizing discarded parts, machining, finding substitutes and making changes and improvements, members of our technical teams repaired damaged equipment in good time and made it possible for some production lines which had been dropping in output or on the verge of a breakdown to gradually increase production and reach new levels of high output. Owing to efforts made by our technical teams, some factories have achieved outstanding successes and are commended and named by their superior organizations as "model factories" and "model mines." In the face of such facts, foreigners who once looked down on us cannot but praise that "the Chinese are capable and resourceful." Mutual relations and feelings are becoming increasingly harmonious, thus laying the foundation for continuing and expanding contracts for labor service.

After more than 3 years of hard work, we have begun to establish ourselves as a service contractor in building materials in Iraq. Iraq has placed the building materials industry among industries to be developed on a priority basis. We must treasure our achievements, sum up experience and continue our efforts to consolidate and develop our work in this field.

1. We must recognize the necessity and importance of developing labor contracts abroad from the high plane of policy and ideology.

Contracting for labor service is an important component of China's policy of opening to the outside world. It is a task of great significance to be carried out with organization and leadership under the state's overall arrangement. This kind of labor service contracts are not simple exports of labor, but rather for the skills of Chinese workers to find their way into the world market and, at the same time, to learn advanced technology and modern management from foreign countries. This kind of labor cooperation is an effective way to achieve faster and more economical results in training and expanding our technological force. After their return, the service personnel can help reform our own old enterprises in light of China's realities and push forward the four modernizations drive. It is also conducive to strengthening China's friendly cooperation and mutual support with other third world countries. It is absolutely and fundamentally different from the selling of labor in the old society.

2. We must strengthen our labor management organizations at home and abroad to meet the requirements of the developing situation.

Companies dealing in economic and technical cooperation with foreign countries in building materials and related provincial and municipal enterprises should pay attention to selecting a good leading body for each technical team. The key lies in selecting a good team leader. A team leader not only must understand production technology, but must have organizing and managing ability and some experience in foreign affairs. He should have the courage and know how to manage. It is necessary to have translators and necessary technical cadres. Within a technical team, the team leader has overall responsibility. He should have the power to select and hire people. The composition of service personnel should be based on the characteristics and needs of the contracted projects.

3. We must pay attention to research on relevant principles, policies, rules and regulations.

After China adopted the policy of opening to the outside world and invigorating the domestic economy and began to reform the economic structure, how is it to improve and strengthen labor service contracting in foreign countries in the spirit of reform? It involves a series of concrete principle and policy questions. During our short trip to Iraq, for example, we discovered many such questions: the combining of labor service with contracting, standards of labor prices, income distribution and welfare treatment, time length of labor contracts and forms of rotation, cultivation and short-term training of foreign-language and foreign-economic personnel and so forth. It is also necessary to know China's existing foreign economic legislation as well as the laws and regulations of the foreign countries concerned. Solutions to these concrete problems are yet to be proposed and submitted to relevant leading organizations for consideration.

4. We must do good work at home for personnel going abroad.

As personnel going abroad will be away from home for a rather long period of time, proper arrangements should be made by relevant units to take care of the people going abroad and their families back home. The people who are alone in a strange land are very concerned about their country and families. They are concerned about their wages, duties, job titles, admission to the party, ordering and taking delivery of foreign-exchange commodities and so forth. All these questions require specific departments' consideration and help to find solutions. It is suggested that companies serving people working abroad be set up at various levels to work for them at home so that they will feel reassured and encouraged.

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CS0: 4008/401

IRAQ

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES OPENED IN VARIOUS GOVERNORATES

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 18 May 85 p 6

[Article: "Six Modern Electronic Telephone Exchanges and Ground Networks To Be Opened in Country's Various Governorates This Year"]

[Text] Before the end of this year, 6 modern electronic telephone exchanges with a total capacity of 50,000 lines, expandable to 60,000 lines, will be opened and put into operation in various parts of the country.

The specialized agencies of the Post, Telegraph and Telephone Establishment will also complete a number of ground networks which will link the country's various telephone exchanges with a total capacity of 222,250 lines.

Within this plan, al-Najaf electronic exchange, with a capacity of 10,000 telephone lines expandable to 20,000 lines, a new exchange in Babylon Governorate with a capacity of 10,000 lines and exchanges in al-Mahumdiyah, Abu Gharib, al-Ghazaliyah and Junaynah will also be opened.

The first quarter of this year witnessed a qualitative and quantitative development in the telephone services. Several new telephone exchanges were put into service, along with the necessary equipment for communication between the cities, between the governorates and between Iraq and the outside world.

The technology of electronic exchanges, of telex [al-tarasul al-barqi] and of light communication lines (laser) has been introduced for the first time. All the old exchanges in numerous parts of Baghdad and in the governorates have been replaced. Nine modern electronic exchanges with a total capacity of 79,000 lines, expandable to 150,000 telephone lines, have been opened.

In Baghdad Governorate, two electronic exchanges have been opened in al-Fida' area, Saddam City, and in al-Khansa' area. The capacity of al-Fida' exchange is 20,000 lines, expandable to 40,000 lines. This exchange is linked to a modern ground telephone network with a capacity of 52,600 lines covering 28 quarters in Saddam City. The capacity of al-Khansa' exchange is 10,000 lines, expandable to 30,000 lines.

In Ninawa Governorate, two electronic exchanges have been opened in Tall 'Afar and Abu Tammam. The capacity of the Tall 'Afar exchange is 4,000 lines, expandable to 10,000 lines. It has a ground telephone network linked to the

microwave and pivotal cable networks and the communications center in Mosul. The capacity of the Abu Tammam exchange is 10,000 lines and this exchange is linked to the national microwave and pivotal cable communications network.

A central exchange has been opened in Kirkuk, al-Ta'mim Governorate, with a capacity of 11,000 lines, expandable to 30,000 lines.

In Babil Governorate, two modern electronic telephone exchanges have been opened in al-Musayyib and al-Iskandariyah. The capacity of al-Musayyib exchange is 4,000 telephone lines, expandable to 10,000 lines, along with a modern ground telephone network with a capacity of 6,000 lines and linked with the national microwave and pivotal cable communications network and with 90 lines linked to Baghdad and 24 lines linked to al-Hillah exchange. The capacity of al-Iskandariyah exchange is 10,000 lines. The capacity of the exchanges in a number of the governorate's districts has also been expanded.

Al-Samawah electronic exchange with a capacity of 10,000 lines, expandable to 30,000 lines, has been opened in al-Muthanna Governorate.

The capacity of a number of telephone exchanges in Baghdad Governorate has also been expanded. These include al-Kazimiyah exchange whose capacity has been increased to 24,000 lines, al-Ma'mun exchange whose capacity has been increased to 32,000 lines and the new Baghdad exchange whose capacity has been increased to 27,000 lines. This is in addition to a modern exchange for national and international communications in al-Karkh Communications Center with a capacity of 10,000 telephone channels for national communications and 500 channels for international communications.

All these exchanges are among the latest types of digital exchanges and are capable of performing numerous functions, including the function of testing the subscribers' telephones automatically.

The northern integration project for the pivotal cables has also been completed. This project secures telephone and telegraph communication, in addition to radio and television transmission, with the governorates of Diyala, al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, al-Ta'mim, Ninawah and Dahuk. It has a capacity of 2,400 telephone channels, expandable to 30,000 channels, 2 television channels and 6 radio channels.

At the level of Arab integration, the Baghdad-Amman microwave project was opened last February. In its initial phase, this project has provided 120 channels for telephone and telex communication and for the exchange of television and cultural programs. This capacity is expandable to 960 channels, including channels that will be utilized to establish telephone and telex exchanges between the two fraternal countries and a number of other Arab countries.

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CSO: 4404/410

IRAQ

BA'QUBAH WATER PROJECT OPENS IN JULY

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 May 85 p 7

[Article by Firyal Jasim: "New Ba'qubah Water Project To Be Opened During Country's Celebration of Coming July Holidays; 14 Million Gallons a Day To Be Supplied Town of Ba'qubah and Surrounding Villages"]

[Text] The accomplishments of our beloved Iraq are growing and flourishing day after day. Hundreds of projects have been build despite the war conditions imposed on our peaceful country. In every part of this good land, you find a road blossoming, buildings rising loftily, bridges splendidly built and pure water quenching the thirst of this great country's citizens.

The Ba'qubah water project is one of the magnificent accomplishments that have been achieved and brought to life under the wise leadership of Leader President Saddam Husayn.

What does this project consist of, what is its capacity and when will it be inaugurated?

For an answer to these questions we had to visit the project and then interview 'Ali Muhammad Hasan, the project director, who said: The project being implemented by the Public Water and Sewerage Contracting Company seeks to meet the fresh-water needs of the town of Ba'qubah and of the surrounding villages.

Hasah added: The project, with a daily capacity of 14.5 million gallons of fresh water, will be opened during the country's celebration of the glorious holidays next July.

The project consists of numerous installations, including the main pumping plant at the project site with an area of 622 square meters. This plant consists of four pumps for underground siphoning and a reserve pump, each with a capacity of 1,050 cubic meters per hour, and three elevation pumps plus a reserve pump, each with a capacity of 720 cubic meters per hour, to pump water to an overhead tank at the rate of 1/2 million gallons per hour. This is in addition to three more elevation pumps and a reserve pump, each with a capacity of 630 cubic meters, to pump water to a ground tank with a capacity of 1,700 cubic meters at the boosting plant. The pumping plant also includes two elevation pumps and a reserve pump, each with a capacity of 300 cubic meters per hour, to pump water to an overhead tank with a capacity of 1,135 cubic meters.

The project further includes the pumping plant at the boosting site which includes three pumps plus a reserve pump, each with a capacity of 420 cubic meters per hour, to pump water to an overhead tank with a capacity of 1,135 meters, located at the boosting plant site. This is in addition to two more pumps and a reserve pump, each with a capacity of 420 cubic meters per hour, to pump water to the overhead tanks in al-Khudariyah village and to the bedouin Arabs.

Moreover, the project includes three circular concrete sedimentation basins, each with an internal diameter of 38 meters and a height of 4 meters. The project also contains a filtration building, a building housing the purification equipment, an administration and control building and overhead tanks, including a tank with a capacity of 1/2 million gallons built to a height of 25 meters at the main project site to supply the right side of Ba'qubah with water and a tank with a capacity of 1/4 million gallons built to a height of 25 meters to supply the left side of the town with water. This tank is being built at the boosting plant site. There is another tank with a capacity of 150,000 gallons of water located near 'Arab Badw village to supply this village and the adjacent villages with water and another tank with a capacity of 100,000 gallons located near al-Khudariyah village to supply the adjacent villages with water.

The project also incorporates a network of main and subsidiary pipelines to distribute water to the town of Ba'qubah and to the adjacent villages benefiting from this project.

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IRAQ

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ROADS, BRIDGES ESTABLISHMENT REVIEWED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 May 85 p 7

[Article by Firyal Jasim: "Figures Indicate Size of Construction Projects Completed to Bolster Military Effort; Various Parts of Our Beloved Country Have Been Embellished with Broad Network of Modern Bridges, Roads and Tunnels']

[Text] The workers of the Public Roads and Bridges Establishment and its installations celebrated yesterday the fourth anniversary of Leader President Saddam Husayn's visit to the establishment.

On the occasion, a ceremony was held and Muhammad Fadl Husayn, the minister of housing and construction, unveiled a big picture of Leader President Saddam Husayn decorating the establishment's entrance. He also unveiled the honor plate displaying the pictures of men more honorable than all of us--workers of the establishment whose pure blood has irrigated the country's beloved soil.

The minister also inaugurated the photograph and graphics fair reflecting the accomplishments achieved since the leader president's visit to the establishment in 1981.

The celebration started with a minute's silence in veneration and esteem for the martyrs of the glorious battle of Saddam's Qadisiyah. Faruq 'Abd-al-Qadir, the establishment chairman, then delivered an address in which he reviewed the accomplishments achieved by the establishment and its installations in completing projects in the country and in contributing to bolstering the war effort in our just battle of defense, underlining the efforts exerted by the establishment's engineers and workers in this regard.

The chairman of the General Construction Projects Labor Union followed with an address in which he pointed out the support and care devoted by the leader president to the establishment and renewed in the name of the construction project workers the pledge to the president to exert still greater efforts in carrying out the duties entrusted to these workers.

Art troupes from the governorates of Babil, Irbil, Dhu Qar and Karbala' then gave artistic performances and sang patriotic songs that spoke of love for Leader President Saddam Husayn and lauding the victories of his brave soldiers in the battles of honor and dignity.

The minister of housing then received a document written in blood in which the establishment workers renewed their pledge to continue their sacrifices until the final victory is achieved against the covetous enemies.

The celebration was attended by a number of chairmen of establishments and of the ministry's general directors and by representatives of the General Federation of Labor Unions.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH, Faruq 'Abd-al-Qadir, the establishment chairman, said that Leader President Saddam Husayn's visit greatly motivated the establishment's engineers and workers to exert greater efforts and to make more sacrifices in order to contribute effectively to bolstering the war effort and to building the homeland.

He added that from the time of the blessed visit until the end of 1984, the establishment completed 276 bridges in the country's various governorates with a total of 51,673 meters, in addition to other road work.

The establishment also completed the project for the intersections on the army canal, which consists of 32 bridges with a length of 8,975 meters, 3 tunnels with a length of 7,471 meters and access roads with a length of 37 km.

As for the establishment's contribution to bolstering the war effort, 'Abd-al-Qadir said: It is a source of pride that our establishment plays an effective, important and honorable role in the battle of right, the glorious battle of Saddam's Qadisiyah, through the construction of roads, bridges and viaducts which extend to the remotest parts to insure the easy movement of our valiant army.

The Public Roads and Bridges Establishment has been entrusted with building a network of roads extending to all sectors of military operations. This establishment has thus gained the honor of participating with the valiant army in its sacred battle against the arrogant Iranian enemy, especially on the day following the Iraqi response to the Iranian regime's aggression--a response that has been the source of pride and honor. This day will continue to be an immortal and honorable day for all generations. The establishment has offered numerous martyrs who have fallen in the arena of honor while performing their sacred duty in the same way as the heroic Iraqi soldier.

The establishment chairman recalled the words of President Saddam Husayn, our leader and teacher, during his visit to the establishment when he said: "We have come especially to your establishment whose presence in the battlefield has surpassed the presence of many Iraqi establishments, perhaps all of them, You have offered martyrs and some of your men have been wounded while opening and paving roads to facilitate the combat task and the task of managing your valiant army."

The establishment has embarked on a number of steps within the framework of the speedy solutions intended to insure a network of roads and bridges for the advanced military units and it has relied on its cadres and resources to serve the needs of the battle and to bolster the great victories. The establishment has completed a total length of 10,700 km of roads, barricades, barriers, canals and trenches.

When comparing the work completed in serving the war effort with similar figures in the Arab and foreign countries, it becomes evident that the earth-moving work completed, amounting to 215 million cubic meters, 5 times the amount of the earth-moving work carried out in building the High Dam, which amounted to 42.6 million cubic meters. If compared with the volume of the greatest pyramid, this work is equal to 80 such pyramids, considering that the total volume of a pyramid is 2.7 million cubic meters. If compared to the Great China Wall, which amounts in volume to 120 million cubic meters, it becomes evident that the work carried out by the establishment is equal to 1.8 times this great wall.

As for the gravel used in building roads, slots [shuquq], helicopter pads and parking areas and in other kinds of work, if this gravel were spread out it would cover a highway with a length of 10,000 km, i.e., it would be enough to surface a highway beginning in Baghdad and ending in New York. As for the tiled areas, the number of tiles used is enough to cover a 3,835 km highway with a width of 7.3 meters, i.e., a highway in Baghdad and ending in Munich.

'Abd-al-Qadir added: A total of 158 roads with a total length of 1,685 km and 14 bridges with a total length of 1,362 meters were completed last year.

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CSO: 4404/410

IRAQ

BRIEFS

KIRKUK-HADITHAH RAIL LINE--The Modern Railroad Construction Authority has for the first time completed building a standard gauge railroad line on the eastern side of the Tigris River, which has a length of 40 km. The line is part of the Kirkuk-Bayji-Hadithah railroad line project. Ra'd al-'Umari, the authority's general technical secretary, has told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, that the project's test trains have begun operating on the line, which links the main canal of the Saddam Irrigation Project with al-Riyad District station and then proceeds in the direction of the Himrin Mountains. Al-'Umari added that Iraqi technical cadres recently completed linking the Barwanah rail line with Bayji station, a link with a length of 90 km, and that linkage with al-Haqlaniyah station will be completed in the fourth quarter of this year. Moreover, the pace of the work to build a bridge on the Tigris River is escalating and it is hoped that this bridge will be completed by the end of this year. It is also hoped all the bridges on the Euphrates River will be completed and the passenger station in Bayji and the freight station in Kirkuk will be built by the middle of next June. It is to be noted that the project that should be completed in August next year will link the country's eastern part with its western part and will facilitate the transportation of passengers, goods, raw materials and manufactured products as a result of its being linked to the Baghdad-Kirkuk-Irbil-Mosul line, the Baghdad-Rabi'ah line and the Baghdad-al-Qa'im-'Akashat line. A subsidiary line with a length of 20 km will branch from the line and link with the Baghdad-Mosul-Rabi'ah railroad line. Fifteen main and subsidiary passenger and freight stations, a platform, a maintenance center and a diversion center will be built as part of the project. In designing and building the line, consideration has been given to doubling it to deal with the future increase in shipping activity, considering that the line passes through vast populated areas and through many of the country's industrial and economic installations. Travel speed on the line will reach 250 km per hour for passenger trains and 140 km per hour for freight trains. [Text] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 May 85 p 7] 8494

CSO: 4404/410

ISRAEL

SURVEY OF FOREIGN TRADE

Jerusalem THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST in English Aug 85 pp 13-14

[Text] Along with everyone else, exporters will have to live with less government support and higher prices. Lisa Rotter reports.

Israel's trade deficit continued to shrink in June, with the gap between merchandise imports (\$628 million) and exports (\$435 million) totalling \$193 million, bringing the deficit for the first half of 1985 down by 24.5% from the same period in 1984 to \$1.02 billion. The deficit during May and June was 10% lower than that registered in the previous two months. The half-year improvement mostly resulted from a 4% drop in imports, to \$3.9 billion, while exports decreased by 6% to \$2.9 billion.

The import picture

Imports of production goods continue at a rate of \$300 million per month, with the half-year diamond-import total, \$530 million, representing a 15% rise above the figure for the same period last year. Fuel imports dropped by 10% to \$708 million in the January-June period.

Over the longer term, commercial imports to Israel have risen by an average 2.6% annually during the past decade, though durable-good imports increased an average 10.1%. In 1981-83, however, imports as a percentage of domestic production fell from 45% to 39%. The decade divides into two distinct periods as far as imports of durable goods are concerned: 1974-77, when they fell by 1% per year, and 1978-84, when they rose by 26% per year. The average yearly growth for production imports was 4.3% as a result of slowing economic growth. The explosive growth in durable-good imports meant that consumer goods as a percentage of total imports rose from 7.7% on average in the '74-'77 period to 9% in the '78-'84 period.

The biggest change in import sources occurred in 1973-80, when the share of imports from Europe fell from 64% to 46%. Of this, the EEC share fell from 55% to 34% while the portion from the European Free Market countries rose from 6.5% to 11%. The percentage of imports from the US remained relatively constant and the portion from countries other than Europe and the US grew from 17% to 34%. These figures primarily reflect the growth of the oil-import component from 7% in 1973 to 26% in 1980. With the weakening of European currencies in 1981-83, Europe's share of our imports grew from 46% to 52%, while the North American component remained constant at 20%. At the same time, the fuel component fell from 26% to 20% as a result of declining oil prices and consumption.

Exports: North America and China

Three-quarters of June's commercial exports were industrial goods, 21% were diamonds and 4% were agricultural products. Export performance has been oscillating significantly, both over time and across sectors.

Israeli exports to the US grew by 25% in the first half of 1985 (compared to the same period in 1984) to total \$900 million, principally because of the improved economic climate in the US, the strong dollar, the growth in marketing networks of Israeli firms in the US (some 250 Israeli firms now have warehousing facilities and/or sales offices there), approaching implementation of the Free-Trade-Area agreement, and our New York economic consulate's increased range of activities. Particular growth was registered in exports of consumer goods (processed foods, jewelry, plastic products and textiles) and advanced technological equipment.

Canada is another bright spot in our trade picture. In July an official delega-

tion arrived in Israel explicitly to find ways to expand our joint research, development and production efforts in advanced technologies. The trade side of our relationship has shown continual improvement, with exports in January-May 1985 up 44% from the same period in 1984 to a total of \$27.6 million and imports falling by 20% in the same comparison to \$46.9 million. Our leading exports there continue to be electrical and electronic equipment, chemicals, moving equipment, clothing, and textile products.

As part of our barter arrangement with Mexico, the government there finally made its initial requisition of Israeli products in exchange for Mexican oil: some 5,000 tons of potassium, worth \$1.25 million. Orders for the balance of the agreement's \$100-million value are expected shortly.

Perhaps the most surprising developments occurred in our trade with the world's most populous country, on the other side of the globe. Three delegations of businessmen travelled to Hong Kong in mid-July to sign agreements setting up textile, agricultural-development, and tourist-industry enterprises. The aggregate value of the projects is in the millions of dollars. Among the principal organizers of some 150 "Canton go and easy" projects are Chinese resident (Advocate) Buchsman and Dr. Moshe Pereg of Menorah Insurance, both of whom are trying to direct as much business as possible to Israelis.

The "Chinese connection" has been developing over the past seven months as the Chinese have shown interest in our achievements in agriculture, solar energy, manufacturing, advanced technology, robotics, construction, road building, and weapons production. One concrete result is that Israeli visitors to China no longer need to use the passport of a country with which China has ties. The Foreign Ministry has reopened its consulate in Hong Kong, which was closed in 1975.

Profitability

The government's emergency austerity program (EAP) marked the start of a new era for exporters as well as the rest of the economy. A principal victim of government budget cuts will be the Exchange-Rate Insurance program. In the past year, the government has paid out \$250 million through this program, at a rate of 55% of added value. Similarly, the Bank of Israel lowered its export credit assistance percentage from 90% to 70% of the value of the documents and centralized its support to exporters (including diamond dealers). All aid will now come from one fund, denominated

in dollars and carrying interest of Euro-plus-2%.

The government remains sanguine about the prospect of exporters' profitability no longer being guaranteed by grants but assisted only by a "realistic" rate of exchange and low-interest loans in foreign currency. The abolition of grants from the Export Financing Fund, besides meeting the requirements of the new economic policy, complies with the recently signed FTA. The government expects to save some \$350-400 million annually through these measures.

It remains to be seen if government companies will do as well in 1985 as they did in 1984. Exports by such companies grew last year by 7.5% to total \$1.272 billion (some 12.5% of all exports). Of this total, \$829.1 million was commercial, \$336.4 million was services, and \$106.5 million was agriculture. Total revenue to government companies was \$6.18 billion in 1984, 5% above that of 1983.

Yet the seriousness of exporters' problems clearly transcends the measures implemented. The cumulative erosion in import and export prices (and hence in our competitiveness) since 1978 amounts to 60% in dollar terms. The recent devaluation and the rapid rate of mini-devaluations in the days preceding the new economic policy, which amounted to some 30%, were not sufficient, nor were they a "real" devaluation. Such a devaluation would have to come at the expense of the cost-of-living allowance and dollar-linked financial assets. If a large real devaluation were implemented, it would benefit most "low-tech" industries such as food and textiles, which accounted for 40% of total exports in 1984 and which are in danger of extinction if the current relative-price regime remains in force.

Since August 1 saw rises in the cost of money and funds are now available on a dollar basis only, exporters are turning to the Bank of Israel for permission to raise capital abroad. Until now exporters whose products used foreign components

or raw materials could receive credit for these purchases at 60% of the "Euro" rate. Given the recent rise, creditworthy exporters who can borrow short-term at Euro-plus-1%-or-1.5% now have an incentive to turn to international sources of financing. Hitherto, the Bank has allowed exporters to raise funds from foreign sources only through the Israeli banking system or when the term of the loan is an average of 2.5 years.

As for importers, they were particularly hard-hit by the new regulations abolishing PATAM demand-deposit accounts except against a specific payment order. The prohibition of pre-payment cash management is expected to make life difficult for them.

In the month before the imposition of the EAP, taxes collected on imports rose by 8% compared to June 1984. In the same real year-to-year comparison, total indirect-tax revenue rose by 38.3%. Compared to the previous month (May), however, import-tax revenue fell by a real 40%, due to a significant drop in the import of taxable consumer goods.

Sectoral analysis

Electronics continues to be the mainstay of our high-tech growth. In the last decade, while the industry's output growth was 682% (output reached \$1.8 billion in 1984) and personnel growth was 193%, exports increased by 1,025% to \$900 million in 1984. Moreover, exports to developed countries have risen continuously and are now 67.2%. The ratio of technicians to engineers and scientists has been falling steadily and now stands at 0.98:1. Meanwhile, R&D engineers as a percentage of total R&D workers and total engineers have been increasing and now stand at 51.4% and 36.2%, respectively. In the electronics industry the added-value component is one of the highest in Israel: 62% (compared to an average of 42% for all other industries). The sector also leads in annual sales per employee (\$46,730) and exports as a percentage of sales (50%, versus the average 19%).

In a related field, arms, Israel is currently exporting at a rate of some \$1 billion per year, or 20-25% of total exports, to some 50 countries worldwide. The best-selling products are Kfir planes, Merkava tanks, Uzi submachine guns, Gabriel sea-to-sea missiles, and, lately, drones. Sales to South Africa have tapered off recently as we have begun exporting the technology to enable it to produce its own equipment.

Diamond exports continue to sparkle with exports of \$580.8 million in the first half of 1985, up 11.4% over the same period in 1984. Some 60% of the exports went to the US, 13.7% to Hong Kong, 12.3% to Japan, and 10.7% to Belgium. This growth has coincided with a trend toward increasingly centralized operations. The number of diamond factories employing fewer than 30 workers has declined from 729 in 1984 to 630 today, while those with 30 or more employees have increased from 51 to 74. The number of plants employing one hundred or more workers remained constant at eight. Despite the fall in the number of independent, small diamond factories, total employment at these plants actually rose from 4,750 to 5,200 in the past year, reflecting the reabsorption of employees from two-to-five-person operations.

The diamond industry feels that its contribution in terms of added value has been underestimated. It reports that in the last five years diamond exports have totalled \$5.4 billion and imports \$3.346 billion, making an added value of 37% rather than the 20% attributed to it by the government.

Agricultural exports remain problematic. Cotton prices, which are cyclical, reached a 13-month low in July (down some 30% from the peak), with the worst of the three-to-four-year cycle yet to be reached. Furthermore, a falling trend in prices of .5% per year is evident. Because of low international prices and a sudden infestation of crop-damaging pests, Israeli growers lost some \$50 million in the last growing season.

The Flower Council reported that in 1984/85 715 million flowers were exported at a value of \$50 million FOB. In the previous year, the export of 665 million flowers brought in \$56 million FOB. Our principal export flower remains the carnation, of which 322 (298) million were exported in 1984/85 (1983/84). Some 85 (82) million roses and 115 (118) million gypsophila were sold in 1984/85 (1983/84).

Trade-agreement news is encouraging. During a recent visit to Brussels, where he met with Claude Cheyson, an officer of the EEC in charge of relations with Mediterranean States, Agriculture Minister Aryeh Nehemkin was assured that Israeli citrus exports to the EEC would continue

to benefit from relatively low customs, despite the entry of Spain and Portugal in January. He was also promised that solutions to current disputes over Israeli fruit and vegetable exports would be found and sent to the governing council for approval before January and that an agreement between Israel and the EEC would also be signed by then, giving both sides veto power over measures or changes in current arrangements that might damage their interests. (Israel currently exports \$2 billion worth of goods to the EEC per year and imports twice that value in Common Market goods.)

As we have been reporting throughout 1985, the tourism news is good: more arrivals and fewer departures. The number of tourists arriving in the January-June period was 20% higher this year than last, totalling 712,600. Of those, 124,500 arrived in June. Tourism-generated revenue should amount to \$1.4 billion this year, compared to \$1.25 billion in 1984. US tourists, who will number some 500,000 (compared to 400,000 last year), will account for about \$700,000 of that revenue. And whereas Jews constituted 90% of the tourist trade in the early years of the State and 54% in 1974, they now

comprise only 38% (52% of the Americans and 30% of the Europeans). Comparison of the first five months of this year with the same period last year shows that the largest growth is in Italian (up 52%) and British (up 39%) tourists. The number of US tourists has risen by 27%, and West German visitors have increased by 25%.

The number of Israelis travelling abroad in the first half of 1985 (220,000) was 14% below the figure for January-June 1984. In June alone, the number of Israelis departing was 43,500. The April-June quarter witnessed a drop of some 20% in the monthly level of departures, compared to the year's first quarter, with continued decline expected. ■

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JORDAN

TELEPHONE SERVICE PLANS REVIEWED

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Jul 85 p 3

[Article: "Next 5-Year Plan for the Telecommunications Organization: Telephone Service To Be Connected to 630 Villages, with a Total of 236,000 Lines, by End of 1985"]

[Text] The 5-year plan for the telecommunications organization indicates that by the end of 1990 telephone service will cover 98.2 percent of the families of the kingdom.

After implementation of the Jordanian-French financial protocol, by the end of this year, a total of 236,203 primary lines will be available in the kingdom.

After obtaining the necessary financing, these projects will be carried out by the implementing authority during the new 5-year plan, and a total of 287,703 primary numbers will be available. By subtracting this number from the total number in order to estimate need through the end of the 5-year plan, we [derive] a need for not less than 220,000 new automatic primary numbers through the new 5-year plan.

Geographic Coverage

After completion of implementation, acceptance and putting into use the remaining parts of the projects financed by the Jordanian-French protocol, taking into consideration the number of cities and villages that will receive modern automatic telephone service by means of the fourth Japanese loan, a total of 270 cities and villages in the kingdom will have modern automatic telephone service. This includes all of the cities and large villages in the kingdom.

For the rest of the villages, the new 5-year plan has taken it into consideration to provide them with semi-automatic service by installing semi-automatic exchanges in the service centers as specified in the long-range plan for these villages through the year 2000.

For this purpose, the organization will disassemble and reinstall the semi-automatic exchanges that are serviceable and currently operative in the villages for which the plan recommends automatic service. The organization might need to purchase a limited number of these exchanges during the new 5-year plan. This is a matter of study.

Given this, the new plan is concerned with providing modern automatic telephone service to the rural areas deprived of this service that are still struggling along with limited manual service.

However, because the number of villages and residential concentrations remaining is not less than 685, it is not feasible to study all of them in one 5-year plan. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt a policy by which to set priorities to provide automatic telephone service.

The long-range plan through the year 2000 has drawn up a schedule for all of the "automatic exchange" centers and their "dependent territories" for all of Jordan through the year 2000. There are 215 centers. The new plan gives priority to centers for which the volume of demand projected by the end of 1990 exceeds 300 telephone numbers for the center and the villages linked to it, except for the southern regions, where the plan uses the number 200, since the population density in the villages of the south is far less than in their counterparts in the governorates of the north and center.

By following this policy for providing telephone service, it becomes clear that we need to provide modern telephone service for 360 new villages, whereupon the total number of cities and villages provided with modern automatic service by the end of 1990 will be 630, that is, 66 percent of the villages and cities in the kingdom.

The New 5-Year Plan

The new plan is distinguished from its predecessors by it being the result of long-range planning efforts. Throughout 1984 and the first quarter of 1985, the organization, with the assistance of its consultants, devoted itself to drawing up a comprehensive national plan covering the kingdom's needs for all types of telecommunication services through the year 2000.

We have found that the new 5-year plan is integrated with the previous 5-year plan and benefits from the basic structure that it established. It also takes into account the trend of volume of demand for these basic services over the years of the new plan, at least through 1990.

The studies in this area were based on a large number of entries and data, all of which were meant to derive estimates of the telephone needs of the residents of the kingdom that are more accurate and detailed than those used by similar studies in the previous plan. This is particularly true if we realize that the study of statistical figures from previous years only will not give us the actual volume of demand for these services, since we have not reached the level of satisfaction and stability reached by the developed nations.

In this plan, the studies relied on estimates based on the rate of spread in comparison to the number of families, or more precisely, the rate of spread in relation to the residential units. This is after completion of an examination of the number of residents and the number of families according to other official statistics produced by the office of public statistics, and after consulting with it about the method and rate used in the study to estimate the number of residents and the number of families for long-range planning through the year 2000.

12780

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JORDAN

NEW 5-YEAR PLAN PROJECTS FOR AL-BALQA' REVIEWED

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Jul 85 p 3

[Article by Muhammad al-Khitayibah: "Minister of Planning Defines Goals of Next 5-Year Plan in Meeting with Administrative Officials in Governorate of al-Balqa'"]

[Text] Dr 'Abdallah al-Nasur, the minister of planning, said that broadening the economic base, particularly its productive portion, strengthening the independent ability of the national economy that depends on available resources and creating opportunities for work and income for citizens in various residential concentrations are among the development goals for which the coming 1986-1990 5-year plan will strive.

In his meeting yesterday with the governor and administrative officials of the governorate of al-Balqa' in the municipal auditorium of al-Salt, the minister added that the plan also aims to achieve all of the suitable conditions and the climate necessary for the private sector to become responsible for various economic activities. This includes policies, organizational measures and establishment of the underlying environment needed to encourage the private sector in this field. In addition the plan aims to achieve social justice in its full sense as quality of opportunity in education, work and social advancement and distribution of other gains from development among all classes and regions of the kingdom, within the framework of the cultural and historical heritage of the kingdom.

The plan also aims to broaden the base of national participation in decision making and in regional and local community development based on independent effort and mutual help, in cooperation with the public and private sectors. Further, it aims, at the national level, to achieve maximum Arab cooperation in economic, social, political and security fields, to strengthen the security of the nation and the citizen and to preserve the gains achieved by development in order to provide the climate suitable for economic growth and social development.

His excellency the minister explained that the Ministry of Planning, in a joint effort between the private and public sector, has taken practical steps to prepare the next 5-year development plan. These are represented by an evaluation of the plans of the ministries and the public agencies and

organizations. Studies are currently under way by the committees on the sectors, and a comprehensive field survey is under way of all of the villages and residential concentrations in the kingdom to collect data about services available and requests for them and to collect data on industrial, commercial and craft activities in [residential] concentrations larger than 5,000 persons. This will be used as the sample.

Doctor al-Nasur emphasized that one of the principle approaches in preparation of the next development plan is the actual participation of the citizens who will benefit from development in the preparation, implementation, follow up and evaluation of the development plans. This means that the structural organization recommended for planning and development will begin at the local level of the development regions and gradually progress to the level of the governorate and then to the national level.

He added that a development council will be formed for each development region, composed of an adequate number of members. It will be composed of representatives of the local movements in the development units, leaders and members of the municipal, village and elective councils, representatives of the cooperative and voluntary associations and any other local organizations, as well as representatives of the various economic, agricultural and commercial activities and the administrative officials of the development region. The council has the responsibility to suggest development projects, to determine the manner and extent of community participation in them, to examine the plans of the ministries and organizations and comment on them, to follow up on implementation of development plans that have been decided upon and to suggest suitable changes during implementation. It is to be the link between the development region and the governor.

The development council of each governorate will be composed of the governor, who is chairman, and members from representatives of the development councils in the development regions, representatives of various economic and social activities and of Jordanian organizations and universities. A representative of the Ministry of Planning is responsible for presentation of recommendations concerning the development plan for the governorate and for performance of social, economic, technical and administrative studies needed for development work, as well as for representation of the governorate at the national level.

The national development council will be composed of representatives of the development councils in the governorates, the general committee on the plan and its subcommittees on the sectors. It has the responsibility to study the plans of the ministries and organizations and to recommend draft development plans for the sectors and regions and to follow up on their implementation, including annual implementation plans.

Dr Ahmad Abu Shaykhah

Then Dr Ahmad Abu Shaykhah, the director of the office of regional planning in the Ministry of Planning, explained the initial results of the comprehensive survey of the governorate of al-Balqa', which sets forth the following: the current number of residents and the number projected over the

years of the plan, the natural resources available, the extent of their reserves, the amount of surface and ground water, agricultural resources, cultivated and irrigated areas, tourist factors, social, health and educational services, the transportation sector and roads, the governorate's infrastructure services--such as post, telephone, electricity and sewer--and the loans granted to the governorate by specialized loan organizations. These are loans of about 13.8 million dinars, from the years 1982-1984, spread among commercial, industrial and service activities and national organizations, and a loan of 6.2 million dinars, from the same period, from the housing bank.

Projects Designated for al-Balqa' Governorate

Further, Doctor Abu Shaykhah reviewed the projects recommended by the ministries, offices and organizations for incorporation in the next 5-year development plan and designated for the governorate of al-Balqa'.

In the agricultural sector, the plan includes afforestation of 7,000 dunums per year, development of tree nurseries, soil conservation in the Jordan valley mountain slopes, development of al-Zarqa' basin and construction of a poultry slaughterhouse in al-Salt, at a cost of 11 million dinars. The governorate will benefit from national projects that include development of natural pastureland, a soil survey and classification of lands and agricultural services in the Jordan valley, development of unirrigated and higher altitude agriculture, production of fruit tree seedlings and plants free from viral diseases and development of workshop services, at a cost of 40 million dinars.

The plan includes expectations of agricultural loan demand for the governorate in the amount of 18.6 million dinars over the period of the plan and a number of organizational measures for projects for the cooperative organization, including increasing the number of non-agricultural cooperative associations by 12.

Further, in this regard, the plan includes construction projects for rural industries, fruit tree cultivation, vegetable production, tobacco production, cooperative nurseries for vegetable and tobacco seedling production, construction of centers and warehouses for the organization and the cooperative associations and a project to develop consumer cooperative associations, at a cost of 59 million dinars.

For the water and irrigation sector, the Jordan Valley Authority has prepared projects for the governorate that will cost 108 million dinars. These include a project to extend the al-Ghawr al-Sharqiyah shipping channel by 14.5 kilometers, raising the King Talal dam, and irrigating the middle part of the valley.

Further, the authority recommended a number of projects to serve the low-lying region of Jordan that encompasses more than one governorate. The water

authority estimated the cost of the projects it has recommended to be about 466 million dinars over the period of the next plan, distributed among all of the governorates.

A number of projects, totaling 31 million dinars, have been designated for the governorate of al-Balqa' and the governorates that participate with it. These include following through on exploration and drilling for water in the Dead Sea basin, development of the (al-Shifa), (Ghawriyah) and al-Mutillah areas in the Jordan valley, construction of the al-Buq'ah and Wadi al-Sirr stations in two stages, construction of sewer and purification systems for Mahis, al-Fuhays, al-Sukhnah and Na'ur, water transportation for northern al-Shunah and Dayr 'Alla and preparation of wells and construction of reservoirs in various parts of the kingdom. It also includes the second stage of enlarging the purification stations in al-Salt and Jarash and creation of maintenance departments in various cities in the kingdom.

For the health sector, the plan for the ministry of health includes construction of health centers in Abu Nusayr, Dayr 'Alla and al-Jufah, construction of a comprehensive health center in al-Salt and another in Ayn al-Bashah and expansion of the al-Salt hospital, at a cost of 930,000 dinars.

Projects of the Jordan Valley Authority

The Jordan Valley Authority projects in this sector include construction of a hospital in al-Mu'addi and health clinics in low-lying areas of al-Balqa', including the following villages: al-Ruwayhah, al-'Aridah, north and south al-Tiwal, (al-Hallabat), (al-Hawashirah), (Maysirah), (Khanush), al-Mushayrifah, al-Kafrayn, (al-Musna') and (al-Ramah). The cost of these facilities is estimated to be about 800,000 dinars.

For the tourism and antiquities sector, the plan includes acquisition of land in the following places: Zayy, Jal'ad, al-Nabi 'Ayyub, Umm al-Dananir, Khirbat al-Dayr and Kafr Hudah, the purchase of antiquities, archeological excavations and renovations of archeological places, at a cost of 6 million dinars. In addition, the social security organization has mentioned in its recommended plan participation in tourism, hotel and recreational companies.

Further, the Jordan Valley Authority has included projects to repair tombs of important people. These projects are distributed among the governorates of Irbid, al-Balqa' and al-Karak, at a cost of 1 million dinars.

Electricity

For the mining and industrial sector, the plans for the ministries and the mining and industrial organizations do not mention any mining or industrial projects for the governorate other than a project to add production lines to the cement plant in al-Fuhays, at a cost of 7 million dinars over the period of the plan. Also, the plan for the retirement funds mentioned a possibility of the funds undertaking a (duplicating) paper project, at a cost of 10.8 million dinars.

For the electricity sector, the plan for the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Wealth includes bringing electricity to 140 villages and residential concentrations and strengthening the networks of the Jordanian electricity companies in their concession areas in the governorates of al-Balqa' and Amman, at a cost of 37 million dinars over the period of the plan.

For the commerce and supply sector, the plan for the Ministry of Supply does not include any projects for the governorate of al-Balqa'.

For the transportation sector, the plan recommended no projects for the transportation sector in the governorate of al-Balqa', but the governorate will benefit from two projects of national scope. These are a project to recondition the buses of the public transportation company, numbering 150 buses, at an estimated cost of 3.25 million dinars and a project to systematize the movement of the buses in a rapid and orderly way, for all of the domestic and foreign lines, at a cost of 200,000 dinars.

Ministry of Public Works

The plan for the ministry of public works includes the following projects:

The al-Salt--al-'Aridah--al-Aghwar al-Wusta road; the southern al-Shunah--northern al-Shunah road; completion of the Suwaylih--al-Salt road; and improvement and beautification of the roads leading into the cities of al-Salt, Irbid and al-Karak, at a cost of 22 million dinars.

The plan for the Ministry of Communications includes development of the shared post offices in the villages of al-Mudari, al-Hudayb, al-Za'tari, al-Yazidiyah, Zayy, Umm al-'Amad and western Bayudah, establishment of a post office in Umm Nusayr, development of a post office in 'Ira and al-Birah and establishment of postal routes in al-'Alali, al-Fuhays, al-Safih, al-Buqay', al-'Ayzariyah, Di'am, Umm Jawzah and Mubis.

It also includes development of a postal route in al-Yazidiyah and al-Mudari and construction of a postal department in the villages of Khashfah, al-Buwayb, (Batnah), Jal'ad, Kafr Hudah, (al-Gharisat), (al-Sahluliyah) and Wadi al-Naqah.

The plan for the youth welfare organization includes construction of a permanent youth camp in southern al-Shunah at an estimated cost of 5,015,000 dinars.

A Television Studio in Dayr 'Alla

For the information sector, the next development plan has designated a project to build a television broadcast news studio for the governorate in Dayr 'Alla, at a cost of approximately 200,000 dinars. The plan also includes a project to establish a mobile broadcasting network in the city of al-Salt.

The plan for the Ministry of Education includes construction of 10 schools, 4 of which are under implementation and 6 of which are new. The four under implementation include a vocational secondary school for boys in southern al-Shunah, a comprehensive school for girls in al-Salt, a vocational secondary school for girls in al-Buq'ah and a vocational school for girls in al-Salt. The six new schools include a compulsory school for girls in Yarqah, a compulsory school for males in al-Salt, a compulsory school for girls in Hayy al-Salalim, a compulsory school for females in Mahis, a secondary school for males in 'Ayn al-Bashah and a secondary school for females in Zayy, at a cost of 7.6 million dinars.

The projects for the vocational training organization include the addition of an electrical workshop and an automotive bodyshop in Ayn al-Bashah, at a cost of 25,000 dinars.

Jordan University

For Jordan University, the plan mentions an agricultural project in the Jordan valley, at a cost of 344,000 dinars over the years of the plan.

In this regard, the plan for the Jordan Valley Authority includes construction of a number of schools in the valleys of Irbid and al-Balqa', at an estimated cost of about 4 million dinars.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The plan for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs includes construction of a number of purification chambers in a number of villages, at a cost of 37.3 million dinars.

For the social development sector, the Ministry of Labor and Social Development has not recommended any projects for the governorate of al-Balqa', but the governorate will benefit from the national aid fund project, on the basis of which family assistance for poor families is calculated.

The ministry recommended raising the amount of assistance to 1 million dinars annually for next year and to 2.5 million dinars annually for 1990.

The plan for the Jordan Valley Authority in this area includes construction of a number of social, cultural and sports centers in the al-Aghwar al-Wusta and al-Aghwar al-Janubiyah at a cost of 2.5 million dinars.

The plan for the union of charitable societies urged development of a "penny for charity" project and a campaign for donations in a continuous manner and work to support charitable societies. The aid anticipated during the period of the plan is estimated to be about 1.5 million dinars.

For the work force and labor sector, the plan for the housing organization includes 2 major projects in the governorate of al-Balqa', according to which 575 housing units will be built in the cities and 350 units in the rural areas, at an estimated cost of 11.1 million dinars.

Housing Bank Loans

The housing bank estimates that it will grant loans of about 150 million dinars over the period of the plan.

The plan for the Jordan Valley Authority in this sector includes construction of cooperatives for government agencies in the lowlands of Irbid and al-Balqa', at a cost of 800,000 dinars.

The total cost of the projects for the Ministry of Municipal, Rural and Environmental Affairs is estimated to be 12.8 million dinars. They include acquisition of land, clearing, construction and paving of streets, the construction of buildings and public facilities, production projects and garden, park and playground projects.

The plan for the Ministry of Awqaf includes a number of projects, including two projects encompassing all governorates of the kingdom. They are mosque and commercial projects from which the governorate of al-Balqa' will benefit. Their estimated cost is 52 million dinars.

Then Mr Jamal al-Mu'mini, deputy governor of al-Balqa', spoke. He called upon the governorate's administrative officials to prepare a comprehensive 5-year plan responsive to the needs of the citizens, based on field visits to study the current situation and to hold meetings with leaders of local councils and directors of agencies and organizations in the governorate to draw up a comprehensive development plan.

After this a wide-ranging debate ensued about the most suitable means available to present the 5-year plan, taking into consideration all circumstances and new factors, particularly those related to the agricultural sector and the development of animal resources and to development of the (al-Shafi) and (Ghawriyah) regions.

12780

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JORDAN

DEVELOPMENT OF AL-'AQABAH AREA PART OF 5-YEAR PLAN

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Jul 85 p 5

[Article: "340 Million Dinars for al-'Aqabah Region Authority in Next 5-Year Plan; Tourist Projects and Facilities To Attract Tourists']

[Text] The next 5-year plan for al-'Aqabah Region Authority shows that total investments will reach about 340 million dinars for the various investment projects during the term of the plan.

The 5-year plan indicates that it is possible to discuss the role of al-'Aqabah region within the national development strategy framework from three different angles.

It must be noted that while the city of al-'Aqabah is geographically located on the kingdom's fringe, it is the first among all the urban centers outside the capital district area which includes the biggest share of national economic interests. In view of its strategic location as the only sea outlet in Jordan, al-'Aqabah region is of vital importance to national trade and is a convenient location for a large number of industries as well as an area which has an important tourist potential.

Hence, al-'Aqabah has a very clear role in the fields of trade development, transportation, storage, free-zone services, industry and tourism. Moreover, al-'Aqabah's steady growth since the middle of the last decade confirms previous analyses and projections concerning its potential as a national growth center.

Therefore, al-'Aqabah has an important role to play in the national strategy aimed at adjusting the growing population settlement process and activities in the governorate's capital. If al-'Aqabah is developed properly, it can attract inhabitants, particularly those thinking of migrating to the Amman area. It can also speed up national economic integration through the availability of transportation and communications networks in it. Furthermore, the size of water resources and the infrastructure facilities in the region means that an increase in the industrial and urban activities in it will involve additional infrastructure costs relatively below those of other regions outside the capital district.

Al-'Aqabah region is part of Ma'an Governorate (southern region) and is adjacent to 'Urbah Valley, which is part of the Jordan Valley Authority area. Therefore, al-'Aqabah region's development plan must be in keeping with the development

plans of these two areas. Moreover, the city of al-'Aqabah has a role to play as the largest urban center in the southern region. It must efficiently service the surrounding areas and must diminish these areas' dependence on the capital in the fields of social, administrative and economic services.

Modern developments in the Middle East and the Arab countries reveal a new dimension for al-'Aqabah region which goes beyond the national role. The region can singlehandedly become the seat of Arab economic integration, between Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia in particular. In this domain, the contribution of al-'Aqabah region will be important in the following fields:

- Development of the transportation network between the Arab countries. The construction of the maritime transportation line between the port of al-'Aqabah and port of Qabus and flights between al-'Aqabah and Cairo airports are steps in this regard.
- Attraction of joint Arab projects for settlement in al-'Aqabah region to utilize the region's central location and the infrastructures for available services there and in the future to take advantage of the area's industrial capabilities to be established on the southern coast near the valley.
- Establishment of a number of joint Arab industries in southern Jordan such as the Arab Potash Company and the Fertilizer Manufacturing Company which is partially financed by some Arab financing companies.
- Development of Arab cooperation in the fields of industrial technology related to some joint Arab strategic industries and in the fields of marine science and environmental protection in the Red Sea.

Al-'Aqabah Development Strategy

Concerning the course the planning process in al-'Aqabah region must follow to arrive at a development pattern in keeping with the region's role in the national development strategy, the plan revealed that the adjustment of the population settlement process in the greater Amman area requires a strategy for regional development based on a greater exploitation of the region's own resources, the creation of attractive employment opportunities and sufficient economic and basic infrastructure facilities in each region. The problem, however, lies in the region's economic structure. With regard to the al-'Aqabah region, it is part of the southern region which includes the entire Ma'an Governorate.

Within the southern region, the areas belonging to al-'Aqabah are not populated enough while Ma'an is located near the areas of al-Shawbak and the agriculturally important Musa Valley and is linked to a complete network of villages and small population centers.

Thus, if the importance of the city of al-'Aqabah within the southern region as a whole is taken into consideration, the concentration of economic and social activities in al-'Aqabah region may involve the danger of migration from Ma'an and the Musa Valley's rural areas to al-'Aqabah region. A similar

movement may occur in and affect the 'Urbah Valley adjacent to the region. Such a phenomenon will hasten the process of vacating the southern region's rural areas of its inhabitants, thus harming agricultural production. This creates an isolated regional pocket that hinders economic integration and impedes the whole development process in the region. The negative effects of this phenomenon will double with the increased demand for food and agricultural products brought about by the projected growth of the city of al-'Aqabah.

The basic idea of the regional strategy is based on the need to protect jobs in the regions of al-'Aqabah, the Ma'an areas and the 'Urbah Valley without causing a rush of migration from the rural areas to al-'Aqabah. The success of this strategy will depend on:

- The efficacy of policies drawn up to achieve a concentration of activities generally in keeping with the relative economic character of the southern region's two elements: the region of al-'Aqabah and the Ma'an--al-Shawbak--Wadi Musa area. In other words, economic activities related to agricultural production must be encouraged to concentrate in the Ma'an-al-Shawbak-Musa Valley area, while the activities of the major export industries and the alternate import industries, which involve high costs for raw material transportation, and tourist activities must be urged to settle in the al-'Aqabah region.
- The criteria used to improve agricultural efficiency and provide adequate infrastructure facilities and services in the rural areas. Efforts must be especially directed at the development of the following main rural centers in the southern region: Musa Valley, Naji, al-Quwayrah, Ayl, al-Husayniyah, al-Jafar, al-Daysah and al-Mudawarah. This is because emphasis on the development of these centers is a necessary supplementary process for the development of al-'Aqabah and Ma'an. It will also help settle the nomads and rural inhabitants through the improvement of their standard of living.

Now it is possible to discuss matters related to the development of al-'Aqabah region itself within the framework of the aforementioned strategic planning. The adoption of a national development strategy that gives absolute priority to industrialization will necessitate planning the region's development in a way that enhances the economic efficiency of the industries which bear high transportation costs. Therefore, most export industries and a number of heavy alternate import industries will encourage settlement near the port of al-'Aqabah. Considerations for cutting costs will be governed by the necessary infrastructure facilities. In view of the limitations of the coastal area in the region and the distinctive topography near the city of al-'Aqabah, it is certain that choosing such a policy will practically cancel any future tourist development in al-'Aqabah and the southern coast.

While the choice of industrialization has its own logic, there are arguments against it. First, there are dangers surrounding the great dependence on importing raw materials due to the instability of the world's basic products' markets. The second argument concerns the fact that al-'Aqabah is the only sea outlet for the Jordanians and there are national benefits from developing tourism in al-'Aqabah and the eastern coast. These benefits are largely linked to:

- Generating foreign currencies, which means an improvement in Jordan's balance of payments.
- Meeting the demand for entertainment activities by a relatively large portion of the Jordanian population.
- Improving the quality of life in al-'Aqabah and enhancing its charm as a national urban development center.

The strategic choice adopted here for developing the region is the choice of balanced development based on providing the necessary facilities for the main national industries which use the Port of al-'Aqabah without touching, except within the limits of the established minimum, those parts of the coast suitable for tourist development. Such a strategy seems justified by long-term considerations for the national economic welfare in exchange for immediate revenue gains.

Moreover, this strategy represents the choice most compatible with the city of al-'Aqabah's three-dimensional role explained above and with the general orientation of the social and economic development policy in Jordan.

Another problem the regional strategy must face concerns the relative weakness of non-essential activities in the city of al-'Aqabah, usually known as those activities that service the region itself more than the other regional markets. Currently, the rate of utilization of al-'Aqabah's essential sectors activities is 64 percent of the total utilization in the city of al-'Aqabah. Thus, it is expected that the export multiplier for the al-'Aqabah region will be high and that a substantial increase in the gross regional product will result from the expected expansion in the activities of the essential sector. But the weakness of the non-essential sector in al-'Aqabah means the region will remain dependent on Amman and the other regions to meet its increasing demand for goods and services. Therefore, the regional development strategy must aim at defining the latent activities which can efficiently serve regional demand and cut the increase in the region's imports. It is necessary to promote the establishment of regionally-interwoven economic activities such as medium and light industries.

Experience in several developing countries indicates that these kinds of industries have a good ability to generate employment opportunities and to contribute effectively to the building of a stock of skills in the region and to satisfy regional supplies.

Finally, it must be emphasized that the development of the regional manpower base is a key development of the regional strategy.

The region will not be able to perform its important role in the national economy without a qualified labor force and a sufficiently diverse group of professional and administrative skills. Thus, attention must be concentrated on policies aimed at providing education and training for the labor force in the region and to educate local talent. At any rate, the projected growth in the region will generate added pressure on demand for the various skills. It

will not be realistic to assume that this demand can be fully met by the region itself. Therefore, a need will arise to adopt special policies to attract the needed skills to the region. At present, Amman, taking into consideration its overwhelming importance in the national economy, is considered the most attractive place for the elite of Jordanian professionals. But there is a chance to ease this direction by creating a pleasant way of living in al-'Aqabah and instituting appropriate incentives to encourage qualified teachers, managers and technicians as well as other professionals to live in the region and take an effective part in its social and economic development.

By establishing al-'Aqabah regional jurisdiction in 1984, the government embarked upon a modern pioneering experience to expand the concept of decentralization in management and development. The following reasons prompted the choice of al-'Aqabah region as a development area:

- The government's desire to modernize the observed developmental system through a qualitative change represented in the adoption of regional development planning as a key element in the overall planning at the national level.
- Al-'Aqabah region represents, in the government's view, an ideal area for testing the new developmental system and the city of al-'Aqabah is a strategic nerve in the kingdom's body and a key installation supporting its economic activities, both commercial and industrial.
- The latent and diverse characteristics of al-'Aqabah region which qualify it to accommodate large investments and to attract labor in several fields such as:
 - * Transportation and related industries and services.
 - * Transit and free-zone services and handling of Arab and local imports and exports.
 - * Medium and light industries.
 - * Tourism and related activities.
- Official confirmation that al-'Aqabah region plays a key role in attracting large foreign, Arab and national investments and an important national growth center with new regional institutions. In 1984, the government promulgated Law No 8 establishing al-'Aqabah Region Authority to provide the administrative apparatus and necessary planning ability to apply the new development system. Al-'Aqabah Region Authority is a public institution with administrative and fiscal independence in charge of developing the region economically and socially and designing the necessary plans, programs and policies in coordination with the competent official authorities.

Priorities of 5-year Development Plan

The 1986-1990 5-year development plan for al-'Aqabah region is based on the aforementioned development strategy. It aims at enforcing a comprehensive

program for economic and social development that will enable al-'Aqabah region, by the end of this decade, to perform effectively its role as a national growth center, a regional center and a focus of Arab economic cooperation in the Red Sea region. The most important priorities of the 5-year development plan are:

- Improving the general administrative structure in the region in keeping with regional development policy objectives and drafting laws, regulations and work methods to realize these objectives.
- Defining developmental priorities on the economic and social levels while taking into account special planned developments within and outside the region.
- Encouraging key industries to settle near Valley "2" and along al-Khalfi road and maritime transportation networks with a view to improving economic efficiency by cutting the cost of transporting their imports of raw materials and exports of goods.
- Establishing tourist projects and related tourist facilities able to attract the largest number of Jordanian, Arab and foreign tourists and establishing periodic programs to promote and market tourism in the region, both in Jordan and abroad.
- Developing transit services and free-zone activities and devising appropriate incentives to encourage local, Arab and foreign investments in this domain.
- Developing infrastructures and public services in the transportation, communication and health and public safety sectors.
- Instituting special incentives and developing athletic and social services and facilities and volunteer work to create an environment able to attract to the region labor and needed skills.
- Providing opportunities for private sector investments in the various fields so long as the private sector is the key source for financing the plan's projects.
- Protecting the environment and preventing pollution and drafting rules and regulations which can achieve all these goals with the maximum efficiency.

5-year Plan Projects

Agriculture, fishery and cooperatives: The palm tree forest and agricultural research center, general veterinary quarantine, fishing and marketing company, imported fodder warehouses and development of parallel markets in al-'Aqabah and cattle-raising societies.

Industry and mining: Production of synthetic fertilizers, al-Shaydiyah, Phosphate Company, the crafts industries complex at Wadi-Jayshiyah, fuel oil depots, fodder concentrate plant, water pipe lining and casing plant, exploitation of raw granite and feldspar, engineering and geological studies and surveys, production of locks and keys, production of plastic furniture and manufacture of pumps, metal cables and electric welding poles.

Tourism and antiquities: Development of al-Hafayir area, first phase; Royal Yacht Club; tourist development and marketing fund; construction of the tourist amusement city; tourist area on the southern coast, first phase; international tourist complex, first phase; international scuba diving center, marine biology observation tower; renovation of al-'Aqabah citadel; and crafts center.

Electric power: Completion of the first phase of al-'Aqabah steam station and second phase thereof.

Water: Comprehensive study of al-Daysah basin, study to provide water to industrial area, study to construct another line for carrying water from al-Daysah, construction of water reservoirs in al-'Aqabah and construction of secondary water distribution network.

Education: Construction and addition of classrooms in al-Shalalah High School for Boys, al-Shalalah High School for Girls, al-Balad al-Qadimah High School for Boys, al-Balad al-Qadimah High School for Girls, Limited Income Elementary School for Boys, Limited Income Elementary School for Girls, International High School for Boys, Iskan al-Mawani' Coeducational High School and Islamic Charitable Kindergarten; expansion of al-'Aqabah Junior High School for Girls, al-Shamilah High School for Boys, al-'Aqabah, al-Quwayrah Girls High School, al-Husayn High School at al-Quwayrah, Munayshir Coeducational School, Prince Talal School at Rum, al-Daysah Girls Junior High School and Prince 'Abdallah School at Daysah.

Health: Al-Shalalah clinic, al-Dakhl al-Mahdud clinic, development of al-Quwayrah center, development of al-'Aqabah center, central clinic for al-Daysah villages, al-Husayn labor hospital and a private hospital.

Social development: Care center for the mentally retarded, juvenile social defense center, vocational training center, shelter for orphans and the homeless, reform and rehabilitation center, social and youth services center, al-'Aqabah youth center for men, al-'Aqabah youth center for women, public library and meeting hall at al-'Aqabah, al-Quwayrah youth center, municipal athletic field at al-'Aqabah, international youth camp, completion of al-Iman building at al-'Aqabah, al-Dakhl al-Mahdud Mosque, expansion of Labor City Mosque and the unified minaret.

Municipal, rural and environmental affairs: Construction of public services complex in al-Daysah area; purchase of equipment for al-'Aqabah municipality, beautification sites, al-'Aqabah; building of modern slaughterhouse in al-'Aqabah; organization studies and plans, al-'Aqabah; and the southern coast survey and map works; organizational plans, al-Quwayrah; rural development in al-Shalalah and al-Balad al-Quwayrah; rural development in al-Shalalah and al-Balad al-Qadimah; prevention of phosphate pollution; and a civil defense center, industrial zone.

Communications: Development of postal services in rural areas, extension of telephone service to al-Daysah area and expansion of telephone network in al-Quwayrah.

Transportation: Al-Khalfi road, first phase of land port, coastal tourist road, al-Durrah railroad, southern port, phosphate dock, Mu'tah docks, freight docks, Port Establishment management building, freight-handling machinery, purchase of maritime equipment, new storage area, technical equipment for al-'Aqabah airport, installations for al-'Aqabah airport, air traffic control station, two approach radars for airport, training of airport cadres, truck service station, traffic lights and public parking, road construction and road intersections in al-'Aqabah.

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LEBANON

BEIRUT AIRPORT: LEBANON'S ECONOMIC ACHILLES HEEL

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 5 Jul 85 pp 1-2

[Text]

President Reagan, despite all denials, had to concede that no military retaliation would be undertaken against militant Shiites in Lebanon and Iran. Consequently, his decision to ban Middle East Airlines and Trans Mediterranean Airways from landing in the United States is an act of frustration.

The US President must realize that this move serves to damage both airlines without affecting militant Shiites. If anything the Shiites might become more aggressive as they interpret such American moves as being directed against their growing political role in Lebanon.

One further indication that the roots of American moves spring from frustration is clear from calls made on other countries, such as asking the community of Western nations to suspend MEA at TMA flights. Moreover, there has been an implicit threat that recalcitrant nations could find their airlines barred from American airports. Probably this last insinuation has been ill-conceived in the heat of creating a reaction.

The US is overlooking the fact that landing rights are granted essentially by bilateral agreements. These in principle cannot be revoked due to actions of third parties that are not involved in the particular bilateral agreements. Consequently, given time, one might assume that American belligerence will simmer down.

The example of Athens airport is a clear indicator. The American administration labelled it as unsafe, called on American carriers to stop... and urged Western nations to do the same. One of the most telling reactions was demonstrated by President Mitterand of France who conducted an official visit to Greece immediately after this call and participated in ceremonies dedicating Athens as the Cultural Capital of Europe. Late last week American carriers were again flying to and from Athens airport.

It is definitely true that Beirut International Airport is nowhere near as safe as Athens airport. However, the whole debacle of the TWA flight started in Athens, and the shift in anger to Beirut does not seem justified.

Militants or terrorists or whoever will not be deterred by a de facto closure of Beirut Airport. Avenues for terrorist acts are possible in a member of countries which continue unchallenged by the Americans. To have closed Beirut Airport and Lebanese air carriers only suggests that the most powerful state in the world has chosen to lay its wrath on one of the weakest states, a country in real need of help.

After World War II the American spirit of constructive activity was demonstrated in Europe by the implementation of the Marshall Plan. Hitler's people were not punished for the acts of terror sponsored by the Nazi party.

And, yet, we find the opposite of compassion for the Lebanese and their livelihood. With over 100,000 dead in the fighting of the last ten years, a national income of 40 percent of what it was ten years ago and continued bleeding, Lebanon is chosen to give an example to militants all over the world.

It's particularly painful that Middle East Airlines and Trans Mediterranean Airways are the two immediate victims. Both carriers have existed for decades (MEA since 1947 and TMA since 1952) and their activity has been and continues to be based on human and material exchanges. Both carriers continued then operations under stringent financial and security constraints. And, in Lebanon of today, where there is 25-30 percent unemployment, these two companies provide the largest single employment of any one activity — other than that of the Government.

MEA employees 5500 technicians and sales people whereas TMA provides employment for 1300

employees. These numbers are not small in Lebanon today. A good example of the importance of both companies to economic life in Lebanon derives from knowing that their combined net contribution to the National Income is around 10 percent.

The chances for continuity of TMA if the American decision persists are next to nil. Already, the thriving round the world network of this cargo carrier has been reduced by American government decisions from 7 flights every week to 3 flights a week. Without a stopover in the US, TMA cannot maintain any role for itself as a carrier between Japan, Europe and the Middle East.

By contrast, MEA could maintain itself as a shrinking operation for maybe two years. Their capability emanates from lease revenue derived from three 747's that are on wetlease to other companies. MEA's remaining fleet of ageing 707's and 720 could very well rot with diminishing use.

Still the full impact of the damage to Lebanon is not clear from the example of TMA and MEA alone. Lebanon has survived economically only because its people could move and work at will. But, they needed their home base always.

If the airport is crippled and considering that so many embassies have left the country, the only two viable alternatives for travel by the Lebanese would be Cyprus and Syria. In both instances additional costs for travel, staying at hotels, waiting for visas and travel confirmations add a lot of burdens.

For simple employees these burdens could be crippling and prevent a large number of Lebanese from achieving rewarding employment.

On top of these devastating economic effects it must be borne in mind that a country without any transport is nearly non-existent as regards international business. If this were to materialize, the irony would be overwhelming.

Lebanon boomed in the sixties and early seventies because it provided business people with convenient travel schedules, secretarial back up and enjoyable and civilized living conditions. Now Lebanon seems to crumble under pressures by countries, particularly the US, which hold it in scorn because it could not maintain the conveniences and pleasant circumstances of times past.

Not one country seems to stop to consider that Lebanon could deservedly merit serious help. Even England, which traditionally has a softspot for people in distress, has opted to take the American line.

LEBANON

AMAL, UNDER PRESSURE, RISES TO INTERNATIONAL PROMINENCE

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 28 Jun 85 pp 3-4

[Article by Jeannie Yamine]

[Text]

From a relatively obscure movement whose aim at its inception in the late seventies was to provide a hitherto non-existent mouthpiece for the Shiite community in Lebanon, Amal (the Movement of Hope) has evolved into a force to contend with in the region. Its suspected role in the TWA hijacking last week and its leader's involvement in negotiations surrounding the release of the 40-odd American hostages have propelled Amal into the international limelight.

Amal has come a long way from the days when it was Harakat al-Mahrumeen (the Movement of the Deprived), the brain-child of a Lebanese Shiite cleric, Imam Mussa Sadr. The objective of Sadr, who disappeared in mysterious circumstances after a trip to Libya in 1978, was to create a vehicle to voice the aspirations of his community.

Despite unofficial evidence of their increasing numerical superiority (they are now thought to make up more than 40 per cent of the Lebanese population) the Shiites had remained at the bottom of the Lebanese social, economic and political ladder. This was due in part to Lebanon's multi-confessional political structure which reserves the lion's share of power to the Maronite community and, to a lesser extent, the Sunni community. The situation was exacerbated in the seventies by the fact that the Shiites, concentrated mainly in South Lebanon, bore the brunt of Israeli retaliation against PLO attacks from their bases in the south.

Despite the disappearance of Imam Musa Sadr, Amal's following and stature steadily grew. Under the leadership of Nabih Berri, a lawyer known for his secular and moderate views, who took over in 1980, Amal evolved into a structured politico-

military group. The clearest statement of the organization's political orientations and conception of post-war Lebanon were contained in a working paper presented in October 1983 to the first Lebanese national reconciliation conference in Geneva.

Amal's political orientation

The Amal working paper, the most comprehensive of all the policy statements submitted by the warring Lebanese factions in Geneva, touched on every aspect of life, from politics to economics to social affairs (see full text in An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO, February 20th, 1984). The paper called for the liberation of South Lebanon from Israeli occupation as a condition for the treatment of any other political issue, including the question of political reforms. In language that sometimes deliberately lapsed into ambiguity, Amal declared itself opposed to the partition of Lebanon and in favour of the country's Arab identity. It called for "the elimination of sectarian discrimination in politics in all areas of public life after granting the rights claimed by the deprived sects". In Lebanese parlance, this means favouring an end to the confessional system and demanding increased political rights for the Shiites, who perceive themselves as the most deprived sect in Lebanon.

The specific structural reforms proposed by Amal are the following: the amendment of the electoral laws on the basis of proportional representation, the separation of the three branches of government, the establishment of an independent judiciary with powers of judicial review, and the creation of a bicameral legislative body. The proposed reforms further aim to curb the powers of the head of state by making

the selection of the prime minister the responsibility of parliament rather than the president.

Plans for changes in the administrative branch include making appointments and promotions on merit rather than confessional identification. The same considerations are to apply in the armed forces whose military command, Amal argues, is in need of "radical reforms". Internal security forces are to be completely reorganized while the existing armed militias are to be disbanded and divested of their arms.

In the cultural, educational and social domains as well, the emphasis is on doing away with the most nefarious aspects of confessionalism and reversing the system of privileges according to sect. As for the economy, Amal favours balanced development between the public and private sectors, the adoption of progressive taxation and state ownership of all public utilities and facilities.

Amal's demands, as outlined in its conference paper, are in line with those of the Lebanese opposition forces. However, the tone of the paper is far more moderate and conciliatory than that of the Druze Progressive Socialist Party, the most prominent member of the opposition coalition. This is due in part to Nabih Berri's attempt to steer his organization on a middle-of-the-road course and avoid the many pitfalls of extremist positions.

Until 1982, Berri succeeded in maintaining such a course, but after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the subsequent radicalization of the Shiite masses in South Lebanon, and the rising influence of the less secular-minded sectors of the Shiite community, it became increasingly hard to do. It can be argued that Amal's actions from 1982 on were increasingly dictated by the necessity to fend off the threat posed by the fundamentalist wings of the Shiite movement.

Factions within Amal

Although few details are known about Amal's exact structure it is believed that it serves as an umbrella for at least four other groups. These include Amal's Military Organization, which is distinct from Amal and has its own leadership and structure, Hizballah (the Party of God) and Islamic Amal (led by Hussein al-Mussavi and based in Baalbeck). The fourth may be Islamic Jihad, although Shiite sources say it is not a separate entity and is used by some groups as a front for their operations.

Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, the presumed spiritual leader of Hizballah, shed some light on the views of the more religiously-oriented wings of Amal in a recent interview with *An Nahar Arab Report & MEMO* (April 29th, 1985). Like Amal, the fundamentalist Shiite factions see the confessional system as the root of the problem in Lebanon. "We

firmly believe," Sheikh Fadlallah said, "that the first priority is to bring about the downfall of the confessional system so that the citizen can be judged on his own merits rather than on the basis of his confession".

But it is on the subject of a reformed Lebanon that the divergence of views between Amal and parties such as Hizballah emerges. Amal has always maintained that it views Lebanon as a democratic, parliamentary republic. Although he acknowledged that the time was not right for the establishment of an Islamic republic in Lebanon, Sheikh Fadlallah did not reject the idea out of hand. He noted: "We believe in the establishment of a country where this philosophy [Islam] reigns supreme. This goal can be achieved in the long term given the right circumstances and the depth of people's conviction." This view, explained the Shiite cleric, is based on a belief that Islam is the proper approach to life, "not only in Lebanon but all over the world".

In his comments on Lebanon, Sheikh Fadlallah, the fourth most important Shiite cleric in the Middle East, hinted at Iran's influence on the Lebanese Shiite religious factions. Commenting on his last trip to Iran, where he met Iranian officials, Sheikh Fadlallah said: "I did not feel that they envisage Lebanon as an Islamic republic. They suggest that the Lebanese solution lies in the creation of a democracy based on majority rule."

Iran's role as a mentor is even clearer in the case of Islamic Amal. The Baalbeck-based group, led by Hussein al-Mussavi, is thought to have been trained by Iranian troops despatched to the northeastern Lebanese city in the early eighties.

Besides their approach to Islam, one common denominator between Iran and the Lebanese Shiite fundamentalist groups is enmity towards Israel and its ally, the United States. This does not mean that the Soviet Union is held in higher regard. According to Sheikh Fadlallah, the Soviets aim to establish control over the oil and mineral resources of the Middle East.

Amal reacts to fundamentalist competition

Amal's role as the driving force behind the anti-Israeli resistance in South Lebanon was partly in reaction to the rising influence of the Shiite clerics who initially spurred the movement against the occupation. The move paid off. Amal's success in driving the Israelis out of Lebanon boosted its standing internally as well as regionally. It established the organization as a contending political and military force in the Lebanese arena.

In February 1984, Amal wrested control of West Beirut from the Lebanese government. A few months

later, Mr Berri was given the Justice portfolio in the newly-formed cabinet of national unity. At his insistence, Mr Berri was also made state minister for South Lebanon.

But Amal's ascendancy on the Lebanese stage was gained at a cost. Its crushing of the Sunni Murabitoun militia earlier this year and its siege of the refugee camps last month (reportedly at Syrian urging) has produced hostility not only among the Lebanese Sunnis, but also among Sunnis in the Arab world and the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, the pressure from the fundamentalist groups and competition for influence continued unabated. If seen in the light of his attempts to counter this threat and maintain Amal's control on the Shiite movement, Mr Berri's involvement in the TWA hijacking is perhaps more understandable. By "hijacking the hijackers", the Amal leader would steal the show from the fundamentalist Shiites and at least share in the benefits of a potentially successful confrontation with the American superpower.

Prospects for Amal

Whatever the outcome of the hijacking, Mr Berri may find that, having entered on the slippery road of radicalization, it will become increasingly hard to back-pedal. How far down the militant path will this attempt to stay one step ahead of the fundamental Shiite competition lead him and his organization? If the rise of influence of the Shiite fundamentalist movement in Lebanon continues at its present pace, one should expect Amal militancy to increase apace.

The next question is: where — if at all — will Mr Berri draw the line? If Mr Berri elects to put a brake on his organization's militant slide he will face the prospect of direct confrontation with his more fundamental co-religionaries. If he elects to go with the flow he still runs the risk of being pushed aside and overtaken by the strong fundamentalist currents of his movement. The fact that the same currents are gaining strength throughout the Islamic world suggests that, either way, Nabih Berri would be waging a losing battle.

OMAN

NATION PLANS BROAD NEW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 8-14 Jul 85 p 26

/Article by 'Ali Hashim: "The Omani Consultative Council and Development Plan Goals"/

/Text/ The Consultative Council in the Sultanate of Oman is considered to be one of the achievements realized in the era of Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, based on the belief in the importance of participation by the people in setting out development plans and developing Oman economically and socially and on his concern that the efforts of the government and private sector be joined together, since the council embodies cooperation and mutual solidarity and constitutes a context for their joint efforts in engaging in study of the development plans goals, the stipulated priorities for their projects and the obstacles which might inhibit their execution, and the effort to set out suitable solutions to them.

The sultan's edict pointed out that the goal in establishing the council was to carry on the policy of preparing citizens to contribute views to the efforts the government is exerting in executing its plans, which have the goal of advancing economic and social development in the country.

The council consists of members representing the government and private sectors. They are chosen from among people with expertise and opinions who represent all sectors. When it was formed, the number of council members came to 45, 17 members representing the government sector and 28 representing the private sector.

Sultan Qabus inaugurated the council on 3 November 1981, giving an important, historic speech specifying the council's tasks and responsibilities in the coming stage and urging the members to perform their trust and carry out their duty so that the council could use to the noble objective on behalf of which it was founded and also be a vital area for interaction and the integration of views, reflecting total cooperation between the government and the citizens.

The choice of the deputy ministers involved in economic and social development to be members of the council was one founded on a scientific basis. They bear the basic burdens of responsibility within their ministries, since they

represent the connecting link between the ministers and the various executive agencies within their ministries. Consequently, their ability to make judgments on the demands of development and determine development priorities in the council will be great, and their selection as council members means that the wise leadership has determined to offer guidance to all efforts, for the sake of giving a strong impetus to economic development so that its effects may be reflected positively and rapidly on the Omani citizen.

In addition, the choice of individuals per se as members of the council arise from their nature as representatives of men of ideas, and businessmen. They are the product of a natural process of selection in Omani society, since actual experience has provided them with sagacity and made them an object of trust and people of cogent views and valid counsel. The leadership was concerned to choose these persons from among members of the government and people in the regions and the private sector, in order to combine all the forces of influence in advancing economic and social development within the council so that a distillation of views representing and affecting the broad sectors of the society could then be raised within the council.

The leadership considered that the private sector should have the larger number of members representing various areas in the council, so that the citizens' needs and desires could be taken into consideration in drawing up the country's domestic policy in economic and social areas.

The council's formation is reflected in a manner which provides a permanent organic connection between the council as a body contributing views regarding the formulation of economic and social decisions and Omani reality. The presence of council members in their ministries and projects and their various positions in the regions makes them a strong, continuous connecting link between the council and the government, and consequently the coordination between the two is founded on the scientific method of dealing with problems obstructing the economic and social development plans as they are applied.

The council assumes the responsibility of reviewing economic and social development problems and helping the government draw up development plans, follow up on development plan projects and reduce the obstacles obstructing the execution of their programs, in addition to contributing views in the areas of the country's economic and social development. The council's areas of specialization are embodied in the expression of views on laws that have been issued and general policy the government has presented to it in the development area and issuing recommendations in this regard, in addition to reviewing the difficulties facing the public sector and suggesting means to guarantee that they are overcome.

The council holds four ordinary sessions a year, and four permanent councils have been formed for the council. These are the legal committee, the economic committee, the services committee and the facilities committee.

To deepen the Consultative Council's experience by expanding the scope of participation in decisionmaking and the provision of counsel, the authorities issued a sultan's edict on 30 November last year calling for the number of council members to be increased from 45 to 55 and for new members to be selected. The number of government sector members has increased, in accordance with this edict, from 17 to 19. The number of members representing the private sector has also increased, from 28 to 36. This decree has reflected the sultan's desire to provide a more extensive forum for citizen participation in the council's activity and for attention to be given to developing and deepening existing cooperation between the council and the government in a manner enabling it to assume its responsibilities, so that the ability to achieve the desired goals of the development process may be strengthened.

The sultan's speech at the inauguration of the council's second term toward the end of last year was in effect a comprehensive, integrated program of action for the coming stage which will require the further consolidation of efforts to enrich the development process. The sultan has stressed the important role the council is performing in promoting the efforts exerted to develop the country and has described the extent of the responsibility laid on the council's shoulder to continue the process and promote further steps to achieve welfare and prosperity for the Omani people.

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SYRIA

MINISTER PLAYS DOWN NEW OIL REPORT

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 20 May 85 p 11

[Text]

A senior Syrian official said last week that reports of a second major oil discovery in Syria were exaggerated. Reports from Damascus last year said that a large deposit of oil had been found in the Deir el-Zor district, which could produce up to 350,000 b/d of light, low-sulfur crude. Pecten, the exploration company working the concession, is reported to have made a second discovery in the same area. However, speaking to our Paris correspondent, Randa Takieddine, Syria's assistant oil minister, Dr Nader Nabulsi, put the discovery in the context of overall oil exploration work in the country.

Q: Original reports put the magnitude of the Deir el-Zor discovery at some 350,000 b/d. Is this correct?

A: The magnitude of the discovery has not yet been ascertained. The preliminary figures do not give us precise information. And Pecten has not yet made any official statement on the size of the discovery.

What information is there on the size of the second discovery, reported a month ago?

The Tayim structure in the Deir el-Zor area has another, smaller structure near it, called the Shoda. Only one well has been drilled so far, but the indications were encouraging. Three wells have been dug in Tayim. The size of the Shoda structure is small, so discoveries will be small. The oil found was of high quality, around 36 degrees API, with low sulfur content.

What size pipeline will you build to carry this crude out?

We haven't yet decided this, since the size of the pipeline will depend upon the size of the discovery. However, the distance between the Deir el-Zor discovery and the Iraq Petroleum Company pipeline is only 92 kilometres. We are looking at the pipeline diameter now. But even if you hear that the diameter

is large, this will not necessarily indicate the amount of current production. We have also to consider the future.

We are thinking about a 20-inch diameter pipe, which would normally carry up to 10 million tonnes of crude a year. But we might also start at one million tonnes. If the discovery yields future additional quantities, the pipeline will be available to transport them. The Syrian pipeline built in the 1960s will take up to 14 million cubic metres, but we produce only nine million cubic metres.

A discovery was also reported near Palmyra by Marathon, wasn't it?

Very small quantities of gas only. Too small to be a discovery really.

What is Syria's current oil production?

We produce nine million cubic metres a year. Some of this we take for our own refineries and sell it to finance our own requirements. We are not really an oil-exporting country.

How much oil do you receive from Iran? And how much is in grant form?

We have an annual contract with Iran to take five to six million tons. This is renewable annually.

What is your current refining capacity?

Total capacity is 11.2mn tons — about six million in the Baniyas refinery and about five million at Homs. We are now thinking of improving our refining capacity. We want to cut back on our production of heavy products. This would be more economical. We are currently importing gasoil, but we could cut back on this. We are considering approaching national and international companies to undertake the improvements at Homs and are now carrying out a feasibility study.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

VARIOUS POLITICAL FORCES DEMAND REFORMS

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 3 Jul 85 p 24

/Article: "A Broad Demand for the Codification of a Permanent Constitution for the Emirates"/

/Text/ The breadth of the demand for the codification of a permanent constitution for the United Arab Emirates is expanding, since only a year remains before the termination of the third extension period for the temporary constitution now in effect, which was set out in 1971 when the federation was formed.

Editorials have been published in local papers describing the temporary constitution as "starting to constitute a restriction on the movement of the nation, its institutions and its various activities" (AL-KHALIJ, 1 June 1985).

Societies of general benefit in the emirates have issued a joint memorandum on domestic, economic and social problems signed by the Lawyers', Teachers', Economists' and Social Workers' Societies, the Federation of Writers and Literary Figures, the Society of Women's Resurgence and sporting and cultural clubs, calling for the codification of a permanent constitution, the establishment of an national council elected directly by citizens and the expansion of its powers to include legislation and the codification of laws and oversight of government activities.

In the National Federal Council, which now represents the "appointed consultative body," an important session was held toward the beginning of June, before the recent conclusion of its session, in which it stressed its demand that a joint National Federal Council and Council of Ministers meeting be held, with all their bodies, "for discussion and the exchange of views between the two councils on the deteriorating conditions and mutual cooperation in order to arrive at a mutual conception for solutions for which a report will be prepared, to be submitted in the name of the two councils to the Higher Federal Council" (which consists of the rulers of the emirates). The Council of Ministers had previously agreed to this meeting, but drew back from this agreement and demanded the formation of a joint committee of the two councils, which the National Federal Council rejected.

The National Federal Council members, in the course of this session, raised a group of demands and expressed many observations and criticisms on existing conditions. They emphasized the importance of setting out a permanent constitution for the country.

The member Ahmad Sayf Balhasa was one of the most prominent speakers at this session. He said, "At the outset it is necessary to review the constitutional situation in a serious manner because that means the organization of the society and the government structure. The time has come to take practical steps to prepare a permanent constitution. The temporary constitution has a year left and I hope that we will not be surprised to find it being extended a fourth time. This is not to the country's benefit, in view of the negative features and the temporary constitution's inability to keep up with developments which we have witnessed."

Mr Ahmad Balhasa, the National Federal Council member, also referred to what he called "the federal regression in all the institutions of the state" and requested that the emirates have equal balanced foreign relations with all the countries of the world.

Mr Salih al-Shal, National Federal Council member, referred to "the existence of a political vacuum in the country!"

It is worth mentioning that the Higher Council, which includes the rulers of the seven emirates, has not met for more than a year and that though one of its meetings was to have been held last Sunday, 30 June, an official statement was recently issued mentioning that the meeting had been postponed "to hold further consultation on issues the higher council will discuss."

11887

CSO: 4404/424

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

SENIOR ECONOMIC FIGURE DISCOUNTS GRAVITY OF RECESSION

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jul 85 p 4

/Article: "The Minister of Economy and Trade in the Emirates to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Have No Misgivings about the Unified Economic Agreement"/

/Text/ Mr Sayf al-Jarwan, the United Arab Emirates' minister of economy and trade stated that his country had no misgivings about the unified Gulf economic agreement, but indeed consider it a means for realizing comprehensive Arab economic unity whose nucleus will be the Gulf common market, if properly applied.

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Mr Sayf al-Jarwan said that the criticisms raised in the sessions of the emirates' National Federal Council regard the economic agreement proceeded from the members' concern for the interests of citizens in the Cooperation Council countries and had had the goal of bringing about maximum use of the agreement.

The minister added that he had presented before the National Council the benefits which have accrued to citizens in the course of the stages of execution of the agreement, such as the grant of freedom to all people of the region to engage in economic activity in a number of economic fields, the exemption of domestic Gulf products from customs duties and other duties, agreement to a unified customs wall of 4 percent vis-a-vis foreign goods and the exemption of other goods from customs duties.

The minister added that a study had been made to offer the private sector in the Cooperation Countries encouragement bonuses to explore new economic horizons and that a Gulf investment authority with a capital of \$2.1 billion had also been formed.

The emirates' minister of economy and trade said "We have no misgivings about the sections in the economic agreement and I find no justification for any fears about the transfer of capital, the establishment of joint projects and the right of ownership, because the agreement has called for the coordination of economic policies, statutes and commercial legislation, which has caused it to be executed in the framework of clear economic stipulations."

Mr Sayf al-Jarwan said that Gulf cooperation had made broad strides and that what had been achieved is a short period, since 1982, should be considered tangible success and progress. He called for further effort to be exerted to promote Arab cooperation, especially in these circumstances, which require solidarity and the joining of forces. He called for the application of the collective Arab agreement, an increase in and support for trade and the intensification of efforts toward greater execution of joint Arab projects.

Negotiations with Europe

Concerning Gulf-European negotiations on the subject of petrochemicals, the minister of economy and trade in the emirates called on European countries to review their decision to impose customs duties on Gulf petrochemicals, to take the magnitude and weight of council country commercial cooperation with the European market into consideration and to permit the countries' petroleum products to come in, especially in the light of the concessions the market countries have given to a number of nations and economic groupings in the countries of North Africa, the Mediterranean Basin and elsewhere.

The minister stated that in the event Europe did not accept the Gulf viewpoint, the Cooperation Council countries would find themselves compelled to review their policy and take all appropriate measures to protect their exports against any measures which did not take the policy of reciprocity into account.

Concerning the economic situation in the emirates, the minister of economy and trade, Mr Sayf al-Jarwan, said "The emirates' economy is now suffering from some difficulties arising basically from the drop in the country's receipts from its oil exports..This may be attributed to the difficulties impinging on the world oil market and the phenomenon of international recession by which the advanced industrial countries have been affected. This in turn has been reflected on the emirates' economy in a negative fashion which has led to difficulties that could be expressed as a recession that constitutes a passing phenomenon which is in the process of disappearing, especially since this state of recession, which in my estimation is to be considered a special one, differs in its causes and results from those of the international recession pervading the economies of the remaining countries of the world, of which some are suffering from the burden of indebtedness and others from unemployment and other pathological economic phenomena."

Optimism in Spite of Economic Difficulties

Mr Sayf al-Jarwan said "Some causes of the difficulties the emirates' economy is suffering from are local and some are foreign. To the foreign factors one add the Iraqi-Iranian war, its effect on the movement of exports and imports in the area and the al-Manakh market crisis in Kuwait. One domestic cause is the drop in the volume of public sector current and investment spending, which in turn has had its effect on private sector spending."

The minister of economy and trade said "The economic situation in the emirates calls for optimism. The International Monetary Fund delegation which visited the emirates recently voiced good impressions and detected positive signs which underlined the soundness of the economic situation in the emirates in a manner which calls for optimism over the possibility that the difficulties will be transcended."

Concerning the establishment of a free zone between the United States of America and Israel, Mr Sayf al-Jarwan said that this step had stirred up a broad negative reaction in the world. It was announced at the same time as the latest meeting of the Arab Economic Council, which was held in Tunisia, and in the course of that a plan was set out to tighten the Arab boycott of Israel and applying it immediately and decisively. The subject was also again placed on the agenda of the council, which called on Arab institutions, organizations and federations to perform their duty and offer their view on confronting this vicious attack on the Arab nation by the Zionist entity, aided by the United States of America.

11887

CSO: 4404/424

AFGHANISTAN

MUJAHIDIN RESISTING SOVIET-KARMAL ATROCITIES

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 4 Aug 85 p 5

[Text]

The Mujahideen foiled an attack on their center located in Lewa Tangi Pass in Zabul Province where Soviet parachuters had been dropped disguised as Afghan civilians.

According to the details, the Soviet parachute force was dropped dressed as Afghan civilians on June 24 in Lewa Tangi Pass, 40 miles from Qalat Ghilzai the provincial headquarter of Zabul. Anticipating the Soviet threat, the Mujahideen opened fire with machine-guns. With this the MiG aircraft coming to the aid of the Soviets started bombing. A total of 18 Soviet troops were killed by the firing of the Mujahideen while a MiG aircraft was shot down by the shelling of the anti-aircraft gun. The aircraft fell over the ground wrapped in the flames of the fire caused by the shelling. The entire crew alongwith the pilot were killed. The Mujahideen continued to resist to the last but had to move away to safe places leaving behind their positions in view of the constant bombing and the swift advance of the parachute force. The Soviets captured two anti-aircraft guns and secured the release of the a

Khad informer who had been arrested near Qalat Ghilzai sometime back on the charges of supplying information to the Soviets.

PANJSHER SITUATION

According to the reports received from the strategic valley of Panjsher, the Soviet troops had been dropped by helicopters in the valley. It was learnt that several Soviet troops had been killed, a truck and a jeep had been destroyed following a clash between the Mujahideen and the Soviet forces in Spingar area of the valley.

The Soviet air force also bombed an area close to Jalalabad as a result of which 27 defenseless civilians were martyred and eight houses were razed to the ground.

The invading Soviet army was engaged in a large scale military operation in the Panjsher valley during the last four weeks. The guerrilla Mujahideen downed a Soviet helicopter gunship which was carrying military supplies for the besieged groups in Bazarak area.

The Mujahideen sources claimed that the fierce clash between the Mujahideen and Soviet-Karmal troops took place near Bazarak town before the destruction of the

helicopter on July 5. The clash claimed the lives of nine Soviet troops. The Mujahideen just after the operation, hit the Soviet helicopter by anti-aircraft gun. The pilot and other crew of the helicopter were killed on the spot.

SOVIET PLANE SHOT DOWN IN KUNAR PROVINCE

The Afghan freedom fighters killed over 15 Soviet troops and destroyed a MiG-23 during operations in the eastern province of Kunar in Afghanistan.

The Agency Afghan Press sources reported that a group of Mujahideen hit a Soviet MiG plane by ground to air missiles in Badil pass area on last month. The MiG aircraft instantly crashed and the Soviet pilot and other crew were killed on the spot. The wreckage of the plane was visible over the mountain of Lamanda Nau in the upper part of Badil pass.

It was learnt that after two days the various groups of Mujahideen put up resistance unitedly in Kotke area and frustrated the Soviet onslaught. The troops had been air-dropped through helicopters in the area. As a result of the fierce battle 15 Soviet

soldiers were killed and several others were injured. Three innocent civilians were captured by the invaders and were carried away to the provincial headquarter of Asad Abad. The Mujahideen captured 12 Kalashnikov rifles left over by Soviet soldiers and swiftly moved towards their safe places.

SOVIET OFFICER, THREE KHAD AGENTS ARRESTED IN BALKH

According to the reports reaching from the northern province of Balkh, the guerrilla Mujahideen operating in the vicinity of sub divisional headquarter of Chehar Bula, a Soviet officer Risholin Mekhalov and three agents of Karmal intelligence department of Khad were arrested in Balkh.

It was learnt that in this operation the Mujahideen killed seven Soviet-Karmal troops and lost four of their companions. The names of the captured Khad agents are: Mohammad Qul, Abad Qul and Rahim Shah.

The Afghan freedom fighters in an operation, conducted in the proposed alternate capital of Afghanistan, blasted an official residential building by planting a time bomb.

According to the report, over 70 Karmal-Khad intelligence officials were killed on the spot including 10 women staying in the premises for pleasure sake. The Agency Afghan Press sources informed that the Mujahideen last month planted a time bomb in the building close to the Nusrat Medical Hall in the area of Roza Sharif of Mazar Sharif town. The bomb exploded with a violent blast at 10 p.m. as a result of which the entire building came to the ground.

It is to be noted that after

martyrdom of Jamiat-e-Islami Commander, Zabihullah, Mujahideen's activities remained suspended for some time and the Soviet-Karmal forces had set up army posts at various places fortifying their positions. The Mujahideen launched the operation after a break of six months. During the operation the Karmal administration had to suffer a heavy loss of life and property.

DIVISIONAL MUJAHID COMMANDER MARTYRED

According to the reports from Logar Province, the divisional commander of the Mujahideen, Khayat was martyred. He had led the operation against a military convoy in sub-division Muhammad Agha on June 15.

It was learnt that the Mujahideen attacked the convoy under the command of the martyred commander. The convoy was going towards Gardez starting from Kabul. As a result of the firing from the side of the military force, commander Khayat was martyred. Later the Mujahideen moved to the safe places picking up his body. Shaheed Khayat worked as a tailor before he joined the resistance movement. As the Soviet aggression started, the commander joined the ranks of Mujahideen. He qualified himself for his appointment as divisional commander for his capabilities. As a mark of respect for his profession, he was called as Khayat, meaning tailor.

The Soviet-trained information media chief of Karmal administration Colonel Mir Hasamuddin and another high official have defected to Mujahideen, a report received from Paktia

Province said.

Peshawar bureau was informed by the quarters close to Colonel Hasamuddin that all the defense matters were in total control of Soviets while information media was supervised by the panel of six Soviet officers. Colonel Hasamuddin received training in Moscow for one year with other 85 officers of the Defense Ministry. Later he was posted in the ministry in Kabul.

LOI JIRGA'S SPEAKER KILLED IN KABUL

Meanwhile, the speaker of so-called Loi Jirga (Grand Assembly) Abdur Rahim Hatif was killed at his residence in Kabul on the night of June 16.

The special sources of the resistance movement gave the details of incident to the Agency Afghan Press and told that a guerrilla Mujahideen group struck at the residence of the speaker with hand grenades where the security staff was already captured by the Mujahideen. After throwing hand grenades the Mujahideen made their entry into the residence of the speaker and killed him by the fires of automatic weapons. He was trying to escape from the back side of the residence.

The resident of Qandahar Abdur Rahim Hatif was associated with Tukhi tribe. He got prominence in Zahir Shah's regime when he was appointed head of the Qandahar municipality. Later in Sardar Duad regime he occupied several important posts. He was nominated as speaker of the Loi Jirga on April 23 last.

FAIZABAD UNDER SIEGE OF MUJAHIDEEN

According to the latest reports reaching from Kabul, Faizabad, headquarter of

Badakhshan Province has been placed under the siege of Mujahideen where Jamiat-e-Islami provincial commander Abdul Basir Khalid led them to shell the city by light guns. As a result of severe shelling, Faizabad airport was vacated by the troops with helicopters and bombers. Now the Soviet fighter planes coming from Kunduz airport were engaged in strafing Mujahideen's positions.

It was learnt that the Governor House located in the old city, remained the target of the Mujahideen as a result of which the provincial governor had been shifted to the military camp of 24th regiment of the Karmal army.

SOVIET MILITARY OPERATION IN PAKTIA PROVINCE

In the course of military operation conducted in the strategic valley of Panjsher by Soviet army the Mujahideen were engaged against invaders, the Soviet-Karmal troops are preparing for another major offensive in Paktia Province.

According to the Agency Afghan Press sources, the fresh Soviet-Karmal troops were being sent towards the border cantonment of Urgoon in Paktia Province

which are drawn from the Provincial headquarter of Sharna, Gardez and Bande Sarda. It was learnt that the long range M-41 and DC-10 heavy guns were also sent from Kabul. The report adds that the Mujahideen have started defensive measures in anticipation of the military operation.

GUERRILLA OPERATION IN LOGAR PROVINCE

A report received from Logar Province said that the Mujahideen destroyed an armored car and killed seven Soviet-Karmal troops when they attacked a military convoy in Hotel Mamoor area in sub-division Muhammad Agha on June 25.

According to the report, the Mujahideen led by commander Muhammad Wali made a rocket attack on the convoy which was moving from Gardez towards Kabul carrying military supplies. The Soviet-Karmal troops could not resist and fled away towards Saqawa desert leaving behind two trucks loaded with ammunition. In the course of the operation, two Mujahids were martyred and 13 others were injured.

It is to be noted that the Mujahideen had attacked a military convoy in the same area on June 15 during which the known Commander Khayat had been martyred.

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE SYMBOL OF SOVIET COOPERATION

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 4 Aug 85 pp 2, 4

[Text] The Kabul Polytechnic Institute (KPI) one of the pioneer institutions of higher education in the country, trains national engineering cadres in different fields.

The foundation stone of Kabul Polytechnic Institute, the winner of the high state order "peoples" Friendship, was laid on October 13, 1963 with the material and technical assistance of the Soviet Union. Being officially inaugurated in 1969, the institute presented its first batch experts to the society in 1972. Since its inauguration upto 1981, the institute turned out as many as 1,965 experts and introduced them to work in different fields of the national economy of Afghanistan.

After the victory of the April Revolution, the fraternal ties between the peoples of the two countries have entered into a new stage, and the fruitful cooperation of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan in training the national cadres has expanded to a great extent.

After the revolutionary phase of the Revolution in particular, the scope of cooperation has gained wider dimension. For instance, according to the contracts concluded between the two countries, the preparatory faculty and the workers' preparatory department were set up within the framework of Kabul Polytechnic Institute.

Currently, 2,204 students of three faculties, namely construction, mines and geology and electro-mechanics, are taught by 1,152 Afghan and Soviet lecturers. Only last year, the Institute presented to the society 216 young experts in 11 fields of engineering.

The preparatory faculty of the Institute was set up in 1979. The aim of this faculty is to make Afghan boys and girls ready to continue their knowledge in the higher educational institutions of the Soviet Union.

The number of students of this faculty is getting increased every year. For instance, the number of its graduates in 1980 was 50, in 1981 144, 1982 247, and in 1983 320, while this number will be 400 in the current Afghan year (begun March 21, 1985). Graduates of this faculty are mainly studying in 68 high educational institutions of the Soviet Union in 24 cities, which constitute the big industrial, scientific and cultural centres of the Soviet Union.

The faculty organises special functions entitled 'We Speak and Sing in Russian', screens feature films every week for the students presents individual and lectures on important issues of contemporary time and arranges exhibitions of best articles, paintings and so on.

One of the newly formed branches of Kabul Polytechnic Institute is the evening master degree department. The department graduated in Dalw, 1361 HS (roughly January-February, 1983) the first batch of 51 engineers having master degrees from seven specialized departments--mines and industries structure, hydro-technique structures, road construction, technology of chemistry, geology and mines--servey and geology and exploration of oil and gas resources and extraction of mines.

Likewise, the preparatory workers' department was set up in 1983, thus the ground for the education of the offsprings of the martyrs of the April Revolution, for the workers, peasants, nomads and the soldiers of the armed forces, has been paved.

Currently, the Institute has 24 departments, and the Department of Social Sciences has started functioning since 1981. This department is guided by the faculty of Social Sciences of the Institute of Social Sciences of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

The department of hydrology and hydro-technic structures, department of road construction and the department of architecture train the engineers in the fields of construction and in building residential, industrial and cultural establishments.

Similarly, the faculty of geology and mines trains the students in five specialized fields, which include the subjects taught by the departments of geology, exploration and extraction of resources of oil and natural gas, technology of chemistry, geodesy, engineering and the department of extraction of useful mines.

The faculty of electro-mechanics was set up in 1981. It has the departments of electro-technicas, motor and tractor, higher mathematics and physics, Russian language and theoretical and practical mechanics.

One can meet in the compound of Kabul Polytechnic Institute representatives of all tribes and nationalities residing in our country. Around 60 per cent of this Institute's students live in modern hostels equipped with all necessary amenities. Appropriate conditions of work and rest have been provided for them in the hostel.

Establishment of a students' club and providing entertainment with the cooperation of social organisations of the country are among the measures which have a fundamental role to play in the healthy training of youth in Kabul Polytechnic Institute.

Kabul Polytechnic Institute is the scientific centre and an outstanding symbol of the continuation of traditional friendship and scientific and economic cooperation of the Soviet Union with Afghanistan the foundations of which were laid by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. The Institute has a special and valuable place in the fraternity and friendship of the two countries.

AFGHANISTAN

NATIONAL FATHERLAND FRONT PROVIDING VARIOUS SERVICES

Kabul ANIS in Dari 20 Jul 85 pp 1-2

[Text] As a result of the work and revolutionary diligence of Kabul Fifth District Council of the National Fatherland Front, in the first quarter of the current year, and in honor of the seventh anniversary of the Sower revolution and the formation of the historic Grand Assembly in the country, volunteer projects have been organized five times, with participation from 200 members of the National Fatherland Front and regional residents. Volunteer projects carried out include environmental cleanup, tree-planting, participation in the Bibi Mehr (Peace Be Upon Him) Hill project, procurement of potable water, and repair of high-pressure water pipes.

The president of the Kabul Fifth District Council of the National Fatherland Front explained the matters above. He said: Employees of this council, in accordance with the plan of the Kabul Fifth District Council of the National Fatherland Front, have distributed and continue to distribute extensive propaganda on religious and historical days, other holidays, and especially on Fridays pertaining to goals of the party, the government and the National Fatherland Front, decisions by the historic Grand Assembly, laws of local government and administrative organizations, and amnesties for prisoners.

It is in the basis of this propaganda that the toiling people of this district express their readiness to fulfill the aspirations of the government, the party, and the National Fatherland Front on the basis of decisions by the historic Grand Assembly for the area's protection and security, and they do fulfill those aspirations in practice.

In addition, more than 500 propaganda leaflets and posters pertaining to district affairs have been distributed and posted in the first quarter of the current year.

Another propaganda activity carried out by this council is that the chief of District Five continuously distributes religious propaganda at the Balkhi Mosque for residents of the area in accordance with the pertinent plan.

Concerning recruitment, he said: As a result of the labor and revolutionary persistence of this council's employees and of extensive propaganda among residents, in the first quarter of the current year more than 53 people were added

to the ranks of the National Fatherland Front, ten people joined the revolutionary defense groups in Afshar Bala and Khushhal Minah, and 12 people were recruited for the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

He said: At the level of the Kabul Fifth District Council of the National Fatherland Front, two consultative associations were formed from parents of students at the Nesvan Afshar and Lisah Sepin-Kolli schools, and these associations have solved more than 12 difficulties for teachers and students.

Also, during the same period four commissions for resolving family disputes were formed in this council, and these commissions have been able to resolve twenty family disputes which had led to separation and to establish a friendly and sincere atmosphere among them.

He added: Four new literacy courses have been added by this council in the first quarter of the current year, in which 75 of our compatriots are being given literacy training.

Concerning the problems of area residents, the chief of the Kabul Fifth District Council of the National Fatherland Front said: Residents of District Five complain of the lack of potable water, the poor condition of the streets, the fact that the gutters on both sides of the streets have not been cleaned, not having coin-operated telephones, the shortage and disorganization of bus services, the fact that the road from the Ma'murin quarter to the Qerghah families is single-lane, which causes fatal injuries and terrifying accidents, the need for a school in Afshar Bala, the lack of awnings at bus stations, and other things, for which the relevant officials have so far taken no practical steps.

9310

CSO: 4665/129

AFGHANISTAN

OVER 400 PRISONERS RELEASED

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 13 Jul 85 pp 1-2

[Text] Over 400 prisoners were released from Pol-e Charkhi Prison the day before yesterday during a meeting as a result of the order of the ruling body of the DRA Revolutionary Council concerning the pardon and lightening of prisoners' sentences, in honor of the historic Loyah Jirgah, and through the greatness and guidance of Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee and DRA president.

In the meeting held the day before yesterday in the Pol-e Charkhi Prison on the occasion of the prisoners' release, Hashmat Keyhani, special revolutionary DRA official, congratulated the prisoners on the release taking place following the order of the ruling body of the Revolutionary Council and in honor of the Loyah Jirgah. After noting the importance of the decisions of the DRA Loyah Jirgah he expressed confidence in the soundness of the decisions and said: Our deluded compatriots who today are once again beginning their free lives have correctly understood the humanitarian policy of the party and revolutionary government, and from now on they will honestly work towards the building of a happy, prosperous Afghanistan under the leadership of the PDPA.

The correspondent from BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY adds that after this Mulavi Mohammad Salem 'Elmi, member of the Loyah Jirgah Accreditation Commission and a member of the executive board of the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front, spoke about this matter.

BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY's correspondent adds that following this Najibullah Waladkhayr Mohammad, representing all the pardoned prisoners, proclaimed their all-out support for the decisions of the historic Loyah Jirgah. To the heroic Afghan people, the DRA Revolutionary Council, and the esteemed personage of Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, I pledge that after this we will not be tricked by the enemies of the Sawr revolution, these mercenaries of imperialism led by U.S. imperialism, and that we will defend the revolution and our country's independence. We prisoners, despite the fact that we had been deceived previously by the enemies, will resist until the last moment of life, and we are prepared for any sort of sacrifice in order to totally eliminate the remnants of the rebels. Then Hashmat Keyhani, special revolutionary tsarnaval, distributed release cards to the prisoners while a number of generals from the

Interior Ministry and representatives elected by the people to the Loyah Jirgah looked on.

An informed source told BAKHTAR's correspondent that the release of prisoners is also continuing in the country's provinces.

9597

CSO: 4665/126

AFGHANISTAN

NATIONAL FATHERLAND FRONT EXPANDING COUNCILS ON HOUSING

Kabul ANIS in Dari 11 Jul 85 pp 1-2

[Text] In the National Fatherland Front (NFF) Kabul City Ninth District Council, a series of productive and valuable works have been carried out in the first quarter of the current year in the area of establishing literacy courses, distributing propaganda sheets, establishing consultative societies of school-children's parents, establishing self-defense groups, and solving the problems and meeting the requests of the citizens. We here enumerate the activities which have been carried out in various areas, quoting a council source.

During the first quarter of the current year, the NFF Kabul City Ninth District Council was able to establish three environmental councils in Qal'ah Haji Afzal Bibi Mehrow, Block 150 of Microrayon and Deh Khodaidad, and 39 residents were enrolled in them.

Furthermore during the same period two mediator groups were created in the council for Shesh Darak and Qal'ah Vazir Qabelba'i. These groups are responsible to participate in gathering the harvest of the farmers and to [help] disaster-stricken families and families who have lost martyrs to the Sawr revolution, and to cooperate with the people in other social services.

During the current year the NFF Kabul City Ninth District Council started up 17 voluntary clean-up works in order to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the NFF's founding in its districts. More than 1,000 members of the NFF and local citizens took part in these works. The repair and painting of mosques, the cleaning of alleys, draining of ditches and gathering of farmers' harvests took place. Furthermore 8 voluntary works were initiated in production plants, from which a huge income was realized. Twice during the 22 May-21 June month, material aid from the NFF central council was distributed to families of the revolution's martyrs and qualified families. These goods included soap, oil, clothing, etc.

The council's propaganda employees initiated extensive and comprehensive propaganda in private and collective meetings with local citizens concerning the goals of the party and government, the Local State Administrative Organs Law, the decisions of the historic Loyah Jirgah, and the exposure of the filthy face of the counterrevolution.

Thus as a result of this propaganda during the first quarter of the year 30 residents of Qal'ah Vazir were enrolled in the Revolution Defenders Group, and night and day they guard the region's security and the wheat harvests of the people in villages both near and far.

In cooperation with the employees of the Ninth Party District and the women's organization the NFF Kabul City Ninth District Council was jointly able to create two peace camps in Qal'ah Vazir Qabelba'i and the area across from the Mir Mahmud Mosque. Thus material assistance from the friendly country of Bulgaria and the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization was distributed to the people.

The source said in conclusion: The residents of Bibi Mehrow, Qal'ah Zamankhan, Yakah Tut and Semant Khanah are faced with difficulties in traveling along the streets because they are slow and crooked. We have referred this problem of theirs to the appropriate authorities, although so far no action has been taken by the concerned authorities.

9597

CSO: 4665/127

AFGHANISTAN

GOVERNMENT PROVIDING WORKERS WITH HOUSING

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 6 Aug 85 p 2

[Text] "The Revolution has given houses to us, now we are building beautiful houses for our working people, particularly for those who have been suffering of homelessness or living in bad conditions."

This was stated by Abdul Razaq, a worker of the Housing Pre-Fabrication Factory of a KNT correspondent.

Abdul Razaq is one of the best workers of the enterprises and has been awarded medals. He works with a high sense of responsibility and enthusiasm. I had a talk with him in his working place. Answering a question about his work and life, he said: "I have been working in this Factory for 26 years, but only for the last five years I have been living a better life. We had a miserable life in the pre-revolutionary years. We were deprived of having any material encouragement and were insulted by the then heads. Thanks to the April Revolution, that saved us from these miseries and opened new prospects in different spheres of our life".

Abdul Razaq continues: "Currently I work with all my enthusiasm. My work is to make walls, the walls which are needed for construction of new blocks of flats. Such flats, like in Microrayon, are distributed to the people of the country. This type of work needs more experienced workers, therefore, I trained some of the workers in this section in order to perform our duty properly.

"Presently, the revolutionary state encourages and appreciates those workers who perform honestly their every day duties. For instance, I have been appreciated for several times by the party and the state among such awards I can mention letters of merit of medals of "honesty" and cash awards. This is the manifestation of the attention paid by the party and the revolutionary state to our welfare".

Abdul Razaq said: "I have 8 educated children and have a good family life. Right now, I do not have any great difficulty. Our revolutionary state has given us shelter which was our main problem in the past.

"Our house is located in the workers' township built beside our factory. This township provided hundreds of the workers with proper living conditions.

"In this area, a school, a kindergarten, a health clinic and a consumer cooperative have been established.

"Today we are very happy to live with our families. We do not let anybody disturb our happiness and underestimate the gains of the April Revolution".

Through the initiative of this worker, previously wasted materials are now used which is helpful for the enterprise and saves a lot of money for the Factory, hence for the revolutionary state as well.

CSO: 4600/607

AFGHANISTAN

IMPLEMENTATION OF LAND REFORM CONTINUES

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 31 Jul 85 pp 2, 4

[Text] Democratic land reform constitutes a fundamental issue of the platform of the PDPA.

The solution of the question of land and water in the interests and with the direct participation of peasants has been worked out in detail in fundamental document of the party and state.

Eradication of old agricultural relations, through implementation of land reforms, is an essential condition for socio-economic progress, generalization of democracy and growth of production and agricultural potential of the country.

The PDPA and the DRA state pay great attention to the implementation of this socio-economic plans, the process of which is continuing.

The process of the implementation of the democratic land and water reform is also continuing, aimed at solution of all agrarian questions, in Qarabagh district, Kabul Province.

Analysing the work in this regard in the province we should mention both successes and shortcomings.

The total agricultural land in Qarabagh district is around 21 thousand hectares of land. Over 90 per cent of inhabitants of the district are peasants. There are 6,500,000 vines in the district. Vinegraving constitute a very important item of export of the country, which exported both as fresh and in the form of raisins.

The operational group No 36 of the democratic land and water reform is working in the district.

The second phase of the democratic land and water reforms began in May 1983. Till the end of the first quarter of the current Afghan year (began March 21, 1985), over 163 hectares of the first grade land, belonging to 547 thousand peasantry families along with their water shares has been clarified and 651 land ownership documents distributed.

In the beginning, the work of the operational group was going on strongly due to certain objective factors, including, security situation of villages, low level of political consciousness of peasants and especially the incorrect approach during the first phase of the democratic land and water reforms.

But, lately, a number of decisions such as evaluation of the work of the operational group in the operative meetings of the executive bureau of the party committee, division of work of incharges of publicity groups, distribution of agricultural technical and material aid, participation of publicity groups in peasants' meetings in villages and carrying out explanatory work with them as well as setting up of security posts in villages, have been adopted for betterment of the process of democratic land and water reforms. During the first quarter of the current Afghan year, 171 land ownership documents have been distributed to peasants which shows a two-fold increase as compared with the corresponding period of the last year.

Similarly, from time to time, various matters, including facilities provided by the party and the state after the new and evolutionary phase of the Revolution, are discussed with tribal councils.

In the same time, seven peasants' councils and one peasants' committee have been established. The commission on distribution of agricultural technical and material aid, has distributed 820 tons of chemical fertiliser, 26 tons of improved agricultural seeds and other agricultural aids to peasants who have received land ownership documents and those who are members of the agricultural cooperatives during the spring sowing campaign of the current Afghan year. Presently, 10 agricultural cooperatives with 220 members are active in the district. 1,857 inhabitants of the district, including peasants, are individual and collective members of the National Fatherland Front of the DRA. Now, 8 schools have 371 students are functioning in the district. Likewise, 504 peasants are enrolled in 22 literacy courses who are taught by both official and volunterr teachers. During this year 40 peasants have graduated from literacy courses.

Irrigation systems and water resources are considered as important question in agriculture. Water is mainly supplied to the district through two canals from Parwan Irrigation Project and the Istalif River as well as 25 sub terranean springs.

Similarly, another canal which was blocked for many years has been cleaned. Likewise, the state has rendered a good sum of money for cleaning sub-springs. Working people of the district have organised themselves in 26 security posts and 17 defenders of revolution groups in order to ensure peace in the district.

CSO: 4600/607

AFGHANISTAN

TEXTILE WORKERS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 18 Jul 85 p 2

[Text] Afghan Textile had four productive plants in Golbahar, Polekhomeiri, Jabal as-Siraj and Gozargah of Kabul. In the 1984-1985 year the Maqsudi spinning and weaving factories and the Kabul textile factory were added to Afghan Textile.

The aforementioned Afghan Textile mills possess "104,920" spinning jennies and 3,664 weaving machines. The Golbahar plant possesses branches equipped for bleaching, dyeing, spinning, fulling, and finishing. In addition, the Gozargah factory and the Kabul Afghan Textile factory also possess sections for bleaching, dyeing and finishing. In an interview with a newspaper reporter, a source at the Afghan Textile Department, while presenting the above information, spoke about the productive capacity of Afghan Textile plants and about how the plan was being implemented in the factories concerned, and said: The annual productive capacity of Afghan Textile plants is 81.9 million meters of spun and patterned cloth. During the 1984-1985 year Afghan Textile implemented 78 percent of the plan with the production of 31.15 million meters of spun and patterned cloth. However, during the first quarter of the current year, it has implemented "97" percent of the plan with the production of "7.9" million meters of spun and patterned cloth.

In response to another question, the above source said: the production of Afghan Textile is offered domestically. In the 1984-1985 year, Afghan Textile was able to earn 880,296,000 afghanis through the sale of "26.7" million meters of spun and patterned fabric.

Concerning the actions taken to improve the lives of Afghan Textile workers, the source said: After the victory of the glorious Saur revolution, particularly its new and evolutionary stage, valuable assistance took place to raise their economic and social status, relying on the lofty aims of the party and the revolutionary government. These will be summarized below:

In order to transport workers, which formerly was done by truck, new buses were purchased and put into use. Coupons were distributed to all workers and employees at Afghan Textile plants for the first time. According to the plan, residential areas were built for workers at the Golbahar and Polekhomeiri plants. This will continue in the future in accordance with the plan and the institution's financial status. Health insurance for workers was also increased as it was for other officials.

Cooked food was also increased for workers equally with other officials. From the beginning of 1981 the rank of workers was stabilized at the same government standard, and naturally the workers benefited from the planned increased livelihood. More attention was devoted to the timely supply of workers' clothing, and kindergarten and recreation rooms were established in the plants in order to assist the workers. In order to encourage outstanding workers, the amount of 500 afghanis is distributed monthly as a prize to the best worker in each production shop. Cooperatives have been created inside the factories in order to supply basic goods needed by the workers.

9597

CSO: 4665/126

AFGHANISTAN

FARMERS ASSISTED TO MODERNIZE

Kabul DEHQAN in Dari 17 Jul 85 p 8

[Text] After the triumph of the splendid Sawr revolution, and especially in its new and evolutionary stage, the government and party of the People's Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has adopted fruitful and effective plans to raise the standard of living for farmers, in order to strengthen the country's national economy on the one hand and on the other to increase material blessings for our compatriots.

In order to achieve these lofty goals, the General Department for Agricultural Distribution and Production has tried to transform a traditional and primitive agriculture to an advanced one while replacing antiquated tools with new ones, in order to make a positive change by raising the general level of production and the public income.

A source from the General Department for Agricultural Distribution and Production said:

In the spring Planting Campaign the distribution of 60,705 tons of chemical fertilizer was planned, including 45,427 tons of urea fertilizer, 15,278 tons of phosphate fertilizer, and as a result of the efforts of the chemical fertilizers office and distribution officials, 61,087 tons of chemical fertilizer, 45,402 tons of urea fertilizer, and 15,685 tons of phosphate fertilizer were distributed, and the plan was 100 percent carried out.

In the spring of this year, of 5,000 tons of graded planting wheat supplied as aid by our friend the Soviet Union, 4,295 tons were distributed to individual and cooperative farmers. The plan called for the distribution of 6,650 tons of cotton seed, and fortunately 6,773 tons, or two percent more than the amount planned, were distributed.

Likewise, 22 tons of beet seeds and 42,789 million afghanis in agricultural and livestock drugs were distributed to the country's toiling farmers, and 44,201 million afghanis in loans were paid from the Agricultural Development Bank.

In the spring campaign, 9,476 hectares of government land were rented by the land reform office, and 482,000 hectares of government farmland was planted, which was according to plan.

In order to encourage farmers and give them greater familiarity with mechanized agriculture and the proper use of manual materials and implements, the Department of Agricultural Distribution and Production gave 310 free demonstrations on wheat, cooking, beets, garden vegetables and rice on the farms under the supervision of distribution officials. To raise farmers' awareness of planting and agricultural issues, 3,101 courses and farmers' meetings were held at the country's centers and states.

The source added:

The General Department for Agricultural Distribution and Production, in order to provide greater assistance to produce farmers, by obtaining material and technical assistance from international organizations in the year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984], has carried out general projects to intensify produce production in order to prevent rises in the price of animal protein substances such as meat, cheese, and fresh butter and to meet the people's needs for protein, and in order to provide farmers with produce, especially produce with protein for production, graded seeds and better produce.

The project intensification program is being carried out through the provision of modern agricultural training, produce planting, including the maximum possible guidance for produce farmers on planting techniques, the use of specified amounts of chemical fertilizer, animal fertilizer and seeds, keeping in mind irrigation schedules and other agricultural technical matters. In the first quarter of the current year the following measures have been taken:

On the Dara Laman and Qabel Bay farms 16 acres of Italian eggplant, cucumbers, turnips, onions, okra, black eggplant, lettuce, and pumpkin seeds, and 247 kilograms of various kinds of produce seeds were distributed to cooperatives and individual produce farms.

To provide greater assistance to produce farmers, 14 produce production farms belonging to individuals and military units were given technical advice.

Likewise, 12,500 seedlings were distributed to private farms. With the completion of repairs to the produce intensification laboratory in Badam Bagh which began in the current year, there will be increases in quantities of seeds graded according to production standards and in produce crops.

9310

CSO: 4665/129

AFGHANISTAN

BETTER IRRIGATION TO HELP FARMERS

Kabul ANIS in Dari 23 Jul 85 p 2

[Text] In Afghanistan's climactic and topographic conditions, water is a basic factor for the emergence of agriculture and the establishment of normal conditions for the growth of crops. For this reason, it is no accident that the daily improvement of agricultural lands in terms of water occupies an important place in the working program of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the People's Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

It is mentioned in the PDRA's working program that land is the wealth of the people. On this basis the government will take effective steps to utilize new lands, expand the area under cultivation, and create irrigation systems. Practical measures considered necessary to carry out responsibilities in the field of agriculture include putting the long-term program into effect, utilizing and irrigating new lands, improving water distribution, and developing existing lands.

The fulfillment of the above responsibilities has been carried out slowly but persistently and without deviation. The slowness of this process is due to the weakness of the country's economic resources inherited from the past.

Moreover, treasonous counterrevolutionary sabotage with comprehensive support from the imperialists also interferes with progress in this field. In practice, the party and the new revolutionary government have proven their persistence and unwavering advancement in the cause of the people's welfare and happiness.

During the years of the revolution, for the first time the water law was implemented in the country. The people's legal right to make just use of water and to share directly in its distribution was officially recognized. In accordance with law, the government also actively encourages and supports farmers and water consumers in the cleaning and repair of irrigation systems.

Thus, the people's admirable tradition of assembling to clean and repair irrigation systems becomes a powerful weapon for overcoming water shortages resulting from water stoppages in irrigation systems. The party and the revolutionary government also follow a policy of improving the land in terms of water by modernizing irrigation systems and finding water sources. Last year 4.5 thousand acres were newly irrigated under the Gurgan-e Chahar Darah, Parwan, and Khasah-Paz projects, and existing irrigation was improved for about 40,000 acres.

This year, however, the plan includes a larger responsibility in this area, since 5.5 thousand acres are to be newly prepared for irrigation, and existing irrigation is to be improved for 30,000 acres of land. The plan includes measures to procure sufficient water throughout the year for 3.57 million acres. In addition, 451 thousand acres of pasture are to be provided with water through the drilling of deep wells. The application of the plan's provisions for the growth of agricultural crops and wealth will thus be made easier.

9310

CSO: 4665/130

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

DENTAL SERVICES EXPANDED--Kabul (BIA)--The Dental Policlinic expands its branches to schools, factories and villages so that to be able to render better services. It is also done with a view to improve the prophylactic system, particularly, for survey of dental diseases. During the last four months of the current Afghan year.(begun March 21, 1985), about 40,000 patients have been treated through various wards of the policlinic. In addition to dental clinics in Kabul city there are also 45 such clinics functioning in the centres of districts and provinces. Some other measures are also under way such as, formation of mobile system for the survey and prevention of dental diseases, opening dental clinics in schools and factories having not less than 500 people, promotion of policlinic to the hospital, collecting statistic data which will be put into effect in the near future. [Text] [Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 5 Aug 85 p 1]

CSO: 4600/609

BANGLADESH

REGIONAL SEMINAR ON WATER RESOURCES REPORTED

Ganges Agreement, Riparian Law

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Aug 85 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] Mr B. M. Abbas A.T., a former minister for flood control water resources and power said in Dhaka Monday upper riparian India has been trying to divert the dry season waters of all the rivers says BSS.

Presenting a paper at the regional symposium on water resources the veteran water expert said from the Brahmaputra India cannot divert the dry season without a link canal.

In his paper "Agreement on the Ganges" presented at the sixth session of the symposium on Wednesday afternoon Mr Abbas said by demanding that India is asking downstream Bangladesh to give up the dry season flows of all its rivers.

He said the Ganges is point a conflict of sharing between an upstream and a downstream country.

On augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganges he said the two countries differ widely with India wanting to take away the waters of the Brahmaputra while Bangladesh suggesting utilisation of the monsoon flows of the Ganges and storage sites in the upper most basin country Nepal, for the purpose.

India, however, he said would not agree to bring in Nepal saying it is a third country and prefers to negotiate with both Nepal and Bangladesh separately on the Ganges water issue.

For Bangladesh he said the link canal idea is harmful. Mr Abbas said the utilization of the monsoon flows of the Ganges would provide the best solution to the augmentation problem.

Presiding over by Irrigation Secretary papers were presented at the session by Dr Dante A Caponera, President, International Association for Water Law ERD; Secretary M. Muniruzzaman KAA Kamruddin; professor of Law Dhaka University Miguel Solanes of the International Law Commission and Dr Galal Magdi, executive agent interim Mekong commission.

Mr Dante A. Caponera, in his paper on "international water resources law in the Indus basin" observed that despite the troubled political relation India and Pakistan did come to terms with each other and worked out a lasting arrangement on sharing of Indus waters.

He pointed out that the Indus waters treaty and the permanent Indus commission supported the basic observation that no matter how prohibitive the circumstances of the case might be.

If the mutual advantages of agreed upon water resources development outweigh the benefits of separate development, the political will to come to agreed upon terms with co-basin partners in development would eventually be forthcoming.

Finally, the Indus basin question illustrated the favourable influence that international assistance and financing may have for the solution of vital water conflicts, he said.

In the other paper on the "Role of customary International Water Law" Mr Caponera said customs plays an important role in the international relations among the states concerning the development, conservation and use of the water resources of international or "shared" rivers lakes and basins.

Elaborating he said states sharing an international river or drainage basin might be confronted with problems which were beyond the reach of existing agreements among them.

Mr Caponera noted that most international rivers treaties had tended and would probably tend to deal only with certain water use or management issue.

As the utilisation of the waters of international rivers or drainage basins increased in quantity and complexity however the rules agreed to in the river treaties in force might become inadequate or simply insufficient, Mr Caponera said.

He suggested that in the absence of treaty coverage on such matters recourse must be made to unwritten rules in any governing the development conservation and use of shared rivers and drainage basins.

Other Opening Day Speeches

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Aug 85 p 8

[Text] The Regional Symposium on Water Resources Policy on Monday stressed the need for a co-ordinated approach to the investigation development and management of water resources for boosting agricultural production including foodgrains, reports BSS.

The four-day symposium was inaugurated by President Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad Twelve countries including host Bangladesh are participating. Four papers were presented.

On the first day in his paper styled "regional Water Resources Quantitative and Qualitative Aspects Dr. Kazi Farhad Jalal,

Chief of Environment Unit ESCAP, said water resource planning provides for a coordinated approach to the investigation, development and management of water resources aimed at covering a number of purposes or functions involved in the conservation use and control of water. The essence of comprehensive planning lies, Dr. Jalal said in an overall consciousness of the interrelated nature of the socio-ecological megasystem.

River basin planning provides the greatest challenge to an ideal opportunity for the adoption of

just and comprehensive approach in planning, he said.

Mr. Jalal further said that water resources planning mega-system in itself was very complex and in case of shared water resources the matter was more complicated by additional political dimensions of national sovereignty, transfrontier relationships and equity. Good neighbourly relations political and policy level support of all participating countries were essential prerequisites for effective and successful shared water management programmes.

Dr. Jalal however, said despite these problems countries in the region have a record of co-operation in the shared water resources management.

Teuhidul Anwar Khan in his paper 'water resources situation in Bangladesh' said that during the dry season (November to May) Bangladesh faces a scarcity of water as flows of the major rivers fall drastically and most of the small rivers dry up.

He said that the natural flow of the Ganges into Bangladesh during the dry season has considerably come down due to diversion of its waters by India through the Farraka barrage since 1975.

Mr. A. K. M. Kamaluddin Chowdhury, Secretary Ministry of Food in his paper on land use in Bangladesh emphasised the need for a national land use policy.

He said that importance of land use planning to ensure rational and prudent use of land in land-hungry country like Bangladesh could not be over-emphasised. A comprehensive land use policy for social management of this most scarce resource of the country together with innovative policy approach on bifurcating land rights into existing use rights and development rights might be formulated.

Conclusions Summarized

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Aug 85 pp 1, 10

[Text] The regional symposium on water resources pleaded for the formation of a permanent body consisting of all the co-basin states to look after the interests of the members. Such body may be entrusted with the task of evolving future plans for conservation, sharing and utilisation of the transnational waters according to the needs of member states based on the principles of international law.

It is possible to overcome the difficulties in ensuring a reasonable and equitable share of the waters of international rivers among the co-riparians if there is a political good will. The maximum benefits to the peoples of the co-basin countries can be achieved through active cooperation among them.

These observations were made by the panel of experts participating in a four-day regional symposium on "Water resources policy in socioeconomic development" organized jointly by the Ministry of Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Resources and USAID at a local hotel on Thursday, being the concluding day.

Presided over by Mr B. M. Abbas A.T., an expert and former minister the concluding function was also addressed by Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud, minister for irrigation, flood control and water resources, Mr Mohammad Ali, secretary, Ministry of Irrigation and Mr Shaflur Rahman, chairman of the Organising Committee.

The international community has evolved certain doctrines, principles and norms governing the use of transnational water resources by the co-riparian countries, experts pointed out. The co-basin states should abide by the guiding principles

in utilization sharing and development of transnational water resources. The right of every co-basin state to a reasonable and equitable share of water resources should be ensured, the experts opined.

None should act hampering the interests of other co-basin states and it should be obligatory to inform, consult and proceed in a spirit of mutual trust, friendship and cooperation in matters of development, sharing and utilisation of transnational water resources, they said. Special care should be taken so as to ensure flows necessary to maintain ecological balance and environmental quality, experts asserted.

In case of disagreement on the right of a country to be involved in negotiations related to a particular project or programme, the countries proposing the project, should acknowledge the right of such a country, they said. The matter can be settled through involving a third party to assess the situation and resolve, they said.

The regional symposium integrated policies for water development and appropriate legislative and administrative steps for efficient water use. Such measures are essential for proper utilisation of the resources to overcome shortage in supply and check environmental damage.

In planning water development projects due priority should be given to social benefits, equitable distribution of resources and protection of human health and environment, participants opined.

Water Codes

The problems and issues of development and the question of equitable sharing of water resources of transnational river basins should be resolved through cooperation of the co-basin states of the river basin. National water codes as a basic legislative framework should specify broad general guidelines for administrative action water resource development projects should incorporate appropriate technologies that are consistent with socioeconomic conditions in a country.

The issues agreed upon at the symposium also include suggestions like formulation of national water policies within the framework of objectives that include inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral economic social and environmental considerations. As regards water resources planning and management national or international the aim should be integrated river basin planning to ensuring maximum benefit for all.

Goals and targets for different sectors of water use including provision for safe water supply and waste disposal facilities and provision for agricultural industrial needs and transport by water and development of hydro power should be clearly defined and compatible with the resources and socioeconomic conditions they said. The promotion of efficient and effective water management among users was also emphasised. Users should have representation and participation

in management of the water. The formulation of integrated water quality and quantity control policies laws and implementation programmes were also suggested.

There are few comprehensive national water policies in the countries of the region. National water development plans should relate to national goals and objectives identify strategies and priorities for implementation and evaluation of programmes implemented experts suggested.

The optimum development of water resources is dependent upon the adoption of an effective national water policy and water codes supported by an appropriate institutional framework to ensure any long term policy implementation regarding allocation distribution and judicious resolution of any dispute. It also depends upon harmonious use of surface and ground water, they said.

Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud in his concluding speech hoped that the dialogue which the symposium has initiated would continue also in the future among the countries in the Asian region. It is essential that the water resources of this region particularly of the hydrological link that binds nations at transnational boundaries should be taken advantage of to stimulate good neighbourly relations the minister said. It should be the guiding principle for the future relationship he hoped.

Permanent Sharing Agreement Urged

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Aug 85 p 5

[Editorial: "Water Resources Policy"]

[Text]

A four-day regional symposium on water resources policy in agro-socio-economic development began in Dhaka on Monday. While inaugurating the symposium President Hussain Muhammad Ershad rightly said that the fate of the people of this region and their progress and prosperity were closely linked with evolving scientific water resources policy and development of water resources accordingly.

Population growth together with agricultural and industrial development are straining the available water resources in almost all the countries of the region. In many areas of this part of the world, the available supplies are facing gradual depletion and serious deterioration in quality as a result of inadequate conservation, indiscriminate human interference and careless management. The characteristics and response of men, water and land which constitute complex physical, agro-socio-economic and ecological system have to be evaluated and interre-

lated in order to formulate a viable and realistic water policy. It cannot be allowed that the population of certain areas will need to drink contaminated water, industries will continue their present pattern of largely unregulated water use and discharge, agriculture will not be able to alter its current pattern of huge irrigation losses and misuse of water or that productive soils will be gradually destroyed and aquifers exhausted beyond our ability to replenish them.

Incidentally, impact of reduced flows in some of the rivers on water use in Bangladesh deserves special consideration. Flows in some of the rivers had been reduced considerably during the last several years as a result of upstream diversions across the border of Bangladesh. Notable among these are the Ganges, Mohananda, Bhairab, Kodala and Selonia. The reduction of dry season Ganges flows since 1976 caused lowering of ground water table by 0.5 to 2 metre from the normal limits along with the banks of Ganges, Mohananda and Gorai-Madhumati. The salinity limit in the south-western region penetrated 100 miles further inland and reached as far as Kamar-khali at one time. The navigability of the major water routes in the Ganges and Gorai-Madhumati fell significantly.

In the Sunderbans, the largest mangrove forest of Bangladesh, the reduction of the upland fresh water discharges has created a critical situation and is threatening the delicate eco-system of the region. The production of fish in the Gangetic area has also fallen sharply. The reduction of flows of the other smaller rivers are causing adverse effects on the agricultural practice and water supply situation of varying magnitudes in areas dependent on the waters of these rivers during the dry seasons.

The potential of ground water exploitation in the country is fast nearing the critical limit. Scope of further development and utilization of ground water resources is also limited because of hydro, hydrological and other conditions. Over-exploitation of ground water beyond its recharge capabilities will only bring in ecological adversities.

In this connection it has to be stressed that there should be permanent water sharing accord with India and its proper implementation.

Uncertain water flow into Bangladesh has so far created problems not only of planning but also implementation of projects and negotiation of aid.

MODERNIZATION OF DHAKA

The very announcement made by the President last week that Dhaka would be developed into a modern city implies that Dhaka is lacking in what a modern city should have.

Promises were made in the past to modernize Dhaka—to beautify it, make it crime-free, mosquito-free, to ensure adequate supply of water to the city-dwellers and so on and so forth. Indeed efforts were made by different Governments to fulfil some of the promises. If the past efforts have not really beautified Dhaka or made it what it should be like in the modern concept of a city they have definitely produced some results—good or bad. And Dhaka is not the same as it was ten or twenty years ago. There have been expansions in different directions over the years—expansions and new constructions and reconstructions of roads and building (sometimes even by felling trees indiscriminately), parks and play-grounds, markets and super-markets, railway stations and platforms, hospitals and clinics, schools and colleges. Magnificent Sangsad Bhabhan has been built along with its ivory-white eyecatching tower and the artificial lakes. The present Secretariat complex also proudly stands with its majestic look. There have indeed been developments involving colossal amount of money including a good amount of foreign component. One would not perhaps dare say after visiting the few posh areas and the magnificent buildings and the broad streets of Dhaka that it is the capital of a country

well known for its poverty. But that is not all. Contrasting pictures are not few to testify that Dhaka is actually not what it may appear to a foreigner or a newcomer. There are also its bad drainage and sewerage system, inappropriate traffic and transportation system, unhygienic slums, inadequate and erratic supply of water and electricity and its terrible mosquito menace. In the language of Dhaka Nagarik Adhikar Committee "The city life was drowned in a pool of bottomless problems". Improvement of the traffic and transportation system has rightly been stressed by the President as a means of developing Dhaka into a modern city. Sometime ago improvement of drainage and sewerage system was also duly emphasised. But perhaps solution of the "bottomless problems" needs good and consistent planning to be followed by sincere efforts. That mere expenditure of money cannot beautify or modernize a city is evident from what has already been spent. The expenditure has to be wise and economic and according to priority. A city may give a modest and tasteful look without looking gorgeous and it may fulfil the conditions of modern living without indulging in luxury.

The need for expanding the city and building up more satellite towns can seldom be over-emphasised as a solution to the ever increasing population of the city. Every day new faces both for seeking fortune as also for settlement are just coming like torrential flow because of the peculiar concentration of all the ministerial, secretarial, economic and other activities here. This peculiar trend must be changed and some of the ministries and head offices be transferred to other districts to avoid undesirable rush and unmanageable growth of the city population.

BANGLADESH

CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS PANEL MEETS IN DHAKA

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] The government has decided that the general ban on new appointments will not be applicable to the members of Shanti Bahini who returned to normal life at the call of President Ershad, reports BSS.

The ban had been enforced to absorb surplus government servants in different organisations.

The decision was taken at a meeting of council committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts held at CMLA's Secretariat in Dhaka on Wednesday with President Hussain Mohammad Ershad in the chair.

Bangabhaban spokesman said that this is yet another example of President Ershad and his government's desire for peaceful solution to any issue and attaining national unity which is so vital for development and progress.

The committee also took a number of other important decisions to accelerate the development endeavours of the area and uplift of the tribal population.

The meeting was attended among others by the DCMLA Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad and Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud Home Minister Major General Abdul Mannan Siddiqui Health Minister Major General M. Shamsul Huq Planning Minister Sultan Ahmad Chowdhury Finance Adviser M. Sayeeduzzaman PSO to the CMLA Major General M. Atiqur Rahman ZM La Zone C Major General M Nuruddin Khan and concerned officials.

The meeting reviewed the progress of implementation of earlier decisions for the uplift of the area. President Ershad expressed his satisfaction at the pace of progress of development projects.

The government had earlier undertaken a special five year plan for the Chittagong Hill Tracts involving a total outlay of Taka 263.18 crore. During the last fiscal year Taka 85 crore was allocated under the plan and the targets set have been fully achieved. Taka 46 crore has been earmarked in the current financial year for the purpose.

The committee decided to introduce degree science course at the Rangamati Government College from the current academic year for the benefit of the tribal students. It also decided to increase reserved seats for tribal students in some higher educational institutions.

The government has sanctioned Taka one crore for undertaking land survey of the hill tracts area.

Measures have also been taken for extensive and intensive cultivation for agricultural developments in Hill Tracts regions.

Decision was also taken to double the supply of medicine in hospitals and health and family welfare centres down to the union level in the area to ensure health medicare facilities to the local inhabitants.

It appreciated the efforts of the committees comprising tribal leaders at central district Upazila and union levels for bringing about good understanding and cohesion between the tribal population and the administration.

The meeting commended the agencies for completing development schemes in the tribal areas on schedule. The role of the security forces and administration in this respect was also appreciated.

The committee decided to extend preferential treatment to the government and semi-government officials and employees in respect of training abroad and other facilities on completion of services on posting in the tribal areas.

CSO: 4600/1868

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

IRAQI ENVOY'S CREDENTIALS--The ambassador designate of Iraq to Bangladesh, Mr Zuhair Mohammad Ahmed ul-Umar presented his credentials to President Hussain Muhammad Ershad at Bangabhaban in Dhaka Thursday, says BSS. Presenting the letter of credence, the new Iraqi envoy expressed the hope that during his tenure of office the existing friendly ties and cooperation between the two brotherly Muslim countries would be strengthened further to the mutual benefit of their people. [words indistinct] the sentiments the president assured the new ambassador of all possible cooperation in the smooth discharge of his duties. Earlier, on arrival at Bangabhaban, the Iraqi envoy was given a guard of honour by the president's guard regiment. He took the salute and inspected the guard. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Aug 85 p 10]

ENVOY TO TANZANIA--Bangladesh High Commissioner to Kenya, Abdul Momen Chowdhury, has been concurrently accredited to Tanzania, a foreign office announcement said on Thursday, reports BSS. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Aug 85 p 10]

CSO: 4600/1869

INDIA

NAMBOODIRIPAD BRIEFS PRESS ON CPI-M MEETING

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 22 Aug 85 p 4

[Text]

New Delhi, Aug. 21: The CPI(M) believes that the Punjab and Assam accords, the latter in particular, have not reduced the danger from forces of regional separatism and communalism.

The recently-concluded meeting of the CPI(M) central committee criticised the Union government for making heavy concessions to the "separatist" agitators in Assam. "Lakhs of Indian citizens are being deprived of their legitimate rights of citizenship, their names struck off the electoral rolls on false allegations that they are foreigners," it said.

Asked why the CPI(M) had used the term "separatist agitators," Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, general secretary of the party, said it had been done because the agitators were trying to deprive Indian citizens of their rights by converting them into foreign nationals. The agitators had arbitrarily drawn up a list and want the Election Commission to accept it, he said.

Briefing newsmen on the deliberations of the three-day meeting of the central committee, Mr Namboodiripad said the central committee considered the framework of the draft political resolution to be circulated before the next party Congress. The draft resolution will be finalised at the meeting of the

central committee to be held from October 1 to 4. It will assess major international and national developments since the last party congress in January 1982.

The central committee felt that the continuity in the country's foreign policy of peace and nonalignment was accompanied by a dangerous shift in favour of private capital, including foreign capital. This would not only undermine the living and working conditions of the common people but also lead to compromises with foreign monopoly capital in the name of modernisation. It would adversely affect the anti-imperialist aspects of foreign policy, besides ruining a large number of Indian industries.

Regarding the resurgence of anti-national and secessionist forces in Kashmir after the installation of Mr G.M. Shah as chief minister, the CPI(M) demanded immediate steps by the Centre to check the deterioration in the situation in the state.

The party affirmed the need for left and democratic unity against communal and casteist forces and the anti-people economic policies of the government. On the issue of CPI(M) unity, Mr Namboodiripad clarified that while the two parties were acting unitedly on several issues they had serious differences on some others.

CSO: 4600/1692

INDIA

OFFICIAL ALLEGES URANIUM THEFT BY FOREIGN NATIONALS

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Jul 85 p 9

[Text]

LUCKNOW, July 16.

An allegation about theft of uranium from a mine in U.P. by two foreign nationals was made in the State Assembly today by a Janata member. He alleged that some officials of the Geology and Mining Department had connived in the theft.

The issue was raised through an adjournment motion by Mr. Harshvardhan Singh, who said a Canadian firm had shown interest in preparing a project report for exploration of uranium in a mineral belt in Lalitpur district near the MP border. This request, was, however, turned down and Indian geologists prepared the project report. Uranium was traced under 10-metre thick layers of rock phosphate in the area. Preliminary mining has since been started under the supervision of the GSI and the Atomic Energy Commission, the member said.

One of Indian origin: Two Canadian nationals, one of them of Indian origin, had stayed in the site camp unauthorisedly in May this year. They also visited the drilling site in Soraon, a prohibited area, and ultimately decamped with 500 gm sample of uranium kept under the supervision of the Directorate-General of Mining. Some of the project officials had intimated the Lalitpur district officials about the presence of the Canadian nationals in the sensitive spot. But no action was taken.

Mr. Harshvardhan Singh alleged complicity of some senior officials of the Mining and Geology Department and demanded action against them. He and later other members of the Janata Party, drew the Government's attention to the poor security and demanded the resignation of the Industries Minister, Mr. Gopinath Dixit, who also holds the Mining and Geology portfolio. Mr. Dixit was present in the House, but did not make any comment on the allegation.

The Speaker, Mr. Niaz Hussain, disallowed the adjournment motion. He, however, directed the Government to take note of the disclosures made by the Janata member.

CSO: 5150/0041

INDIA

LEAKS OF CLASSIFIED DATA ON URANIUM REPORTED

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 23 Jul 85 p 4

[Article by Sumir Lal]

[Text]

Lucknow, July 22: The reported leakage of classified information on the location and content of uranium deposits in Uttar Pradesh and the smuggling of uranium ore could become a major issue in the monsoon session of Parliament beginning tomorrow.

The controversy revolves around two Canadian experts who camped at Sonrai in Lalitpur district for five days in May to survey a rock phosphate project. They allegedly returned to Canada with 500 kg of cafenite, a rich uranium ore, which was found at a depth of 10 metres under the rock phosphate deposits. They are said to have had access to all restricted areas and reportedly stayed at the camp of the director of the Uttar Pradesh State Mineral Development Corporation.

A mining engineer, Mr K.N. Pande, was the first to inform the authorities. He was promptly transferred to a silica project at Sankargash near Allahabad.

According to Mr Harsh Vardhan, the Janata MLA who first raised the issue, the Canadians, Mr Chester Chinek and Mr S. Srinivasan, belonged to the mining and excavation firm Metchem, whose Indian agent is the New Delhi-based Vaishali Enterprises. Based on information gathered from various sources, Mr Vardhan has raised the following questions:

- Why were the Canadians so interested in the area that they were willing to prepare the rock phosphate project report

at their own cost?

- Was the atomic minerals department aware of the presence of the exceptionally high-grade uranium deposits?
- Why were district officials not informed of the foreigners' presence?
- Why was no action taken when the local intelligence unit did learn of them and reported it to the DIG, CID?
- Why did the Canadians give vague, incomplete address when they registered at Hotel Clarks Avadh in Lucknow?

The issue had rocked the Uttar Pradesh Assembly last week with the Opposition initially demanding the resignation of the industries minister, Mr Gopinath Dixit, and later of the chief minister, Mr N.D. Tewari.

A delegation of the state unit of the Janata Party left for New Delhi last night to collect more information and also to brief senior MPs. The leader of the Janata Party in Parliament, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, will, in all likelihood, be asked to raise the issue.

When the issue was raised in the Assembly, the Opposition had demanded the resignation of the state industries minister for dereliction of duty. Later, as Mr Vardhan gathered more information, a Janata delegation submitted a memorandum to the governor asking him to dismiss the N.D. Tewari ministry. Neither Mr Dixit nor Mr Tewari were available for comment over the past two days but, significantly, the treasury benches had remained quiet throughout the furor in the Assembly.

INDIA

REPORTS, COMMENT ON PAKISTAN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT

New Delhi 'Observers'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jul 85 p 9

[Text] WITH the reported testing of a triggering device, Pakistan may now be confident of exploding a nuclear bomb in the near future, observers here believe.

Besides the triggering mechanism, the main ingredient of a nuclear device is uranium-235 that is produced by the enrichment of natural uranium.

Since 1978, Pakistan had been reportedly working on a secret centrifuge plant at Kahuta near Islamabad for uranium enrichment.

The design was based on the system developed by the European consortium, Urenco, and Pakistan had imported the special steel for making centrifuges from a Dutch firm between 1978 and 1979.

It is not known for how long the plant has been working but experts say that five kg. of U-235 is enough for a bomb.

Observers point out that the testing of trigger devices would suggest that Pakistan is already in possession of U-235 and that assembly of a nuclear device is imminent.

A nuclear device usually has a spherical core of U-235 surrounded by high explosive charges. The charges are set off by the triggering mechanism and the resulting chemical explosion compresses the uranium core to make it super-critical when nuclear explosion occurs.

The electronically-controlled triggering mechanism is said to be a vital part of the system as the chemical charges must be set off precisely at the same time and within a duration of a thousandth of a second to uniformly compress the uranium core at a tremendous speed.

The tests reportedly carried out by Pakistan were non-nuclear meaning that the trigger mechanisms alone were tested without the uranium core.

Pakistan is said to have obtained the triggering device called Krypton from the United States. The device is said to have other industrial uses, a reason why it was allowed to be exported.

The trigger for the Indian nuclear device exploded in 1974 was made indigenously by a team of electronic engineers at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and scientists at a defence institute in Chandigarh.

BARC sources said that all subsystems of the Indian nuclear device including the trigger were tested individually before the Pokharan test--a precaution to ensure that the bomb does not end up as a "dud."

Other than U-235, the fuel for a nuclear bomb is plutonium which is obtained by chemically processing the spent fuel of a nuclear reactor.

Observers say the Pakistani nuclear device, if built, will be based on U-235 as the country is not known to have an operating fuel processing plant to manufacture plutonium.

Editorial: 'Looming Nuclear Threat'

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Jul 85 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

Concern repeatedly voiced in recent days by India on a specific issue with grave implications for peace in the region has received loud and clear confirmation from the reportedly successful testing of US-made triggers for nuclear bombs. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi gave high priority, during his recent mission to four nations, to the subject of the threat posed by Pakistan's nuclear plans. He sought to stress the Indian apprehension that the country, languishing under the Zia military dictatorship in several other respects, had come close to making the bomb. He forcefully highlighted the fact that the US could have done much to curb this threat, but had not. After his meeting with President Ronald Reagan, much publicity was given to a Washington assurance to Mr Gandhi and India in this regard. The non-nuclear explosion now reported from a "super secret" plant near Islamabad shows up the worth of such assurances. Pakistan's success in procuring the triggers, produced only by one US firm, on whose supply Washington officially exercises absolute control, may very probably testify to more than the skills of its spies and smugglers.

The disclosure is the more meaningful for having immediately followed the report about the US rushing air-to-air and surface-to-air missiles worth \$ 8.3 million to Pakistan. And the meaning is the more menacing for the

fact that all this is in addition to the military aid of nearly \$ 5 billion since the infamous five-year US-Pakistan agreement of 1981, an aid package which includes 40 F-16 fighter-bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons. The rather obvious truth is that all the bonanza showered on the Zia regime has been inspired by the US geopolitical strategy under Reaganism that seeks to build and beef up Pakistan as a "frontline State" to guard neo-imperialist interests in the entire region, in the context of which such matters as nuclear non-proliferation are irrelevant. None but the hopelessly naive ever believed that a Sino-US nuclear deal has been stalled by evidence of China's help to Pakistan in acquiring nuclear weapon capability, and that considerations like the need to twist Beijing's arm over Taiwan did not weigh more heavily with Washington. None but those totally ignorant of both geography and recent history would believe either that the US military aid to Islamabad was directed merely or even mainly against Afghanistan, though the latter's independence and sovereignty too are a target of the Zia-Reagan cooperation. The growing US-Sino-Pak axis, as has been noted before, poses a threat to India and the region. The explosion, which it has not been possible to muffle, only illustrates the proportions and proximity of the danger.

The warning to India is clear. It is one against the unwisdom of entertaining illusions about the nuclear ambitions and potential of those who make unnatural common cause with neo-imperialism and who cannot be turned into good neighbours by a "normalisation" process through such means as trade agreements and cultural exchanges. It is also one against letting oneself be lulled into any degree of complacency by guarantees of their good conduct from their patrons who see their interests as running counter to peace anywhere.

CSO: 5150/0039

INDIA

PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR DENIES NUCLEAR ARMS PLAN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Jul 85 p 5

[Text]

BOMBAY, July 16.

PAKISTAN'S ambassador to India, Dr. Humayun Khan, today claimed that Pakistan neither had a nuclear weapons programme nor did it have any intention of going in for it.

Addressing members of the Rotary Club of Bombay here, he said that his country's nuclear programme was a Pakistan, Dr. Khan said his country was only "modernising" its defence forces and replacing equipment that had become "obsolete many years ago".

On the charge of Pakistan's interference in India's internal affairs, he said "Pakistan had nothing to gain by creating instability in our eastern neighbours".

Dr. Khan said he believed that India and Pakistan were on the threshold of a new chapter in bilateral relations. The recent Indo-Pak joint commission meeting had marked the restoration of a formal dialogue between the two countries, he said, and added that both the countries had agreed to co-operate in various fields like health, information, culture, agriculture, and economic planning.

The ambassador who is on his first visit to Bombay, said that the city symbolised a vibrant nation that was marching toward a better future. The president of Rotary Club of Bombay, Mr. M. K. Sanghi, welcomed the guests.

CSO: 5150/0040

INDIA

BJP PRESIDENT BACKS NUCLEAR-BOMB OPTION

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 23 Jul 85 p 4

[Text]

Bhopal, July 22: The BJP president, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, today defended the party's call for a nuclear bomb, asserting that "there is no other alternative." He called upon the Prime Minister to evolve a national consensus on the issue as "there is nothing more unfortunate than the poor and underdeveloped countries joining the nuclear arms race."

He said the government had failed to stop Pakistan from going ahead with its nuclear plans diplomatically. Besides China already had the bomb. "If the Prime Minister has an alternative, he should take the nation into confidence. He should not scare the nation by his repeated warnings that Pakistan was very close to making the bomb, the BJP president said.

According to him, the Prime Minister's statements were only "demoralising the nation and confusing the world. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, he said, "should stop playing politics with the security of the country."

Asked if such a step would not bring the nuclear arms race to the doorsteps of the nation, Mr Vajpayee countered: "We tried to make a nuclear-free world but failed. We could not make a nuclear-free Asia or even South Asia. It is already at our doorsteps."

Mr Vajpayee, who was speak-

ing at the conclusion of the three-day meet of the BJP national executive, clarified that the changeover of the party's philosophy from Gandhian socialism to integral humanism was only "a change in terminology and not in content." Asked whether there was no conflict between Gandhian philosophy and advocating a nuclear bomb, the BJP president parried: "There is no connection between Gandhian socialism and the bomb. It does not change our Gandhian approach to socioeconomic problems."

Gujarat

On Gujarat, Mr Vajpayee refused to take a clear stand on whether the BJP supported the prevailing reservation, restricting his reply to "the government must decide this issue by national consensus." He said his party definitely stood for reservation and further quotas on the basis of economic status, but he would not clarify whether he felt that the percentage of quotas reserved by the Congress(I) was reasonable.

On Punjab, he felt any talk between the Centre and the Akalis should be "unconditional." Any preconditions attached by either side would be detrimental to arriving at a settlement, he said.

Merapani

Referring to the inter-state border war at Merapani, the BJP resolution called for a dismissal of both the Assam and Nagaland governments for this "gross violation of the Constitution."

INDIA

BJP EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION PLEADS FOR N-BOMB

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Jul 85 p 9

[Text]

BHOPAL, July 21: The national executive of the BJP today adopted a resolution calling upon the government to take "immediate steps" to develop nuclear bombs.

The immediate provocation for such a resolution was the recent statements made by the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in connection with Pakistan's nuclear programme and his failure to indicate the manner in which the country should proceed to counter this threat.

The BJP, on its part, felt it necessary to declare that it "cannot even conceive the idea of countering Pakistan's threat by willy-nilly pushing India into the umbrella of any super power." The resolution stated that diplomatic initiatives taken by the government to deter Pakistan from going in for a nuclear bomb "appear to have completely failed."

The only alternative, as perceived by the BJP, was developing "our own nuclear bomb." The resolution said the party was convinced that the country could not afford to adopt a "policy of drift and escapism" any longer in a serious matter involving the country's unity, integrity and security.

Notably, the resolution on nuclear bomb could be considered the most forthright of the resolutions adopted during the three-day meeting of the party's national executive. The BJP's categorical stance in respect of the bomb issue, in contrast to the cautious ambiguity in the resolution on the reservations policy or the lack of thrust in the resolution on economic situation, was indicative of the party's anxiety to take initiative in its bid to be back in the political reckoning and become "an instrument of change."

As the report of a party working group put it in the context of the BJP's performance and prospects, "the party must catch up with the times and play its historic role for providing a credible national alternative."

INDIA

REPORTAGE ON ECUADOREANS' SUPPORT FOR KHALISTAN

Team in London

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Aug 85 p 12

[Text] London, 2 Aug (PTI)--An Ecuadorean delegation, whose contacts with Sikh separatists here have sparked off a controversy, yesterday held a press conference to pledge full support to the so-called "Khalistan," although the government of the South American republic has affirmed that the delegation did not have its backing.

Dr Carlos Arosemena, president of the Revolutionary National Party, a partner in the ruling coalition, and two other members of the delegation met the press in a London hotel where they are staying as guests of Dr Jagjit Singh Chauhan, self-styled leader of the non-existent "Khalistan." Dr Duter Montero, a senior official of the Ecuador foreign office and Dr Patricio Buendia, a lawyer, who are the other members of the delegation, were present.

Dr Arosemena, a former president of his country, distributed a written statement to the press stating that he and Dr Chauhan had "exchanged our viewpoints and have come to a mutual understanding." He fully backed the "position of the Khalistan leaders," he added.

President's Telegram

Dr Arosemena's remarks left little doubt about his hostility towards India. He spoke of the language of the Sikh separatists.

Dr Montero of the foreign office was by his side prompting him all the time and supplying him with the right English words since Dr Arosemena's English is inadequate.

In his statement, the former president said that a delegation of the "Khalistan council" had visited Ecuador in June and met two government ministers, including the agriculture minister. "The problems of the Sikh nation were the themes of discussion," he added.

Dr Arosemena said that his discussions with Dr Chauhan focused on recognition by Ecuador of the so-called "Khalistan government in exile." He would be strongly recommending that to his government on return to Ecuador.

The second major topic of discussion was provision of land to Sikhs in Ecuador to develop agriculture. This would be arranged soon, he added.

Dr Arosemena said that the Ecuador president had sent a telegram to Dr Chauhan recently. The telegram contains an invitation to "Khalistan government in exile" to send a delegation to Ecuador for exploring possibilities of cooperation, Dr Chauhan claimed.

Dr Montero faced a number of questions about his presence in the delegation since he was, by his own admission, a serving official of the foreign office. Like Dr Arosemena he maintained that his visit here was private.

Envoy's Remarks, Ecuador's Denial

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Aug 85 p 6

[Text] From Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, Aug. 4.

The impending closure of the Ecuadorean Mission here and the report of the meeting between "Khalistan" leaders and an Ecuadorean delegation in London, which included a former President and a senior diplomat of Ecuador's Foreign Office have created a flutter in diplomatic circles here. Although both the External Affairs Ministry and the Ecuadorean Mission have denied any link between the two events, Latin American diplomatic sources here say "a major misunderstanding" between the two countries could have been easily avoided.

Ecuador established a diplomatic Mission here in April 1984 the second time after it closed in 1977. The Mission was closed because the Government of India said for economic reasons, it could not reciprocate the move. The reason why the Ecuadorean Mission was established second time according to sources, was an assurance given by Indira Gandhi to the former Ecuadorean President, Mr. Hurtado in New York in September 1983 that India would open a Mission. The Ecuadorean Ambassador in Cairo was accredited to New Delhi and he presented his credentials to President Zail Singh on June 5, 1985.

But shortly afterwards the Ecuadoreans were informed by the External Affairs Ministry that there were no plans now to open a mission in Quito and the Indian Ambassador in Bogota in Colombia would continue to be accredited to Ecuador.

This was confirmed by the External Affairs Ministry spokesman who said "Missions are opened as and when required and the Indian Government was constantly reviewing the situation." He said relations between the two countries would continue to be conducted through

the respective non-resident Ambassadors.

According to Latin American diplomats from the Andean countries, this attitude "deeply hurt" the Ecuadorean Government which ordered the closure of the Mission "as an act of reciprocity" in view of the Government of India's refusal to open a mission in Quito. Ecuador, a member of the non-aligned movement, is the only Latin American country with a Mission in New Delhi without reciprocal representation in Quito.

When contacted the Ecuadorean Charge D'Affairs, Dr. Alfonso Alvarez, refused to comment on the reasons of the closure beyond saying that he had met a Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry in the same connection. "I am a sad man but have not lost hope," he told THE HINDU. Dr. Alvarez, a poet-diplomat was Minister in Tokyo before coming to Delhi to set up his country's Embassy.

Ecuador's stand: Asked whether there was any connection between the recent meeting of the Khalistani leaders with an Ecuadorean delegation and the closure of the Mission, Dr. Alvarez points to the latest statement issued by the Embassy, which says "the separatist Sikh group has neither been, nor will be, recognised by the Ecuadorean Government... Ecuador's position with respect to the principle of the territorial integrity of States remains unaltered."

Pressed to clarify the status of the senior Ecuadorean diplomat who participated in the talks with the Khalistani leaders, Dr. Alvarez said his Government has "instructed Mr. Cristobal Montero, who is on vacation, to avoid all contacts with the ethnic group." Asked why the diplomat was not sacked for compromising his country's relations with a friendly nation Dr. Alvarez said the diplomat was on a private visit

and anyway had a few months of service left in the foreign office.

Dr. Carlos Julio Arocemena the leader of the Ecuadorean delegation which held talks with the Khalistani leaders was the President of Ecuador between November 7, 1961 and July 11, 1963. He was at that time the youngest President of the Republic and had been the vice-president under President Velasco Ibarra.

Dr. Arocemena was deposed in a military coup and one of the main charges against him was that he "frequently indulged in drinking escapades."

Although Dr. Arocemena is the president of one of the six parties which comprise the ruling coalition, the National Revolutionary Party, his support to the Government is crucial. Till late last month, the current President, Mr. Cordero's coalition had a razor-thin majority of 37 out of 71 seats.

The third member of the delegation, Dr. Patricio Buendia, is a prosperous lawyer in Quito. He has been hired by the self-styled Khalistan leader Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan to represent his interests in Ecuador, whatever they may be. It is reported that he was the mediator between Dr. Arocemena and the Khalistan leader in London.

Observers here feel that even if the Ecuadorean Government has not succeeded in showing its pique over India's refusal to open a Mission in their capital by playing the Khalistan card, the Sikh separatists have scored a point. They now have a full-time representative in the Ecuadorean capital in Dr. Patricio Buendia, while the Indian Government is said to have belatedly decided to send a First Secretary from Bogota on Tuesday to find out what all the commotion is about.

INDIA

'AMBITIOUS' PROGRAM TO CLEANSE GANGES DESCRIBED

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 5 Aug 85 p 4

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 4 (UNI): The government has drawn up an ambitious multi-pronged action programme to cleanse the Ganga. The first phase of the programme will be taken up during the Seventh Plan at an estimated cost of Rs 250 crores.

The immediate dual objectives of the government are to reduce the pollution load in the river and establish technically and financially self-sustaining treatment plant systems.

Initially, the scheme would be implemented in 29 class one cities situated on the banks of the Ganga. Later, similar works would be extended to other towns along the Ganga.

The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has been personally overseeing these schemes and has attached immense importance to preserving the environment and freeing the sacred river of pollution.

Experts, involved in the Ganga Action Plan (GAP), pointed out that in some cases, the river characteristics, nature of pollution faced and the proximity of its sources might require contiguous urban areas to be covered. Type classification of cities would have little meaning.

To begin with, emphasis would be on class one cities because these accounted for 82.3 per cent of the total population living in urban settlements on the river bank. Besides, the volume of sewage in these cities constitutes 88.5 per cent of total sewage produced.

Though 15 of the 29 class one cities had sewage treatment systems, the coverage in some was only partial. The endeavour would be to optimise benefits

from these existing systems.

* The current 11-point action plan for class one cities is as follows:

- Renovation of existing trunk sewers and outfalls to prevent overflow of sewage.
- Construction of interceptors to divert flow of sewage and other liquid wastes.
- Renovation of existing sewage pumping stations and treatment plants and installing new sewage treatment plants to recover the maximum possible resources like energy to operate pumping and treatment plants, and derive the maximum possible revenue to cover at least the operation and maintenance cost of these plants.
- Arrangements for bringing human and animal wastes from locations proximate to the sewage or sullage digesters for sanitary disposal and production of energy and manure.
- Providing sullage or sewage pumping stations at the outfall points of open drains, diverting the discharge from the river into the nearest sewers and treatment plants.
- Alternative arrangements to prevent discharge of animal and human wastes from cattle sheds located on the river banks.
- Low-cost sanitation schemes in areas adjoining the river to reduce or prevent the flow of human wastes into the river.
- Biological conservation measures based on proven techniques for purification of streams.
- Pilot projects to establish cost-effective systems for diversion of wastes now flowing into the river, their treatment and resources recovery.
- Pilot projects to establish

feasibility of technology applications in the treatment of wastes and resources or energy recovery.

The GAP says that depending on feasibility, circumstances and availability of funds, certain other components would require to be undertaken in the present or subsequent phases.

These include extending the existing sewer systems, constructing cattle sheds in the fringe of urban areas to facilitate collection of animal waste at suitable places, and preventing disposal of dead bodies in the river.

Experts also underscore the need to regulate use of pesticides and insecticides in agriculture so that surface run-off from cultivated areas did not carry excessive quantities of these materials to the river.

CSO: 4600/1856

IRAN

QOM CLERICS CONDEMN MUBARAK; VOW TO SUPPORT 'MUSLIM NATION'

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 28 Jul 85 p 3

[Text] Qom - Following the climax of the Islamic movement and the revolt of the Muslim people of Egypt against the tyrannical apparatus of that country, the cleric society of theoretical studies of the Qom area issued an announcement stating its support for this noble Islamic movement and praising the resistance of the people of that nation against the traitor government of Egypt and condemned the arrest of the supreme ulema and broad minded Muslim students and requested announcements from Muslim nations and Muslims throughout the world in support of this Islamic movement and discrediting the traitor government of Egypt.

In a part of this announcement it is stated: Warm, sincere, pure and brotherly greetings from the Qom cleric society of theoretical studies to the Muslim and fighter ulema of the Islamic nation of Egypt, the Muslim students of Al-Azhar, the Muslim nation of this country who with reliance on their divine duties have revolted and in defending the fortress of Islam and Muslim interests like the noble and honorable seat of Islam, have tolerated tortures.

Another part of this announcement states: The annihilated Sadat, by opening the Camp David gates to imperialism and Zionism, allowed the Koran and Islam to invade the Islamic government and its luminous culture in Egypt. Today Hosni Mubarak with the execution of his harsh and suppressive policies intends to prevent the expansion and growth of the Islamic movement and by enlisting his servants like Shah Huseyn and Shah Hassan intends to colonize all the world Muslims. In this regard, it is the duty of the religious clergy and Islamic clerics, by making sacrifices, to close this dangerous gate and like the Lebanese clerics, inflict a strong slap on Israel and its protector America and force the traitor Mubarak to revoke the Camp David accords.

In this announcement, addressed to the ulema and people of Egypt, it is stated: Today Islam is entrusted to our and your hands and we are responsible for defending it and it is our and your duty, until the establishment of divine sovereignty and the execution of divine orders on the earth and saving of Muslims from the bloody claws of the enemies, not to succumb until attaining the power of pious worshippers in Egypt

and all the Islamic world, and to establish the execution of Islamic religious laws through Jihad and continuous campaigns. We must not assume that cleaning Egyptian laws from non-Islam and protecting the supporters of Camp David will be productive.

In the conclusion of this announcement it is stated: We request the heads of the Islamic Arab nations to prevent the traitor government of Egypt from joining the Arab union again and to not forget the agreement of this government with the recognized enemies of Islam and Muslims in the Camp David accords and its insistence on strengthening the Jews in the occupied lands and their enmity with Islam; they should rely on the victory of divine power and strength.

9815

CSO: 4640/679

IRAN

NAVY'S COMBAT CAPABILITY, DEFENSE OF OIL TERMINALS DISCUSSED

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 4 Aug 85 p 3

[Text] From the start of the war, the navy almost destroyed the enemy's combat force in the sea.

The navy personnel, through their successful initiative, have neutralized the efficiency of the enemy's missiles.

Hereafter, we will confront any sea carrying equipment which affects the enemy's combat power.

Political Service - The navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran with complete awareness, controls all the threatening activities of foreign forces, and will decisively suppress any activities against the Islamic Republic and the region. First Captain Mohammad Hoseyn Malek-Zadegan, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, in a press, radio and television interview this morning, among announcing this subject, referred to the combat capability of our nation's navy and said: "The naval force, because on it's sensitive and immense duty in protecting, safeguarding and defending the nation's more than 3000 kilometer long coast line, has taken effective measures to defend coastal waters and vital strategic sources of our country. In this regard, floating units of the navy, air force and the army under the cover of naval forces, have expanded in the region so that they completely cover the area under their protection in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea."

He added: "In the very beginning of the war, the navy demolished the fighting power of the enemy at sea. From one side, all the enemy's ports within the war zone were closed and their operations halted, and from the other side, the enemy thought it would be able to compensate this shortcoming by obtaining planes and advanced missiles from the world oppressor superpowers, in order to impair our shipping traffic and communications lines. However, appropriate activities, and successful initiatives of navy personnel resulted in this system and the missiles losing their efficiency. It is worth mentioning that according to statistics the efficiency of the enemy's missiles has been less than 10 percent."

Captain Malek-Zadegan regarding self-sufficiency and Jihad in the navy said: "Following the orders of the Islamic revolution and the command of the president and director of the supreme defence council, different projects have been executed in regard to self-sufficiency in the navy. The execution of these projects has increased our combat capability in the sea and the defense of our Islamic homeland. Our martyr-nurturing nation will be notified about these successes in due time."

In regard to the offensive force of our nation's navy he said: "With attention to the duty of the naval forces in regard to protecting and defending the shores of the Islamic Republic in the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, our main duty is to defend and protect the vital and sensitive interests of our country. We are determined to decisively confront any attack which might endanger and hurt our vital resources and strategic points." He referred to the activities of the navy's Darya Sahel base and said: "The Darya Sahel base is a tactical base which plans naval operations in the Persian Gulf region and Oman Sea and supervises their execution."

Malek-Zadegan referred to the protection of the Khark oil terminal by the navy and said: "From the beginning of the war, the enemy in one way or the other has tried to damage our country's oil terminals, and in this connection has used the latest techniques in the world to damage the oil terminals but has faced strong resistance and heavy naval and air cover control in the region, and has never been able to succeed."

The commander of the navy then referred to the extensive propaganda of the world news media in regard to the confiscation of Kuwaiti vessel Al-Mohareq", and stated: "It is our legal right to confiscate any cargo which supports the fighting power of the enemy, and to unload any of its military cargo. We will confront any such cases decisively in the future too."

Captain Malek-Zadegan referred to the presence of the military forces of the world superpowers in the Indian Ocean and said: "The presence of these forces is not based on superintendency or getting close to the shores of our country. These forces usually settle near the shores of the states in the various regions. Certainly, all their movements are under the surveillance of our sea and air patrols, and we have different plans to suppress any potential threats, and in case we feel any danger we will execute these plans."

In conclusion he referred to the role of the air and sea units of the navy regarding the imposed war and said: "During the war, the air and sea units of the navy have been one of the decisive arms of the naval forces. These units have always exposed their presence in sea combat activities, patrol, and supervision throughout the total region. The activities of the personnel of these units should be appreciated."

9815

CSO: 4640/693

IRAN

RADIO COMMENTS ON POLICY OF NOT EXPANDING WAR TO GULF

GF031344 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Sep 85

[From the "Behind the News" program]

[Text] The Ba'thist aggression which began on 22 September 1980 is about to enter its 6th year. During the past 5 years it has been clear that this aggression not only has failed to achieve its goals, but the current military and political situation raises doubts as to the existence and future of the regime ruling in Iraq. The Baghdad regime is well aware of this fact. It sees its dark future through its deteriorating general situation in all fields. Because of this, not long ago it began to seek means to overcome its difficulties by taking a number of measures.

The Baghdad regime feels that, since the Islamic Republic continues to adhere to its firm stance to topple the regime, then political and diplomatic action will not end the war; it believes the war can only be ended by widening its scale. Some of the practical measures undertaken by the regime in this regard include: threats against international navigation in the Gulf, and an attempt to impede Iranian oil exports. These measures are intended to force the Islamic Republic of Iran into reacting and thus widening the scale of the war, and transferring the battle to Gulf waters. Its purpose in so doing is twofold: 1) to undermine Iranian relations with Gulf countries; and 2) to force external powers to intervene on the pretext of ensuring the flow of oil. However, neither has occurred due to the Islamic Republic's stance in both the military and political arenas.

Militarily, the Islamic Republic's naval forces and air force have aborted the military actions of the Baghdad regime by protecting international navigation lines and oil exports.

In the political field, Iranian diplomacy has maintained a firm stand toward relations with the Gulf states. This diplomacy is based on an open-door policy which was announced earlier by 'Ali Khamene'i.

If there have been misunderstandings with specific Gulf states, they have not been caused by the Islamic Republic's policy but the stands of these sides with regard to their connections with the aggressive war and their roles in this war or their treatment of Iranian Islamic communities. We are adhering to our true stands and keeping the inferno to its present boundaries in our war against the Baghdad regime. If there is new talk in this field, it is suspicion on the part of the Baghdad regime which is sedulously trying to create tension in the region.

The regional situation on which numerous external powers have pinned their hopes has not lived up to their expectations. The policy of the Islamic Republic has guaranteed that any attempts to create general tension will be dealt with. Certain regional sides and responsible sources have talked about their being dragged into the war. We ask: In whose interest is this [word indistinct]? Is it in the interest of the region and its people, or the external powers allegedly not called on for support? This is merely a question that embodies our anxiousness for the security and safety of the region and will hopefully produce a revision of stands and recalculations.

CSO: 4604/39

IRAN

GCC LABELED 'MILITARY PACT' AGAINST ISLAM

LD021717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 2 Sep 85

[From the Press Review]

[Text] The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)--What Objective Is It Pursuing? This is the title of a commentary in JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper, which we invite you to listen to in this part of the program:

This newspaper writes: After the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the establishment of the rule of the Islamic Republic, the United States and the West felt intensely worried by this revolution, because, this revolution, on the one hand aroused the Muslims of the region and of the world from the slumber of ignorance, and on the other hand, it placed in jeopardy the interests of the United States and of the West in the region. Thus, the Americans and the Westerners tried to defeat this revolution in its preliminary stages. They had no other way of carrying this out, save by inciting Saddam, since Saddam was looking for a way to take over the leadership of the Arabs, and this was the best opportunity for him to prove his power as the watchdog over the region for the United States and the West. From this standpoint, they appointed Saddam as aggressor to Islamic Iran. Saddam, with the hope that he could bring Islamic Iran to its knees with a lightning attack, attacked the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Ba'thist forces entered Iranian territory and occupied its regions. Saddam thought that Islamic Iran would surrender in the face of the Iraqi force's attack and that he would be able to impose his conditions. But, after attacking Islamic Iran, Saddam realized that the Iranians would not only not surrender to his illegitimate demands but that they stood steadfastly and all the more powerfully against the Ba'thist aggressions, and that they drove Iraqi forces out of their territory, inflicting great blows on the Ba'thist Armed Forces of Iraq.

The United States and the West, who did not expect such resistance on the part of Islamic Iran, sought another way that would enable them to withstand the waves of the Islamic Revolution in the region and to bring its impact to a halt. The United States and the West were constantly warning the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf region of the dangers of the Islamic revolution and they were encouraging them to unite and come together in the face of this revolution and to defend their governments.

The United States and the West were always stressing this point that Islamic Iran intends to overthrow the government of the region and it was to this purpose that the Ba'thist Iraqi regime, when it began its war against Islamic Iran, claimed that it was defending the Arab ummah and that it was trying to put a stop to Iran's expansionist intentions. The Arab countries of the Persian Gulf littoral, who feel duty-bound to follow the instructions of the United States and of the West, following the defeat of Saddam's attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran, embarked on organizing the GCC so that on the pretext of cooperation they could prevent the spread of the Islamic movement in the region, and at the same time, would protect the interests of the United States and the West in the region of the Persian Gulf.

The GCC was organized exactly 4 months after the start of the imposed war and the defeat of Saddam in this war. The member countries of the GCC consist of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Bahrain. These countries supported and assisted to the utmost Saddam and the Ba'thist Iraqi regime in its war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Yet, this assistance and support not only did not prevent Saddam's defeat, but created some difficulties for these countries. And in spite of the point made in the Constitution of the GCC that the objective for organizing the council is cooperation between member-countries it can be observed that this council, at present, is like a military pact between the countries.

CSO: 4640/720

IRAN

RADIO COMMENTS ON GENEVA TALKS ON AFGHANISTAN

GF291042 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Aug 85

[Commentary by Research Group of the Central News Unit: "The Relentless Struggle of Afghanistan's Muslim Nation Until the Last Member of the Occupationist Forces Is Ousted From the Country"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, the fifth round of talks on the Afghanistan problem between UN Under Secretary General Cordovez and the foreign ministers of Pakistan and the puppet regime of Kabul opened in Geneva. The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have condemned every kind of intrigue over Afghanistan. In this connection, a spokesman for the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries told our Central News Unit correspondent in Islamabad that until the last member of the occupationist forces in Afghanistan leaves, the Muslim people of Afghanistan will continue their liberation struggle for self-determination.

Meanwhile, news agencies report that in order to defend against rocket attacks on Kabul by Muslim fighters, defense lines have been set up around the Afghan capital by laying minefields. According to this report, the Muslim forces in their night attacks on Kabul are clashing with security forces. At the same time, the Soviet forces have started a huge offensive with tanks and artillery to break the mujahidin siege around the town of Khowst, which has now continued for more than a year. This is the third Soviet-Karmal forces' attack against the Muslims this year.

Meanwhile, Pakistani officials, realizing the strategic position of Paktia Province on their border, are concerned over Soviet and Karmal troops concentrating in this region. It may be recalled that the town of Khowst, which is at present surrounded by the Muslim Afghan forces, lies some 35 km from the Pakistani border with Paktia.

Meanwhile, U.S. imperialism has been using the Soviet aggression against Afghanistan as an opportunity for expanding its own crimes in the Middle East and Lebanon.

The aggressive forces in Afghanistan have reached a stalemate and are losing control of the country fast. Realizing this as far back as 1981, the Kremlin leaders, whose war machine failed to crush the Muslim nation

of Afghanistan, started talking of political settlement in Afghanistan. The USSR, being unable to withstand the blows inflicted by the Afghan Muslims, while at the same time being unable to leave the country without achieving their objectives--such as establishing a puppet government in Kabul--started talks on Afghanistan. The first four rounds of talks were totally unproductive, thanks to the Muslim fighters in Afghanistan. Now the occupationists have agreed to talks under UN supervision. They are looking to the West for achieving a political solution--but without conceding the right of self-determination for the Afghan people, or the need for the participation of representatives of the Muslim people of Afghanistan in the talks. They want to achieve through these talks the recognition of the puppet and Godless regime in that country.

In these circumstances, the Afghan Muslim fighters are intensifying their struggle against foreign occupation and the puppet regime. The brave Muslims of this region are determined to foil the superpower designs to appear as peacemakers. They also want to continue their war until they achieve self-determination according to internationally accepted norms. The Muslims of Afghanistan have so far stalemated the Geneva talks, and have through various statements made clear that they will continue their war until the ouster of all the occupationist forces from Afghanistan.

As the Islamic Republic of Iran has stated previously, the present talks in Geneva for a political solution to the Afghanistan issue will yield no results without the participation of representatives of the oppressed people of Afghanistan. The Islamic Republic has in several statements said that the only way to solve the Afghanistan problem is for the Soviet forces to unconditionally and immediately withdraw from that country, allow the refugees return to their country, recognize their right to self-determination, and halt every kind of foreign interference in the domestic affairs of the country.

CSO: 4640/719

IRAN

RADIO COMMENTS ON EAST-WEST COMPROMISE ON AFGHAN REBELS

LD311455 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1050 GMT 31 Aug 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] At a time when the fifth session of the Geneva talks on the crisis in Afghanistan ended yesterday--without the participation of the genuine representatives of the Afghan people joined with fear and hope--in connection with certain issues raised by UN Undersecretary General Diego Cordovez, who is playing the role of mediator in the indirect talks between the foreign ministers of Pakistan and of the agent Karmal regime, announced that the forthcoming round of these talks will be resumed between 16 and 20 December 1985 in Geneva. He noted that for the first time he has had official contacts with the United States and Soviet Governments in this connection. Cordovez also said that he expects the meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev, the United States and Soviet leaders, on 19 and 20 November in Geneva will culminate in the two sides' renewed support for the course of peace.

On the other hand simultaneous with the holding of the fifth round of compromise talks with regard to the problem of Afghanistan, the Muslim people of that country, while intensifying their righteous struggles aimed at ousting the occupation forces for the purpose of finally achieving the final right to self determination, strongly condemned any compromise on the crisis besetting their country. Afghanistan's revolutionary, crusading Muslims, reemphasizing the continuation of their struggle towards frustrating the superpowers plot in connection with compromise on the problem of Afghanistan--under the pretext of removing the security worry of the occupation forces with regard to the establishment of an agent regime [as heard], which is indeed tantamount to ignoring the nation of Afghanistan and their liberation struggles--called for an unconditional withdrawal by the aggressors.

Here, despite the military attacks launched by the Kabul regime's forces on Pakistan's borders, which during the past few months have culminated in the killing and wounding of a number of Pakistani people and Afghan refugees on the other side of the border, it appears that the Pakistan Government and nation--who have so far displayed goodwill with regard to the Afghan refugees and have put up with the pressures arising from the

offensive operations launched by the Karmal regime's military forces against Pakistan's borders and the concomitant economic problems--would not allow Afghanistan's Muslim people, particularly at this sensitive juncture in the history of the anti-arrogance and anti-imperialist struggles of the Islamic nation, to become the scapegoat of compromise by East and West.

Afghanistan's Muslim nation, fully realizing the plot of the Eastern and Western superpowers aimed at making a scapegoat of their entire struggles towards gaining independence and freedom and in view of the above mentioned pressures [as heard], by extending their struggles to the eastern regions and preventing the extension of unequal military operations by the occupation forces and those of the agent regime are determined to confront the said policy with fiasco.

In this connection and according to the latest reports reaching us, the massive offensive by the combined forces coupled with an attack by 20,000 troops with the support of heavy armor and helicopter gunships in order to break the siege of the strategic city of Khost close to the Pakistani border, which has been encircled by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries for the past year, is facing defeat and this city and its important military garrison have been occupied by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.

These victories, which speak of the defiance and unshakable will power of the Afghan Muslims in safeguarding and extending the areas under their occupation even to Kabul, not only indicate that the occupation forces have reached deadlock and have no alternative but to retreat and totally and uninterruptedly withdraw from Afghan territory, but also point to the fact that Afghanistan's Muslim people, fully aware of the round of compromises being made on the political destiny and sovereignty of their country, have realized that struggle is the only path to achieving the right of self-determination after the withdrawal of the aggressive occupation forces from that country and finally that no talks or political solutions can take place in the current course of events without the presence of the representatives of the people of Afghanistan.

CSO: 4640/722

IRAN

CLANDESTINE RADIO CLAIMS HIGHER CASUALTIES IN EXPLOSION

GF021854 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 2 Sep 85

[Text] The explosion of a bomb in Tehran once again has killed or wounded more innocent people. According to the occupied Pars News Agency [IRNA], the bomb, which weighed 70 kg, was placed in a car in front of Tehran University and exploded last night. As a result of this explosion, 25 cars were damaged and 12 people were injured. The Islamic Republic regime in its report on the casualties said that only one of the injured persons was in critical condition. So far no group or organization has claimed responsibility for the blast.

Power struggles in the clerical regime have so far caused a great many tragedies in the country and the mullahs' efforts to censor or limit the reports dealing with explosions and their horrendous results in the killing of innocent passersby show that the mullahs know the elements responsible for these terrorist actions well, for they are their collaborators. In order to curb the people's opposition to the clerical rule, they pass the news of explosions through rounds of censorship and they purposely lower the casualty figures.

In reporting last night's explosion in Tehran, the lying regime of Tehran, while speaking of the destruction of 25 cars, reported that only 12 people were injured. However, in its report on the blast, the Islamic Republic regime reveals its own lies. It says that the place where the explosion took place was busy at the time of the bombing and that people were walking around. This shows that the mullahs' regime is lying when it says that only 12 people were injured.

CSO: 4640/721

END