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JPRS-NEA-85-034

7 March 1985

Near East/South Asia Report

19980825 174

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EGYPT

MINISTER OF INTERIOR DISCUSSES POLICE, EMERGENCY LAW

Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 19 Jan 85 p 7

[Interview with Maj Gen Ahmad Rushdi, minister of interior, by Sana' al-Sa'id:
"Minister of Interior Speaks to AKHBAR AL-YAWM: I Will Be First To Demand
Abolition of Emergency Law on Day When Egypt Doesn't Need It; Place of
Religion Is in Mosque and Church Only"]

[Text] Ahmad Rushdi, the minister of interior, asserted that he will be
the first to demand abolition of the emergency law on the day when Egypt
doesn't need it.

In an interview with AKHBAR AL-YAWM, the minister said that religion's place
is in the mosque and the church only and warned against any attempt to move
beyond this framework, any deviation from religion's path or any movement
outside the law or the Shari'a.

The minister of interior also said that the main and broad line for the
security men is to deal with the citizens with dignity and that the police
agency is not just a security agency but an agency to deter whoever swerves
from legitimacy and the law.

Ahmad Rushdi asserted that the police agency takes to task policemen for any
excesses against any citizen, that the Ministry of Justice is the sole
authority truly supervising the jails and that the police perform guard duties
only.

The first question I addressed to the minister of interior concerns relations
between the police and the citizen.

[Question] In the course of analyzing relations between the police and the
citizen, I wonder what are the controls that govern the connection between
the strategy and the tactics in what the Ministry of Interior performs?

[Answer] Our strategy is in harmony with the tactics we follow in delivering
services to every citizen in Egypt. The ministry leaderships are eager for
good relations with the citizen. The relationship between the police and the
citizen is a serious relationship founded on mutual respect and bound by
close cooperation and smooth dealings that entrench the model and dissolve
the bureaucratic complexities.

[Question] Is there a conflict or contradiction between the police's
performance of their duty and observing the citizen's dignity and safeguarding
his humanity on the basis of the belief some people hold, namely that the
principle of leniency may not be a useful and beneficial weapon?

[Answer] The main and broad line for the security men is to deal with the citizens with dignity. But it may not be possible to avoid a mistake here or there despite the instructions we give and the pitfalls we make clear. However, such mistakes are individual cases that do not constitute a phenomenon. Generally, there is no individual or group of individuals who is free of mistakes. But we are always eager to avoid mistakes and we take our men to task for any excesses committed against any citizen.

[Question] Whenever the police are mentioned, the other face of the coin is always conjured. I wonder: if the police force is a security agency, then is it an agency of oppression at the same time?

[Answer] The police force is fundamentally an agency that performs various services for the citizens. We serve willingly and voluntarily. We work, toil, suffer and face difficult conditions for the sake of the Egyptian citizen. The policeman's performance, movement and efforts are channeled toward serving the main and final objective of protecting the Egyptian citizen. Even if mistakes are committed, they are unintentional.

[Question] This means that the police force is a security agency only?

[Answer] The police agency is, to start with, a security agency and not an agency of oppression. This is most often the case. But a certain event or certain time may require the police agency to act as an agency of deterrence and suppression against whoever tries to swerve from legitimacy and the supremacy of the law. However, even in dealing with those who outstep the bounds of legitimacy, the police agency always operates within the bounds of the law and without any excesses.

The agency will be watching for anybody who tries to cause any sort of sabotage and it will have no mercy and will not hesitate to pursue any person who thinks of or tries to sabotage a public or private establishment or public or private property. There will be no leniency at all in dealing with such a person. This is the broad line followed by the agency to deal with such deviations. But I stress that our dealings will always be within the framework of the law from which we will not swerve. We warn any devious element that if he doesn't desist or obey the law, we will use force, regardless of the circumstances.

Implementation of the Law

[Question] The State Security Intelligence Agency is a source of worry, concern and fright in the heart of the ordinary citizen. Many have the impression that those in charge of this agency are fond of entrapping people and fabricating charges against them.

[Answer] The State Security Intelligence Agency is a patriotic national agency that performs a great duty in protecting the domestic front from the dangers that may threaten it and may pose a threat to domestic stability. Moreover, it coordinates and deals with the other security agencies in fighting activities to export terrorism and fighting any attempts from abroad to undermine our country's security. I will derive my answer to your question

from a phrase I frequently use, namely that a sick man complains of a malady he suffers. Only a sick man seeking to destroy this agency so that he may be free to act as he wishes at any time he wishes and at the expense of others--only such a man complains of the State Security Intelligence Agency. However, I stress that this agency performs a vitally important role and all must preserve this agency, appreciate its role and encourage it for no other reason than the fact that it protects all of Egypt.

[Question] Because the police represent a strong security weapon, their action may be characterized by duality and this agency may be inclined to violate the law, especially when it is entrusted with implementing it.

[Answer] We are fully committed to implementing the law as much as possible and in the best manner possible. When dealing with any citizen, we are eager not to overstep the bounds of the law. All citizens should rest assured that our dealings with any citizen will only be within the limits of the law. Under no condition should there be any doubt that the police may tend to violate the law when they are eager to implement and uphold the law.

[Question] As a responsible security agency, what is your view of torture? And who guarantees that torture will not be used as an instrument and a means of a police state where loyalties to the same profession prevail to the point where any condemnation of the use of torture may be obliterated?

[Answer] As I have just said, we are eager to observe the law and this includes the eagerness not to let ourselves be carried away with means incompatible with the law.

We live in the context of a democratic life. There are no guiltless people. If a wrong is committed by any man, then we have justice and the judiciary. We all perhaps fully trust the fairness, ability and integrity of the Egyptian judiciary. What is being currently aroused regarding the torture issue is in reaction to what has been recently raised by the opposition papers. This matter is in the hands of the prosecution at present and I may not speak about it as long as it is being examined by the prosecution.

[Question] But what is your view of torture as an instrument that may be used? Do you approve of its use as an instrument of deterrence?

[Answer] I noted at the outset of the interview our full eagerness as a police agency to deal with the citizen in an honorable way that befits him as a human being first and as an Egyptian citizen second. The word "Egyptian" must soar high in the sky. This eagerness on our part reflects implicitly my viewpoint regarding your question.

[Question] There are those who say that prison officers collude with the political security agencies which storm the jails and engage in acts of torture against powerless individuals. This has been used as a pretext to demand strongly that the Ministry of Justice instead of the Ministry of Interior take charge of the jails.

[Answer] This is what some opposition pens reiterate. We must not approach issues in this manner. Whoever wants to question and query must point out specific facts and incidents. As I have just told you, the prosecution is investigating this matter and I am not entitled to discuss it. The prosecution is one of the trusted agencies of the Ministry of Justice which are eager to bring out the truth and justice. This is one point. On the other hand, it doesn't concern me if the jails are controlled by the Ministry of Interior or the Ministry of Justice. Regardless of which ministry controls the jails, the police will have to perform the guard and security duties. I would like to point out that the Ministry of Justice is the sole authority that is truly in charge of the jails. The prosecution people are entitled to enter any jail, inspect it at any time and make any observations they wish to make. This means that control by the Ministry of Justice is not the problem because this control does actually exist at present, since the Ministry of Justice is fully entitled to inspect, through the prosecution members, any central, district or precinct jail or any public jail anywhere and to record observations it deems fit.

[Question] This means that you have no objection to seeing the Prison Authority controlled by the Ministry of Justice instead of the Ministry of Interior?

[Answer] It is actually under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice insofar as control is concerned. The Ministry of Interior controls the administrative aspect only. Consequently, if jurisdiction over the Prison Authority were diverted to the Ministry of Justice, the result will be the same as it is now because the forces and agencies of the Ministry of Interior will continue to provide guards and security. Therefore, control by the Ministry of Justice will do nothing but change the name.

[Question] Is it possible to reconsider some measures that are adopted and followed in the jails, especially against political detainees--measures which portray the police as if they were a special militia to protect state security?

[Answer] The word "militia" is an imported word with which we have nothing to do. We have no militia to protect the state security. We have a patriotic national security agency. As I have said, the police agency is a servant that stays vigilant day and night and that sacrifices its time and comfort to serve the citizen. Moreover, the police agency itself is a complete agency that serves within a unified framework and that insures all the means of security and stability for the citizen.

[Question] How true is the statement that the precinct jails are exempt from observing all controls and from any real supervision by the public prosecution and that this makes it possible for them to arrest whomever they wish?

[Answer] This is not true and I reject the contents of this question entirely. The prosecution attorneys can go to any precinct and the jail will be opened to them to inspect the condition of those detained in it. There is no vagueness or ambiguity, there is no coverup and nothing is going on secretly. Everything is done openly and in broad daylight. The prosecution's supervision is direct and constant and it does not stop at all.

Egypt Is Well

[Question] It is surprising that Egypt, which is considered practically more secure than many other countries in the world, continues to maintain the emergency law--a law which may restrict the action of the judiciary themselves.

[Answer] I agree with you that Egypt enjoys an excellent security situation which has motivated foreign ambassadors to praise it and to say that Egypt is a haven of security and safety in comparison to their countries where the most heinous crimes are committed in broad daylight. Egypt is well, despite the few individual incidents which do not swerve in most cases from the limits of ordinary crimes from which no society is free.

[Question] Isn't this another reason to abolish the emergency law?

[Answer] We must not forget that there are laws implemented abroad that are more restrictive than the emergency law. There are states that banish the citizen from his country if he commits a crime. In other countries, they implement gross laws that give the minister of interior the power to inspect an entire area and arrest whomever he wishes without any control by the judiciary or anybody else. We have nothing of the sort. All we have is an emergency law which is tantamount to a permit given the Ministry of Interior. This ministry is careful to use this permit ideally and properly and within the narrowest limits. The law will be used only in the cases dictating its use. Because of the terrorism prevailing in the world at present, of the attempts to export terrorism to Egypt and of the external forces hostile to us which try to undermine Egypt's stable security, we cannot live in a security void.

[Question] Cannot the ordinary law dispense with the emergency law?

[Answer] Let us assume that a bomb explodes somewhere; Isn't it my right to cordon off and inspect such a place?

Under the ordinary law, I do not have this right. The emergency law empowers me to do so rapidly. It gives me an early opportunity to take the necessary steps to foil any terrorist attempt. Under the ordinary law, I have to wait until I make a report and get the prosecution's permit and this does not help me. The emergency law is a permit to move quickly at the outset of the crime to contain and foil any act of terrorism. As for the other investigation activities, they are conducted in accordance with the ordinary law, prosecution and judiciary. Let me again ask: who is disturbed by the emergency law?

[Question] The opposition is disturbed by it.

[Answer] We always welcome and are proud of constructive opposition--a rational opposition that tends to the public interest. The emergency law has not harmed anybody and the citizen is hardly aware of it. Even if this law is applied to a handful of people, this is done to serve the interests of 47 million people. Only a sick and abnormal person fears the emergency law. As for the ordinary citizen, he welcomes this law and trusts the agency that uses it because he believes that the law will not be used unless the need arises.

[Question] A weak point in your position on the law is raised by the question: what is the use of an existing law that is covered by promises and pledges not to use it?

[Answer] The law is derived from its name and its use is tied to an emergency that dictates such use. The law constitutes a burden on nobody. Nearly 6 months have passed since enforcement of the law was extended. Who has felt it?

[Question] The healthy climate in which Egypt lives almost pronounces a condition of stability not experienced by any other country in the world. Consequently, do we need to rely on a law such as the emergency law?

[Answer] This matter has been discussed in full detail by the People's Assembly and there is no need to dwell on it. We can criticize the emergency law if it is misused. I, as a citizen, wish that such a law did not exist in Egypt. I look forward to the day when Egypt will not need to use it and I will then be the first one to demand its abolition. But as long as I see criminal and political tendencies in the world around us--tendencies which may pose a threat to us--I cannot dispense with this law. Therefore, it must be maintained until the terrorist waves prevailing in the world subside and until this terrorism is confronted at the international level in a manner that secures Egypt against any threat that may be posed to it. From this angle, the emergency law is in the interest of democracy and of the Egyptian citizen, not vice versa. It cannot be at all viewed as being in opposition and conflict with democracy.

Leftist Organization Seized

[Question] If there is a danger actually threatening Egypt, then why don't you declare it so that there may be adequate justifications to maintain the emergency law?

[Answer] We do not create pretexts to justify the law's existence. But we say that there are real security justifications that require the law. Despite this, we will not resort to the law except in cases of utmost need. This has been made evident to all in the case of al-Bakush which we have been able to contain and pursue without resorting to the emergency law. This means fundamentally that I have to move as if the law did not exist so that I may not resort to it unless forced to do so by the circumstances. Regarding your question as to why we don't declare the justifications, I cannot declare them because they all flow into cases that we are observing and pursuing at present. I cannot declare the justifications until the cases are seized. I have a lot but the citizen will not hear about it until it is seized.

[Question] What about that which has been actually seized?

[Answer] A number of cases have been seized recently in Alexandria, Cairo and Shubra al-Khaymah. Pamphlets were seized in the possession of these groups casting doubts on the regime's tendencies and calling for demonstrations and sit-in strikes against the regime. The latest case seized last week was that of a number of radical leftist elements. This is the third case of its kind that has been seized recently. The number of people arrested in these cases is 25 people who are being investigated by the prosecution. But I say that all those involved in these cases are still in detention, except for a 72-year old man who has been released out of consideration for his age.

[Question] What about Egypt insofar as concerns the radical religious tendencies which may be evoking tension and concern in a number of Arab countries and are trying as hard as they can to curtail the growth of these tendencies? Do the radical Islamic groups continue to form an element of concern and anxiety, especially with the emergence of rumors from time to time to the effect that there are those who are engaged in underground activities?

[Answer] Egypt is fully concerned with Islam. It is a stronghold of Islam. The venerable al-Azhar with its long and deep-rooted history has been a strong lighthouse of Islam throughout the ages. At the same time, we respect, venerate and believe in the divine religions. In Egypt, we live in social peace and national unity. But we are against any act that utilizes and exploits religion for personal secular ends that are remote from observed religious traditions. Therefore, any movements of the sort will be firmly confronted by the police. With my frankness, I wish to draw the attention of, enlighten and guide those who seek to move in the name of religion to form groups or cells. This is completely rejected. The place of religion is in the mosque and the church only. Therefore, I warn that any attempt to swerve from this framework or from the traditional religious path and any movement beyond the bounds of the law and of legitimacy will be fully watched. We have learned a lot from our past experiences and we do not wish to repeat the experience of the past. I tell whoever imagines that he is working in the dark and that nobody is aware of him--I tell such a person that he is deluded. We are currently observing all movements, be they aboveground or underground. I say this loudly because it may act as a warning to those who are trying to move in order that we may not repeat the past tragedy again.

Besieging Terrorism

[Question] What are the measures you are taking to contain the terrorism that may be stirred by foreign elements or countries that have persisted in committing acts of violence and in launching an undeclared war against Egypt--countries that have become accustomed to employing terrorism to export revolution or to topple a regime?

[Answer] We all know that the export of terrorism to Egypt is not confined to the elements of one country in particular and that the help of numerous international organizations, be they British, German or Palestinian, is enlisted in this regard. This is what we have seen in the case of al-Bakush in which the defendants are British and Maltese. There are other Arab and foreign

citizens who get involved in such operations under the temptation of money, nothing more and nothing less. We exert serious and ceaseless efforts to contain such operations and to expose them at the right time. We have a lot of information but we do not make it public.

[Question] Having mentioned al-Bakush case, does Egypt plan to hand the Britons over to the United Kingdom, especially since it has been reported that an agreement in principle has been reached between you and Scotland Yard to deliver the Britons involved in the case to Britain?

[Answer] To start with, we consider the crime a political crime and not a criminal offense. It is in criminal offenses that criminals may be exchanged. Even in such cases, the exchange is done on an order by a magistrate, i.e., the exchange does not take place between one police agency and another. This means that it is necessary to submit the case to the judiciary to approve the handover. But in political cases, every country may move according to its circumstances and interests and according to what it deems fit. This case occurred on Egyptian territory and I see no justification at present to move it to or to try it on British territory.

[Question] Discipline is a magnificent behavioral characteristic and discipline could have achieved the peak of success had the efforts been coordinated with the other authorities and ministries. But all took the position of a spectator and let the Ministry of Interior act alone in this arena. It seems as if this were the price which those who would undertake reforms must collect.

[Answer] I am happy that discipline has become a magnificent behavioral characteristic. We are happy with this appreciation, even though I feel in my heart and every policeman feels in his heart that we are at the beginning of the road. But to say that the other authorities have taken the position of spectator and have not participated with the Ministry of Interior is almost tantamount to casting doubt. The police do not work in isolation from the people or from the other agencies. Every ministry performs its role and we cooperate with each other. The people may be more strongly aware of police movements because the police implement the law and move on the Egyptian street and in every place and position. But discipline in terms of regular attendance and of observance of work hours, of production and of enhanced work efficiency is present and the workers in all sectors are aware of it. Therefore, I do not agree with those who say that only the police have been moving. The government is a single hand working in cooperation and there is evident integration among its agencies.

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EGYPT

SHAYKH OF AL-AZHAR UNIVERSITY DISCUSSES CURRENT ISLAMIC ISSUES

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 25 Jan 85 pp 30-31, 65

[Interview with Shaykh Jadd-al-Haqq 'Ali Jadd-al-Haqq, Shaykh of Al-Azhar, by Muhammad Bakr: "His Eminence the Shaykh of Al-Azhar, in a Comprehensive Conversation on the Problems of the Islamic World"]

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Jadd-al-Haqq 'Ali Jadd-al-Haqq, the shaykh of al-Azhar University, spoke with AL-MUSAWWAR about the most important problems the Islamic world is going through today. He said, "The steps by the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, which have resulted in the resumption of political relations between Egypt and Jordan hold good promise for the awakening of the Arab world and its emergence from fragmentation and dissension." He said "Al-Azhar has appealed to the belligerents in the Iraqi-Iranian war to put down peace [sic] and seek judgment in God's book, and I call on the leaders of Iraq and Iran to respond to this appeal." He also said, "The problem of Jerusalem and the Jews' repeated attempts to commit aggression against the Mosque of al-Aqsa, and what they have done in the city of Hebron and the occupied territories, call on us to draw attention to the Arabs' and Moslems' leaders to rise above their disputes and take the initiative to hold an Islamic summit conference to cope with all these challenges." He said, "The door to individual theorizing is still open, but where are the people performing the individual theorizing?" He talked about the return of Pope Shanudah and said, "We welcome this return and greet the Coptic citizens of various creeds, and I hope that this return will strengthen the unity of the Egyptian people." He also talked about the symposia on opinions and dialogue and said that they had registered great success and that it was necessary to continue them and expand them. He said, "The application of Islamic law is a decisive solution to all our problems." He described the development of al-Azhar University as a return to the comprehensive Islamic university of old and said that the agencies of the appeal to Islam have become truly unified and need nothing but to get in movement.

I asked his eminence the greatest imam, "There are people who speak against education in al-Azhar and talk about the low level of al-Azhar's pupils and students, although there are more than 1,500 Azharite institutes covering the towns and villages of Egypt."

He replied,

"Al-Azhar has its status in Egypt, and, praise God, its institutes, at their primary, preparatory and secondary levels, are spread out, I would not say in all towns, but in most villages. This year, about 75 primary institutes were opened in a number of governorates, not to speak of the primary and secondary classes which were also opened, in addition to the institutes that had existed at various levels, totalling about 1,500. These institutes' resource have been their students, who come to them and start their educational careers in the religious and public schools. The institutes have faced some difficulties this year in light of the application of the law on basic education, which has not allowed a percentage of people undergoing compulsory education to enroll in the institutes of al-Azhar; I hope that these difficulties will end and that a percentage will be determined for the people undergoing compulsory education which will be coordinated in the various governorates by officials in the two districts of al-Azhar education and general education, so that the extension of al-Azhar and its institutes will remain and so that al-Azhar will continue to supply Egypt and the Islamic world with scholars who will disseminate Arab and Islamic culture. Moreover, there are faculties of al-Azhar University, whose faculties have also been spread about in most of the governorates, in addition to Cairo, in al-Zaqaziq, al-Mansura, Tanta, Damanhur, Alexandria, Shabin al-Kawm, Asyut and Sawhaj.

"As to the talk about the level of education, we all always long for a better level, but the actual situation is that providing al-Azhar with a special quality of student who is of a high educational level is something we have started seriously to venture on. Planning has been begun to increase the primary institutes whose primary task is memorization of the holy Koran and provision of the suitable culture which will prepare male or female students to enroll in the ranks of preparatory education."

[Question] However, there are people who say that it is the development of al-Azhar that is behind its students' mediocre education level.

[Answer] Those people who claim that suffering, ruin and calamity have befallen al-Azhar since it was developed are saying things they do not know, because there is no doubt that Law 103 for 1961, which organized al-Azhar in the form which exists now, aspired to have higher studies in al-Azhar constitute a university restoring al-Azhar's past, when it had no equivalent, in the Arab and Islamic worlds at least. The laboratory faculties, such as medicine, engineering, agriculture, pharmacy and sciences, are only an embodiment of what had been taught in al-Azhar in the past. All these sciences and areas of knowledge, which have become diversified and assumed concrete form in specialized faculties in the system which the era is following, were taught, and the manuscripts and writings of al-Azhar's scholars regarding these arts, with which the al-Azhar library is brimming over, give testimony to this.

[Question] People talk about unifying the agencies of the appeal to Islam as a requirement for promoting the appeal to Islam. What is your eminence's view?

[Answer] It is true that some people talk about unifying the agencies of the appeal to Islam. These agencies in themselves are unified, since al-Azhar and the Religious Endowments [Ministry] are working together in this field domestically and abroad, and it is the scholars who have graduated from al-Azhar who are working in the Religious Endowments [Ministry] and performing the duties of the call. In order to avoid shortcomings in the performance of these duties, in the search to organize them so that they can yield their fruit, and in the effort to cover all mosques with imams and proselytizers who are scholars, enlightenment committees have been formed in each governorate headed by the governors and including as members the heads of agencies which have a connection to the task of making the appeal, such as Religious Endowments, al-Azhar, the [Ministries of] Education, Information and Culture, and others which can contribute their men, their efforts or their facilities to religious enlightenment, the organization of enlightenment, and the provision of enlightenment to citizens where they are, in order to provide them with culture, education and the rectification of certain erroneous notions. Perhaps one of the first duties of these committees is to be concerned with the affairs of mosques and to create imams for them, since it is well known that the mosques, praise God, prepare thousands throughout the whole country while official imams do not cover these mosques. Therefore, what one hopes for from these committees is that they will seek to fill the shortage by having the scholars in the al-Azhar mosques perform their duties in mosques which are lacking in imams, as well as scholars working in the Ministries of Education and Social Affairs and other departments and bodies. Indeed, the function of imams of mosques can even be assigned to retired scholars. This is all a matter which has been delegated to these local committees so that the scholars, as I said, can correct notions and spread about true Islamic teachings.

[Question] What about the higher committees of the appeal?

[Answer] The higher committee of the appeal has been in existence on top of these local committees in the governorates; arranged in its membership are the ministers of education, religious endowments, information and culture, the heads of the agencies of the appeal and proselytization in al-Azhar and the [Ministry of] Religious Endowments, the president of al-Azhar, the secretary general of the Academy of Islamic Research, the vice president of al-Azhar, the chairman of the central department of institutes and other officials and public personalities. The Shaykh of al-Azhar heads up this committee, and its task is to supervise the progress of the enlightenment committees in the governorates, outline their policy and plans, direct them to matters which will help them perform their tasks and review the affairs of the appeal domestically and abroad in general. This committee will meet early next month (February) to review the work that is presented to it concerning the progress of local enlightenment committees and so forth regarding the issues assigned to them. This means will guarantee that the agencies of the appeal are unified and that it is directed in a manner which will realize the goals assigned to it, if these committees, at their various levels, along with the higher committee, perform the tasks which the decrees establishing them, issued by the prime minister, have specified.

The Symposia on the Dialogue

[Question] Al-Azhar, with its men and scholars, took part in the symposia on opinion and dialogue with young people, and they clarified many facts which had been obscure or absent from many people's comprehension. Will al-Azhar continue these symposia?

[Answer] There is no doubt that many scholars from al-Azhar have taken part in the symposia on opinion and dialogue which have been held and broadcast, and in them have clarified many of the facts which had been absent or obscure to people and have eliminated many doubts or near-shortages or deficiencies in the tasks of the scholars and men of al-Azhar. We always need to furnish people, especially young people, with insight into the affairs and facts of Islam and the falsehoods of its enemies, who want to corrupt our children and girls so that they will become alienated from commitment to the provisions of Islam and will lose their Islamic identity. Our children are perhaps to be excused, since some writers have gone to excess in reiterating secular ideas which alienate young people from commitment to Islamic principles, and have corrupted their identity for them. Our children have not been prepared and have not been immunized against these ideas. We immunize them against plagues and call on citizens to hasten to immunize themselves and their children against the contagious diseases and plagues which have come from abroad; most unfortunately, we are neglecting to immunize them and protect them against these ideas, which cause them to have doubts about their beliefs and religion and encourage laxity and depravity in morals and morality. They are also to be excused now that the course curricula in public education no longer include the memorization of parts of the Koran, education in the basic points of Islam and the implantation of moral values which Islam advocates, since the prevailing curricula do not give up the fruit we wish, and the preservation of religion and protection of our children against deviation from religion are no less than protection of them against the physical diseases which we immunize them against. The ideas and writings which many writers are calling for are only intellectual plagues and diseases, and their proponents must take stock of themselves and refrain from poisoning the ideas and spirits of our children with what they have been spreading against Islam and against its values, which has been implanted in the spirits of these people. If we lose our Islamic identity by spreading about these ideas, which encourage violation of the provisions of Islam, we will have lost our own identity, and will no longer have a place in this life. Therefore there is no doubt that this dialogue which is taking place between the scholars and the young people in the schools, societies and some university faculties is something which must continue, be established on a stable basis, be expanded and be spread among groups of students at various levels, among communities of workers and institutions, and indeed among the clubs and all societies, so that we will have an Islamic cultural movement which will restore to our society its Islamic face, so that it is enlightened with proper Islamic thinking and an Islamic culture which has been derived from its roots and in the hands of its scholars. God was right when he said, "God does not change what is in a people until they change what is in themselves." Let these people who speculate in words and expressions desist and learn that the place for technical discourse concerning these expressions is scholarly academies and special cultural clubs, not the pages

of journals that are circulated which everyone reads and might be beyond some people's education, so that they are dazzled with what they read but do not understand, then are led astray and lead others astray. Let God look after those who fight, but not in an arena, and engage in holy war, but not against an enemy, and offer their learning and their culture at levels which accept them and find them palatable. The scholars of al-Azhar must face these appeals and words which have been disseminated in journals and magazines as an attack on the morality of Islam and its rules, as deception of the people, and as their alienation from commitment to the provisions of their religion.

The Application of Islamic Law

[Question] Do you consider that a remedy to all our problems and a remedy to all our causes lies in the application of Islamic law?

[Answer] If we want reform, the performance of good works, discipline, rectitude and the blessings of glorious God, we must apply the provisions of God among ourselves and in our judiciary and rulings. God's law is most enduring and just and is in the presence of an all-judicious, all-knowing being which knows what deceives people's eyes and what people's hearts conceal. How can we accept the advice of a doctor regarding the diagnosis of a disease and accept the cure for which he provides guidance, when he might be wrong and might be afflicted, and we might be diverted from the cure which God has prescribed for our illnesses and diseases, and indeed from reforming ourselves and our conduct?

The experience which the Islamic nation went through in the first era and the time when God's provisions held sway in the home, on the street and in rulings were adhered to by the prince, the minister and the guards, and at that time there were security, safety, confidence, justice, and equity and mercy, cooperation and sympathy among people. Crimes were few or nonexistent and people devoted themselves to obtaining their livelihood within the context of God's law and provisions. The punishment of people who deviated from God's laws was what God had decreed, not what man had decreed. This period in which Moslems lived in commitment to the provisions of Islam in all their affairs was the one which represented the unity and strength of the Islamic nation and underlined respect for it among nations.

The means for making our family and social life upright and for supporting our economy, correcting our conduct and cleansing our society of the violations against God's provisions and corruption in morals and integrity which it has suffered from is to apply God's provisions regarding all our affairs.

[Question] However, there are people who consider that time and a gradual approach must be provided for the application of Islamic law.

[Answer] Time does not need to be provided for the application of Islamic law. The people, with all their factions, are calling for the application of God's provisions. Indeed, praise God, we can find that the people are receptive to the call to God and commitment to the provisions of Islam of their own will. We are a Moslem people, so why should we call for a gradual

approach to application? It is only up to the bodies concerned to perform their mission in issuing laws prepared or derived from the provisions of Islam.

The People's Assembly at its previous session exerted great effort to prepare the laws. Most of the laws are derived from the provisions of Islamic law; it now is part of its duties, by virtue of its function as representative of the people, to issue these laws today, and not later, so that through them our affairs may be rectified and our condition may be set right through obedience to God and in the light of the provisions of Islam.

[Question] What is the view of his eminence the greatest imam regarding the resumption by his holiness the pope of pursuit of his papal functions?

[Answer] I welcome the resumption by Pope Shanudah of the pursuit of his clerical missions, salute him and the Coptic citizens on the glorious Christmas, and hope that the unity of the Egyptian people will endure and be strengthened. The people never at any time were anything but Egyptian, and differences of religion never split their ranks. These people have faced much in their lengthy history, since Egypt entered into Islam, they have faced many crises and foreign aggressions -- their position was a single one, the position of the Egyptian people, defending their identity, their territory and their honor. If we bring back history, from the time the Westerners thought of the war of the Crusades, as they called it, and from the time the French invaded Egypt, the Egyptian people, with all their groups and factions, did not differentiate between Moslems and Christians; everyone was defending Egypt.

[Question] His eminence the greatest imam has taken part in numerous conferences, traveling to Arab and Islamic countries as a representative of Egypt and the noble al-Azhar. What were the most important of these conferences?

[Answer] I participated in the judging for the King Faysal international prize for service to Islam. This year, Shaykh 'Abd Rabb-al-Rasul Sayyaf, the chairman of the Federation of Afghan Organizations, won it, in affirmation of these organizations' efforts in defending Afghanistan. The Shaykh of al-Azhar also took part in the higher world council of mosques which was held in Mecca this month. This council consists of 40 members representing all Islamic countries and minorities, discussing all the problems of the Islamic world and working to link the Islamic minorities to the Islamic world. The council, in this session, addressed itself to the maintenance of the al-Aqsa mosque, defense of it, and assistance of the Arabs of Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. The Shaykh of al-Azhar recommended the effort to give aid to the people suffering from famine in Africa, and the council adopted recommendations regarding this which the Islamic countries actually started to carry out, following their announcement.

[Question] Might we hope for a unification of statements now that disputes have sundered the body of the Islamic nation, especially since Egypt has returned to the Islamic arena?

[Answer] There is no doubt that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's steps in recent days, which have resulted in the restoration of political relations

in an official level between Egypt and Jordan, are ones which hold forth good promise in the arena of the Arab world, with the fragmentation and rifts that have damaged it.

The people who benefit from all this fragmentation and from these wars and disputes are the enemies, and the leaders of Islam must rise above every dispute and become unified in order to win the respect of friends and enemies alike!

[Question] What has al-Azhar's role in the development of Arab and Islamic relations been?

[Answer] Al-Azhar has 5,000 emissaries who are spreading Arab and Islamic culture throughout the Arab and Islamic worlds. Egypt is defraying the expenses of all emissaries in non-Arab countries and indeed in some Arab ones. Al-Azhar also has its men and scholars among the Islamic minorities and communities in Europe, America, Canada and Australia.

[Question] On the subject of the Iraqi-Iranian war, what about al-Azhar's role, especially since this war has entered its fifth year?

[Answer] Al-Azhar has called on the belligerents to put down arms and return to seeking the judgment of God's book and committing themselves to his commands. Al-Azhar hopes that the advice will be fruitful. The prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace, instructed us that religion is the advice of God, his prophet and the imams and common people of the Moslems. I call on the leaders of Iraq and Iran to respond to the recent appeal which the conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic countries sent out.

[Question] Anxiety regarding what is happening to Jerusalem and the threats being made against the al-Aqsa mosque is dominating the Arab and Islamic worlds. What is your opinion on the endemic problem of Jerusalem?

[Answer] The problem of Jerusalem is a harsh one. I have heard a great deal from Shaykh Sa'd al-'Alami, chairman of the Islamic Council in Jerusalem, about the Jews' attempts to commit aggression against the al-Aqsa mosque, sometimes by attacking it, sometimes by putting explosives in it and around it, above and beyond their incitement of citizens in Jerusalem and the things they have done in the city of Hebron and other towns in the occupied territories. This all should prompt the leaders of the Arabs and the Moslems to rise above their disputes and prompt the Islamic summit conference to be held soon to cope with all these challenges.

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EGYPT

DEVELOPMENTS IN SINAI REVIEWED ON LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 23, 30 Nov, 7 Dec 84

[No 3137, 23 Nov 84 pp 75-59]

[Interview Maj Gen Mahdi Ahmad Sulayman, governor of South Sinai, by Hamdi Lutfi, on the occasion of the Sinai liberation anniversary; date not specified]

[Text] South Sinai has celebrated the 19 November holiday--the holiday of the freeing of the land from captivity and of the recovery of Egyptian sovereignty.

The hopes pinned on a new society that is more progressive and more secure and stable are epitomized here practically and positively on the premise of reality. Wherever man's eyes turn, and wherever man roams and walks, and as far as his eyes can see, he will "witness" the most beautiful and the sweetest symphony; he will witness it, hear it and absorb it. This is a symphony played by the self-sacrificers of work, of achievements, and of the lofty battles of mankind waged in Egypt's history of continual militancy and redemption by the throngs of men who came to Sinai after the war--and how great and hard are the requirements of the postwar era and of the victory.

South Sinai is not only a new governorate joining its sisters but the expression and the will of a people. The Egyptian potential, which is known to the world, has erupted and produced the fabric and groups of the Egyptian vanguards. These vanguards have transgressed "the tribulation and the fall" and they have blazed a trail between the rocks and the accumulations and losses of the war that have covered the ground. They have set aside all that has been rejected and has sowed the seeds of a new life, which have changed the bitter taste in our mouths into the taste of hope and ability.

Excuse me for talking about my task and feelings while I carry out journalistic missions, whether in Southern or in Northern Sinai.

To me and to the scores and even hundreds of thousands of others, who knew Sinai's sand, who made their beds and slept on Sinai's rocks and who spent in Sinai the sweetest days of their lives and years of their youthhood, Sinai remained in our hearts like the son taken forcibly from his father, and just like the land whose owner is forced to leave it for the unknown. One was even

banned from going near the house in which one was born and which witnessed one's youth and manhood.

When I returned to Ciaro in the bitter withdrawal at noon on 8 June 1967, I remained for several weeks like a paralytic, like someone benumbed and unable to face himself, let alone the others. Also from 1968 to October 1973, whenever I stood on the western bank of the canal, I looked at the usurped east and wondered like a dreamer whether the day would come soon when we would return to liberate you, Sinai. However, we could do nothing but wait!

The day of justice came, the day of 6 October dawned, and our armed forces fought their glorious liberation battle, and the land was liberated, and God gave me the joy, as He gave us all the joy, of following what goes on the soil of the desert and on the mountains which witnessed destructive and lethal bombs. Then, the most honorable blood which watered Sinai in redemption and sacrificial watered the edifices of life and of the hoped-for future. The march was continued by men who fought the battle and were then destined to continue to fight by other methods. They were destined to fight by building and construction to establish the cities of South or North Sinai, the cities of an ambitious future, and to achieve victory again for the will to live and for the norms of life. Waves of the Egyptian human fabric distinguished by silence, diligent efforts, strength that overcomes the impossible and great love, waves of self-sacrificers who were willing to take risks and to bear the brunt of trouble, came to Southern Sinai. At the beginning, they had nothing other than their confidence in their ability to give and in their potential. They set sail and sailed over the sand.

These achievements were no easy tasks--absolutely not. At the outset, they lived through times when any one of them could not find a loaf of bread, a meal or medicine with which to help a sick colleague, except with great difficulty. However, they remained silent and, through the originality of Egypt's sons, they ignored their wounds, pain and complaints. They released what was stored in their hearts and subjected the laws of the desert to their will to place these laws at the service of their numerous plans in the domains of housing, agriculture, medical treatment, school construction, scientific research application, road building and the extension of arteries full of new blood to make this blood flow, as the water from waterfalls flows, throughout South Sinai.

This is our story of the modern Egyptian human saga, the saga of South Sinai, for which we now exclusively devote the pages of AL-MUSAWWAR, beginning with this issue and, God willing, continuing with the coming issues too.

A few days before 19 November 1984--South Sinai's national holiday--I found my way to the city of al-Tur, the capital of the territory liberated from Israeli captivity. With all enthusiasm, concern and yearning, I returned to this promising territory in my homeland--for whose liberation we have paid the price which will remain the costliest form of redemption--to South Sinai. I returned as if I were returning to my home and family after a long absence.

A year had passed since I left South Sinai for the last time, and this year, because of the very strong feelings which I harbor for this area, to which I became attached at the beginning of 1953, seemed like many years of separation. I have returned in quest of the truth, to see what they had done to the most cherished territory in our county. What were the obstacles that faced the men here? And how about the achievements that were made in the chain of enormous construction? I am confident that they are building a new Egypt on the land of Sinai. The rythm quickens daily as they lay the foundations of the new society and as they raise its bases. The new generation will definitely enjoy this society and, who knows, God might extend our long age and delight us with living in the era prior to the dawning of these days....

After a tour here and there, I went to listen to the commander of the throngs of legendary men. These are the unknown soldiers who are deployed in hundreds of positions and who are working at the peak of their capacity in silence and away from the limelight. By this commander, I mean the skillful master of the Egyptian air defenses and one of the leaders of their "great epic," which continued uninterruptedly from 1968 to October 1973 and even to the following years. This service of the armed forces works equally in times of war and peace. Its duties even increase in peacetime in the form of vigilance and burdens. I mean Maj Gen Majdi Ahmad Sulayman, who has been the governor of South Sinai since 1983. This man came to direct another saga of no less importance of the construction of new cities and of the building of the new Sinai man.

About the return of the sons of South Sinai for settlement after expatriation, the governor told me: These are small numbers, and we expect a larger number to return when the production lines of the major projects, which we are now implementing, begin to produce. It is imperative for us to mention the difficult terrain here, which is a large obstacle which we surmount by working to exploit the subterranean waters to cultivate the areas near the water sources. We have practically succeeded in spreading greenery in the al-Qa' plain as well as in Sidr and Nuwaybi', and between the delta and the other plains. Furthermore, the agriculturists in the governorate are exerting tremendous efforts to preserve and develop fodder and pasture resources and to discover new crops, particularly in the lands that were liberated and that we took over in April 1982, which added a large area of land inevitably including natural and human resources. These things required formulating a development plan of a special character by 1983, and it is implemented each year through a 5-year plan that ends in 1987. To fulfill these strategic objectives, we have carried out economic feasibility studies on the development projects in cooperation with experienced houses and specialized agencies, foremost of which is the Scientific Research and Technology Academy in Cairo. I have also established an organ for Sinai development and construction research. Since last February, joint scientific groups were formed which undertook to run the projects for the preservation of pasture and fodder resources in the Sinai peninsula and to discover types of field crops and vegetables that can resist the salinity and drought of Sinai. As I have told you, choice proveniences of palm trees and olive trees have been introduced, and nurseries are being used as much as possible to multiply their numbers. These scientific groups have

also undertaken to run projects for the development of fish resources and to do other research in the domains of sanitary drainage and building materials, prevention of soil erosion, the recycling of sewage fluids, future housing ways and health care for the Sinai residents as well as the development of their communities....

There is also a scientific study being made with the Scientific Research Academy. This study will be applied in the city of Al-Tur, which is the most appropriate area for combining solar energy and wind power into a scientific combination to use these two sources simultaneously. An Egyptian scientist residing abroad has written to us and offered to participate with us in this project.

Agronomists in Southern Sinai have set up orchards on 50 feddans of Sharm al-Shaykh--and not a tree had been planted in this area since the Creation; it is an arid area. Our agriculturists treated the sanitary drainage water scientifically and used it in the project. The land only cost the price of the orchards and this year, we achieved returns amounting to about 4,000 pounds. This work is considered an Egyptian victory in treating sterile areas of the desert, and fertility has developed throughout these areas. This work is also regarded as an initiative or the beginning of a chain of expansions in these bold projects. Naturally, I am citing these models to you just for the sake of giving examples...not for enumeration....

We have a scientific agricultural plant for classifying agricultural soil and analyzing samples from the cultivable lands to determine the rates of salinity and to reclaim the other areas. Salinity here represents a dangerous enemy to agriculturists and agriculture, and this danger that it be faced uninterruptedly. Through planning and organized efforts as well as through continual followup, the plan for making Southern Sinai verdant proceeds at proportions which rise constantly along with the growth of the cultivable areas.

I told Minister Maj Gen Majdi Sulayman, the governor of South Sinai, that I had heard of another cooperative effort with the United Nations, or its FAO, and that FAO experts sometimes return to this promising land to keep track of the success of the joint programs on the grounds that what goes on here represents a worldwide scientific breakthrough for mankind. What are the details?

[Answer] This is true, and they offer us whatever their resources permit them to offer. During this national holiday, the FAO representative will arrive to celebrate the presentation of aid in the form of motors for launches and fishing yarn for the fishing project in the Gulf of Aqabah. The African Bank for Development and the Fish Wealth Authority also cooperate with us in this respect. We have established a fishermen's village for fishermen in Al-Jubayl village; it includes 100 houses. The ice factory now produces 1,000 ice blocks a day, and we have appropriate 9 new fishing launches. There are other factors, whose details you will find at the Agriculture Directorate in Al-Tur, which have helped raise fish production from 150 tons to 300 tons.

About the achievements which were celebrated on this national holiday of Southern Sinai, the governor said: Work has begun on the construction of the Nuwaybi, dock for ships and ferries of a specific keel. The first phase of this dock project will end in April next year, God willing, at a cost of 3 million pounds. The dock requires dredging deep areas in the harbor, and the expenses might even amount to 5 million pounds. Water and electricity will reach the dock from Nuwaybi', and it is exactly far from the water currents on the high sea.

Those who roam the cities and villages of Southern Sinai will see many achievements as well as the housing projects included in the construction plan, in addition to the construction of schools and hospitals or treatment units. They will also see the asphaltting of roads among the villages, special water deslination projects using new stations, youth centers, an athletic statium in Al-Tur, on which work will end in 1986, supply branches of whole-sale companies and sale outlets for consumers, not only in the cities but in the valleys too and at the tribal level, together with vigilant followup so that the prices of consumer commodities will definitely not rise for the consumer citizens. Followup in this respect does not signify supervision only, but includes auxilliary measures that achieve the positive aspects of objectives such as the transportation supplies up to the locations of tribal merchants.

The master of air defense continues to explain the map of the major works on the construction of the new society in South Sinai and meeting the needs of this society, saying:

"Roads are the approach for the proliferation of urbanism and civilization, for shortening the distances between the cities and the villages and for spreading the Egyptian civic strategy, which is coupled with the peace of the October war. Those who come to us see the process of building and paving new roads in progress wherever they go. Along with roads and houses, schools are built in addition to other services. All roads here have become serviceable and traffic flows at a 100 percent rate. Some roads are 160 km long, such as the road from the tunnel of Martyr Ahmad Hamdi up to Abu Rudays, 100 km from Aby Abu Rudays to Al-Tur, 106 km from al-Tur to St Catherine and 65 km from St Catherine to the crossroads of Dahab and Nuwaybi'. There are other roads on which work is in progress by means of the governorate's construction department and the national establishments cooperating with it, and through a unified plan which includes roads, innovated houses, the drilling of wells and the construction of schools alongside the buildings for different services.

I told Maj Gen Majdi Ahmad Sulayman, the governor of the promising land of South Sinai, that I have seen preparatory schools in the villages. I have also heard about "the troubles" through which the teachers go in the mountainous areas....What about this important sector?

[Answer] I like to put on record primarily the efforts which are being exerted by the teachers in South Sinai. They exert the noblest and the highest

proportion of human efforts in the areas surrounded by construction to raise the banners of education on the hills and mountains and in the valleys. Educational services have spread beyond the peaks of hills and in the villages and cities. I know that some teachers walk 100 km or more on "footpaths" alongside the mountains to reach their students or to obtain their living requirements. For our part, we work to provide these requirements in the various areas with difficult terrain.

We have set up the second chain of education or preparatory schools among the groups of Bedouins and their villages in the middle of South Sinai, in al-Malihah, at the source of Wadi al-'Arish and on top of the al-'Ajami plateau, on top of 'Ulwat al-Ramlah, on the mountain slope near Wadi Fi'ran and between Jabal Sirbal and Jabal al-Nabat, in secondary schools on the litoral of the Gulf of Suez and in the new villages in Tabah, Ra's Natrani, Ra's Muhannad and Nuwaybi. You will find the details of the unfolding umbrella of education and its extension over South Sinai at the Education Directorate in al-Tur. Officials of this directorate are working to make the slogan "education is the way to freedom" into a living reality and to entrench the affiliation of the new generation of the sons of the future Sinai with Egyptian society and its values.

[Question] Please, let me ask you a question: tourism to this place has become the object of interest and followup, after we realized how Israel used this country for tourism and achieved a great success for itself during the years of occupation. How about our plans and tourist activities in Southern Sinai?

[Answer] The networks of new roads are the springboard to serving the objectives of tourism, and I have in mind the Nuwaybi'-St Catherine road and the other modern roads around it. I also have in mind the dock at Nuwaybi' which will contribute to activating tourism and the movement of trade between Egypt and Jordan. Then follows the repair of the water desalination plants at Sharm al-Shaykh, the establishment of additional stations, and the raising of the efficiency of the overland transport routes--and there is a new line between Cairo and Tabah. Then comes the inauguration of the al-Tur-Cairo-Sharm al-Shaykh-St Catherine-Luxor aviation lines. Al-Tur Airport will receive planes day and night from the beginning of next year, and there will be an international telex line.

At the end of next December, we will inaugurate a new hotel in Nuwaybi'. Furthermore, work has ended on the Ra's Sidr Hotel, and in January 1985, the first phase of the St Catherine Hotel will be completed; it will be built by the Misr-Sinai Tourism Company. Two other hotels will operate in accordance with the hotel apartments system in Sharm al-Shaykh to serve families with an average income who desire to go on tourist trips but who want to rent apartments instead of rooms, and this hotel activity in Sharm al-Shaykh will contribute to reviving tourism in this historic city.

Within 2 years, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, we will have founded a new company for the establishment of camps in convenient areas on the coast along with cafeterias and hotels. There are world companies who have discussed with investors the establishment of Egyptian tourist villages

on the pattern of Majawish village on the Red Sea. For example, the Hilton Hotels International Company is considering building the Southern Sinai Hilton. We will set up high-quality water sports club for fishing and diving, for organizing fishing festivals and for hosting youths from the Egyptian governorates at Sharm al-Shaykh, in addition to hosting them in the present camp, in which every tent includes from three to four beds. This camp was set up by the governorate. We have agreed with the minister of tourism on increasing the capacity of the hotels at Dahab, Nuwaybi' and Sharm al-Shaykh within the next 6 months in a manner which will double their present capacity by 50 percent.

Marginal note: 'Aziz Jirjis, director of the bureau of the South Sinai governor and one of those who are interested in the tourist projects there, told me that he has statistics for October 1984 and on the number of the tourists who have crossed to Tabah. During this month only, their number totaled 1,948 tourists. The tourist hotel business now requires 15-day reservations before going on tourist trips. Furthermore, offers for the establishment of Egyptian tourist villages in the Ra's Misallah area are now being studied, and scores of apartments have been converted into tourist units at Sharm al-Shaykh. We have also set up a modern camp at Nuwaybi' to handle the influx of foreign Arab and Egyptian tourists who want to visit these historic areas, which are well known to the whole world for their events and their past.

The press interview ended with the commander of the sublime humanitarian saga, or the modern humanitarian symphony on the sands of South Sinai, and I went out at night to the hinterland. Electric lights lit all South Sinai and, on the roadside, I stopped, having heard a dialogue for a theatrical emanating from a small house. I knew that it was one of the mass culture houses. I saw some tribesmen, who have acquired a good degree of education, rehearsing new theatricals on the Sinai man who has returned to it following a long period of expatriation.... I then set forth among the arteries of life and the forests of buildings around me looking for this man and for his cohesion with the other man coming from the extremity of Upper Egypt or from the Delta to turn into a strong and firm arm reaching to the very heart of the desert with luminous sacrifices and with the most cherished bountifulness...and the impossible recedes before the unbending will.

[No 3138, 30 Nov 84 pp 58-60]

"And We have made of water everything alive...."All is true that the Almighty God says....

This Holy Sura becomes definitely embodied before the human eye when it sees the maps of fertility extending and spreading over the yellow color of South Sinai, which has been nourished with greenery. In South Sinai another Egyptian human saga is going on and it scintillates among the epics of the continuing Egyptian struggle in support of man and in defense of the will to live and to survive....

We lived for a period of time during which despair almost settled in our mind. We thought that the land of Sinai, particularly its south, had been engulfed

in the robe of death and ruination, despite the pure blood that was shed during the fight for liberation, that Sinai had met with sterility and drought and that the appearance of greenery over its sand was no more than a dream and a figment of the imagination.... Then, scores of agronomists, led by a master who loves his profession, arrived; they crossed from dreamland into the realm of reality, and they turned sterile wells into new springs from which "water and green crops" flow. Another agricultural miracle has been made among the rocks and the mountains, and the volume of its bountiful giving of the earth's wealth rises each year.

Last year, before the November 1983 holiday, I sat with the master of air defense and the October hero--Maj Gen Majdi Ahmad Sulayman--who had switched to directing this great epic, which is being written by the Egyptians in the southern part of the inverted triangle in the aftermath of the previous saga of liberating the land; I sat with the governor of South Sinai. He spoke of the agricultural battle in the nascent governorate, and his words teemed with information distinguished by a penetrating smell that, at the same time, reaches the heart, the soul and the eye, together with the ear. The information is about the future of South Sinai, where a great battle of defiance is raging and is being waged by the Egyptians with their originality and collective strength, while using their given facts which always produce a wealth of the best and greatest results. He spoke to me of the battle...for taming Southern Sinai to transform it into a cultivable and productive land by using new wells, and of the battles waged in search of water, the origin of life. He filled me with enthusiasm and induced me to spend 2 days with the elite of the giant agriculturists in Southern Sinai. In November this year, I again listened to Maj Gen Majdi Sulayman about the cohesion of scientific research with the agricultural projects in his governorate and about the practical cooperation existing between the Agriculture Directorate in South Sinai and the FAO.... He told me with delight that the agriculturists here have successfully planted trees in an area that had not known greenery since the dawn of history; go to them and obtain the details....

I too went with the feelings of a lover, and I am not the only one to fall in love with this land. There are hundreds of youths and men, whom I have met among the units of the armed forces since the fifties, who have become attached to Sinai, just as an Egyptian peasant is attached to his field and small family. I saw an infantry captain who, after the October war, began calling Sinai "my life," and I read al-Fatihah for the repose of the soul of the martyr "Hero Al-Atrabi," the tank fighter who gave his life in a battle about which only scanty details have been published. It occurred in July, not in June 1967. Al-Atrabi also called his tank "my life." I became certain that human originality extends across the generations, just as it extends from the fathers to their sons, who give it to their homeland without seeking anything in return. I went along among the new lovers of Sinai, while they were waging the great saga, the battle for taming the land and spreading fields in it under the direction of Eng Kamil Daraj, the leader of these teams of agriculturists who look more like land surgeons working on the land with their machines, gold fingers and mature plans and with their minds which are conscious of the dimensions of all problems, thanks to the experiments of the

old masters. The land flows in their hands and under their feet with docility, with the tenderness of a mother and with this land's bountifulness always flowing with wealth and goodness.

Agronomist Kamil Daraj is director of the Agriculture Directorate in South Sinai. He graduated from the Cairo Agriculture College about a quarter of a century ago. Immediately after the October war, he worked in Northern Sinai and then came to South Sinai to complete his role here with rare groups of engineers, technicians, administrators and workers under the green banner all over South Sinai.

About the beginning, and how sweet it is to talk about little beginnings that have given birth to the scores of bold and major projects, Engineer Kamil Daraj told me this story:

"The beginning was embodied in a small and modest size, 8 feddans around Well Number 1. We succeeded in cultivating these feddans after having tamed the land, naturally. The matter then developed and the feddans became 53 feddans, which were all planted with orchards".

The method which governed the agriculturists' efforts in South Sinai was one of continuing the field agricultural experiments, and the agriculturists then raced with time. After their success with the farm at Well Number 1, they immediately planted the farm at Well Number 2. Their march then continued, I am sorry, I mean the march of greenery, only for rocks and stones to disappear and for greenery to spread.

They have established a modern laboratory to analyze the soil scientifically, and they supply it yearly with modern instruments. Agricultural guidance courses are also held continuously to acquaint the tribesmen with seedlings and the seeds of almonds, peaches, olives, guavas, citrus and trees as well as with seedlings for timber trees.

The scientific agricultural laboratory has played an important role in the classification and analysis of lands proposed in the plan and of other plantations and, ultimately, in the formulation of annual plans which we follow weekly on the ground. Close ties are imperative between the agriculturists and the areas of land in which they work so that the agriculturists will meet all the needs of these areas for sacrifices and efforts, and the reclamation and cultivation processes will succeed without any stray efforts having been exerted here or there.

We set up a farm for fattening calves with a production capacity, in a round that is "a year and a third," of 150 head.

We set up another farm for fattening camels through the local agronomists' own efforts, and because the contractors exaggerated the expenses of the project, the governor, Maj Gen Muhammad Sulayman, requested that the farm be established by the agriculturists, who faced up to the required national work. The farm accommodates 100 camels that are now being sold throughout the Valley of the Nile as a contribution to resolving the meat crisis.

We established a farm for fattening 90,000 chickens a year and a farm in al-Tur for egg-laying poultry, which produces 1.25 million eggs a year.

In the city of Nuwaybi', we will open another fattening farm which will produce 350,000 eggs a year, as of April 1985.

In the city of Dahab, there will be a station for fattening 90,000 chickens a year, and in the St Catherine area, there will be another station for fattening 90,000 chickens too, and in Ra's Sidr, there will be a third identical station.

With regard to the farms for mineral wealth, we plant forests of gazolina trees to protect the farms from the soil coming from the interior of mountains.

Agricultural guidance has successfully brought 45,000 Duqqi Four chicks for distribution among tribal Bedouins in the valleys, together with the fodder needed until the chicks are 45 days old, and this task will be repeated each year.

Among the village development projects, you will find the project which we set up through our own efforts above the health quarantine building in the city of al-Tur in 1982 to produce 108,000 fattened chickens a year. The project has realized profits that amounted to 28,000 pounds this year, and the capital has doubled within 3 years to 150,000 pounds.

We expanded the Sharm al-Shaykh farm by relying on the recycling of the sanitary drainage waters for use in agriculture, and the cultivated area was increased to 50 feddans. This year, the cultivated area yielded a profit of 3,600 pounds, and we have reached this level, thanks to the agronomists' own efforts, and a feddan costs only the price of the orchards. Not a tree had been planted in this area since Creation began. The South Sinai governorate has presented this farm as a gift to the president of the republic because of its considerations and indications in connection with the cultivation of arid land and the drought-stricken areas. It will be possible to repeat this experiment if we find the means for procuring water or if we water the land with sprinklers and, God willing, we will double the area of the Sharm al-Shaykh farm to 100 feddans.

We worked on developing the livestock farm in Ra's Sidr by means of imported superior proveniences of sheep and goats, and these are proveniences that give birth to three head at a time and produce milk and meat at proportions higher than those given by Egyptian proveniences. We will make "overcoat linings" with this livestock in exploiting goat hair.

In connection with fish resources, production doubled from 150 tons to 300 tons as the result of the production of 1,000 blocks of ice a day and of the appropriation of 9 fishing launches in implementation of the policy of Maj Gen Majdi Sulayman, the governor of South Sinai. Each launch is equipped with

a 30-horsepower motor. We have also supplied the cooperative society of fishermen in al-Tur with the yarn needed for fishing. We also set proper prices for the purchase of the fishermen's yield. The governor resolved the fishermen's security problem and he solved the housing problems too by building a new village for the fishermen in al-Jubayl, 7 km from al-Tur. We are now working on a drydock for launches to be brought out of the sea and repaired in this drydock, instead of repairing them manually, to save effort and time. Only 1 week is required to repair a launch, instead of 3 months. This drydock will cost 75,000 pounds.

In the city of Dahab on the Gulf of Aqabah we have established a fishermen's cooperative society serving 380 fishermen, and a third society in Ra's Sidr serving 250 fishermen, and there is cooperation with the Fish Wealth Establishment in Cairo, under Dr Yahya Hasan, to do research and to carry out scientific programs of modern forms of fishing. The governorate experts continuous efforts to remove obstacles from the fishermen's way.... For the first time, we have been issued licenses to use "Shanoshla" launches for night fishing and each launch is equipped with a 102-horsepower motor. Furthermore, we will achieve a sizable increase in the volume of fishing and fish wealth by modern methods.

We have carried out an experiment in the production of potato seeds in the St Catherine area, because its climate is similar to that of Europe. We obtained technical assistance from the International Center for Potato Planting, Cairo Branch, which is affiliated with the United Nations, and the experiment has reached the phase of blossoming. We have decided to repeat the experiment this year at different times, in addition to tackling temperature degrees by a different method by obtaining a statement on the daily temperature levels throughout the year from the meteorological service, because we have learned the previous lesson! We hope, God willing, to achieve 100 percent successful results.

We have contributed to the eradication of pests to eliminate the white ant insects in tourist hotels and Bedouin houses for a full 3 years. With full assistance by the South Sinai governor and by Dr Yusuf Wali, the minister of agriculture, we have procured fodder at an annual quota of 4,800 tons to face the lack of rainfall over the past 3 years, and we have given the fodder needed by some 68,000 head of sheep and goats. Had it not been for this fodder, all the livestock would have perished, and the reason, as I have told you, is the lack of rainfall....

Work continues in South Sinai in search of the secrets of the medicine kingdom and of the plants which this land gives and which represent the main ingredients in the manufacture of some rare world medicines. Experts of the National Research Center in Cairo cooperate with the agriculturists in al-Tur to deal with these plants economically.

These are some features of their achievements with the land, and these do not constitute a statement of account. The statement of account of the gains which we have reaped by spreading greenery in South Sinai surrounded by poultry,

livestock and camel farms; water wells; seedling nurseries and agricultural guidance centers; and fishing areas with their model farms will, God willing, be presented to us in the form of a production volume higher than that of the seas.... All these fields and locations need a book on its own. This is a colossal agricultural effort which will make the land of Sinai, which has known sterility for a long time, yield just as it has been given by the bountiful yield of the land of the Valley of the Nile in the Delta--from its flood of underground deposits. History will put on record the agricultural glory of the pioneering agriculturists, who have completed the October 1973 victory and who have turned the land of war and destruction into new maps which generously provide the causes and sources of life.

It is practically and factually the most cherished land. It was watered with the blood of our dearest sons--Egypt's giant martyrs--so that it now brings forth scientists of the highest caliber and renews life; night follows day, and new generations will descend on earth to reap what these pioneers have sown....

We will meet again in the coming issue to complete our talk about the rest of the Southern Sinai society, about the trip for the education and upbringing of the new generation, that is the most important trip of the human being of future Sinai, about the standards of health and supply services and about the plan on which is based this enormous wall of social construction on the liberated land.

[No 3139, 7 Dec 84 pp 54-57]

Perhaps no area on the surface of the earth has seen what has been witnessed by South Sinai, this island blocked between the gulfs of Suez and Aqabah, that is, the inverted triangle whose two sides extend along the eastern coast of the Gulf of Suez and the western coast of the Gulf of Aqabah. Southern Sinai has witnessed historic events, battles and martyrdom on this land, as well as poverty, aridity and nothingness, despite the deposits of wealth in its interior!

Just as Sinai has remained the land of divine missions throughout history, it will remain in this modern century--beginning with the eighties--the land of the great human experiment, which Egypt is building through a new society in applying the strategy of peace through war, and as the result of the immortal October, which caused the earth to turn.

However, what is going on now in the land of South Sinai is a great epic which surpasses the October saga. The building of peace requires hard work, effort and sacrifices greater and more enormous than the call for war.

This is my third press article which I have written from the city of al-Tur, the capital of South Sinai....

Before writing about my tour throughout South Sinai, I want to quote its youthful governor, a skilled master of air defense and a commander of the Ramadan October war, Maj Gen Majdi Ahmad Sulayman, as saying:

"A new phase of the construction of South Sinai is now being established on a scientific basis of planning, and on the giving of the men who work here. All those who come to Sinai after the war have the ability to make national sacrifices through the noblest performance, and to bear the hardest toil until the foundations of the hoped-for society are laid on the liberated land. They are the early pioneers and, through their daily rejuvenating giving, new blood flows in the arteries of the promising land.

At this time, the Sinai man who has returned to it following a long expatriation needs a great number of services in order for Southern Sinai to revert to being a source of national wealth and of the hope pinned on the future.

In the previous press articles I spoke of the achievements made in the domains of housing, construction, agriculture and water prospecting. Today, we devote our pages exclusively to the issue of education in Southern Sinai and the growth of man and then to the issue of food, medical treatment and medicine and the social building of the new Sinai generation, our hope for the near future. These are the demands of the public services.

At the beginning, I met with a pioneer of education, a man who has spent the best years of his life among his small sons, the students. This man is the great educator 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Malik, director of the education directorate in South Sinai as of last August, following 33 years of service in the domain of teaching our children.

Before we listen to him, I present the following biography to introduce him:

He began his life as a secondary school teacher, after which he rose to the post of director of technical guidance for cultural curricula.

He traveled to France on a scholarship to acquire a high French-language qualification at Sorbonne University in Paris.

Egypt chose him as a member of the delegation of the Egyptian Republic to the international conference on education and its effects on development. This conference was held in the Republic of Togo under UNESCO auspices in 1975.

He authored a number of books on education in the French language. Through these books, he also made a major contribution to the development of the French-language curricula in technical education and at teachers colleges.

'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Malik told me: We began the school year in South Sinai a full month ahead of the Valley of the Nile schools, and books, teachers and study materials were available.

When I was transferred to work here by a ministerial decision, I was confident that service in such areas would be nothing other than an honor and an act of giving and a major national task performed before history, until the banners of education waved on the hills, beyond the peaks of the hills, and on the

mountain slopes as well as in villages, valleys and cities. I knew that my colleagues, the educators, walked difficult mountain footpaths daily to obtain their living requirements for continuing to work on the mountains. I also knew that the efforts exerted by the teachers in South Sinai rise to the highest level of human efforts exerted in the inhabited areas.

I saw my colleagues contented and optimistic and offering all their potential in the course of their field participation with the students for the purpose of establishing the closest ties between them, in addition to administering daily doses of national enthusiasm to the cubs, to our sons.

The number of schools in South Sinai has increased. We have established new schools and taken delivery of schools on which construction work was on its way to completion. We have also been handed other building lots for new schools which, God willing, will be built. The schools which have opened are elementary schools, and classes for the preparatory phase, for the fourth class of the teachers college, and a third class leading to the commerce diploma have opened too. Next year we will open the fifth form leading to the teachers diploma. We have also studied with the ministry the filling of the educational staff shortage and, God be praised, we have succeeded. The shortage is now very limited in all the phases of education--and our female colleagues, the wives of teachers only, work with us.

For the first time we have established refresher training courses in the various curricula to help the teachers, and a specialized group gave the training. The teachers were in the trust of their senior teachers, deriving knowledge from these seniors so as to always to achieve the best standards, and this is reflected, and its image is portrayed, in the hearts of our children.

We have also distributed new books among school libraries for the first time in South Sinai. We allocated 1,500 pounds for liberal reading books for the purpose of enriching the nascent libraries.

The teaching staff works to entrench the spiritual, ethical and patriotic values through the study curricula and the educational activities for which we make detailed plans to help the students face deviationist calls in a manner which bolsters their affiliation with Egyptian society and with tolerant spiritual values and Islam's sublime traditions. This is a delicate mission being discharged among the new generations in Sinai, which has been liberated following a protracted foreign occupation, and it is no secret that the occupation worked to corrupt the national spirit of youths and children!

We scrupulously devote attention here to raising the Egyptian flag on every school and to cheering for the long life of the homeland every morning, in addition to national speeches, which are made to the students and which the students make too, for the purpose of instilling the concepts of national unity and social peace in their hearts and to expelling any dark shadows left behind by the wretched past.

We make school trips to the production and service locations as well as field visits to the sites of national wealth. The schools continuously assess the work of the students, monthly examinations are held for the students and the legal guardians of the children are informed at the beginning of every month of the standards of their children without delay.

We also use the system of remedial lessons by setting up strengthening groups to face the weakness of students, to eliminate private lessons as a phenomenon which must vanish from here completely and to protect the students' right to free education in its integrated conditions, without this right being squandered.

We implement the full-day study system, which includes 90 minutes for the other various activities. We have contacted the National Research Center in Cairo and we have been given the most modern ideas and proposals in this respect.

Among the educational aids, our schools use the cassettes and films which we have borrowed from the ministry's training centers and of which we make copies at the Sharm al-Shaykh training center, because we intend to generalize their use in the modernization programs of educational work in order to raise the standards of efficiency and of the learning of sciences.

We have begun training fourth-form students of the teachers colleges in teaching techniques in the elementary schools. We have allocated a day per week so that these students will turn into teachers under the supervision of the teachers and so that these youths will graduate while having already supplied themselves with a potential on which they had earlier based their knowledge.

Education in South Sinai or North Sinai is one of the basic issues on which the new society is established in the liberated land. The number of tribal female students is now drawing closer to the 700 mark. Furthermore, the number of students in the three educational phases--elementary, preparatory and secondary--is now approaching 3,000. Meals rich in protein, starch, glucose and salts needed by the body are given to the students through accurate scientific planning. Free clothes and school uniforms have also been distributed among the students.

They care for the new generation of Sinai's sons through the most generous care and the richest educational methods so that youthful human groups will rise on the most cherished land--groups capable of protecting their land for whose recovery we have paid the costliest and greatest price, the lives of our dutiful martyr sons.

My second meeting was with the man who motivates the sectors of executive work in the Southern Sinai governorate, Brig Gen Ahmad al-Sa'dani, former armored corps combatant and a man with a reputation for maximum stamina. We find him everywhere and always in the production and services sectors. He is the general secretary of the Southern Sinai governorate.

Brig Gen Ahmad al-Sa'dani, 52, served as an Egyptian armed forces officer in Sinai from 1956. He moved between Bi'r al-'Abd and Rafah and between al-Qantarrah and Nihl, and he worked in the North Sinai section, which is now divided into four parts. Thus began his close contact with the tribes and the Bedouin population groups in Sinai. He also fought his battle in June 1967 among the formation of the First Armored Battalion in Tamada. In 1977, he switched to work for the local government and was promoted to ministry undersecretary in 1980.

The general secretary of the Southern Sinai governorate told me:

"We work through planning with the scientific research men in the various domains of construction, such as agriculture, road building, the exploitation of natural resources, construction and education. The face of life in South Sinai has changed considerably during the past 2 years. We re-paved roads, we set up food security outlets in each city and we established commercial markets, in addition to the forests of popular housing."

In the petroleum sector, there are new wells in the Arab gulf [Gulf of Suez] that will raise the national income potential through new royalties. Modern maritime dredgers have arrived in the gulf to prospect for resources yet undiscovered, in addition to presence of the Centa Company, which operates in the desert.

"The sons of the tribes have known work in the oil fields, and in the gypsum plant in Wadi Gharandal and in the extraction of kaolen and glass sand. Development has caught up with the old plant, which is being developed by relying on scientific studies for building the plant and by directly affiliating a phase of the works on the mine to the plant. Tribesmen have also joined the construction companies...."

Maj Gen Majdi Ahmad Sulayman, the governor of South Sinai, makes field visits to the valleys and always meets with the tribes and the tribal chieftains. I also make similar visits to promote all the development projects and to make a realistic contribution to the resolution of problems before they become aggravated. From time to time, we also distribute new houses among the sons of the governorate, and the distribution process is carried out in three annual phases."

He also said: "The executive council of the governorate convenes in plenary session every month. The directors of the various departments meet to effectuate coordination, to exchange views and to set priorities under the chairmanship of the governor. The various obstacles and problems are also discussed at this monthly meeting and, in addition, the results of the followup are assessed. We then hold a second conference for the achievements of each directorate within the executive council, when balances, statements of account, achievement phases and the breaches that have faced each project are studied, and the followup programs remain in a state of continuing activity, so that not even one task is subjected to a freeze, to backwardness or to a march in place!"

"Scientific planning governs our programs, and these are large programs, but our ambition is yet greater and the potential of those working in the South Sinai governorate cannot meet our national commitments. Here you find all the members of this peaceful and modest society standing as one man extending his arm daily to reach for the depth of the inverted triangle without expecting anything in return. How great is the psychological price when they see their giving becoming embodied in successful projects for supporting all the domains and requirements of life, which absolutely know no postponement.

My next meeting was with a physician, namely, Dr Sa'id Muhammad Shakir, 57, the director of the South Sinai health directorate since February 1982. This man has spent his medical life at the health ministry and the nutrition institute, devoting his life to this task wherever he served.

Dr Sa'id told me: "I bear witness that I have seen health consciousness prevailing in the life of the Bedouin tribes in this place, and I have also seen tribal women coming with a mature understanding to the male doctors to receive treatment and to deliver their babies."

Throughout the years of its occupation, Israel carefully refrained from setting up new hospitals in South Sinai. In al-Tur, we have built a general hospital and equipped it with elevators for the first time. Here there is a blood bank and a freezer for the morgue as well as a helicopter airport. We are also working to set up hospitals in al-Tur and the various cities. In Sharm al-Shaykh, we have established a central hospital. It includes internal sections. We have done the same in all cities. In addition, we have set up a medical center in Abu Rudays which extends all medical services. We have added dentistry sections to the rural medical units, and in each unit there is a specialized physician to face the issue of the long distances between these units. In most valleys, we have established first aid medical centers which include a first aid room and a pharmacy equipped with fitted vehicles. Next year, we will complete the construction of the health units, in addition to five first aid centers along the highway extending between 'Uyun Musa and the city of al-Tur.

[Question] Do female doctors work with you?

[Answer] One female doctor is married to a doctor, and both work together. There is also a girl who has come to work as a laboratory technician.

[Question] How about medicines?

[Answer] This area is distinguished by the abundance of medicines packed in boxes and with the highest standards. They are dispensed to patients in return for a charge of only 5 piasters per box, and soon, national pharmacies will be established everywhere.

Dr Sa'id Muhammad Shakir added: Our health duties includes combating insects, flies and mosquitoes with steam and insecticide sprayers and with shoulder

sprayers. Furthermore, they are about to begin using radiotelephones among the first aid points to deal with road accidents, and they are also about to equip the operations theaters, and we hope that we will succeed in this task.

At the conclusion of my meeting with him, the man told me: "I am interested in having an important remark published. There are those who take with admiration about the health care which Israel gave to some Sinai residents during the occupation. In reality, the opposite took place. Israel moved one patient for treatment in Tel Aviv and then exploited him in making propaganda for a year, while hundreds of other patients found nothing other than small rooms, more like snake pits scattered all over South Sinai and given the name of therapeutic units but absolutely without minimum care!

When the Israelis withdrew, they removed the electrical wires and the rubber water pipes.... They used rubber pipes because it was possible to remove them easily. They demolished buildings with bulldozers and set on fire the remaining hospitals of Nuwaybi' and Sharm al-Shaykh.

In another domain, I met with Ibrahim Khayri al-Salih, the main in charge of securing food supplies in South Sinai as of 1979. He had previously worked in North Sinai since 1975 and moved to South Sinai 4 years later.

The man, the director of the supply and internal trade department, told me: "At the beginning, I encountered great difficulty because of the long distances between the cities in the governorage. No distance is less than 100 km and our duty is to provide food supplies for all the South Sinai residents on the liberated territory. Therefore, we began relying on Suez as our purveyor. Within a brief period, we set up branches for wholesale companies, and these branches have spread as public sector in all cities. Then we worked on establishing sales outlets for consumers in the cities and valleys situated in the areas of all the population groups. We devoted all care to sending food supplies to the tribal merchants in the mountainous areas and the valleys. We purvey these supplies free of charge, without any fees or transport expenses, so that we will not add to the burden of the small consumers in these villages. Our supply materials include fruits, vegetables and groceries. We even founded group societies and modern consumer societies. For the first time, the Southern Sinai residents have obtained live cows for slaughtering. This system was not previously applied here. There was not even one butcher in Southern Sinai, and the residents slaughtered only sheep and goats.

The mode of consumption has changed, and the tribes now eat chickens and frozen meat. Therefore, we set up large refrigerators in the cities, besides a main refrigerator operating as a supply depot. We also have an ice factory that supplies us and supplies fishermen with the ice blocks they need, which has enabled the South Sinai residents to eat fresh fish at all times, and you can find the best kinds of fish at 1 pound per kilogram. We have also set up ovens with burners, which bake both local and European-type bread, and modern automatic bakeries."

Ibrahim Khayri al-Salih laughed, saying:

Do you know something? The tribesmen here refuse to eat lobster and shrimp, which they call sea worms!

There is also another distinctive activity which one sees in South Sinai through the care which is provided by the social affairs directorate in the governorate, particularly in the villages and the valleys which have been deprived for many years of this kind of service of which is foremost the promotion of the social standards of women and their children.

The governorate and the directorate have established nearly 20 societies for training girls in tailoring and have bought for them a modern center for embroidery and tailoring. There are also small workshops for blacksmithing, carpentry and car maintenance in which male children work. There is another spinning and weaving training center which has been joined by a sizable number of men. Projects run by productive families, nearly 70 in number, have been given financial aid. These are projects for sheep breeding, fishing, the shoemaking industry, wool making and tailoring, in addition to financial aid amounting to 500,000 pounds, as well as other aid in the form of blankets, cloth and food that are offered every 3 months to well over 5,000 families. Moreover, war loss compensations are disbursed to more than 1,000 cases.

In the cities of South Sinai, you see in the fore the palaces of culture which the governorate and the directorate of culture have jointly established in al-Tur, Ra's Sidr, the St Catherine area, Sharm al-Shaykh, Dahab and Nuwaybi', where numerous activities are carried out through children's clubs, movie houses, music, the theater, popular arts, environmental crafts and variety arts.... and some of these palaces publish small magazines. The magazines speak of the things which they do and carry pictures of the handicrafts described to them by the Bedouins. I was delighted to hear that these palaces participated with their products--made by the South Sinai tribes--in international exhibitions held in Japan, the United States and Canada, in addition to our local exhibitions in Cairo, the canal cities and the cities of South Sinai and North Sinai.

In al-Tur, the residents have established a club for literature, poetic arts, stories and popular Arab poems in strophic form.... The projects under the coming plan will include several palaces of culture which will be set up in the villages, on the mountains and in the towns.

I have also seen the South Sinai Awqaf Directorate engaged in building about 30 mosques and adopting a general plan for religious enlightenment. The directorate has also established religious caravans that number about 100 a year. These caravans discharge the task of radiating Islamic thinking on both religious and national occasions. The governor chairs the modern association which has been formed to lay down the practical guarantees insuring that the message of the mosque reaches all hearts and minds,

particularly in the new communities which have a new mosque in their midst as a must. When the fishermen's modern village was built in al-Jubayl, the building of the mosque rose in the center of the village before the new houses.

In Nuwaybi', the first national camp for university students was organized in 1983 and 1984. The youths contributed to the plantation of the city's watermelon and flower farm on an area of 240 feddans. Also, many youth projects are being implemented by the youth care and sports directorate for the new generation on the liberated territory, such as the establishment of clubs, youth centers and youth training centers as well as the organization of competitions, festivals and trips to the other governorates. On 6 October every year, the sons of South Sinai or North Sinai appear distinctively in the large displays given by the homeland's youths in the Cairo Stadium in observance of the historic holiday before the peoples of the world.

I convey greetings of appreciation and gratitude to the efforts of the pioneers in South Sinai, the unknown heroes behind the speeding rhythm of life on every inch of the liberated land. I address humble greetings to the giant martyrs who fought the battle for the liberation of the land and who generously gave their lives so that we would be left with dignified and free life. By their martyrdom, they were the redemption of victory, they were the tax paid for civilization and for the new cities, with Egyptian flags waving on them, which Sinai now witnesses, and for Egypt's sons to be able to march under these flags through the modern strategy of Egyptian civilization, and may these banners always wave.

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CSO: 4504/162

IRAQ

INA REPORT SEES ADVANCES IN TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATION

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 22 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] Over the past year some major advances were made in transport and communication sector, despite the war, Iraqi News Agency in a report reviewing 1984 said.

Emphasis has been placed on building an efficient railway system. In October 1984, work started on establishing a modern railway line stretching over hundreds of miles, running through the major cities of Kirkuk to the north-east of the country, Baiji on the Tigris and Haditha on the Euphrates.

This line, to be implemented in 1985, is of great significance since it connects with the country's major northern line, the Baghdad-Mosul-Kirkuk-Arbil line. The new line will facilitate transportation not only of city commuters and passengers but also raw materials, commodities and industrial products.

The Baghdad-Akashat railway, designed in accordance with modern transport standards, is also to be implemented early this year.

Under feasibility study is a 132 km line stretching from the railway station of the southern city of Samawa down to the Muthanna Cement Plant. This is to run parallel to the existing line which has been provided also with modern cargo wagons and passenger carriages.

In the second half of 1984, the State Railway Establishment bought some 14 electric-diesel engines of 120 Kms/hour speed. The Establishment has signed a contract to purchase another 82 engines.

Measures have been taken by the Establishment to update the the existing railway lines and improve the system.

To increase the speed and efficiency of the trains on Baghdad-Mosul line a semiautomatic communication and traffic light system has been established on the line.

Another important project to improve the present railway system, is the opening of new terminals and setting up maintenance teams, the construction of some new bridges and tunnels to match with the planned modern system while the line has been rectified as curves were minimized.

Having realized that a good railway service requires professional personnel and other facilities, the Establishment has built a modern building for the Railway Professions Institute in Al-Yousifiya housing complex. The building is big enough to accomodate students of all railway related trades including training equipment and simulators.

To cope with the increasing number of passengers, the Establishment has planned to increase the number of daily journeys on Baghdad-Mosul railway line to 26 trips a day. It is considering increasing the Baghdad-Basra trips to some 36 daily. A housing complex was also built near the city of Ramadi, Anbar Province for railway employees. Another 200 housing units are being built in Baghdad.

To east intercity commuting from and to Baghdad, a 112 km railway project has been started. The line is designed in such a way as to avoid motorways and intercity roads. To that end, also a number of bridges, tunnels, interchanges and passovers are being built.

In the meantime, a big rail industry complex is to start operating early this year in Al-Yousifiya, some 10 km south of Baghdad. The complex includes two major cargo terminals and freight platforms. It has also a number of work-shops. The complex is connected through many lines to the Baghdad Central Railways Terminal.

To achieve efficient rail services, work is underway to modernise rail cars, and the control and junction machines. It is planned also to introduce telecommunications systems so that train drivers, traffic officers and controllers can easily communicate.

Telephones

Last year could be called as a year of telephone services in Iraq. This is so since some 470,000 telephone lines were installed in 1984 in the province of Baghdad. This has been coupled with setting up numerous electronic exchanges.

Modern electronic exchanges are being established in most of the provinces to achieve a more efficient nationwide telephone system.

International telephone services, however, were no exception. Currently there are thousands of lines for international telephone calls thanks to the microwave system which has started operating since 1982.

It is now possible to make telephone calls to most of the world's major cities. National Telex Exchange has also devoted some 12,565 channels for international communication services.

The microwave system is to be expanded to include as many more countries as Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. A special project is planned to interconnect the exchanges and to use coaxial cable, microwave light and laser systems.

Postal Services

Postal services have also been improved. There are now some 303 post offices all over the country together with 1,318 private post office boxes. Post offices are also being used as money depositing centres. Sums deposited in the post offices by the end of 1984, were ID 57 million from 14,300 people.

Studies are still underway to improve postal services in the country. In 1984 an electronic system for automatic letter classification was used for the first time.

The Ministry of Transport and Communication has embarked on a scheme to develop modern meteorological services to cope with the country's different climatic conditions.

To that end, there are now some 34 met. Offices all over the country compared with only 13 centres in 1968. This increase has been coupled with numerous meteorological surveys and studies such as measurement of the different solar radiation rate, observation of atmospheric layers, and receiving satellite photographs to observe the movement of clouds.

Furthermore, a telecommunication system has been established to keep pace with the meteorological services. Also, modern means and equipment such as microfilms and computer systems are being used for air surveys and word processing and data storage and analysis.

A microwave system is to start soon operating between Iraq and Jordan with initial capacity of 120 telephone, telegram and telex lines. It is envisaged that the operating lines will have increased to some 960, when completed.

Road Transport

Road transport also has made remarkable achievements. Over the year 1984 some 3,348,841 passengers have travelled by the state owned coaches inside and outside Iraq.

Intercity transport services were equally active. Figures released by the State Establishment for Bus Services show that some 261,600,000 person have travelled by 1360 buses of the Establishment inside Baghdad alone. The freight and cargo transport was substantial in volume too. Some 10 million tons of different goods, products and commodities were carried by 3,500 trucks of the State Establishment for Road Transport. This volume includes the imported and exported goods in 1984.

River Transport

To develop a river transport, an overall survey was carried out to find the possibility of navigation on Tigris River between Iraq's major cities of Baghdad and Basra. A similar study was made on the Euphrates.

In the meantime, the State Establishment for River Transport has already bought 100 boats of 500 tonnage capacity each. Work is currently in full swing to build sufficient wharfs while the main wharf of Za'farania, south of Baghdad, is being built. Work is also underway to expand the loading capacity of wharves at Kut and Amara to hold some 500 tons.

Civil Aviation

Civil Aviation has achieved impressive progress. To keep pace with the increasing number of air passengers, modern airports were built, the most important of which was the Saddam International Airport. These airports have been provided with modern facilities, computerized radars and air traffic control, maintenance workshops, modern hangers, and other facilities. This has been matched by developing an efficient civil air fleet. Some 14 modern airplanes were bought by the Iraqi Airways which has obtained worldwide renown for its efficiency and air safety. (Translated from Arabic)

CSO: 4400/77

IRAQ

AL-WASIT UPS PRODUCTION DESPITE WAR

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 15 Dec 84 p 4

[Article by Basim Muftin]

[Text] Wasit Province, 172 kilometres south-east Baghdad, has a fair share in the development process in Iraq.

In addition to being well known for its excellent fruits, vegetables and textiles, the province also came to be better known since the start of the Gulf War, as its border towns, like Zurbatiya, were the scene of some fierce ditch battles between Iraqi and Iranian armies, especially those of summer of 1983.

Prior to the outbreak of hostilities on September 4, 1980, the Province was the scene of what people concerned with agriculture, called 'water war' as the Iranian authorities blocked some riverlets flowing into the province border towns in a bid to force the inhabitants to flee their houses. Other border towns like Badra and Jassan came under regular artillery shelling where the number of enemy shells outnumbered the population.

Yet the people of the province have not been shaken and have continued work in defiance of the enemy's attempts to corner Iraq economically.

Agriculture

The Agricultural Council of the Province decided to plant 616,841 donums with wheat and barley during this winter, 346,000 donums out of them are under the supervision of the State Establishment for Agriculture in the Province; 153,000 donums are at Dalmaaj Agricultural Project; 68,966 donums at Dujaila project and 48,857 donums at the State Farm in Suwaira District.

The council also set up committees to follow up the distribution of water shares and cultivation process.

The authorities secured an early distribution to farmers of seeds, fertilizers and machinery.

Judging by the figures given by the Mayor of the Province, the authorities concerned cultivated 168,841 donums this winter more than last year, when only

438,000 donums were cultivated. 107,000 donums out of them were let to farmers in compliance with Law No 35 of 1983. This season, there are more than 10,000 donums of farm land let to farmers, the Mayor said.

Last September the province won an award for being the first province in producing and marketing more wheat and barley. According to the mayor more than 90,000 tons of these two crops were harvested compared with only 46,000 tons from an area of 306,219 donums in 1982-1983 season.

Road Construction:

According to the Mayor, more than 917 kilometers long roads were opened and paved during the past four years. These include the 98 km long second lane of Kut-Ali Al-Sharki road; the 45 km long Kut-Jassam road; the 75 km long Kut-Abrar-Nu'maniya-Zubaidiya road, the 26 km long Basheer-April 7 district road. These are in addition to the 8 kilometre rural Hay-Ramadhan 14 road and other small roads.

The Mayor said that some 310 kilometres long roads would be completed during the first half of 1985.

In Kut city, work is going on to complete the five km long street. Several parks would be constructed along this street.

The Municipality of Kut is also repaving several streets especially those in the new residential areas. Flyovers were erected on several streets to organize traffic movement. The middle islands of streets planted with various trees, along all these streets pumps have been installed to discharge rain water

Health:

During war time a 400-bed general hospital equipped with latest medical equipment was built in addition to a health centre, dental clinic, and a drug store.

This is in addition to the expansion of the general hospitals of Kut, Hay district, Suwaira.

Mobile medical teams regularly tour the rural areas and remote villages to conduct mass medical checking of children and adults. They also visit schools, nurseries, kindergartens, childhood and maternity centres.

Education:

Ninety Two primary schools, 12 intermediate schools and four high schools were built during the past four years, in addition to a teachers' training institute. Some old schools were further expanded to absorb the increasing numbers of pupils.

In a bid to encourage more women to go to work, the Education Department opened 12 new nurseries. Other buildings include six school laboratories, a student hostel, school workshops, industrial departments at some intermediate schools and libraries.

Literacy campaign is going ahead and more students are joining the popular (adults) schools, after completing the basic and complementary stages. Around 37,211 students graduated from these schools up to last July, while there are some 10,729 adult learners still studying at some 457 popular schools with 614 teachers giving lectures.

In the process of continuing education some 25 women learners completed a course after passing the English Language courses. About 65 other learners are still attending to continuing education courses.

Telephones:

Kut telephone exchange was expanded from 5,800 to 17,000 lines. Six new electronic exchanges with 6,000 lines were built during war time in the districts of Aziziya, Suwaira, Hay, Nu'maniya, Badra and Kut.

Water and Electricity

Dozens of villages have been provided with water recently by some 30,000 metre long water pipes.

Water shortages in Kut city and the districts of Sheikh sa'd, Nu'maniya and Bashêr have been eased by installing new water plants, each with a capacity of 50,000 to a quarter of a million gallons per day.

As for electricity, it is extended to new 30 residential areas at various districts and subdistricts. Some 1,250 kilometre long high and low voltage lines were extended, while 1005 transformers were installed in rural areas provide poultry fields with electricity.

According to the Mayor, Rural Electrification Plan provides for extending electricity to villages on two stages. The first stage already covered hundreds of villages. In the second stage so far electricity has been extended to 12 villages, out of 27 villages, where some 2,010 citizens live.

In housing field more than 12,000 residential lots of land were distributed to citizens, while hundreds more of these lots are to be distributed soon.

Further 295 houses and two housing complexes with 132 flats were built and distributed to citizens. Two other housing complexes were built to house the employees of the departments of Housing Ministry in the Province.

CSO: 4400/77

LEBANON

BRIEFS

9-MONTH INFLATION FIGURES--The consumer price index in Lebanon in the third quarter of 1984 rose 8.9 percent, compared to 8.2 percent in September 1983, as of the beginning of the current year, and 2.3 percent compared to the second quarter of 1984 that ended in June. This index, prepared by the general labor unions, shows that the percentage of increase in the consumer prices occurred at a time when prices had not yet been affected by the large increases caused by the wave of gains achieved by the dollar and other currencies, which will have its impact on the indicator of this year's last quarter, which ends at the end of December. [Text] [London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 89, 22 Dec 84 p 33] 12502

CUSTOMS DUTY EXEMPTIONS--The Lebanese Council of Ministers, by Decree No 1982, granted the Higher Customs Council the right to amend the tariff toward exempting or lowering the duty on raw materials imported for national industry needs that cannot be matched in the national product for a period ending 15 September 1986. This decision comes within the scope of subsidies and encouragement of national industry to enable it to take off once again after the heavy losses it suffered because of the Lebanese war. [Text] [London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 89, 22 Dec 84 p 34] 12502

CSO: 4404/190

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

RESOLUTIONS OF PNC'S COMMITTEES CITED

Bolstering Struggle at Home

Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Jan 85 pp 48-49

[Text] The Occupied Homeland Affairs Committee emanating from the 17th session of the PNC [Palestine National Council]--the PNC Martyrs Session--met on 27 November 1984 and elected brother Fahd al-Qawasimah chairman and brother Salim al-Wadiyah rapporteur.

After discussing at length the reports submitted by the Occupied Homeland Affairs Department, after reviewing all the difficult conditions and circumstances under which our people in occupied Palestine live, after reviewing the Zionist actions seeking to Judaize the land, to uproot the people and to dissolve their identity and the occupation authorities' attempts to sabotage the economic, social, agricultural and cultural structure of Palestinian society with the aim of erasing our people's cultural landmarks and of destroying all aspects of their lives with inhumane actions and after reviewing with great appreciation the constant political and military struggle, the Occupied Homeland Affairs Committee greets our people in occupied Palestine and greatly appreciates their heroic position of determination to convene the 17th PNC Session in Amman and to reaffirm their support for the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, under the leadership of brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat.

The committee also salutes proudly the constant national interaction of our people who have been living in the homeland occupied since 1948--an interaction that has surfaced in a clear national manner during the terroristic onslaught of the racist Zionist band.

While greeting our people's national stance inside and outside the occupied homeland, the PNC appreciates with great pride our people's current uprising at home which has accompanied the convocation of this session and in which our people have expressed, by offering martyrs and with all means, the unity of their national position, their reaffirmation of the firm national unity and of the independent national decision making and their support for the PLO and its legitimate leadership as their sole legitimate representative. The PNC also expressed its condemnation and denunciation of any endeavor to swerve from the national consensus because such deviation is in conflict with our people's objectives and firm national rights of repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on their national soil.

The PNC greets our people's masses in the occupied territories who have foiled the civilian administration plans, the lackey village leagues and all the suspect attempts at home that seek to swerve from the national consensus, to undermine the PLO's sole representation and to plot against our people's firm rights.

While reaffirming its 16th Session resolutions concerning the occupied homeland, the PNC stresses the following:

1. Support for our people at home with all the means that enable them to stand fast on their land and to develop all aspects of their lives in order to strengthen their steadfastness and struggle, along with the proper and fair distribution of this support with the participation of the popular organizations' general secretariats, takes priority in our interest. The PNC also calls for exerting efforts to increase the sums allocated to bolster our kinsmen's steadfastness.

On this occasion, we wish to express profound thanks to the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which has paid all its obligations to the joint committee in accordance with the Baghdad Summit resolutions and we urge the other Arab countries which have paid a part of their obligations, namely Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, Iraq and Algeria, and those who have not paid any of their obligations, namely Libya, to meet their obligations out of loyalty to their national struggle duty and to increase their allocations for this support in a manner compatible with the extreme and growing importance of our people's struggle in occupied Palestine.

2. The PNC recommends that the Executive Committee form a special committee to organize a large-scale popular campaign at all the popular Arab levels, especially at the level of the Palestinian people, to secure additional financial resources compatible with the growing need to develop and strengthen the steadfastness of our people in the occupied homeland.

3. The PNC calls for continued fraternity between the Palestinian municipalities and the Arab and international cities and for developing this fraternity in a manner that serves our people's steadfastness.

4. The PNC stresses the unity of Palestinian action at home at all levels through:

- A. Bolstering and strengthening the structure of the Palestinian National Front at home in its capacity as the PLO's fundamental and influential arm in guiding our people's political and popular struggle, as well as providing all the means of material and moral support for the front while taking into consideration the elements of the safety, security and survival of this front.

- B. Stressing support for all the national, progressive and democratic forces in the territories occupied since 1948.

- C. Safeguarding the unity of the national institutions and of all the popular, union, labor and professional organizations at home and bolstering this unity to insure its development and its increased effectiveness in confronting the hostile schemes, as well as providing this unity with the necessary support.
- D. Reaffirming the unity of the Palestinian working class and of its union movement inside and outside the occupied territories.
5. The PNC calls for bolstering and escalating all forms of our people's military, political and popular national struggle and for the PLO agencies concerned to provide all the resources and commitments that insure such escalation.
6. The PNC calls for devoting attention with all the means possible to safeguard the Arabism and safety of the land and to fight the endeavors to Judaize or confiscate it through the creation of specialized agencies, including a special fund set up for this purpose with Arab and international financing.
7. The PNC calls for conducting careful studies to stop emigration from the occupied homeland and to prepare the programs and resources necessary to achieve this objective.
8. The PNC stresses the need to strengthen and develop the Occupied Homeland Affairs Department so that it may rise to the level of shouldering the extensive responsibilities, burdens and tasks entrusted to it, may set up the divisions necessary for this purpose and may recruit specialized capabilities.
9. The PNC calls for forming a committee of its members to cooperate with the Occupied Homeland Affairs Department, provided that the Executive Committee determine the number of this committee's members and its responsibilities and tasks.
10. It calls for devoting attention to the guidance and information all means concerning our people in the occupied territories by the available broadcasting stations and media so as to give our people the opportunity to keep up with the positions and developments of the Palestinian national struggle.
11. It calls for encouraging the Palestinians working outside the occupied homeland to return home to work whenever possible and to exert efforts with the Arab countries to shoulder the expense of the return of all or some of the Palestinians working in them to their homeland.
12. It stresses the need to increase the attention devoted to dealing with the burdens and consequences resulting from the struggle of our people's masses in the occupied homeland and underlines the commitment to shoulder the reparations, penalties and any other damages resulting from this struggle with all possible speed.

13. It calls for following up on and increasing the allocations for the families of the martyrs, the wounded, the prisoners and detainees and those harmed so that they may have the opportunity for an honorable life by equating them with their brothers outside the occupied homeland and by tending to the affairs of deportees and of those released from captivity in accordance with the financial regulations followed by the PLO.

14. It stresses the positive role that is performed by the democratic and progressive forces that are hostile to Zionism's creed and actions in the occupied homeland and that recognize the PLO as our people's sole legitimate representative and recognize our people's firm national rights, including their right to repatriation, to self-determination and to the establishment of their state on Palestinian soil.

15. It calls for exerting efforts for the continued provisions of the allocations undertaken by UNRWA and for efforts to prevent the termination of UNRWA's educational, health and other services so as to avert the ill consequences of such termination to our people's children.

16. The PNC stresses the need to allocate a special financial budget from the Palestinian National Fund to bolster the steadfastness of our kinsmen in the occupied homeland.

17. The PNC urges the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to devote attention to the steadfastness of individuals in the occupied homeland by setting up employment establishments whose objective is to entrench our people on their land and in their homes.

18. It calls for the creation of national establishments in the Arab population centers in the territories occupied since 1948 so that they may form an economic and social extension of the Palestinian national structure, taking into consideration the impact of such establishments on the citizens and the dimensions of the yield of this support to the steadfastness of our kinsmen in the occupied homeland.

19. The PNC greets the Palestinian prisoners and detainees in the occupation jails, their steadfastness in the face of the Zionist henchmen and their continued resistance to the occupation.

20. The PNC lauds the steadfastness of our Palestinian people in the occupied homeland, their clinging to the soil, their resistance to the occupation and their rallying behind the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

Amman, 28 November 1984

Rapporteur Salim al-Wadiyah

Committee Chairman Eng Fahd al-Qawasimah

Military Committee's Recommendations

Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Jan 85 pp 50-51

[Text] The Military Committee emanating from the PNC's 17th session met on 27 November 1984 and elected brother Brig Gen Ahmad 'Afanah chairman and brothers Col 'Atallah 'Atallah and Lt Col Salim al-Bardini rapporteurs. After approving the agenda, the committee held detailed discussions in which the brother committee members debated the various military issues concerning our revolution in this delicate phase of our people's struggle.

Since our people charted in 1965 the path of armed struggle as a sole instrument to express their struggle identity and as a major means to attain their usurped rights, the liquidation of this struggle has been and continues to be the first priority of the Zionist enemy and of U.S. imperialism, which have unleashed in the past 20 years the most ferocious attacks against our revolution and our people who rally behind it, using in these attacks all the weapons of destruction and annihilation. The most ferocious and violent of these attacks was the allout aggression to which the Palestinian revolution was exposed in 1982 and which sought to destroy and uproot the Palestinian revolution's presence in order to liquidate the PLO politically after it had been liquidated militarily, thus liquidating the Palestinian cause in its entirety.

But our revolution, with its leadership, cadres and fighters, with the support of our proud people's masses and with its alliance with the Lebanese national forces, has confronted and continues to confront this barbaric aggression very strongly and valiantly.

With the departure of our forces from Beirut after a grinding war lasting 3 months during which the enemy was unable to achieve its objectives, and while the enemy was unable to achieve its objectives, and while these forces were reorganizing themselves in their positions of deployment, especially in al-Biqā' and in Tripoli, in order that they may be present on the main line of direct confrontation with the Zionist enemy, we were surprised by a plot seeking totally to uproot our presence in all of Lebanon. Outwardly, this plot began in the form of a split within Fatah Movement but then developed in a matter of days and escalated to reach the level of an organized assault against our forces in the mountain and al-Biqā', with the protection of certain parties in the Syrian regime and with the participation of these parties in Libyan forces in Tripoli which sought to end our presence in all of Lebanon, to end the PLO and to confiscate independent Palestinian national decision making.

Our forces confronted this plot after exhausting futilely all the means of dialogue to end this assault. Our forces waged battles in al-Biqā' and Tripoli, which were blockaded after the destruction of Nahr al-Barid and al-Baddawi camps in the most ferocious battle waged by the Palestinian revolution after the Beirut battles in defense of independent national decision making.

What is surprising in this tragedy which cut the wound deeper is that the firepower of these Arab forces and their land blockade of our forces met with the enemy's shells and missiles and his land and sea blockade.

After this battle, our basic forces departed from Tripoli to their other positions in the various Arab countries.

Despite all these overpowering circumstances which have engulfed our forces, groups of these forces are still engaged in their struggle tasks side by side with the Lebanese national forces in South Lebanon and in the occupied territories, imposing on the enemy a bloody war of attrition.

Despite all these plots and difficult circumstances which have been imposed on our revolution with the departure of our forces from Lebanon, the will for armed struggle and the ability to carry on with it continue to exist.

Previous Session's Resolutions

The committee reviewed the resolutions of the PNC's 16th Session, which was held in Algiers, and noticed that some of these resolutions have been partially implemented while others have not been implemented. Therefore, the committee deems it fit to present to the PNC's 17th Session its recommendations which cover the unimplemented part of the past resolutions and its recommendations for this session.

First, in the Sphere of Military Unity and the Palestine National Liberation Army:

A. The PNC's 16th Session issued a resolution calling for the formation of the Palestine National Liberation Army so that it may constitute a framework to combine all of the Palestinian revolutionary fighters with their various factions. This revolution has been fully implemented by the Palestine [Liberation] Army, Fatah, the Arab Liberation Front, the Palestinian Liberation Front and the forces that have joined the Palestinian revolution, namely the Provisional Command of the Popular Front-the General Command, the command of the Palestine Liberation War Vanguard (al-Sa'iqah) and the cadres and strugglers from the other organizations who have joined the legitimate authority to defend the revolution. But existing circumstances are still obstructing the completion of the unity of this army. Therefore, the committee recommends that efforts continue to be exerted in order to bolster and entrench this unity.

B. In light of what has been accomplished in terms of the formation of the Palestine National Liberation Army, the committee recommends reexamination of the laws and regulations which have been in force in the Palestine Liberation Army since it was formed in 1964. The committee recommends amendment of the laws and the introduction of the necessary laws compatible with the nature of the coming phase through special committees formed for the purpose by the general commander in cooperation with the Higher Military Council.

C. In view of the difficult circumstances being experienced by our fighters in the wake of their distribution in various countries, the committee recommends improvement of the social conditions of these fighters in a manner compatible with the new circumstances and with the revolution's resources.

D. The committee recommends adoption of the Palestinian National Charter, of the Resolutions of the successive PNC's and of the PLO's political program as a basis for political enlightenment in the Palestine National Liberation Army.

E. The committee recommends drawing up the plans capable of developing this army and of enhancing its combat capabilities by supporting it with arms, financing, training and manpower mobilization.

F. The committee recommends exerting efforts to enable the Palestine National Liberation Army command to exercise its full powers over this army's forces in all the places in which they exist and in a manner that does not conflict with the agreements concluded with the host countries.

Second, in the Sphere of Armed Struggle:

A. The committee recommends the continued escalation of military action against the Zionist enemy in the occupied territories, putting the emphasis on giving priority to escalating the military and political struggle of our people in the occupied territories and to securing the requirements, resources and weapons necessary to develop an armed popular revolution.

B. The committee recommends continuing the plan to build and develop our armed forces and to enhance their combat capability in a manner that enables them to fight with high capability under all conditions and circumstances and on the various fronts.

C. The committee recommends supporting the Lebanese national forces' military struggle against the Zionist enemy by continuing to participate in fighting on their side. It also recommends developing the capabilities of our Palestinian masses in their camps in a manner that insures their safety and their ability to defend their existence.

D. The committee recommends continuing the efforts for the release of our prisoners in the Zionist enemy's detention camps and our prisoners in a number of Arab countries.

Third, National Mobilization:

The committee recommends reaffirming the PLO's national right to mobilize our people's forces for the national service wherever these forces may exist in order to bolster our manpower capability, provided that the PNC instruct the Executive Committee to make all the contacts necessary to implement this recommendation.

Brothers,

The circumstance is difficult but we possess the will to fight and to challenge. We are fully confident that the brother PNC members will confirm these recommendations. While being aware of the nature of the conflict with the Zionist enemy who has entrenched his occupation of all our Palestinian territories and who has made our people homeless, the Military Committee is also aware that regaining the homeland and deciding the conflict can be accomplished only through armed struggle and the escalation of this struggle side by side with the other means of struggle.

Palestinian Affairs in Lebanon

Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Jan 85 pp 52-54

[Text] The Committee for the Affairs of Palestinians in Lebanon, emanating from the PNC's 17th session, convened in Amman, the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, on the morning of Tuesday, 27 November 1984, to consider the affairs of the Palestinians in Lebanon and Palestinian-Lebanese relations. The committee elected brother Tawfiq al-Safadi chairman and brother Zayd Wahbah rapporteur.

After approving the agenda, the committee reviewed the circumstances under which this session is being convened--a session that gains special importance by virtue of its being convened under the circumstances of a delicate and decisive phase of the Palestinian struggle on the ground of the Palestinian legitimacy and of independent Palestinian national decision making and the struggle to cling resolutely to the Palestinian people's firm rights, including our people's right to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state on our national soil and the struggle to cling to the PLO as our people's sole legitimate representative.

The committee believes that the continued deterioration in the Arab situation generally and the absence of solidarity and alliance between fraternal Syria and the PLO on the basis of confronting the imminent dangers facing the Palestinians and the Lebanese and threatening their existence and future--this deterioration and absence have encouraged and continue to encourage imperialism and Zionism to persist in implementing their schemes, including the oppression, terrorization, eviction and displacement of our people.

The committee also believes that speeding up the restoration of unity to the Palestinian body and achieving Palestinian national unity constitute the basis for confronting this onslaught, as they constitute the strong and balanced relationship with the Lebanese national forces and with the masses of the fraternal Lebanese people.

The committee also believes that the entrenchment of the PLO's relations with the Lebanese forces, with the circles concerned and with the Arab regimes on the path of achieving Arab solidarity is something essential that will reflect positively on the Palestinian people's supreme interests, especially on the Palestinian camps and masses in Lebanon.

Consequently, the committee believes that the particular and distinctive nature of the Lebanese situation requires the PNC to devote to this situation the attention it merits by dealing with its social, economic and political problems in a theoretical and practical manner at the same time.

There has been no noticeable improvement in the situation in our Palestinian camps in the period between the convocation of your esteemed council's 16th and 17th Sessions. Nearly 2 years have passed since the convocation of the last session and the problems continue unchanged. In the previous session, we took resolutions which were approved by your honorable council and these resolutions which were approved by your honorable council and these resolutions have continued to be mere ink on paper. We realize that the division and the paralysis that have afflicted the PLO as a result of the current political circumstances have contributed to obstructing the implementation of your resolutions. But the convocation of the council's current session which is considered a historic accomplishment makes us hope that the Executive Committee and its agencies will hasten to implement the previous and present resolutions because this is vital and essential for not allowing our people to lose hope in their leadership and their progress.

The committee has discussed our people's situation within the framework of the conditions created by the invasion which sought to hit the PLO's military, political and economic structure and to destroy the Lebanese national forces embracing our people in Lebanon and has expressed high appreciation for the steadfastness of our people's sons, especially in the southern camps which are subjected to daily oppression and terrorism by the Zionist occupation forces and by the fascist forces allied with this enemy.

The committee has also expressed high appreciation for our people's rallying behind the PLO, for their continued clinging to the armed struggle and for their keeping the Palestinian rifle raised in the face of the occupation as well as for their political struggle.

The committee has also expressed appreciation for the magnificent steadfastness of the national resistance in south Lebanon, in al-Shuf battle and throughout the confrontation positions--national resistance in which hundreds of devoted Palestinians and Lebanese have been martyred. The committee has also saluted the steadfastness of our brothers in the detention camps, their free will and their determination to reject the fascist Zionist occupation and terrorism.

While seeing all these dangers and challenges facing the PLO and our Arab Palestinian people, the Committee for the Affairs of Palestinians in Lebanon believes that the main link making it possible to confront these dangers and challenges lies in quick and serious action to enable the PLO to restore its unified and influential role which will, in turn, create the conditions for confrontation, making use of the Arab aid and the aid of the world's progressive forces.

This prelude has been, despite its brevity, necessary to prepare for presenting the recommendations approved by our committee in its meeting today, hoping that these draft recommendations will gain your esteemed council's approval.

Recommendations

1. Intensifying the Arab and international efforts and endeavors to find a clear solution for the situation of hundreds of thousands of our people's sons who live in Lebanon and to eliminate the injustice inflicted upon them.
2. Protecting the Palestinian presence and exerting efforts to preserve the security and safety of the Palestinians and of their property. This task is not the responsibility of the PLO alone. It is also a pan-Arab task that falls on the shoulders of all the Arab states and of our Arab people in all their countries.
3. Entrusting the Executive Committee to exert efforts to guarantee the legitimate rights of Palestinians in Lebanon, especially their rights to residence, to free movement and to work and particularly in the wake of issuance in 1982 of the Lebanese legislative decree prohibiting Palestinians from engaging in scores of professions in the private sector.
4. Entrusting the Executive Committee to exert efforts for the release of prisoners in Lebanese detention camps and to exert greater efforts in searching for those detained in cooperation and participation with the International Center for Information on Prisoners and Missing Persons and with the other international agencies concerned.

Palestinian Situation in Lebanese Arena

1. The committee recommends that international pressures be exerted on Israel to release the detainees currently held in Ansar camp and in jails in occupied Palestine.
2. It recommends appealing to the United Nations and the world community to entrust a fact-finding committee to investigate the facts and to confront the Israeli occupation authorities' acts of terrorism against the Palestinians in the south, especially in Sidon and Tyre, and the killing and displacement to which they are subjected.
3. The PNC holds the Lebanese government and the national and Islamic forces responsible for protecting the Palestinian camps in Beirut and outside it.
4. The committee recommends developing the mainstays of steadfastness in all the camps and meeting these camps' requirements and needs.
5. It emphasizes the need to have the PNC form a committee to review the Palestinian revolution's experience in the Lebanese arena to learn the lessons of this experience and to supervise the proper progress of work and the implementation of resolutions.
6. It recommends allocating a special budget to meet the items included in all the draft recommendations in order to achieve the program included in these recommendations.

Relationship with UNRWA

The committee reaffirms the resolutions of the PNC's previous session concerning UNRWA and pertaining to the following:

- A. Returning UNRWA headquarters to Beirut.
- B. Establishing the UNRWA budget as part of the UN budget.
- C. Achieving the just demands of the Palestinian teachers, employees and workers employed by UNRWA.
- D. Terminating the process of dismissing and dispensing with the services of the employees without any legal justification.
- E. The committee stresses the need to resume work in all sections of the Sibli Vocational Institute as soon as the Israeli occupation recedes from the area.
- F. Reviving physical education classes at UNRWA schools, with UNRWA shouldering the financial expenses of the specialists needed for the purpose.

In the Social Sphere

1. The committee recommends studying the allocations for the families of the martyrs, prisoners, wounded and disabled, making monthly allocations for the families of the detained and securing regular assistance for destitute families in light of the rising inflation.
2. The committee recommends securing the resources necessary to complete the payment of reparations for damages in the camps with the aim of restoring and building these camps, taking into consideration the rising cost of construction materials.
3. The committee stresses the need to find a quick solution to the problem of our kinsmen who have been evicted from their various camps and population centers and the need to disburse the reparations these evacuees deserve as a result of the successive tragedies that have befallen them.
4. It recommends rehabilitating the programs to revive the camps and disbursing the budgets needed for the purpose.
5. It recommends bolstering the Palestinian consumer cooperatives belonging to the Federation of Palestinian Workers in Lebanon, spreading such cooperatives and restoring and compensating those cooperatives that have been damaged.
6. The committee recommends bolstering and developing Palestinian educational institutions in Lebanon through the departments concerned and guaranteeing to pay the tuition fees of the needy high school, university and vocational students by virtue of the constantly rising costs of living and the ever-growing education fees.

7. The committee recommends increasing the number of university and vocational grants allocated for Palestinians living in Lebanon.

8. The committee recommends that efforts be exerted to secure health insurance for all Palestinians living in Lebanon in accordance with a specific system set up by a specialized committee.

9. It recommends that efforts be exerted to bolster the social projects of the Lebanon branch of the General Federation of Palestinian Women, especially projects pertaining to children's nurseries and kindergartens and to women's vocational training centers.

10. The committee recommends that the popular unions be strengthened and that rehabilitation, vocational and production centers be set up to intensify the care and attention devoted to the conditions of our people in Lebanon, with each center serving in its field of specialization.

11. The committee recommends that efforts be exerted with the Lebanese official authorities to get their approval for building youth centers in the Palestinian camps in accordance with the resolution of the Arab ministers of youth affairs.

General Issues

1. The committee recommends increasing the number of PNC members representing the Palestinians living in Lebanon in a manner compatible with the size of the population and with the dimensions of the various problems.

2. The committee recommends allocating the budget necessary to meet the general and comprehensive demands in this delicate and difficult phase in order to make it possible to meet and deal with the various urgent requirements and demands of our kinsmen in Lebanon generally.

3. The committee recommends launching an organized and continuous campaign to point out the hardships of Palestinian civilians in Lebanon under the shadow of the Israeli occupation in order to secure greater backing and support by the world public opinion.

4. The committee stresses the need for convening an international conference to discuss ways to put an end to the acts of terrorism being committed against our people.

5. It recommends increasing the aid for the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Lebanon in order that it may perform its duties toward the Palestinian people.

6. It recommends allocating a budget for treatment outside the Red Crescent's hospitals and centers, with this budget put at the disposal of a committee in which representatives of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society participate.

7. The PNC recommends that the Executive Committee form a special committee to study the conditions of the Palestinians forced to emigrate to West Germany and Sweden and to take the steps necessary to improve their social and economic conditions through contacting the United Nations and holding it responsible in this regard, as well as contacting the countries concerned for the same purpose.

8. The PNC recommends that the PLO Executive Committee exert efforts with the Lebanese authorities concerned to reopen the PLO office in Beirut.

The committee hopes that these recommendations will be given the attention and care they merit, especially since the Committee for Palestinian Affairs in Lebanon had underlined a number of these recommendations at the 16th Session.

Long live free Arab Palestine and its revolution until victory.

Amman, 27 November 1984.

Chairman Tawfiq al-Safadi

Rapporteur Zayd Wahbah

Financial Committee's Recommendations

Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Jan 85 pp 54-55

[Text] The Finance Committee emanating from the PNC's 17th Session met on Tuesday, 27 November 1984, in the presence of brother Dr Hanna Nasir, the chairman of the Palestinian National Fund's Executive Board, and elected brother 'Abd-al-Latif 'Uthman chairman and brother Salih al-Barghuthi rapporteur.

After taking cognizance of the 1983-1984 revenues and expenses and after discussing the report submitted by the Palestinian National Fund chairman, the committee recommends the following:

First, the PNC reaffirms the financial resolutions issued by its 16th Session, especially in the following spheres:

A. That the Executive Committee amend the PNC's previous resolution concerning the need to reexamine the salaries of the civilian and military workers of the PLO and modify these salaries in a manner compatible with their geographic location, the inflation rate and the rise in the cost of living.

B. That the Executive Committee adopt the PNC's previous resolution concerning the need to establish regulations that secure for all workers of the PLO offices and establishments the necessary health and social insurance.

C. That the Executive Committee embrace the resolution adopted by the PNC's 14th, 15th and 16th Sessions calling for holding conferences for the Palestinian economic leaderships to contribute to bolstering the steadfastness of our people in the occupied homeland.

D. That the PNC reaffirm the resolution issued by its 15th and 16th Sessions regarding the need to exert efforts to develop the Palestinian intrinsic resources so that they may act as a fundamental mainstay of the independence of Palestinian national decision making.

E. That the PNC reaffirm the resolutions issued by its previous session regarding the need to establish financial unity in terms of both collection and spending in order to achieve the comprehensive national unity within the PLO's organizational framework.

F. That the PNC reaffirm its previous resolution regarding the need to bolster and strengthen the agency and methods of internal auditing in the Palestinian National Fund and to secure the framework and resources necessary to achieve greater internal control. The committee also recommends that the PNC reaffirm its previous resolution to set up a central financial control, inspection and audit agency.

Second, the PNC stresses the need to move the Palestinian National Fund's headquarters to a place determined by the Executive Committee in order that the fund may be more capable of meeting the needs of the PLO agencies, offices and forces.

Third, the PNC, out of its awareness that bolstering our Palestinian people's steadfastness in the occupied homeland is the focal issue and the cornerstone in our struggle and that our people's clinging to and steadfastness on their land are the main obstacles in the face of the expansionist settlement-oriented Zionist onslaught, instructs the Committee to devote maximum attention to this issue and to put it atop the ladder of priorities for its activities, movements and programs, to exert efforts to secure the monies necessary for the purpose and to spend on this objective according to a special system prepared for this purpose.

Fourth, the PNC instructs the Executive Committee to study, in cooperation with the National Fund's Executive Board, all means of insuring the enhancement of the intrinsic resources, to exert efforts to find the necessary instruments and plans to enhance these resources and to devote special importance to the production projects.

Fifth, the PNC has taken cognizance of the situation engulfing the Hittin Forces existing in the Syrian territories, of the actions in which these forces' command has engaged and this command's mutiny against the legitimate authority. Considering that these forces, especially their command, are still collecting their wages from the National Fund, the PNC refers this issue to the Executive Committee in order that it may study all its aspects in detail so as to make the proper resolutions on it.

Sixth, the PNC has examined the report submitted by the National Fund and instructs the fund to do the following:

A. Submit the 1981-1982, 1982-1983 and 1983-1984 budgets audited and examined by external accounts audit and present these budgets to the Executive Committee as soon as possible so that they may be presented to the PNC's coming session.

B. The PNC has taken cognizance to the paragraph in the National Fund's report concerning the three payments received from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and deposited in the army's financial department account. Though the PNC appreciates the circumstances and causes leading to this step, it underlines the need to abide by the financial rules and regulations in force and stresses the need that all the monies received by the PLO be delivered to the Palestinian National Fund.

C. Having taken cognizance of the sums paid for financial aid and for bolstering steadfastness in accordance with the Baghdad Summit resolutions, the PNC:

1. Expresses thanks and appreciation to the fraternal Arab countries that have met all or part of their obligations, especially the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which has met its full obligations.

2. Urges the Arab countries that have not met their full obligations to hasten to pay these obligations out of loyalty to the blood tax vis-a-vis the Palestinian people. The Executive Committee shall follow up on this issue with all possible means.

3. The PNC appeals to the sisterly Arab countries that have not passed legislation on the liberation tax to hasten to promulgate such legislation to include the Palestinians working in both the public and private sectors.

D. The PNC has taken cognizance of the issue of the two financial sureties offered for two loans to market citrus fruits from the Gaza Strip and totaling in \$8 million in value. While it understands the objective for which these two sureties were offered, the PNC stresses the need to act as quickly as possible and with all the means and methods to regain these sums.

E. The PNC instructs the Executive Committee to re-study and reassess the volume of manpower in the PLO offices and establishments according to the PLO's action plans and programs.

Seventh, having taken cognizance of the bases of cooperation among the National Fund's management, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and the Martyrs' Families Organization, the PNC instructs the latter two organizations to submit their audited budgets to the National Fund so that their needs may be determined in light of these budgets.

Eighth, out of its awareness of the importance of establishing controls for the PLO's agencies, departments and institutions, the PNC has decided to form a fact-finding committee, with the powers, rules and regulations necessary for this committee to be drawn up by the Legal Committee and the PNC chairmanship and with this committee submitting its reports to the Executive Committee and to the PNC Chairmanship Office.

Ninth, the PNC asks the National Fund management to submit to the PNC's future sessions an estimated budget for the expected expenses and revenues for the years following its convocation in light of the action plans and programs drawn up for the PLO's agencies, offices and institutions and in the light of their needs.

Tenth, even though the National Fund management has not submitted this estimated budget, the National Council has decided to adopt the 1981-1982 budget as a basis for covering the expenses of the remaining months of the current fiscal year, with the same measure to be applied for fiscal year 1985-1986.

Eleventh, Libya has confiscated the Palestinian National Fund's monies which have been deducted from the wages of our Palestinian people's sons who work in Libya for the benefit of the so-called General Palestinian People's Congress--the revolutionary committees which work against the Palestinian revolution.

Twelfth, a month's salary was deducted from the wages of all the Arabs and Palestinians working in Libya during the blockade of Beirut for the benefit of the Palestinian revolution. These monies have not been delivered to the National Fund and have been used for political and military purposes hostile to the Palestinian revolution.

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CSO: 4404/187

SYRIA

RIF'AT AL-ASAD'S RETURN STIRS FIERCE COMPETITION

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 89, 22 Dec 84 pp 11-12

[Article: "Return of the Absentee, No Winner, No Loser"]

[Text] Last 9 July while the Syrian vice-president for foreign affairs, Mr 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, was en route to Damascus from Bludan, a "Volvo" car bomb, parked on the side of the road, exploded the moment Khaddam approached it. Despite the vice-president's miraculous escape, the incident left more than one question mark about the nature of what is being repeatedly said, namely, that the struggling wings inside Syria have begun settling their differences and that the Syrian arena is in for a series of violent actions until conditions are settled in favor of one wing to the exclusion of the other.

It was said at the time that the party injured by the segregation of forces in Damascus, represented by Dr Rif'at al-Asad, brother of President Hafiz al-Asad, was the one behind the incident, which was intended to confirm his presence in the Syrian arena, despite his banishment from it. Furthermore, Rif'at al-Asad wanted to send a message to his adversaries that his ability to harass them while outside Syria is in no way less than his ability in this regard had he been inside Syria.

Rif'at al-Asad's recent return to Damascus a few hours before the visit of French President Francois Mitterrand to Damascus raised the issue of the power struggle in Syria more prominently and reshuffled the cards in the Syrian arena in a way that perplexed most of those acquainted with the intricacies of developments in Syria.

After a 6-month "temporary banishment" and 1 year after the Syrian president's illness in November 1983, Syria awoke to bullets of rejoicing celebrating Rif'at al-Asad's "dramatic" return. The effects of this were not confined to the Syrian arena alone, but crossed over to the Lebanese arena that had witnessed the failure of the plan to deploy the Lebanese army along the coastal road in the direction of the south on the eve of Rif'at al-Asad's arrival in Damascus.

Some sources in the two rival camps in Lebanon were affected by this return because various Syrian wings side with different groups in Lebanon.

Rif'at al-Asad, for example, is thought to be sympathetic to the rightist Christians, unlike 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, who is close to the Muslim wing. That is why some circles interpreted Rif'at's return as going beyond the Syrian concern, being linked to acute regional developments with which the Lebanese arena in particular has begun to interact.

Reading between the lines of the decree assigning new responsibilities to Rif'at, issued on 3 October of last year, one finds that it stipulated in its Article I the "empowerment" [tafwid] and not the "assignment" [taklif] of Rif'at, and entrusted him with: issuing necessary instructions; preparing for the president studies, reports and proposals on security issues; monitoring the execution of the president's decisions and guidelines; and performing "other tasks" assigned him by the president, thus providing a direct link to the president without going through other traditional institutions.

Thus, it appears that Rif'at has returned stronger than before, with expanded powers and closer to the Syrian decision-making process than he was before his banishment.

Some observers say that he will be reinstated in his previous position and may even emerge as a successor to the president, provided he follows the party line, despite his lack of large-scale support in military and political circles.

The status of the Defense Companies once led by Rif'at al-Asad is still unclear. Military observers, however, say that they have been cut back by sending the reserves home while several auxiliary units, "the rocket battalion and the intelligence office," have been abolished.

In the political field, reported changes were limited, but significant. The focus was on secretly diminishing the status of the Rif'at supporters while improving the conditions of the president's and the party's loyalists.

Notwithstanding the steps to clip his wings, military observers say that his position as brigadier general in the army was confirmed early July as one of three persons the president named as his vice-presidents last March.

Whereas some actually "swallowed" the drama of banishing Rif'at al-Asad from Damascus and took the matter of the "war of succession" seriously, others close to the regime fell into the trap of this same regime that prepared for the "sifting" of the big leaders who appeared to be exploiting the Syrian president's coma during his illness last year.

The Syrian president succeeded in portraying the "war of succession" as being between two political courses, such as the leftist "Alawite" side and the rightist "Rif'atist" side.

In this regard, press reports revealed that the Syrian president was the one who wrote the "war of succession" scenario in the way it happened, and he was behind the crystallization of two lines within the Syrian leadership, one "selling his goods" to the Arabs under the leadership of Rif'at al-Asad, and

the other offering the Arabs contradictory advice under the leadership of some of his confidants.

It should be noted here that the talk that spread following Rif'at's disagreement with his adversaries did not begin with the "war of succession," but rather occurred over 5 months prior to that.

AL-TADAMUN had alluded to this point in its 76th edition of last 22 September, or over 2 months before Rif'at al-Asad's return to Damascus, when it said that "the struggle between Rif'at and his adversaries was prior to the Syrian president's illness." It also doubted the existence of differences between the president and his brother when it pointed out in the same edition that "the difference is a tactical step and not a strategic measure," while the most likely possibility is that the president was closing all doors in his brother's face only to reopen them within the framework of seemingly more legitimate channels and after many leaders had quit or were removed."

There is an important fact that bears out the above analysis. Rif'at al-Asad's return to Damascus was met with a muscle-flexing demonstration by his supporters, which observers interpreted as confirming the falsity of the allegations that the Defense Companies were finished. Moreover, the demonstration of support seemed to be one of the conditions of Rif'at al-Asad's return.

At any rate, Rif'at's return was met with two conflicting interpretations, one maintaining that Rif'at is strong outside Syria due to his Arab and international contacts and to his freedom of movement, which will be paralyzed by his return, and the other which says that Rif'at is weak outside Syria and derives his strength from his presence in the country. Observers of Syrian affairs, however, look upon his return as the likely happy ending to a struggle over the succession of the one who has proved he is still the strongest and the president who holds in his strong grip all the reins of power.

Those observers say that the heated and blazing struggle between Rif'at and his adversaries during the Syrian president's illness went beyond personal differences to threaten the regime itself with extinction. This is what the conflicting parties realized following the president's recovery. His directives called to their attention that they almost went over the red lines drawn for any disagreement between the symbols of authority within Syria. Rather, they reached a dangerous point that threatened to sap and debilitate the entire regime. Therefore, the conflicting parties left it to the Syrian president to settle this crisis in a way he saw fit to safeguard the regime which is their regime.

Observers emphasize that not one of the conflicting parties thought to rebel against the Syrian president's authority or to defy him for he has their confidence and respect and they realize that so long as they pledge allegiance to him, they will not be harmed in any way. And even if he was angered by their behavior, his anger would not lead him to get rid of them. He may deprive one of them of a position to give him a completely different position,

as is the case with Rif'at al-Asad, who will exercise his powers as vice-president for national security affairs, powers thought by some to be a containment and weakening of Rif'at's role. What is certain is that, given the peculiarities of the Syrian domestic situation, the task of overseeing national security, if not nominal, is one that places its holder in an extremely powerful and important position that allows him to dominate all the various national security agencies, which are no less powerful than the army. Those who know Rif'at believe that he is not one to accept honorary positions. Informed sources sum up the crisis that befell Syria as a crisis of executors wanting to be decision makers and one that proved that the Syrian president is the strong ruler who gets what he wants.

However, this crisis has seriously put forth for the first time the necessity to think about the future and agree on a successor. It has caused the Ba'th Party's eighth regional conference, to be held in a few days, to claim unusual interest in the Arab and foreign mass media not enjoyed by any other conference.

This interest is justified in that the conference is the beginning of a new political stage that will bring wide-ranging radical changes in all the various fields and a fulfillment of the steps aimed at settling the power struggle and removing the party members who got involved in it, because loyalty must be to the regime and not to certain persons, no matter how high-ranking. It will also suggest a likely successor to Hafiz al-Asad. In this regard, we have the following observations:

--The eighth regional conference will not be an indicator of the actual circumstances of the centers of power within the Syrian government and, consequently, will not reveal the likely candidate to succeed Hafiz al-Asad in the future. Even if Rif'at were to succeed in appointing most of his supporters to the regional leadership, which nominates the president of the republic, this does not mean he is the likely candidate because the final word is not for the leadership, but for the armed forces.

--The conference's primary objective is to put in order the Syrian government's domestic affairs so to face the attempts aimed at isolating and besieging Syria.

--Changes will occur, but will only affect party and government officials and will reach employees of the Syrian diplomatic corps overseas because of their role in the succession struggle. They will not touch the political course; it will be a change of employees, not a change of policy.

--The eighth regional conference meetings, after debating the organizational, economic and political reports submitted to it, will announce its unequivocal support of the Syrian president's political course.

--Concerning the Syrian position on Arab issues, it will not change, but rather become harder, more strident and more rigid (Jordan--Egypt--the PLO--the Iran-Iraq war--strengthening of Syrian-Iranian relations).

One well-known personality who is a candidate for fading gradually to the point of vanishing is Gen Mustafa Talas, who will be pensioned off because he has reached the legal age, and 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, who has sold most of his property in Syria because it has been proved that he was the secret instigator of the anti-Rif'at groups, thus subjecting the country to the peril of a clash between forces armed with the most modern weaponry.

Furthermore, available information says the ministries most likely to undergo change are the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to beef them up with qualified personnel and dispense with those whose loyalty is questionable or those who sided with the conflicting parties. But it is certain that any discussion of Syrian domestic affairs is a kind of conjecture because decisive decision makers are few and prefer to work in utmost secrecy.

12502
CSO: 4404/190

SYRIA

DAMASCUS SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT COSTS ONE BILLION POUNDS

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 21 Dec 84 p 4

[Text] There are in the city of Damascus many lines and networks of main and secondary sewers that serve almost all the buildings and industrial installations in the city. However, all the water of the sewage network, in addition to household waste products, including sewage from industrial installations, hospitals and government buildings and surface water--pour into the tributaries of the Barada river, which passes through Damascus. This state of affairs constitutes great danger to public health, because water from the sewers of the whole city of Damascus is used for irrigation purposes in scattered areas of Damascus' fertile oasis and for cultivating fruits and vegetables which are later sold in the city or distributed among the country's other cities.

The continuing increase in the population and increasing industrial activity have led to a higher rate of pollution in the river, to the extent that the situation has become grave in most of the river's tributaries, because effluent from the sewers has exceeded natural water effluent particularly in the following tributaries: al-'Aqrabani, al-Da'yani and al-Mulayhani. The reason is that most sewers of the industrial areas have no treatment plants and this affects the network noticeably, particularly since most of the industrial installations in the city are concentrated near the tributaries.

If we dig a little deeper in this problem, we find that danger lies in many things, including:

The Damascus Ghutah [oasis] has begun receding and its trees have begun diminishing in number daily as a result of irrigation with the river water which abounds with sewage poisons and industrial waste products, such as factory and tannery waste products, in addition to the waste products of houses and hospitals, which contain many of the diseases which we combat. Hospital sewage must be treated before being discarded in the network; some hospitals have their own treatment plants, which are not being operated.

The domestic and industrial fluid waste products which are discarded in the Barada river through the sewer network have led to the spread of

insects and, consequently, to the proliferation of disease and its raging in the manpower centered near the river's tributaries; this has affected production and decreased it and produced adverse effects.

The diseases caused by pollution have increased the consumption of drugs, whether imported or locally made. The value of the money paid for drugs can be rechanneled to other things fostering the development process in the country.

All these considerations, in addition to the increasing size of the city and of its population and the desire to achieve the most ideal solution, have confronted officials with the pressing and urgent reality of the need to find a quick and comprehensive solution to eliminate pollution. Therefore, the idea was born to build a sewer network and a sewage treatment plant in Damascus. We have met with Nadir HajjUghli, head of the health department in the Damascus city governorate and official in charge of following up the implementation of this project, and we asked him to talk to us about the most important objectives behind the establishment of the treatment plant.

Sanitary, Environmental Improvement

From the premise of the present state of pollution of the river's tributaries, the project's objectives have been specified as follows:

Improving the sanitary and environmental situation in Damascus by removing the sewage pouring into the tributaries of the river, which passes through populated areas, and this requires building main collection lines to receive the sewage from the existing lines and carry it outside the city.

Improving the condition of the water in the oasis irrigation network to protect the residential concentrations in it, as well as industrial and agricultural activities, from the pollution caused by the Damascus sewers, and this requires establishing a plant or plants to treat the sewage prior to discarding it in the river and its tributaries.

Preserving the irrigation system in the oasis and refraining from jeopardizing the rights of common easement of the tributaries in view of the economic importance underlying agricultural activity in the oasis. This requires returning the water following its treatment to the tributaries on the basis of the present water quantities.

With regard to the preliminary study and research on this project and the site of its establishment, Nadir said: Out of the officials' desire to insure success for this project, whose period of study lasted 2 years during which well over 20 experts of various specializations worked to the benefit of the project, a number of studies and proposed solutions were pursued and assessed from the technical, economic, social and health perspectives with regard to charting the course of the collection lines, the way of treatment, and the site of the plant. Consideration of the

plant's site affected the charting of the course of the main collection lines, and the contrary also holds true. The course of the lines affected the specification of the site of the treatment plant. This has been one of the main factors in steering the project, because the specification of the course of the lines and the site of the plant were aimed at preserving the present irrigation system. Following a study of all the proposed solutions, those conducting the studies drew the conclusion that the most effective solution is to set up a sewage treatment plant in the land south of 'Ayn Tarma. It is estimated that by the year 2001, this plant's capacity will have amounted to 485,000 cubic meters per day.

'Ayn Tarma Proposed Site:

Let us speak of the subject of the land proposed for the establishment of such a project, particularly since we have inspected the proposed site, and it turned out that it is cultivable land and there are decrees which ban setting up such projects on cultivable land, while bearing in mind that the area of this project is estimated at 1 million square meters, therefore, what measures have been taken so far to appropriate the land? The director of the health department says:

It is natural that the residents of the area which has been specified for the treatment plant should have reservations, regardless of which site is chosen for the plant, unless this site is in the desert. These reservations result from the fact that the citizens do not know the properties of such plants because, so far, they do not exist in the country.

In many cities and capitals of the world, treatment plants are located within populated areas. Even more, in some of these areas, the areas of the plants have been turned into promenades for the residents. Therefore, the fears entertained by some citizens over the establishment of such plants are groundless.

Nevertheless, the selection of any site in the Ghutah to set up a sewage treatment plant will arouse the same fears which are being raised by the 'Ayn Tarma residents. However, this very site has the following qualities which distinguish it from the other areas in the oasis:

The 'Ayn Tarma lands are now the most polluted lands in view of the passage of the most polluted four tributaries of the river, to the extent that these tributaries can be considered open sewers passing through these lands.

Just one visit to the site clearly shows the extent of the pollution of the environment and of the cultivable lands in this area. Establishment of the plant in this area will not worsen the situation. On the contrary, it will be a radical improvement factor for the environment by raising the value of these lands, and the stench, which now prevails in the area, will be eliminated.

Topographically, the 'Ayn Tarma site is in an area which permits channelling the largest number of sewage lines to it, without the need for pumping.

The presence of four main tributaries of the river in this location has made it easier to preserve the existing irrigation system. Wherever the site for the establishment of the plant may be, it is necessary to pump the treated water from this site to the river branches in the 'Ayn Tarma lands.

Among the studies and the proposed solutions, TISHRIN has learned that there is a study on setting up the plant outside the oasis, far from the population concentrations. Therefore, what is the assessment which has been made through this study? The director of the health department answered us:

Among the studies which were submitted on this project, it is true that there was a solution which would have removed the fears and reservations raised over the establishment of the treatment plant in the 'Ayn Tarma lands.

This solution lies in setting up the plant on the boundary of the eastern desert outside the Damascus oasis in the al-'Utaybah area, and far from a population concentration. This solution was also assessed from all angles in the course of the studies. It requires building the main collection lines for a distance of 25 kilometers from the city boundaries and passing them through the cultivable lands of the oasis, which is approximately 300,000 square meters, as a course for these lines. This solution then requires pumping the treated water and returning it through a pumping line 254 kilometers long also to the 'Ayn Tarma site and the irrigation channels to insure the safety of the present irrigation system.

Furthermore, the additional expenses on this work have been estimated at 402 million Syrian pounds, and annual operating expenses are estimated at 9.3 million Syrian pounds. All this expense would be incurred for a plant with a daily capacity of only 100,000 cubic meters.

2 Billion Syrian Pounds for the Project

Concerning the real cost of the project, the departmental director says that it is estimated at 2 billion Syrian pounds, including the value of the appropriation of the land on which the plant will be set up, the value of the land through which the collectors will be established, and the value of the appropriation of the al-Yarmuk land for building the lifting station, bearing in mind that the proposed price per square meter ranges from 250 to 300 Syrian pounds.

In connection with the work method, the course of the lines from the collectors to the basic plant, and the beginning of the work on this plant, he adds:

Operation Begins in 1989:

The first phase of work is expected to end in 1989 and the plant will then be ready to receive sewage. The number of people connected with the sewer network is expected to be in the region of 1.7 million residents. The total volume of water is expected to be 311,000 cubic meters daily, including 195,000 cubic meters of sewage from houses, 82,000 cubic meters of industrial waste, and 34,000 [cubic meters] of seeping underground water. The total daily load is estimated at 10,000 kilograms of absorbed vital oxygen and 158,000 kilograms of solid matter. With regard to the plant's parts and the way of operation, these can be summed up as follows:

The arrival works consisting of two units to receive the effluent from the northern part and from the southern part, comprising:

Screens.

Surplus waste.

Fine screens.

Grit removal.

Water meters.

Lifting pumps.

Preliminary sedimentation tanks; their function is to remove solids.

Aeration tanks; their function is to remove the absorbed vital oxygen.

Secondary sedimentation tanks.

Returning, concentrating, preparing, storing, and draining catalysts and additives.

Disinfecting the treated water to reduce the proportion of microbes before discarding the water in the river.

Concerning the arrival of sewage at the basic plant, there are main collection lines. These consist of a northern set which starts at the Qadasiya village south of Damascus, runs parallel to the Barada river and passes through Damascus, and ends in 'Ayn Tarma, where the main plant is located. This set serves the northern parts of the city and the concentrations of Qadasiya, Dummar, al-Hamah, and the Jabal Qasiyun project.

A southern set which begins in the al-Mazzah area west of the city. It passes through the al-Maydan area and ends at 'Ayn Tarma. This set serves the southern parts of Damascus and the al-Yarmuk camp.

An eastern set serves the area of Barazah and al-Qabun and the eastern areas and ends at 'Ayn Tarma.

Strengthening the existing lines, which are nothing more than secondary lines for diverting the existing outlets from the Barada river tributaries to the main collection lines. The purpose is to ease the pressure on some of the present lines functioning in excess of their predetermined work load, which frequently leads to their explosion.

The al-Yarmuk pumping station whose purpose is to pump the sewage of the al-Qadam area and al-Yarmuk camp to the main southern collector.

At the end of the treatment process, the treated water is returned to the river tributary to preserve the acquired irrigation rights to the river water. Flow control installations have been built at the beginning of all the river tributaries. The purpose of these installations is to regulate the flow system and preserve the quantities of water allocated for irrigation. These installations will be operated after the main sewers are built and the plant is operated.

It is possible to build secondary treatment plants for some areas. There is now a study indicating the possibility of serving the al-Asad suburb [al-Fayha' city], either by drawing off its sewage to the network to be built, or by setting up an independent treatment station for it, bearing in mind that the suburb will consist of 10,000 housing units to be completed over several phases within the next 2 years.

Technical Manpower Training Center

Considering that sewage treatment projects are new to our country, it is inevitable that these installations will require technical manpower. In respect to the measures which have been taken for this subject, a study was held on a project to be sponsored jointly by the Ministry of Housing and Public Utilities and the Arab Development Fund to set up a training center for those working in sanitary engineering projects. This center will be the source of securing men and cadres for those working in sewage projects.

Present Condition of Sewers

Concerning the present condition of the sewers and the problems which have resulted from them, numerous sewer networks and about 90 percent of the city's houses are connected with the network. However, so far the areas around the city are concerned, such as al-Yarmuk, Duma and Darayya, they are still served by means of septic tanks, because they have not been fully linked to the network. With regard to the system followed, it is the unified system. In other words, the sewage and rain water are drawn off together in one conduit, and this is what explains the process of house floods which have occurred. As a result of the city's building development, some inspection rooms for the sewage

collectors have been demolished, because many roads have been paved above them. In addition, up to this time, there are actually no inspection rooms with appropriate technical measurements and this makes it difficult to take maintenance equipment into these rooms, and even makes the process of workers' descent difficult for the lack of protection chains. Most of these things will be eliminated following the construction of the main and branch collectors and the sewage treatment plant of the city of Damascus.

12839

CSO: 4404/164

SYRIA

ROAD, BRIDGE BUILDING IN HAMAH REPORTED

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 21 Dec 84 p 3

[Text] Traffic routes are considered among the most important service utilities which mirror evolution in the domain of civilization. In Hamah province, a long network of main and secondary roads extends and branches out to all parts of the province to link the countryside to the city to facilitate the transportation of crops and transport in general.

Engineer Muhammad Jaw Khaddar, member of the executive bureau for the services sector, has mentioned to us that the road network in the province is 2,652 kilometers long and includes 1,495 kilometers in asphalted roads, 999 kilometers in paved roads, and 158 kilometers in leveled roads. Most of these roads are in good condition and serve the citizens of the provinces and those passing through it.

New Roads Built, Paved

Recently, 185 kilometers have been built and paved. The cost of building these new roads has amounted to 55 million Syrian pounds. The most important of these roads are:

The Kafr Zayta--al-Suqaylabiyah road, 20 kilometers long.

The al-Sawma'ah--Sifata--al-Zamiliyah--al-Bayadiyah road, 23 kilometers.

The Qasr al-Mukharrem--al-Birah--al-Summaqiyah--Abu al-Qudur road; 12 kilometers.

Al-Fuwayrah--Tall Agharr--Jubb al-Zurayq road, 12 kilometers.

The Tumin-Harr Banafsah road, 9 kilometers.

The Misyaf-al-Shihah road, 9 kilometers.

Completion of the Hamah--al-Hamra' road, 43 kilometers, at an approximate cost of 10 million Syrian pounds.

Maintenance of Main, Branch Roads

A pitch coating was extended to maintain branch roads 260 kilometers long at an estimated cost of 24 million Syrian pounds.

Concerning the maintenance of central roads, work has been done on:

Improving and maintaining the 90-kilometer long Hamah--al-Ghab road at an estimated cost of 15 million Syrian pounds.

Improving and maintaining the 20-kilometer al-Ghab--Slinfah road at an estimated cost of 9 million Syrian pounds.

Improving and maintaining the 65-kilometer Hamah--Misyaf--Wadi al-'Uyun road at an estimated cost of 7 million Syrian pounds.

Improving and maintaining the 76-kilometer road Hamah--al-Salamiyah--Hims at an estimated cost of 9.5 million Syrian pounds.

Improving and maintaining the 22-kilometer Misyaf--Jisr al-Shaghur road at an estimated cost of 3.5 million Syrian pounds.

All these roads are now in good condition and serve the citizens and facilitate transport from the countryside to the city and to the other provinces.

New Roads in Humah

Furthermore, a large number of streets have been built in the city's quarters. While these streets were being built, serving the citizens in the new and outlying quarters was taken into account. These roads were also built on the basis of future considerations, because attention was devoted to insuring that these roads are wide and "highways," and the most important of these roads are:

The 1.5 kilometer Nasribn Sayyar road, which connects the Kafr Buhum road with the main road and which extends from the memorial monument, at an estimated cost of 3 million Syrian pounds. Furthermore, 80 percent of this road has been completed.

The al-Quds road, which begins north of the municipal playground and extends to the point where it intersects the al-'Asi corniche in al-Shari'ah area. This road is 3 kilometers long and it has cost 3.5 million Syrian pounds. It consists of 2 lanes with a traffic island of greenery in the middle.

The 3-kilometer Dhi Qar road, which begins from the Aleppo road and ends at the new highway, at an estimated cost of 4.5 million Syrian pounds.

A 4-kilometer road which begins near the al-Arba' Nawa'ir bridge and passes through the Jajiyah area and the northeastern side until it reaches the Aleppo lake, at an estimated cost of 4.5 million Syrian pounds, in addition to a number of other streets south of the municipal playground.

Other roads will be built west of the railroad and the Aleppo road, west of the agricultural nursery, and in al-Bayad and the city.

Work on building the President Hafiz al-Asad bridge has been completed. The bridge links the city's northern part to its southern and western parts. The cost of this huge bridge has amounted to 24 million Syrian pounds, including the areas and supporting walls. The bridge consists of two lanes; it is 100 meters long and 30 meters wide.

The al-Arba' Nawa'ir bridge has also been built at a cost of 4 million Syrian pounds. These new bridges have helped resolve the Hamah traffic problem in a radical manner.

New Branch

A few days ago, the second lane of the Hamah branch was opened. The first branch was inaugurated 9 months ago. The branch was built on the Hims-Aleppo main road and it passes through the city's eastern part. This branch is nothing more than a highway consisting of two lanes, each of which is 15 kilometers long.

Nine bridges are located along this branch and these bridges form road junctions. Furthermore, 100 culverts are situated all along the course of the branch and they have cost 60 million Syrian pounds and helped ease the city's traffic congestion and shunt the traffic course of incoming vehicles to outside the city center.

12839

CSO: 4404/164

AFGHANISTAN

TECHNICAL, TRANSPORTATION CENTER FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS INAUGURATED

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 30 Dec 84 p 2

/Text/ For the first time, a technical and oil products transportation center has been opened in the country at a cost of 1.5 million afghani.

The first section of the technical and oil tanker transportation center at Dasht-e Chemtalah was inaugurated day before yesterday by Public Works Minister Nazar Muhammad in a ceremony marking the 20th founding anniversary of the PDPA.

Completion of the center helps meet the oil products needs of the residents of Kabul and the country's eastern provinces and provides a noteworthy facility for the security, maintenance and inspection of oil tankers.

The Dasht-e Chemtalah oil products center has all modern technical equipment and has been built with long-term credit from the USSR.

The project includes 7 hangars, shops, administrative offices, workers' night-classes, a 1,000-capacity dining hall, sewage system, electricity and telephone, central heating, diesel generator, and 250 cubic meters of water reserve for emergency firefighting needs.

The first construction phase of the abovementioned project which has been completed and put into operation includes hangars 01, 03, 05; five 2-family houses, guards' quarters, water tank, pumping station, public transformer building, generator building, a large working area and a kitchen.

5854

CSO: 4665/20

AFGHANISTAN

PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN FOR EXTRACTION, PROVISION OF BUILDING MATERIALS

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 3 Jan 85 p 1

/Interview with an official of Mining and Geological Survey Office;
date and place not specified/

/Text/ Question: What are the building material needs of Kabul according to the city's master plan?

Answer: According to the indicated needs of the Engineering and Planning Department of Kabul Municipality, the master plan calls for: 10 million cubic meters of building stone, 5 million cubic meters of building gravel, 8.5 million cubic meters of riverbed stone.

Exploration and development of quarries and building materials in the Kabul City area began toward the end of the winter months in early 1988. According to Kabul Municipality request, building material teams have divided available resources into 3 categories: a) building stone in Hezarah Baghal and Tarah Kheyl; b) building gravel quarries in Hod Kheyl, Pol-e Charkhi I and Pol-e Charkhi II; c) mixed gravel and crushed stone quarries in Bot-e Khak, Khwajah Mosafer I, Khwajah Mosafer II, Chehelsotun mine No I and Chehelsotun mine No 2.

It should be noted that surface work has been completed at a number of building material quarries such as the mixed gravel and crushed stone mines of Bagrami I, Bagrami III, Gharib Ghonday I, Charib Ghonday II, Gharib Ghonday III, the building gravel quarry at Pole-e Charkhi III and the construction and decorative stone mining complex in Gharib Ghor.

Question: What are the total reserves of these mines:

Answer: The proven building material reserves of the mines are in the following industrial categories: construction stone in the volume of 3.1 million cubic meters, 2.1 million cubic meters of building gravel, 4.1 million cubic meters of building-use riverbed gravel; and the reserves of mines given in answer to the previous question are in significant volume and up to an extent provide the needs of the master plan--31 percent of its construction stone needs, 42 percent of construction gravel needs, 48.2 percent of its riverbed gravel needs.

Insofar as distribution of building materials is concerned, it must be added that each construction agency has annual and quarterly set plans and statistics according to which the building material needs of each agency can be determined in relation to its particular plan. Also, technical and organizational possibilities permitting, extraction and provision of building materials to one or more construction agencies from mines allocated to them is done by the Office of Mining or under its supervision.

Also, the quantity of building materials needed by residents of Kabul can be determined by Kabul Municipality, according to building projects on an estimated additional percentage basis.

5854

CSO: 4665/20

AFGHANISTAN

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES TO BE EXPANDED

Kabuk HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 3 Jan 85 p 6

/Text/ At a time when deep and fundamental political, economic, social and cultural changes are taking place, all toiling masses, particularly those left illiterate because of the monarchical-feudalistic rule, are now summoned toward gaining literacy and knowledge in order that they may increase their political and social awareness and contribute their healthy participation in the renovation of society.

This constructive program has successfully gone forward in our victorious armed forces since the victory of the revolution until now, enabling a significant number to benefit from literacy and contributing to a marked degree to the political knowledge and awareness of the fighting soldiers of the armed forces, for it is not possible to have a healthy understanding of the social and political realities of life without being literate. It is because of this reality that the PDPA and our revolutionary government devote their serious attention to this issue. For this reason, the program of educational growth is being seriously pursued in all units and companies of the armed forces, with successes being gained in this respect.

During the revolutionary years 2,623 literacy promotion groups have been set up in the army, with a present membership of 41,285. Of these, 807 groups comprising 14,475 participants have been recently established and organized in honor of the 20th founding anniversary of the PDPA. Also because of the auspicious occasion and reinforced healthy effort, 1,590 members of the party within units of the armed forces have become literate and received their certificates. Also during the revolutionary years 55,069 individuals have gained literacy through the efforts of members of party committees, grassroot party organizations, the Organization of Democratic Military Youth as well as a number of qualified and patriotic officers on a voluntary basis. Also in honor of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the PDPA, 200,000 booklets, a significant number of textbooks, blackboards newspapers, magazines and posters have been distributed in all units of the armed forces. In addition to the above, 26 /Afghan-Soviet/ friendship chapters, 13 Chambers of Battlefield Honors, 45 Political Enlightenment Chambers, 9 mobile clubs, 2 libraries and one radio center

were recently put into operation. During the revolutionary years, 201 libraries, 13 Chambers of Battlefield Honors, 64 clubs, 586 Political Enlightenment Chambers, 68 Afghan-Soviet Friendship Chapters, 98 artistic groups, 613 television sets, 125 radio centers, 111 movie theaters and 29 mobile groups were established within the army.

The police force of our country too has spared no effort in this direction and has been able to achieve successes. For example, during the revolutionary years it has set up 1,450 literacy courses in which presently 28,710 individuals are learning to read and write.

Also, 215 libraries, 300 Political Enlightenment Chambers, 33 museums, 117 Afghan-Soviet Friendship Chapters, 46 mobile movie theaters, 12 regular movie theaters, 46 radio centers, 217 television sets and 133 artistic groups have been set up and are operating in various units of the force.

In honor of the 20th founding anniversary of the PDPA, the force has been able to banish totally the specter of evil darkness if illiteracy in the honor guard section, the Bagrami training corps, central operation and the 10th Security Area. With hope that tomorrow we will see the total elimination of this evil and disgusting inheritance from our dear home land.

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CSO: 4665/18

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES INCREASING

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 28 Dec 84 p 1

/Interview with an official of Kabul City Federation of Cooperatives.
Place and date not specified

/Text/ Question: Please indicate when the Federation of Cooperative
of Kabul City was established and what services it provides?

Answer: The Federation of Cooperatives of Kabul City was established
at a meeting held on 3 April 1983 within the framework of the
Confederation of Cooperatives of the DRA and according to the
election of member cooperatives which at the time consisted only of
four consumer cooperatives, and a handicraft industries cooperative
and met the requirement (of 4 percent) of membership of cooperatives
in the confederation. Subsequently, by 20 March 1984, the federation
was able to establish ten consumer and three handicraft industries
cooperatives, a total of 13, which thereby increased the membership
from 7,262 to 11,497. In 1362 /21 March 1983-20 March 1984/ the
circulation of assets of member cooperatives was estimated at a
total of 108 million afghani, whereas it came to 109 million
afghani, a one percent increase.

Question: Please give details about the membership and the
responsibilities of the federation.

Answer: Membership in the federation is collectively composed of
cooperatives. It does not have individuals as members. The main
job of the federation is to organize, establish and provide leadership
for member cooperatives in Kabul City. Its duties also include opening
shops in Kabul City in order to stabilize prices and fight
profiteering. Membership and participation fees are uniform in all
consumer cooperatives.

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CSO: 4665/17-A

AFGHANISTAN

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS REPORTEDLY SHOW INCREASE

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 3 Jan 85 p 3

/Text/ Soviet agriculture continued its productive growth in 1984. Agricultural production equalled that of 1983 which had been the highest in the history of the country--totalling 133.8 billion rubles. From 1956 through 1980, the annual per capita average increase was 28 percent.

Social transformations in villages to which the government has allocated huge sums are considered among factors contributing to the improvement of USSR's land economy so that in the 1981-1984 period 132 million square meters of housing were built with money provided by the government and the kolkhoz. Another source of positive transformations are the growth of agricultural production and the agricultural-industrial combine. This has shown especially positive results in animal husbandry which is on the road to mechanization and which has shown an appreciative increase in 2 consecutive years. Good use has been made of industrial technology for the first time in the cultivation of millions of hectares of grain, particularly wheat. Plans call for an increase of 6.7 percent in agricultural production in 1985, a figure which is more than the surplus growth of the last 4 years, including 1984. In order to attain this goal, a significant financial structure has been set up in order that the 1985 total agricultural-industrial disbursements, compared to the previous year, would rise 6.9 percent to the value of 139 billion rubles. In the Soviet Union the development of the agricultural-industrial complex continues to be a pressing issue in the agricultural sector.

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CSO: 4665/17-A

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT ON OUTCOME OF LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

Record Votes for Congress-I

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 3 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 2 (UNI): A record 49.17 per cent of the popular votes were amassed by the Congress(I) in the general elections to win its greatest ever victory.

If the seats not contested by the party are excluded, its share of the poll goes up to 51.90 per cent, a DCM-UNI computer analysis of 504 results reveals.

The record poll is 1.38 per cent higher than the party's previous peak of 47.8 per cent attained in 1957 when the Lok Sabha had 494 seats.

The party's performance this time looks even more impressive if compared to 1980 when its share of the popular votes was 42.09 per cent for the very same 504 seats.

The elections involved 508 seats, with polling to be held later for seven more. Voting figures from four constituencies were not available.

Of the 481 Congress(I) con-

stituencies—the party's allies in Tamil Nadu and Kerala contested the rest—397 were elected, each averaging a poll of 2,38,145.

The Congress(I) candidates had faced 4,020 opponents, who had an average of 19,631 votes.

The Congress(I) polled a total of 113.36 million votes compared to 78.92 million taken by its opponents, including Independents.

The Congress(I) wrested 114 seats from the Opposition and retained 283 while yielding 48.

The scale of the Congress(I) victory can be measured by the fact the party to be placed second, the Bharatiya Janata Party, had a poll share of only 7.71 per cent. The BJP contested 220 seats and won only two. The Janata Party, which dislodged the Congress from power in 1977 and had won 281 of the 504 seats on a poll of 42.15 per cent, obtained only 10 seats this time.

It fielded 203 candidates, who claimed a poll share of just 7.03 per cent.

The Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Party, which was eclipsed in its strongholds in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana, could bag only two seats from UP and one from Bihar. It came a poor fourth with a poll share of 5.91 per cent.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) which yielded ground to the Congress(I) in both West Bengal and Kerala, won 22 seats on a poll of 5.80 per cent.

The only non-Congress(I) parties to have made an impressive showing were the Telugu Desam and the AIADMK, parties based in the south.

The Desam won 28 of the 32 seats it contested in Andhra Pradesh and the AIADMK all the 12 it fought in Tamil Nadu. Their share of the total votes polled in the country was inevitably low at 4.14 per cent and 1.72 per cent, respectively.

Threat to Parliamentary System?

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Dec 84 p 8

[Article by Prem Shankar Jha]

[Text]

THE Congress seems set to win over 400 seats, and has won over 48 per cent of the total votes cast in the eighth election to the Lok Sabha. Since an analysis of by-election voting trends gave the party not many more than 300 seats despite the utter disunity of the Opposition, the additional seats and

the vote swing that made them possible, give an accurate measure of the extent to which the trauma of Mrs. Gandhi's assassination has changed the mood of the electorate.

What the election has shown in the most unequivocal way possible is that India cannot be destabilised by any "external" event, whether

It is the machination of a foreign power or the act of a bunch of misguided fanatics. But what it has not ruled out is the possibility of destabilisation from within the political system. Specifically from the continued erosion of its basic institutions — the parliamentary system, the administration and the police. In fact, the sheer size of the Congress victory can speed up this process.

The most immediate of these is the threat to the continued health of the parliamentary system. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's victory is already being described as bigger than that of his grandfather. In 1957, when the Congress won 371 out of 494 seats, with 47.8 per cent of the total vote. But this comparison alurs over some crucially important differences. Firstly, the Congress had contested nearly all of the 494 seats in 1957. Its 371 seats had come from every state in the country in more or less even proportion. By contrast, this time one major state has stood fast against the Congress, and another partly, namely, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. The voters in two others, Punjab and Assam, did not even go to the polls. And in still two more the party was a part of an electoral alliance. Thus it has won a far larger number of seats from a much smaller base.

This narrowing of the Congress base has had a dramatic effect on the nature of the opposition in parliament. The three constituents of the erstwhile Janata Party and the Congress (S) had together gained 15 seats. The only other solid blocs in parliament are the Telugu Desam and the CPM. The only other foci of opposition are the Kashmir Valley where Dr. Farooq Abdullah's National Conference has won all three seats, the Akalis whose hold on the Sikh majority in Punjab is almost certain to be reinforced by the developments in the rest of the country, and the still-to-be-born regional democratic opposition in Assam.

No National Opposition

The actual and potential opposition to the Congress has thus been reduced to regional and ethnic pockets (even the CPM is partially a beneficiary of Bengali sub-nationalism). The national opposition, which was represented by the components of the former Janata Party and the Congress (S) has been wiped out. In numerical terms this national as opposed to regional opposition was not very large even in the last Lok Sabha. For it consisted of no more than 85 members after the 1980 election. But over the last two years, in particular, as strong state governments had emerged in Andhra, Karnataka and Kashmir

with regional bases, it had increasingly begun to function as the essential link that welded the state-based power centres together into a single opposition, capable of adopting a common position against the Central government on the most important issues of national policy.

Thus, on Centre-state relations, on the governor's right to dismiss opposition state governments, and on the strategy to be followed in resolving the Punjab crisis, the Opposition had been able to adopt by and large a common position. In fact it forced the Central government to set up the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-state relations and to reverse the dismissal of the Rama Rao ministry in Andhra.

Out of these actions was developing genuine nationwide opposition, espousing a radically different model of the Indian state from that which had been fostered in recent years by the Congress. The difference can be summed up by saying that while the Congress espoused single-party dominance and sought to perpetuate it by increasingly questionable means in recent years, the Opposition had come to believe that the days of single party dominance were over and that future national governments would be based on a coalition of parties which, while national in outlook, would have essentially regional power bases.

Since regionally based parties are now a fact of life, the Congress approach implies in effect that it is willing to come to a working arrangement with a regional party in its home state, and even leave it to form the state government, but will not agree to share power with it at the Centre. By contrast the national opposition parties believed that power had to be shared at the Centre and in the states. In other words that a future opposition government in New Delhi would necessarily include cabinet members from the Telugu Desam, the National Conference and the Akalis.

Links Destroyed

The Opposition's emphasis on the decentralisation of power and greater autonomy for the states stemmed from this profound difference in perception. In sharp contrast to the Congress promise (unspoken but always evidenced by its actions) that a strong Centre could not coexist with strong state governments, the Opposition felt that strong states were a necessary prerequisite not only for a strong Centre but also for the continued unity and integrity of India. Significantly, this belief was articulated most explicitly by the Shiromani Akali Dal, in two paid advertisements inserted in the national newspapers, refuting the charges made against the party by Mr. Rajiv

Gandhi.

Political scientists have argued for almost two decades that just as happened in Turkey in 1950, single party dominance must one day wither away in India too. What is more, the signs of this weakening have been visible in India ever since the Gujarat and Bihar student revolts of 1974, and is reflected even today in the much narrower base from which the Congress party has been swept back to power. What is more, it is also inevitable given the emergence of a strong regionally-based opposition that the alternative to the Congress, when it emerges will take the form that the national opposition had foreseen.

What the devastation wrought by the Congress on the national opposition has done is to break the links that could have woven the regionally-based opposition groups into a single national alternative. For it to have acted as the catalyst the national opposition needed to muster considerably more strength in parliament than any single regionally-based opposition party. This pre-condition will not be fulfilled in the eighth Lok Sabha. For this most of the blame must lie with the leader of the erstwhile National Democratic Alliance, Mr. Charan Singh. Mr. Singh failed to see the alternative model of the Indian polity that the Opposition was willy nilly being forced to adopt, stayed aloof from the opposition conclaves in Hyderabad and Srinagar and continued to dream of replacing the Congress in its entirety.

Seeds Of Discord

Immediately after the Opposition had won its most important victory by forcing the recall of Mr. Rama Rao in Andhra, with less than six months to go for the next election he sowed fresh seeds of discord

by calling for a merger of all the national opposition parties. And when this did not find favour with the others, he proceeded to form the party on his own, inviting defections from the Congress (S) and the Janata. He collected only the has-beens of these parties, but to do so he broke the NDA, by alienating the BJP, completed the estrangement of the Janata and worst of all, revived public memories of the suicidal discord which destroyed the Janata Party in 1979.

The death of the national opposition has now isolated the regional opposition from each other. The massive re-endorsement of the Congress, and therefore the single party dominance model, leaves each of the regional parties with no option but to make its own separate peace with the ruling party. This may not be difficult for the CPM which has been living with a Congress-dominated Centre for the last eight years. But the Telugu Desam and, far more importantly, the Akalis can only accept this model if they too are given space in which to live and work undisturbed. This is the *modus vivendi* that the Congress had worked out with the DMK and later the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu but was unwilling to extend to the Akalis, the Telugu Desam and the National Conference. For the sake of unity and stability it will be well-advised to do the same with them.

To begin with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi will do well to reject defections to the Congress from these parties. This is the signal that Mr. Rama Rao will be looking for. For good measure, with all the seats in the Kashmir valley going to Dr. Abdullah, the Congress will do well to leave the door open for his return to power in the state as well.

Results in Kerala

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] TRIVANDRUM January 3--THOUGH the massive pro-Congress wave enabled the ruling United Democratic Front to bag 17 of the 20 Lok Sabha seats from Kerala, it did not cause any significant erosion in the popular base of the Marxist-led Left Democratic Front.

According to the final polling figures, the UDF secured 50.92 per cent of the votes polled, compared with the 48.23 per cent in the 1982 assembly poll. The LDF got 42.50 compared with the 47.24 per cent in 1982.

Both fronts polled more votes than in 1982. Of the total votes polled (1,10,09,941), the UDF got 55,47,262 and the LDF 46,08,855. Thus, the United Front secured 9,38,000 more votes than the Left Front this time. In 1982, it was a little less than 100,000.

While the Congress, which contested 13 seats (and won all of them) gathered 33.21 per cent of the total votes polled, the CPM, which put up ten candidates, mustered 22.23 per cent.

Of the 111 candidates not belonging to the two fronts, only one--Mr Kerala Verna Raja of the Hindu Munnani (Hindu Front) in Trivandrum--got back his security deposit. He polled over 110,000 votes and emerged third after the Congress, and the DMKP nominees.

BJP's Status

The BJP, which unsuccessfully contested five seats, had to be content with just 1.76 per cent. The "Third front" comprising the Janata (Gopalan) and some other small parties got 1.07 per cent.

The largest margin of victory was that of Mr. P. J. Kurien (Congress) in Idukki. He defeated his nearest CPI rival, Mr. C. A. Kurien, by 130,624. Two other ruling front nominees--Mr. George Joseph Mundakkal in Moovattupuzha and Mr. G. M. Banatwala (IUML) in Ponnani--won with margins exceeding one lakh.

The smallest margin among ruling front candidates was that of Mr. Rama Rai (Congress) in the leftist stronghold of Kasargode. He defeated the CPM politburo member, Mr. E. Balanandan, by 11,369 votes.

The lowest margin among the 20 victors was that of Mr. Thampan Thomas, the lone Janata nominee, who defeated the National Democratic Party chairman, Mr. Upendranath in Mavelikkara by just 1,287 votes.

In 1980, the largest margin of victory was that of Mrs. Susheela Gopalan, CPM leader, who defeated her nearest Janata rival in Alleppey by nearly 115,000 votes. This time, Mrs. Gopalan was trounced by Mr. Vakkom Purushothaman of the Congress in the same constituency by about 37,800 votes.

In all three constituencies which returned Left Front candidates, the margins were rather low. In Badagara, Mr. K. P. Unnikrishnan defeated his Socialist Republican Party rival, Mr. Radhakrishnan, by about 10,000 in Kottayam. The Marxist youth leader, Mr. Suresh Kurup, won by a margin of less than 6,000 votes, defeating Mr. Scaria Thomas of the Kerala Congress (Mani). In Mavelikkara, Mr. Thampan Thomas had a margin of less than 1,300 votes.

Prominent among the independents was Mrs. Kamala Das, the Indo-Anglian poet, who polled less than 1800 votes, proving--if proof were needed--that noble sentiments and politics are poles apart.

Six other women, including Mrs. Susheela Gopalan, were also routed. Among them was Mrs. Rohana Jayaram, the sole Rashtriya Sanjay Manch nominee, the Palghat, who got 11,000 votes. The UDF had not put up any woman candidate.

Kerala has more women voters than men. Yet ironically, it does not have a single woman in the Lok Sabha.

The second youngest member of the house is from Kerala--Mr. Suresh Kurup (27).

Another successful youth leader is Mr. K. Mohandas (29) of the Kerala Congress (Joseph) from Mukuncapuram. The circumstances in which he got elected were dramatic. When the Kerala Congress (Joseph) was allotted the seat at the last minute, party leaders hurriedly contacted Mr. Monandas, who got married just four days earlier and asked him to file his nomination papers. In the event, the disruption in honeymoon caused by hectic electioneering, has, indeed, proved worth while.

Kashmir Leader Unchallenged

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] JAMMU, January 3--FOR perceptive observers of the Kashmir scene, the poll results of the five Lok Sabha seats have come as no surprise. It was evident from the outset that a Farooq wave was sweeping the valley, where three seats were at stake.

In the Jammu region, the Congress had a clear edge in one constituency. In the other, though the party faced a challenge from the opposition National Conference (Farooq) and an independent Dr Karan Singh, observers felt it would emerge a winner.

In the event, the prognosis of these pollsters proved correct. Dr. Farooq Abdullah's nominees easily won the three seats, while the Congress annexed both the seats in the Jammu division.

For the former chief minister, Dr. Abdullah, his victories in the valley plus the large number of votes polled by his nominees in the two Jammu division seats were a vindication of his stand that his ouster from power in July was "illegal and unconstitutional".

Polling for the sixth seat in the strategic border district of Ladakh will take place in June on account of bitter cold and snow in the region.

Regional Tensions

The battle for the bustings in the state took place against the background, particularly in Jammu division, of increasing communal and regional tensions. This partly explains the division of votes which enabled the Congress to annex the two seats as well as the defeat of Dr. Karan Singh, former union minister, who was making a fifth attempt to enter parliament.

An analysis of the voting pattern for the three valley seats indicates the overwhelming support enjoyed by Dr. Abdullah. In Anantnag, where his mother, Begum Akbar Jehan, was pitted against the Congress nominee, Mr. Peer Hisamuddin, shows that she led in all but two of the 15 assembly segments. In

Kokernag and Bejbehara, the latter considered a stronghold of the Congress, she trailed by a little less than 2,000 votes.

In Pulwama, Pampore Trail, Wach and Shopian, she secured majorities of over 19,000 votes in certain segments. However, the Congress could take comfort from the fact that in a couple of assembly segments it had improved its position compared to last year's assembly poll.

In the Srinagar parliamentary constituency, Mr. Muzzafar Shah, son of the chief minister, Mr G. M. Shah, was a virtual non-starter against Mr. A. R. Kabli of the National Conference (Farooq). It was only in the Badgam assembly segment that he was able to score over Mr. Kabli by securing over 21,000 votes as against over 15,000 polled by his rival. In the other 13 segments, he trailed miserably behind Mr. Kabli.

Mr. Shah did not even get the votes that were anticipated if the Hindu-dominated segments of Habakadal and Amirkadal. Even in the Shia-dominated area of Zadibal, where serious riots took place in the wake of last year's assembly poll, he could secure only about 3,500 votes as against over 25,000 polled by Mr. Kabli. Mr. Iftikar Hussam Ansari, a Shia religious leader, is the Congress legislature party chief and is supposed to exercise influence over the voters of his religious group.

In Baramulla the same story was repeated. Here, the Farooq nominee, Mr. Saif-Ud-Din Soz, trounced the National Conference (Khalida) candidate, Mr. Ghulam Mohammed Wani. In Pattan, a Shia-dominated area, Mr. Soz got over 19,000 votes as against only 9,000 secured by his rival. In the Uri assembly segment, from where Mr. Wani hails, the battle was more evenly matched with both candidates securing nearly the same number of votes. In the other 11 assembly segments, the NC (Khalida) nominee was convincingly trounced.

For the Udhampur seat, which witnessed a triangular contest, it was a humiliating blow for the BJP. Here its state party chief, Thakur Baldev Singh, lost his deposit. The results only confirmed the virtual extinction of the BJP from the Jammu region, a process started during last year's assembly poll. Mr. G. L. Dogra, Congress, secured more votes than his rival in all but two of the 15 assembly segments which comprise this constituency.

Mr. Dogra secured 11,268 more votes than Mr. Bhim Singh, Panther's party chief, who was supported by Dr. Abdullah, in the Chenani assembly segment which, the latter represents. Similarly, Mr Dogra secured more votes than Mr Baldev Singh in the Hiranagar assembly segment from where both he and the BJP chief hail.

The voting pattern in the 17 assembly segments comprising the Jammu constituency reveals a division on communal lines. Mr S. A. Salaria, National Conference (Farooq) nominee, scored heavily in Muslim-dominated segments of Suranjit Haveli, Mendhar and Rajouri, Dr. Karan Singh could score only in Samba, Rajput-dominated area, and in Jammu east. The rest of the assembly segments were taken over by Mr. Janakraj Gupta of the Congress.

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jan 85 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 6.

Amid its renewed moves for resolving the Punjab and Assam problems before the coming Assembly elections in several States, the Centre is not ignoring the disquieting developments in Jammu and Kashmir, where a political polarisation is taking place on communal lines in this sensitive border region.

During the recent Lok Sabha elections, all the three seats in the predominantly Muslim Kashmir valley were won by Dr. Farooq Abdullah's National Conference with the avowed support of the pro-Pakistan elements there, while the other three seats in Hindu-majority Jammu area have gone to the Congress (I), leaving the seventh seat to be won by a Buddhist when polling takes place in May in the Ladakh region.

In more normal circumstances, the Centre would have probably eased out the present Chief Minister, Mr. G. M. Shah, who has become an embarrassment to it, since he has not been able to consolidate his position. But any attempt now to dislodge him, in the wake of the total defeat of the pro-Congress (I) elements in the valley, would amount to throwing the doors open to Dr. Abdullah's triumphant return to power with all its unforeseeable consequences.

Untenable situation: The Congress (I) leadership is not envisaging at present any deal with him, just as it did with his father 10 years ago, to end this untenable situation in this border State. But it is not happy with the performance of Mr. Shah who has not been able to consolidate his position despite the all-out support extended to him by the Central Government.

Those who had been handling Kashmir affairs from Delhi are veering round to the view that at some stage the Centre will have to take a fresh look at the political alignments in the State to see what could be done to avoid an upsurge of pro-Pakistani sentiments under the guise of fighting the Congress (I)'s interferences in this highly volatile border State. But they do not want the Centre to take any hasty steps which could become counter-productive by creating the impression that the Congress (I) had forfeited during the Lok Sabha elections whatever was left of its earlier influence in the Kashmir valley as a result of the new political polarisation there.

The Central leadership is thus finding itself on the horns of a dilemma as it is faced with a Hobson's choice, not knowing what to do to regain the lost initiative in Kashmir for retrieving its position there. If it continues to blindly support Mr. Shah, the Congress (I) would be paying a high price for it, but any bid to abruptly ditch him, to extricate itself from this

embarrassment, might embolden Dr. Abdullah to attempt to extract a heavier compensation for his cooperation.

Political realities: But sooner or later the Congress (I) with all its massive majority at the Centre, will have to face the political realities in the border States, where the local conditions are different and the people tend to be rather unduly resentful of Delhi's attitudes. The real or imaginary grievances of the inhabitants of these border areas cannot be ignored without running the risk of their increasing alienation.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has said in his broadcast last night that his Government would make an earnest effort to establish closer links with India's immediate neighbours in South Asia, but this can be done only when there is tranquility in its own border States. There can be no lasting improvement in relations with Pakistan so long as it is able to stir up trouble in neighbouring Punjab and Kashmir by encouraging subversive or separatist elements there.

The entire north-east region which has been in an unsettled condition from the time of independence has provided enough opportunities to Bangladesh and China to encourage insurgency and foment trouble in the past. As long as the Assam problem remains a running sore, there will be danger of foreign involvement in this vulnerable part of the country that is geographically isolated from the rest of it.

Special importance: It is in this wider context that the Kashmir problem has come to acquire special importance, although it is not attracting the same degree of attention as Punjab and Assam. But there is a new awareness at the Centre of the futility of trying to back Mr. Shah who has no political base of his own and in the process drive Dr. Abdullah closer to the pro-Pakistan forces there.

And at some point Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is expected to take some initiative to salvage the Congress (I) from its entanglement in the family squabbles of Sheikh Abdullah's clan which have already done enough harm to the State. It is still not too late to bring back Dr. Abdullah into the national mainstream by letting him get back to power if he is able to win a majority in a free election.

And it is with this object in view that a suggestion is being mooted for dissolving the present Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir followed by fresh elections after a spell of Governor's rule. But then the Governor who has been too closely identified with the manipulative politics that led Dr. Abdullah's dismissal and Mr. Shah's installation will have to be replaced for evoking enough confidence in the Centre's bid for restoration of democratic procedures in the State.

'Northeast Joins Mainstream'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Jan 85 p 9

[Article by V. I. K. Sarin]

[Text] GUWAHATI, January 5--THE regional, chauvinist and secessionist forces in India's north-east came to grief in the December-end elections. Defying the threats of the secessionist National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) in Manipur and Nagaland and the boycott call of the terrorist Tribal National Volunteers (TNV) in Tripura, the voters turned out in large numbers to register their preference for the ballot over the bullet.

Another heartening development was the decision of the founder of the terrorist People's Liberation Army (PLA) of Manipur. MR. N. Bisheshwar Singh, and several of his underground associates to swear by the constitution and join the battle of the ballot from the Imphal jail compound.

The voters endorsed their decision to seek redress of their grievances through constitutional means by electing him and his two underground colleagues to the new Manipur legislative assembly.

This strife-torn region, which hitherto consistently backed the regional parties, seemed to have shared the growing concern of the entire country at the threat posed by the forces of destabilisation.

Saikia's Role

The Assam chief minister, Mr. Hiteswar Saikia, who was entrusted with overseeing the party campaign in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura and Sikkim, played a significant role in papering the cracks in the faction-ridden Congress units in these states and gearing up the party's election machinery.

The regional parties like the Peoples' Party of Arunachal (PPA), Naga National Democratic Party (NNDP), Manipur People's Party (MPP), All-Party Hill Leaders' Conferences (APHLC) and the Hill State People's Democratic Party (HSPDP) of Meghalaya and the chauvinist Amra Bengali of Tripura were routed by the national parties--the CPM in Tripura and the Congress elsewhere in the north-east.

The Congress, for the first time won both the Lok Sabha seats in Meghalaya, retained the lone seat in Mizoram (uncontested) and Nagaland, wrested the Manipur inner Lok Sabha seat from the CPI, retained the second one and secured both the Lok Sabha seats in Arunachal Pradesh.

It, however, lost the lone Sikkim Lok Sabha seat to the deposed chief minister, Mr. Narbahadur Bhandari, who contested as an independent, and failed to dislodge the CPM in the two Lok Sabha constituencies of Tripura.

The PPA, which made a determined bid to remove the Congress from power in the Union territory of Arunachal Pradesh, suffered the humiliation of losing all but four seats in the 30-member territorial assembly. Its performance, when viewed against its record of having bagged as many seats as the Congress (13) in the last assembly elections, is dismal.

The party suffered another blow when two of its four elected members defected to the Congress within 48 hours of the declaration of results, thereby leaving its chief, Mr. Bakim Pertin, and one other member as its representatives in the new assembly. The BJP, which staked claim to as many as 11 assembly seats, bagged a lone seat.

On the other hand, the Congress, despite the bitter infighting, not only retained both the Lok Sabha seats but created history by securing almost a three-fourths majority in the assembly. Although the ballot box had given a 21-9 verdict in its favour, it has managed to increase its tally to 26 by admitting two opposition PPA members and three independents into its fold.

In Nagaland, where the regional parties have so far held sway over the masses, the Nagas this time ignored the appeal of the parochial NNDP. The Congress, which till recently was considered a party of "outsiders", at last found acceptance with the Nagas, as is evident from the wide margin of 137,000 votes with which its nominee defeated his NNDP rival. The Congress secured 64.53 per cent of the popular vote as against 29.53 per cent garnered by the NNDP.

In neighbouring Manipur, the MPP, a regional party which made its appearance on the state's political firmament in 1969 with the promise of providing a viable alternative to the faction-ridden Congress, has been outright rejected by the Manipuris. In spite of its alliance with the Kuki National Assembly and an electoral understanding with the CPI and the Janata party, the KNA barely managed to send three representatives to the 60-member assembly.

The CPI, which has been consistently winning five to six seats, had to rest content with a token representation of one member in the new assembly. The BJP, which made a valiant bid to make its entry into the assembly by fielding as many as 13 candidates, met with no success.

The Janata party, contesting 21 seats, could win only four. The KNA secured only one while the Lok Dal and the CPM drew a blank. Independents, who have come to play an increasingly important role in the making and breaking of ministries in the state, have secured as many as 18 seats, an all-time record.

Judging by past records, the Congress performance in Manipur this time is impressive indeed. It has bagged both the Lok Sabha seats. With only two assembly results yet to be declared, the Congress won an absolute majority in the 60-member legislature having already won 35 seats, including those of five independents admitted into the party. The party had only once in the past (1977) won both the Lok Sabha seats and never secured a working majority in the state assembly since Manipur became a full-fledged state.

The Congress registered its most spectacular victory in Meghalaya. It demolished the traditional citadel of regional parties in Shillong and retained the Truwa seat by a handsome margin. The Shillong seat, which had always gone to either the APHLC or its breakaway faction, HSPDP, was for the first time captured by the party.

Impressive Show

Its victory assumes extraordinary significance because the SPHLC and the HSPDP had for the first time joined hands and pooled their resources to back Dr. B. Paem. A close look at the election results reveals that the Congress popular vote on this occasion was an all-time high (55.7 per cent) as against 27.69 per cent in 1977 and 22.49 in 1983.

On the other hand, the APHLC and the HSPDP, jointly contesting the election under the banner of the Hill People's Union (HPU), polled only 30.67 per cent votes as compared to 51 in 1977 and 52.74 jointly polled by them in 1983.

The Congress, however, failed to capture the "red fort" of Tripura where the CPM retained both the seats. Marxist popularity in this frontier state seems to be at the peak as is evident from the all-time high 50.46 per cent popular vote secured by it this time. The party had earlier secured 41.74 per cent valid votes in 1967, 48.39 in 1971, 34.09 in 1977 and 47.50 in 1980.

Even though the Congress could not wrest any of the two Lok Sabha seats from the CPM in Tripura, the vigorous efforts put up by the Assam chief minister, Mr. Saikia, and two of his cabinet colleagues enabled the party to stage an impressive recovery by polling 45.61 per cent of the valid votes as against 22.61 per cent in 1980.

A prominent feature of the election in Tripura is the polarisation of votes around the CPM and the Congress, as is evident from the fact that these two parties together cornered 96.07 per cent of the valid votes polled. The chauvinist Amra Bengali was virtually decimated. It polled a negligible 2.03 per cent of the popular vote as compared to its impressive tally of 14.88 per cent in 1980.

Votes in South

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 31 Dec 84 p 9

[Text] MADRAS, Dec. 30--Andhra-Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territories of Pondicherry and Lakshadweep, which together have 131 Lok Sabha seats, continue to remain an enigma to the body politic of the nation. As the Congress (I) won its most sweeping victory since Independence, securing almost four-fifths of the Lok Sabha seats, the South's contribution was the lowest--70--two less than what it gave in 1971, another good year for the Congress at the Centre.

When the Congress was literally wiped out in the North in the post-Emergency election held in 1977, the South rallied to its side with a bumper

contribution of 96 seats. This dichotomy between the North and the South had been evident in all the Lok Sabha elections barring the seventh, and is likely to be accentuated further as the regional forces are getting strengthened due to the short-term policies of the Congress (I).

It could be of little comfort to the Congress (I) that it was able to win all the 25 seats it contested in Tamil Nadu. Only last year, the Congress (I) candidate in the Periakulam by-election to the Lok Sabha, contesting without the support of either of the two major Kazhagams, lost his security deposit. Nothing much has happened since to improve the fortunes of the party in the State. The 25 newly elected M.P.s from the State owe their success to the piggyback ride provided by the ailing Chief Minister, Mr M. G. Ramachandran.

Even since the congress went out of power in Tamil Nadu, it had been resorting to short-cuts instead of trying to refurbish its image. In the 1971 general election, the Congress, in its search for crutches, aligned with the DMK for a paltry nine Lok Sabha seats and left the Assembly poll entirely free for the regional party. Since then, the Congress has been alternating between the AIADMK and the DMK for support and forgot how to stand on its own legs.

If the Congress (I) suffers from ennui in neighbouring Kerala, in order to retain its foothold in the State's administration, the party has been nurturing caste and communal forces to grow, little realizing that it can be a double-edged weapon. The Chief Minister, Mr K. Karunakaran, and the KPCC(I) president are jubilant that the party made a clean sweep of all the 13 seats out of the 20 in the State it contested.

Given the nature of the United Democratic Front the Congress (I) is heading in Kerala, the three seats the Opposition Left Democratic Front was able to win was three too many. The Congress (I) was blackmailed into allotting [number missing] seat each to the National Democratic Party of the Nair community and the Socialist Republican Party of the Ezhava community. The enlightened Kerala voter did not want to pollute the eighth Lok Sabha with two more communal parties from the State finding representation. The Janata and the Congress (S), constituents of the LDF, managed to bag the two seats and the UDF had allotted to the NDP and the SPR.

The solitary victory of the CPI(M), leader of the LDF, in Kottayam, was the result of sabotage from within the UDF. The Kerala Congress (J) in its on-upmanship with the Kerala Congress (M), senior of the two regional parties serving the Christian community and both constituents of the UDF, ensured the defeat of Mr Skariah Thomas, sitting Kerala Congress (M) member from Kottayam, paving the way for Mr Suresh Kurup of the CPI(M).

In Karnataka, though the Congress (I) is jubilant on winning 24 out of the 28 seats, in real terms it represents a loss of three seats in the previous Lok Sabha. As far as the Janata Party is concerned, which came to power in the State following the January 1983 Assembly poll, it has improved its position four-fold from a solitary seat it won in 1980 when the party was in a better state of health. It is also worth remembering that 40% of the Janata seats in the new Lok Sabha was provided by Karnataka.

Andhra Pradesh provides a study in contrast. What the Congress (I) had achieved at the national level the Telugu Desam, its arch rival had done at the State level. Mr N. T. Rama Rao, Chief Minister and leader of the Telugu Desam, has also demonstrated that Opposition unity is within the realm of possibility.

Left Strong in Tripura

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Jan 85 p 7

[Text] AGARTALA, January 6--AFTER being routed in Kerala and faring none two well in West Bengal, the CPM was left with its last stronghold in Tripura to prove its worth in the recently concluded parliamentary elections. The party can console itself with the fact that in Tripura at least it could halt the sweep of the Rajiv wave and successfully beat back the Congress.

Tripura has only two parliamentary seats both of which were captured by the CPM in 1980. It was taken for granted long before the poll verdict was known that the CPM will gain an easy victory in Tripura east, (ST), but its poll prospects in the other seat (Tripura west) were shrouded with uncertainty.

However, the electoral battle ultimately ended in the victory of the CPM in both constituences, although the margin in Tripura west was only 3,520 votes as against 41,063 in Tripura East.

In terms of voting percentage also, the CPM has emerged stronger than in the last parliamentary elections. In 1980 the CPM's voting percentage was 47.50 but this time it increased to 50.47.

Noticeable Spurt

The CPM has registered noticeable increase in its voting support among the members of the tribal communities. In the assembly elections, held in January 1983, the opposition parties had annexed as many as eight of the 17 reserved seats, leaving only nine (ST) reserved seats for the CPM. But the picture has undergone a dramatic change this time. Whereas the CPM has secured a majority of votes in 15 of these 17 assembly segments, the Congress had to rest content with leaders of the remaining two segments only.

Tirbals constitute 29 per cent of the population of Tripura and play a vital role in determining the fate of a party in elections. Politically, the tribals are broadly divided into two camps the CPM and the TUJS. The Congress was never popular among them.

To overcome its traditional weakness among the tribal population, the Congress had entered into an electoral alliance in assembly elections held in January 1983. This alliance was renewed on the eve of the parliamentary poll. After the accord was reached, the TUJS candidates, who earlier had submitted their nominations, withdrew from the contest and the party agreed to work for the victory of the Congress candidates.

But this arrangement did not produce the expected results. A sizeable number of the traditional TUJS voters opted to vote for the CPM.

Urban Votes

The CPM, however, has reasons to be alarmed at the sharp fall in its urban vote. In the 1983 assembly poll, the Left Front candidates were returned from two of four constituencies in Agartala, the state capital. But in the parliamentary elections, the Congress obtained a clear lead in all the four assembly segments by big margins. The CPM did not fare any better in the adjoining assembly segments also where the middle class people dominate.

Except in the Pratapgarh constituency, from where the industries minister, Mr. Anil Sarkar, was returned, the Congress was ahead of the CPM in all the four remaining assembly segments around Agartala. In Pratapgarh too, there was a sharp fall in the CPM's lead compared with the assembly poll. The same declining trend was noticeable in almost all the towns with the exception of Udaipur where the CPM had a marginal lead over the Congress.

The alienation of the middle class from the CPM and the Left Front is not a recent phenomenon. Nor could it be adequately explained by citing the sympathy vote for the Congress. There was ample evidence of the growing alienation of the middle class from the CPM in the results of the assembly elections. The party itself admitted this in its review of the panchayat elections held in June last year.

The Left Front had lost to the opposition 21 of the 60 seats in the last assembly poll. The results of the parliamentary elections showed that the CPM was behind the Congress in as many as 24 assembly segments.

CSO: 4600/1271

IRAN

MONTAZERI: PRIVATE SECTOR MUST BE GIVEN MORE FREEDOM OF ACTION

Tehran BURS in Persian 14 Jan 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] Members of the Majlis budget committee met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. In this meeting, in which the problems of the budget committee were discussed, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri praised their attention to the existing problems and said: One of the issues is long-term planning and avoiding momentary and day to day policies. In order to achieve this important goal and pay attention to all its aspects, the thoughtful, faithful, strong minds and compassionate individuals committed to Islam and the revolution, without consideration for the line or group to which they belong, must be used in all the Majlis committees, particularly the budget committee. He emphasized: Essentially, if we would form committees made up of expert individuals who are committed to the country and the revolution in all economic, political and even military issues of the country, in addition to the responsible and decision-making organizations, and would discuss all the problems without the propaganda noise in such committees, certainly we would be more successful in solving the problems. This practice is common in the world and is a good, successful method. Concerning the elimination of excessive expenditures, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: One of the necessary tasks, especially in these war conditions--when our exports and imports face problems which need to be solved and the superpowers cause disruptions and create problems for us as much as they can because our revolution has not been to their liking--is to avoid unnecessary expenditures in the ministries and offices or, for instance, engaging in ceremonies for personalities. In my opinion, there should be no problem for the budget committee to deal with such an important issue in consultation and coordination with the government, to eliminate a series of excessive expenditures which have burdened the government for various reasons and to make use of the excessive personnel in some ministries as needed in other organizations. In this connection, he emphasized: If the government becomes more active in giving more room to the private sector for goods distribution and confers the distribution of non-essential goods to the private sector, as it did in regards to rice, certainly

many of the problems concerning the new personnel, excessive hiring by the government and related procedures will no longer be a responsibility of the government and the government will be able to carry out its essential duties. Meanwhile, the private sector will also engage in trade with more motivation and since it shows the necessary expertise and complete interest in this work, naturally, the goods needed by the people will reach the farthest parts of the country. He pointed out that as long as there is a clear difference between the price of government goods and goods in the free market and this issue, unfortunately is taken advantage of by corrupt and opportunistic individuals in various places, perhaps even in some of the ministries and cooperatives, naturally, the grounds will exist for theft, smuggling, bribery and the deprivation of the oppressed strata, who have neither connections nor the ability to pay bribes.

n And although the government will try to support the low-income and oppressed strata by controlling distribution, in practice, it is observed that due to the existence of two different prices in the market, the oppressed people are deprived and those who have connections or wealth are able to resort to any trick to take advantage. Grand Ayatollah Montazeri stressed: In my opinion, along with the elimination of excessive expenditures and ceremonies in the ministries and organization, a policy of economizing and frugality and a method for anti-consumerism must also be propagated and inculcated in the people. Certainly, our nation does not want the government to pay unnecessary and excessive subsidies for some unnecessary, ceremonial things. Once we remind the people of the consequences of consumerism and wastefulness in some affairs, certainly the people s themselves will take the initiative in fighting wastefulness and consumerism and the implementation of the Islamic attitude of frugality. Then, our beloved urban dwellers will be content when the government grants subsidies to the rural productive strata or the low income factory workers or employees and not to the urban dwellers and consumers. Such expenditures are heavy for the government and the budget committee must think of a way to resolve the problem. He added: Among the steps that the executive officials and the Majlis must take is to make decisions about institutions such as the Foundation for the Oppressed, which, with considerable personnel and expenditures and low output, has become a problem for the government. It is also true of some of the overlapping institutions which, under the present circumstances, do not seem necessary. In regards to allocating a larger portion of the budget to agriculture, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: What is important is to support the rural producers, not to grant them loans, because experience has shown that such loans are spent on things other than production. The resources for providing the needs of production and cultivation in the villages, such as leveling lands, providing seeds, and the like, and purchasing fairly the agricultural goods must be increased. In regards to the budget of the universities, he

pointed out: Most of the budget must be spent on colleges which are related to production, industry or medicine. In conclusion, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri stressed: It is very proper and appropriate that, in order to have better understanding and congruity of views and opinions among the legislative, judicial and executive branches, they should have sessions together and these sessions should not have a propaganda aspect. Such sessions will eliminate the ambiguities and bring the viewpoints of the branches closer together and is certainly in the interest of the country, the revolution and even the officials.

10,000

CSO: 4640/337

IRAN

MONTAZERI URGES ELIMINATION OF WASTE

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Jan 85 p 22

/Text/ Members of the Majlis budget commission paid a visit to the grand ayatollah Montazeri. In this meeting the issues pertaining to the commission and the budget were discussed. Then, ayatollah Montazeri, while acknowledging the members' attention to the existing problems, stated: "one of the important issues in approving the nation's budget is the problem of long-term programming and avoiding a policy of procrastination and playing for time. In order to achieve such a great objective, with due consideration to all the possible ramifications, we should use strong and sagacious minds in all the Majlis commission and especially in the Budget Commission. We should use the services of individuals who are sympathetic toward Islam and the revolution without considering their line of thought or their affiliation or association with a certain group. He went on to emphasize: "In actuality, if in all our economic, political and even military issues, in addition to making use of the services of the responsible and decisionmaking organs, we also made use of some committees composed of discerning and clear-sighted individuals who felt responsible to the revolution and without much ado brought up our problems for discussion, exchange of ideas and consultation in such meetings, most certainly we would have been much more successful in solving our problems. This is something which is done routinely throughout the world and is a very nice and successful way of dealing with such issues."

Elimination of Superfluous Expenditures

Then the grand ayatollah Montazeri talked about reduction of the expenditures of the country with regard to the famous saying which says: "When you do not have enough income, be more cautious or thrifty in spending," and stated: "One of our necessary tasks is to avoid unnecessary expenditures in ministries and other government offices especially under the present war conditions when our export and import situation is facing difficulties and the great powers who do not like the taste of our revolution continue to create as much obstruction as they can and put more pressure on us. Likewise, we ought to put an end to the practice of employing unneeded personnel or carrying out unnecessary formalities for dignitaries. In my

opinion there is nothing wrong with the cooperation between the Budget Commission and the government to prevent such superfluous expenditures and to try to provide the required human resources for some departments by using surplus employees of some other ministries or organs."

If the Government Policy in Providing More Leeway for the Private Sector is Activated, Then There Would be a Better Chance for the Government to Attend to More Basic Problems

Continuing his speech ayatollah Montazeri emphasized: "If the government becomes more active in providing more leeway for the private sector and the matter of the distributing surplus or unnecessary goods is delegated to the private sector--the way the problem of rice distribution was resolved--most certainly many of the issues regarding new personnel and unnecessary government employments and some of their attendant formalities will be taken away from the government and thus provide a better chance for it to attend to its more basic tasks. In addition, the private sector will be given an incentive to carry out its business. As a result, since the necessary expertise and the complete interest to perform the tasks is more readily available in the private sector, naturally the needed goods or merchandise for the people will have a better chance of reaching the farthest corner of the country." He went on to add: "As long as there is a wide difference between the prices of goods offered by the government and those available on the free market--a matter which unfortunately has come about as a result of some opportunistic and self-serving individual in some of the ministries or in the cooperatives--naturally, under such conditions, there would exist an atmosphere for smuggling, corruption and theft. It all results in depriving the very poor classes who do not have the means or the necessary connections to provide such needed goods for themselves and thus will be the ones who are most hurt. This will not help the oppressed classes of society when government tries to take control of the distribution of goods. Practically, it has been demonstrated that as a result of the existence of two widely different prices for the same goods, the poor are always the ones who are deprived or left out in the cold, while those who have connections or are well-off under various pretexts will be able to get what they want."

Propagation, Promulgation of the Policy of Overconsumption

The grand ayatollah Montazeri also emphasized: "In my opinion along with the elimination of surplus expenditures and formalities in the ministries and other government organs a policy should exist to promote the sense of economy and thrift in the general public and make them aware of the problems of overconsumption. Certainly, our nation would not be happy to see the government subsidize or spend more than is necessary on luxury or superfluous items such as color TV's, etc.

As long as we point out the harmful results of overconsumption, prodigality and dissipation the people themselves will certainly take the initiative in fighting profligacy and promote contentedness, it is under conditions such as these that our fellow citizens will be satisfied. If the government intends to give subsidies, it should be given to productive farmers, low-income workers in the factories or government employees who are in very strained circumstances. Such subsidies should not be given to provide more luxuries for the rich or well-to-do city dwellers. Expenditures such as these are heavy burdens for the government and the budget commission has to thank of a new way of eliminating them."

Majlis Must Find a Way to Solve Problems Created by Such Institutions as the Foundation for the Oppressed

He went on to say: "One of the measures which should be undertaken by the Majlis and the responsible executive branch is the issue of the Foundation for the Oppressed which has created a lot of problems for the government with its large number of employees and very low level of output. Likewise, other similar institutions, which seem to be superfluous under such circumstances, ought to be eliminated."

What is Important is the Support of Productive Farmers and Not the Matter of Allocation of Loans as Such

As regards the proper attention to budget appropriations for agricultural problems, the grand ayatollah Montazeri stated: "What is important is the matter of support to producing farmers and not the allocation of loans to them. Practically, it has been proven that such loans more often than not are spent on other things rather than on solving the problem of production. We should try to increase the possibility of providing the essential and necessary assistance for production and cultivation in the villages such as providing seed, tilling of the land and things like that, or the selection and purchase of proper farm equipment." Regarding the budget of universities he stated: "A larger portion of the budget should be allocated to universities which are involved in one way or another in the matter of production, industry or medical science." In conclusion, the grand ayatollah Montazeri emphasized that in order to unify more the viewpoint and understanding of the three powers: legislative, judicial and executive, it would be most appropriate to hold as many joint meetings as possible. It is not necessary that these sessions bear a propagandistic aspect. Holding of sessions like these would certainly alleviate many ambiguities and would bring the different viewpoints of the three powers closer together. Most assuredly, in the long run, it would be to the benefit of the country, the revolution and the responsible authorities themselves.

Meeting of Minister of Petroleum with Ayatollah Montazeri

The same report adds: Engineer Qarazi, minister of petroleum, Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami Kashani, a member of the Guardian Council of Theocrats, Sa'd Mojabar, the Libyan ambassador in Tehran and the Friday imam of Nahavand separately met and talked with the grand ayatollah Montazeri. According to reports thus received, after condemning the new Israeli plot of dispatching Ethiopian Jews to the occupied land of Palestine, the grand ayatollah Montazeri mentioned the plan for unity between Morocco and Libya and presented some views for proper attention of the lot of Muslims and oppressed people of Morocco. According to this same report a check for the sum of nearly 3.6 million rials from the Tent-makers and Tarpaulin Sellers Cooperative, a check for a sum of 500,000 rials from the Rimarz Company of Iran for the support of the war fronts, and another check for a sum close to 300,000 rials from individuals who are interested in the expansion of the revolution for the purpose of the support of Islamic ideals, was also presented to the grand ayatollah Montazeri.

12719

CSO: 4640/297

IRAN

GOVERNOR INVITES OFFICIALS TO RESOLVE PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

Tehran BURS in Persian 2 Jan 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] The governor general of Fars, accompanied by the directors general, heads of institutions and organizations, and military and law enforcement commanders of Fars Province, met with Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, the chief justice, last night.

According to reports received, in this meeting, first the governor general of Fars presented a report on the political, social and economic situation of this province and said: This province, with 130,000 square km in area, has 14 medium and large governor's offices, all of which are in the oppressed areas.

Referring to his visits to four cities and villages, he said: The brother officials in this province have employed all their efforts to render services and eliminate shortcomings. By giving priority to the agricultural sector as the axis of the economic development of the country, we are trying to first eliminate the existing problems in this area and simultaneously take steps to revitalize and develop industries and mines. In regards to non-petroleum exports as well, of which Fars Province is able to engage in more activities than other provinces, certain proposals have been made, upon the approval of which we will be able to engage in planning and implementation.

Then Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili spoke, calling on the officials of the province to have trust in God in all affairs, and said: In Islamic culture, the primary value is God and the second is man. Human value depends on his actions. Errors, mistakes and pretension lower human beings.

Then, inviting the people to make more concerted efforts to solve the problems of the people, he said: To people who have given martyrs and have not stopped at any effort and self-sacrifice to advance the goals of the revolution, we cannot only offer talk. We are responsible toward them. He added: You have two problems, one is connected with the people and their

expectations. The first problem must be resolved with intelligence, for there is no other way, and as for the second, you must never stand up to the people and should treat them calmly and logically. Either solve their problems or gain their trust by explaining to them, and be certain that if the people know the problems and they are explained to them, they will be with you and cooperate. In conclusion, in regards to various administrative affairs and the relationship between the organizations and the judicial branch, he offered some directives and expressed hope that by preserving the existing coordination among the officials, the problems will be solved.

10,000

CSO: 4640/340

IRAN

MINISTER OF ENERGY: RURAL RECONSTRUCTION CONTINUES DESPITE PLOTS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Jan 85 pp 22

/Text/ Sanandaj--Dr Qafuri-Fard, minister of energy who had travelled to West Azarbaijan Province, arrived in Bowkan last Friday and was welcomed by the political and military authorities of that district. According to IRNA, after his arrival in Bowkan, the minister of energy met and spoke with the responsible brothers and the Islamic military officers in the command headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

Then, while attending the awesome Friday prayers ceremony in Bowkan he spoke to the Muslim brethren of Bowkan before the prayers began. Dr Qafuri-Fard in one part of his speech stated: "Today, the Islamic revolution is the only hope for the oppressed people of the world. This victorious revolution is entering the threshold of its seventh year victoriously. The continuation and confirmation of this revolution is like a thorn stuck in the eyes of the enemies of Islam."

Afterwards the minister of energy attended a gathering of employees of the Water and Power Department of Kordestan. In a brief speech to this gathering regarding the importance of water and power under the present circumstances he stated: "The government of the Islamic Republic, despite all the plots and obstructions which were created in its path by the counterrevolutionaries in the region, has had no other objective than the development of the villages. This is a policy which will be followed by this government. As a case in point the matter of providing electricity to the villages of Kordestan after the victory of the revolution has increased 27 percent as compared to the years before the revolution."

While acknowledging his satisfaction to the employees of the Kordestan Water and Power Department he emphasized: "Now that security of this province has been restored and the government has provided many possibilities of development for this province, if you the people continue your efforts and cooperation, the counterrevolutionaries cannot do anything at all. We hope to be able to eradicate certain deprivations from this province through the use and following the format of agricultural programs which have been planned for this province by the Council of Ministers."

In conclusion, he stated: "As far as natural resources are concerned our country is rich in varieties of minerals and 15 percent of the total oil and gas reserves of the world exists in our extensive country. Most important of all is the element of faith, religion and the motive for advancement. We hope to be able to utilize all available possibilities through proper and correct planning as soon as possible."

12719

CSO: 4640/297

IRAN

STATISTICS SHOW MIGRATION TREND TOWARD CITIES

Tehran BURS in Persian 2 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] According to the public relations office of the Iranian center for statistics, the book "Iran in the Mirror of Statistics," a volume of selected statistics for the period 21 March 1982-20 March 1983 of the country, containing various charts on geographic, social, climatic, cultural and economic areas, was recently published in paperback by the Iranian center for statistics. A look at some of the statistics presented in this book shows that in the year [1300; 21 March 1921-20 March 1922], 28 percent of the total population of Iran consisted of urban-dwellers; while during the period 21 March 1941-20 March 1942, it reached 29.6 percent; and during the period 21 March 1961-20 March 1962, 34.5 [as published] percent; during the period 21 March 1971-20 March 1972, 41.3 percent; during the period 21 March 1976-20 March 1977, 47 percent; and during the period 21 March 1981-20 March 1982, 51.8 percent. During the period 21 March 1982-20 March 1983, of a total of 177,460 [as published] government employees, with the exception of the law enforcement forces and workers subject to the labor law, the Ministry of Education, with 508,048, had the most manpower, and the Ministry of Health followed, with 127,484 persons. Based on these statistics, students on various educational levels during the period 21 March 1980-20 March 1982 numbered 78,807,616 persons, and during the period 21 March 1982-20 March 1984, 8,700,850 [as published]. Electricity production in the country during the period 21 March 1977-20 March 1978 amounted to 18,984 million kilowatt hours, and reached 28,823 million kilowatt hours during the period 21 March 1982-20 March 1983. The number of private cars during the period 21 March 1977-20 March 1978 amounted to 1,392,248, while the figure reached 2,013,766 during the period 21 March 1982-20 March 1983.

The statistics and information contained in this publication, which is a condensed summary of the nation's basic, general statistics and information, is worthy of note to planners, students and others interested.

IRAN

OVER 200 HOUSING UNITS CREATED IN CHAHARMAHALI.

Tehran BURS in Persian 6 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] In implementing the government policy concerning the creation of shelters for low-income individuals, with the efforts of the employees of the housing foundation of the province of Chaharmahall and Bakhtiari in the course of this year, 300 plots of land were distributed among the villagers and 250 residential units were created in various areas of this province.

The head of the housing foundation of the Province of Chaharmahall and Bakhtiari announced in an interview with IRNA: These residential units were created without using the budget of the foundation and with the help of the villagers.

Pointing out that since the establishment of the housing foundation in the Province of Chaharmahall and Bakhtiari, 3,057 plots of land have been distributed and 507 residential units have been created throughout the province and put at the disposal of oppressed and low-income people, he said: The new policy of the housing foundation is to manage this institution self-sufficiently. For this reason, the housing foundation of the Province of Chaharmahall and Bakhtiari is now fully prepared to provide the necessary resources for the creation of housing for low-income individuals in the villages, and, as a strong executive arm, to engage in creating and completing building projects and emergency plans.

In the conclusion of this interview, he announced: Since the shortage of construction materials is an important problem in creating housing, the housing foundation of the Islamic revolution of the Province of Chaharmahall and Bakhtiari is building 5 construction material production units, including plaster production units, gravel and sand stations, mosaic manufacturing, small block posts and lime production, with funds amounting to 151 million rials from Note 3 of the budget. Thus far, 40 percent of the construction of these units has been completed.

7 March 1985

IRAN

YASUJ MICROWAVE RADIO NETWORK BECOMES OPERATIONAL

Tehran BURS in Persian 10 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] The two radio systems of the Yasuj microwave network which were severely damaged as a result of snowfall, thunder and lightning during the past few days were repaired after four days of efforts by the employees of the communications office and the dispatch of teams from this central office. The communications systems and the Voice and Vision of Fars were put into operation.

The director general of communications of the Province of Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad also said in an interview with IRNA: The radio waves have been strengthened by the carrier line between Yasuj and Nurabad.

He pointed out: In order to prevent thunder and lightning, an artificial chemical grounding system must be installed near the network which will transmit lightning to the ground and not shut down the network.

He said: At the present time, long distance telephone communication through the old carrier line between Yasuj and Nurabad has been made operational and now it is only possible to communicate with Tehran and Shiraz. In conclusion, he added:

Also, since communication between Yasuj and other cities is cut off, efforts are being made to establish a communication channel for the cities of Gachsaran and Kohkiluyeh.

10,000

CSO: 4640/341

IRAN

TABRIZ POWER PLANT TO ELIMINATE SOME POWER SHORTAGE

Tehran BURS in Persian 14 Jan 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] Operation of the large Tabriz power plant will begin in the spring of 1985, and with the operation of 2 units, about 780 megawatts, and in the first phase, 387 megawatts of electricity will enter the national network, which will effectively eliminate a great part of the electricity shortage.

Mr Ghafurifard, the minister of energy, who traveled to the Province of West Azarbaijan, announced this statement in an interview with reporters and, explaining the main reasons for the electricity shortage, he said: The main reason is the very rapid growth of electricity consumption in the past three or four years, especially because of the expansion of the electricity network in villages, its use by the oppressed strata in the society, and the growth of industry. The consumption of electricity after the victory of the Islamic revolution has doubled compared to before it. The minister of energy stressed that the only way to confront the electricity shortage is to create power plants and added: In this connection, certain steps have been taken by the Ministry of Energy, but the creation of some power plants has been delayed due to certain non-technical problems, including political and social ones.

The minister of energy added: The electricity of one of the power plant units of Esfahan entered the circuit on Friday and steps have also been taken to activate the Varamin power plant.

In response to another question, the minister of energy referred to the importance of electricity outreach for the development of production and agricultural activities in the villages of the country and said: The Ministry of Energy promised to provide electricity to 1,500 villages annually. In the past four years, it has consistently accomplished more than what it has promised.

During the period 21 March 1983-20 March 1984 alone, about 2,400 villages were given electricity, of which number, 150 were in West Azarbaijan.

He added: In rationing electricity in the oppressed provinces, bringing the electricity network to the villages has been paid more attention to, because, with electricity brought for agriculture and animal husbandry, the production units become more active.

10,000

CSO: 4640/341

IRAN

THOUSANDS OF NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS DISTRIBUTED TO BANDAR 'ABBAS

Tehran BURS in Persian 16 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] With the completion of the cable conduit and cable installation operations in Bandar 'Abbas, 5,000 new telephone numbers will be distributed in the first 3 months of next year to the citizens of Bandar 'Abbas.

Also, on the basis of the plans of the central office of communications of the Province of Hormozgan, with the creation of another 4 telephone centers in the next 10-15 years, the telephone numbers in Bandar 'Abbas will increase to 70,000.

In an interview with IRNA, Engineer Majidi announced this matter and said: In order to distribute 5,000 new telephone numbers to the citizens of Bandar 'Abbas, the implementary operations for the construction of 19 km of cable conduits and about 300 km of underground cables began some time ago in Bandar 'Abbas, which will be completed by the end of this year. The distribution of the new telephone numbers will begin, and the 10,000-telephone center of Bandar 'Abbas will become fully operational. Also, the first step toward the creation of a second automatic telephone center in Bandar 'Abbas, with a capacity of 20,000 numbers, has been taken and soon the construction of this center will begin on a plot of land to be put at the disposal of the central office of communications by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Hormozgan. Also, the necessary background for the use of a second operation center near the present telephone centers has been prepared and in implementing the developmental plan of the inter-city telephone center, the work on the installation of equipment previously installed and operated by German experts has now begun by the committed experts of the Iranian communications company and the necessary steps for the creation of a computerized telex center are underway.

The director general of communications of Hormozgan added: The construction of the 5,000-number telephone center in Bandar Lengeh, for which the installation of cable conduits and cables has begun, will be completed by the end of this year and the

installation of the system will begin in this center. In the first phase of operations in this center, 2,000 telephones will be distributed among the people of Bandar Lengeh. He said: The previous contractor for the construction of the Minab telephone center has been dismissed and it is hoped that the new contractor will complete the construction of this center by the end of this year.

Meanwhile, a large part of the work on cable conduits and cable installation has been completed. Also, before the the above-mentioned center becomes operational, a trailer telephone center has been assigned to Minab, which will be put into operation temporarily as soon as it is transported to the province. In Qeshm, also, considering the construction material transportation problems, thus far, 50 percent of the implementary operations have been completed and we hope that early next year this building will be put at our disposal and the system installation work will begin. In the area of the full capacity centers of Hajiabad and Bastak, the general director of communications said: The construction of Hajiabad center has been given to a contractor and the Bastak center will also soon be put up for bids. Concerning the cities of Rudan, Jasak, Gavbandi and Khamir, there are plans which will be implemented as soon as financial and technical resources for the creation of communication centers in these cities are provided.

In regards to training the technical manpower needed in the province, he said: Considering that providing manpower in this province is particularly important. Since a year and a half ago, young people with high school diplomas and potential have been sent to Tehran to begin working in the microwave center in Hormozgan Province. Concerning other telephone centers, local forces have been employed and are now being trained.

10,000
CSO: 4640/339

IRAN

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1984 INFLATION RATE 12.3 PERCENT

Tehran BURS in Persian 2 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] The economic council held a session chaired by Prime Minister Musavi, in which, first, a report on the rate of inflation by the Central Bank was presented. In this report, the inflation rate for 22 November-21 December was announced at 12.3 percent.

This level is the lowest rate of inflation during the period 21 March 1984-20 March 1985 compared to the year before. In this session, the continuation of the financial and monetary policies of this year, which have resulted in the reduction in the inflation rate, was stressed, and it was decided that discussions on the methods for the decrease in prices by concentrating on increased production and controlling prices so as to have the lowest cost in the distribution sector, should continue in future sessions.

In this session, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance presented to the council the results of the studies which it had undertaken on inflation. The economic council decided that: (A) considering the trend toward production increases in the industrial and agricultural divisions of the related ministries, a general government picture of non-government production programs during the period 21 March 1985-20 March 1986 should be prepared and presented to the economic council for examinations; (B) considering the government and non-government revenues, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance should prepare a general projection for the economic trends regarding production and investments during the 1985-86 year and offer it to the Economic Council in order to reduce the rate of inflation to less than 10 percent during the 1985-86 year through appropriate policies.

10,000

CSO: 4640/338

IRAN

RETRIBUTION LAW SAID TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN COURTS

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 14 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Mr Mirmohammadi, a member of the Supreme Judicial Council, who traveled to the Province of Khuzestan in order to meet with the Islamic combatants and study the judicial problems, in the course of his four-day stay, spoke in the headquarters of the armies stationed in the south, and yesterday afternoon, he departed for Tehran through Ahvaz.

Before leaving Ahvaz, in an interview with the mass media, referring to his visits to the fronts of the war of truth against falsehood, Mr Mirmohammadi said: Meeting with the Islamic combatants was an invaluable opportunity for me, because I was invigorated by the high morale of these brave men. In the meetings we had with these beloved people, they said: We are prepared to tolerate all problems in defense of Islam and to sincerely sacrifice our lives to implement the Islamic injunctions. However, occasionally, when we return to our own cities, we cannot tolerate some of the actions and behavior which are the legacy of the tyrant's time and the injustice and unfair practices of some of the business people that we see. Mr Mirmohammadi added: The combatants requested of the judicial authorities of the country that they deal with such issues more decisively and they were promised that the courts will be decisive in eliminating such issues. In regards to prohibited acts as well, we have thought, you can be sure that in the same way that your Islamic country has been emptied of colonialism, it must gradually be emptied of sin. Continuing this interview, Mr Mirmohammadi strongly emphasized the decisiveness of the judges in investigating crimes by anyone in any area and said: In the meetings that I had with the beloved combatants, I pointed out that anyone who commits an offense will be dealt with decisively and anyone who commits an offense in the regime of the Islamic Republic must be punished. In another part of his statements, Mr Mirmohammadi emphasized the serious fight against debauchery and corruption in the society and said: If anyone wishes to stain the public morality, the courts have been allowed to attend to such cases out of order and to punish the sinner, because such

actions are contrary to Islamic injunctions, and this is the wish of our dear combatants on the fronts of zeal and honor. Mr Mirmohammadi, member of the Supreme Judicial Council, emphasized the implementation of the retribution bill and said: Retribution is carried out in the courts of the Islamic Republic, and this does not only concern killing, but retribution of limbs as well. In the conclusion of this interview, Mr Mirmohammadi referred to the international Islamic judicial seminar, the committees of which are now engaged in studies and research in Tehran and Qom, and said: God willing, when the work of these committees concludes, world legal experts will be officially invited so that the illuminating laws of Islam can be explained to the foreigners as well.

It should be added that Mr Mirmohammadi, member of the Supreme Judicial Council, also took part in a session yesterday morning with the Shar' magistrates, justices, prosecutors and interrogators of the Justice Department of Khuzestan to examine and become familiar with the judicial problems of the Province of Khuzestan.

In this session, after the presentation of a report by Hojjat ol-Eslam Shafi'i, the Shar' magistrate and director general of the Justice Department in Khuzestan, concerning the activities and judicial problems of the Province, Mr Mir Mohammadi praised the continuous efforts of the judicial officials of Khuzestan Province, expressed his satisfaction with their activities and efforts and, referring to the importance of the judicial profession in Islam, said: Adjudication and judicial affairs are the work of the prophets. Today's judges are sitting in the place of the prophets and must, therefore, emulate them in all affairs.

10,000

CSO: 4640/340

IRAN

MASS GRAVE REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED IN NORTH

GF191859 (Clandestine) Nejat-e Iran Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Another mass grave was discovered, once again lifting the veil off the widespread crimes of the cleric regime. A Nejat-e Iran correspondent reports that during the past week the discovery of a mass grave with more than 250 bodies has angered the people of Nika in northern Iran. According to this report, after several days of rain in this city, one morning during the past week a sheepherder who was collecting firewood from the jungle on his way to the city, came upon several bodies at a site along a byway. The bodies were clad in ordinary clothes. This sheepherder, thinking he had discovered a crime, quickly reached the city and reported the matter to the people of Nika town. Soon a group of people visited the site of the buried bodies.

Meanwhile, the local gendarmerie post, sensing the importance of the matter, sent a number of its personnel to the site to investigate. After finding the site and making a cursory removal of dirt placed over the grave by the locals, they discovered the mass grave. It looked like one vast trench.

So far, 250 bodies of young men aged 20 to 30 years have been dug from this trench. The people of Nika removed the bodies from the trench and placed them along the road for religious rites and burial at the graveyard after transportation to this town. When the revolution guards learned of the matter, they sent a strike force consisting of Islamic committee members in Nika. The unit ordered the Nika inhabitants to move from the site. The angry locals attacked the committee members with sticks and stones. A number of peasants were injured when they were hit with rifle butts by the guards. Finally, the revolution guards fired in the air and succeeded in dispersing the locals.

In the afternoon of the same day, as soon as it was dark, a number of covered trucks belonging to the revolution guards from Mazandaran arrived at the site and loaded the bodies into the trucks. The bodies were taken to an unknown destination.

According to the Nejat-e Iran Radio correspondent, this matter is connected with the killing of a large group of counterrevolutionary youths during armed clashes in the jungles in northern parts of the country. These people were killed by the armed personnel of the Khomeyni regime in several skirmishes. Due to time constraints, these sacrificed personnel were buried in a mass grave in the clothes they were wearing.

This news has caused great anger and hatred among the people in the northern province, as it has removed the curtain from another heinous crime of the regime.

CSO: 4640/389

IRAN

BRIEFS

TEHRAN REFINERY VOLUME 267,000 BPD--With the addition of viscosity reduction unit No 2 of the crude oil separation service of the Tehran refinery, 3,400,000 liters have been added to the daily production of petroleum products in this refinery. The public relations office of the Ministry of Petroleum announced: With the help of the Almighty, once again, as before, the committed employees of Tehran refinery took a step forward towards self-sufficiency and for the first time, succeeded in raising the capacity of crude oil production in this refinery to nearly 267,000 barrels per day. This figure is about 33 percent above the designed capacity. Also, with the operation of viscosity reduction unit No 2 in the crude oil separation service, the daily amount of 80,000 liters of liquid gas, 480,000 liters of gasoline, 640,000 liters of kerosene, diesel fuel and middle distillate products, and 200,000 liters of high grade furnace fuel were added to the products of the Tehran refinery to be delivered to the distribution division of the National Iranian Oil Company. [Text] [Tehran BURS 9 Jan 85 p 1] 10,000

TRIBAL ISSUES DISCUSSED--To review the problems of tribes, a delegation headed by the deputy governor general of Fars Province in charge of administrative and political affairs has arrived in Mamasani. According to our correspondent, this delegation held a meeting this morning with the governor and other officials of Mamasani to review tribal problems. According to this same report, Mr Sho'ara, the deputy governor general of Fars Province in charge of administrative and political affairs accompanied by the person responsible for the tribal affairs of the province met with Mr Ghazi, the governor of Mamasani, and travelled with him to the tribal areas of this town to review tribal problems firsthand. [Text] [Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 19 Feb 85]

EAST AZERBAIJAN SERUM, DRUG PLANTS--Two serum and drug manufacturing factories will be built in East Azerbaijan. In a press, radio and television interview, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Abolfazl Musavi-Tabrizi, the representative of the people of Tabriz to the Majlis and a member of the Majlis judiciary committee, made the above announcement and said: An agreement in principle has been made for building these two factories and more than 2 billion rials of funds have been anticipated. He added: Also, the plan for the creation of a factory to make plant fertilizers from garbage in the city of Tabriz is being studied. With the creation and operation of this factory, the plant fertilizer needed for East Azerbaijan Province will be provided. He added: In addition, the large water transfer project of Zarrinrud to Tabriz is underway. The representative of the people of Tabriz then mentioned the efforts to increase the 1985-86 budget of the province as one of the major concerns of the Tabriz representatives and said: In this connection, in the course of this year, more than 550 million rials in additional funds have been allocated to the central office of roads and transport of the province. Also, the representative of the people of Tabriz spoke about the shortage of oil in the province and stressed the necessity for expansion of propaganda activities in order to reveal the efforts and self-sacrifice of the Hezbollah people of Azerbaijan. He also expressed hope that with the implementation of government policies and the increase in investments to strengthen handicrafts and the export of the handmade products of the villagers, the economic problems of the region, of which the greatest part is a legacy of the previous regime, will be resolved. [Text] [Tehran BURS in Persian 10 Jan 85 pp 1, 8] 10,000

CSO: 4640/341

END