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JPRS-NEA-86-033

19 March 1986

Near East/South Asia Report

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19 March 1986

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

ALGERIA

Paper Views Housing Shortage, Second 5-Year Plan (EL MOUDJAHID, various dates)	1
Mobilizing Private Savings	1
Discussion of the New Law	3

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

IRAQ

Gangs Arrested for Forging Passports, Counterfeiting (AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, 5 Feb 86)	6
---	---

ISRAEL

Minister Predicts Mandatory Study of Arabic (THE JERUSALEM POST, 31 Jan 86)	7
Paper Assesses Current Status of 'Lavi' Fighter Jet (Hirsh Goodman; THE JERUSALEM POST, 31 Jan 86)	8
MA'ARIV on Difference Between Autonomy, Devolution (Refa'el Mann; MA'ARIV, 11 Feb 86)	11
\$250 Million Allocated To Promote Settling in Territories (Nehemya Strassler; HA'ARETZ, 14 Feb 86)	12
Nation Reacts to Canadian Reports of Espionage (Yoram Hamizrahi; YEDI'OT AHARONOT, 23 Feb 86)	13
Moda'i on Remarks on Economic Growth (Yitzhaq Moda'i Interview; Jerusalem Television Service, 13 Feb 86)	15

Commentary Views Change in Economic Policy (Pinhas Landau; THE JERUSALEM POST, 25 Feb 86)	18
Poll Shows Stronger Alignment, Stable Likud (MA'ARIV, 28 Feb 86)	22
Davar Reports on Jerusalem Domestic Arabic Radio (Ya'el Admoni; DAVAR, 28 Feb 86)	24
Palestinian Press Service Viewed (Aaron Leibel; THE JERUSALEM POST, 3 Mar 86)	29
High Frequency Management System Described (Yosef Perl; QESHER ELEQTRONIQ MAHSHAVIM, Sep 85)	32
Briefs	
New News Agency	42
Israeli Arms Dealers Seek Iranian Sales	42
Family Reunification Requests Rejected	42
Kahane Silenced in Qiryat Malakhi	43
Settlement Expansion Sought	43
Coptic College Building Arrangement	43
February State Revenues	43
February Soviet Emigration	43
 LEBANON	
Fadlallah Discusses Islam, Lebanese, Area Issues (Shaykh Mohamed Hussein Fadlallah Interview; POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE, Autumn 85)	44
 SYRIA	
Government Eases Tight Import Restrictions (MIDDLE EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, 14 Dec 85)	49
Dayr al-Sawr Paper Mill in Trouble (Elisabeth Tampier; MIDDLE EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, 14 Dec 85)	50
Work Begins on 5-Year Plan To Boost Agriculture (MIDDLE EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, 25 Jan 86)	53
 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN	
Budapest TV Interviews Leaders on Situation (Budapest Television Service, 9 Feb 86)	54
NGPF Chief Calls for New Government (MENA, 13 Feb 86)	56
Al-'Attas Discusses Lessons of Crisis (Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas Interview; RABOTNICHESKO DELO, 25 Feb 86)	58

Al-Bid Receives Cable From PLF Official ('Ali Salim al-Bid; Aden Domestic Service, 13 Feb 86)	60
Paper Highlights Yemeni-Soviet Cooperation (Aden Domestic Service, 16 Feb 86)	61
Briefs	
Bulgarian Communist Congress	63
OCAL Secretary General	63
Deputy Minister Appointed	63

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Paper Comments on Economic Talks With USSR (Sanaa Domestic Service, 28 Jan 86)	64
Briefs	
Economic Cooperation With Netherlands	65
Arab Fund Loan	65
USSR Youth Official	65
Commanders' Training Institute	65

SOUTH ASIA

PAKISTAN

Bizenjo Says MRD To Contest Future Elections (DAWN, 12 Feb 86)	66
SBPF Meeting Urges 'Confederation Plan' (DAWN, 12 Feb 86)	67
Jatoi Says PPP 'Stands for Federation' (DAWN, 12 Feb 86)	68
Punjab PPP Chief Visits London To Talk With Benazir Bhutto (DAWN, 14 Feb 86)	70
Minister Admits To List of Persons Barred From Foreign Travel (DAWN, 11 Feb 86)	71
Law Officers Given Training to Man Qazi Courts (DAWN, 12 Feb 86)	72
Discovery of Gas Off Karachi Shore Reported (DAWN, 12 Feb 86)	73
Gwadur To Be Developed as Commercial Port (DAWN, 12 Feb 86)	74
Demand for Seraiki Province Said Growing (DAWN, 12 Feb 86)	75

Report Provides Detail of Trade Talks With India (DAWN, 13 Feb 86)	76
Economic Council Approves Several Development Projects (DAWN, 14 Feb 86)	78
Junejo Says Khokhrapar Route To Open Soon (DAWN, 15 Feb 86)	79
Independent Parliamentary Group Criticizes Administration (DAWN, 15 Feb 86)	80
Briefs	
Junejo To Visit AJK	81
Zia Offered Party Office	81

ALGERIA

PAPER VIEWS HOUSING SHORTAGE, SECOND 5-YEAR PLAN

Mobilizing Private Savings

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 4 Feb 86 p 3

[Text] The Second Five-Year Plan 1985-1989 anticipates the creation of 542,000 housing units, requiring loans on the order of 76 billion dinars. Plan projections for the 10 years from 1990 to 1999 provide for the creation of 2,100,000 urban and 380,000 rural housing units.

The current housing demand must take into account the overcrowding of existing accommodations (the rate of occupancy is estimated at 8-10 persons), the precarious living conditions and deterioration of some of the obsolescent building stock. The situation is further aggravated by the sustained rise in population growth; the population figures will actually rise from 21.5 million in 1984 to 25.4 million at the end of the second five-year plan period and to around 36 million by 2000.

According to a report by the APN [National People's Assembly] economics committee, the housing deficit is so great that even a sustained growth of 200,000-250,000 units per annum would not end the crisis for the next 10 years. The present rate of construction is insufficient for a number of factual reasons, among which are the difficulties experienced in the supply of building materials.

Moreover, the special and significant government efforts in the housing field cannot be pursued for long without preempting public resources needed for other productive investments. That is why encouragement and aid has been offered to own home builders and new provisions adopted with regard to real property promotion.

The law relating to housing promotion, enacted a week ago by the National Popular Assembly, aims at making national savings a partner in the resolution of the housing crisis, albeit without ending government intervention, in particular with regard to the construction of low income housing. It is in fact a matter of permitting private domestic capital to participate in housing construction operations within a government planned and regulated framework. Enactment of the law was preceded by discussions in the specialized committees and a prolonged debate in an APN plenary meeting. The amended text, adopted

with the full agreement of the government, defines the general frame of housing promotion and sets out the regulations germane to various housing construction operations.

A Controlled Frame

The law will take effect upon promulgation by the president of the republic. It has 50 articles and, in particular, decrees that housing construction "is open to all natural and corporate bodies of Algerian nationality, capable of transactions, assuming contractual obligations and placing contracts." The law excludes all persons sentenced under the provisions of Articles 119, 220, 372 and 376 of the Penal Code. Moreover, corporate bodies subject to private law must be composed exclusively of Algerian citizens.

Housing construction operations must fit in with municipal planning and be designed to provide either multiple or semimultiple housing, specially in urban settings, so as to make for the optimum and most rational utilization of assessed sites. The text furthermore states the principle that, "for their own requirements, workers, institutions and public administrations, establishments, firms and public or private organizations may undertake housing construction operations in accordance with detailed rules to be subsequently defined."

Facing the Crisis

In order to aid and encourage the financial involvement of private individuals, applicants for a housing construction operation intended for sale only will benefit from financial cooperation in the form of medium term loans. These loans may not exceed 50 percent of the estimated costs of the operation. Exactly like a public organization, a subscriber to a housing construction operation may ask for the assignment (of a site--translator's note) on the basis of approved plans, consonant with the rules for construction prescribed by the services in charge of urban planning and resulting from the specifications. Within this framework, the law organizes the information and protection of the citizen so as to give him the necessary guarantees. The law obliges the applicant to, among others:

-- Give a guarantee against obvious construction defects and valid for 3 months from the date the buyer has taken possession of the premises.

-- Give a guarantee against hidden construction defects for 3 years from the date of handing over the structure, its destruction or the discovery of the defect.

-- Transfer to the buyer and for his benefit the warranties due by the architects, contractors and other parties involved.

Also among the special requirements is the obligation for the subscriber to sell the sale of the building or portion of buildings constructed no later than 6 months from completion.

It should also be noted that not everyone may be a subscriber, and that any candidate for proceeding to a housing construction operation must prove his capacity for such an undertaking or have at his disposal the services of cadres acknowledged to be competent.

The law finally provides for penalties to be imposed for some kinds of behavior, in particular in the case of negligence and fraudulent advertising.

Discussion of the New Law

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 5 Feb 86 p 2

[Text] The law of 7 February 1981 has made it possible to assign real property held by the public sector and allocated for development before 1 January 1981. Upon taking effect, this law was designed in particular to allow some 300,000 families to acquire ownership of their homes.

At another level, this assignment was aimed at permitting the government to quit the management and maintenance of a very significant part of the housing stock, especially because these duties were onerous in view of the low rents paid the government in its capacity as landlord and the financial resources granted by the public treasury for the maintenance of this stock.

According to the APN's economics committee, the results of the application of this law were anticipated to be as follows:

-- By means of the transfer of property to applicants to mop up substantial amounts of hoarded money, thereby making it available for recycling in the economy.

-- Encourage the accountable occupants of the premises to reveal their tenancy statement before applying for ownership of the property.

-- Bring about the involvement of the occupants now interested in their capacity of owners to maintain and preserve the building stock. Almost 5 years after the law has taken effect, the results seem to be disappointing because, according to the Ministry of Urban Planning, Construction and Housing, no more than 250,000 files have been opened and 120,000 decisions to sell issued while the total of units assignable amounts to 450,000.

An analysis of the situation, offered in a speech by the Minister of Urban Planning, Construction and Housing to the deputies, ascribes the inadequacy of these results to:

-- The unwieldiness of the sales procedure which obliges applicants to make numerous approaches to various agencies: Regularization of tenancy situation, settlement of rents due, in many cases the establishment of title, the abundance of items for the files and the intervals between meetings of the various committees.

-- The imposition of certain restrictions on the ownership of the premises, which no longer responds to the social development of the Algerian family.

Consequently, the government submitted a draft law to the APN at the beginning of the last fall term, which is designed to modify and complete the provision of the law of 7 February 1981. The final text adopted by the deputies introduces measures aimed at easing and simplifying procedures as well as new provisions designed to encourage as many people as possible to purchase assignable property.

In future, therefore, all property made available for development after 31 December 1980 will be assignable by virtue of the new law; this much extends the field of application and abolishes the difference between old and new occupants.

Among the incentives introduced by these amendments to the law, the following are worth particular mention:

-- The final date for submission of applications has been deferred to 31 December 1987.

-- Non-transferability has been lifted for a period of 5 years.

-- The profit earned by the deduction of rents paid in the case of applications submitted before the final date fixed in the law. That arrangement is complemented by the transfer of rents to the spouse and minor children if the occupant should die.

-- The assignment of surplus surface areas either to family members of the buyer if several lots are involved, or to the occupier and for the total site.

It remains to underline the fact that the acquisition of ownership of the family home represents a right, not an obligation, for each citizen. It is therefore necessary to remember that the law guarantees the right of preservation and possession of their premises to those who have not acquired ownership of their homes.

Measures for Encouraging Low Cost Housing

On the occasion of his working visit to Oran Wilaya, Abderrahmane Belayat, minister of Urban Planning, Construction and Housing, announced a series of measures aimed at improving the living standards of the citizens and better management of housing consonant with the instructions of the political directorate.

To obtain the participation of Algerian architects and urban planners in the efforts to increase construction while keeping in mind the principles of Arab-Islamic civilization, the minister announced that a national architectural and urban planning competition has been launched by the president of the republic and endowed with several prizes. He indicated that it was the objective to

stimulate the creative spirit of young architects and urban planners for the betterment of the quality of construction, the style and the environment so as to conform to Muslim civilization, historical remains of which still survived in many regions of our country as well as in many other Mediterranean countries. In this inspirit, he invited all cadres to join in this national competition. The designs adopted will largely affect the restoration and renovation of the old districts of many county towns in the wilaya.

As regards housing, the minister noted that several decision had been taken, related to the amended law on "assignments of government real property," which was enacted by the National Popular Assembly. These amendments, Belayat indicated, were likely this year already to ease the way for citizens wishing to purchase their homes or professional offices. As for large buildings, amendments to the law have been proposed in conjunction with the advice offered by municipalities on the usefulness of the respective premises.

Belayat revealed that proposals have been submitted to the government for encouraging social housing for workers with low earnings and for the farm sector. He added: "It has also been suggested by means of the moneys held by the social services of enterprises to associate these services with the construction of homes for workers.

Talking of the improvement and renovation of new urban residential zones, Belayat announced that a land and planning agency would be set up from this year on in each county town of the wilaya. It will be responsible for managing these new urban residential zones. "These agencies," he revealed, will be equipped with all administrative, technical and legal structures to manage these zones so as to avoid the errors of the past."

Some new urban residential zones had been handed over before infrastructures or the sanitary networks had been completed.

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CSO: 4519/67

IRAQ

GANGS ARRESTED FOR FORGING PASSPORTS, COUNTERFEITING

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Feb 86 p 1

[Excerpts] An Iraqi official revealed that three gangs controlled by Egyptian and Sudanese workers in Iraq have been arrested. The first gang was involved in counterfeiting 100 dollar bills. Its headquarters is located in Isma'iliyah [Egypt] but it has a branch on the Iraqi-Turkish border. Members of this gang were arrested in Baghdad with the cooperation of Egyptian State Security. The second gang was arrested for forging passports and the third gang, whose members are still under investigation, is from the Sudan.

'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the director of Public Security, talked about the gang of four whose members were shown on Baghdad television 2 months ago as they disclosed blowing up the Ministry of Planning, the Iraqi News Agency, the radio and television building and buildings that belong to other organizations. Al-Majid said that these people were still in jail and that their death sentence had not yet been carried out. He invited those who claimed that these prisoners were subjected to torture to visit them in jail and stressed that none of them had been either tortured or humiliated when they were confronted with undeniable evidence which included a photo of them setting up booby trapped cars outside Iraq. Al-Majid said that one of the four asked if he could atone for his sins by blowing up a weapons depot in a neighboring country but Iraq refused in order to protect innocent lives. He said that the gang had been receiving its orders from London through special coded messages and by telephone. He displayed the silencers, hand grenades and explosives which were found carefully hidden in the last vehicle that came from abroad and which were discovered thanks to a masterful plan.

/6091

CSO: 4404/209

ISRAEL

MINISTER PREDICTS MANDATORY STUDY OF ARABIC

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jan 86 p 3

[Text]

Education Minister Yitzhak Navon said Tuesday that the study of Arabic will eventually become mandatory in Israeli schools, but he refused to say how long it will take.

In a meeting with leading experts on Arabic studies, Navon was told that, although many students begin courses in spoken Arabic in elementary school, only 1,200-1,500 pupils are studying Arabic language and literature by their senior year of high school.

There is currently no national supervisor of Arabic studies, and only 20 teachers are enrolled in Arabic workshops this year.

Navon promised to allocate the equivalent of several hundred thousand dollars from next year's budget for curriculum development and additional local supervisors. "It makes no sense that we, who are surrounded by 200 million Arabs, should raise a younger generation that cannot communicate with its neighbours," he said.

The Knesset Education Committee recently recommended that Arabic become mandatory, but senior Education Ministry officials say there are many obstacles to that, chief among them the problem of Arab-Jewish relations.

/13104
CSO: 4400/107

ISRAEL

PAPER ASSESSES CURRENT STATUS OF 'LAVI' FIGHTER JET

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jan 86 p 7

[Article by Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] FOR MANY in the defence establishment the Lavi, once the swan of the air force, has become an ugly duckling. In recent weeks, opposition - especially among senior officers - has increased in intensity.

Though the establishment remains overtly committed to the project, serious doubts are beginning to creep in as to whether Israel will be able to sustain the development and production of the fighter, estimated to cost anywhere between \$6 billion-\$10 billion over the next 15 years.

While until now the American administration has picked up the entire annual Israeli development tab of \$250 million, and another \$150 million are being spent with companies attached to the project in the U.S., there are those who fear that American policy could change, leaving Israel with an incomplete white elephant and not enough aid money to purchase a last-minute alternative.

Two things have happened to nurture the current opposition: One is a change in the wording of the American law that will allow the \$250m. a year originally specified to be spent *only* on the development of the Lavi in Israel to be used for "the Lavi and other purposes" from fiscal 1986 onwards;

The other is the realization of senior military officers, when they sat down to reassess the IDF's long range plans in light of recent cuts in the defence budget, that the air force Israel is going to have in 1995, about when the Lavi will be operational, will simply not be big enough to afford the 300 Lavis originally planned.

THE FREEING of part of the Lavi money to be used as Israel sees fit was a heaven-sent bounty for Rav Aluf Moshe Levy's general staff, who are currently being called upon to make some of the most serious decisions ever faced by this country's military establishment. Until now the word of the general staff on what the country needed to defend itself was considered sacrosanct by politicians, who traditionally rubber-stamped the military's demands. The change, dictated by Israel's economic realities, began to make itself felt four years ago, when the first significant defence budget cuts were made, and reached a peak this year, when the army was forced to cut back its stockpiles and training.

ONE HAS ONLY to read the newspapers to understand that the general staff is worried at every level: Good manpower cannot be kept in uniform. Reservists do not get enough training in view of the limitations on the use of ammunition and vehicles. Orders to the military industries are down.

The list of cumulative cutbacks is endless, and most of them will not be known by the general public. We will only see the overt manifestations, such as the firing of hundreds of scientists from Rafael, the weapons' development authority, and other defence-related industries.

The "age of pauperism" that has come to the IDF, as one senior officer put it last week, was the result of a cycle. When the defence budget was first cut (by Ezer Weizman in the late 1970s), stockpiles and building projects were reduced. When there was nothing left to save here, train-

ing was curtailed. When this reached a point where the quality of the IDF was being called into question, research and development projects were frozen or cancelled.

What this means is that the IDF has had to re-think its strategy for dealing with potential worst-case scenarios in the coming decade – a decade during which the Iraq-Iran war is bound to end and the confrontation states will be receiving unprecedented quantities of sophisticated weapons.

IN CONFORMITY with this new strategy, the Lavi takes on different proportions. Based on the assumed production of 300 Lavis for the Israel airforce, the projected cost per aircraft was around \$22m. But if the air force in 1995 will be only able to purchase 150 Lavis, the unit cost will almost double, to around \$40m. per aircraft. At that price there are other planes the air force would prefer. An added attraction of these other planes is that they could be purchased with American aid money in the U.S., and the \$250m. earmarked to be spent on the Lavi in Israel, could be spent on other, more essential things.

An American fighter such as the F-16 C, army officers claim, could be purchased for around \$10m. (though other experts agree with Moshe Arens that this figure is optimistically unrealistic), and it could be upgraded to comply with air force demands at a very low cost by adding Israeli-made components.

These components, the Lavi's detractors say, could be paid for out of the American aid money that will now be usable for "other purposes" than the Lavi, thus providing alternative employment for those segments of Israeli industry that would be adversely affected by the closure of the Lavi project.

The air force would thus have an affordable plane with money left over to purchase America's planned new fighter, the ATF, when it comes on the market in the mid-1990s. Industry here would have work, and the qualitative gap between Israel and the confrontation states would be closed. Almost the ideal solution.

BECAUSE OF the change in the military's attitude, the Lavi has lost its principal backers, though the

relations with America. The minister could, however, find himself under increased pressure from the military to reconsider – especially since the Americans no longer object to the Lavi money being used for other military purposes.

"THEY GAVE US the money not because they wanted us to build an aircraft, but because we convinced politicians, who see the issue in a different context, remain committed to the project.

Ironically, the commander of the air force, Aluf Amos Lapidot, was the first manager of the Lavi project. Under him, the plane underwent a metamorphosis from a low-grade \$6m. "work-horse" designed to replace Israel's aging inventory of Skyhawks and Phantoms, to a hyper-sophisticated aircraft that could now cost anywhere up to \$40m.

Equally ironically, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was one of two members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee who voted against the development of the Lavi when it was originally discussed some five years ago, has become one of the aircraft's staunchest supporters.

Rabin's frame of reference, like that of Prof. Moshe Arens, differs from that of the generals. He sees the issue in terms of the impact of the cancellation of the Lavi project on Israeli industry and this country's them that we needed to," a senior officer said earlier this week. "Their purpose is that Israel should be able to do what it considers necessary for its defence, not build a plane at crippling cost to our overall defence capabilities. Because of this, there will be no American opposition if we scrub the project. In fact, they'll understand, because they appreciate economic logic, and they do this kind of thing all the time. They may even respect us for it."

The battle for the Lavi is far from over.

As far as the Defence Ministry and Israel Aircraft Industries are concerned, with \$1 billion already having been spent on development the point of no return has been reached. Prototype No. 1 will take to the air in September, and Rabin last month gave his approval for the initiation of the production schedule for between 24 and 30 of the planes a year at a

cost of \$550m.

The men in uniform who want the Lavi shot down are not convinced that the battle has been lost. One thing is certain: they don't intend to give up the fight.

/13104

CSO: 4400/107

ISRAEL

MA'ARIV ON DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AUTONOMY, DEVOLUTION

TALL1000 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Feb 86 p 3

[Commentary by Refa'el Mann: "Do Not Say 'Autonomy'; From Now on Say: 'Devolution?']

[Text] While the chance of starting negotiations with Jordan is becoming less and less likely, Shim'on Peres has already announced the next stage of his initiatives: greater incorporation of the Arabs of the territories into the management of their own affairs. Peres is proposing that we be cautious about the term "unilateral autonomy," which, he says, puts "too great a burden" on the Arabs, and he is looking for a substitute in the form of a "devolution of authority."

The difference between autonomy, even unilateral autonomy, and devolution is not just linguistic: Autonomy is a comprehensive and defined status for all the inhabitants of the territories, while "devolution" can be implemented in bits, in limited areas, as those granting and imposing it see fit.

The most outstanding difference involves the matter of security. Ever since Moshe Dayan came up with the idea of "unilateral autonomy," there has been talk of withdrawing the IDF from the Arab towns. In the Peres version of "devolution," there is no question of changes to the IDF deployment, but of dealing with the civil issues. The focus is on health, education, and so on.

Under "devolution," nobody representing the local inhabitants in the normal sense of the word is to be founded, because nobody is talking of elections, not even municipal ones. As has occurred in Nabulus, the local mayors will be given posts through appointments from on high, and the same applies to Arab headquarters officers serving the Civilian Administration who will deal with the various community fields. The "devolution" may be implemented on an almost personal basis, naturally with the agreement of the prominent people in each town and area.

The implementation of the "devolution" idea would put the willingness of the inhabitants to cooperate with the Israeli authorities to the test. In the past they rejected Israel's version of autonomy, on the claim that Israel kindly grants them the opportunity to deal with drainage, but keeps decisive control over land and water to itself. It is not yet clear whether they will accept the initiative this time, and furthermore, what political significance can be attached to this.

ISRAEL

\$250 MILLION ALLOCATED TO PROMOTE SETTLING IN TERRITORIES

TA141002 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Feb 86 p 1

[Report by Nehemya Strassler]

[Text] The Government Publications Office is currently preparing a widescale promotional campaign aimed at encouraging people to move to the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza District. This project, which will apparently cost approximately \$250 million, will mainly involve television commercials and to a certain extent radio and press advertisements. The decision to launch this campaign was made recently by the Treasury and the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry. Minister Qatzav is ex officio responsible for the Development Towns Advisory Bureau, hence his involvement in the matter.

As part of this campaign, the Judaea and Samaria local council will receive tens of thousands of dollars to organize tours for potential apartment buyers. The initiative comes against the background of the halt in demand for housing in Judaea and Samaria. In Ari'el, for example, there are presently approximately 1,100 housing units in various stages of construction--more than in all the development towns in the north. The propaganda campaign is aimed at populating these apartments.

The finance minister's office has denied that any deliberations have been held or decisions reached on the matter.

Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi said in reaction that he would slash the aid currently extended to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District by half. At the moment, approximately \$140 million are allocated to these areas, including the investment in infrastructure, development grants for industry and housing, and subsidies for mortgages. This sum does not, however, include the budget for the Jordan Rift Valley and the Jerusalem area.

According to Ya'aqobi, during times of budget cuts which the treasury claims are so vitally important, it is necessary to save half that sum--namely \$70 million--which should be channeled to expanding exports and providing employment in development towns.

/9365

CSO: 4400/116

ISRAEL

NATION REACTS TO CANADIAN REPORTS OF ESPIONAGE

TA231415 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Feb 86 p 2

[Report from Canada by Yoram Hamizrahi]

[Text] The Canadian Security and Intelligence Services and Canadian intelligence sources are claiming that the Israeli Consulate in Toronto serves as a base for intelligence and subversive activity, and as a center for using the large Jewish community in the city for the State of Israel's needs.

This grave accusation was included in remarks made by Jerry Cummings, the security and intelligence services spokesman, to the highly influential Canadian paper THE GLOBE AND MAIL. The Canadian spokesman said that a considerable number of consulates of East Bloc and other countries, as well as many trade bureaus, are nothing more than bases for intelligence activity.

Canadian intelligence sources have said that besides East Bloc representatives, the Israeli, Indian, South Korean, and Philippines Consulates also conduct intelligence and subversive activities.

The inclusion of Israel in the list of East Bloc and Third World countries immediately caused a storm among Israel's friends and the Jewish community in general. Avi Gil, the Israeli Embassy spokesman in Ottawa, described the story "an utterly ridiculous scenario based on anonymous sources."

The YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent has learned that the Israeli Embassy in Ottawa requested urgent clarifications from the Ministry of External Affairs. It has also been learned that the embassy's position is that if the report originated from sources in an official government ministry, Israel will be obliged to submit a strong protest and to act through diplomatic channels in order to obtain a full explanation of this serious accusation.

Another possibility also being considered is to demand that the Canadian authorities express their reservations about the announcement by the security and intelligence services spokesman, if the Ottawa government announces that it was not government sources who reported the matter to the Canadian newspaper.

Canada has for a long time been dealing with the question of correctly handling the phenomenon of subversion and hostile intelligence activity. In most cases, this involves activities by the Indians, who are interested in upsetting the stability within the large Sikh community in Canada, or similar activities undertaken by East Bloc representations among emigres.

Only a week ago, on 16 February, the editor of a local Romanian newspaper was murdered in Toronto after, a month beforehand, some unknown person opened fire at the Romanian Consulate building in Montreal.

/9365

CSO: 4400/116

19 March 1986

ISRAEL

MODA'I ON REMARKS ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

TA132112 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Interview with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by Gid'on Reicher--live in studio; date not given]

[Text] [Reicher] Ladies and gentlemen, today we heard that Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi has not only submitted an economic plan of his own, dealing with growth, but Prime Minister Shim'on Peres also said today that time has actually come for growth to begin. We are asking the finance minister--good day, sir--whether these remarks by Gad Ya'aqobi are not in fact criticism of your economic policy?

[Moda'i] We should be so lucky. Minister Ya'aqobi and the prime minister have finally discovered that we need growth. All they need to do is tear up the economic plan that was submitted along with the 1985-1986 budget. The question is, to grow on the basis of what? Printing money? And stimulate growth in what? Failed factories? This is the main question. Not when.

[Reicher] Is there no need for growth at all? We need to grow.

[Moda'i] We need to grow, and that is an organic part of the plan. We have already implemented the first condition for growth, which is stability; without it, words do not help. Headlines do not help. Speeches do not help.

[Reicher] Perhaps the speeches and headlines you are mentioning are actually meant as a hint to you: Look, Moda'i, you have begun to succeed; soon there will be a rotation and the fruits of this success will actually be seen after Shamir takes office. Perhaps this is not worthwhile; perhaps we should disband the unity government. Is that not the idea?

[Moda'i] I am the finance minister, not the rotation minister. I know, just as I knew how to curb inflation and curb the deterioration in the level of foreign currency reserves, how growth is created: the timing, place, and scope. But it is impossible to increase the state budget every week--in certain ministries--and speak of a surplus for growth. I heard: This is a bottomless pit. The price of oil has dropped. To whom have they not already sold these savings in fuel?

[Reicher] Do you finally agree....

[Moda'i, interrupting] Yes, we have already decided, we have already said, that after the Egyptians reduced fuel prices it turned out that this process has also reached our area, and not just in cables.

[Reicher] And what percentage....

[Moda'i, interrupting] I will tell you that in the next appearance, after the increase, not before it, or after the reduction.

[Reicher] And fuel prices will not go up at midnight...

[Moda'i, interrupting] Whoever wants to remain without fuel, let him not fill up.

[Reicher] Nevertheless Minister Ya'aqobi has submitted a formulated plan. It seems to me that you said--if I can quote the HA'ARETZ correspondent, to put things precisely--that this is a collection of old ideas.

[Moda'i] Yes, yes, that is true. Perhaps there is something new. If we said we must ease income tax or, let us say, increase the open credit in the capital market by \$300 million, he said by \$500 million. We said we must ease direct income tax which, by the way, we have already begun to do by decreasing the tax brackets by 5 percent; he says by 10 percent. The difference between the plans is that the figures in our plan have been determined through models, and we know where to take cuts to meet other needs.

[Reicher] So how do you explain that....

[Moda'i, interrupting] You have already explained.

[Reicher] You agreed with....

[Moda'i, interrupting] I said that I am not the rotation minister. I said that nobody is in love with cuts. All of a sudden cuts have become banned. They fell in love with cuts, it is true, the prime minister did not say the word. [sentence as heard] I am happy and proud of the fact that we have succeeded in cutting together. You are now denying that need.

[Reicher] When you say they, you mean the prime minister?

[Moda'i] Whoever said that.

[TA132121] [Reicher] But some people say that the price of success, and this is undoubtedly zero inflation, is perhaps too high. People are beginning, how can I put it--we are beginning to hear howls from those who are bearing the burden, the slump, the erosion, and the dismissals.

[Moda'i] That claim could have been made... [changes thought] I think the price really is high, but all those who took part in the economic plan knew this price and agreed to it, including the prime minister and the Alignment ministers. We do not need to wait for formal announcements from the prime minister that the time has come for growth. After all, we began this process. How did we all of a sudden and out of the blue increase the budget for agriculture? I am not exactly sure that this increase represents growth in agriculture and is not an aftereffect. [not further explained] You have undoubtedly noticed that I am speaking with a certain amount of anger, because since yesterday I have been hearing about the new discovery, the one arousing so much noise. We must begin to grow. So what do those who made this discovery think?

That the intention was to cool down the economy to the point of a freeze? Of course we must begin to grow. But cautiously. You must go slowly.

[Reicher] You say slowly. In terms of time, is this weeks, months, years?

[Moda'i] Given the fact of the rotation, we should have begun this growth a year ago, instead of implementing the austerity plan.

[Reicher] And what is the other side of the coin?

[Moda'i] The other side of the coin is that growth has already begun. If resources become available and are not eaten up through the votes of Cabinet ministers, we will have more resources for growth. It is impossible to meet unbudgeted expenses with a pathetic speech about growth.

[Reicher] Perhaps we can take advantage of your being with us to ask you about the bank shares included in the arrangement [made by the government following the stock exchange crash in October 1983], about which there are all sorts of rumors. You are the most authoritative source. Do you have any plans to alter the terms spoken of at the time?

[Moda'i] No, we do not have any plans. This is the government's commitment, just like the government's and the Bank of Israel's commitment to government bonds we sell every day. We have already begun keeping our commitment; \$700 million in bank shares owned by the elderly were paid or reinvested last October, in 1 month. I admit that this is a heavy burden, but the entire national debt is a very heavy burden. If we are allowed to do basic work, without babbling, we will succeed, with precise planning and obstinate implementation, and despite all the partisan political considerations, in keeping with the government's commitments. We will succeed in allocating resources for growth. We will consolidate Israel's economy, and if anyone does not want to help, let him at least not interfere.

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CSO: 4400/116

ISRAEL

COMMENTARY VIEWS CHANGE IN ECONOMIC POLICY

TA250952 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Feb 86 p 8

[Commentary by Pinhas Landau: "Trapped in an Outdated Belief"]

[Text] Thou art a rare noodle, Master. Do what was done last time is thy rule, eh?

Bernard Shaw's "Saint Joan"

The public has a right to feel confused. Suddenly, almost without warning, the economic buzzwords are growth, investment, and the prevention of unemployment, while just a few weeks ago the only song to be heard was the dirge of retrenchment, with its chorus of stagnation and unemployment.

The change has indeed been bewilderingly quick, but cool heads cannot be sent spinning by a fusillade of speeches from politicians. How is it that the otherday, as it seems, the elimination of inflation was the supreme aim and its attendant costs in social and economic disruption had to be borne, but today we must have growth--whatever that term means--even at the price of busting the budget and increasing inflation?

The pat answer, given by the politicians and their henchmen, is that inflation has been killed (the January CPI of minus 1.3 percent "proved" this), and the fall in the price of oil and other fortunate external events have opened the way for a change in policy direction. This is summed up in the phrase: "The braking stage is over, and now we can begin to move ahead again." The debate centers, therefore, on how hard to press down on the accelerator.

The professional economists and the business community, have apparently been caught off guard by this sudden development, which they see as primarily political in inspiration. Their initial reactions were therefore muted, and even off the record they expressed more amusement than horror at the politicians' prattle. But only at first.

They are rapidly coming to realize that the commotion is neither PR nor political posturing, but is meant in deadly earnest. The indulgent smiles at "the politicians' pranks" are giving way to shock and consternation. The feeling is beginning to gain ground that the politicians, either out of innocent

naivete or crude self-interest, are going to eradicate all the progress chalked up since July 1985.

Even in the most charitable formulation--namely, that the new policy approach is based on the genuine belief that the emergency program has done its work and can now be dispensed with--the new "growth" strategies must be regarded as dangerous nonsense. Some of the problems have indeed been alleviated, but others are as bad or worse than they ever were. In no case is there room for the idea that "a little more inflation is a small price to pay for getting the economy moving again."

To illustrate the point more graphically, it is worth quoting a very senior and knowledgeable economist who told this reporter last week that "I told my wife to go and buy a new fridge, a dishwasher, and anything else she wanted, as quickly as possible. We're going back to triple digit inflation for the rest of the year and maybe well beyond."

To him and his ilk, the idea of "a little more inflation" is patently laughable. There is no such creature. Those who want a little will get a lot, because once the spiral is put into operation the process works by itself. Why? Because the emergency measures were not followed up with moves to break the linkage systems that have dominated--many would say destroyed--the economy over the last 10-20 years.

[TA250957] By extension, the idea of "growth," at least as it is being tossed around by the country's elected leaders, is equally risible. Whatever school of economics one follows, there is no way that a stagnant economy can be switched on at the stroke of a pen. To both socialist/planned economy believers and free-market/laissez faire fans, the threshold question is: Where is the money going to come from? Afterwards, they can argue what to do with it, or on what basis to allocate it. But that debate is premature in the present context. No one can see any large pool of resources coming free, barring the two possibilities of printing money directly or taking it from the Americans.

Either way, the result will be the same, because the first--and perhaps only--aim of all the "growth" talk is to bail out the major sectors of the economy that are now collapsing--agriculture, construction, health services, and so on down the dreary list. The end-product of this "growth" process will be a renewal of the inflation we hoped to have left behind.

The worst fears of the pessimists, however, of a return to hyperinflation of hundreds of percent per annum, are unlikely to be fulfilled. The constraints on the economy are too great. Put another way, that means that before inflation can get out of hand, the other and more fundamental weak link in the Israeli economic structure--the balance of payments--will snap. As to how that will happen, there is no mystery. We, the public, will do it by ourselves, with some help from overseas if necessary.

The large measure of public confidence, whose gradual rebuilding has underpinned the recent stability, would evaporate very quickly if and when the public became convinced that inflation was about to reemerge. As a result of the monetary policies of the Bank of Israel since last July, there exists an enormous pool of ready cash in shekel accounts. This "hot" money will pour into foreign currency, either of the black market or imported-consumer-goods variety, as soon as the equation loose money-inflation-devaluation gains currency. This run will rapidly deplete the foreign currency reserves and, coming on top of the renewal of inflation, will wipe out the government's hard-won credibility among international bankers. In short, we would be back where we were in the summer of 1984 and the spring of 1985.

This scenario, if it develops, will be brief--if only because the players, having been through it before, know their parts and will perform their roles with practiced smoothness. Faced with a balance of payments/foreign reserves crisis, the government will once again slam on the brakes, and back we will go for another round of recession.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of all this is that it does not matter much who will be in power at that time. It might be the current government, or an elected successor or a minority caretaker. It's all the same, because there are so few policy options to choose among in those crisis situations.

This demonstrates a point often overlooked by many people, and always deliberately blurred by the politicians themselves. The government calls very few of the shots in setting economic policy. Underneath the bombast and hot air are George Shultz, his American experts, the international financial markets, and the Israeli public. Between them, these forces determine the direction of policy and, usually, its timing as well.

[TA250952] But even they are not all-powerful. Does Shultz or his hevra [gang], or the "world financial community"--let alone the harassed Israeli public--have any real control over the forces shaping the world economy?" Did they, for instance, plan or predict--or even want--the collapse in oil prices at this time or with this intensity? To be blunt: The Americans cannot manage their own budget, so how can they manage ours? They cannot afford their own welfare programs, so why, how, and with what will they pay for ours?

While the Israeli politicians continue to pretend that they are running the economy and that, as in the 1960's, they can generate a recession at will and then replace it with growth when they so desire, the world has changed. Individual governments are admitting that, by themselves, they control nothing, and that even in concert they carry little weight. The fundamental forces in the world economy, the inflation of the 1970's, sweep everyone along with them--Russia, Europe, America, and all the rest. And even these forces have deeper roots, for how else could they erupt across the globe almost simultaneously?

The process of disinflation has barely begun in Israel. Its effects on the structure of the economy, along with the more permanent changes that new technologies are bringing, will be massive--far greater than our timid government has yet dared think about. The armies of clerks engaged in keeping accounts updated throughout a hyperinflationary economy--to take just one example--will be made redundant with attendant unemployment, wholesale changes in the relative size of industries, changes in the structure of the union movement, and how it perceives its role, and so on and so forth. There is nothing prophetic about all this; it is a process undergone by many other countries. It merely says that we will inevitably go with the world trend, and that if we resist we will be borne along by it later, more unwillingly, and in a generally worse position.

But our politicians are trapped in their outdated beliefs that they can determine the direction of the economy and that they have but to pronounce the command "let there be growth" and it will happen. Most of them never recovered from the events of the 1960's, or from what they were told or led to believe was the sequence of events then. What was done then, and the supposed consequences thereof, form the ground-rules for their attitudes and actions today.

They cling to the idea that elections can only be won by a party that "primes the pump" and showers goodies on the masses. Recessions and recoveries are macroeconomic games to them, played by pulling switches that they believe will make the entire economy dance to their tune. All the rules are fixed and therefore well known. The idea that anything might be different, let alone that there is a whole new ballgame going on, is unacceptable and alien to them.

"Do what was done last time" is the sole principle governing their approach to political economics. This leads to the display of ignorance-cum-stupidity, now highlighted in the "growth" debate and its potentially disastrous outcome. Each minister on his own may be described as a rare noodle. Together, they could succeed in turning the economy into lokshen kugel [noodle pudding].

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CSO: 4400/116

ISRAEL

POLL SHOWS STRONGER ALIGNMENT, STABLE LIKUD

TA281426 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Feb 86 p 2

[Text] The strength of the Alignment has slightly increased, the Likud has remained stable, and public support for Kahane has dropped appreciably. This emerges from a public opinion poll conducted for MA'ARIV by Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute, under the direction of Dr Mikha'el Etgar.

The strengthening of the Alignment, noted from September 1985 onward, continued in February. The Likud is in fact maintaining its strength, and the National Religious Party (NRP), the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM), and MAPAM are showing a slight increase.

This is a striking drop in the strength of the KAKH party, which is now being given three seats compared with the seven it received in September 1985 and the five seats it received in November 1985.

The appearance of the new party, the Liberal Center, on the State of Israel's political map in February 1986 has not won a political reaction and this party is not receiving sufficient support to rise above the minimum quota.

An examination of the public's voting patterns shows that the Alignment voters show greater loyalty than those who vote for the Likud. Some 63 percent of the Likud voters intend to continue to vote for that party in the future, while approximately 5 percent of them will vote for the Tehiya, 16 percent for the Alignment, and 10 percent have not decided for whom to vote.

In contrast to this, some 87 percent of the Alignment voters intend to vote again for the same party and only about 5 percent of them have not decided for whom to vote.

The poll was conducted between 11 and 21 February and 1,150 people representing the adult Jewish population of Israel (not including residents of kibbutzim), Judaea and Samaria, and the Golan Heights were interviewed.

To the question: "If elections to the Knesset were to be held today, for which party would you vote?" (answers given in numbers of seats), the answers were as follows:

	<u>February</u> <u>1986</u>	<u>November</u> <u>1985</u>	<u>September</u> <u>1985</u>	<u>Number of Knesset</u> <u>members in the</u> <u>current Knesset</u>
Alignment (Labor plus Yahad)	55	53	51	50
Likud	30	32	30	41
Liberal Center (the Liberal Center did not exist prior to February 1986)	--	--	--	--
NRP	4	3	3	4
Morasha	1	1	1 minus	2
Agudat Yisra'el	2	2	2	2
SHAS	4	3	3	4
Ometz	--	--	--	1
TAMI	--	--	--	1
MAPAM	2	1 plus	1 plus	6
Tehiya	7	8	8	5
CRM	5	4	7	4
Shinuy	1	2	1 plus	3
Hadash/Progressive List for Peace	6	6	6	6
KAKH/Kahane	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>
	120	120	120	120

/9365

CSO: 4400/116

ISRAEL

DAVAR REPORTS ON JERUSALEM DOMESTIC ARABIC RADIO

TA281150 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Feb 86 p 20

[Special report by Ya'el Admoni: "Strong Radio, Jerusalem Domestic Service in Arabic"]

[Text] "Zionist propaganda mouthpiece"; "a bridge to the Arab world"; "the voice of lightning from Jerusalem"; "a credible, effective media tool"; "high listening rate"; "no one listens to it"; "there is feedback." These are merely a few of the conflicting reactions to the Voice of Israel's Arabic-language broadcast. The network broadcasts 18 hours a day to the Arabs of Israel, the Arabs in the territories, and the Arab countries.

According to Edmond Sehiyek, the station's director, the chief target audience is the inhabitants of the Arab countries, and it is necessary to use a strong transmitter to reach them. The message that is aired, says Sehayek, is Israel's message: A desire for peace. Coexistence in one region. There is no other choice. We must live together. One senior Arab employee in the station says: I broadcast with the feeling that while this may not be paradise, let us at least not turn it into hell.

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Arabic broadcasts 16 newscasts a day, two 1-hour-long newsreels, and one domestic affairs program for the Arabs of Israel and the territories. On Friday, a weekly newsreel is broadcast. Sehayek says that the news department broadcasts objective information devoid of any foreign considerations apart from purely journalistic ones. However, he notes, we are embroiled in a conflict of interests: "On the one hand we serve the Arabs of Israel, who are by no means any different from the Jewish residents of this country in terms of their knowledge of Hebrew and in that they listen to the Hebrew-language broadcasts and show interest in whatever happens in the country. On the other hand, we also serve the Arab world which obtains most of its information from Arabic radio stations. A domestic strike in Israel is of absolutely no interest at all to the listener in Kuwait, but it certainly does interest the listener in the Galilee or in Nabulus. In the case of a strike, for instance, we will report it, but the reportage will be controlled and quantitatively limited. As for instances of arguments among ministers, here, too, there is a conflict. While the Israeli Arab will want to know precisely what words Moda'i used to attack Gur, the inhabitants of the Arab countries, living under totalitarian regimes, might get the wrong

idea of what is happening in this country as a result of such a report. We therefore report on the incident, but do not go into detail. When [former chief of staff] Rafa'el Eytan used the phrase 'intoxicated cockroaches caged in a bottle' [in reference to Arabs in a densely Jewish West Bank], we broadcast his remarks because we knew that all the Arab press editorials would refer to it the next day."

Alongside the news department, a political information department also functions, and its job is to explain Israel's official line. In this department, talkshows with an audience are held, with careful adherence to consensus. Thus, for example, Israel is not talking to the PLO which is, as everyone knows, a terrorist organization. The radio's Arabic-language information department, all of whose workers are Israeli, monitors anti-Israeli commentaries broadcast in Arab countries through the services of its listening unit, and reacts almost instantly. In many cases, this reaction includes excerpts from the Arab countries' broadcasts and an analysis of these statements along the lines of the Israeli Government's policy. One of the primary features of the information department is the program called "From the Mailbox," in which a commentator responds to listeners' letters. The answers to the questions are provided in coordination with "the agreed-upon elements." Some of the questions come from listeners in Israel and the territories, and others from Arab countries, reaching the station through a Geneva post office box. Saheyek talked about dozens of letters that reach the station daily and which he claims attest to the high listening rate it enjoys.

Both the station director and his employees often talk about the need for high credibility, resulting from the fierce competition with 52 stations in the area, all of which broadcast in Arabic. "In our reporting we beat the Arab stations in credibility and expeditiousness. We are subjected to no censorship, apart from the military censorship, which applies to all the media in Israel. No party functionary sits over our head. We maintain routine contact with the Civilian Administration, with the Defense Ministry, with the IDF, and with the Foreign Ministry. Not because we receive orders from them, but because they furnish us with information. That information is important for us for broadcasting updated, correct material," Sehayek says. "We know that Al-Asad listens to us. We know, furthermore, that not only does he listen to us, but he also takes what he hears into the framework of his considerations. If we broadcast irresponsibly, a crisis may erupt. In this respect, we are encumbered by a responsibility heavier than the one that rests on the shoulders of the Hebrew-language broadcaster."

[TA281230] Sehayek believes that the station's credibility in normal times contributes greatly to listening during times of war. He says about the latter: "When human lives are at stake, there is no more supreme consideration. During war one stops playing with credibility and all the means are legitimate. During war, the station is a fighting station whose sole interest is Israel's safety." Sehayek believes that the greater the security tension, the higher the listening rate, irrespective of whether the content of the broadcasts during such times sounds like programmatic, one-sided, propaganda. "More people listen during these periods, because the listeners want to know what is happening around them: Is there a curfew, where was a handgrenade thrown," Sehayek says.

The picture that emerges from the words of the station employees and its directors does not harmonize with the assessment of various people I had asked to comment on the broadcasts. One of them, an Arab journalist and writer, said amusedly that the difference between the Voice of Israel's Hebrew broadcasts and its Arabic programs is like the difference between the Royal Shakespeare Company and a local community theater. Salman Maslaha, who is writing his PhD in Islamic studies, says: "The aim behind the Arabic-language broadcasts is declared propaganda. One cannot compare the state-operated Hebrew broadcasts to the political intervention that can be noticed in the Arabic programs. If the communists are ostracized in the Hebrew broadcasts, the Arabic radio makes this much more pronounced. One can discern slightly greater openness in the news compared to a few years ago, but I only listen to the Hebrew news. The urban intelligentsia of the Israeli Arab population never listens to the [Arabic] news, and certainly not to the programs. In the villages, it is mostly the more elderly inhabitants who listen to the broadcasts, and then, too, they mainly listen to music, the news, [as published] and the sports broadcasts."

Knesset member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah says that up until a few years ago the Arabic radio broadcast propaganda was not geared for the Israeli Arabs. "Today the station broadcasts more for the local population, and the Israeli Arabs listen to it more than to any other Middle East station. The news is credible, and there is liberalization." At the same time, Darawshah adds, it is necessary to abolish the propaganda program for the inhabitants of southern Lebanon, and in general "there are some programs that insult common sense."

MK Muhammad Watad says that the political commentary is very often one-dimensional, blunt in style, and crude in phrasing. But, he claims, this is largely overshadowed by the very many advantages of the newsreels, which are "multifaceted and an expression of all the various hues of Israeli political spectrum."

Palestinian journalist Ziyad Abu Ziyad believes that the Arabic radio programs are listened to in the territories both because most of the population cannot follow the Hebrew programs due to language difficulties, and because it is important for the people to know what is happening, if only for the weather forecast. "Recently the station has toned down the propaganda it airs, which offends the Palestinian population, and is making less use of such words as 'terrorists,' for instance. It has become more factual in terms of its reportage, but anyone who thinks that everyone in the territories always listens to the stations is far from correct."

Salman Maslaha believes that any self-respecting Arab will never go and work for the station, because it serves as an Israeli propaganda machine. Emil Khaz'al, who edits the radio's newsreels, cannot ignore the identity dilemma he faces as an Arab employee of a Zionist radio station: "As a salaried employee, I accept the authority of my employer. I disassociate my private views from my work. If I had suspected for a minute that this radio is only a Zionist propaganda mouthpiece, I would not have worked here." Khaz'al talks

about the difficult times at the station, when the Arab workers were discriminated against in comparison with the Jews." "In the past our promotion was halted. When news editing and newsreel writers' courses opened, the condition for acceptance to them was that the candidate be a discharged soldier. At that time, Tommy [Yosef] Lapid was the director general of the Israel Broadcasting Authority. I went to him and told him that I was personally hurt by the advertisement. I asked him how he thought an Arabic radio could function without Arabs. I threatened to appeal to the High Court of Justice. One week later, Lapid struck off that condition." At the same time, there are no Arabs among the newscast editors, but Khaz'al says that a certain improvement has been marked in the status of the Arab workers, and thanks Sehayek for this. "We Arabs are sensitive, for better or for worse. Sehayek understands this sensitivity and has given us absolute backing."

Ibrahim Shahid, the correspondent for affairs in the territories, resides in East Jerusalem: "I, as a journalist, cover events without expressing my opinion on them. Although I broadcast in a state-run radio, I have not encountered the same kind of censorship problems that exist in the Arab world. When I first started working for the radio, I was afraid that I would be branded as traitor and collaborator. Today many inhabitants of the territories approach me and beseech me not to leave the radio. If I did not work there, perhaps someone else would, who might be worse."

[TA281235] Khaz'al and Shahid both mentioned small incidents involving Israeli administration officials who refused to hold meetings with Arab journalists. The same happened with senior officers in the territories and with ministers. However, their Israeli colleagues foiled many other such attempts. In terms of the listeners, they both say, this is naturally very important. They know we are everywhere and report about everything. "Many listeners in the territories find it hard to believe that we are really Arabs. Occasionally they ask me: 'How come you, as an Arab, accompany the chief of staff on a tour?'"

The presence of Arab reporters in the news department has resulted in a certain moderation in reporting. Khaz'al: "A few years ago, one listener complained that the word 'terrorists' was used 20 times in one single newscast. I am careful to call them 'PLO members' or 'members of the organizations.' When the directorate came to me with complaints, I explained that I am an Arab who lives in an Arab neighborhood and has a family and friends and do not want to be blacklisted. Over the past few years the practice has been to quote directly when a passage is cited. When hostile terrorist activity is reported on, we regard it as a terrorist act, but when we speak for ourselves we refer to the case factually and in accordance with the circumstances. We will not present the Husayn-'Arafat meeting as the meeting between Husayn and 'the leader of the terrorists.'"

Jerusalem Arabic's political correspondent, Aldad Pardo, believes that any radio station broadcasting in Arabic must adopt the mentality of the source country. Just as VOA in Arabic is a U.S. station, and the BBC's Arabic service is essentially British, thus Jerusalem Domestic Service in Arabic is

essentially British, thus Jerusalem Domestic Service in Arabic is an Israeli radio station. "The most exciting thing for me at work in the Arabic radio station is the cultural meeting place. Israel is the seam connecting cultures. This is precisely what I try to emphasize in the reports I prepare." Pardo says that the fact that the Voice of Israel in Arabic broadcasts from a free country gives it a tremendous advantage over other Arabic stations. "There is no room for comparison between our newsreels and those emanating from Amman. In Egypt the newsreels are beautiful, but Egypt is not a free country, and this is clearly felt."

Research has been carried out at Bi'r Zayt University on the Arabic-language radio, and it states, among other things, that this is a tool for psychological warfare, to which Pardo reacts thus: "They cannot face the fact that we broadcast the truth." Sehayek believes that the conclusions of the paper speak for themselves: "If they call upon the residents not to tune to us so as not to be affected by us, this proves that our broadcasts are valuable and have an audience."

Says Emil Khaz'al: "We provide the listener with a picture of the situation. We do not ignore problems. When I reported on the Peace Now demonstration opposite the KAKH rally in Binyeney Ha'Ooma [convention hall in Jerusalem, held a few weeks ago], I highlighted the fact that there were 5,000 Jews present, who took the trouble to come and demonstrate against Kahane. No Arab media tool could do that."

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CSO: 4400/116

ISRAEL

PALESTINIAN PRESS SERVICE VIEWED

TA030845 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Mar 86 p 5

[Article by Aaron Leibel: "Talking to Palestinians"]

[Text] The Palestine Press Service [PPS] is no ordinary news agency. Unlike its counterparts around the world, the PPS's main function is not disseminating news, but rather serving as "a meeting place for anyone wanting to talk to Palestinians," according to Ibrahim Qar'in, the agency's co-owner. In addition, it is an ardent advocate of Yasir 'Arafat's PLO Fatah faction, "the mainstream, the main moderate line of the Palestinian community," in the words of Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, managing editor of the news service's English bulletins and of its biweekly Arabic-language Al-'Awdah magazine.

The agency was founded by Raymonda al-Tawil, its current owner in tandem with Qar'in in 1977. At that time, it put out two daily bulletins: an English-language summary of the Palestinian press and a list of any security incidents occurring on the West Bank and in the Gaza District. Publication of the bulletins was stopped in 1983 by the Israeli Government, which accused the PPS of printing them without a license. (Qar'in claims he applied for a license after the ban, but his request was denied.) Despite the prohibition on printing bulletins, the agency continued supplying its subscribers--mostly foreign journalists stationed here--with information by telephone.

Six months earlier, the PPS had received permission to publish AL-'AWDAH in English and Arabic, but was forbidden to distribute it in the territories.

In 1984, the agency was accused of being funded by the PLO and threatened with closure.

Both Qar'in and Abu 'Ayyash vehemently denied the accusation. Foreign friends and Israeli journalists were drafted to help resist the move, Qar'in explained. "On the day of our court hearing," he said, "Israel Radio announced that (Prime Minister) Shim'on Peres opposed the closure. Nevertheless, we went to court and presented our evidence. Our lawyer told the court that we intended to appeal to the Supreme Court, but as yet we have received no word of any ruling on the case."

For an organization allegedly dedicated to promoting dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians, the PPS appears to have had an inordinately high number of problems with the authorities. Qar'in has an answer to this seeming inconsistency. "The Israeli Government wants either quislings or radicals. A quisling says, 'Yes sir.' A radical opposes any solution. We are neither."

Despite frequent brushes with the law, the PPS seems to be holding its own financially. It is located in a fourth-floor suite of offices, replete with computer terminals and a telex machine, on Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem. It continues to provide its 50 subscribers with information on the territories by telephone. The agency has recently inaugurated an experimental service to supply the bulletin to a limited number of subscribers by telex. Qar'in hopes to expand this service to many more local subscribers in about a month.

The agency also sends articles and data to papers in the Arab world and serves as a stringer for such media giants as the ABC and CBS television networks.

In addition to revenues from these activities, the PPS has received grants from the World Council of Churches and other philanthropic organizations. "With all those sources of income, we are managing to survive financially," says Abu 'Ayyash.

[TAO30850] In separate interviews, both Qar'in and Abu 'Ayyash continually return to the PPS's role as a meeting place. "I believe in getting together," says Qar'in. "I think that dialogue is the key word. The approach of the office is to help people to get to know each other."

Both men proudly note the help they extend to journalists writing stories on the West Bank and the interviews with Israelis they print in their publications. "We have interviewed Israeli leftists and doves," said 'Abu Ayyash, "including members of MAPAM, the Citizens Rights Movement, and Shinuy. In this way, we opened a new avenue to the Palestinians. In order to understand the Israelis, we have to talk to them."

The agency's role in promoting political dialogue stems not only from policy, explains Qar'in, but is almost natural. "As Palestinians, we cannot be only professional, aloof from politics. In the same way, when Israelis and Palestinians meet, they cannot only discuss professional matters. After a while, they must get down to the main subject--politics."

Qar'in was right, for inevitably our discussions turned to Arab-Israeli politics. Although denying any financial or organizational links to the PLO, both men openly support this organization. "Every Palestinian in the occupied territories is in favor of the PLO," says Abu 'Ayyash. "The PLO represents the dream of restoring our national identity. Israelis make a mistake by not differentiating between passionate support of and membership in the PLO. If I say I am a Palestinian and want a state in the territories, I want to be free, to live in a democratic country, to have a passport, a flag--this does not mean I am a member of the PLO."

Both men support 'Arafat and see talks between him and Israeli leaders as the only road to peace. But Abu 'Ayyash says he could not ask 'Arafat to refrain from terror in order to promote the peace process. 'Arafat has already made many concessions, he claims, "putting him under fire from Palestinian radicals. He gambled his personal career. He told the PNC that we want peace and accept all the UN resolutions, not only 242 and 338, but all of them. Who can guarantee that Israel would give him something if he made more concessions?"

Neither man is optimistic about imminent progress in the peace process. (Abu 'Ayyash was interviewed before King Husayn's recent speech in which the monarch declared an end to the Jordanian-PLO peace initiative; Qar'in, a day after the speech.) Qar'in sees a possible stepped-up role for Egypt, now that Jordan has stepped aside. He insists there can be no substitute for the PLO in negotiations. "Those who speak for the Palestinians must enjoy the support of the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people if we are to have an everlasting, just peace," he maintains. "We don't want a repeat of the Israel-Lebanon treaty."

Difficult missions require great leaders, Abu 'Ayyash concludes. "We need another Ben-Gurion in Israel, to demand talks with the PLO," he asserts.

/9365

CSO: 4400/116

ISRAEL

HIGH FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DESCRIBED

Tel Aviv QESHER ELEQTRONIQQA MAHSHAVIM in Hebrew Sep 85 pp 17-20

[Article by Dr Yosef Perl, Tadiran Communications Division: "A High Frequency Waves Management System in Real Time--HFMS"; no footnotes published in original article although superscript numbers appear in text]

[Text] The domain of high frequency waves is widely used for the purpose of long range communication (hundreds and thousands of kilometers) and of short range tactical communication. The only commutative means of HF long range communication is through satellites, a method that requires expensive equipment and that has in recent years been described as vulnerable. In contrast, HF communication is based on small and inexpensive radio sets which permit long distance links based on the properties of the ionosphere, which reflects electromagnetic waves within the HF range. The same ionosphere which permits communication within the HF range also causes the main difficulties occurring in HF communication. The major difficulty stems from the variable properties of the ionosphere as a function of the time of day, season, and solar activities. The changing nature of the ionosphere requires frequent changes in working frequencies. In addition to the expansion properties of the ionosphere, the HF range is also subject to natural and man-made disturbances. Various adjustable communication systems have been suggested in order to overcome these difficulties. Adjustable HF communication systems can be divided into two groups:

--Frequency management systems, i.e., communication systems designed to provide the best frequency at the given moment. When the current working frequency deteriorates, the frequency management system seeks and provides a better frequency for the communication system. The result of frequency management is to activate the communication system on the best "average" frequency.

--Communication establishment systems, i.e., communication systems which perform automatic scanning in order to obtain the best frequency for the purpose of establishing communication at the given moment between two stations. In these systems the scanning is normally done on a small and previously defined collection of frequencies.

Regardless of the classification of the adjustable systems, there are two mandatory steps in the determination of the optimal frequency.

--Determination of the best frequency from the viewpoint of the expansion properties of the ionosphere.

--Ascertaining the level of interference on this frequency, particularly on the receiver side.

In order to determine the best expansion ranges in the HF range it is necessary to sound the channel and study the signal. The study includes examination of various properties such as signal strength, channel multiplication scatter (differential delay), Doppler scatter, and fading. After the selection of the optimal range or frequency, the frequency management system requires reliable and available means of allocating the selected frequency among the members of the communication network. The allocation must be done using means and methods that are independent of disturbances or that can overcome the interferences that the frequency management system is designed to deal with.

The first frequency selection procedures, such as the CHEC method, were primarily based on measuring the level of interference and determining the strength of the signal received in relation to the noise. ²

This approach emerged from practical studies which showed that disturbances caused by such interference were greater than those caused by interference due to expansion conditions in proportion of 1:5.³ Improvements on the CHEC method have been suggested⁴ on the basis of the discovery of the interference spectrum, according to which the modem will adapt information-carrying tones in the quiet channels of the frequency band. The RACE method⁵ (frequency deployment in real time), which is close to the CHEC method, checks the frequencies according to BER deployments with the aid of a frequency broaching modem (FSK). These (BER) deployments are obtained by measuring the ratio of pseudo errors to bits (pseudo BER).⁶ The current frequency selection methods are based on chirp sounders, designed to produce a panoramic overview of expansion paths and interference intensity with the aid of periodical surveys of the HF spectrum.⁷ In contrast to previous but still existing methods, the HFMS sounder is an integral part of the system, which combines the frequency merging and management functions with the actual establishment of the connection.

HFMS Adjustment Classification

An independent adjustable HF connection system will fulfill all the functions, including frequency management and connection establishment. The systems currently in use meet only one of the above requirements. The LINK-11 system and the other big and expensive systems based on oblique sounders fulfill only the frequency management function. Moreover, these systems are only suitable for channel management, and not for the management of a signal network.

The problem of how to provide comprehensive solutions to signal network management is not an impossible one, and the answer may be based on oblique

sounders, but one must take into account the investments required and the need for a synchronized monitoring center such as the CURTS system.⁷ On the other hand, tactical systems such as SCANCALL⁹ or SELSCAN⁸ are designed to establish the link only. As a consequence of the blocking [hasimut] of allotted communication frequencies, an interrupted connection cannot be reestablished because these systems do not have the means of selecting and allocating frequencies.

The HFMS incorporates the functions of frequency management and connection establishment for the network and even performs active and passive sounding in part of the HF spectrum from which the most suitable free frequencies are selected for use. The sounding is performed several times within 24 hours (four times, for example) although it can be carried out whenever desirable or necessary. During or in between soundings the HFMS carries out a process of connection establishment between two network stations according to the operators' purposes. The sounding, selection, and ensuing allocation are the functional steps performed by the HFMS. Thus, the system provides the best frequencies for HF communication within a previously defined HF range. These selected frequencies are the best on the average, but can sometimes be subject to temporary disturbances; however, at all times there is one frequency which is the best for the purposes of the communication. The communication adjustment is performed by the HFMS system, which provides fast and optimal connections for the network stations.

System Structure (configurations)

The HFMS was designed so as to work in combination with various HF sets, provided they can be controlled from a distance. The control required is that the working frequency can be monitored from a distance and the receiver has an outlet emitting data at the tension level of its automatic ameliorator (AGC). The speed with which the frequency change occurs must be known and noted as a primary parameter in the HFMS unit. The time of frequency change for the entire network is established according to the set in which the change is the slowest. In the local configuration, the HFMS is connected to the local radio set as a monitoring unit, designed to monitor the working frequency and determine the type of data of which the apparatus is in charge (audio or modem). Other parameters, such as the modulation system, type of noise suppression, and transmission strength are determined with the aid of monitors located in the front casing of the radio set. The sounds enter and exit through the HFMS unit.

There are several remote monitoring configurations in which the HFMS, or the radio set, or their front casing are split and are not located in one spot. In such cases the HFMS or its monitoring unit simulate the radio set toward the radio monitoring set and vice versa.

HFMS Functions

The system has two functions:

--Selecting the 10 best frequencies out of the 100 previously established ones. These 100 frequencies constitute the "HFMS channel."

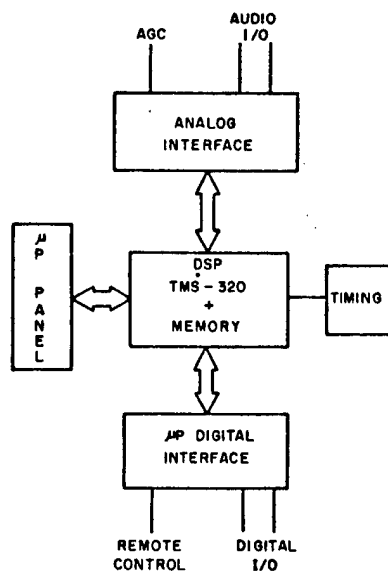


FIGURE 2: SOFTWARE IMPLEMENTED MESA
BLOCK DIAGRAM.

--Performing the reading procedure on the best free frequency among the 10 reading frequencies, and establishing connections through them. The two functions are time interleaved and do not interfere with each other. The frequency management and connection establishment functions are performed with the aid of regular HF sets.

Start Off

Several preparatory steps are required before putting the HFMS system into use.

The following data must be noted in the HFMS memory through a manual [yadani] loader or through the front casing:

--The frequency range (day and night) from which the "HFMS channel" will be selected. Banned and recommended frequencies will also be noted.

--Crypto keys.

--The exact hour up to an approximation of ± 3 minutes, and the time of transition from day frequency to night frequency and vice-versa.

--The maximum time required to change the frequency in the network.

--The function of the unit in the network, as monitor or as network member.

--The 10 first reading frequencies (day and night).

--Addresses (reading code) of the network members.

In addition, the following data must be noted in the communication monitor:

--The network stations apt to answer the sounding.

--The sounding dates, and whether they are automatically initiated.

The Communication Process

The same series of 10 frequencies are at the disposal of all N stations of the network, determined at the latest sounding cycle (the frequency management process). Each HFMS contains a quality matrix of the size $(N-1) \times 10$ which includes connection quality measurements on each of the 10 frequencies to each of the remaining $(N-1)$ network participants.

These measurements are updated in the wake of each communication attempt within the network. Each time station A initials a call to station B the HFMS of A checks the matrix and selects the best frequency for a communication channel between A and B.

When the connection fails to be made, the receiver scans and searches for reading signals on the 10 communication frequencies and oversees all the 100 frequencies to garner statistical data on the frequency load for the following sounding cycle. The total reading time is about 4 seconds if the selected frequency is free, and if it is not the reading is passed on to the second best frequency, and so on. Since the quality levels required for sound transmission or messages are different, the HFMS selects the frequency in accordance with the purpose.

Frequency Management Process

The frequency management consists of one passive and several active operations. The passive operation consists of monitoring the channel occupancy on the 100 frequencies of the "HFMS channel."

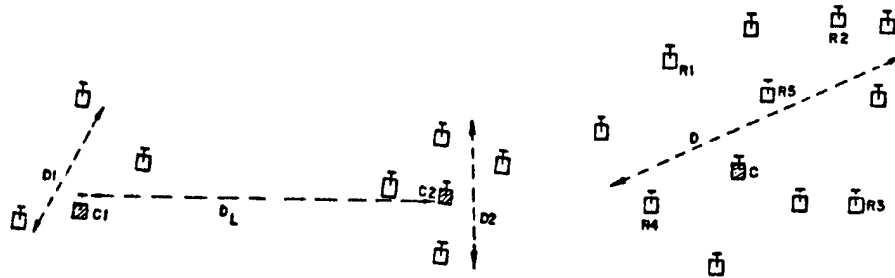
The HFMS of each network station measures the level of disturbance at its site. In view of the fact that the network stations are sited at various locations, the disturbance level will also differ from one station to the next, and this will be reflected in a changing interference measurement pattern (IMP). The IMP at the sounder site serves as sounding signal. The sounding message is transmitted on each of the 100 wavelengths with the aid of an internal HF modem. The receiver modem represents the pattern [doguem] for each of the 100 channels tested according to time and frequency, and reconstructs the sounder IMP according to the decoding majority.

On the receiver side, the transmitted signal is revealed, the scatter quality is tested on each frequency, the IMP is checked, and that permits the selection of the best frequencies out of the 100 under observation. In the case of scatter symmetry, after the sounding is completed the receiver has sufficient information to select the 10 best frequencies.

When a geographical area is known for asymmetry, a repeat sounding is carried out in the opposite direction and the frequencies are selected by the sounder. The 10 frequencies selected are allocated to the network stations and remain at the disposal of the system network until the next updating.

Structure of the HFMS Net

The HFMS system deals with the frequency management at link level (see diagram 1a) and at net level (diagram 1b). The HF link in diagram 1a is between two areas located at a distance of hundreds or thousands of kilometers. Within the area, the network stations are within the range of ground waves (several km).



The connection process takes place between two stations regardless of their geographical location, but the frequency management system [see text for symbol] is optimization-effective only for the long range link. In the one-way sounder method the optimal frequencies are selected by the net controller. The selection is based on the reception quality of the sounder message. The frequency allocation is performed by the net controller. In the two-way sounder method, both the selection and the allocation are performed by the sounder, in accordance with the opposite sounding performed by the net controller.

The net described in diagram 1b is located in a relatively limited geographical area (200x200 km) and the sounding method is solely two-way. In this net, the repeat sounding is performed in the opposite direction by a few of the stations, which inform the sounder of the frequencies selected. The network stations are chosen for this function by the sounder, which informs them of the fact. During the performance of the sounding process, the sounder is aware of the net dispersal and selects the stations so as to ensure coverage of the entire network area. When the number of stations is relatively small (less than five), they all perform the repeat sounding.

On the basis of these reports, the sounder selects the best common collection of frequencies and allocates them for use by all the network stations.
[diagram]

The HFMS system is now at the stage of engineering demonstration; field tests are expected to take place in the second half of 1985. The evaluation of the parameters of the various HF links is performed by a digital signal processor of the TMS-320 family. The modem operations, required in order to manage the frequencies and establish the connection, are also performed with the aid of the above signal processor. The HFMS contains an additional micro controller

designed to control the radio set and the frontal casing of the HFMS, which is in command of the signal processor function.

This article presents an efficient implementation of an innovative method of combining HF frequency management with adjustable communication. A preliminary test has shown that such a method can considerably improve communication on HF links.

Preliminary Test to Verify the Basic Assumption of the System Approach

In order to verify the HFMS approach, a field test was devised and carried out between Holon and Eilat (about 300 km). The objective was to verify the assumption that out of a large number of randomly selected frequencies, it is highly reasonable to expect to find one (or several) frequencies on which it is possible to transmit a digital message without errors. The size of the frequency disposal and the length of the message are among the variable factors of the problem. The required size of the frequency disposal (which had been randomly selected) was also tested for the purpose of transmitting a digital message by repeat transmissions and majority decoding. We bring here several of the test results.

The test featured repeat transmissions of 200 bits sections. The transmission used an MD-522 slow modem working on the frequency coding FSK method, and 100 and 400 watt transmitters. The transmission antenna in Holon was an adapted wide band dipole antenna, while the reception antenna in Eilat was a long wire antenna. The transmission took place during most of the hours of the day and night; the messages were recorded on the receiver side for the purpose of computer analysis.

Two types of tests were carried out. One type incorporated repeat messages at high frequency at approximately 10 second intervals. The frequencies selected were not of the best; on the contrary, several noisy frequencies were selected in order to create the most authentic conditions possible.

In the second type of test, the same 200 bit messages were transmitted on various frequencies at 4 kHz intervals within the same range and at the same hour.

The time intervals between the repeat transmissions were about 1 or 2 minutes --the interval required for the frequency skip. The quality of the sound transmission was examined in some experiments immediately after the transmission of the digital message in order to check the suitability of each frequency for sound signals.

The results of the tests verified the basic assumption of the system approach. The main finding was that the number of frequencies required in order to find among them, with a high degree of probability, a frequency that will permit message transmission without errors is 65-120.

The results collected were examined by a computer, and several of them are presented below.

TABLE T1-MAJORITY DECISION AND MESSAGE BER STATISTICS:
SINGLE FREQUENCY

MESSAGE SET	M	MA	MB	MC	MD	ME	MF	MG	MH	MK
NUMBER OF MESSAGES	110	55	55	55	22	22	22	22	22	55
C PERCENT	73	80	66	71	80	80	83	83	40	87
C PERCENT	13	12	18	14	12	16	16	14	26	10
NUMBER OF FAILED BITS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	21	0
PERCENT C BELOW 20 PERCENT	0	0	2	0.5	0	0	2	0	26	0
C MAX PERCENT	94	96	96	96	100	100	100	100	100	100
C MIN PERCENT	22	45	0	0	45	33	4	45	0	44
BER	.039	.02	.175	.152	.04	.101	.085	.085	.307	.069
BER	.125	.092	.136	.122	.108	.085	.069	.059	.098	.088
BER _{max}	.520	.381	.468	.489	.381	.300	.247	.200	.468	.390
BER _{min}	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1 presents a typical result obtained during the experiment. The 200 bits test message was transmitted 110 times on the same frequency (5.44 MHz) between 1500-1530 hours. The messages received were BER examined, and all 200 bits of the message were calculated by "majority decoding" for all the 110 messages received. With this method, all 200 bits were received without error.

In addition to counting the failed bits by majority decoding, the confidence value of all the bits was also found. The CI confidence value of 1 bit when I=1,2,3...200 was calculated by:

$$CI = \frac{(B_T - 2B_E) \times 100\%}{BT}$$

When: all the bits received = B_T failed bits.

The expectation [symbol no 2], the norm deviation $6C$, and the minimum and maximum values of CI for I=1...200 were also calculated, as was the cumulative percentage of bits whose confidence value was below 20 percent (less reliable bits).

These results are presented in the first column of Table 1. When deciding on the number of links for study (N) one must compromise between a high N value permitting a wide link choice and reliable interpretation according to majority decoding, and a low N value permitting a rapid overview and immediate decision. In order to clarify this point, 100 messages were divided into subgroups, and the majority decoding and ensuing observation were performed for each subgroup separately. If the 100 messages constitute the vector $M=(M1, M22...M100)$ then the following subgroups are observed in table 1:

Case A: MA=(M1,---,M55)
 Case B: MB=(M56,---,M110)
 Case C: MC=(M1,M3,M5,---,M109)
 Case D: MD=(M1,---,M22)
 Case E: ME=(M23,---,M44)
 Case F: MF=(M45,---,M66)
 Case G: MG=(M67,---,M88)
 Case H: MH=(M89,---,M110)

An examination of table 1 shows that in the second half, i.e., in case B, the BER is high and confidence values are low (some 2 percent below the 20 percent established), while one bit even failed in the majority decoding. In an additional division of the message, we see that this is due to case H and to the poor quality of the last 22 messages (probably because of the deterioration of link conditions). In this case, if the N selected had been 22 (or even 55) the majority decoding method would have failed for the test messages. This highlights the importance of a high N value. In case K the series featured 55 messages and was transmitted on one channel between 1020 and 1045 hours. The BER performances and confidence value statistics improved in comparison with parallel series received the previous day (examples MA, MB, and MC).

TABLE T2-MAJORITY DECISION AND MESSAGE BER STATISTICS

MESSAGE SET	M-1	M-2	M-3	M-4	M-5	M-6	M-7	M-51	M-52	M-71	M-72	M-73
CENTER FREQ (MHz)	5.44	40	5.58	5.43	6.0	5.0	5.54	6.0	6.0	5.54	5.54	5.54
HOP SIZE (KHz)	4	4 and 5	4	4	100	200	4	100	100	4	4	4
NUMBER OF 22 MESSAGES		25	53	90	35	11	63	15	15	21	21	21
C PERCENT	72	80	88	94	81	80	86	71	91	95	95	68
C PERCENT	16	12	9	4	14	17	7	22	10	7	7	18
FAILED BITS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
PERCENT C BELOW 20%	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
C MAX PERCENT	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
C MIN PERCENT	10	32	45	75	40	27	57	0	57	71	71	15
BER	.146	.102	.061	.029	.098	.101	.070	.146	.047	.026	.026	.162
BER	.123	.103	.081	.071	.126	.142	.099	.171	.069	.056	.053	.116
BER MAX	.418	.306	.344	.410	.440	.340	.401	.465	.202	.244	.195	.417
BER MIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2 shows the results of the method testing with frequency skips. The following remarks occurred upon examination of the results:

--The transmission began on "reasonable" frequencies, i.e., frequencies whose average sound quality was about 3. Frequency skips of 4 kHz (or more) were made around those frequencies. This approach is similar to the method of selecting the HFMS link in the medium frequency range.

--Experiment M-6 on table 2 shows good results, particularly for N=1, mainly thanks to the operation of a powerful 400W transmitter instead of the 100W transmitter used for all the other experiments.

--Experiments M-5.1 and M-5.2 are two subtests of experiment M-5. Interestingly, in the case of M-5 none of the bits failed and the confidence value of the bits was higher than 20 percent. If we examine only the first half of the message (M-5.1), the results will be different. One bit failed in the decoding majority, and the confidence value of two bits (2 percent) will be below 20 percent. The second half (M-5.2) yielded far better results. A similar phenomenon was revealed in experiment M-7, concerning subtests M-7.1, M-7.2, and M-7.3. Although bits did not fail in any of the subtests, case M-7.3 is marginal, because 2 percent of its bits had a confidence value below 20 percent, and the general average was also low.

Conclusions

The results obtained in these tests showed the desirable N value (the number of links that can be heard). This number was found to be relatively high (60-125).

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CSO:4423/81

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

NEW NEWS AGENCY--JTA, the JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY, has withdrawn its opposition to the establishment of another news agency in Israel. The establishment of the news agency was announced in Jerusalem last week by the Government Press Office and the World Zionist Organization's information department at the International Colloquium of the Jewish Press. The new news agency will issue weekly reviews of events, official government statements, documents and background material, reports on the Zionist Federation, and excerpts from the Israeli press, including editorials. This will be done via the electronic and international media. [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Jan 86 p 2 TA] /9365

ISRAELI ARMS DEALERS SEEK IRANIAN SALES--Paris--Scores of arms dealers are now rushing to hold secret talks and submit offers of arms and equipment sales to Iranian embassies and diplomatic missions in some European countries, including France. Numerous Israeli arms dealers left Israel recently for this purpose. Informed political sources have revealed that (Uri Lubran), a senior Israeli diplomat who worked in Iran during the reign of the Shah and a close associate of the Iranians, is currently in London where he met secretly with a top level Iranian security official. Israel is looking favorably on the recent intensification of the battles between Iran and Iraq. Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin is quoted as saying: We have patiently waited for the Iranians to initiate large-scale military attacks on Iraq and we are now waiting for the outcome. [Text] [Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 13 Feb 86 pp 1, 21] /9365

FAMILY REUNIFICATION REQUESTS REJECTED--The Civilian Administration's acting commander of the Gaza Strip has reported that 2,937 requests for family reunification were submitted to the Judaea and Samaria authorities in 1985, and that only 10 of them were approved. Some 171 such requests were submitted in the Gaza Strip area, and 45 of them were approved. This data was provided to the High Court of Justice in an affidavit on behalf of Major Yosef Avraham in response to an appeal submitted by two inhabitants of the Gaza District whose requests to allow them to bring the wives they married abroad into the area were denied by the defense authorities. "Israel is not interested in allowing any resident of the area who so wishes to marry a woman overseas and bring her here. The decision as to who will enter and reside in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is a matter for the authorities to decide, and the inhabitants cannot force their personal opinions on the administration," the affidavit stated,

adding that the Military Government permits local residents to leave for the sake of family reunification outside the area. It also said that the policy is to comply with a minimum of requests for family reunification in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. [ITIM report] [Text] [TA141700 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Feb 86 p 3] /9365

KAHANE SILENCED IN QIRYAT MALAKHI--Last night Knesset Member Meir Kahane did not succeed in making his voice heard at a rally he had organized in Qiryat Malakhi. Thousands of residents gathered there, among them many young people from the town and the nearby kibbutzim and moshavin, and they used hundreds of whistles to drown out Kahane's voice. The young people sang and danced and carried placards under Kahane's nose: "This is not Nuremburg"; "Heil, Kahane." A large force of policemen prevented clashes between Kahane's few supporters, among whom some Habad Hassidic Jews featured prominently, and his opponents. The policemen also defended Kahane and made it possible for him to leave the place. [By Dani Tzidqoni] [Text] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Feb 86 p 6] /9365

SETTLEMENT EXPANSION SOUGHT--The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has decided to try to influence coalition factions to establish new settlements in the territories. If the operation is unsuccessful, the Council will consider the possibility of the existing settlements seeing to the establishment of new settlements. The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has also condemned what it calls the alignment ministers' campaign of incitement against settlement and the confrontation they are trying to create between the development towns and the settlements in the territories. Our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar reports that these decisions were preceded by a fierce argument between a group, headed by Elyaqim Ha'etzni, which is proposing that the settlement take upon themselves responsibility for expanding settlements, and another, headed by Rabbi Yo'el Bin-Nun, which is against this path. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Feb 86] /9365

COPTIC COLLEGE BUILDING ARRANGEMENT--An arrangement has been found that would allow the Coptic College to be established in Bayt Hanina, north of Jerusalem. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that following consultations with the prime minister over the weekend, an agreement was reached to authorize the Interior Ministry to take action to approve the establishment of the college. The IDF has recently rescinded its opposition to the establishment of the Coptic College in the designated area. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Mar 86] /9365

FEBRUARY STATE REVENUES--State revenues registered an increase of 10 percent in real terms in February compared with the same month in 1985, and amounted to over 1 billion new shekels. State revenues from import tax and value-added tax did not increase and this indicates stability among consumers and importers. Revenues from sales tax on local products and fuel tax registered a slight decrease. From the beginning of the fiscal year until February 1986 state revenues were 6 percent higher than during the same period last year, and amounted to 11 billion new shekels. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Mar 86 TA] /9365

FEBRUARY SOVIET EMIGRATION--Last month 84 Jews left the Soviet Union. Only 21 of them immigrated to Israel. [Text] [Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Mar 86 TA] /9365

LEBANON

FADLALLAH DISCUSSES ISLAM, LEBANESE, AREA ISSUES

Paris POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE in French Autumn 85 pp 265-70

[Interview with Shaykh Mohamed Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual leader of the Hezbollah party, generally considered the guide of the fundamentalist Shi'ites), by Randa Takieddine, Lebanese journalist, correspondent in Paris for the Lebanese weekly AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT, and specialist in Middle East political and economic questions): "Imperial Islam"; date and place not given]

[Question] Shaykh Fadlallah, how do you envision the probable development of the situation in Lebanon today?

[Answer] There is no sign of any real development on the Lebanese political scene. This is so because it is now less a matter of solving the Lebanese crisis than of controlling it in order to avoid disrupting the present status quo. If this status quo were to disappear, the way would be open for other kinds of settlements which, apart from Lebanon, concern the Middle East as a whole. As a matter of fact, as we all know, the United States is secretly hatching a plot targeting this area. As a result, if a political void were to be created, certain factions would not fail to take advantage of it immediately, which would put them in a position of strength for future negotiations.

[Question] In your opinion, however, is there a way to defuse the Lebanese crisis?

[Answer] The Lebanese problem is a matter of detail rather than a global question because of the various regional entities involved in it. This complexity implies that there is no magic solution for Lebanon. The main difficulty involves the existence of a sectarian system which produces two kinds of consequences: on the political level, it creates security problems; on the psychological level, it hinders profound human thought. Each sect believes, furthermore, that it is part of its duty to protect its traditional borders and thus isolates itself against the other forces present in Lebanon.

[Question] If I understand you correctly, you are opposed to the creation of an Islamic republic in Lebanon.

[Answer] No, I am not opposed to it; I am not hostile to the creation of an

equitable Islamic republic. But for me, Islam is at the same time a philosophy, a way of life, and a social organization; it makes it possible to explain the operation of the universe; it constitutes the right approach to life, not only for Lebanon, but also for the whole world. That is why we thinkers are working, even beyond Lebanon's case, for the Islamization of the entire planet.

[Question] All right. But what about the application of these principles to your own country?

[Answer] The moment has not yet come for the achievement of our supreme goal. The country is not yet ready for that. During my last trip to Iran, the officials I met there did not suggest to me that they envisaged a rapid transformation of Lebanon into an Islamic republic. For them, the solution to the Lebanese problem will only be achieved through the establishment of a true democracy, with a president and parliament chosen by means of direct elections.

[Question] If Islamic philosophy were to succeed eventually in being completely applied to Lebanon, what would the situation of the Christians present in the country be then?

[Answer] There should be no problem inasmuch as Christianity is not a political philosophy but simply a faith. In that situation, Islam would guarantee Christians respect for their faith and their free participation in worship. Of course, it is normal that in a political system based on certain precepts, those who do not recognize the values shared by the majority of the people do not benefit from all the opportunities. Consider, for example, the east bloc countries and the Soviet Union; do these states allow non-Marxists to assume important responsibilities? No, that would be a betrayal. Having said that, for us the preservation of a certain political approach must not issue in religious discrimination directed against Christians. Jews and Christians have been living together for more than 14 centuries in Muslim countries. Islam respects the freedom of others.

[Question] Do you have good relations with the Lebanese leaders?

[Answer] I have no respect for the Lebanese leaders presently in power because they do not represent the choice of the people. As you know, the last presidential elections took place under the physical and financial pressure of Israel. The president's hands are stained with the blood of the oppressed he has had massacred. He is a criminal whose men have bombarded the southern suburb of west Beirut and the Chouf mountain. He is a liar who runs politics like a trade. The Kataeb party which he leads is a racist party, in this sense close to the Nazis and Israelis; he does not really represent the Christians of Lebanon.

[Question] How do you explain the fact that the head of the Shi'ite Amal movement is a member of the Lebanese government?

[Answer] Ask him that question!

[Question] It is said that Nabih Berri does not control the entire Shi'ite community. Is that true?

[Answer] It is probably true. Amal does not represent all Shi'ites.

[Question] What will be the role of the Shi'ite resistance after the complete withdrawal of the Israelis from southern Lebanon?

[Answer] In southern Lebanon, as a matter of fact, the resistance is mainly Shi'ite; but I want to point out that it acts according to Islamic principles and not according to its own sectarian precepts. That is why it opposed the Israeli withdrawal according to the terms of the 17 May 1983 agreement.

We must destroy the legend of the invincibility of Israel. Certainly, Israel at the moment is militarily stronger than we are; but do not forget that this state too is vulnerable in some areas. To take advantage of all these weaknesses, we must have recourse to popular resistance. Today difficulties remain regarding the final withdrawal of the Israelis and perhaps we will have to wage a difficult battle along the borders.

[Question] In your view, are the suicide missions launched by Shi'ites--said to be among your friends--against the headquarters of the American marines and French parachutists stationed in Beirut acts of resistance?

[Answer] These initiatives must be placed in their context. If a fighter blows himself up by means of an explosive device, his act can be considered purely and simply an act of suicide. But if his aim is to have a political impact on an enemy whom it is impossible to fight by conventional means, then his sacrifice can be part of a jihad, a religious war. Such an undertaking differs little from that of a soldier who fights and knows that in the end he will be killed. The two situations lead to death; except that one fits in with the conventional procedures of war, and the other does not. That is why people in the west say that each of these operations is carried out after our fighters have been "brainwashed."

[Question] It is said that you are the moral and spiritual head of the Hezbollah, who form the "Party of God." Do you accept this paternal title?

[Answer] I have no institutional connection with the parties. I am a thinker and a writer. As you know, I have written about 20 works on Islamic philosophy. My opinions have influenced Lebanese Sunnis as well as Shi'ites. Moreover, I do have excellent relations with the Hezbollah, most of the members of the Amal party and some non-Shi'ite Islamic groups, such as the Sunnis of Tripoli or Beirut. I am often called the guide of the Hezbollah because their leaders are not well known; nevertheless, they exist and are in fact very active on the Lebanese political scene.

[Question] Are you in agreement with the activities of the "Islamic Jihad?"

[Answer] I am prepared to offer a large reward to anyone who can prove to me the actual existence of this group.

[Question] What are your relations with the Druze led by Walid Jumblatt?

[Answer] I respect Walid Jumblatt's frankness and the positions for which he stands. The Druze reacted well during recent events in Lebanon. We have no direct contact with them, but we feel of one accord with them, and we support them from a distance.

[Question] Do you agree with the policy pursued by the Syrians in Lebanon?

[Answer] We approve the policy of confrontation being followed by the Syrians with regard to Israel. We also support their position vis-a-vis the United States. Syria plays a positive role which benefits us. At the present time, it protects Lebanese Muslims and spares them forced cooperation with Israel.

[Question] In the Iran-Iraq conflict, what is your explanation of the hard-line position taken by Iran? On what conditions would your Iranian friends agree to end this war?

[Answer] In fact, we want the conflict to end. But one must be practical. The Gulf war begun by Saddam Hussein had the objective of rapidly destroying the Islamic revolution in Iran. It is a war by proxy, waged covertly by the Gulf states, Jordan, Egypt, the United States, and the Soviet Union. This initial goal is proving to be very difficult to achieve in the end, and Iraq is now trying to win peace on its own conditions. For Teheran, this confrontation is mainly a political battle. Iran is a large country endowed with resources which make it the richest state in the area. It definitely intends to make Saddam Hussein pay the price of his aggression.

[Question] Do you have contacts with the Libyan regime?

[Answer] No, we have no relations with Libya which we hold directly responsible for the disappearance of Sayed Moussa Sadr (Footnote 3) (Imam Moussa Sadr disappeared during a trip to Libya. The Shi'ite community accuses Colonel Qadhdhafi of having caused the disappearance of this very influential leader of Shi'ite Islam, who was an obstacle to the spread of the Sunni movement, the religion of 97 percent of Libyans).

[Question] What is your analysis of the Palestinian question?

[Answer] We Muslims and oppressed people consider the Jewish occupation of Palestine a danger for the future of the area and of humanity. The Palestinians should draw inspiration from the south Lebanese resistance movement. We are ready to support a Palestinian resistance which would act according to the Arab Islamic line. Of course, one cannot act in a vacuum. In order to represent a real political gain, the operations undertaken by the martyrs in Palestine itself must be crowned with success.

[Question] What do you think of the PLO?

[Answer] I disapprove of its policies. In its quest for a solution to the Palestinian problem, the PLO is throwing away all its cards and is putting them into the hands of the United States. And America seeks only to make the

Arabs give ground.

[Question] Since you have mentioned the problem, what is your opinion of the Middle East policy of the United States, the Soviet Union, and France?

[Answer] The Soviets have strategic and economic interests in the Middle East. They are trying to establish a counterforce to the United States. Their goal is to gain access to the Mediterranean and to impose their control on the area's oil and natural resources. Although the USSR claims to want to help the people of the Middle East achieve their freedom, we know for a fact that for a long time now it has drifted away from the communist ideal of popular liberation. It now acts as a superpower, as one can observe in Afghanistan.

For their part, the United States is pursuing a policy that is fairly comparable to that of Moscow: they too are trying to establish their strategic positions and to develop an economic hegemony in the area by promoting the flow of western goods into our markets. As for Francois Mitterrand's France, it plays only a marginal role and is acting as a broker of American policy in the Middle East. In short, I find the actions of the major powers negative inasmuch as the satisfaction of their interests necessarily works to our disadvantage and can only hinder us from acquiring our economic, social, and cultural independence.

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CSO: 4419/12

SYRIA

GOVERNMENT EASES TIGHT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

London MIDDLE EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW in English 14 Dec 85 p 69

[Text] SYRIA has recently eased some of the tight import restrictions that have been in force for the past 18 months. The reasons for imposing the restrictions in the first place are evident from the latest balance of payments figures from the Central Bank of Syria. These show a sharp deterioration in the external accounts in 1983.

The central bank figures show the current account deficit more than tripling between 1982 and 1983. At the same time, the overall balance of payments deficit doubled to the equivalent of about \$430

million. The widening gaps on these accounts were attributable to a large increase in imports.

The merchandise transactions in the central bank table are calculated on a fob basis; trade statistics supplied by the Commercial Bank of Syria, and giving cif figures for imports, show an even larger trade deficit for 1983: £Syr 10,282 million, against the central bank's £Syr 8,703 million. In 1984, thanks to a bumper cotton harvest and a 9 per cent cut in imports, the trade deficit fell by 14 per cent

Syria: balance of payments estimates, 1982-83
(£Syr million)

	1983	1982	% change
Receipts, of which	17,496	17,372	+1
Exports	7,594	7,975	-5
Services	3,066	2,226	+38
Unrequited transfers	6,836	7,171	-5
Payments, of which	20,666	16,285	+13
Imports	16,297	14,535	+12
Services and transfers	4,369	3,750	+16
Current account deficit	3,170	913	+247
Capital			
inflows	3,798	2,339	+62
outflows	2,321	2,256	+3
Balance of payments deficit	1,693	830	+104

Exchange rate: \$ 1 = £Syr 3.925 (official rate)

Source: Central Bank of Syria, Damascus

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CSO: 4400/112

SYRIA

DAYR AL-SAWR PAPER MILL IN TROUBLE

London MIDDLE EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW in English 14 Dec 85 pp 70-71

[Article by Elisabeth Tampier]

[Text] ARBITRATION between Austria's Voest-Alpine and the state-owned Deir al-Zor pulp and paper mill is under way at the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The case — which began at the end of November — is an instructive one on the pitfalls of technology transfer and industrialisation aimed at import substitution. Its outcome will also be important in determining the future of one of Syria's most ambitious and controversial projects.

Voest-Alpine, Austria's largest industrial concern, was the partner in an Austro-Italian consortium that won a \$100 million turnkey contract in 1975 to build a combined pulp and paper mill at Deir al-Zor, in the east. Voest-Alpine was responsible for the pulp mill — seen as particularly important because it makes use of local raw materials, in line with government industrial policy.

Technical plans called for straw — available from the vast northeastern wheatfields — to be cooked with chemicals in a closed-circuit system, producing pulp and allowing recovery of most of the chemicals for re-use (see diagram). But when construction was completed in 1980, the Copeland reactor failed to function. The reactor is an essential part of the recovery system, which should evaporate water from the cooking liquid (black liquor), burn off the organic waste and collect and reduce the non-organic matter for re-use. Seventeen test runs, carried out over two years, proved unsuccessful.

The cause of the failure, say the Austrians, was a substantial change in the chemical qualities of the straw between the time of the original tests and the final run-up. Increased use of fertilisers by farmers and different irrigation patterns are cited as possible causes for the chemical change in the straw.

Design difficulties

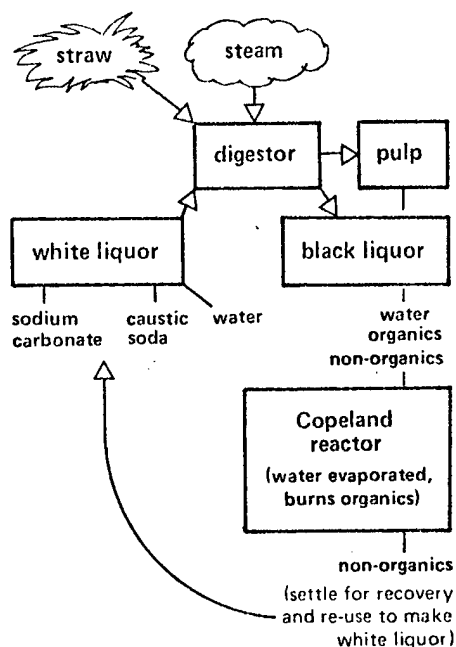
Syrian technical experts consider the failure a design problem, for which they cannot be held responsible. "Can we tell our farmers not to use fertilisers because of the Copeland reactor in the Deir al-Zor pulp mill?" one asked.

"They should have considered that fertiliser use would increase if this was a problem for their design and modified the system properly to cope with it. In a turnkey contract the supplier can choose the system he wants, but it has to work."

Another key issue raised by Voest-Alpine is the escalating cost of supplying the straw. The Austrians say the cost of the straw was estimated at \$20 a tonne in 1974; that had risen to \$180 a tonne by 1984. The increase in costs means it is cheaper to import pulp to run the paper mill, they add.

The Syrians have rejected Voest-Alpine's suggestion that they switch from a closed to an open circuit, in which fresh chemicals would be continuously added and the black liquor disposed of. Not only would

Deir al-Zor pulp mill: the production process



this make pulp production more expensive than importing pulp, it would also cause pollution problems.

A closed circuit was part of the system the Syrians had accepted. When the malfunctioning Copeland reactor caused that system to break down, they saw it as not fulfilling the contract's specifications and demanded compensation when repair efforts were abandoned by the supplier. Hence their recourse to the ICC.

The project was for Syria a completely new and highly complex chemical-based industry — and was the source of much local pride. The Syrians now believe too much reliance was placed on the expertise and good reputation of an international firm, which then experimented at their expense. Voest-Alpine rejects this suggestion, noting that several straw-based paper mills have been set up successfully in Hungary and Romania.

The Deir al-Zor paper mill has been in production since 1980, but the need to import pulp and transport it to the project's remote site, far from

any sea port, has seriously affected the economic viability of the whole undertaking. Furthermore, because of Syria's chronic shortage of foreign exchange and the long delays in obtaining letters of credit (LCs), even for raw materials, stoppages have been frequent. Production is well below half the mill's capacity of 60,000 tonnes a year.

Fresh efforts are being made to seek alternative raw materials to produce pulp in the pulp mill. Sweden's Celpap Engineering completed a feasibility study in June 1985 on producing pulp from poplar, eucalyptus and casuarina wood, and is carrying out another on the use of cotton lint and wastepaper.

The paper mill's future does not seem to have been affected by the growing trend towards economic rationalisation and a limited abandonment of the import substitution policy — which led to the closure this year of two sugar mills, including one in Deir al-Zor, because it was much cheaper to import sugar than

to produce it locally. Cement bags made in Deir al-Zor cost double the price of imported cement bags, but the latter can only be bought when local production does not meet demand.

New products

The paper mill plans to make a new line of tissue paper products, using imported pulp, in addition to its present brown paper lines of kraft-liner fluting and carton, and white paper products. Tenders have been called for equipment to produce 12,000 tonnes annually of facial and toilet tissue, and baby nappies. These products are in short supply at present, because of LC difficulties.

The mill has in the past suffered from power shortages: its single steam generator broke down for a lengthy period and the mill had to be supplied from the overloaded public grid. It now contributes surplus electricity to the network, and its 15-MW capacity accounts for about one-third of its province's total capacity. A contract

for a stand-by boiler house, producing 60 tonnes of steam an hour, was let to another Austrian firm, Kessel-Loos, for AS 30 million (\$1.7 million). Work is for completion in May 1986.

Chemical units in the pulp mill have been put to use producing hydrochloric acid and caustic soda, to avoid the mill being at a complete standstill. These units are to be expanded, as the chemicals have proved invaluable. Production of hydrochloric acid, for use in oil fields, will be raised from eight tonnes a day to 27 tonnes a day. Caustic soda production, for steam power stations, will be raised from the present seven tonnes to 22 tonnes a day. A new unit, for completion in July 1986, will fulfil local demand for these products until 1990.

Such moves indicate official confidence, and reassure the mill's workers, but the project cannot be considered a success until the problem of how to produce pulp locally has been solved. The initial phase of the arbitration in Paris — to record a detailed description of the present situation in the pulp mill — is just the first step.

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CSO: 4400/112

SYRIA

WORK BEGINS ON 5-YEAR PLAN TO BOOST AGRICULTURE

London MIDDLE EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW in English 25 Jan 86 p 32

[Text]

Work has started on drawing up a detailed draft for the sixth five-year plan (1986-90): Few details of the plan have been released, but particular efforts will be made to increase investment in agriculture and industry, according to Minister of State for Planning Affairs Sabah Baqajji. If recent trends continue, it is likely that most of the extra finance will be directed to agriculture or agro-industry.

The fifth plan (1981-85) signalled a shift in economic policy towards setting more modest targets, while trying to cut imports and reduce the increase in public spending. Tight controls on expenditure have been evident in recent budgets, as has been the priority accorded to agriculture. In the 1985 budget, total expenditure rose by 4 per cent from the previous year; planned investment in agriculture increased by 23 per cent.

The 1981-85 plan called for a 7.6 per cent annual increase in gross domestic product (GDP) and a progressive reduction in the trade deficit: exports were to grow by 6.5 per cent a year, while the planned annual increase of imports was to be kept at 3.4 per cent. According to the government's 1985 statistical abstract, GDP actually rose by less than 1 per cent a year between 1981-84, at constant 1980 prices.

External trade contracted during the period of the fifth plan: imports fell to £Syr 16,155 million (\$ 4,115 million) in 1984 from £Syr 19,781 million (\$ 5,039 million) in 1981; exports dropped to £Syr 7,275 million (\$ 1,854 million) in 1984, compared with £Syr 8,254 million (\$ 2,103 million) in 1981.

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CSO: 4400/112

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BUDAPEST TV INTERVIEWS LEADERS ON SITUATION

LDO92012 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 9 Feb 86

[From the "The Week" program; no video available]

[Text] Our first report is on South Yemen, from where Alajos Chrudinak and Sandor Lukin returned Friday. So, here is a political report from Aden:

[Chrudinak] We arrived in Aden from Djibouti on board a Chinese freighter after a long and eventful journey. Aden at that time was still unapproachable. Because of the internal war the borders had been closed, particularly to curious journalists, but we managed to get ashore with a certain amount of intrigue.

[Begin recording] Mr Prime Minister, after the bloody events what human and losses has the country suffered, in your opinion?

[Prime Minister in Arabic with superimposed Hungarian translation] The losses are extremely great. But the social and political damage is bigger than all that. By trying to change the struggle within the party into a tribal and clan war, 'Ali Nasir has created an extremely grave social situation. He has brought about a political and psychological crisis in society and in the party which is completely contradictory to the ideas of our party, to its moral and political values.

[Chrudinak] Mr Foreign Minister, you have been reappointed to your post. After the merciless killings and the internal war, what, in your opinion, foreign policy does Democratic Yemen intend to pursue?

['Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali in Arabic with superimposed Hungarian translation] With regard to the foreign policy of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, we shall also in the future adhere to the foreign political line determined by our party, the basis of which is peaceful coexistence, international solidarity as well as the further developing and strengthening of comradely relations with the socialist countries, above all the Soviet Union. And finally, the creating of a good-neighborly relations with the neighboring countries.

[Chrudinak] So there is no change?

[Al-Dali] There will be no change, either now or in the future with regard to foreign policy.

[Chrudinak] In the harbor and its environs, where the heaviest fighting took place, several oil containers were hit. You, sir, from where did you shoot at the containers?

[Unidentified voice in Arabic with superimposed Hungarian translation] The plotters, that is to say the units of the navy, shot at the port and the buildings here from the sea. Oil poured out on to the road from four containers and now we have brought in workers to try and pump it back in somehow.

[Chrudinak] Aden, which has a population of over 300,000 has quickly recovered. Now everywhere they are trying to remove the wounds inflicted by war. But restoration of the nearly \$600 million of material damage in this extremely poor country is expected to take a long time yet. The majority of the shops and restaurants have already opened. And there is not such an acute shortage of food, either, as there was in the last days of the war when water and bread also ran out. But will the whipped-up passions calm down, or are the victors now hungry for revenge and will they avenge the wrongs that they suffered? This was the question I put to Haydar al-'Attas, the newly-elected head of state.

[Al-'Attas in Arabic with superimposed Hungarian translation] There will be no reprisals here. Since we restored order we have not used reprisals against anyone, whether he played a leading or a secondary role in sparking off the events. There have been no atrocities; there is discipline and order in the country. In the future, too, a person can only be called to account on the basis of the law and the constitution. [end recording]

[Chrudinak] Before our departure, the Hungarians working or living in South Yemen asked us to let their families know that they have not been hurt. They are all well.

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CSO: 4400/120

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

NGPF CHIEF CALLS FOR NEW GOVERNMENT

NC132049 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA) -- 'Abd al-Qawi Makkawi, secretary general of the National Grouping of Patriotic Forces of South Yemen, has called for the formation of a national unity government. It is to comprise all Aden political groups, whether at home or abroad. He also advocated a policy of party nonalignment in the international conflict.

Speaking at a press conference in Cairo this morning, the Yemeni politician affirmed that the Soviet Union is responsible for the events that have been taking place in Aden since 13 January. He said that the Soviets fanned the struggle for power among the wings of the ruling Marxist Party and hindered the achievement of national and Yemeni unity.

Makkawi added: We hope that the Soviets have gained experience from this experiment and that they will therefore change their position and respond to the Yemeni people's desires for unity and stability.

Makkawi said that the National Grouping evaluates the parties to the internal conflict in Aden on their efforts to achieve national unity, which is the only way to stabilize the situation in the country.

Asked about the National Grouping's possible cooperation with deposed Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Makkawi said that 'Ali Nasir no longer represents anything. Makkawi added that the national grouping had bad experiences with him when he was in power in Aden, and that he had failed to address all the national democratic demands.

Makkawi expressed his conviction that those who are now ruling Aden will not allow the return of the deposed president or any of his aides.

He noted that all the parties presently struggling for power have policies based on dictatorship and suppression. He said that these parties share the blame for what has happened in Aden. This is because they disregarded the Yemeni people's social state, because they encouraged tribal conflict as part of Marxism and foreign subservience, and because the ruling party assumed complete control.

The Yemeni politician called on the Arab states to halt their aid to the present regime in Aden to compel it to unite all the Yemenis.

Makkawi concluded his news conference by announcing that he has sent messages to the general secretaries of the United Nations, the Arab League, and the Islamic Conference Organization, asking them to urge those in power in Aden to respond to the national demands, particularly the formation of a national coalition government that will adopt a nonaligned policy.

The National Grouping of Patriotic Forces of South Yemen contains a liberal opposition that was formed in exile when the national front assumed power, following the British withdrawal in 1967.

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CSO: 4400/120

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

AL-'ATTAS DISCUSSES LESSONS OF CRISIS

AU261645 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 25 Feb 86 p 4

[Interview given by Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, PDRY Supreme Council Presidium chairman, to Krasimir Ivandzhiysci in Aden on 24 February -- first paragraph is interviewer's introduction]

[Text] Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas was born in 1939. He studied electrical engineering. He joined the National Liberation Front of South Yemen in 1963 and participated in its first congress in the same year. He was elected and reelected as a member of the Central Committee of the National Liberation Front and later as a member of the Yemeni Socialist Party [Yp] Central Committee. He was elected prime minister of the PDRY and member of the Politburo in February 1985. He was elected to the post of chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium on 8 February 1986.

[Ivandzhiyski] Comrade al-'Attas, despite the fact that it is too early for definitive and final evaluations, we would like to ask you about the first conclusions to be drawn from the crisis that occurred within the YSP in the PDRY.

[Al-'Attas] First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for the attention and for the attitude with which the Bulgarian public followed events in our country. We will most thoroughly analyze all the reasons for the crisis and we will learn the necessary lessons from it.

Numerous problems emerged both within the party and outside the party, but the Politburo was so involved in its internal conflict that it was unable to face them. This situation continued, even following the Third YSP Congress which took place by the end of [passage intelligible]

I would like expressly to stress that the YSP will continue to adhere to its programmatic documents, that it will be loyal to their goals and principles, and that our country will continue to belong to the ranks on the progressive, anti-imperialist, and anticolonialist forces, that we will not deviate from the path of building a new society in our country.

[Ivandzhiyski] Do you envisage convening an extraordinary congress or party conference?

[Al-'Attas] We will convene a YSP national conference in the future. Its goal will be to restore the party's unity, to evaluate the losses suffered, and to reevaluate certain important factors of our domestic development, as well as to correct the shortcomings that have been allowed to occur and the distortions which have taken place.

We are deeply convinced that we will cope successfully with this exceptionally important task.

Despite the fact that according to the western press the events in South Yemen allegedly were a confirmation of the fact that our party line is wrong, the truth is quite the opposite. The fact that we emerged from the complicated and dramatic situation proves that the YSP is capable of fighting, that it has sufficient strength and possibilities to cope with this difficult problem.

[Ivandzhiyski] How do you evaluate relations with the socialist countries?

[Al-'Attas] I would like to point out at once that we most highly appreciate our close cooperation with the socialist countries and above all with the USSR.

We highly appreciate the stand adopted by the USSR and by the other socialist countries regarding the events in our country by assisting us in this difficult and fateful period in the PDRY's development.

One of our basic tasks in the future will be to consolidate our relations with the socialist countries so that we may continue to pursue the implementation of the socialist revolution in our country. These relations are of crucial importance to us since the socialist countries are our tested friends.

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CSO: 4400/120

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

AL-BID RECEIVES CABLE FROM PLF OFFICIAL

GF132009 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Feb 86

["Text" of the congratulatory cable received by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, from Tal'at Ya'qub, Palestine Liberation Front secretary general, on the occasion of his appointment as secretary general of the YSP Central Committee -- date not given]

[Text] Allow me, on the occasion of your appointment as the secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and on behalf of the comrades from the Political Bureau and the Central Committee and all the cadres and bases of the Palestine Liberation Front, to extend to you the warmest struggle wishes for the confidence which the party showed in you during the extraordinary circumstances and after the tragedies caused to the sons of the Yemeni people, during which we lost the significant struggler and the founder of the YSP brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and his comrades, the significant, historic, and glorious leaders 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, Salih Muslih Qasim, and 'Ali Sha'i'Hadi, and many of the party cadres and sons of the people, in addition to the destruction caused by the ordeal.

Dear brother while we in the Palestine Liberation Front repeat our warm condolences for our martyred brethren, we affirm our solidarity with the support for the YSP and its collective leadership, the YSP Political Bureau, in its struggle to overcome the ordeal and its results and to reconstruct and rebuild what was destroyed by those disasters. We also affirm our struggle for the development and the deepening of the struggle relations which link us with your struggling party and which we are proud of. We also affirm the development of the relations between our peoples and parties.

Dear brother, we are confident about your pioneering role and the role of your comrades from the leadership and the cadres of the party, in continuing to safeguard the gains and accomplishments which were achieved by the glorious 14 October revolution and in completing the duties of the national democratic revolution with socialist dimensions, the revolution which the reactionary forces and their imperialist masters want to abolish and foil through the policy of liquidating the Arab National Liberation Movement and through bringing the whole region under the imperialist influence.

The PDRY has become a fortress and a torch of revolution in the region and a hope and pleasure to all the Arab progressivists and nationalists. The PDRY will continue to be a real support until the issues of our peoples achieve victory once again.

Once again dear brother, we extend our warmest greetings. Long live the YSP! Long live the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions!

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

PAPER HIGHLIGHTS YEMENI-SOVIET COOPERATION

GF161416 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 16 Feb 86

[From the "News and Reports" Program]

[Text] Brother 'ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, has begun a visit to the Soviet Union, having arrived in Moscow yesterday morning to participate in the 27th CPSU Congress at the invitation of Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Comrade Boris Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and a number of Soviet officials received him. The visit of the brother secretary general comes as part of the serious and sincere work to consolidate and deepen the strong comradely relations between the YSP and the CPSU which are based on the noble objectives of the ideology of scientific socialism and proletarian internationalism and as part of the work to consolidate the bonds of friendship existing between our Yemeni people and the friendly Soviet people. This friendship has been put on top of the noble objectives and the common interests of our friendly peoples.

In this regard, this morning's issue of 14 OCTOBER affirmed that our YSP, which is persistently guided by the theory of scientific socialism, has believed and will continue to believe that the question of social progress and socialist construction in the country and the contribution to the peace process are dependent on the principles of internationalist solidarity with the socialist bloc, foremost of which is the Soviet Union, and on peaceful co-existence with other social systems on the basis of equal rights, mutual interests, and noninterference in the local affairs of other countries. It said that the source of the strength and depth of our relationship with the Soviet Union and the socialist countries lies fundamentally in the essence and contents of the principles of internationalist solidarity which constitutes the major principles of our foreign policy. It pointed out that the issue of relationship with the Soviet Union and the consolidation and bolstering of this relationship is a fateful issue for our party and people -- a fateful issue that is connected with our political, ideological, and economic struggle.

It said: While the YSP attributes the factors of its successive victories over its class enemies to the rallying of the people around it and the heroism and brave feats of valor by the people alongside the military and

security institutions, it also intimately links these factors with the constant and principled internationalist positions by the Soviet Union toward our people and party and our progressive regime, and highly assesses the honest and generous aid offered by the people and party of great Lenin. The treaty signed by the PDRY and Soviet Union in Moscow in 1979 embodies the loftiest forms of struggle relations and mutual cooperation in various fields in the interests of both countries. The years since the treaty was signed have verified concretely a number of economic and services projects which are considered to be a symbol of the strong friendship and honest aid offered by the Soviet Union to our country for developing our national economy and social progress and for building a new society. It is worth mentioning that the friendship relations linking our country with the Soviet Union are historical struggle relations.

The Soviet aid to the PDRY is represented in many fields. Yemeni-Soviet projects played a distinguished role in developing the agricultural fields. Through these projects the agricultural installations affected by floods have been rebuilt and new land has been reclaimed. These projects also have contributed to expanding the agricultural area and to developing cultivation and irrigation by digging wells, establishing irrigation canals, and constructing many dams. Fisheries also have been developed.

In the health field, the friendship central hospital for maternity care is a living symbol of the depth of Yemeni-Soviet friendship.

In the field of energy and minerals the thermoelectrical plant is considered to be one of the great results of economic-technical cooperations between our country and the Soviet Union and is considered to be one of the basic projects for establishing a base for economic and social development. Work is continuing in cooperation with the Soviet Union, the GDR, and the CSSR in three fields, including the preparation of geological maps and studies evaluating strategic minerals and industrial material supplies. Through this cooperation many industrial and installation services have been studied. Soviet investments in oil exploration projects during the 5-year plan have reached 86 percent. The first stage of the plan began in northern Hadramawt. Work also began in Shabwah Governorate in 1983. A new protocol was signed with the Soviet side to finance the second stage of oil exploration in Shabwah.

In the field of training, the Soviet Union annually offers about 260 scholarships for academic studies in various fields in addition to 25 postgraduate scholarships and 30 scholarships for studies in industrial technical and technical education.

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CSO: 4400/120

PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

BULGARIAN COMMUNIST CONGRESS--Brother 'ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, has received an invitation from the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee to take part in the 13th congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party. The invitation was extended during meeting at the YSP Central Committee Secretariat this afternoon between Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and Comrade Manchev, director of the Arab Department at the Secretariat of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee [name and title as heard]. [Passage omitted contained in referent item] [Excerpt] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Feb 86 GF]

OCAL SECRETARY GENERAL--Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, received at his office today Brother Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Organization of Communist Action in Lebanon [OCAL]. During the meeting, Brother Muhammad explained the nature and aims of the abortive coupist conspiracy led by conspirer 'ali Nasir Muhammad and his fascist clique on 13 January. He expressed gratitude for the solidarity stand adopted by OCAL toward our party and people concerning the tragic events encountered by our country. He affirmed our country's solidarity with OCAL and the Lebanese people's struggle against the Zionist occupation. He lauded the heroic operations carried out by the Lebanese National Resistance. [Text] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Feb 86 GF]

DEPUTY MINISTER APPOINTED--Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, issued a decree of the Council of Ministers appointing brother Muhammad Muhsin Muhammad Gharadi as deputy minister of labor and civil service. [Excerpt] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Feb 86 GF]

/12929
CSO: 4400/120

PAPER COMMENTS ON ECONOMIC TALKS WITH USSR

GF281114 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Jan 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting editorially on the meetings of the first session of the joint YAR-SOVIET committee for economic and technical cooperation, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: These meetings come in concomitance with the series of steps of firm and profound cooperation between the two friendly countries. This cooperation is clear, principled, and firmly-rooted, based on historical Yemeni-Soviet relations. They are among the oldest of Soviet-Arab relations. These relations, which abound with important and fruitful results, acquire from history characteristics of being profound and continuing. These relations were entrenched with the launching of the immortal 26 September revolution which opened broad horizons before our people and before the development of our country's relations with all countries, including the Soviet Union, which has had a role in bolstering our revolution. The Soviet Union has adopted clear positions. It has helped to prop up national construction and development in our country.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that the session of the joint committee for economic and technical cooperation between our two friendly countries will be inspired by all the positive and important aspects that have been attained through the credibility of bilateral cooperation in the various fields. The joint committee will accomplish further progress in the field of developing and reinforcing relations of bilateral cooperation in the economic and technical fields. Many achievements have been realized in these fields. This is regarded as a right image of the existing and harmonious cooperation which is dominated by the basic principles on which Yemeni-Soviet relations have been based throughout their lengthy history.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: From this view which is based on clear facts, according to which relations between our two countries were consolidated, it is evident that the first sessions of the joint committee for economic and technical cooperation will attain the goals aspired by the two sides in such a way that guarantees further development of the firm and historic relations between the two friendly countries so that the spirit of cooperation and the beauty of historic cooperation will continue to provide impetus for further consolidation of Yemeni-Soviet relations and promote them further.

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CSO: 4400/118

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH NETHERLANDS--The minutes of an economic and technical cooperation meeting of our country and the Netherlands was signed today at the central organ for planning. The minutes concerned the allocation of \$24 million for 1986 to finance projects currently underway in various fields and the new projects in the agricultural, water, health, industrial, and social fields. [Excerpt] [Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Feb 86 GF]

ARAB FUND LOAN--An agreement was signed in Abu Dhabi today between the YAR and the Arab Monetary Fund [AMF], whereby the AMF will offer a \$13.7 million loan to support our balance of payments. [Excerpt] [Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Mar 86 GF]

USSR YOUTH OFFICIAL--Mommadov (Shan) [name as heard], deputy chairman of the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR, arrived in Sanaa this evening on a visit to our country. The visit is in response to an invitation extended to him during the 12th world youth and students festivals held recently in Moscow. He will acquaint himself with the youth achievements and installations and will hold several meetings with officials of youth activities in our country that will focus on cooperation between the Supreme Council of Youth and Sports and USSR youth organizations. He was received by Muhammad al-Faqih, chairman of the youth organ, and a number of officials at the Supreme Council of Youth and Sports. [Text] [Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Feb 86 GF]

COMMANDERS' TRAINING INSTITUTE--A presidential decree was issued today establishing an institute to train and qualify commanders to replace the military center. The institute will train and qualify commanders and provide them with military cultural, and scientific, information. It will be based in Ta'izz. [Summary] [Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Dec 85 GF]

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CSO: 4400/118

PAKISTAN

BIZENJO SAYS MRD TO CONTEST FUTURE ELECTIONS

Karachi DAWN in English 12 Feb 86 p 4

[Text] MUZAFFARGARH, Feb 12: Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo, PNP chief, has said that we did not believe in personalism and we always sacrificed for people's rights and liberties, and democracy".

Addressing the District Bar Association, chaired by Sardar Manzoor Ahmed Khan, President of the Bar, Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo said: "PPP had dissolved our lawful government by using unconstitutional tactics and we fought against it for four years. But now we have joined hands in the larger interest of the nation and the country."

The PNP chief disclosed that he was trying to give a better shape to MRD, to contest the elections to serve the people jointly.

He said that he was identified first of all as an "Insan", after that a Baluch, then a Pakistani and later as Muslim.

Replying a question he said that he was not in power. "How can I sell my homeland to USSR" he said. However, he said, "our rulers had sold the country to the United States."

He said that he was aware of problems of Punjabis and they are in more trouble than other provinces. However, its bureaucracy and Generals in power had looted the small provinces.

He said that Punjab has a bigger population to snatch our bread. He

said that MRD was stronger than ever and registration of Tehrik-i-Istiqal would not affect MRD's unity.

He said that he was not stabbing Punjab in the back by supporting the slogan of "Seraikistan" as it was the need of the hour and we should not shut our eyes to escape from facts.

He stressed the need for an organised struggle against the present regime and said that resolutions and speeches cannot topple the dictatorial rule.

He warned that Pakistan was on the verge of collapse as all supporting pillars had razed to the ground but our rulers were seeing the situation with coloured glasses.

He said that our country was facing a worse crisis of its history as Martial Law regime had shattered its economy and pushed it back to disaster.

He alleged that Afghanistan was a Muslim neighbouring country but we are fighting the war of America against Afghanistan. He said that the present regime failed to establish friendly ties with its neighbouring countries due to its hypocritical policies. He said that tension is prevailing in different sections of the society in the country which caused separatist movements and slogans of confederation etc.

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CSO: 4600/232

PAKISTAN

SBPF MEETING URGES 'CONFEDERATION PLAN'

Karachi DAWN in English 12 Feb 86 p 8

[Text]

KARACHI, Feb 11: The Sindhi, Baluch and Pakhtoon Front (SBPF) at a meeting held at the residence of Mr Nabi Bakhsh Bhurgari, Secretary-General of the Front in Sind, reiterated that the 'confederation plan' provided a solution to the country's problems and any other formula of provincial autonomy fell short of the expectations of the people.

The meeting, presided over by Mr Mumtaz Ali Bhutto, expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation and demanded immediate release of Messers G.M. Syed, Rasool Bakhsh Paleejo, Jam Saqi, Jamal Naqvi, Rafiq Safi Munshi, Masroor Ahsan, Khalil Qureshi and other students implicated in the Thori firing case.

The meeting decided to organise the Front at district level; begin mass contact campaign, not to get registered under the Political Parties Act and to only submit its accounts after seeking experts' opinion on the subject.

Earlier, Mr Mumtaz Ali Bhutto had a two-hour long meeting with Mr Hussain Bakhsh Narejo, Acting Convener of the MRD and discussed the political situation with him. Sardar Mehrullah Mengal, younger brother of Sardar Ataullah Khan Mengal, also called on Mr. Bhutto at his residence.

On Tuesday, Mr. Bhutto visited the Malir residence of Nasir Baluch who was executed last year for his involvement in the PIA hijacking case, and offered his condolence for the departed soul. Mr Bhutto also addressed the people gathered there and paid tributes to Nasir Baluch, says a Press release.

JATOI SAYS PPP 'STANDS FOR FEDERATION'

Karachi DAWN in English 12 Feb 86 p 10

[Text] KARACHI, Feb 11: Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, President, Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Sind, reiterated that the confederation plan was in conflict with the basic programme of the PPP as "we stand for federation".

In an interview with PPI at his residence here on Tuesday evening, Mr Jatoi who returned here on Monday night from a week-long tour of upper Sind said: "Everyone has a right to give his political programme".

"The London-based Sindhi-Baluch-Pakhtoon Front (SBPF) have exercised their right and given their programme of confederation, he said, adding that we have also given our programme to the people. Now it is up to the people to accept it or not. However, he said: Ours is the largest national political party and we have full confidence and faith in the people."

DIALOGUE RULED OUT: Mr Jatoi ruled out any dialogue with the present Government and added that there was no basis for talks. "We do not recognise the present assemblies. The solution is immediate holding of elections on party basis. Any delay in this regard would be detrimental to the nation. The sooner the elections were held the better it would be", he observed.

LEFT UNITY: Asked whether his party would join the talks currently being held for the unity of the parties of the Left, the PPP leader said: "We believe in our own programme to attract the masses. If the Leftists parties reach a consensus and their aim is merger we wish them success. At this stage the question of PPP joining them in

this regard is not under consideration".

REGISTRATION: Answering a question, Mr Jatoi said his party's central committee had decided at its recent meeting in Lahore not to get itself registered with the Election Commission. "We however decided to submit accounts of the party to the Election Commission. "There is no change in our decision on this issue," he added.

Replying to another question, he said the component parties of the MRD would be able to find some via media on the quantum of autonomy, the permanent structure, election alliance and programme of the MRD at the next meeting of the central action committee of MRD to be held in Karachi on March 29-30. He said detailed discussions had been held in the MRD meetings on these issue and "We are making every effort to resolve them".

TEHRIK ISSUE: He regretted that the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Chief, Air Marshal (Rtd) Asghar Khan was blaming the PPP for creating disturbance during his (Asghar Khan's) speech at Lahore during the MRD meeting on Jan 29. He said the fact of the matter was that the Tehrik workers were responsible for not allowing Air Marshal (Rtd) Asghar Khan to speak. "We cannot help this. Everyone is a witness to it. Just to cover his failure to having not been able to speak at the public meeting, the Tehrik Chief was blaming the PPP".

Asked to comment on the Tehrik Chief's decision not to attend MRD public meetings in future, Mr Jatoi said: "Air Marshal (Rtd) Asghar Khan had not attended MRD public

meetings in the past but came to attend the Lahore public meeting. The Tehrik Chief, however, expelled Malik Hamid Sarfaraz from his party for attending the MRD public meeting held at Lahore on Aug 14, 1985".

The PPP leader who had a meeting earlier with Mr Hussain Bakhsh Narejo, Convener of the MRD and a leader of Awami Tehrik expressed concern over alleged wrong medical treatment given to Mr Fazil Rahu in Landhi jail and his shifting to Sukkur jail few days back under mysterious circumstances. He demanded a judicial inquiry into the matter.—PPI

/13104

CSO: 4600/231

PAKISTAN

PUNJAB PPP CHIEF VISITS LONDON TO TALK WITH BENAZIR BHUTTO

Karachi DAWN in English 14 Feb 86 p 19

[Text] LONDON, Feb 13: Mr Jehangir Badar, President, Punjab PPP, reached London on Tuesday to discuss provincial party affairs with Miss Benazir Bhutto.

He was received at the airport, among others, by Mr Nazim Hus-sain Shah, Finance Secretary of the Punjab PPP, who had arrived here a few days earlier for the same purpose.

The two were said to be having differences between themselves, but told the PPP sources in London after their meeting on Tuesday they had sorted out these differences and had now decided to work together in the larger interests of the party.

Our Lahore Bureau adds:

Immediately after assuming the office of acting president of the Punjab PPP following the departure of Mr Badar, Mr Mansoor Malik reinstated 35 party leaders and workers of Lahore, Multan, Kasur, Gujranwala, Wazirabad and Sheikhpura, suspended by various district and town organisations under the instructions from the Punjab leadership.

Addressing a news conference here on Wednesday Mr Malik said "the decision is in the best interests of the party". He said he was confident that this step would not be opposed by the acting chairperson.

He also said that the party workers were not opposed to the nominations made by Miss Bhutto but had the right to differ on certain issues.

Mr Malik's decision can spark off a controversy when Mr Badar returns home. The reinstatements have been made because the suspended workers were not given an opportunity to defend themselves. The acting president said that he had studied the cases of the workers and reached the conclusion that "injustice" had been done to them. He said that the "victimised" workers had full faith in the leadership of Begum and Miss Bhutto and they had nothing to do with the controversial group. Their group is PPP and none else", he added.

A large number of leaders and workers, believed to be "angry" with the Punjab leadership, were present at the press conference. They applauded Mr Malik and garlanded him.

Mr Mansoor Malik said that he was sending his decision to Miss Bhutto for ratification, hoping that she would be "highly pleased" with it. He said that he was not overruling the decisions of the Punjab president as he was not empowered to do so. As for the suspensions, he said they were made by various district and town organisations

/13104
CSO: 4600/233

PAKISTAN

MINISTER ADMITS TO LIST OF PERSONS BARRED FROM FOREIGN TRAVEL

Karachi DAWN in English 11 Feb 86 p 2

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Feb 10: The Interior Minister, Mr Aslam Khattak on Monday admitted that an exit control list did exist to stop some persons from going abroad. However, he did not disclose the names of the persons on that list adding that the number was below 70.

The Interior Minister was speaking on an adjournment motion tabled by Maulana Kausar Niazi who wanted to discuss the purpose of maintaining such a list.

Mr Aslam Khattak said that the list had not been introduced by the present government but "was inherited" maintaining that the said list did exist even when Maulana Kausar Niazi was in government during the PPP regime.

He said the list was not prepared by the Federal Government but the names were provided by the provincial governments and the centre was "just carrying out their wishes". He said that when a provincial government feels that the exit of a certain person from the country was not in its interest, it sends the name of the person to the Central Government for circulating the same to all the exit points,

including the airports.

Replying to a supplementary question, the Interior Minister assured that the list has not been since revised.

The Interior Minister also narrated an incident in which his wife was also stopped at the Karachi Airport from going abroad as her name was also included in the said list.

Earlier, Maulana Kausar Niazi tabling the adjournment motion said that Mr Iqbal Haider has claimed that the Government was maintaining a list of 70 persons which was a violation of the constitution. He maintained that the political leaders should be allowed to visit abroad without imposing any restrictions on them adding that "what harm can they make."

The speaker ruled the motion out of order.

Another adjournment motion tabled by Abdul Rahim Mirdad Khel was also ruled out of order by the chair. It related to the recent mine explosion in Chamman. The Interior Minister opposing the motion said no such incident had occurred in Chamman.

/13104
CSO: 4600/231

PAKISTAN

LAW OFFICERS GIVEN TRAINING TO MAN QAZI COURTS

Karachi DAWN in English 12 Feb 86 p 4

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb 12: The Shariat Academy has imparted training to 520 law officers connected with the administration of justice in the country to man the Qazi courts.

This was stated by the Director General of the Shariah Academy of the International Islamic University, Prof. Qayyum Qureshi, here on Wednesday. He said the trained officials include District and Sessions Judges, Civil Judges, police officials, public prosecutors, district attorneys, and executive officers.

These officials have been trained in 14 courses being organised since 1981 by the Shariah Academy which was assigned the task of application of Islamic judicial system by training the members of the judiciary and allied professions in Islamic laws and by giving them a clear concept of justice in Islam.

Mr. Qureshi said that the Academy has planned to offer more courses of longer duration in accordance with the needs of the country and other parts of the Muslim world.

He announced organisation of the first international course for the training of judges and lawyers of the Muslim countries, especially

the Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries in September this year.

Elaborating the methodology of the courses, he said, instructional programmes are aimed at introducing the participants to various branches of the Shariah law through the original sources, as far as possible, and enabling them to develop a clear understanding of the Islamic laws already enforced in Pakistan and also those which are proposed to be enforced in the near future.

This includes a comparative study of the Islamic and non-Islamic principles of law as well as their practical approach to the problems of day-to-day life, he said.

The Director General said that the Academy has been engaged in the development of methodologies for training, research, and advanced studies in Islamic law and allied disciplines besides publishing monographs, reports, journals and necessary material.

He said besides pre-service and in-service courses of varying duration, the faculty of law and Shariah was also holding regular classes for LL.B., honours in order to produce young people in the field of Islamization of the judicial system.—APP

/13104

CSO: 4600/232

PAKISTAN

DISCOVERY OF GAS OFF KARACHI SHORE REPORTED

Karachi DAWN in English 12 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] KARACHI, Feb 11: Pakistan's maiden offshore drilling venture, 129 km south of Karachi, has resulted in discovery of gas and condensate, informed sources told *Dawn*.

They said 3.4 to 3.7 MMCFD of gas had been found at a depth of between 2,743 to 2,747 metres while a small quantity of condensate was discovered at 500 psi well-head pressure and 7,085 psi formation pressure.

A senior OGDC official described the reservoir under the well called Pak-Can-I as of "good quality" and said Canada had agreed to further assist Pakistan in offshore exploration.

The gas discovered contains 97 per cent methane, 0.3 per cent ethane, traces of propane and 2.7 per cent carbon dioxide, sources said.

Officials said in view of the successful completion of the offshore operation, Pakistan had decided to further carry out geological and geophysical surveys and exploration in a 5,000 to 7,000 square km offshore area.

They said Petro-Canada had agreed to give a vessel *mv Bernier* to Pakistan for the next round of surveys and exploration.

"The offshore drilling has confirmed that Pakistan's offshore areas are potentially hydro-carbon bearing and further interpretation and evaluation of the data obtained would be carried out," OGDC officials said.

Drillship *Danwood Ice*, a 23,000-ton Danish vessel, had begun underwater drilling on Oct 11 last year when Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo formally inaugurated the project.

Canada's international development agency, CIDA, provided a 30-million Canadian-dollar (21 million US dollars) assistance to Pakistan and sources said the cost of further surveys would be financed by the Canadians.

Drilling at Pak-Can I was carried out at a depth of 3,700 meters as against the projected 3,500 meters, sources said.

Experts were still working out the total cost of the project so far, but a senior OGDC executive said it would be within the amount of the Canadian loan of 30 million dollars (Canadian).

Officials said *Danwood Ice* had completed its mission and had left the offshore site.

The discovery of gas in the offshore areas is being considered by oil exploration experts as a major achievement for Pakistan since the results obtained have indicated that Pakistan had a rich potential.

Officials, however, said the present size of the gas discovery was not economical to be extracted, but the mere presence of gas had opened up vast avenues of further exploration.

The Canadians, officials said, were prepared to assist Pakistan to any extent as they now know that future ventures would not be fruitless.

Experts said for any meaningful purpose, the oil or gas discovery in offshore areas has got to be of a size which can justify the infrastructure and other costs of extraction and transportation.

However, they said, Pakistan was now in a position to launch a major capital-intensive drive for locating the bigger reservoirs in these areas.

PAKISTAN

GWADUR TO BE DEVELOPED AS COMMERCIAL PORT

Karachi DAWN in English 12 Feb 86 p 3

[Text] Coastal town of Gwador in Baluchistan is planned to be developed as a commercial port like Karachi. This was stated by Mohammad Ibrahim Baluch Federal Minister of State for Communications here on Monday.

Mr. Ibrahim Baluch who was talking to newsmen soon after he flew into provincial capital on his first visit to Quetta as a member of newly installed central cabinet said that development of Gwador as a commercial port with all necessary facilities would go a long way in boosting economic activity in area. He said that he had made some concrete suggestions to Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo about viability of the scheme and added that it had been incorporated in the party manifesto of Pakistan Muslim League.

Mr. Ibrahim Baluch in reply to a question ruled out the possibility of making Telegraph and Telephone Department as a corporation. T&T Department, he pointed out, was one of the biggest profit earning organisations of the government and as such he did not think that it should be changed into a corporation. Similarly, he told another questioner, that there was no proposal under consideration of government for transfer of telephone exchanges to private sector.

Federal Minister of State for Communication when asked about the possibility of introducing steamer service between Karachi and coastal towns of Baluchistan said that he would look into such a proposal during his visit to coastal areas in near future. Ibrahim Baluch was accorded an enthusiastic reception at airport and was received by Provincial Chief Minister Jam Mir Ghulam Qadir Khan, Ministers, members of Provincial Assembly and a large number of people drawn from various walks of life.

/13104
CSO: 4600/231

PAKISTAN

DEMAND FOR SERAIKI PROVINCE SAID GROWING

Karachi DAWN in English 12 Feb 86 p 4

[Text] MULTAN, Feb 11: The convener of Seraiki Sooba Mahaz, Qari Nurul Haq Qureshi, has demanded provision of opportunities for the promotion of regional languages and progress and prosperity for people of all areas in Pakistan.

Addressing a Press conference, he said it is unjustified that the people of some particular areas were being given proper attention and were provided with special facilities for their progress, while most of the backward areas had been ignored.

He said the Seraiki Sooba, if established, would be against all prejudices of regional, linguistic and sectarian feelings and would be in support of rights to all oppressed and weak sections of people.

Moreover, he said, with the creation of Seraiki Sooba, feeling of deprivation existing among the people residing in backward areas, will be eliminated and in this way the country will prosper.

Qari Nurul Haq said a period of two years has passed since the formation of Seraiki Sooba Mahaz, and the organisation has gained full support from almost all sections of people in the country.

✓ He said the demand for Seraiki Sooba was of the people of Multan region consisting of Multan, DG

Khan and Bahawalpur Divisions including same areas of Sind Province.

He said that for the survival of Pakistan division of Punjab Province was a must.

STUDENTS' PROTEST: Students of various educational institutions in Multan staged demonstrations and held meetings to press for the acceptance of their demands.

Student leaders delivered speeches at the meetings and said that the problems of students have increased due to continued curbs on their unions and their activities.

They demanded immediate lifting of the ban on their unions and immediate solution to all the problems being faced by them.

The meetings on Sunday and Monday, were addressed by Ashfaq Rajpoot, Khawaja Rizwan, Sheikh Tariq, Khalid Mumtaz Noor and others.

JUI DEMAND: Local leaders of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam, including Sheikh Mohammad Yaqoob and Saleem Leghari, have, in a joint statement, demanded immediate withdrawal of orders recently imposed under Section 144, within the revenue limits of Multan District.

/13104
CSO: 4600/231

PAKISTAN

REPORT PROVIDES DETAIL OF TRADE TALKS WITH INDIA

Karachi DAWN (Economic and Business Review Supplement) in English 13 Feb 86 pp I, IV

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb 12: The Government today held out a firm assurance that all its efforts to normalise relations with India, including promotion of trade, would be solely guided by national interest and country's honour and dignity.

The assurance was given by the Federal Commerce Minister, Prince Mohyuddin Baluch and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan while making policy statements in the Senate during a debate on an adjournment motion earlier admitted for discussion on trade relations with India.

The Minister said that relations with India were being normalised on overall basis and were not merely confined to trade.

Allaying members apprehensions who feared that trade with India would not benefit Pakistan, they said while entering into any agreement, Pakistan's interest and basic aims would be strictly and fully safeguarded.

The adjournment motion, which had been moved by Maulana Samiul Haq and was admitted for discussion was talked out after a long debate in which, besides the two Ministers, several members also participated.

COMPLEX: While alluding to some members' statements that while forging trade relations with India, Pakistan's Islamic character would be jeopardised thus making it a secular state, the Foreign Minister said this was a travesty of truth. "Either some members are suffering from inferiority complex or do not fully know the facts," the Minister said adding Pakistan was capable of safeguarding its na-

tional identity.

He said a full-fledged debate had been held in the Parliament in which country's foreign policy was overwhelmingly endorsed by the members. This policy would be strictly followed and under no circumstances Pakistan would abandon its relations with Muslim countries and other friendly countries, nor it would compromise its basic stand on the question of Jammu and Kashmir and on other basic issues. The Foreign Minister, in his written statement said that Pakistan's policy of normalisation of relations with India had been consistent and steadfast. It was so because it was founded in objective realities and sought tension-free relations with India to promote an environment of peace and stability in the region, which served the best interests of the nation.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told the House that normalisation of trade with India was part of the overall policy of building new patterns of peace and cooperation in South Asia.

He said Pakistan had been pursuing normalisation with India in diverse fields. In 1981 Pakistan proposed to India the conclusion of a non-aggression pact on which some progress had been made in negotiations. Even earlier Pakistan had called for a regional or bilateral agreement to keep South Asia free of nuclear weapons. While this idea had not been given up, last December the two sides agreed to conclude an agreement prohibiting attack on each other's nuclear installations, he said.

TRAVEL: The Foreign Minister

said: These and other developments including improvements in travel and expansion of contacts in science and culture, testified to a turn for the better in Pakistan's relations with India. "I am confident that this trend is appreciated by the members of this House as it is by the people of Pakistan and indeed by Pakistan's friends abroad. Surely, it should be our effort to sustain and support this evolution, he said.

He explained trade was part of the package of relations between Pakistan and India. It would be incongruous and untenable to argue that trade should be excluded from the gamut of bilateral relations. Step by step and guarding national interests, we can advance in all fields, he added.

The statement given by the Minister for Commerce, he said, it made abundantly clear that the government's policy on this subject was guided by requisite caution and clarity, and that the limited opening of trade to which we have agreed, does not entail any risk of damage to Pakistan's economic interests. "Furthermore, this policy was subject to test and experiment. Periodically, it will be re-examined and reappraised in the light of experience".

He assured the House that normalisation of relations did not in any way imply any compromise on principles. The Government of Pakistan has not sacrificed and will not sacrifice our well known positions, he said.

PROTECTION: Earlier the Com-

merce Minister had said that Pakistan Government would ensure that in any trade agreement with India, protection is provided to the domestic industry and wide imbalance in bilateral trade is avoided.

He said any new agreement should be in the interest of the two countries and should also provide equitable and just market access for Pakistan products in the Indian market.

PROTOCOL: The Commerce Minister said trade with India was resumed in January, 1975 on the basis of trade protocol signed in November, 1974. This protocol envisaged state-to-state trading. Subsequently, while Indian side allowed the private sector to operate, on Pakistan side the exports and imports were conducted through the Trading Corporation of Pakistan. Import into Pakistan was confined to 42 items and there was no such list in respect of export to India. The list of 42 items of import was prepared in consultation with all concerned and taking into account the interest of the local industry. The main products included in the list of 42 items were tea, wood and timber, betel leaves, betel nut, ginger, tamarind, bidi leaves, spices, ferro alloys etc.

The Minister said during the past years trade with India remained at modest scale and the two-way trade did not exceed dollar 64 million in any year. (In 1984-85 exports were dollar 32.7 million and imports dollar 17.1 million). Pakistan also maintained a favourable balance of trade. The main items imported from India were tea, iron ore, bidi leaves, spices and betel leave and

betel nuts. The main exports from Pakistan were raw cotton, cotton fabrics, urea, dry fruits and salt.

According to him several rounds of talks at technical as well as at higher level have been held with India and views have been exchanged on the framework for a bilateral trade agreement.

However, no agreement has been reached and the two sides maintained their positions. India is of the view that Pakistan should open its trade with it on the basis of the most favoured nation treatment. Pakistan feels that such treatment would adversely affect its nascent industry while the restrictive character of the Indian import policy would not provide equitable access to Pakistani products in the Indian market, he pointed out.

SCOPE: The Minister said bilateral trade issues were also discussed during the visit of former Finance Minister to New Delhi in November, 1985 and return visit of Indian Finance Minister in January, 1986.

The two sides agreed that there was considerable scope for the expansion of trade between Pakistan and India in the mutual interest of both the countries. It was agreed

that efforts should be made to at least double the trade in commodities being traded by public sector import of 42 items being imported through the Trading Corporation of Pakistan.

He said imports were already being undertaken by the private sector but were routed through TCP for monitoring purposes.

No trade agreement was signed during the visit of the Indian Fi-

nance Minister to Pakistan and further dialogue between both sides will continue, he concluded.

Maulana Samiul Haq said in principle he agreed with having good relations with all the countries, but in case of India "we should keep in mind the historical perspective and proceed in its light."

He demanded that the Parliament should be made aware of all the details of the agreement and should be taken into confidence.

Shad Muhammad Khan said "we should be careful in our friendship with India especially in promoting trade with it."

Mr Ahmed Mian Soomro, said normalisation of Pakistan, India relations was an important aspect, especially trade promotion. He favoured the progress made in this regard, but reminded that this should not prove disadvantageous to Pakistani trade.

Professor Khurshid Ahmed was of the view that increasing trade activity with India should be taken in historical perspective. He said economy is not an isolated affair and is directly related with politics. "Our relations with India have always been sensitive and controversial and thus our trade activity with them should be pursued in the light of it."

Mir Nabi Baksh Zehri asserted that Parliament should be taken into confidence about the details of the agreement. He hoped that increasing trade activity will be beneficial for both the countries.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, said that economic activity is not an isolated affair and is related with politics. Therefore, he said, we should be extremely careful in this regard.—

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CSO: 4600/232

PAKISTAN

ECONOMIC COUNCIL APPROVES SEVERAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Karachi DAWN in English 14 Feb 86 p 22

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Feb 13: The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council met here on Thursday under the chairmanship of the Federal Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs, Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo. The meeting considered as many as 70 development projects and programmes. It also reviewed the progress of the ongoing projects of national importance. The total cost of projects approved by the committee is estimated at Rs 25620 million.

In the transport and communications sector the committee approved 15 projects which include a scheme for providing 1700 long distance public call offices in the rural areas and constructions of an overhead bridge at Gari Shahu, Lahore.

In the education sector the committee approved the establishment of an institute of technology at Dera Ghazi Khan and a cadet college at Mastung in Baluchistan.

In the water sector two schemes to provide protection against floods in the Malir River were sanctioned. A second on farm water management project for the improvement and lining of water courses to prevent losses through seepage in all the four provinces were also approved.

A project aimed at development of aeronautical communications to achieve the level of international safety obligations for both domestic and international flights was also approved. It will be implemented at all airports of the country.

The committee gave approval to nine projects in the energy sector. These include the electrification of rural areas in Azad Jammu and

Kashmir and a solar energy project at Kharan in Baluchistan.

In the physical planning and housing sector the Committee accorded approval to eight schemes under the Karachi Special Development Programme. These schemes include an improvement programme for Katchi Abadis which aims at ameliorating the lot of the people living in substandard conditions in the Katchi Abadis. Under the same package schemes pertaining to construction of two syphons and lining of Kinjhar — Gujjo Canal to improve the water supply position of Karachi were also approved.

The review of important projects placed before the committee were based on the findings of special monitoring constituted by the Planning Commission. The ECNEC issued instructions to the all sponsoring ministries and implementing agencies concerned including the provincial governments that the findings of the monitoring teams should be used as a feed back for improving the standard of appraisal and evaluation in order to develop an active linkage between the planning, programming and implementation of development schemes and programmes.

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers for Commerce, Communications, Housing and Works, Production, Water and Power, Food and Agriculture, Education, Planning and Development, Chief Minister NWFP, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Secretary General, Economic Affairs, Federal Secretaries of Economic Ministries, senior officials of the provincial governments and a number of other high officials.—APP.

PAKISTAN

JUNEJO SAYS KHOKHRAPAR ROUTE TO OPEN SOON

Karachi DAWN in English 15 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] KARACHI, Feb 14: Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo announced on Friday that Khokrapar border would be reopened soon to facilitate travel between Pakistan and India.

Addressing a public meeting here at Nishtar Park, he said this would be done in view of difficulties being faced by the people of Karachi and interior of Sind who wanted to visit their relatives in India.

He said the reopening of the border will take place very soon, as dialogue with India in this regard was expected to be completed shortly.

However, he said it was his promise that the border will be opened at all costs.

His announcement was received by the audience with great enthusiasm.

Reopening of the Khokrapar border has been a long-standing demand of the people of Sind and Baluchistan. Recently, in view of

the Prime Minister's visit, various political and social organisations had taken up the issue once again. At the Nishtar Park meeting also several banners demanding reopening of the border were visible.

The Khokrapar border was closed down after the 1965 war with India. Khokrapar is the last border town of Pakistan. A branch line from Hyderabad to Khokrapar via Mirpurkhas is functioning regularly. Only the five-mile track to the Indian border has been abandoned.

Railway sources say the track upto the border was quite in order and only two rail-lengths, of 36-feet each, had been taken out with the closure.

Given the green signal by the authorities, the traffic can be resumed in less than 15 days, railway sources maintain.

The Indian station across the Khokrapar border is Monabao. From there, there is link both Delhi and Bombay.

/13104

CSO: 4600/233

PAKISTAN

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY GROUP CRITICIZES ADMINISTRATION

Karachi DAWN in English 15 Feb 86 p 10

[Text]

RAWALPINDI, Feb 14: As many as nine members of National Assembly and Senators belonging to Independent Parliamentary Group at their first-ever public meeting in the city on Friday vowed to continue their fight against discontent and disorder the country was seethed with.

Presenting an extremely gloomy picture of the country before a crowd of about 5,000 they said it was the result of rulers irrational policies.

They threatened to quit the House if they failed in setting the things back in order within a few months.

The long period of Martial Law in which masses lived for over eight years had given birth to numerous issues they said, and unanimously demanded revival of trade unions and students union activities.

The IPG men also asked the rulers to allow to come-back all political leaders and workers who had been compelled to go abroad.

They criticised Prime Minister Junejo's PML which, they said was the smallest political party and consisted of feudal lords and imperialists.

Haji Saifullah, the Leader of IPG said, his group stood for a true democratic setup in the country for which they fought in the House

against despotism and repression.

Sheikh Rashid said that the IPG will take all possible steps to eliminate the bureaucratic and feudal system in the country. Military bureaucracy, he said, had also disrupted the democratic values and norms. He asked the rulers to withdraw the sentences against the political workers given by military courts.

Syeda Abida Husain said that the hard fact was that communication gap between the masses and the ruling class widened during the past few years simply because of over-all national setup.

Senator Tariq Chowdhary said, if the rulers were really sincere in promoting a true democratic system, they should not hesitate in lifting the ban from various trade unions which included PTV, PBC, PIA and students union in the country.

Raja Shahid Zafar said the name of Islam was exploited by the rulers during the past eight years only to grind their own axe.

Those who addressed the gathering included, Satwat Sher Ali, Sher Afzal, Sahibzada Noor Hasan and Javaid Hashmi.

Heavy armed police was posted on either side of the park where in order to keep an eye on outsiders who might attempt to disrupt the gathering.

/13104
CSO: 4600/233

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

JUNEJO TO VISIT AJK--Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo will undertake a detailed tour of Azad Jammu & Kashmir in April this year. Disclosing this the AJK Prime Minister Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan said that Prime Minister Junjo has accepted the invitation to visit Azad Kashmir. He said the fourthcoming tour of Mr Junejo will be of far-reaching importance for this area. Sadar Sikandar Hayat said that the elected Government of Pakistan has assured to increase the development funds for Azad Kashmir. During his recent meeting with Mr Junejo, several matters relating to the problems of Jammu-Kashmir refugees, the Mangla Dam affectees, provisions of development funds, and summoning of the AJK Council meeting were discussed in detail, he said. Sardar Sikandar Hayat, who is also the president of ruling All-Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference, revealed that the two-day annual convention of his party will be held in Mirpur on March 7. An organising committee headed by a Minister has been constituted to finalise arrangements for the convention. AJK Premier revealed that a conference of editors of weeklies and periodicals of Azad Kashmir will be held in Mirpur in mid-March to look into problems of Kashmiri editors. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 12 Feb 86 p 4] /13104

ZIA OFFERED PARTY OFFICE--Mr Tanweer Husaini, Chairman of newly registered Ghareeb Awam Party, told pressmen on Tuesday his party would be lucky if President Zia-ul-Haq could join him. President Zia, he said will be given highest office in the party, Mr Husaini said. Mr Husaini has also asked the Government to cut down the expenses of over Rs 16 lakh being spent daily on the Members of the National Assembly. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 12 Feb 86 p 4] /13104

CSO: 4600/232

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