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29 July 1982

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

SAUDI PAPER VIEWS IRANIAN, IRAQI 'CONFLICT'

LD171332 Riyadh SPA in English 1211 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Jul (SPA)--Unless mediation missions resume their work with earnest, the Iraqi-Iranian armed conflict may turn into a protracted war, a Saudi newspaper said today.

Commenting on the latest escalation of fighting between Iraq and Iran, the Jidda-published ARAB NEWS said "the Iranians, having launched a military offensive, may not be content to enter into a stalemate with an Iraqi Army entrenched inside its own land and more determined than ever to defend it.

"It is therefore possible that the Iranians will continue to harass the Iraqis until the latter accept the principle of paying war reparations" it added.

It went on: "At the same time, the Iranians may be making the same mistake their adversaries had made when they invaded Iranian territory 22 months ago and failed to keep it."

The paper said "Iraq has now withdrawn completely from Iranian territory and appears to have suddenly abandoned all kinds of claims against Iran.... It is calling for peace and peace only which gives the Iranians renewed self-confidence to press on with their harassment techniques to force the Iraqis to concede the principle of indemnity.

"This looks like being a protracted war unless the various mediation missions resume their work with earnest, seizing the opportunity of Iraqi withdrawal and the restitution of Iranian dignity and national pride in having liberated their country," it added.

"It may be easier to talk about a permanent settlement now that the Iraqis have been chastened and Iranian confidence regained," it concluded.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

SAUDI RADIO CALLS FOR END TO IRAQ-IRAN WAR

GF171840 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Report from "Political Analysis" by Khalid Muhammad Bashawi]

[Excerpt] In whose interest does the Iraqi-Iranian war continue, despite the readiness of the international community and its political organizations to mediate and make a just arbitration between the two sides? It has been undoubtedly proved that the continuation of war between Iraq and Iran is an attrition of the efforts of Islamic countries. It is time to spare the blood and give precedence to peaceful solutions, because the region can no longer bear further military conflicts in light of the Zionist attack which is aimed at the security and stability of the entire Middle East, through escalating the situation in Lebanon as a prelude to fomenting unrest in the region.

It is clear that Tehran has not achieved its goals through the recent military operation in al-Basrah sector. Thus, responding to the Islamic or international mediation will be a logical way to find a suitable form for settling this dispute, which has lasted a long time and which reflects on the capabilities of the two countries and at the same time harms the security and stability of the region.

Iran affirmed last September, following the al-Muhammarah battle, that it does not aim to invade any foreign land. This raises a question about the reason behind the attempt to enter the Iraqi territories a few days after the UN Security Council resolutions called for ending the fighting and for negotiating for a peaceful solution. No doubt the recent escalation of the dispute between Iraq and Iran should increase the efforts to find a resolution to the dispute based on basic factors, such as:

First, the cessation of the fighting immediately, due to its serious impact on the two Muslim countries and the whole region.

Second, the resumption of Islamic efforts to discuss the issues which constitute the bone of contention and to find solutions commensurate with the interests of the two sides.

Third, the abidance of both countries by the UN resolutions and recommendations aimed at putting an end to fighting and finding a peaceful solution.

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

STUDY OF AFRICAN ARAB AIR FORCES

Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French No 50, May 82 pp 80-82. 85-87

[Article by F.R. Ezet and F. Louchet: "The Air Forces of Mediterranean Africa"]

[Text] The succession of serious crises and conflicts on the African continent during the 1970's has had the effect of underlining the importance, for each state, of providing itself with a military capacity suited both to its financial means and to its geographic characteristics and at the same time sufficiently credible to have deterrent effect.

The diversity of the conflicts occurring in Africa has made for a twofold trend toward reorganization of the military structures and toward considerable modernization of the materiel. Africa has indeed experienced internal wars (for example, the secession of Biafra in 1967), guerrilla wars organized by liberation movements (as in Angola since 1975, in the Western Sahara since 1975 and in Shaba in 1977 and 1978), as well as territorial conflicts (for example, the Uganda-Tanzania conflict in 1977 or the Somali-Ethiopian war of the Ogaden in 1977).

The purpose of this study is to draw up, insofar as the available information makes it possible, an inventory, as of 31 October 1981, of the air forces of each country in the zones of the countries of Mediterranean Africa.

Morocco

Royal Armed Forces

Morocco, facing the Polisario forces since 1975 for control of the Western Sahara, has seriously strengthened its air capacities, mainly in the area of tactical support.

Strength: 13,000

Jet Combat Planes

Five fighter-bomber squadrons:

--one squadron equipped with 10 Northrop Freedom Fighter F5A/RF5A's and F5B's, based at Kenitra. (These planes are the survivors from an order of 28 planes delivered in 1966.)

--one squadron equipped with 13 Northrop Tiger II F5E's, also stationed at Kenitra. These planes are part of an order for 20 two-seater F5E's and F5F's placed in 1979 and financed by Saudi Arabia. Deliveries began in 1981 (one was downed on 27 October 1981).

--three squadrons equipped with 44 Dassault Mirage CH/EH and BH [expansions unknown] (two-seater) F1's, delivered in two successive orders from 1978 to 1981.

Two squadrons mainly for antiguerrilla purposes, and secondarily for operational training, are equipped with 24 CM-170 Fouga Magisters.

Finally, two advanced-training and tactical-support squadrons equipped with 24 AMD/BA-Dornier Alpha Jet E's, delivery of which began at the end of 1978 and ended in 1981.

Morocco still holds an option for 25 Dassault Mirage F1's, but it does not seem that it will take up the option in the near future.

For their combat planes, the Royal Armed Forces use AIM-9 B and D Sidewinder and MATRA [Mechanics, Aviation and Traction Co] R-550 Magic air-to-air missiles and have ordered AGM-65 B Maverick air-to-ground missiles.

In addition to its jet planes, Morocco has had, since March 1981, an antiguerrilla squadron equipped with six Rockwell OV-10 A Broncos.

We note in passing that a dozen MiG 17F Fresco C's and two MiG 15 UTI Midgets, delivered in 1963, are in storage, and recommissioning of them seems very unlikely.

Transport Planes

The Moroccan air-transport fleet was reinforced in October 1981 with the delivery by Lockheed (Marietta plant) of the third order of the C-130 Hercules, comprising five planes. There are now two transport squadrons, with:

--19 Lockheed C-130 H Hercules and half a dozen Douglas C-47 Dakotas, in the process of being withdrawn from service.

One of the C-130's was downed on 14 October 1981.

--one liaison and VIP-transport squadron stationed at Rabat, comprising five Beech Aircraft King Air 100's; seven Max Holste 1521 M Broussards, very definitely out of service; two Dornier DO-28 D2 Skyservants. One Grumman Gulfstream 2 does VIP transport. Two Dassault Mystere 20's equipped with CME [Electronic Countermeasures] do surveillance of the air operations in the Sahara.

--the additional C-130 H Hercules are intended to replace the Fairchild C-119 G Packets recently withdrawn from service. Furthermore, three KC-130 H Hercules in the refueller version, ordered in 1980, should be delivered in 1982.

Training Planes

This fleet is composed of 12 Beechcraft T-34 C1 Turbo-Mentors delivered in 1978, 10 Repair AS-202 Bravos, and two SIAI-Marchetti SF-260 MM's, based at Marrakesh-Menara.

Some 20 Rockwell T2D Buckeyes had been ordered from the United States. But this order was cancelled, and Alpha-Jets were ordered instead.

It should be noted that the maintenance of all the airplanes of the Royal Armed Forces is done by Maroc-Aviation at Casablanca. The same is true for the helicopters.

Helicopters

Morocco has equipped itself with helicopters from the West exclusively. There are 34 Agusta AB-205 A's, delivered starting in 1970; 15 Agusta A-206 B Jet Ranger II's; 5 Agusta AB-212's, whose mission is light transport and liaison.

For heavy materiel transport, the Royal Armed Forces have 12 Agusta CH-47 C Chinooks, delivered in 1979 and 1981. Four Kaman HH-43 B Huskies are assigned sea search and rescue missions in particular.

Some 30 SA-330 Pumas are assigned to troop transport in the military operations carried on in the Sahara.

As regards attack against armored vehicles, Morocco has canceled a contract for delivery of 24 Hughes 500-MD's in 1982 in favor of an order for 24 Aerospatiale SA-342 M Gazelles, including 12 equipped with Hot antitank missiles, in addition to six helicopters already delivered.

The Royal Gendarmerie has six Aerospatiale SA-330 Pumas, two Aerospatiale SA-313 B Alouette II's, three SA-315 B Lamas, three SA-316 Alouette III's and six Gazelle SA-342 L's. It also has two Rallye 180 Chevaux.

Observations

Insofar as the available information permits, the losses occasioned by the Western Sahara conflict, which recently has greatly increased the normal rate of attrition (accidents, breakdowns, withdrawal from service), have been taken into account as regards the numbers for the aeronautical fleet.

For example, 5 Mirage F-1 CH/EH's, loss of which has been acknowledged by the Moroccan general staff, have been deducted from the official figure of 50 Mirage F-1's ordered and delivered. (The last two were downed about 13 October 1981, according to Morocco, by ground-to-air missiles of the SA-6 Gainful or SA-8 Gecko type. According to other information, they were SA-9 Gaskin missiles.) The real number of airplanes of this type lost could be two or three units higher. Seven F/RF5A's and about 10 CM-170 Fouga Magisters, as well as at least half a dozen SA-330 Pumas (the last on 23 October 1981) and one Lockheed C-130 H Hercules have been downed by antiaircraft cannon fire and SA-7 B Grail missiles.

Algeria

Algerian Air Force

In the second half of the 1970's, the Algerian Air Force, in rivalry with its neighbor to the west, underwent considerable modernization.

Strength: 7,000 (as against 4,500 in 1976).

Jet Combat Planes

Almost all the combat fleet is of Soviet origin:

- one reconnaissance squadron with 10 MiG 25-R Foxbat B's;
- four interceptor squadrons with about 70 MiG 21 Fishbeds, including some 10 MiG 21-F Fishbed C's (daytime interception) delivered since 1965-1966 and some 60 MiG 21-F Fishbed J's, received gradually since 1974;
- nine fighter-bomber squadrons are distributed as follows: two squadrons equipped with 40 MiG 23-BM Flogger F's (the export version of the MiG 27 Flogger D), based at Di Chela; three squadrons equipped with 60 MiG 17-F Fresco C's; two squadrons equipped with 20 Sukhoi Su-7 BM Fitter A's and 20 Sukhoi Su-20 Fitter C's; two squadrons specialized for antiguerrilla warfare equipped with 26 CM-170 Fouga Magisters (including 5 in the prestige flight);
- two squadrons of Ilyushin IL-28 Beagle bombers (24 planes), delivered in the 1960's, seem to be in reserve while awaiting definitive withdrawal from service.

In the coming years, the Algerian Air Force is expected to replace its MiG 17-F's and Su-7 BM's with Sukhoi Su-20/22 Fitter F's or H's.

The combat planes are equipped with AA-2 (K-13) Atoll and AA-22 Advanced Atoll air-to-air missiles.

Transport Planes

Algeria is seeking to modernize its transport capacities, which are limited by the aging of the materiel; a purchase order for six Lockheed C-130 H Hercules was presented to the United States government in September 1981, with a view to gradual replacement of the Antonov AN-12 Cubs. The first planes have been delivered. For the time being, the fleet is composed of two transport squadrons. One, responsible for heavy transport, comprises 8 Antonov AN-12 Cubs, and the other does tactical transport with 10 Fokker F-27 Mk 400's and 1 F-27 Mk 600, one of which is equipped for reconnaissance. Six Ilyushin IL-14 Crates are also in the inventory, but are probably in process of withdrawal from service.

VIP transport is occasionally done by 2 F-27 Friendships, among the 10 mentioned above, and principally by one Ilyushin IL-18 Coot, 3 Beechcraft Super King Airs, 3 Beechcraft Queen Airs, 1 Dassault Mystere-20, 1 Grumman Gulfstream 2, and 1 Rockwell 690 Turbo Commander.

There is also a Beechcraft King 100 equipped for radio calibration. Two Beechcraft Super King Air 200-T's equipped with Omera radar and Dalia countermeasures (Thomson-CSF [General Radio Co]) for maritime surveillance have been ordered and are to be delivered in 1982.

Training Planes

For basic flight training, the Algerian Air Force has 19 Yak 11's and Yak 18's, Max and Moose; 6 Beechcraft T-34 C Turbo-Mentors, delivered in 1979; and 3 Beech Sierra 200's, based at Oran, where the national pilot-training school is located. For advanced training, there are some 20 single-seater MiG 15-bis Fagots and two-seater MiG 15 UTI Midgets, and several MiG 17-F Fresco C's, MiG 21-U Mongol A's and Sukhoi SU-7 UMK Mujiks.

Helicopters

For tactical transport and assault, Algeria has about 28 Mil Mi-4 Hounds still in service, out of the 40 delivered to it. These machines will gradually be withdrawn from service and replaced either by the Mi-8 Hip, 12 of which are in service, or by the Aerospatiale SA-330 Puma, 5 of which are operational.

For liaison, Algeria uses six Hughes 269 A's.

For heavy transport, four Mil-6 Hooks are available. Algeria has recently received 25 Mil Mi-24 Hind D's to equip two squadrons of combat and antitank helicopters. These machines have AT-2 Swatter and AT-6 Spiral missiles. A further order of 24 is said to be planned.

Observations

In terms of number of planes, the Algerian Air Force is at the head of the Maghreb's air forces. Its combat-helicopter fleet currently gives it an anti-tank capacity superior to that of its neighbors. Likewise, its possession of MiG 25's gives Algeria indisputable superiority in the area of aerial reconnaissance. It should be pointed out that these last-named planes are probably piloted by Soviets. For the training of its forces, Algeria has technical and military assistance from the USSR. Furthermore, some 30 planes of the MiG 21 Fishbed type are piloted by pilots of Palestinian origin.

In 1982, Algeria is negotiating for purchase of Hawk, Alpha-Jet or MB-339 training planes.

Tunisia

The Air Force of the Republic of Tunisia

Because of its small area and low population, Tunisia has to be content with an air component that is relatively limited by comparison with its neighbors.

Strength: 2,000.

Jet Combat Planes

--one tactical-combat squadron constitutes the total combat capacity; it comprises eight Aermacchi MB-326 two-seaters (i.e., four MB-326 B's, delivered in 1965, and four MB-326 LT's delivered in 1978) and seven Aermacchi MB-326 KT's delivered in 1978.

There are also 10 North American F-86 F Sabres in storage and not counted as operational. Tunisia is expected to be purchasing some Northrop F-5's.

Transport Planes

Tunisia has only three MD-315 Flamants, given by the French Air Force after independence. Following the Gafsa troubles in 1980, during which Tunisia had to call on French and Moroccan transport planes, the Air Force of the Republic of Tunisia placed an order in August 1980 for a Lockheed C-130 H Hercules; but it appears that financing problems are delaying delivery of it.

Training Planes

The 8 North American T-6 G Texans given by France have been backed up by 12 SIAI SF-260 WT Warriors purchased in 1974, then by 6 SF-260 C's delivered in 1978. The SF-260's, like the T-6's, can be used for operation support missions. At several underwing attachment points, the Warriors are, in effect, equipped for ground attack. A dozen SAAB Safirs are also in service.

Helicopters

The fleet is composed of six Agusta-Bell AB 205-A 1's acquired in 1980, seven Aerospatiale SA-313 B (AL-II's) for liaison, five Aerospatiale SA-316 C Alouette III's, two Bell UN-1 H Iroquois for tactical transport, and an Aerospatiale SA-330 B Puma for VIP transport.

The ALAT [Army Light Plane Division] has six Bell UH-1 N Cobra attack helicopters and a Hughes 500-MD, and half a dozen Agusta-Bell AB-206 A1's are on order.

Libya

Air Force of the Arab Republic of Libya

As regards the materiel it possesses, the Libyan Air Force has to be considered Africa's No 1 air force. Indeed, recent deliveries have greatly increased a fleet of aircraft which, it is true, is far superior to the operational-pilot strength.

Strength: 10,000.

Jet Combat Planes

The Libyan air-combat force includes:

- one strategic-reconnaissance squadron equipped with a dozen Mikoyan MiG 25-R Foxbat B's and Foxbat D's, stationed at 'Uqbah ibn Nafi;
- three interception squadrons made up of some 40 MiG 25 Foxbat A's, likewise based at 'Uqbah ibn Nafi, for a total of 58 planes. These MiG 25's are piloted by Soviets, and use of them is controlled, largely outside the control of the Libyan Air Force general staff;
- three fighter and air-superiority squadrons:
 - two squadrons equipped with 143 Mikoyan MiG 23-MS Flogger E's, delivered in 1975 and stationed at Benina (Benghazi) and Al-Wati'ah;
 - one squadron equipped with 12 AMD/BA Mirage F1 ED's, based at Al-'Adain. Some of these planes were delivered starting at the end of 1979, and according to certain reports, deliveries did not end until the fall of 1981;
- two bomber squadrons equipped with fewer than 24 Tupolev 22 Blinder A's, stationed at 'Uqbah ibn Nafi; planes delivered in 1979;
- 13 fighter-bomber squadrons, as follows:
 - five squadrons equipped with about 86 Sukhoi Su-20/-22 Fitter F's and Fitter H's, based at 'Uqbah ibn Nafi and Al-Qirbadiyah;
 - three squadrons equipped with some 60 Mikoyan MiG 23-BM Flogger F's, stationed at Al-'Adain;
 - two squadrons with some 40 AMD/BA Mirage 5D's;
 - two squadrons with some 30 AMD/BA Mirage 5 DE's (equipped with Marconi Doppler radar), capable of penetration as well as interception;
 - finally, one squadron comprising 14 AMD/BA Mirage F1 ED's specially equipped for tactical support (delivered in 1978).

According to certain sources, 94 MiG 21 SMT's have been delivered, to make up 8 squadrons.

All the Mirage squadrons are based at Al-'Adain.

Note: The figures given take into account the estimated attrition rate, losses in operation and defections. On the other hand, a number of planes are in reserve and are gradually replacing the planes destroyed.

Thus, at least 10 Mirage 5's have been destroyed, either by accident or on the occasion of the Egypt-Libya hostilities in 1977. Likewise, several Mirage 5's were lost during the Israeli-Arab Yom Kippur war, when they were used by the Air Force of the Arab Republic of Egypt on loan from Libya. Some also estimate that only 50 Mirage 5's out of 110 are in service.

The number of Mirage F-1's lost in exercise missions is estimated at four.

We note in passing that the initial figure for AMD/BA Mirage 5 orders was 58 Mirage 5D's, 32 Mirage 5 DE's, 10 Mirage 5 DD's (two-seaters) and 10 Mirage 5 DR's. The figure for AMD/BA Mirage F-1's included 16 Mirage F-1 AD's, 42 Mirage F-1 ED's (interception) and 14 Mirage F-1 BD's (two-seaters). Not all have been delivered.

Half a dozen MiG 23's are said to have suffered the same fate, and to these must be added the defection of a pilot in July 1980, which resulted in the loss of a MiG 23 in Italy.

Libya has provided Syria with two lots of about three MiG 23 Flogger E's to compensate for the losses suffered against the Israeli air forces.

Furthermore, another pilot landed his MiG 23 in Crete in February 1981; but the plane was restored to Libya. Two Tu-22's were lost in 1981: one crashed at the airport of N'Djamena in Chad, and the other is reported to have been downed by the FAN [Northern Armed Forces] at the border between Chad and Sudan.

Finally, as regards the Sukhoi, the air incident of 19 August 1981 between Grumman F-14A Tomcats of the U.S. Navy and Sukhoi Su-22 Fitter H's entailed the loss of two planes of the latter type, downed by AIM-9 L Sidewinder air-to-air missiles.

To complete the list of jet combat planes, we should mention some 10 AMD/BA Mirage 5 DR's for reconnaissance, distributed among the various fighter-bomber squadrons (delivered in 1974).

Some 15 Northrop F-5-A/-B's, the last of which were delivered in 1970 and which were sold to Turkey in 1976 are not counted as operational.

Transport Planes

The Libyan Air Force is seeking to strengthen its transport capacities. It presently has seven Lockheed C-130 H Hercules (one plane having been lost in Uganda in 1979), delivered in 1971, and it has purchased eight other C-130 H's, placed under embargo by the United States.

To these must be added two Lockheed L-100's (the civilian equivalent of the C-130), purchased in the commercial-aviation market, which supplement the military versions. The transport fleet also includes nine Douglas C-47 Dakotas, five De Havilland Canada DHC-6 Twin Otters, two Avro Canada CL-44's and five Ilyushin IL-76 M Candids. These planes are based at Benina.

In addition to 10 Fokker F-27 Mk 400/600 Troopships, Libya is taking delivery of an order of 20 Aeritalia G-222 L's powered by two Rolls Royce Tyne engines (8 planes have been delivered).

To VIP transport are assigned one Dassault Mystere 50, delivered in 1980, one Dassault Mystere 20, one Aerospatiale SN-600 Corvette 200, two Grumman Gulfstream 2's, and one Lockheed Jetstar II (a second plane of this type was expected to be delivered at the end of 1981).

Training Planes

The Air Force of the Arab Republic of Libya has a wide variety of two-seater combat planes with offensive capability. There are several Tupolev Tu-22 Blinder D's, six AMD/BA Mirage F-1 BD's, six AMD/BA Mirage 5 DD's, and half a dozen Mikoyan MiG 23 U Flogger C's.

In addition to the combat planes, there are planes intended especially for training, such as the 30 Aero L-39 ZO Albatrosses, 50 Soko G-2 A/E Galebs, delivered starting in 1976, and 2 Dassault Mystere 20's equipped with Cyrano II radars and the electronic equipment of the Mirage 5 DE's. Ten Aero L-39 ZO's are currently on order. The Lockheed T-33's have been retired from service. Finally, nearly 300 SIAI Marchetti SF 260-WL and 5, with light-support capability, have been delivered recently. All these planes are based at the Libyan Air Force Academy at Al-Zawiyah. Several Socata Rallyes have been mentioned (nine of them), and two SF-260 Warriors were downed by the FAN in Chad, at the Sudanese border.

Helicopters

Grouped in four squadrons are 20 Agusta/Boeing Vertol CH-47 C Chinooks delivered in 1980, 9 Agusta-Bell AB-47 G's, 2 Agusta-Bell AB-212's for VIP transport, 9 Aerospatiale SA-321 M/GM Super Frelons equipped with Whitehead A-244 torpedos and AS-12 missiles. These machines are used mainly for rescue at sea and antisubmarine warfare.

There are seven Aerospatiale SA-316 B Alouette II's, some of which are equipped with AT-2 Swatter antitank missiles as well as with Aerospatial SS-11 missiles.

For transport, there are 14 Mil-8 Hip C's and F's, based at Ra's Lanuf.

Since 1979, Libya has taken delivery of 26 Mil Mi-24 Hind D antitank attack helicopters, stationed at Al-Wati'ah. Three have been destroyed. These helicopters may be equipped with AT-2 Swatter or AT-6 Spiral missiles. Some say that the fleet of Mi-24's has been doubled.

The ALAT has 4 Aerospatiale SA-316 B Alouette II's for liaison and 5 Agusta-Bell AB-206 Jet Rangers, and has on order 40 Aerospatiale SA-342 M Gazelles, equipped with Hot antitank missiles; delivery of these helicopters is reported to have been under way since the lifting of the embargo by the French government.

Also in service are 10 Cessna O-1 Bird Dogs, surplus from the Italian Army. One Mil Mi-24 was downed by the FAN using an R PG-7 (according to certain sources).

Observations

According to certain reports, the number of Libyan operational pilots is estimated at about 100, including 30 trained to international standards.

Some 100 North Korean pilots pilot Tu-22's and MiG 23's. Some 100 Soviet pilots do operational missions in MiG 25's and MiG 23's.

A similar number of pilots from countries of East Europe (Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria) pilot MiG 23's and Su-20/-22's. A few Cuban pilots use MiG 23's for training. Some 60 Syrian pilots and some 40 Palestinian pilots do missions, mainly in MiG 23's, as well as in Mirage F-1's and Su-20/22's. Some 40 Paki-

stani pilot-instructors fly Mirage 5d's and DE's. Some 20 mercenary pilots--mainly Italians, West European nationals, as well as Americans--complete the roster.

On the other hand, a part of the combat-plane fleet is in storage but could be put back into action very quickly (MiG 23's, Su-20/22's). Thus, evaluation of the real operational capability of the Libyan Air Force is difficult. Certain evaluations mention a jet combat-plane fleet on the order of 600 aircraft!

Some 20 main bases are in service (in addition to those cited, there are Sabha, Tubruq, Tripoli, Misratah, etc). Furthermore, some 60 improved fields that can receive combat planes and that serve secondarily as relief airports must be mentioned.

Because of its large number of planes, the Libyan Air Force experiences a great many infrastructure problems (protected hangars, protection of bases, bar-racking, etc). There are some big gaps in the country's radar coverage: certain zones are not covered because of the lack of integration and coordination.

The combat planes are equipped with AA-2 (K-13) Atoll, AA-2.2 Advanced Atoll, AA-6 Acrid and AA-8 Aphid air-to-air missiles, as well as with MATRA R-530 and MATRA R-550 Magics.

A number of AMD/BA Mirage 5's and Mirage F-1's have been offered to the Soviet Union for operational technical evaluation.

It should also be mentioned that on the occasion of the intervention in Chad in 1981, certain aircraft were stationed at N'Djamena and Abeche: half a dozen MiG 23 Flogger E's or F's, two Tupolev Tu-22 Blinder A's, several CH-47 C Chinook, Mil Mi-8 Hip and Mil Mi-24 Hind helicopters, as well as SIAI Marchetti SF-260 airplanes. At N'Djamena there could be seen four MiG 21 SMT's, some II-76 M's, some C-130's DC-8's and CL-44's. According to certain reports, the combats in Chad resulted in the loss of six combat or transport planes and perhaps several helicopters. Finally, it may be thought that since the air incident with the American Navy Air Force, deliveries of Sukhois have resumed at an accelerated pace.

Egypt

Air Force of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Egypt still officially holds the rank of No 2 air force in Africa. Despite its numerical size, though, it is actually relatively weakened by the cessation of spare-parts supply for its aircraft of Soviet construction.

It is in order to remedy this weakness that Egypt has undertaken to reequip its Air Force with materiel from the West.

Strength: 27,000.

Jet Combat Planes

Having learned a lesson from the massive destruction of its air forces on the ground during the Six-Day War, Egypt has set up a special command within its air forces:

the Air Defense Command, which, in addition to a network of SA-2, SA-3, SA-6/7, Thomson Crotale and Hawk ground-to-air missiles, includes:

--nine interception squadrons, equipped with 108 Mikoyan MiG 21 MF Fishbed J's.

The rest of the Egyptian Air Force is composed of:

--one bomber squadron composed of 23 Tupolev Tu-16 Badger G's, some 10 of which are equipped to carry 1 AS-5 Kelt air-to-surface missile. Most of them are out of service, for lack of spare parts. Also in storage, but probably unavailable, are 10 Ilyushin IL-28 Beagles;

--five ground-attack squadrons, four of which are equipped with 80 Sukhoi Su-20 Fitter C's (with some 15 planes in reserve);

--two interdiction squadrons, equipped with some 30 McDonnell F-4E Phantom II's (35 were delivered by the United States in 1979);

--one reconnaissance unit composed of six AMD/BA Mirage 5 SDR's;

--eight fair-weather fighter-bomber squadrons: three equipped with about 70 Mikoyan MiG 17F Fresco C's, and five squadrons equipped with some 100 Mikoyan MiG 19 Farmers (about 20) and Shenyang F-6's (about 80, including 40 furnished in 1979, the rest having been delivered in 1980-1981);

--three interceptor fighter-bomber squadrons, equipped with 42 AMD/BA Mirage 5 SDE's (the figure does not take the effective attrition into account), 32 of which were initially ordered and paid for by Saudi Arabia. The deliveries were made between 1975 and 1979. Sixteen more are presently on order, for delivery in 1983;

--nine fighter-bomber squadrons are equipped with some 100 Mikoyan MiG 21 F/PFM Fishbed C's and Fishbed F's and Shenyang F-7 (about 30).

The Air Force of the Arab Republic of Egypt has made a contract with the British firm Dowty-Rotol for overhaul and maintenance of the engines and structures of the MiG 21's that it has. Furthermore, as the planes are overhauled they are being modernized with the fitting of a Ferranti inertial-navigation system and a Smith-Litton firing collimator.

It should be mentioned that there are about 18 MiG 23 MS Flogger E's and a dozen MiG 23 BM Flogger F's not in flying condition. At least four other planes have been delivered to the United States for technical evaluation, and two aircraft of this type have doubtlessly been offered also to the People's Republic of China in exchange for delivery of spare parts for MiG 21's. In 1979, Egypt placed an order for 40 General Dynamics F-16 A/B Fighting Falcons equipped with Singer navigation systems; the first 6 of them have just been received. Egypt is presently engaged in talks for the purchase of some 100 additional Fighting Falcons and a certain number of AMD/BA Mirage 2000's. An order for 20 planes has been placed, with an option for another 20.

The Egyptian combat fleet is equipped with AA-2 (K-13) Atoll and AA-2.2. Advanced Atoll, AIM-9 D and 9 P Sidewinder, and AIM-7 Sparrow air-to-air missiles, as well as with MATRA R-530 and R-550 Magic missiles. It also has a number of AS-5 Kelt air-to-surface missiles, and should soon take delivery of an order of 500 AGM-65 D Maverick air-to-ground missiles, to equip the Phantom II's and later the Fighting Falcons.

Transport Planes

The Egyptian transport fleet, originally composed exclusively of materiel of Soviet origin, is gradually being equipped with transport planes of Western origin.

Heavy transport is provided by 19 Lockheed C-130 H Hercules, along with about 10 Antonov AN-12 A Cubs (10 others probably being out of flying condition).

Furthermore, 26 Ilyushin IL-14 Crates and 2 Antonov AN-24 Cokes complete the transport and liaison materiel, while 1 Boeing 707-320, 1 Boeing 737-200 and 2 Dassault Mystere 20's, stationed at the West Cairo airport, are assigned to VIP transport.

Two Lockheed EC-130 H's are equipped with electronic countermeasures; 6 Lockheed C-130 H's are on order, to be delivered at the end of 1982, and 10 Buffalo de Havillands have been ordered, the first of them recently delivered. On the other hand, Egypt has ordered four Grumman E-2 C Hawkeyes for electronic surveillance and low-altitude detection along the Libyan border.

Training Planes

Some 100 Aero L-29 Delfins constitute the backbone of the training fleet; these planes have ground-attack capability.

Some 50 Helwan Jumhuriyahs (an additional 20 Jumhuriyahs were ordered in 1978) and 36 Yakovlev Yak-11 Mooses, based at Bilbeis, serve for pilot training.

There are also six AMD/BA Mirage 5 SDD two-seaters, six Mikoyan MiG 21 U/UM Mongol A's and B's, and six Mikoyan MiG 23 U Flogger C two-seaters (operational availability of which is doubtful because of the lack of spare parts).

Some 50 Su-7 U Sukhoi Mujiks and half a dozen Shenyang TF-6's (a two-seater version of the MiG 17) are used for training for operational missions. In December 1980, Egypt placed an order for 30 Dassault/Dornier Alpha-Jet A's, and for another 15 in 1981--some of them to be manufactured in Egypt. The first six were recently received.

Helicopters

Egypt probably has Africa's second-ranking fleet, with 55 Mil Mi-8 Hips for assault transport, 12 Mil Mi-6 Hooks for heavy transport, and some 10 (out of a fleet of 20) Mil Mi-4 Hounds for utility operations.

There are 26 Westland Commando Mk A/Mk 2/Mk 2 B's stationed at Heliopolis, most of them under Army command. Four Aerospatiale SA-342 K Gazelles are used for liaison. There are 50 Aerospatiale SA-342 L Gazelles, including 18 equipped with 4 Hot antitank missiles, at the disposal of the ground forces. An order was placed with Agusta in 1980 for 15 Agusta/Boeing Vertol CH-47 C Chinooks; they were delivered in mid-1981.

It should be noted that the Mil Mi-6 Hooks may be in the process of withdrawal from service.

Observations

Although weakened numerically by the problems of maintenance of its materiel of Soviet origin, the Egyptian Air Force, by virtue of its reequipping with modern aircraft (F-16's, Alpha-Jets, later the Mirage 2000), retains a predominant position in the region; it is Africa's most diversified air force, with 12 distinct types of aircraft.

The Air Force of the Arab Republic of Egypt has the benefit of regular training with units of the U.S. Air Force in periodic joint maneuvers. The U.S. Air Force uses three air bases opened by the Egyptian government: Ras Banas, Qenas, and Cairo West.

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GOVERNMENT SPONSORS CAMPAIGN TO CELEBRATE RAMADAN

Public Call

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 1 Jul 82 p 2

[Text]

In pursuance of its fundamental commitment, the DRA Government has been and is always trying to help the Muslim Afghan people to perform their sacred religious rites in a fully free and democratic atmosphere. The Government has been prompt in providing the essential facilities required for this purpose.

During all religious occasions such as Eids, Muharram and the holy month of Ramadan, the national and democratic DRA Government has made extra efforts and special arrangements to enable the Afghan Muslim masses to normally and confidently perform their religious rites without any difficulty.

The special arrangements made this year are unprecedented. For instance, prayers and 'tarawih' are offered in 220 mosques in the Kabul city, which throughout the month will be thronged by thousands of worshippers.

One can see that hundreds of people, including young and old women, are saying prayers and offering 'tarawih', in these mosques and this continues until late in the evening.

One can read in the faces of the worshippers that they are profoundly satisfied over the facilities furnished by their Government. The private companies as well as the public organisations have joined hands with the Government in providing such facilities and services to our Muslim people. Our people see in practice that the DRA Government stands firm in its basic commitment as provided under Article Five of the DRA Fundamental Principles which, in part, says: "Respect for observance and preservation of Islam as a sacred religion will be ensured in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and freedom of religious rites guaranteed."

eed for Muslims..." Responding to the call of the Government to help the Muslim people in their religious rites and practice of other desirable traditions, various private companies and public organisations are carrying out special programmes during this ho-

ly month aimed at assisting and helping the Muslim people.

Some factories such as KAM, producing various types of non-alcoholic beverages, and the Kabul Central Silo, producer of various types of bread and cookies, have increased their output during this holy month by putting in extra work voluntarily. Public organisations such as the traffic department and the sale outlets of the Food Procurement Department,

where essential commodities such as flour, ghee, and sugar are distributed to Government employees, workers and wage earners at fixed prices, have made special arrangements to ensure the smooth flow of traffic and distribution of foodstuffs during and after working hours.

These instances of the massive public response to the Government's policy constitute vivid evidence of the growing unity between the DRA Government and the people. The latter have always been prompt in extending a helping hand to the Government in implementation of constructive and useful programmes meant for the benefit of the toiling Muslim people of Afghanistan.

The religious Muslim people of Afghanistan are now fully convinced that at all activities and pro-

grammes of the revolutionary DRA Government are in conformity with the principles of the sacred religion of Islam. Our people see that they are not only free to perform their religious rites, but also immensely benefit from the facilities provided by the Government to practise this freedom.

Our toiling Muslim people also see that their national and democratic Government has been and is always in the service of toiling masses in this country and, whenever required, ready to render extra services to meet the needs of our people.

While we wish our toiling Muslim people successful performance of their religious obligations, we hope they will make the maximum use of the facilities provided by the Government.

Special Food Distribution

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 1 Jul 82 p 3

[Text]

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, under the wise leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, has paid and pays deep respect to the observance of Islamic rites in the country, and sincerely helps the Muslim people of the country to perform their religious ceremonies in an atmosphere of complete independence.

To realise this objective, the revolutionary Government of the DRA took a number of constructive and

useful measures, each of which has had an important affect in further facilitating performance of Islamic rites by the people in the country.

For instance, the Government of the DRA, this year, during the holy month of Ramadan, has provided a number of facilities for convenience and easy access of the people to essential foodstuffs and other commodities needed by them. This includes measures to sell food commodities to coupon holders after of-

ficial hours and during the public holidays. This has greatly helped the coupon holders to receive their needed foodstuffs after official hours and other holidays without any difficulties.

Pointing this out, in an interview to the Kabul New Times, Jan Aqa, an official of the state foodstuffs store no 33 of the Food Procurement and Public Requirements Department said, "It is crystal clear that the national democratic Government of the DRA has, from the very beginning, adopted practical and constructive measures aimed at betterment of living standards of the Muslim people of Afghanistan. This year, during the holy month of fasting, it was decided that all the foodstuffs stores should remain open three hours more, after the official hours, so that the pious people of the country can easily receive necessary goods. This measure has solved some of the difficulties previously faced by our compatriots".

Answering a question, another official of the store said, "The religious and pious people of our country, during the month of Ramadan are fasting to

please their creator and test their determination as well as perform one of their Islamic obligations. Therefore, the national democratic Government of the DRA, which has in practice paid much attention for the wellbeing and comfort of the people, and aims at helping them perform their religious rites, has, adopted some useful measures to this end, this month".

A customer in the store also gave his view on the subject. "The recent measures of the DRA Government", he said, "is a clear indication of the Government's special attention towards the pious people of the country. We witness, in practice, that the national democratic Government of the DRA pays special attention in facilitating the performance of religious rites by the people, especially during the month of Ramadan".

He mentioned some of these facilities—such as widescale broadcasting and screening of the religious programme over the radio and television, including regular recitation of holy Koran, publication of valuable and contentful religious articles by the me-

dia, recitation of the holy Koran in 220 mosques of Kabul city.

Likewise, the Government has instructed the State Food Procurement and Public Requirement Department to increase its distribution of foodstuffs and other commodities through its stores so that the people, especially during this holy month, do not face any difficulty.

He added, "We see in practice that the national democratic Government of the DRA really and sincerely serves its people and the state's actions has been deemed compatible with the basic tenets of Islam. These sincere measures of our state foils the satanic and ominous propaganda of the world imperialism and its accomplices directed against the national democratic Government of Afghanistan. We tell them that not only is Islam not in danger in our country, but in fact our state has launched useful steps to further strengthen it and provide all the needed facilities to the Muslim people of the country enabling them to perform their religious ceremonies in an atmosphere of security and tranquillity".

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 30 Jun 82 p 3

[Text]

"Guarantee for religious freedom and full support for the holy religion of Islam have been explicitly mentioned in the Fundamental Principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan", Mohammad Qasim, incharge of the baked products department of the central Silo recalled, in an interview with the Kabul New Times.

He said: "The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the DRA Government deeply respect the religious rites and sanctities of our working Muslims and has proved it in practice. The goodwill of the party and the Government in respect of the practice of the holy religion of Islam is clear to all and the religious rites and our national traditions are being given importance" "For instance", he said, "the DRA Government has provided ample facilities for those who

observe the fasting during the holy month. The change of working hours, control of prices and the like are examples."

"The food procurement department has increased its baked products baked and supplied to the Central silo products like cakes, cookies and the like during the month," he added.

Dadullah, a worker of the cookies baking section of the silo, said that, during the holy month, they strive to supply larger quantities of cookies and cakes and ensure better quality.

Serajuddin, a machine operator of the silo, said: "The Ramadan is a great and holy month and all the Muslims observe fasting and spend a long time in prayer during this month. The popular Government has provided the opportunity for performance of the religious practices and all facilities during the month".

"Therefore, he added,

"we (workers), working extra hours, are in the service of our Muslim compatriots who keep the fast and, with goodwill, help supply the materials needed by our people. By baking delicious cakes and cookies, we feel the satisfaction that, we have been in service of our compatriots during the holy month."

An official of the food procurement department said: "To further serve our compatriots who observe fasting, the department supplies sufficient amount of the silo products such as bread, cakes, cookies and the like as required by the sales outlets and other stores."

The department records a 50 per cent increase in its products during the holy month compared with other months, and the workers of the section perform two hours' extra work during the month, the official added.

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 4 Jul 82 p 3

[Text]

It was 6 p.m. when I crossed the road in front of the Central Post Office of the Communications Ministry. I noticed that some people were standing in front of the post office, handing letters to an official. In order to find out the actual working hours of the post offices, I tried to contact the man behind the postal outlet.

Ali Ahmad, that was his name, said: "The national democratic Government of the DRA, pays utmost attention and deep respect to the pious Muslim people of our country. In order to prove this in practice, our state, besides tens of other useful and significant steps, decided to provide postal services to our compatriots till six p.m. This was done so that the religious people of the country do not face any difficulty".

"The change in the working hours of post offices have been made also to pay homage and respect for the holy month of Ramadan", he added.

He stressed that, during Ramadan this year, recitation of holy Koran was organised in as many as 220 mosques around the Kabul city. "This measure of the Government has been wise and unprecedented, and is being warmly welcomed by the Muslim people of our country".

"As a Muslim," he declared, "I am quite satisfied with this measure of the Government which indicates the state's deep respect for the people's religious obligations".

He pointed out that the one-hour special programme on the radio and television in honour of the holy month is "another outstanding measure" adopted this year. "This programme is quite useful and educational since, beside the recitation of holy Koran, other contentful and useful features for the religious enlightenment of the people are offered, and this too, is warmly received by the people", he said.

He stressed that, "due to the special attention of our revolutionary Government, all kinds of needed foodstuffs and other requirements of the people are found in plenty in any part of the city. During this month, great facilities have been provided for the people so that they can obtain their requirements with no problem".

Another official of the same ministry said: "The national democratic Government of the DRA has, in fact and in practice proved that it really has great respect for the religion of our compatriots. It not only helps the pious people perform their religious rites in an atmosphere of tranquillity and security, but

At the same time it practically seeks ways and means to further strengthen and promote the religion".

"For this purpose", he noted, "the revolutionary Government has launched a great publicity drive to acquaint the pious people of the country with the basic tenets of Islam. Most important, the people of our country see with their own eyes that all the actions and works of our Government fully accord with the fundamentals of the Islamic religion because the state sincerely tries to promote the Islamic religion in the country. At the same time, the state has helped the religious scholars and the 'qaris' and 'fatehs' of the mosques fin-

ancially to enable them to perform their religious rites smoothly".

"As part of these efforts by our state, we were instructed to work till six p.m. to help our people so that they can post their letters and we provide them with other communication services which duty we will perform with great zeal and honesty", he added.

Elaborating on this, he said: "Among the many facilities provided by the Government in honour of the month of fasting, one is the change brought in the working hours of the state employees. It starts at 7 a.m. and continues till 1 p.m. This change was adopted so that the pious people

of the country may have sufficient time to perform their religious rites and have ample rest because during this month, the Muslim people of the country spend more of their time praying and performing other religious rites".

"It must be noted", he said, "that in contradiction to the baseless fabrications of the enemies of our revolution and homeland, after the Saur Revolution, especially its new and evolutionary phase, the DRA has not only made great strides towards promoting the Islam religion, but has also removed the obstacle on the path of the Muslim people of our country, who, now perform their religious rites quite confidently".

New Mosque Inaugurated

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 3 Jul 82 p 3

[Text] Kabul, July 1 (Bakhtar)--The mosque of the motorization department of the technical unit, the National Defence Ministry was inaugurated at a function recently.

Some officers and soldiers of the unit attended the inaugural ceremony.

Speeches were made on the attention and respect by the party and the Government to the sacred religion of Islam and preservation of holy places.

Traffic Assistance

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 4 Jul 82 p 3

[Text]

In accordance with the lofty objectives of the party and the progressive policy of the DRA Government, destined to bring about fundamental political, social and economic changes in the country, the toiling people in Afghanistan have been freed from material and morale domination of the ruling class of the past.

Serious efforts are now being made to improve the social living condition of the people and to facilitate the performance of religious rites for the Muslim people of the country.

Now that the Muslim people of the country are observing the holy month of Ramadan, added facilities are being provided for them by the social and productive organisations. One important social organisation, offering such special services for the people this month is the traffic department.

Nezamuddin, head of control, and maintenance section of the department, in an interview with the Kabul New Times said, "Contrary to the absurd allegations of the enemies of the homeland, the people throughout the country are freely performing their religious rites and the doors of the mosques are open to all Muslim people of the country".

"Our Revolutionary Government pays great respect to patriotic religious scholars and the clergy, and helps them to solve all problems that may exist in the path of smooth conduct of religious rites, especially during the holy month of Ramadan."

Among the various facilities provided this month is the rearrangement of the working hours, which was warmly welcomed by the toiling people of this country.

Work in the offices and factories start at 7 a.m. and continues, without break, until 1 p.m.

Similarly, the offering of prayers and 'Taraweh' in 220 mosques in Kabul during the whole of this month, is an unprecedented step, indicating the profound attention given by the party and the national and progressive Government to religious rites.

In this context it is to be noted that the DRA Fundamental Principles, as an important national document, explicitly supports the sacred religion of Islam and the desirable tradition of the people.

The people in this country are also benefitting immensely from the media. Numerous articles are published in the newspapers, and talks through radio

and television are broadcast about religion and religious leaders are introduced.

This month the Muslim people of Afghanistan are reminded of the virtues of the holy month of Ramadan and its moral and material significance.

"Those of our compatriots who are working extra hours during the Ramadan, are responding, on the one hand to the call of the sacred religion of Islam, and on the other, serving the people, which is another form of worship, Nezamuddin said.

The traffic department is always at the service of the people. However, during this holy month special arrangements have been made to ensure the smooth flow of traffic, he noted. Thus, the employees of the traffic department are working in two shifts, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The department is paying particularly extra attention to avert accidents in the late afternoons when "our compatriots are hurrying to get home and also at the end of the late evening prayers in the mosques", Nezamuddin told us.

He spoke highly of the arrangement made by the revolutionary Government so that "our religious people can perform their rites with full security and confidence".

VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS IN ECONOMY PUBLICIZED

More Loans for Building

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 30 Jun 82 p 1

[Text]

KABUL, June 30 (Bakhtar).— A session of the board of directors of the Mortgage and Construction Bank was opened under the chairmanship of the Dr Mehrabuddin Paktiawal, general president of the Da Afghanistan Bank, here yesterday.

After all-sided discussion, decisions were taken on the envisaged law on loans to construction units, the Municipality, the House Manufacturing Factory, the house supply department and other social and economic projects.

Dr Paktiawal evaluated the role of the bank in the development of construction as 'valuable'.

He added that, to achieve this goal, financial possibilities of the bank should be studied to provide grounds for expansion of the bank's credit activities in accordance with the "needs of the day and the lofty objectives of the revolution".

Development of Oil and Gas

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 1 Jul 82 p 2

[Text]

Geological and geophysical studies for prospecting and exploiting the oil and gas deposits in Afghanistan were begun for the first time in the northern areas of the country in 1957-58 with the cooperation of the Soviet Union.

So far, the prospecting and exploration for gas has been completed in an area of 113,000 sq kms, several

the reserach, deep test drilling and prospecting work in these areas continues apace.

The gas presently being extracted is not only being utilized in the industries in the country but is also being exported to the USSR. The export earnings from gas constitute the single major source of revenue amounting to over Afs 15 milliard.

big gas deposits have been located and some of them are already being commercially exploited.

The results of investigations show that the already tapped oil reserves in the northern areas hold over 12 million tons of oil, while the amount of oil in other discovered deposits has not been estimated so far. But

ds or about one-third of the total state revenues. Its share in total production of the enterprises under the Ministry of Industries and mineral resources comes up to 80 per cent.

The fields where the gas has already been discovered and extraction continues are as follows:

1. Khwaja Gogardak Gasfield:

This is located in the Jauzjan province and has 40.7 milliard cubic metres of extractable gas reserves. There are 39 gas wells and storage and drying facilities at this site. The gas extraction began here in 1967-68.

In the deeper geodesic strata of this field are additional gas reserves which, according to preliminary estimates, may come to about 18 milliards cubic metre.

2. Jaraqdoq Gasfield:

It is located 18 kms southwest of the Sheberghan city in the Jauzjan province and has 27 milliard cubic metres of extractable gas deposits. This field is equipped with facilities for purifying the gas of its sulphur content and for drying.

There are 19 gas wells in

operation here. The extraction began in 1980-81.

Over fifty per cent of the total gas production in the country come from these wells.

The fields where the exploitation of gas has yet not begun are as follows:

1. Yetim Taq Gasfield:

This is also located in the Jauzjan province. Gas deposits have been discovered here and test drilling for determining the amount of the deposits is continuing.

This process is expected to be completed in the beginning of 1984, after which the work for actual gas extraction will begin.

2. Other Prospective Fields in Jauzjan:

Gas reserves have been discovered in several areas in the province, namely Juma, Jangal Kalan, Basi Kurd and Khwaja Lolan.

These areas have 2.5 milliards cubic metres of discovered deposits. The exploratory drilling is continuing.

In general, as a result of the work already accomplished in gas prospecting, deposits of over 112 milliards cubic metres of extractable gas have been dis-

covered in the northern areas of the Jauzjan province. Out of this, about 36 milliards cubic metres of gas had been extracted from the Khwaja Gogardak and Jaraqdoq deposits by the first quarter of 1982.

From the studies and research conducted in the northern areas of the country, it appears that huge reserves of oil and gas are located there and, with the accomplishment of further prospecting in future, new deposits will continue to be discovered.

Oil:

The results of the studies of the past few years in the northern regions of there are oil-bearing areas in Sarpul in the Jauzjan province. Qaisar in the Faryab province and the Kaldar and Hairatan areas of the Balkh province and that there exist good prospects of discovery and subsequent exploitation of oil deposits.

In Angot, Aq Darya, and Qashgari in Saripul areas a total of 67 million tons of oil deposits have already been discovered. Similarly, in Khwaja Selan in Maimana and Ahmedabad in Herat, test drillings have indicated the presence of oil.

Import Reform

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 3 Jul 82 p 3

[Interview with Mehrchand Velma, President of Chambers of Commerce and Industry]

[Text]

The import of commodities of the private sector of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry amounted to 245 million dollars last Afghan year, Mehrchand Verma, president, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Commerce Ministry, told the Kabul New Times in an interview.

The Chambers of Commerce and Industry charts and implements the private sector import commodities in the field of its commercial activities.

During Afghan year 1360, the private sector plan for import of the commodities was envisaged at Af\$ 243 million dollars. This was achieved with the joint efforts of the import unions and national traders and the useful Governmental guidance. The pro forma invoices registered in the capital as well as provinces amount to 245 million dollars, which shows a 100.8 per cent successful implementation of the 1360 H.S. plan, he said.

Like the positive and firm steps taken in other socio-economic and political spheres, after the triumphant Saur Revolution, particularly, its new and evolutionary phase, useful measures have also been adopted for improving the living conditions of our

working people. One of these is the establishment of 22 import unions. The unions are not directly engaged in commercial affairs, but carry out market research in and outside the country and obtain goods of the best quality at reasonable prices and introduce them to their members. They study the commercial aspects and inform their members so that all big and small national traders may be aware of the international market fluctuations.

Thus, the unions prove very useful for the small and medium merchants. All merchants and commercial firms are members of the import unions, which have their own specialisations.

The union organizes the merchants in commerce. The merchants and commercial firms are informed of the conditions of the commercial markets in and outside the country through the unions, maintain contacts with the foreign companies and receive update information about the prices and quality of the commodities. The unions also pay due attention to determination of the import quantity to meet the need of their clients, taking into account the rise in prices and the balance between demand and supply, Verma said.

Answering a question, he said that, last year, the Government decided to curtail the activities of foreign commercial agencies and grant the privileges of all foreign import commodities agencies to the Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Now, it maintains contacts with a number of foreign companies and is active as their representative in the country.

For a meagre commission, the organisation provides pro formas for the merchants with due consideration for quality and competitive price.

In the past, the companies' products or goods were supplied to the market by their own agents. The agents on the one hand, received big commissions and, on the other, brought about a form of monopolization in their own interest. Thus, the cost price sky-rocketed and the consumers were harmed. Now, the companies are compelled to select the Chambers of Commerce and Industry as their agency and make competitive offers and the national traders equally enjoy the commodities and prices offered by the company freely.

The Chambers of Commerce and Industry opened an exhibition of the samples of some import commodities. The merchants ev-

evaluated the prices and the quality of the commodities, which proved very helpful for the merchants. The concerned department, of the chambers also cooperates with the Government-sponsored trading institutions and the Government departments. With the cooperation of the unions and its agencies and contacts with the foreign companies, it is able to offer the commodities of the quality needed by the various departments at reasonable prices, Verma said.

Talking of the other facilities provided by the Chambers of Commerce and Industry to the national traders, he said these included making US dollars available for imports. Attempts have been made so that the hard currency should be allocated for the commodities needed by the general public. For, the price of the hard currency, being put at the disposal of the merchants and the commercial firms, is 10 to 12 per cent lower than the free market price.

The facilities also affect

the sales price of these commodities in the market, besides the price stabilization of the dollar in the free market.

A total sum of 266 million dollars for the private sector is envisaged for the current year's plan of the department with the cooperation of the concerned unions. All items needed for the local market are included. Every union in the framework of its import plan takes part in the plan to meet the demands of the market and achievement of the target, Verma added.

Successes of Bakhtar Airlines

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 5 Jul 82 p 3

[Text]

The Bakhtar Afghan Airlines has airlifted 87,750 passengers and 473 tons of merchandise and other commodities to and from the capital to the provinces. It has also received Afs 10,954,335 for airlifting of passengers and merchandise by its charter flights, during the Afghan year 1360 H.S., the Kabul New Times was told by a BAA official.

Although the airlines has, at its disposal, a limited number of planes, it has airlifted a large number of countrymen to different parts of the country last year. In addition to its routine programmes, the airlines has made extraordinary flights if needed. It

has also rendered considerable efforts in transportation of essential commodities from one region to another region whenever transport facilities for goods transfer overland was not available.

In addition to passengers, merchandise and primary essentials, mail and newspapers are also transferred by the Bakhtar Afghan Airlines.

The airline has a fleet of seven planes, three Twin Otter with seating capacity of 19, two Yak-40s and two Antonov-24s with seating capacity for 52.

The flights are to Mazare Sharif, Herat, Maimana.

Chakhcharan, Bamian, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Kunduz, Zaranj, Farah, Urzgan, Serdeh of Ghazni, Khost district, Lashkargah and Qalainaw.

The work at Qalainaw, Khwahan and Sheghnan airports are scheduled to be completed in this year. The airlines will then begin flights to these airports also.

The Bakhtar Afghan Airlines will from now on have 32 flights weekly. It will also operate special flights throughout the year.

The income of the BAA during the first ten months

of the 1360 H.S. amounts to Afs 54,086,843 while expenditures during the same period have been Afs 96,032,987. The BAA is a non-profit bearing state enterprise and is subsidized by the Government.

The Airlines has 167 staff members. It provides every facility to the people and serves for the satisfaction of its passengers.

The BAA has sent a number of its engineers to the Soviet Union for practical training and some others, availing long-term UN scholarships, have been sent to other countries for training.

CSO: 4600/653

EGYPT

BRIEFS

DAMASCUS ICATU MEETING--Egypt will participate in meetings of the emergency session of the Central Council of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, which begins in Damascus on Monday and will continue for three days. The council will discuss in these meetings developments in the Arab position in light of the Israeli attack on Lebanon and the role of Arab labor in the present stage. Fathi Mahmud, secretary general of the Arab Union for Commercial Workers will represent Egypt in these meetings. [Text] [Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 11 Jul 82 p 1]

TEACHERS FOR ALGERIA--Algiers has requested the services of more than 1,000 male and female Egyptian teachers, according to the Minister of State for Education and Scientific Research Dr Mustafa Kamal Helmi. The request includes a specific entreaty for about 100 university professors in specialised subjects, Dr Helmi said. In addition Bahrein has requested the services of about 250 Egyptian secondary school teachers of both sexes, the Minister said.--GSS [Text] [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 11 Jul 82 p 2]

CSO: 4500/238

ACTIVITIES OF HIGH COUNCIL OF ISLAMIC PROPAGANDA REVIEWED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Jun 82 p 3

[Interview with Ayatollah Jannati]

[Text] The High Council of Islamic Propaganda was established to achieve the two goals of coordinating all the propaganda organizations and fighting counterrevolutionary and anti-Islamic propaganda.

The bylaws and specifications of the duties of the High Council of Islamic Propaganda will soon be completed.

The Political Service of KEYHAN--Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, a member of the Council of Guardians and secretary general of the High Council of Islamic Propaganda, explained how the organization and council for Islamic propaganda were formed; the work of this organization; its ties with other institutions, organizations, and free cultural and art forces; and the various dimensions of propaganda abroad in an exclusive interview with KEYHAN.

In the beginning of the interview, Ayatollah Jannati extended greetings to the leadership of the revolution, his followers, and the combatants in the Islamic battle against global heathenism and said:

The High Council of Islamic Propaganda was established during the period 21 March 1980-20 March 1981 with the approval of the imam. It had six members, two of whom--the late Bamonar and the late Haqqani--were martyred. This organization had two goals.

It was first to coordinate the propaganda work of the organizations which have active propaganda sectors and second, to

expand Islamic propaganda and fight the poisonous counterrevolutionary and anti-Islamic propaganda within and outside the country. Naturally, two branches have been set up for the two kinds of work.

For the first section, a council for propaganda organization was created, to which the organizations who had active cultural sections were invited to each send a representative. In this council, a member of the high council will also participate as its secretary. The propaganda and propaganda activities will be coordinated. This council began its work and was organized in early summer of last year. Thusfar, it has organized about 40 magnificent and orderly marches and demonstrations. Among them, the ceremonies of the decade of the revolution last year and the year before are worthy of note.

Ayatollah Jannati added: The bylaws and the description of its duties will, God willing, be completed soon.

Concerning the Islamic propaganda organization, Ayatollah Jannati said: For the second section, the expansion and spread of Islamic culture in the society, the Islamic propaganda organization was created, which was also established in early summer of last year. Its roots were previously in the mosque of martyr Mottahari as the imam's propaganda office. However, later, during the administration of martyr Bahonar, the location was moved to the education building on Ekbatan Street and presently it is operating there.

In the very beginning, organizational bylaws and a constitution were devised for the organization, which is too long a story to be recounted here.

About the work of the Islamic propaganda organization, Ayatollah Jannati said:

Much has been accomplished. I can only speak of some of it briefly.

1. About 75 offices have been created in the capitals of the provinces and in the cities, which are headed by a council called a supervisory council, made up of a clergyman, an educator, and one of the local elders.

2. It has worked extensively in the area of sending propagators. From the offices in Qom, Mashhad, and other places, many propagators have been sent throughout the country to the villages and the fronts. For instance, during this period, which has been less than a year, about 20,000 propagators were sent to various areas.

3. Among the other accomplishments of the organization was to hold congregational prayers in the offices and factories and expand propaganda and Islamic issues in those places.

Plans and programs are being prepared to better reach the Islamic societies in the offices and factories as well as the students. God willing, all the Islamic societies in the offices and factories as well as the students will be supervised. We trust in God and are in touch with the authorities of the country in this regard.

We would like to have an office for every ministry. Presently, there are representatives of the propaganda organization in several ministries who have been working and the result of their work is quite satisfactory.

4. Another activity concerns the Islamic center for thought and art, which we were supervising indirectly some time ago. However, we are planning an orderly take over of this organization, the preparations for which are nearly complete.

The Audio-Visual Unit

5. The organization has an audio-visual unit which is preparing video lessons to be sent regularly to the offices in the cities and the Islamic societies abroad. This unit has stationary and mobile tape banks which loan out tapes to people. These banks carry out their activities alongside the propaganda offices of the cities.

They have also made a film, which we will announce when it is completed.

Ayatollah Jannati added:

Among its other works is the making of 60-minute films about the anniversary of the victory of the revolution. Two films of this kind have already been made. We are also preparing lessons by religious personalities to be put at the disposal of those who request them.

Also, the organization has established ideological classes to be taught as courses in various seasons for various strata and in order to provide manpower training as well as the propaganda needs for the fronts, the war-stricken areas, the camps, and the border towns, which are delivered in the form of books, pamphlets, and tapes.

Thusfar, about 300 stationary and 500 rural mobile libraries have been established under the supervision of this organization.

Again, among the work that I can mention briefly is the establishment of classes in the study of Islam for Muslim teachers. Last year, about 12,000 tribal teachers were trained in 3 months. We have also made copies of educational films to be shown in the mosques.

On the whole, much has been accomplished, of which I can only mention this amount.

The People's Contact with the Council

In response to the question of how the people will be able to contact the council to exchange views, Ayatollah Jannati said:

People can contact us through the Islamic propaganda organization, since the High Council of Islamic Propaganda has no other special center.

People can discuss their opinions with us by telephone or in person.

We asked Ayatollah Jannati: In connection with propaganda abroad and the export of the Islamic revolution, what steps have the High Council and the Islamic propaganda organization taken and what are the plans for the future?

In response, he said:

Before answering your question, I must mention that, as I said earlier, the organization was established less than a year ago and the foreign section started even later, which was only natural.

Our foreign section has been making plans only for seven or eight months and I cannot say that it has been actively engaged in work. However, it has meanwhile obtained about 8,000 addresses of religious personalities throughout the world, with whom it will be in touch.

Thousands of copies of newspapers and Friday prayer sermons (the Arabic section) are sent abroad by the foreign section of the organization every month.

Among the other accomplishments--although the number has been small, the quality and results have been very good--was participation in four international Islamic conferences to which the organization sent representatives. The results were excellent, such that they were able to change the atmosphere of the conferences in the interest of Islam and the revolution, to

eliminate many of the misunderstandings, counteract the poisonous propaganda, and explain the revolution and create optimism.

Although the number of these conferences was small, I place great value on this section of the activities of the organization.

Ayatollah Jannati added:

Among the other things that can be mentioned in this connection, with effective results, is providing sound and video tapes and sending them abroad.

All of these are preliminary tasks. We hope, with the help of God, to have a correct and orderly organization and to strengthen the foreign section.

You must realize that from the standpoint of propaganda abroad, we were very weak. The imam has made mention of this and was very unhappy about it. And he was right to be unhappy, because it is not only he but anyone who is interested in Islam and the revolution who is unhappy. However, as a result of the difficulties and obstacles and due to the organization and the foreign section being new, not much has been accomplished. But we are happy with what has been accomplished.

We asked Ayatollah Jannati: What plans do you have to activate the institutions abroad, for instance, the Islamic societies and the supporters of the Islamic revolution of Iran?

In response, he said:

What we would like to work on is first of all the Islamic societies. If we are able to activate the Islamic societies abroad in a desirable manner, guide them in the right direction, and provide for their cultural and propaganda needs, they can operate very well on their own. They know what is going on and can be closely in the current of national issues. This is one of our wishes and, again, cooperation with cultural houses [khanehha-ye farhang] is our objective, which must necessarily be managed by the Ministry of Islamic Guidance. However, we would like to cooperate in this area and in international assemblies such as I mentioned earlier (the international Islamic conference).

We would like to establish a similar conference here and to invite those whose participation would help our goals, in order to provide them with the gains of the revolution so that they can take them home as souvenirs to their own nations.

WAR ROLE OF TRIBES, OPPRESSED, REVOLUTION GUARDS PRAISED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Jun 82 p 18

[Speech by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi]

[Text] The tribal camp of the mobilization unit for the oppressed of the Guards Corps was opened yesterday with special ceremonies and a message by the prime minister in the presence of a number of political and military personalities of the country in the Hall of Freedom complex [Majmu'eh-ye Azadi], which seats 12,000 people.

In these magnificent ceremonies which were held with the participation of brother Davudi, the deputy prime minister for institutions; Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Guards Corps; Hojjatoleslam Salek, the head of the mobilization for the oppressed of the Guards Corps; and the tribes that are members of the mobilization for the oppressed unit of the Guards Corps throughout the country, dressed in their local, traditional costumes, were also present. After the recitation of several verses from the Koran, a song was sung in the local tongues by the Lor tribes of the province of Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad.

Then the message of Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed the participants in the tribal camp was read by brother Davudi, the deputy prime minister for the affairs of institutions, as follows:

In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful. Greetings to the great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, and to the brave, self-sacrificing combatants who made the oppressors of the world tremble with their bravery and brought great victories for Islam and Muslims.

Greetings to the brave and heroic tribes who were called by the imam, their exalted leader, the treasures of the revolution. Brave Muslim tribes, I had intended to be present in the

gathering of you dear ones and to speak to you, to the authorities of the tribal mobilization and the mobilization of the oppressed of the Guards Corps. Unfortunately, however, I could not.

The Islamic revolution of Iran, after achieving the first stage of victory, dismissing the criminal shah from our dear country and overthrowing the infamous Pahlavi dynasty and the corrupt monarchical regime, caused astonishment throughout the world, especially for the superpowers. It was a regime which did not stop at any form of tyranny, corruption, and crime perpetration on the various strata of the nation, especially the tribes.

The roughneck Reza Shah and Mohammad Reza, the traitor, considered the tribes who were free and enlightened people as obstacles for their vile purposes and for serving the foreigners. In order to remove this iron-strong obstacle they set out to destroy the brave stratum and you have witnessed with your own eyes some of the crimes of this father and son.

Foreign Powers Lost Their Interests in Iran

After the victory of the Islamic revolution, which was achieved through the self-sacrifice of all the strata of the nation, foreign powers lost their interests in beloved Islamic Iran.

In order to regain their lost interests and, in their own futile thoughts, to defeat your Islamic movement, they indulged in various conspiracies within the country.

First, they began the idea of autonomy and the killings and plunder in Kurdistan. However, since they were unsuccessful in their intention, each day they created riots and disturbances in some corner or other.

One day in Gonbad, another day in Tehran. Meanwhile, the counterrevolutionaries, who were dependent on the foreigners and the superpowers, had their hopes set on the tribes to respond to their sinister call to drag the heroic nation of Iran into colonialization and exploitation. Hence, they yelled every day through the propaganda channels, radios, and the press and positioned their agents in the various tribal areas of our country for the promised day.

However, the blind enemies on the right and the left neglected one thing, which is the commitment of you dear tribesmen of Iran to Islam, its exalted Prophet, and his chaste and holy family.

The Satanic Plot of the United States and the Issue of the Imposed War

After all the futile dreams of the criminal United States and its bloodthirsty servants failed to disturb the stability and order in our country, they dispatched the army of the barbarian and mercenary Saddam to the south and west of our country through provocation and false promises, imagining that the children of Islam, the brave tribes and strata who defend our ideology, would turn away from Islam and not rise up to defend their honor and their homeland. But our combative forces, relying on faith, taught such a bitter lesson to the foreign powers and the functionary regime of Iraq that they will never again allow themselves to consider invading Iran. Today, we are witnessing great victories on the battle fronts of right against wrong. The abject and lowly enemy thought that by building strong defensive positions and trenches it could disrupt the strong will and determination of our combatants and drive them out. Our combatants, including the army, the Guards Corps, the mobilization, and the children of you brave tribes, attacked the enemy like lightning, with weapons in their hands, shouting salutations. The enemy even lost its way to escape and was captured by the Islamic forces group by group.

Dear brothers, brave tribesmen, the victories, one after another, were made possible by the faith of the combatants and the sacrifice of their pure blood.

The Islamic Republic Enjoys a Position of Power in the World

After going through many ups and downs, the Islamic Republic now enjoys a position of power and strength in the world. It is considered a thorn in the sides of the enemies of Islam and the hope and support of the oppressed of the world.

Gaining such strength, especially under conditions when the Eastern and Western powers were rushing to equip the Iraqi enemy with arms and ammunition and when we had to confront the enemy which was armed to the teeth with small arms, was possible by reliance on the heavenly teachings of Islam, the leadership of the exalted imam, the unity of the entire Muslim nation, and the mobilization of all the strata of the brave nation. In this connection, the mobilization of the brave tribes throughout the country had a great share in safeguarding the glorious Islamic revolution and in fighting the enemies of God and Islam. You brave tribesmen and guardians of the borders of our beloved country, by relying on this principle as in the past, with faith in Islam under the leadership of the imam and unity and support for the nation, will neutralize the conspiracies of the enemies and protect and preserve the land of the messenger of God.

I ask of Almighty God a long and healthy life for our exalted imam, and wish you, the authorities of the tribal mobilization of the Guards Corps, success, and wish for the ultimate victory of all the Islamic combatants and the combative and brave tribes, God willing.

According to this report, the ceremonies continued with the pounding slogans of the tribesmen in praise of the Islamic combatants; in support of the leadership of Imam Khomeyni; extolling the necessity of unity among all the strata in the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially the Kurds and the Sunnite and Shi'ite tribes; and expressing hatred and disgust for the disuniting conspiracies of the enemies of Islam along with another song by the Lorestan tribesmen of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari.

In continuing the program, Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Guards Corps, spoke in detail about the conspiracies of global colonialism to destroy the distinguishing characteristics of the Iranian tribes and the role of the tribes in the Islamic Republic.

Unity between the Shi'ites and Sunnites

With thanks to and praise of God and with praise for the victorious struggles of the brave tribes of Iran over the oppressors, he considered the participation of the tribes throughout the country in the tribal camp of the mobilization unit for the oppressed of the Guards Corps as a gift from God and one of the characteristics of the Islamic revolution.

Referring to the conspiracies of the hated Pahlavi regime, headed by global colonialism, which sought to annihilate the bravery, manhood, and distinguishing characteristics of the Iranian tribes, he said:

The hated Pahlavi regime, because of its fear of the unity of the Iranian tribes, trying through various methods to repress and disarm them, never gave the tribes the opportunity to express their wishes and never allowed their hidden talents to bloom. It tried to replace their characteristic bravery as warriors with worthless characteristics by making them feel inferior in order to prevent the tribes from rising up in Islamic unity against its tyranny and corruption. Referring to the abject efforts of the puppet Pahlavi regime to use the tribes as a force against the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: Despite all the disunity that the colonialists tried to create among the tribes and the Muslim people of Iran, with the help and power of God, our people joined together under the rays of Islam to create a great flood and in so doing, destroyed the hated Pahlavi regime. He added: Today, the martyrdom of the Sunnite religious scholars at the hands of

the counterrevolutionaries in the west of the country demonstrates the Islamic unity among the various strata of the Islamic Republic, which has served as a strong blow against those conspirators who intend to overthrow the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran by creating disunity among the tribes and other strata of the Islamic nation of Iran.

The Conspiracy of Foreign Colonialism in Creating the Imposed War

Concerning the conspiracy of foreign colonialism in creating the imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the commander of the Guards Corps said: When the United States was unable to use the Muslim tribes of Iran because they were alert, it began the military aggression against our country of its functionary agent, Saddam, who was being supported by the arms-manufacturing factories of the Eastern and Western blocs. Contrary to what the United States expected and despite all the negative propaganda concerning the victories of our combatants, today, since the great victory of Khorramshahr and now that the people of the world have become aware of the greatness of these victories, it has been forced to report the news of the victorious operations of the Islamic victors. Emphasizing the necessity of the alertness of the various strata of the people concerning the conspiracies of the Eastern and Western world devourers, he said: The Western world, which has suffered heavy losses and has been forced to report the changes created in the region by the Islamic revolution, will not sit idly by, but will have its domestic agents start other conspiracies against the people, especially our brave tribes. In an important part of his speech, Mohsen Reza'i said concerning the duties of the tribes in neutralizing the conspiracies of the enemies of the Islamic revolution: Today, the tribes and all our people must concentrate their resources and manpower in the Guards Corps, which has the existing power resources to mobilize and arm the tribes and the entire nation of Iran.

In concluding his speech, he praised the enthusiasm of the brave tribesmen of Iran in neutralizing the conspiracies of the enemies of the Islamic revolution and expressed the hope that, with their enthusiasm, stemming from faith in Islam, they will, in the near future, accomplish their Islamic mission, which is to annihilate the conspiracies of U.S. imperialism and global Zionism, in support of the oppressed of the world.

According to this report, sometime around noon yesterday, at the end of these ceremonies, came the messages of the Muslim and brave tribes--Torkaman, Baluch, Bakhtiari, Sistan, Kurd, Lor, Arab, Turk, Fars Qashqa'i, Ilam, Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad tribes--in support of the Islamic Republic of Iran under the leadership of the exalted leader, Imam Khomeyni, fighting the conspiracies of global colonialism, especially the imposed war of the Iraqi regime on Iran, and the preservation of Islamic unity among the various strata of Shi'ite and Sunnite Muslims.

CHIEF JUSTICE DISCUSSES JUDICIAL ISSUES, 'HIJAB,' FUTURE OF IRAQ

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Jun 82 pp 3, 13

[Text] Ayatollah Seyyed 'Abdolkarim Ardebili, the chief justice and a member of the Supreme Judicial Council, took part in an exclusive interview with our correspondent, responding to his questions concerning the new bills of the Supreme Judicial Council which were sent to the Majlis after approval, the activities of the Islamic revolution courts, the statements of Hojjatoleslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani in regards to veiling, and other issues.

2,500 Articles of the New Laws for the Justice Department

The question was asked: The new bills for the Justice Department which were recently approved in the Cabinet consist of 2,500 articles. Has the Supreme Judicial Council thought of a way to expedite the ratification of these bills in the Majlis, since it seems that the large volume of these bills and the necessary attention to their details would require a lengthy amount of time to pass through the legislative channels?

The chief justice replied: Before the bills were presented to the Cabinet, I spoke to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani about giving his permission to the judicial committee to agree to the issuance and implementation of these articles experimentally; then, if any problems should arise, they could be eliminated and then [the articles could be] ratified. Again, in order to expedite the work and in order to avoid delays in the Cabinet, I personally attended the Cabinet session and provided explanations concerning the bill. Consequently, the gentlemen agreed and approved the bill to be sent to the Majlis. I visited the Council of Guardians and took a copy of the bill to the gentlemen there. I told them, since the Majlis has to go through certain procedures, which it is doing, the gentlemen could study them and give their opinions in order that the judicial council could examine them and if it was satisfied, then it could issue the amendments. If not, we could speak to the gentlemen in order to avoid delays in the Council of Guardians later on. Again, we insisted that these

bills be sent to the theological centers in Qom and other places for those gentlemen to give their views. In any case, it is a difficult task. There are about 2,500 articles. For this job, a very strong, scholarly headquarters made up of legislators and religious jurists should have been formed. And this headquarters should have worked for many years to accomplish the task. If we wanted to do this, of course, the end results would be more sound; but, because of the situation of the judicial organization, we could not postpone it for long. Hence, presently, we have decided upon this way. Of course, while these bills are being ratified, we will continue the work on a larger scale. Once these laws have been ratified and implemented, all will be Islamic laws.

The chief justice added: Presently, we are preparing about 500 articles for the judicial laws which are about to be completed. God willing, if we are successful and give them to the judicial branch, we can call them modern Islamic laws.

Shortage of Judges

In regards to the shortage of judges and whether we would not need more religious and committed judges for the implementation of the new bills in the Justice Department, which include 2,500 articles, the chief justice said: Concerning judges, we have already taken some measures to avoid a shortage of judges, if, God willing, this task is accomplished. Firstly, during the period that we have been in the Justice Department, we have employed about 300 judges. Of course, since the victory of the revolution, 380 judges have been employed and I have the list right here. Before I came, 70 or 80 had already come. However, since the end of spring 1979, about 300 had been employed. These are individuals who are committed to Islam and in practice, they uphold the appearance of Islam. Some of them were identified by the theological centers. Again, we formed a central committee in the Supreme Judicial Council, which also formed a subcommittee to carefully study the employed judges in the provinces in regards to their having good reputations, being hard working, meeting the judicial requirements, and so on. The list will be sent after the investigations have been completed.

Secondly, the Supreme Judicial Council intends to set up an organization both to expedite affairs and to eliminate the additional individuals who cannot be useful--or, even if they are useful in some way, if their presence could be harmful in another, for instance, in the three-member courts, when we know that a two-member court can do the same job. Or, for instance, in regards to the specific numbers in the Supreme Court or the five persons in the criminal courts, and so on, the Supreme Judicial Council has proposed that the numbers be reduced. Of course, some of the branches will have only one judge, and some

branches will have one judge and a council. Despite all these problems, we thought that if we face a shortage of judges, the requirements for the councils will be reduced somewhat, which will help. If, again, we face a shortage of judges, we do not need to implement this issue throughout the whole of Iran at the same time. We will do so province by province, or if we can, two, three, or five provinces at a time.

The Court for Administrative Justice

Another question concerned the court for administrative justice, why this court does not begin its work, and why another person has not been appointed for this position since Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Yazdi changed his mind about serving as the head of this court.

In response to this question, the chief justice said: You know that the law for the court of administrative justice has been ratified, the organization has been formed, and the administrative personnel have been appointed. Its location is also set. Mr Yazdi was considered for this position, and for this reason, he resigned from the Majlis. However, he recalled his resignation later. Of course, other people have also been considered for this position.

Visit to the Imam

The question was asked: Could you please explain more about your recent meeting with the imam in which he said that as long as the conspiracy elements are engaged in disruption, the revolution courts must remain as they are?

In this connection, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili said: Of course, what has been said outside about whether we should or should not have the revolution courts was that there are differences of opinion among the ranks of the Judicial Council. The revolution courts are part of a revolutionary organization and have rendered valuable services to the revolution. There were, of course, imperfections; but, these deficiencies were not out of the ordinary. In everything new there are deficiencies. Some of them have gradually been eliminated and in the future, they will be better than they were in the past. The revolution courts handle certain issues which cannot be handled in other judicial units. And no one is to blame. General offenses and such issues are of one nature and the issues concerning the minigroups, the counter-minigroups, espionage, and conspiracies are of another. Everyone agrees with this. Sometimes the issues are not presented correctly in the press. Whether it is the one who writes or the one who says it is incorrect, nevertheless, differences of opinion and misunderstandings seem to occur. We have held seminars for the prosecution courts and revolutionary

courts in order to have all of Iran represented, for us to listen to what they had to say and to come to an agreement. We listen to these problems and they listen to ours and if there happen to be difficulties, we resolve them.

Robbery of the 'Abbasi Museum

The question was asked: Why does the Islamic revolution court in the capital not announce the names of those who have been executed? The chief justice responded: It is a matter of security; it is a matter of conspiracy. Suppose two persons take part in a conspiracy and one escapes. Now, how do you expect us to say that we have arrested this man? For instance, there was a big robbery in the 'Abbasi Museum which was not publicized until the objects had been recovered and the thieves arrested. When there is a robbery, some of the issues must not be announced. After thorough investigation and the arrest of the accused, then we can reveal it. Here, at issue is terrorism.

The Issue of Veiling

Concerning the statements of Hojjatoleslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani during the Friday prayers of last week, the chief justice said: I also heard his talk, as others did, and I quite approved of it. Just last night, I was talking with him and he said that some have objected to the issue. Essentially, when something is said by someone, it cannot be expected that it will be approved by everyone. After all, a few people might be dissatisfied. In any case, what he said was very good.

Explosion at the Justice Department

A question was asked concerning last Sunday's explosion at the Justice Department. The chief justice responded: As you know, the Justice Department is like a bazaar. There is so much traffic. Previously, they had told us that a girl had been arrested in connection with conspiracies and she had made certain confessions. They sent this girl to me for some reason. She said that on the third floor here, there were some plans to do certain things. Of course, this was from a long time ago. We thought it had all blown over. First of all, they were not organized. They had set off an explosion in the third floor restrooms. Of course, they had hoped to destroy the upper floor, but they were unable to. This was a blind action, similar to some of these terrorist acts on the streets--for example, a motorcyclist begins to shoot at people and similar such occurrences. I hope, God willing, that our internal problems become resolved. If so, we will have all of these problems behind us and they will end.

The Qualification of Judges

Concerning the qualifications of committed religious judges, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili said: Perhaps you know that we sent a bill to the Majlis concerning the qualifications of judges which was ratified after some modification.

The bill contains the qualifications for judges. A judge must be just; he must be committed to Islam; he must avoid passions; he must feel a responsibility; and he must be loyal to the revolution. There are ethical qualifications and practical ones. He must either have finished his education or have studied in Qom and such centers, provided he is approved by the Supreme Judicial Council. The qualifications can be found in the ratified bill. There are qualifications in terms of scholarship and piety.

The Punishment of Judges in Violation

The question was asked: Have you had any judges so far who did not meet the qualifications or who have had complaints made against them? If the answer is in the affirmative, what sort of punishment has been considered for the judges in violation?

The chief justice responded: Before the bill for the judges was ratified, we had to act in accordance with the previous regulations.

There were some complaints during that time. We sent those complaints to the disciplinary courts and the Prosecutor's Office and they examined them and gave their verdicts. We did not have a free hand. But the bill for the qualifications of the judges has freed our hands. At any rate, we have started the investigations, but we have not arrived at any conclusions. When we reach a conclusion, the judges will be divided into three groups.

The first group will consist of those who meet the requirements. They can be judges and heads of courts.

Then, those who fall below these can serve in other areas which do not include the courts and where those qualifications are not required. If they are less qualified still, they can work in office jobs. But, if they are such that we cannot tolerate them, or if they are counterrevolutionaries and behave in a way which is not worthy of the judicial organization, they must be fair enough themselves to recognize that such people do not conform to the expectations of the judicial branch and they should not complain about the Majlis, about us, or about anyone else.

The Running of Affairs and Case Procedures

Our next question concerned the objection of claimants to the rulings of the court and what would happen to the case in this event. The chief justice said: In the bill that we have presented to the Majlis for ratification, penal issues and punishments have been categorized. We have certain issues in religious law. We have such things as restrictions and mulct. And we have punishments less than the full amount prescribed by law--some are higher, such as 10 years imprisonment and up and fines of 2 million rials and up, and some are less. We have separated the courts into Penal Courts One and Two. Penal Courts Two are those which handle lesser offenses, those involving less than 2 million rials and 10 years imprisonment. The verdicts of these courts are final, except in cases where the law has determined otherwise, that is, when we are certain that the ruling is incorrect. When we are not certain and it is merely a claim, the ruling is considered final.

The courts for Penal Law One [as published], concerning lashings and retribution, are made up of two judges: one is the head of the court and the second is on a member of a council. The council must also read the case, reason, and write opinions or discuss them with the head of the court. In addition, after having consulted with the council, the head of the court must write down his opinion, whether he is in agreement or not. He must offer reasons, but he must not give a ruling. When these two have been written down, the case will automatically go to the Supreme Court. It happens rarely that a case goes to the Supreme Court unless both parties in the case have objected [to the previous ruling].

In that court, which consists of two or three persons, they read the case to see whether it conforms to the regulations and whether it is correct and then write their opinions down, attach them to the file, and send it back to the same court. Of course, there are some procedures. If the head of the court is satisfied with the opinion of the Supreme Court, he gives a ruling, if not, he refers it to another court. This court, which is also made up of two persons, looks at the differing opinions of the two courts and gives its opinion. If the opinion agrees with that of the Supreme Court, it will give a ruling and if not, it is returned to the Supreme Court once again. A general committee is formed in the Supreme Court which is made up of all the judges. The case is discussed and then, by either a unanimous or majority vote, the case is sent to one of the branches of the Supreme Court and the case is examined once again from the beginning. However, we have tried to keep the time period shorter than before. For instance, they do not have the right to such things as appeals. Of course, rarely is there such a case, perhaps 1 in 500 cases.

Appointment of Lawyer for the Accused

A question was asked about the appointment of a lawyer for the accused or suspect.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili responded: The lawyer is needed by the client in two instances:

1. When the client does not know how or does not have the time to prepare the case. The lawyer does all of this. The second instance concerns defense. Naturally, this lawyer must know the laws. Since these laws are devised on the basis of Islamic laws, if the lawyer does not know them, he will not be able to carry out the defense. In the past, the situation was bad. The lawyer would defend his client whether he was in the right or wrong, even if he was violating the rights of the other party through various tricks. These were not lawyers. They would ruin the cases and violate other people's rights. If they really want to do something, they should either do the preparations which the poor man does not know anything about or should undertake a correct defense.

Future of Iraq

A question was asked about the recent victories of Iran over the forces of heathenism, the future of Iraq, and other related issues.

The chief justice said: Other nations and their rights are respected before the law and we will never give ourselves the right to interfere in their internal affairs. Only the people of Iraq are competent to determine their own destiny. This is a certainty and we respect it in regards to all countries, especially in regards to Iraq, which is our neighbor, an Islamic country, and whose problems are mingled with ours. We do not give ourselves the right to go and do something about them. The people of Iraq must take their own destiny in their hands and determine their own path independently. About the fact that we are interested in what should be there, I must say that we are interested in having a neighbor who will not bother us, will not invade us, will not make excuses, will not be a tool in the hands of the superpowers, will not create border problems for us every day, and will not create internal problems for us every day. We sincerely want the government of Iraq to be an Islamic government and to be managed by Muslim elements. But, if Saddam [100 traps] is to set 99 traps and then return with 200 traps, this will cause a problem. It is not only with us that Iraq has problems. It has problems with Kuwait, with Syria, and with Saudi Arabia. But it does not speak of its problems.

In conclusion, the chief justice said: We do not wish to have thugs in our neighborhood, as there were in the past.

IRAN

BANK DIRECTOR GIVES VIEWS ON MONETARY POLICIES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 May 82 p 6

[Interview with Central Bank Director Mohsen Nurbaksh]

[Text] In a special interview with our economics correspondent, Mohammad Rezapur Yousufi, the director of the Central Bank, Dr Mohsen Nurbaksh spoke about the level of oil exports; new currency policies; control on currency expenditures; inimical propaganda by imperialist news media; price of gold and sale of coins; the participation of banks in productive activity, and unemployment. The interview is as follows:

Answer: "Iran's oil imports since the beginning of the current year have fortunately followed a suitable trend, and we have tried to keep oil exports in line with our currency needs for exports and war expenditures. Barter agreements that we have signed with several countries recently will cause a noteworthy increase in our oil exports in the future."

KEYHAN: "What is the government's new monetary policy?"

Answer: "The government's monetary policy is to use as far as possible the monetary resources of the country for productive purposes. In this respect, the country's banking system will facilitate greatly the provision of loans and credits for production. We think that if this aim is achieved, inflation will be curbed to a great extent. We recommend that this martyr-nurturing nation of Iran regard the banking system of the Islamic Republic as their own, and by placing their savings in banks, strengthen the banking resources. They will thus enable the banks to use their resources to start the wheels of production turning as fast and extensively as possible."

KEYHAN: "By following a careful commercial policy, controlling currency expenditures and banning non-essential imports, have we been able to balance currency expenditures with currency revenues, and thus maintain our currency reserves?"

Answer: "In regard to this matter, a commission called the commission for currency allocation has been active since the middle of last year, and the currency expenditures of the country have thus been brought under control and programmed. By carrying out the new currency policy, we have succeeded

not only in providing for our real needs, but in recent months Iran's currency reserves have increased as well. Of course, as you know, the expenditures of the imposed war have added to our list of currency expenditures and we have had to bear those as well. We hope that with the end of the war, these amounts will be diverted to the reconstruction of the war damaged areas and to their economic development. The point to be emphasized here is that we have abandoned the open door policy and will not return to it even with large currency reserves. Our nation has accepted the fact that in order to achieve economic independence, it will have to tighten its belt."

KEYHAN: "Following antagonistic propaganda by imperialist news media regarding the sale of national gold, jewels and the peacock throne, in recent months foreign news agencies and publications connected with world Zionism have published certain prejudiced reports. To counter this, foreign correspondents have been invited to see these jewels for themselves. As the head of the Central Bank of Iran, could you tell us the outcome of this invitation to the journalists?"

Answer: "We are sorry that we had to waste part of our time and energy to nullify the effects of poisonous propaganda by imperialist-Zionist news media. We invited foreign correspondents, and all of them saw that our reserves of gold and jewelry are untouched and safe; and once again the statements of imperialist-Zionist loudspeakers have been proved false. Sometime back they also said that Iran had asked Japan for a loan. This claim was so ridiculous that the Japanese themselves denied it and put the media to shame."

KEYHAN: "At the present time, is Iran faced with difficulties in regard to its currency reserves?"

Answer: "In this connection, it is necessary first to refer to two points: first, our economy is at present faced with an "economic war." Second, in our domestic policy we are following a "wartime economy." In other words, the world network of economic imperialism is trying on the one hand to put pressure upon us to make us yield to its interests, and on the other hand, by leaving the imperialist camp, we have tried to endanger its interests as much as possible. In both instances, we have been placed in a situation that could be called "economic war." At the same time, our country has been forced into a war with Iraq, and the exigencies of war have in fact placed us in a "wartime economy." By paying attention to these two problems, we have succeeded in avoiding currency problems, and by signing barter agreements, we have tried to create a kind of potential purchasing power for ourselves which will reduce pressure on our currency reserves."

KEYHAN: "What is your opinion regarding the price of gold, the sale of coins by the Bank and the opening of credit?"

Answer: "As you know, it has been decided in regard to the sale of coins that the Bank-e Melli [National Bank] of Iran will sell coins under special arrangements announced to the public through the public media. We hope that with the distribution of coins by the Bank-e Melli, the price of gold coins will be stabilized at the price levels announced by the Bank-e Melli in the

same way that the price of coins has come down significantly. Of course, the victories of the warriors of Islam also will have an effect in lowering the price of coins and will bring the price down further."

KEYHAN: "Please tell us whether the banks intend to utilize the savings of the people for participation in productive activity?"

Answer: "This has been our aim from the very beginning. The draft of a new banking system presented to the Majlis is aimed at encouraging as much as possible this aim of participation by the banks in production. At present, the banks also give special priority to credits for productive ventures and provide major facilities for these credits."

KEYHAN: "What steps have so far been taken by the government to combat inflation and unemployment?"

Answer: "We have mobilized our efforts against inflation in two directions: first, through production; we would like to encourage and extend production as far as possible. In this regard, we have mobilized all banking potentials and will continue to do so. Second, through consumption; most of our expectations are connected with the economic mobilization staff. The efforts of this staff have been very effective in the past in controlling inflation, and its activities will continue until the shortages of certain essential goods and necessities are removed. Of course, the part played by distribution cooperatives in localities and organizations should not be ignored because these cooperatives have helped greatly in stabilizing prices.

In regard to combatting unemployment, it should be noted that no new jobs can be created unless real production starts. The employment of individuals in such service-related work as peddling should give place to productive activities in the areas of agriculture and industry. These individuals should in fact be considered as unemployed. That is the reason why we insist that credit for productive enterprises should be facilitated by the banking system as far as possible in order to enable individuals to start and manage small scale production units with a small amount of capital and the help of the banks."

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CSO: 4640/332

IRAQ

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON IRANIAN INVASION--Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Ibrahim Shuja' Sultan has stated that the Iranian enemy's expansionist desires for Iraqi land and that of the region's states are no longer hidden to anyone. These desires have found direct and indirect support from Zionist and colonialist circles as well as all other coveters who want to hold Arab land and destroy Arab power. What is happening in Lebanon, he added, is linked with what is happening on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland. There is a clear suspicious link between what Zionism is implementing in Lebanon and what the Iranian authorities are trying to implement in the Arab Gulf. The ambassador referred to evidence and proof, among which were the Zionists' confessions. [Text] [JN161853 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jul 82]

CSO: 4400/377

NEW POLITICAL ALIGNMENTS SAID FORMING

Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in Hebrew 19 May 82 pp 17-20

[Article by Moshe Yahalom: "New Political Map"]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin is interested in moving up the elections. He started the ball rolling during the vote of nonconfidence at the end of March, when Rabbi Drukman of Mafdal decided to vote against the coalition because of the question of evacuating settlers from Sinai, and a tie (58:58) occurred in the Knesset. In an official statement Begin said unconditionally: "There is no choice but to call for early elections. At this point, it looks like November 1982, at the same time as the local elections."

The Alignment was taken aback by Begin's statement. Although every opposition should be outwardly prepared for an election, for a new "contest" at the polls and an attempt to regain power, the internal situation in the Alignment is such that its leadership is well aware that in an early election they will lose several seats in the Knesset. There are even those who talk about losing 10 mandates.

The Call To Replace Peres

Arguments within the Alignment have not let up since the day the Likud came into power, on 17 May 1977. During the first few months, the Alignment was in a state of shock and Shimon Peres practically didn't dare show his face in the Knesset or the party's central offices. But slowly the members began coming to and adjusting to the "political overthrow." Peres began to speak about solidifying the party under his rule and placed great faith in Haim Bar-Lev. But, Bar-Lev turned out to be a secretary general with neither influence nor charisma. By the end of the first year after the "overthrow" there were groups calling for a change in the Alignment's leadership. Even now, 5 years or more afterward, Peres cannot solidify his position in the party, and internal groups, which have yet to coordinate their positions, are demanding that he be replaced.

There was talk of replacing Peres with Yigal Alon. Later Rabin and Benavon were mentioned. Others would like to fire Bar-Lev and appoint someone else in his place: Eliahu Shefeizer recently made a bid for that legacy.

Mapam, the Alignment's main partner, is not satisfied with its long marriage of 13 years. The first to talk about breaking away from the Alignment were

the young members of Mapam, who gathered in mid-March of this year at Giv'at-Haviva, and expressed full support for "Mapam's emergence as an independent entity in the Histadrut, local and Knesset elections." In this way, the party could sharpen its positions and increase its influence. Victor Shem-Tov, secretary general of Mapam, didn't help any when he said: "Our real enemy is the Likud." Eli Safran, the organizer of the younger generation in Mapam, replied caustically: "Our suggestion to break away from the Alignment and establish political youth organizations as a base for the new Mapam is the most meaningful suggestion made in Mapam in years." The young Mapam people also changed the agenda at the party's ninth convention to be held next month. The subject now to be discussed is--continued partnership with the Labor Party.

With the convention approaching, members of Kibbutz Barkai published a proposal in the party publication AL HAMISHMAR stating as follows: "After 13 years with the Alignment, it can be said that the framework of this partnership did not prove itself worthwhile. During the Alignment's rule, Mapam did not tip the scales in any major decisions nor was Mapam able to form a bloc against the rise of the Right."

Shimon Peres, head of the Alignment, has serious reservations about breaking the partnership because Mapam supported him in his struggle against Rabin. This support did not come out of love for the pragmatic hawk Peres, but out of an age old rivalry between Moshavim and Kibbutzim in the Labor Party on the one hand, which supported Rabin, and the National Kibbutz Movement of Mapam on the other. Peres knows that without Mapam's continued support it will be more difficult for him to maintain his current stand in the party, a stand which is already unpopular. Many blame him for running a campaign that failed and for missing an opportunity to return to power.

Mapam Plays the Role of a Faction in the Knesset

Further, the old rivalry between Labor kibbutzim and kibbutzim of the Shomer Hatza'ir is being felt in the Alignment these days. Last week, for example, the secretariat of the Labor Party Moshav Sector met, 97 moshav members and members from the party center, with MK Yehezkel Zakai at their head. In sum, the secretariat determined that the Alignment, in its present form, had reached the end of its political rope. "In 15 years this partnership has not brought about the fulfillment of the Alignment's main goal, to wit, the complete unity of the two parties. Continued political partnership will only prolong our role as a faction in the Knesset and will alienate supporters and voters from all public sectors."

Knesset members Shefeizer and Zakai are not alone in their views. Arie Nehamkin is not happy with Mapam either, nor are Ra'anana Na'im, Shoshana Arbeli-Almozalino, Rabbi Menahem Hakohen, Yehuda Hashai, Tamar Eshel, Dr Michael Bar-Zohar, Professor Shevah Weis, Shlomo Eliahu and the secretary general of the Moshav Movement, Amos Hadar. Even Peres' friend, Gad Yakobi, recently asked for a reexamination of Mapam's position in the Alignment, whereby the Alignment allows its junior partner, Mapam, the right to establish a separate position.

The approaching Mapam convention will be fundamental to the Alignment's future. Mapam is discussing an alternative--a leftist bloc that would include Sheli and Ometz. Peres, who is interested in the continuation of the partnership, hopes that the early elections will temporarily prevent the dissolution of the partnership, which makes him the only one in the Alignment expressing a personal opinion on the legitimacy of moving up the elections, although he knows for a fact that, according to the polls, the Alignment is predicted to lose.

Peres Is Worrying About Navon

Peres is also worried that Yitzhak Navon, the President of Israel, will decide to return to political life at the end of his term as president 8 months from now. His reappearance would mean the end of Peres' career and ambitions to be prime minister. Rabin would support Navon, as he supported Alon in the past, against Peres and it appears that in that case, Navon, if elected, would give Rabin the Ministry of Defense. Peres would then be forced to fight against Aba Eban for the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs, which would further divide the camp of Peres supporters within the Alignment. Even today the number of Peres supporters has dwindled due to the ongoing argument between Peres and Shefeizer. Peres, if you recall, promised Shefeizer the job of party secretary general if Peres was chosen again as the candidate for prime minister. However, while Shefeizer kept this part of the promise to the fullest, Peres supported Bar-Lev. The upcoming generation in the party, led by Uzi Bar'am, also supports the idea of Navon heading the Alignment. In this spirit, DAVAR, the Histadrut newspaper and basically a mouthpiece of the Labor Party, began printing letters from readers supporting Navon's return. Among others, one party supporter from Haifa, Dr Epstein wrote: "There is a need to establish a united, national party, which is unlikely under Begin or Peres. Only one man could unite the people and he is the president of the state, Yitzhak Navon, who is true to his name."

For these personal reasons, Shimon Peres has expressed his willingness to move up the elections, which will therefore catch the President in a political "trap." The Likud, too, is worried about Navon's candidacy and MK Raiser has proposed special legislation which would prohibit the president of the State of Israel from running in a political campaign until after a long cooling off period. The existing law lends itself to various interpretations: according to one interpretation Navon can--one year after the end of his term--declare his candidacy for prime minister. Raiser interprets the law differently, saying that the president should be seen as a government employee for all intents and purposes, and should therefore be bound by the 100-day cooling off period required before entering politics. Even according to this loose interpretation, 12 months from today, if Navon does not decide to continue as president for another term, he could head the Alignment. The elite Likud leadership has already deliberated on and weighed the pros and cons of early elections. In the end they felt that there was no choice but to move up the elections and hold them in November 1982, with the municipal elections, or perhaps in May 1983. These facts were first disclosed in an interview granted by Deputy Prime Minister Erlich to YOMAN HASHAVU'A. Most of the Likud's leaders concur, among them the Prime Minister, Deputy David Levi and Minister of the Treasury Yoram Aridor.

Brandishing the Banner of Mutiny in the Liberal Party

The Liberal Party was anxious to move up the elections to put a halt to the religious demands being made by Agudat Israel, which are not to its liking. To prove their strong disapproval they notified Agudat Israel's leaders that they were prepared to split from the Likud and go off on their own. Even deputy minister of transportation, David Shifman, who sees eye to eye with Herut on the question of Eretz Israel, was not disturbed by the idea of breaking with the Likud. When the two parties--the Herut movement and the Liberals--were united in 1965 and Gahal was established--a Herut/Liberal bloc--the two parties had 17 mandates, before the Independent Liberals broke away. But 17 years have passed since Herut gained its momentum and the Liberals are much weakened. Herut, a people's party with pure socialist ideals, decimated the Liberals. Deputy Minister Shifman admits this fact and says: "We are always in a shadow, in Herut's little pocket. That situation is insufferable for us."

Those who wave the "Banner of the Liberal Mutiny" are the young Knesset members Dror Zeigerman and Dan Tichon, who asked the Liberal ministers to define the party's influence in the government and in the Likud establishment. Once, the young Liberal knesset members passed out skull caps to their ministers, inscribed with the words: "I'm a good Liberal boy." On another occasion, Zeigerman suggested to Minister Nisim that the Liberal ministers resign from the government and continue in the coalition as an association--without ministers--since in any event they weren't doing anything.

The Liberals are disappointed, at least some of them, from a personal standpoint, with the Herut partnership. They failed in their attempts to get choice ministerial positions within the government: after Erlich left the Treasury, there was no appropriate Liberal candidate to replace him; the Defense and Foreign Affairs ministries are in Herut's hands; the attempt to appoint Arie Dultzin and Yitzhak Modai as Ministers of Foreign Affairs was not well received; the attempt to put up candidates for the job of Governor of the Bank of Israel failed; Uri'el Lin, the Liberal candidate, did not win the position of state comptroller; Elimelech Rimlet did not become president; and Dultzin's plans to do away with the Ministry of Absorption were never concretized.

If the Likud Compromises on Judea and Samaria--It Won't Be a Party-Wide Decision

Minister Yitzhak Modai sees the Liberal Party's situation as "The Last Days of Pompei." Erlich says that "There are many in the party who shake in their boots every time the breeze blows, because the only principle that concerns them is how not to stick to their principles." Minister Gideon Pat believes that "There has been a party tragedy. The leaders built a ramshackle apartment with crooked walls and a leaky roof." Minister Nisim describes the Liberal situation in these words: "It is a bubbling cauldron. We were the laughing stock of the parties in Israel." And Minister Avraham Sharir adds: "There are destructive elements in our midst who think that the worse it is for the party, the better it is for them."

One of the people who blasted the leadership of the Liberal Party is Minister of Energy Yitzhak Berman, who said: "Within the Liberal Party leadership you won't find two people who trust each other." And in an interview with MA'ARIV he expressed bitterness over the Liberal's agreement to yield to Herut's directives on all matters related to laws on the Eretz Israel question, especially the Jerusalem and Golan Heights Law. These two laws, Berman claims, changed his feelings toward partnership with the Likud. Although in the past he supported the united Likud, today he is not against going into the elections independently.

These recent statements by Minister Berman raised the anger of Deputy Minister Dov Shilenski. In the past, before the elections, when Berman was chairman of the Knesset and Shilenski was an ordinary Knesset member, Berman spoke to him for several hours trying to persuade Shilenski to support the united Likud. "It doesn't make sense that Berman now favors separation," says Shilenski. He adds: "When Berman spoke to me about the united Likud, he knew we would have to compromise. I knew I would have to give in to the Liberals on social issues and compromise my socialist viewpoints. Berman knew he would have to give in on issues essential to Herut--like the question of a united Israel. It doesn't make sense that today, Berman would abandon the platform of unity, since it would then appear that he won the voters' mandate with a falsehood. I am willing to argue with him on secondary issues--but not on the question of Eretz Israel which for me, as for many Herut supporters, is a matter of life and death!" Thus, there are those in the Herut movement who do not treat the issue of the "leftist rebellion" by several Liberal MK's lightly. Deputy Minister Michael Dekel says: "If the Likud decides on a compromise similar to Yamit in Judea and Samaria--it will no longer be my party." And Shilenski adds: "He who does not accept the Likud's platform on the question of Eretz Israel, cannot be on the party list." He seems to be referring to the Liberal doves. In the Herut movement it is known that as long as Begin, Shamir and Sharon decide the tone for the party--there will be no compromises on the question of Eretz Israel. The Prime Minister takes every opportunity to reiterate statements to this effect. There are those within the Herut leadership who would even suggest making this stand more firm, and impose Israeli law on Judea and Samaria if the Egyptians break the peace agreement. Begin, who himself supports the early elections, already decided that the next election campaign will focus on the issue of "the battle for Eretz Israel."

"Chinese Generals" Go to War Without Soldiers

Dr Elimelech Rimlet describes the show of strength made by his colleagues in the party like a "declaration of war by Chinese generals, in the world war, when every general barely had two soldiers under him." Recently, however, the turbulence among the Liberals has quieted down and there is a trend in the party toward "lowering the profile" even on the issue of Saturday flights. The party center, which was supposed to meet last Sunday, delayed the meeting until June 3rd and on Thursday, the party leadership did not discuss subjects related to continued partnership with Herut.

The Liberals fear that continued rebellious declarations of that type, and cooperation with the doves, will polarize the positions of the two parties in the Likud, which have already grown so far apart that they are considering

a separation. Neither the Liberals nor the Herut people are really interested today in breaking up that long partnership. "A winning team should not be changed," says Shifman. But in the meantime, there are a few Knesset members from the Liberal Party who are looking for alternatives to the partnership with Herut, by establishing a liberal central bloc lead by Ezer Weitzman.

Every time the Knesset elections draw near, Ezer Weitzman's name comes up. From this point of view, Weitzman (aged 56) is a "political luminary" in great demand, as Moshe Dayan and Yigal Alon were in their day. But Weitzman's political career shackled him to the Herut movement after he left the IDF in 1969. Weitzman joined Gahal and was appointed Minister of Transportation in the national Likud government. Later he was chairman of the party leadership, but left due to differences of opinion with Begin. Before the 9th Knesset elections he returned to Herut, was appointed chairman of the party's election staff and after the "political revolt" he was Minister of Defense. Later he was alienated from the party by a decision of the secretariat.

Already, on the eve of the 10th Knesset elections, there is talk about Weitzman heading a large Liberal bloc. The man who initiated the idea is publisher Eli'ezer Zhourbin, but Weitzman rejected the notion. He also rejected another suggestion by Zhourbin--to join the Alignment and be Number Two. In the Herut movement, several of his faithful supporters, those who still remain, claim that Ezer only sees his place in the Likud, that he will not establish a radical party and that as in the past, he is waiting for a phone call from Begin.

"Political Refugees" Seeking a Leader

Those who don't see it that way are a few junior members in the margin of the political map who are looking for a leader. Some are Liberal Party activists, others are from the "Movement for Change," led by MK Amnon Rubinstein, who supports the establishment of a strong central party. Even Shmu'el Tamir, the revisionist, has met with Weitzman and other Liberals to discuss this issue. If a central Liberal Party of this type were established, it would include, other than Weitzman--Minister Berman, Shlomo Lahat, Israel Peled, Elimelech Rimlet, Shmu'el Tamir and maybe even the MK's from "Change"--Virshovski and Rubinstein. In light of the disappointing failure of Dash, Weitzman does not, apparently, lean toward the idea of heading a party of "political refugees," especially not a party that would include two of the people who--directly or indirectly--brought about the downfall of Dash--Rubinstein and Tamir.

These days Weitzman resides at the Churchill Hotel in London and it appears that he will accept that prevailing consensus in Herut--after Begin leaves, in about another 3 years, Yitzhak Shamir will take over for one term and then the "war of succession" will be open between Weitzman, Sharon, David Levi and Yoram Aridor. This is the sense of what I was told by a Knesset member from Herut, who is personally close to Weitzman and has chosen to remain anonymous for the time being.

The only party in the coalition that opposes holding early elections is the Mafdal. This party took a bad fall in the last elections, losing 50 percent

of its electoral strength. In the Mafdal they feel that some of their voters supported the Likud, but an analysis of the election results shows that the six mandates which the Mafdal lost were divided equally between Tami and Hatehiya. In spite of this, the Mafdal decided to attack the Likud's platforms: "The Likud is also Simha Erlich and not just Menahem Begin," and they oppose moving up the elections until the party can reorganize.

This was the situation in the Mafdal until a few weeks ago, when the Mafdal pressured Begin not to resign after the tie (58:58) in the Knesset, despite his announcement. But last week the Mafdal changed its mind on the subject and several articles appeared in the Mafdal publication, HATZOFÉ. In the Mafdal's eyes, the verdict passed on Abu-Hatzera was an excellent opportunity to win back "the lost sons" and Dr Burg even held background talks on the issue with Nisim Ga'on. Perhaps the fear that Bnai-Akiva and Gush Emunim would establish, under Rabbi Moshe-Tzvi Naria, a new national religious party called "The Return of Israel," which would further decimate the Mafdal, brought about the decision that it might be better to move up the elections and hold them as early as possible, before the "Return of Israel" party could organize and before Abu-Hatzera's guilt was forgotten.

Promising the Mafdal 8 or 10 Mandates

During unofficial probes it was suggested that a new political group be formed including the Mafdal, the Likud and Talam, in which the Mafdal would be promised 8 or 10 representatives--more than its current representation in the Knesset. The Likud is interested in a bloc of this kind to guarantee a big win in the coming elections and so that the next government will enjoy the broadest possible parliamentary base. The Mafdal sees eye to eye with the Likud on social and policy matters, and on religious issues. MK Roni Milo, among the initiators of the bloc, suggested maintaining the status quo and creating a common ground for cooperation between the Mafdal and the Liberals. The Likud knows that in this way, with the Mafdal as a permanent "counter-balance," the Likud government will be secured for several years to come, not just for the next Knesset. The only thing that prevents the Mafdal from joining a national bloc of this kind is the fear of being swallowed up by the Likud. This, however, could be resolved by appropriate wording of an agreement. On the subject of early elections, Begin is being cautious because he sees the possibility that factions which are not interested in moving up the elections, like the Mafdal, Talam, Change, the Alignment and Tami--can theoretically put together an alternative government without the Likud, with 61 Knesset members. Although this is a hypothetical possibility and the components of the coalition verbally promised Begin that they wouldn't establish a coalition headed by the Alignment--this possibility cannot be ignored. Under certain conditions, Rakah could also support a minority government led by the Alignment, if the Mafdal, for example, did not join a government led by Peres. Therefore, any decision made by the Likud relative to early elections must be made with the agreement of all the coalition's members.

It thus appears that not only for the Likud but for the Alignment and the Mafdal as well, the next few weeks will be crucial to their future.

9811

CSO: 4423/172

SHEM-TOV LOOKS TO ESTABLISHING NEW PARTY

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Jun 82 p 2

[Article by Yehoshu'a Bitzor; "Shem-Tov; The Dynamics of a Split Are Already at Work in the Alignment"]

[Text] Mapam's secretary general, MK Victor Shem-Tov, told MA'ARIV yesterday that the crisis with the Labor Party is likely to bring about a split within the Alignment. He emphasized that Mapam will never agree to allow MK's Amnon Lin and Yitzhak Peretz to participate in sessions of the faction in the Alignment.

MK Shem-Tov expressed his opinion that the dynamics of a split with the Alignment have already been created and that there is no recourse unless Mapam's demands are met.

Two days ago, former Minister of Justice Haim Tzadok said in a meeting with Mapam representatives, that "the Labor Party will not kneel before Mapam." MK Shem-Tov replied yesterday that: "Mapam is not presenting an ultimatum or directives. Mapam is not trying to bring the Labor Party to its knees, but does reject the political implications of the agreements with Lin and Peretz and their participation in the Alignment.

Mapam's secretary general also explained that if this crisis brings about a split in the Alignment, Mapam would go into the Knesset elections with an independent list and establish a new leftist party, open to Zionist-socialist factions close to its ideology, like MK Yosi Sharid, intellectuals and professors, activists from the Peace Now movement and heads of the workers committees.

Sharid said that he would gladly lend a hand to the establishment of a new leftwing party.

Today the joint committee is scheduled to meet--including Knesset members Haim Tzadok and Israel Galili from "Labor," Me'ir Talmi and Eli'ezer Granot from Mapam--in an attempt to resolve the crisis. Mapam insists that Lin and Peretz join the Labor Party if they want to be in the Alignment.

Yesterday, MK Ra'anan Na'im started signing up Knesset members from Labor on a petition calling for party chairman Shimon Peres to convene the faction in regular sessions even without Mapam, which is boycotting these meetings.

Shem-Tov met yesterday with Ra'anan Na'im and told him: You have succeeded in your efforts to exclude the Mafdal from the Alignment. To set you at ease, we'll take Yosi Sharid with us, too. We won't leave him for you.

Na'im replied: I'm glad. I appreciate that. Just don't forget to take Sharid.

9811

CSO: 4423/172

LABOR AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH TUNISIA

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Mar 82 p 2

[Article: "Agreement Signed to Organize the Utilization of Workforce between Jordan and Tunisia"]

[Text] A bilateral employment agreement for the exchange of workforce between Jordan and Tunisia was signed yesterday at the Ministry of Labor.

This agreement serves to strengthen the bonds of fraternity and collaboration between the two brotherly countries, setting out from a spirit of Arab solidarity and from a desire to develop and evolve the economy of both countries.

The agreement was signed by Dr Tasir 'Ab-al Jabir, deputy labor minister, for the Jordanian side, and for the Tunisian side by the ambassador of the republic of Tunis in Amman.

Following is the text of the agreement:

1. Through the Jordanian Ministry of Labor and the Tunisian Ministry of Social Affairs, both governments shall cooperate in organizing and supporting any and all areas relative to the labor force issue, its organizational planning, professional structure and the exchange of information and expertise.
2. Each of the two parties concerned in both countries shall work to facilitate and simplify the procedures for employing each party's workers by the other party.
3. Both parties shall exchange information on the labor force needs and the capabilities available to each party in meeting these needs:
 - Job offers from prospective employers shall be forwarded to the appropriate parties in each of the two countries, who will act to respond to these offers within the capabilities made available to them.
4. In cases where an employer desires a certain type of worker, he must so specify in his request to the appropriate party in his own country.

5. Upon the approval of the appropriate party, an employer may delegate a representative to follow through on the selection and departure proceedings for the workers.

6. Employment requests must specify types of qualifications, experiences, required specialization and possible duration of employment, as well as a detailed description of special conditions for employment, wage, nature of work, special facilitations made regarding moving, housing, and any other necessary and basic information.

7. The employer shall bear all travel expenses for the workers to the place of their work in the country of employment and back to their own country. However, employers shall be exempt from paying workers travel expenses upon the untimely termination or resignation before the expiration date of the contract.

8. Conditions and provisions for employment shall be defined in a subcontract between employer and employee in which basic work conditions are set out such as duties and rights, pursuant to the text of a model contract attached hereto.

9. The appropriate parties in each country shall be charged with reviewing the employment contract as mentioned in the preceding paragraph, and ascertaining that the specifications defined therein apply to the candidate for employment.

10. The employee shall enjoy all rights and privileges as any local employee pursuant to the rules and regulations that are in effect.

11. The parties concerned in both countries shall be charged with monitoring the implementation of the provisions of this agreement.

12. In case a dispute arises between the employer and the employee, a complaint shall be forwarded to the party concerned pursuant to the proper legal proceedings in order to arrive at an amicable solution. If an amicable solution cannot be reached, then the dispute shall be referred to the appropriate judicial authorities, as stated by law.

13. In the case of the expiration of the contract or its termination thereof by agreement of both sides, the employee has the right to seek, within 30 days, another employment in the same field and within the definition of the rules and regulations that are in effect in the country of employment; otherwise, he shall be returned to his own country at the employer's expense after relinquishing all of his legal claims.

14. A worker has the right to transfer to his own country funds representing his savings from his wages, in accordance with the financial regulations in the country of his employment.

15. A joint committee shall be formed to consist of three members from each side whose task is to coordinate the implementation of this contract between the two countries; adopt the necessary procedures in this regard; interpret

the governing clauses of this contract upon the occurrence of a disagreement; try to settle any difficulties that may arise by application of such procedures; revise or amend all or some of the articles of the contract as necessary.

16. This committee shall meet regularly at least once per year on a date and in a place agreed upon by both sides.

17. The provisions of this contract shall be enforceable upon all workers currently working in both countries as of the date of its expiration.

18. This contract shall be amended by a request from either of the two contracting parties, and by their approval. Such amendment shall be subject to the same special proceedings governing the enforceability of this agreement.

This agreement becomes temporarily enforceable at the time of the signing, and official upon attestation in accordance with the constitutional proceedings followed by each of the two countries. It shall remain in effect for a period of 5 years and it is renewed automatically if neither party submits a written notification of termination at least six months before its expiration date.

9770

CSO: 4404/395

BRIEFS

CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS--The following brothers and sisters Siham 'Ulyan, Rif' at al-Bahriy, 'Abla Mahyar and Arwa al-Dusuqi have sent in letters inquiring about citizenship requirements for Arabs and foreigners. Mr Muhammad al-Qudat, director of visas, replied that those who are of Arab descent and have had official residence permits for 15 consecutive years, have the right to be granted the Jordanian citizenship provided there are no legal barriers. Non-Arabs must have lived in Jordan for 4 consecutive years in addition to possessing the knowledge of reading and writing in Arabic, must be of good conduct, sound mind, have no record of conviction and must earn income as legal means for subsistence. The council of ministers reserves the option to grant or deny the naturalization request. [Text] [Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Mar 82 p 8] 9770

WATER PROJECT--The drinking water company has completed the Northern Badiya water project. Engineer Sa'id Baynu, director general of the company, mentioned that the aim of the project is to provide water to the towns of Um al-Qittayn, al-Mukayfitah, Abu al-Ghara, Qasim, Southern Rufa'iyat, Northern Rufa'iyat, Northwest Rufa'iyat, Jubbiyah, Dayr al-Kahf, al-Munaysah, Tal al-Ramah, Dayr al-Kinn, (Muthanat Rajil), Jad'ah, al-Suwaylimat, al-Mansur, Khasha'at al-Kinn, Manshiyat al-Qinu, Zubay'at, Surah, Rujm Um Husayn, Khasha' al-Sulaytayn and al-Dafynah, and to improve the water networks for the villages of Subha, Subhiyah, 'Amra and ('Umayrah). Mr Baynu pointed out that an estimated 600 cubic meters of drinking water is necessary for these villages and it will all be provided by the project. He also said the project consists of pumping stations containing two electric generators at 120 kilowatts, four propelling pumps, four reservoirs in each of Dayr al-Kahf, al-Rufa'iyat and Dayr al-Kinn with a capacity of 1,700 cubic meters. He also said that the company designed and supervised the completion of the project which cost a total of 1,177,497 million dinars. Engineer Muhammad 'Awad, chief of the control section at the company pointed out that water will be pumped from the al-Azraq station into the kilometer 134 station, where the water is contained in a reservoir with a capacity of 550 cubic meters. It will then be pumped into the reservoirs at al-Rufa'iyat and al-Kinn where it will be distributed to the aforementioned towns. Sources at the company mentioned that the opening of the project is scheduled for the near future. [Text] [Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Mar 82 p 2] 9770

INVESTMENTS IN REAL ESTATE PROPERTY--Last year's investments in real estate totaled 750 million dinars. Only 25 million dinars were paid in fees to the state Treasury. A study which has been prepared in this regard stated that the region of Amman got 80 percent [of these investments] while the remaining regions got only 20 percent. Immigrants investments comprised the greater portion of these purchases with money orders to the central bank totaled 280 million dinars. Double that amount was received other than in money orders. It also pointed out that there have been an increase in real estate prices within the district of Amman from 30 percent to 60 percent. This resulted in a lower demand for developed property. [Text] [Amman AL-DUSTUR 11 Mar 82 p 3] 9770

BRITISH FINANCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS--The signing and exchanging of a memorandum of agreement between Jordan and Britain will be held in Amman next Sunday. According to the agreement, Britain will grant a loan of 8 million sterling pounds to finance several Jordanian development projects. Dr Hannah Audeh, chairman of the national council for planning, will sign the treaty on behalf of Jordan and the British ambassador in Amman will sign it on behalf of Britain. It is worth noting that loans granted by Britain to Jordan in years past were used for the purposes of financing several projects including the 'Aqaba water project Qa' al-Daysiy; the electricity project for the Irbid region; a marketing center for the authority of the Jordan Valley and a manufacturing facility for the natural resources authority. [Text] [Amman AL-DUSTUR 11 Mar 82 p 3] 9770

OIL SHALE PRODUCTION--Sources from the Ministry of Industry and Trade stated that in the near future production of oil shale will reach a level of 50,000 barrels per day while the estimated reserves in the al-Lajjun region approximate only 1,300 million tons. Noted here is the fact that several foreign companies are currently working under contract for the production of oil. [Text] [Amman AL-DUSTUR 11 Mar 82 p 3] 9770

CSO: 4404/395

HADDAD'S MILITIA CAPTURES TERRORISTS

TA031703 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1608 GMT 3 Jul 82

[Text] The people's militia whose establishment was declared by Maj Sa'd Haddad this week has already been credited with the capture of several dozen terrorists, including Fatah commanders wanted by the IDF who had so far succeeded in hiding. Here is a report by our correspondent Hayim Hecht:

In one of the villages in southern Lebanon an IDF combing unit held a lineup of local fighters who were suspected of collaborating with the terrorists. Members of the unit found it hard to make identifications. Several of Major Haddad's personnel arrived on the spot. One of Haddad's men went up to the local inhabitants, took three people from them and stood them up facing the rest. These three are terrorists, the militiaman pointed, and I know exactly who the others are among you who collaborated with the terrorists. It would be better for you to give yourselves up. Not 5 minutes had passed before 35 people stepped forward, admitted having collaborated with the terrorists and led the IDF soldiers to several ammunition caches in the village. My personnel and members of the new militia know every stone in southern Lebanon, Major Haddad said; the terrorists will not find rest here or a hiding place.

[Begin Haddad recording--in English] [First few words indistinct]...you know very well that, even until now, there are still some terrorists hiding in many places in the area, so when this militia will take their guards into villages, they are made intently [as heard] to work against terrorists, to prevent them, to stop them or arrest them if they will intercept them, to stop them from coming back to the village...[End recording]

[Hecht] Haddad said that the establishment of the people's militia was a very important step with a glance at the future. There are still terrorists in the area and the defined task of the militia is to capture them. In the future they will safeguard the villages and prevent the return of the terrorists to southern Lebanon. Haddad emphasized that the new militia has no connection with the imposition of law and order on the civilian sector.

[Begin Haddad recording--in English] You have to know: These people also have nothing to do with the civil law and order. The civil law and order is in the hands of the internal security forces like gendarmerie or police,

and gendarmerie are police. We are backing them and they are working very well and we see now the life, the legitimate life began to appear. [End recording]

[Hecht] Law and order are the responsibility of such bodies as the local police and gendarmerie. With our help, they are beginning to work as they should, Haddad stated, and he indicated the beginning of normal civil life in southern Lebanon. This afternoon Haddad attended the funeral of 21-year old (Ratis al-Alad) from (al-Maysh). The young man was the chauffeur of Abu (Emil), one of Haddad's senior commanders. Abu (Emil) and his driver entered Tyre on the third day of the fighting. They were captured by the terrorists, tortured badly and murdered. Abu (Emil's) body was discovered 10 days ago. Last night, in one of the terrorist headquarters in Tyre, his driver's mutilated body was found. The young man's mother identified her son's body. Today, as I said, he was buried in his village, (al-Maysh). That is all from Hayim Hecht in southern Lebanon.

CSO: 4400/373

PLO'S QADDUMI ON ARAB DELEGATION'S TALKS IN MOSCOW

PM120737 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jul 82 pp 1-2

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department by Mahir 'Uthman: "New Plan to Solve Crisis; Lebanese Nationalist Conference to Support Resistance"--in London, date not given]

[Excerpts] Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, in an exclusive interview with ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, threw light on a number of current important issues resulting from the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and relating to the Palestine problem.

Asked about the Soviet Union's attitude in the light of the talks the Arab delegation held recently in Moscow and the report that the Soviets urged the Arabs to unite their ranks, Qaddumi said: "The Soviets support our just cause, have helped us in the past and their help is still continuing. They believe that there must be at least a bloc of Arab countries that act in unison so that the Soviet Union may be able to find opportunities to give support."

Asked about the situation of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist forces siding with them, he said: "Morale is very high. The Lebanese nationalist forces will shortly hold a conference that will include the Socialist Progressive Party under Walid Jumblatt's leadership, Rashid Karami, Lebanese Islamic personalities, former President Sulayman Franjiyah, the Amal Organization and the Maronite majority opposed to the Phalangist Party in order to express their support for and adherence to the integrity of Lebanon and to demand the withdrawal of Israel, support the Palestinian right and their just cause and condemn the forces collaborating with the enemy."

Qaddumi attributed to "reasons of protocol" the fact that his meeting in Britain was confined to Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hurd and did not include a meeting with Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher.

CSO: 4400/373

HADDAD ARMING SHI'ITE MILITIAS

TA011455 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jul 82 p 3

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] Popular militias including Shi'ite youths from the western and central sectors began organizing yesterday in southern Lebanon.

The village of Ansar, north of the town of al-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon, was the first village from which inhabitants enlisted in the popular militias whose main role will be to guard the Shi'ite villages in southern Lebanon.

Maj Sa'd Haddad, the commander of the southern Lebanon area, yesterday distributed scores of weapons and uniforms to the new soldiers, who have already begun to patrol around the villages. "Their role in southern Lebanon will be precisely that of the civil guard in Israel," explained an officer in Haddad's army who was handing out the weapons to the Shi'ites. In the meantime, squads, and soon the militia frameworks, will be made as large as platoons. The soldiers pledged to fight against the terrorists and the Syrians and to help Haddad's soldiers repulse the terrorists and the Syrians from the land of the cedars.

It should be noted that Haddad will not personally command the popular Shi'ite militias but instead will deal only with the distribution of arms. An officer from the Shi'ite Organization al-'Amal will command the soldiers. These militias will actually be directly subordinate to the Shi'ite Organization. While there are Shi'ite soldiers in west Beirut fighting alongside the terrorists and the Syrians, in southern Lebanon the number of Shi'ite spokesmen asking the IDF to remain in southern Lebanon has increased.

CSO: 4400/373

ISRAEL PLANS PERMANENT HOUSING FOR REFUGEES

TA230726 Jerusalem POST in English 23 Jun 82 pp 1-2

[Report by Charles Hoffman]

[Text] The government plans to work towards a solution of the Palestinian refugee problem in south Lebanon by relocating those displaced in the recent fighting in permanent housing, according to the official coordinating civilian relief and reconstruction in the war-torn area.

Yisra'el Gravinsky, a member of Minister Ya'akov Meridor's staff, told the JERUSALEM POST yesterday that the most urgent housing problem now in south Lebanon concerns the 20,000-25,000 refugees whose camps were severely damaged in the fighting between the IDF and the terrorists.

He also said that "there is no food problem in southern Lebanon," and that the urgent medical problems have diminished. Some of the foreign medical teams there are not fully employed, he asserted.

Besides housing the homeless refugees, Gravinsky said the main problems now were to restore to working order the water and electric systems in the cities.

He explained that the refugees had not been given tents for temporary shelter because the authorities felt that this would turn into a "permanent" solution that would only perpetuate the refugee problem. The authorities are now trying to house the refugees in vacant buildings such as schools, providing a 3-month breathing space to plan permanent housing.

There are reportedly over 200,000 Palestinian refugees in south Lebanon, concentrated around the cities of Tyre and Sidon.

Gravinsky said that whatever permanent housing solution is found would be devised together with the Lebanese Government and other interested parties. The main food problem today in southern Lebanon, he said, is how to dispose of the surplus grown in this rich agricultural area, which formerly exported to north Lebanon, Syria and other Arab countries.

In the medical field, he said that almost all hospitals were operating and that there was a surplus of hospital beds. A Norwegian team that came with

a field hospital is now going home since they haven't performed even one operation, he said.

Gravinsky related that the Israeli representative of the International Red Cross [IRC] told him yesterday that their problem was now too much aid. The representative, he said, had said that they did not need the ship carrying medical supplies that was waiting in Limassol harbour after having been turned back from Lebanese waters by Israel on Saturday.

The IRC office in Tel Aviv would not comment on this. A REUTER dispatch from Nicosia, however, said that negotiations between Israel and IRC headquarters in Geneva to clear sea passage for further supplies were still continuing. The report said that there were about 1,000 tons of supplies now in Cyprus awaiting shipment by ship or plane to Israeli-held Lebanon.

Gravinsky, who based his evaluation of the situation mainly on reports from civilian and military officials in the field, said that the disruption of civilian life in south Lebanon had been less than initially believed because the residents have devised ways of coping with emergencies in the past, during periodic fighting and shelling.

He said that many families had their own emergency stores of food and petrol, and that some even had their own generators.

Since it was announced that Meridor's office was coordinating relief work for Lebanon, it has been deluged with offers of help ranging from manufacturers of feminine hygiene products to animal lovers willing to round up stray pets.

He said that there is no need or technical possibility to enlist civilian volunteers now for relief efforts, and that all offers of aid are now being set aside until a more thorough examination of the area's needs is made.

He added that his staff was considering a proposal to permit the distribution of the JERUSALEM POST in the area.

CSO: 4400/373

LEBANON

HADDAD'S AREA TO BE EXTENDED TO SIDON

TA111248 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jul 82 pp 1-2

[Report by political correspondent Yehuda Litani]

[Text] The area under the control of Maj Sa'd Haddad will apparently be extended in the next few days and will include most of the area of southern Lebanon up to the line of the town of Sidon, including the town itself.

It was learned that practical arrangements were made in the last few days to extend the area controlled by Haddad's soldiers and that his officers negotiated this with the approval of the defense authorities and the IDF officers concerned.

Defense sources reported last night that there is complete satisfaction with Sa'd Haddad's activity in the strip under his control (about 20 km) and there is no reason to prevent him from extending his activity into other regions controlled by the IDF. The same sources went on to say that Lebanese Government officials are "very slow" in restoring southern Lebanon to its normal life, and it seems that Haddad's people--who proved their ability in the past--will help speed up the return to normal life in this area.

A final decision on this subject is supposed to be reached very soon by senior government elements. Sources knowledgeable about events in southern Lebanon said last night that a decision on the subject has been expected for some weeks but was opposed by certain government circles in Israel, for fear it will meet with opposition among the Christian militia headed by Bashir al-Jumayyil who view Sa'd Haddad and his soldiers as a competitive factor.

These sources went on to add that if Haddad's men arrive in the area up to Sidon they can expect difficult problems with Druze, Shi'ites and some Christian factors in the area, who until now have not viewed Haddad's activity favorably.

CSO: 4400/373

ARAB AFFAIRS REPORTER INTERVIEWS SHAM'UN, AL-JUMAYYIL

TA301212 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1135 GMT 30 Jun 82

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent, interspersed with excerpts of interviews with Camille Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil--after the Lebanese Front session 30 June--recorded]

[Excerpts] What is the position of the Lebanese Front in regard to the resolution of the problem of west Beirut, we asked former President Camille Sham'un at the end of the Lebanese Front session?

The front would prefer a peaceful resolution by political means and insists that the Palestinians fully evacuate west Beirut. If such a solution is feasible, we would prefer it; if not, there will be no other alternative but to adopt military measures. This is what the head of the Lebanese Front, former President Camille Sham'un said.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, the head of the Phalangist Party, on the other hand has issued a call to the Muslims in Lebanon to maintain the same motto that the Lebanese Republic was established upon--namely, to observe national consensus, because if no solution is found that will lead to the continued coexistence between the Muslims and the Christians, this will result in the destruction of Lebanon as a result of the new situation that has been created here.

For 10 years, Pierre al-Jumayyil said, we have been demanding that Lebanon be a country for the Lebanese alone; whereas our Palestinian brethren, unfortunately, have violated the code of hospitality and instead of being refugees and brothers in our midst, they have become a fifth column of movements and political trends from the entire Arab world. Ever since the front was first established we have been seeking a solution to the Palestinian problem in Lebanon because their presence--actually the presence of all foreigners--in Lebanon is what led this country to the brink of destruction and the state of affairs it is in now.

What is the front's attitude toward Maj Sa'd Haddad, we asked?

Pierre al-Jumayyil said: No, I have not had the honor of making his acquaintance, but he had no other way, and he went out to liberate that

part which would have been under foreign conquest if he had not done what he did. It is not for me to judge him; history will judge him.

As for the present stage, are the Lebanese Front in particular and the Christians in general still expecting some Israeli move--political or military?

We were in a difficult situation, in the fullest sense of the word, Pierre al-Jumayyil said. In the past 10 years no one was able to do anything toward resolving our problem. The Arab world stood aside and no country wanted to get involved in the Palestinian problem. The same holds true for Europe, where people were aware of the state of affairs in Lebanon and it hurt them, but the European countries did not wish to harm their relations with the Arab world. This is true also in regard to the United States and the Soviet Union. Our predicament, he said, is like that of the sick man who has already visited all the physicians, been to all the clinics. The only ones who were interested in helping us were the Israelis and I hope, he said, that Israel's actions will not only be for Lebanon's good but also for the good of all.

CSO: 4400/373

UNIFIL TO FOCUS ON HUMANITARIAN AID

TA221644 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1515 GMT 22 Jun 82

[Text] The deliberations on the deployment of UNIFIL in the next 2 months have ended at their headquarters in al-Naqurah. It was decided that from now on UNIFIL will focus on extending humanitarian aid to the victims of the fighting and to refugees who come to the UN-controlled zone south of the Litani.

UNIFIL is concerned with the increasing flow of refugees to the southern villages. Here is a report by our correspondent Hayim Hecht:

[Begin recording] We will make every effort to use the next 2 months to handle the burning problems of the area, people in the UNIFIL headquarters in al-Naqurah have said. And with all due respect to the importance of the issue, the only sphere which UNIFIL can now handle is the problem of the refugees who return in massive numbers to their homes in the villages south of the Litani. Using its fleet of trucks and water tankers, UNIFIL supplies the refugees with water and basic commodities, as most of them arrive with absolutely nothing.

At this stage there is no shortage of food, says Timor Goksel, the UNIFIL spokesman; but the growing flood of refugees arouses concern about the near future. In 3 days 800 refugees arrived daily in one village, al-Tayyibah.

UNIFIL purchases most of the food staples in Israel, and receives toward that end a special budget from New York.

Many homes in the southern villages were rented by the United Nations for commands and living quarters. Now a moral question has arisen as to what to do when the homeowners return from Beirut and wish to enter their homes.

In the next 2 months UNIFIL will continue to man all the observation and inspection positions in the south. Its commander, General Callaghan, has instructed the commanders of the various battalions to use their own judgment in the field in regard to the inspection procedure. Thus, one can safely assume that the somewhat impassive Nigerians will continue to smile and allow any vehicle to pass; the disciplined Nepalese will rummage through the cars of villagers and reporters; whereas the frustrated French will stand aside and put on a sour face at the sight of the columns of IDF armored vehicles.

Al-Naqurah transmits a daily report on events in the area to the UN headquarters in New York. [End recording]

LEBANON

'ALAYH RESIDENTS SCORE PHALANGIST CONDUCT

NC301848 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Jun 82

[Excerpts] For the third successive day, the general strike is continuing in 'Alayh in protest against the Phalangists' treatment of Lebanese citizens. Persons coming from the city have affirmed that some Phalangist militia forced their way into the headquarters of the Progressive Socialist Party, rummaged through its contents, smashed a big picture of the martyr Kamal Junblatt and forced a number of those present in the headquarters to stand by the wall with their hands over their heads for a long time, after having insulted and humiliated them. This has made the inhabitants [of 'Alayh] voice their indignation.

Those coming from 'Alayh have also affirmed that the wave of indignation is not unique to 'Alayh but has now extended to include the whole area of Al-Shuf, especially after the bloody clashes which took place between the Phalangist militia and the Druze in the area.

The Nationalist Movement has announced that it was and is still ready to and capable of confronting the isolationists and preventing them from entering and spreading their control over the areas of Al-Matn. In its statement on the mountain battles against the isolationists, the Nationalist Movement added: The confrontation battle being waged by the forces of the Nationalist Movement is an expression of the absolute determination to repulse the Phalangist attempts to (?extend themselves), through their exploitation of the Zionist occupation, in order to subdue the area of upper Al-Matn.

Reports from Beirut indicate that the fascist bands of the Phalangists are continuing their [words indistinct] practices of torturing the Lebanese citizens from west Beirut who cross their roadblocks. Out of these practices reeks the stinking odor of sectarianism characteristic of the Phalangist crimes in 1976. Reports indicate that during the last week, the Phalangists at the roadblocks confiscated from some Egyptians all the money they had on them and did not allow them to take anything except their passports and personal effects when they left Juniyah. Meanwhile, the Phalangists at the roadblocks in the mountain and on Galarie Sim'an road [in Beirut] insult Lebanese women and subject them to immoral examinations in order to rob them of their savings.

CSO: 4400/373

LEBANON

BRIEFS

BEIRUT AIRPORT PROPOSED NEUTRAL ZONE--There has been a Lebanese-Palestinian military meeting that was attended by staff Col Dr Yasin Suwayd, commander of the airport security department. Press reports, which have not been confirmed by official sources, say that during the meeting Lebanon submitted the idea to turn the airport into a neutral zone so that it could be used, in the event a solution is reached, for the deployment of a multinational disengagement force. Meanwhile, official sources have stated that contacts have been held between the PLO and the French Embassy. The contacts revolved around the two sides' views of how the disengagement force should be deployed. [Text] [NC161430 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Jul 82]

TERRORISTS USED RPG LAUNCHERS--The terrorists in Lebanon manufactured their own RPG [rocket propelled grenade] launchers. The IDF forces in the Sidon area have uncovered a workshop where the terrorists manufactured such launchers, according to instructions from the Soviet Union. The ITIM correspondent points out that IDF officers were surprised when they uncovered the workshop because the terrorists had been receiving ample quantities of RPG launchers from the Soviet Union. A huge workshop was uncovered in al-Rashidiyah where the terrorists installed weapons on jeeps. Three IDF soldiers were injured last night when an RPG shell was fired at them east of al-Damur. The IDF will examine the route through which the terrorists got hold of U.S.-made weapons found in their possession. It may be that these weapons were delivered from Saudi Arabia. The terrorists were found in the possession of, among other things, M-16 assault rifles. The ITIM correspondent notes that weapons from Belgium were found in the terrorist arms depots along with new automatic rifles from Germany which have only recently been supplied to the German Army itself. [Text] [TA281148 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Jun 82]

FLAG FLYING IN VILLAGES--The cedar flag of free Lebanon has already been raised in 150 towns and villages south of the al-Zahrani River in the sector reaching from Tyre in the west to Hasbayya, al-Qir'awn and the villages of the Lebanese al-Biqa' in the east. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that as soon as the battles ended Maj Sa'd Haddad began to make daily tours in which he visited most of the villages in the area. Generally, he was received with demonstrative sympathy and in most of the villages the notables declared that they regard him as their leader. The members of

Haddad's militia show a presence in the settlements but are careful not to intervene with what is being done. Haddad has emphasized that his soldiers will intervene only if the heads of the settlements explicitly request that they do so. Major Haddad is acting in close conjunction with the IDF's assistance unit for rebuilding the civilian infrastructure in the settlements. Our correspondent notes that it appears that official representatives of the government in Beirut who have arrived in the south recognize Haddad's involvement and are cooperating with him. Hundreds of Christian, Druze and Shi'ite youths from the villages in the south have asked Haddad to enlist them in his militia and the major is now finishing a plan that will enable him to absorb them in his army. [Text] [TA271543 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Jun 82]

'SENIOR PHALANGE SOURCE' ON SITUATION--A senior source in the Political Bureau of the Christian Phalange Party in Beirut has said that Bashir al-Jumayyil's position in the National Salvation Council will be to make sure that no Syrian soldier or armed Palestinian remains on Lebanese soil. In a conversation with our Arab affairs correspondent, Aharon Barne'a, the senior source emphasized that all the Muslims in Lebanon share their opposition to the IDF operation, and added that in his opinion Israel should not depend militarily on any force operating in Lebanon. According to the senior Christian Phalange Party source, the Christians will not agree to allow Syrian forces to remain in the al-Biqa' region because this will result in the emigration of all the Christians from the town of Zahlah. The Christians will then demand [yidreshu] that all the Palestinians be banished from Lebanon. It transpires that despite the total siege on West Beirut, the Phalange personnel continue to maintain contact between the Christians in the eastern part of the city and those in its western part; and that even in the western part of the city the Phalange have fighters. As for the future of Maj Sa'd Haddad, the senior source stated that after all of Lebanon is liberated from all the foreign forces Haddad will be an internal Lebanese problem. [Text] [TA221741 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Jun 82]

DETAILS ON REFUGEES--Close to 50 percent of the houses and facilities in the six Palestinian refugee camps near Tyre and Sidon were destroyed in the recent fighting, and about 40 percent of the refugees in the area have fled, according to a report by UNRWA director in the West Bank, R.E. Skinner. [The local UNRWA chief of public information] Terence Davidson said that he had "no idea" how many Palestinian refugees had been killed, wounded or taken into custody by the Israel defence forces, but a number of UNRWA workers are dead or missing. Of the 110,000 registered refugees in the area, 50,000 lived in un-administered camps, with the remainder in towns and villages. Two camps in the Tyre area, al-Rashidiyah and Burj al-Shamali, were two-thirds destroyed and the extent of damage in the third, al-Buss, was not clear, he said. Of the three camps near Sidon, 'Aun al-Hulwah was virtually wiped out, al-Nabatiyah camp was slightly damaged and the condition of the camp at al-Miyah Wa Miyah was not clear. There are about 226,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, with those outside the Tyre-Sidon area residing in Tripoli, Beirut and the al-Biqa' valley. Of the 110,000 in the south, Davidson said, about 40,000 fled during the fighting to the

interior of south Lebanon, West Beirut and al-Biq'a'. Smaller groups got as far as Tripoli, Damascus and Homs. [Excerpts] [TA010705 Jerusalem POST in English 1 Jul 82 p 3]

SOLDIERS OFFER TO JOIN HADDAD--Over 2,000 soldiers in the Lebanese Army, most of whom are southern Lebanese villagers, have reported to Major Haddad's command and asked to join his army. These include complete companies with their commanders. However, Haddad has announced that for the time being he will not take them in his army and has asked them to return to their bases. Haddad intends to discuss the matter with the Lebanese Army's chief of staff. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that hundreds of civilians from the southern Lebanese villages continue to join the popular militia which began operating this week under Haddad's command, together with the Shi'ite Organization of al-'Amal. [Text] [TA020424 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0407 GMT 2 Jul 82]

ISRAEL RELAYING OVERSEAS MAIL--Israel will be used as a relay station for civilian Lebanese mail going overseas. This was announced by Director of the Postal Services Eytan Lahman during a reporters' tour in Lebanon. Lahman said he will meet today with the director of the postal services in Lebanon. The meeting was arranged through Brig Gen Maymon, liaison officer to the Lebanese authorities, following the severing of Lebanon's overseas postal connections because of the damage caused to the Beirut airport. [Excerpt] [TA071219 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Jul 82 p 4]

MILITARY CONFISCATING TERRORIST BANK DEPOSITS--Following the opening of the banks in the towns and cities in the areas seized by the IDF, military factors have begun confiscating the terror organization's [bank] deposits. Civilian life, even in coastal towns which were hit harder than others, is slowly returning to normal and economic activity is being resumed. Israeli money is legal tender in Lebanon and the exchange rate yesterday was 5 shekels to the Lebanese pound. However, Israeli correspondents who wanted to pay with Israeli money in Beirut yesterday were refused in many cases. The business owners were ready to accept payment only in dollars. [Text] [TA011522 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Jul 82 p 1]

PHALANGISTS' 'TERRORIST' ACTIONS--In the mountain, the Phalangist gangs continue their terrorist actions against the citizens. They raided ('Ubayyah) Township, killed a youth and established a center there. In Kafr Matta, the Phalangists detained Lebanese gendarmes and shot dead a citizen in the presence of his wife and daughter. The Phalangist gangs have set up a number of barricades in several areas of the mountain. They have raided houses and torn up the pictures of martyr Kamal Jumblatt. The inhabitants of the mountain have resisted these terrorist acts. [Text] [NC171047 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0845 GMT 17 Jul 82]

CSO: 4400/373

SCHOLAR EVALUATES NATION'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS

GF131205 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 13 Jul 82 p 7

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Jul (KUNA)--A British scholar painted an encouraging picture for the development process in the Sultanate of Oman, due to the country's rapidly growing revenues from oil and gas exports.

Evaluating Oman's first 5-year plan of 1976 and the current second 5-year plan due to be completed in 1986, Howard Bowen-Jones, professor of geography at the University of Durham, said "regional development is being emphasised in Oman, with over-tones of national security needs reflecting regional geographical anxieties."

"So far, apart from necessities of defence, Oman has been relatively fortunate in that its revenues have increased more rapidly than expected," Professor Bowen-Jones said in a paper entitled "Development Planning in Oman" published by ARAB GULF JOURNAL.

He added that depending on its hydrocarbon resources, the sultanate hoped that its second development plan "will bring it significantly nearer to the broadbased, self-sustaining economy for which there is considerable potential."

Bowen-Jones said that Oman's first 5-year plan emphasised the need to "increase the proportion of capital investment expended on income-yielding projects" and this, together with other strategic aims, is carried through in the second plan which was ratified in 1980.

He pointed out that with an oil production rate of about 330,000 barrels per day, the continuing increase in export prices of crude oil and the government policy in reviving the interest of international oil companies in obtaining concessions and exploring for oil during a period of growing international concern over energy supplies, made it feasible for the government, as 60 percent shareholder in Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) to "accelerate the exploration of relatively small southern oil fields whose production viability became enhanced by rising oil prices."

The British academic said that while Oman is at the moment limiting attention in the petrochemical field to invest in studies, work is well-advanced

on the country's first oil refinery with a capacity of 50,000 barrels per day designed to meet domestic requirements, as is also an associated asphalt plant.

He also reported that the Omani Government was giving due attention to the development of gas resources before 1985.

"A long-term study covering the period until 2020 estimates that some two-thirds of the 6.3 trillion cubic feet of proven gas reserves will be required to enhance the oil recovery rate in the oilfields," he said.

Bowen-Jones said Oman's second development plan includes the development of the Rusail industrial estate, the start-up of the copper smelting complex at Sohar and the completion of the cement plant. All of which together with the Ghubra and desalination plant, will utilize natural gas energy.

He observed that a fundamental similarity existed between Oman's development needs and those of Saudi Arabia in that the two countries are "territorial states with all the opportunities and problems implied, while other Gulf states, for most purposes, are overwhelmingly urbanised city states."

The British scholar said that although the domestic absorptive capacity of Oman has its limitations, there are significant domestic production potentials in which the other Gulf states are far poorer. "The most obvious field is that of agriculture, traditionally the mainstay of a dominantly subsistence rural economy," he added.

However, Bowen-Jones said that agricultural horizontal expansion in Oman was too limited because of water resources constraints. "The major effort therefore, is to concentrate on vertical expansion through increased productivity of existing farms," he said.

The writer said that the main second plan effort in the agricultural field be centered on providing more services and infrastructure of farmers and fishermen coupled with more numerous and developed research and regional centers and land reclamation studies.

He pointed out that a key factor in Oman's development policy is a long-term strategy to discourage the flight from country-side to towns.

Bowen-Jones drew attention to the fact that the scale of proposed investment to various areas of the sultanate was "more a measure of geographical appreciation than of economic growth potential." He added that this was clear in the trends of planned and actual government expenditure on defence and national security between 1976 and 1985.

"Oman cannot escape from the dangerous consequences of its location, but the proposed plan to allocate 46 percent of its resources in 1985 to defence and security is a cruel diversion from the central business of development," he said.

The British professor said that the Omani second development plan envisages considerable expenditure growth in the social sectors, with special emphasis on education being paid for vocational training in order to enhance the country's national manpower. "In 1980 it was estimated that the civil labor force of 198,000 included 145,000 expatriates," he said.

IRON, STEEL INDUSTRY EXPANSION PROGRAMS EXAMINED

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 10 May 82 p 7

[Interview with Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Ma'ruf, vice-president of the Arab Iron and Steel Industry Federation, in Riyadh, by Husayn al-Tantawi: "Joint Arab Projects in the Iron and Steel Industry Will Be Submitted to the Arab Ministers of Industry During Their Next Meeting"; date not specified]

[Text] Right Now We Are Initiating a Unified Gulf Policy to Deal With the Practice of Flooding [Our Markets] With Goods From Foreign Countries.

Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Ma'ruf, vice-president of the Arab Iron and Steel Industry Federation, told AL-SIYASAH that the Federation has already completed its planning study which deals with the iron and steel industry in the Arab world. The organizations which participated in the financing of the study were the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development [AFESD] and the Arab Organization for Industrial Development [UNIDO]. The goal is to establish joint Arab iron and steel industry projects. The efforts being made in this direction will help to narrow the gap between production and consumption and will contribute toward the achievement of Arab economic integration on sound economic bases. This study will be submitted to the Arab ministers of industry during their next meeting so that they can review the implementation of the points made by the study, review its contents, and set up guidelines relating to them in the area of joint implementation and cooperation.

Arab Project in Mauritania

He said: "As we know, Mauritania has very good iron ore. Unfortunately the French companies exploited it for their own interests and got the iron ore at the cheapest prices current in the world at that time. For this reason the Federation is engaged in setting up a project for developing iron ore production in Mauritania which will have a capacity of 6 million tons and which will benefit the Arab nations, especially the countries of North Africa."

Training Arab Workers

He added: "The establishment of a project such as this is a good omen for the Arab iron and steel industry. Furthermore, the Federation is intensifying its efforts to follow up on the implementation of the plan to train [Arab] iron

and steel industry workers both in Arab firms and in European nations. Also, UNIDO is taking over the project of training technicians for this industry in the large industrial nations."

Technical Symposiums

Concerning the technical symposiums organized by the Federation, Dr Ma'ruf said: "The Federation's Technical Committee has organized an intensive program of specialized technical symposiums which are looking into the industry's numerous technological problems and the establishment of technical solutions for them on the basis of the expertise and experience of the member companies of the Federation. The Qatar Iron [and Steel] Company has submitted a number of studies such as those dealing with the manufacture of electric furnaces, maintenance, spare parts, and the utilization of sea water in refrigeration. All of these are modern technological and technical matters."

The Reputation of Qatar's Iron [and Steel]

[Question] As a member of the Administrative Board of the Qatar Iron [and Steel] Company, why has the iron [and steel] from Qatar become world famous in the short time that the industry [in Qatar] has been in operation? Is there a lot of iron ore in Qatar?

[Answer] There is no iron ore in Qatar. However, the iron and steel industry, like any industry, has basic production factors, which are capital, raw materials, fuel, and a labor force, in addition to which there is the marketing of the products. In terms of capital, there is no problem [with the industry in Qatar]. As for the raw materials, they are imported, and this constitutes no problem. Many advanced industrial nations import their raw materials from many nations. The only countries which do not do this are large nations such as the Soviet Union and the U.S. which have both the raw materials and the fuel, whether the energy comes from coal or from natural gas.

Good-Bye, Coal

But many European nations, as well as Japan, have neither raw materials nor fuel, but they nevertheless possess an advanced iron and steel industry. The industry has developed and has dispensed with the utilization of coal as a source of energy, in view of the high cost involved in extracting and transporting it. For this reason, the world has become oriented toward utilizing natural gas for the reduction of iron oxide and producing iron. This method is called the "direct-reduction process."

Utilizing Natural Gas

Therefore, when industrialization began in Qatar and became oriented toward utilizing the natural gas that used to be burned off in the past, people began to think about establishing industries such as the petrochemicals industry, chemical fertilizers industry, and iron and steel industry, which involve the use of natural gas. Naturally, the low price of natural gas in

Qatar was an incentive for setting up these industries. As for marketing, the Technical Center for Industrial Development in Qatar made a study of the market, its requirements, and projected consumption during the next 20 years.

An example of the market consumption situation is the fact that the Qatar plant last year produced only 400,000 tons, whereas the consumption requirements of the Gulf area last year were estimated at 2 million tons. Furthermore, market project studies indicate that in 1984 the market requirement will be 4 to 5 million tons. If we also take into consideration what the Jubayl complex in Saudi Arabia produces--which is 800,000 tons--then we see that the market still is in need of millions of tons of iron [and steel] for consumption in the Gulf area. The result of this situation is that the gap between consumption and production is increasing, and this naturally means that the market is oriented toward importing these materials.

The Work Force in the Gulf Area

Since there is a scarcity of skilled technical workers in the area, the apparatus responsible for providing manpower has concluded contracts with technical experts from industrially advanced countries who have a minimum of 5 years experience in the field, and has also concluded contracts with technical experts from the Arab countries. Even so, this work force is considered to be cheap in comparison with [the work force of] the other industrial nations. Also, we have asked our Japanese partner to increase automation in order to enable us to utilize a smaller work force. When the studies indicated that all the factors encouraged the establishment of the industry, people began to think about setting up the plant in 1974. In doing so, they were challenging all of the apprehensions and fears about the difficulty of absorbing and mastering such modern and advanced technology. There were also apprehensions relating to the volume of the market, the high cost of investments, the difficulty of obtaining a local work force, and other matters.

The Third Arab Nation

Qatar is the third Arab nation to enter the field of heavy industry. Also, it has set up the first integrated industrial plant in the Persian Gulf area. In doing so, it has adopted the most modern methods of direct reduction of iron ore in order to utilize Qatar's abundant sources of natural gas for the reduction process. The cost of setting up the plant was about 1.1 billion Qatari riyals. Thought was given to the future when it was set up near the port of Musay'id [Umm Sa'id], in order that the raw materials be easily delivered to the plant and in order that the plant's products be easily shipped out. The port has facilities for loading and unloading (enormous cranes and conveyor belts), and has large areas where enormous quantities of iron ore and processed iron can be kept.

In Record Time

The plant was built in record time. After only 11 months of the first year, the plant reached the point where it was able to produce to the capacity it was designed to produce. This is record time as far as the world's heavy industries are concerned. During the second year we actually produced the amount the plant was designed to produce, and during the third year we even exceeded this capacity by 30 percent. The reputation of the iron and steel

complex in Qatar has become so well established in the Gulf markets that the demand for its iron and steel now far exceeds the plant's production capacity. Qatar consumes only 15 percent of what the plant produces. The rest of it is exported to markets in foreign countries, especially the Gulf countries.

Problems of International Competition

[Question] How have you overcome the problems of international competition, or in other words, why is it that they have allowed you to grow as much as you have?

[Answer] There are several reasons why there is no marketing problem:

1. The commercial market in the Gulf area is an open market. For this reason, there is free and open competition. Products from Japan, the European nations, and other nations are allowed to enter the market and compete as much as they wish to. For this reason, we have concentrated on high-quality production.
2. The fact that the Gulf markets and the location of the industry are close to each other means that shipping and transportation costs are low. Also, the products are delivered quickly. These are matters which are very important to a contractor. When the markets are close by, he does not have to retain large areas for storage and inventory costs are lower.

Rusting at Sea

3. When iron is shipped at sea, it is subject to rusting. However, the Qatari iron is delivered to building sites within a few hours, and [generally] within 48 hours. This is why we see many contracts stipulating that the iron utilized be from Qatar. Naturally, this is a source of pride for Qatar and the other Gulf nations. We have been able to dispel all the doubts raised by the industrial nations concerning industrialization in the developing countries generally.

Recruitment of Young Qataris

4. His Highness the Amir of Qatar, the cabinet ministers, and high officials in the government have been interested in conducting an intensive campaign to recruit young Qataris to work in the increasing number of modern plants in Qatar. They have been assigned to study missions both in Qatar and abroad. Although the work conditions in the iron and steel industry are hard, and although it is hot, dusty, and stifling for those who work there, young Qataris have demonstrated that they are capable and that they have an evolving industrial mentality. This is why they are being rapidly promoted and why most of the division chief positions have been occupied by young Qataris.

Gulf Coordination and Cooperation

[Question] Is there, for example, joint coordination and cooperation between Qatar and Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] Yes, there is a lot of coordination and cooperation with all of the Gulf nations which produce iron and steel. As for the coordination and cooperation between Qatar and Saudi Arabia referred to in your question, a special permanent committee has been formed for this purpose and is chaired by the vice-president of the Administrative Board of the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation [SABIC] and the vice-president of the Administrative Board of the Qatar Iron and Steel Company. This committee meets every 6 months, either in Qatar or in Saudi Arabia, to study matters of cooperation in this field, to exchange information and opinions, and to study matters relating to training. Sixty young Saudis have been trained in Qatar for positions on a variety of administrative and technical levels. In addition to this, there is more coordination and cooperation in the area of protecting Gulf products from the policy of flooding the markets of the Gulf area with goods from foreign countries, especially Japanese and Korean goods. This is a deliberate policy. This matter has been dealt with by the GCC and several important decisions have been issued concerning the matter--decisions which are based on the Unified Economic Agreement. This is a system which is in effect even in the large industrial countries.

Another of the jobs of the committee is the exchange of views and opinions both concerning the raw materials utilized and methods of modern technology as well as the technical problems, difficulties, or matters which could be avoided in the new plant in Jubayl.

[Question] Do you have any final words?

[Answer] Let me say one thing in all clarity concerning the basic issue that we emerge with as we have talked about Qatar's experience with the achievements of its iron and steel complex. My basic purpose was to show a valid indication of the determination of the Gulf people and the fact that they have decided that is necessary for them to create an alternative to oil in the future--through setting up strong and giant industries such as chemical fertilizer industries, petrochemical industries, liquefied natural gas industries, organic fertilizer industries, etc.

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CSO: 4404/513

INTERVIEW WITH INTERIOR MINISTER

PM091509 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 5 Jul 82 pp 6, 26

[Reprint of interview granted by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud to Isma'il al-Shatti, chief editor of the Kuwait magazine AL-MUJTAMA': "Prince Nayif in a Candid Interview With AL-MUJTAMA': The Party Structures in Arab States Are Wrong"--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] AL-MUJTAMA': When it comes to discussing domestic affairs, the first thing that comes to mind is the question of freedom, such as freedom of opinion, freedom of political representation through elected councils, and all kinds of freedom. How much freedom do the Saudi people enjoy?

Prince Nayif: I say that every one of our people has a right to express his opinion as long as it is based on sincere conviction and within the legal limits dictated by Islam. We have fewer prisoners--political or otherwise--than any other state. Our prisoners are treated humanely in the spirit of Islam. Furthermore, we do not punish the relatives or tribes of those convicted. Some convicts have brothers in sensitive government positions.

We believe in Islam as the basis of everything we do. It is the eternal religion and will remain so until the earth and everyone on it return to God. Still, we cannot detach ourselves from reality and the times we live in. You are aware of the conditions in the countries around us. Is the so-called democracy there anything like the Western democracies? No, because there are secret councils, and fabricated ideologies. In some states there are parliamentary elections and there are assemblies supposed to represent the nation, but did the representatives get there by honest means? I think not. Even in the West, where is democracy and where is free opinion? And where is it in the East, in the Soviet Union where the rule is authoritarian and where everything is imposed on the millions of people, including what they are supposed to hear and to see. In our Arab and Islamic worlds, the groups that rule and wield power claim that they have a right, that right being to look after themselves and defend their existence.

True, there should be men who give advice and help the officials. We have such men in every department.

This is an era of evil and ideological invasion. We reject anything that might influence the public. We cannot allow any sinister intellectual activity whether it is done through television, radio or published material. We cannot allow such a thing by saying "let the good and the evil fight it out" because one cannot achieve good through evil or vice versa. We cannot allow communist books to invade our bookshops. We cannot allow the religious differences which appeared in the old days of Islam to reappear. We are strong within the dictates of Islam. We must be loyal to Islam and we must firmly ban anything that violates Islam and is harmful to public interests, and in doing so we fear nothing. Thank God we have no terrorism. A good Muslim doing his duty has nothing to fear, but we will not allow anyone who harms this country to get away with it, and we will see to it that such a person is always in fear.

AL-MUJTAMA': It has been said that Saudi society is deprived of trade union and popular activities, and that even the students cannot have unions, educational societies or even reform societies. In other words the people are not permitted to form any political, social or ideological organizations outside the government framework. Do you not think that this deprivation could lead to crises such as the Juhayman crisis?

Prince Nayif: This is an extension of our discussion regarding parliamentary work and elections. I will sum up my answer in the following three points:

1. Unions are more often than not exploited by subversive trends and imported ideologies. The experiment with trade unions in the Gulf states has proven this.
2. Why should we differentiate between the government and the people? The government consists of members of the public entrusted to look after public interests, and this they must do, otherwise they should not be where they are. The government does not consist of aliens. A government official was once a student, worker, engineer or someone who worked in the field of reform.
3. It is the duty of the government to safeguard the interests of all the peoples and this includes the interests of students and the interests of reform. The interests of students are looked after in the schools and universities. The other establishments and ministries look after work interests. As long as the government is ensuring the interests of all the people, why should we create organizations that would be exploited by people with subversive tendencies?

AL-MUJTAMA': But this could lead to the formation of underground and covert organizations. Do you believe that there are no secret organizations in Saudi Arabia?

Prince Nayif: I do not think there are secret organizations in Saudi Arabia. If there is such a thing, it must be just individuals adopting certain ideologies.

AL-MUJTAMA': Have you heard about the Leftist Vanguard Voice Grouping and the periodical magazine it publishes?

Prince Nayif: It consists of non-Saudis and is run by a non-Saudi body. You are supposed to know this. If I were to accept the principle you spoke about, namely legalize the formation of parties to prevent them from going underground, it would mean allowing the formation of a Communist Party, as some Arab countries have done, which is against the Islamic faith. The political parties experiment in the Arab countries has been a bitter one. Such experiments create destructive conflicts. We are perhaps witnessing something similar on a small scale. I mean by that the competition between the sports clubs which has turned into a conflict. So what would happen if the same applied to politics. I am not against the formation of social organizations or societies to provide services for the general public in, for example, the fields of agriculture, industry and guidance, but I say frankly: I will not allow the formation of any political organization under my name. Political responsibilities are affairs of the state. We will not allow communism to fight Islam in our country out of fear that it might otherwise grow underground. This is not against freedom. I am all for freedom, but I say loud and clear: I am all for freedom that does not contradict Islam and the national interests.

AL-MUJTAMA': But it was this policy of yours which helped the Juhayman Organization to grow underground and ultimately led to that painful tragedy of the Holy Grand Mosque.

Prince Nayif: I will answer you clearly and frankly. The organization which you call the Juhayman Organization and which you say grew underground was not an underground organization. We knew about it. In fact there was a dialogue between it and us. In this very office of mine we had discussions with them. They were not only antagonistic toward us. They were against all the Islamic groups. They told me, and I quote: We are against the Renunciation and Repudiation Group, the Muslim Brotherhood and all the new trends in the Islamic world. We are traditionalists.

I remember answering them that the entire state is traditionalist and that traditionalism is a common factor between us. However, their extremism finally drove them to their known end. Instead of helping the state and being helped by it, they did the opposite. As for their resorting to violence, we had expected that, but we never thought that they would be so mad as to use the holy mosque for armed political purposes. We had expected that some would resort to violence but that this violence would be directed at the government headquarters or any other place except the house of God. The truth is that their decision to use the grand mosque was made secretly a very short time before the incident. Very few of them knew about it. The rest were told only hours before the incident. This is what the investigations revealed. The organization itself was not a secret one. It was known. We had apprehended and warned some members. We knew most of their movements.

Despite all this, the holy mosque remained safe. Some people counseled that armed guards should be stationed around it, but that is not my opinion. The holy mosque has 54 open gates and they will remain open forever. The holy mosque is not a fortress, it is not the king's palace and it is not a government department. It is a house of God and it will remain open 24 hours a day. I will not bother visitors to the house of God with inspection and control.

AL-MUJTAMA': It has been said that they were aided by a foreign element.

Prince Nayif: Not at all. The arms came from Saudi Arabia. Every citizen is armed. My people carry arms. Almost every citizen carries arms.

AL-MUJTAMA': It has also been said that the Syrian Government sold arms to Saudi opposition circles.

Prince Nayif: If there were Syrians involved, we do not know about it, but in all honesty and for the record, I cannot say that Arab or international sides were involved. The investigations and the confessions showed that some people were misled by non-Saudis. Most of them had not had sufficient education. We were not merciful because what happened was ugly. Their punishment was equal to their intentions. I say it frankly, we will have no mercy on anyone who aggresses against the security of the country. We will not tolerate such a thing. In this day and age, unless you are a wolf you will be devoured by wolves.

AL-MUJTAMA': We have a report about a foundation which trains and organizes units to combat terrorism and riots in Saudi Arabia. It is an American foundation by the name of (FINIL). What is your comment?

Prince Nayif: It is not true. We cooperate with states other than America in equipment and training. Our cooperation with the United States is limited. I have not heard anything about what you have just said, except that we use the help of experts for training from everywhere, even Nationalist China.

AL-MUJTAMA': Many Kuwaitis are apprehensive about concluding a security agreement with Saudi Arabia because of the general impression that the Saudi intelligence and the Saudi Security Department are linked to the Western intelligence services, especially the American CIA and the German BND and that the Saudi Information Department is linked by computer to the American and British intelligence departments. What is your view?

Prince Nayif: I hope you will publish the question in the form it was presented. It is my right to ask this.

1. We would have liked to conclude an agreement with Kuwait. We believe that such an agreement is a minimum requirement for security cooperation between two fraternal countries.

2. Regarding what you said about cooperation between us and foreign intelligence services. I was the first person to tell the Kuwaitis--you may ask them--and to tell Bahrain, the UAE, Oman and Qatar that I am not prepared to discuss or negotiate with any non-Gulf personality representing a Gulf state. I tell you very clearly, do not seek the help or trust of anybody other than your own citizens. I challenge all our brothers in the Gulf to name one occasion where I brought a non-Saudi to negotiate Saudi security. I really do challenge them. They know that they wanted non-Gulf personalities to negotiate with us. I met a foreign official there, and I refused to negotiate with him.

As for the Kuwaitis' apprehension you spoke of, regrettably it is due not to what you mentioned but to the fact that we apply Islamic law. They feared the application of Islamic law through the security treaty on the exchange of criminals. It is an honor for us to be applying the Islamic law from which we will never deviate. We will never sign any treaty that violates it. As for cooperation with the foreign intelligence, it is not true. Our security organs are confined to our own citizens.

AL-MUJTAMA': It has been said that your security adviser is a former CIA chief in the region.

Prince Nayif: I have no foreign advisers. The report is not true. We have no advisers. Yes, we do have experts whom we bring over for limited periods to train our people on imported equipment. As soon as their task is completed they leave. They are experts for training on equipment only. I challenge, today, tomorrow and thereafter, I challenge anyone to produce a foreigner who can say that he planned or that he was an adviser. Our brother security men in the Gulf states are the first to know this fact, because they have visited us and our departments. The last visitors were groups stemming from the GCC and specialized in security affairs. I can let you now go directly to the General Intelligence Department. You can go there and freely enter any office, but you will not find one single foreigner, except, as I said, technical equipment experts.

AL-MUJTAMA': But why has Saudi Arabia been concluding separate security treaties with the GCC states? Why not a collective treaty? Is this line not contrary to the principles on which the GCC was founded?

Prince Nayif: The GCC is only 1 year old. The security treaties have been on the cards for years. I sought a collective security treaty for the Gulf states, but regrettably, it was not approved. That is why I resorted to the bilateral approach. Nevertheless, I still look forward to a collective security agreement of which the separate agreements will become part or complement. This is what was decided by the GCC interior ministers conference, namely that the bilateral agreements are the minimum that should lead to a general agreement.

AL-MUJTAMA': Abu Sa'ud [Prince Nayif], we were surprised by a report published by Kuwaiti newspapers that Saudi Arabia is trying to form a Gulf security umbrella against religious extremism. Since this report affects,

above all, the Islamic Movement, we would like to know what you mean by security umbrella, and how you intend to deal with religious extremism?

Prince Nayif: Do you really believe that? How could we do such a thing? Does it seem reasonable to you. To the Arab states, we are religious extremists. Is there anyone in the region closer than we to the religion and the faith, or to the application of the Islamic law? As for the so-called religious extremism, there is no extremism in religion. The Islamic faith is known in all its dimensions. We support anyone who abides by what was ordained by God and the prophet, peace and blessings be upon him. We are against everyone who does not. We are against extremism when it exceeds these limits, and for it when it is within these limits. We do not care who calls us extremists.

AL-MUJTAMA': THE WORLD ARMED FORCES MAGAZINE, published in the United States, reported in September 1980 that, since 1968, 70 percent of Saudi Arabia's defense budget had been spent on building the army structure and on training the manpower in various skills in consultation with the United States. It has also been reported that 60 percent of the U.S. military sales to Saudi Arabia in 1981 were for military establishments and utilities in Saudi Arabia. The same magazine has also said that the Saudi armed forces spend more money on arms purchases than any other forces in the world, but at the same time they are incapable of using these resources against any foreign threat. What is your comment?

Prince Nayif: This is just talk by a foreign magazine. It is not true. I add that his highness the defense minister would like such a percentage of the state's budget to be allocated for the armed forces. I do not think that there is a single state in the region which can spend 70 percent of its budget on the armed forces, regardless of its revenue.

AL-MUJTAMA': Abu Sa'ud, as interior minister and the man in charge of implementing the law, I ask you why some of the dignitaries and notables whose news, photographs and scandals fill the foreign press--rich people such as Khashuqji and Al-Fasi--are not arrested. Why arrest only ordinary members of the public?

Prince Nayif: By God, my brother, I am with you on this question, at least half of what is published must be true, otherwise it would not have been exposed. However, as an executor of the law, I can only carry out what the courts rule. I apprehend those who break the law in Saudi Arabia, not abroad. As interior minister I am responsible for what happens within the boundaries of Saudi Arabia. I am answerable regarding any crimes committed by anyone in Saudi Arabia, from the highest to the lowest. If I do not apprehend those who commit crimes, then I am responsible.

AL-MUJTAMA': Abu Sa'ud, some of our questions are addressed to you in your capacity as one of the Saudi political leaders. Do you believe that the Saudi aid commitment to certain states in the region is still justified?

Prince Nayif: This is a very sensitive subject and should be viewed objectively. The aid is for a certain cause and in accordance with an Arab summit conference resolution. Changing it requires another resolution after study and examination. I hope that the aid is geared toward the defense of Palestine, and not other purposes.

DAILY WARNS AGAINST U.S. INTERVENTION IN LEBANON

GF111740 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 8 Jul 82 p 2

[Editorial: "Is the U.S. Role in Lebanon the Beginning of War or Peace?"]

[Text] The United States is preparing to involve itself wrongly and directly in the current Lebanese crisis after the failure of its indirect role in evacuating the Palestinian resistance from Lebanon, either through the Zionist invasion troops, which were granted the green light from Washington, or through the negotiations conducted by the U.S. shuttle envoy Philip Habib, who has been using magic tricks in an attempt to convince the steadfast resistance in western Beirut to surrender. The U.S. Sixth Fleet, which will play a role in the new U.S. intervention if it occurs, is approaching the Lebanese coast in preparation to carry out this task, while Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus is showing signs of welcoming the U.S. big guest [the U.S. Sixth Fleet] in carrying out its tasks.

The U.S. president, Reagan, said that the U.S. troops will only intervene to evacuate the Palestinian resistance from Lebanon at the official request of the Lebanese Government. No real Lebanese Government exists, and the Lebanese president, Ilyas Sarkis, is surrounded in his palace by Israeli tanks. In spite of that, Fu'ad Butrus, who is still acting as foreign minister in the resigning Lebanese Government, affirmed that his government did not reject the U.S. proposal to internationalize and said that this military internationalization of the Lebanese crisis is in the interest of Lebanon.

Although it is premature to guess the fate of the U.S. intervention and its success or failure in evacuating the steadfast troops in Beirut, a quick reading of the history of Lebanon and other parts of the world where there was an American or non-American intervention will lead us to discover that the invaders were driven out and that the people's destiny was the victor at the end. The entire world, which condemned the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, will not hesitate to denounce the U.S. intervention in Lebanon.

It would be much better for the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan to shoulder its responsibility as an administration which represents

an international superpower in working for peace in the world instead of threatening this peace by using military force and interfering in others' affairs, especially since there was an opportunity for peace which only required the least bit of effort from the United States to exploit. The new U.S.-Zionist intervention in Lebanon will be a historical turning point in the Arab region, not only on the Lebanese crisis level, but also on the Palestinian issue level.

CSO: 4400/377

PAPERS CRITICIZE LACK OF ARAB UNITY

LD171408 Riyadh SPA in English 1200 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Jul (SPA)--Saudi newspapers today warned of "an international conspiracy" against the Arab and Islamic nation and called for a unified action to confront plots.

The Jidda-based OKAZ deplored prevailing Arab differences and rifts which it said had encouraged others to "underestimate the strength of the Islamic and Arab nation." The paper cautioned against "the danger of such a conspiracy which is aimed at changing the Middle East and Islamic world's map."

OKAZ called on those leaders who believe only in loud shouting to understand the secrets of the international foul play."

The paper said the Arabs could neither protect the Palestinian commando movement by loud shouting and display of oratorical speeches nor liberate Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan Heights and Lebanon through the prevailing Arab differences. It called on Islamic and Arab states to "support the Palestinians in their struggle."

Deploring the Iran-Iraq conflict, the paper said "the war at such a time will provide Israel with a chance to achieve its aims."

Commenting on the same subject, the Mecca-based AL-NADWAH said current events in the Arab world reflected a "clear absence of Islamic and Arab solidarity." The paper called on the Arab and Islamic world to devise joint measures to "safeguard the region's security from such a dangerous situation." It said "due to the absence of Islamic and Arab solidarity, certain parts of the Arab world will be exposed to pressure and blackmail at the hands of major powers."

CSO: 4400/377

BRIEFS

LEBANON RELIEF DISCUSSED WITH KREISKY--Vienna, 16 Jul (KUNA)--Prince Talal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia and Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky met in Vienna Thursday to discuss plans to get emergency supplies through the Israeli blockade and into Beirut. "We are trying to find a way together of getting aid through," the prince told KUNA, the only wire agency at Kreisky's private villa here, after nearly 2 hours of talks with the Austrian leader. The prince, a United Nations special envoy and chairman of the Arab Gulf Programme for UN Humanitarian and Development Organisations, added that the Israelis were stopping aid from reaching Lebanon. "That has been our experience, too," said Chancellor Kreisky. "We have been trying to [word indistinct] into the Middle East, but the latest reports we have were that Israel is stopping supplies from getting into Beirut." The prince would not give details of what methods were being considered to ensure aid reached Beirut. But he said that his talks with Kreisky, which also covered other Middle East affairs, were very valuable. On Wednesday, the prince attended a meeting on disabled people at the United Nations Centre here and rebuked developing countries, particularly in Africa and South America, for defaulting on their obligations to the disabled. [Text]
[LD161347 Kuwait KUNA in English 1116 GMT 16 Jul 82]

CSO: 4400/377

CENTRAL REGION GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO 'SUNA'

Khartoum SUNA in English No 4166, 24 Jun 82 pp 6, 7

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Rahim Mahmud, governor of the Central Region, with SUNA; date and place not specified]

[Text] Medani, June 24 (SUNA)--The reappointed governor of the Central Region 'Abd-al-Rahim Mahmud has indicated that the coming stage aims at bringing about economic and social development by mobilizing efforts of the allied forces.

In a lengthy interview with SUNA Mahmoud said his prime steps were to express his deep thanks to President Nimeri for selecting him for a second term, as governor. This, he said, meant that "my government of the previous term, has won the confidence of the leader of the nation."

"The coming stage is a crucial and historic one and my duty is to reform the (regional) government in order to enable the people to carry out the programme which I presented to the voters," he said. He noted his first duty was to mobilize all capabilities to exploiting available agricultural and industrial resources in the region.

On his views over consolidating cooperation and coordination between the central region and other regions, Mahmoud said his views are based on three points: joint work for the establishment of companies between the Region and other regions. These companies will be specialized in agricultural production, agro-industry, animal production, transport and construction of roads; the setting up of scientific centres to exchange, information and expertise; and to work with neighbouring regions to uproot problems of pastures and nomads.

On his drive towards rectifying performance of the regional bodies, Mahmud placed his confidence on all the executive bodies of the region which, he said, could carry out programmes of the transitional period by 90%. However, there were shortcomings which need time to be removed, he said.

Touching on his aims of promoting the living standards of the citizens in the coming stage, Mahmoud said these aims can be attained through the development of the society. He said there is no separation between economic and social development.

He said he was committed to mobilizing efforts of the national alliance forces in establishing productive projects.

Mahmud said there were some priorities he plans to implement; these include the generalization of cooperative societies, popular pharmacies, electrical bakeries, establishment of a fleet of tankers for transporting petroleum products as well as big stores and improving transport means in the region.

On his programmes towards solving some immoral issues, Mahmud said he was concerned with the psychological suffering of the youth and attributed that to the absence of cultural and sports activities.

Mahmud said his aim was to create suitable atmosphere to activate youth movement which, he said, would bring about a great social achievements.

CSO: 4500/225

BRIEFS

REGIONAL MEETING--Juba, June 24 (SUNA)--The Southern Region People's Assembly's SSU group yesterday nominated citizen Jaifar Muhammad Numayri to the SSU Presidency in a meeting chaired by President of the Transitional High Executive Council of the Southern Region Gasmallah 'Abdallah Rassas. In an address before the session Rassas congratulated the house members on the citizens confidence and called for unity and concord. He urged SSU members to abandon conflicts and groupings. Rassas said the SSU was the melting pot of all ideas and called for resolving citizens problems through logic and wisdom. The meeting was also attended and addressed by National People's Assembly speaker and chairman of the People's assemblies SSU parliamentary groups 'Izz-al-Din Al-Sayyid. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4166, 24 Jun 82 p 7]

HEC ELECTIONJuba, June 24 (SUNA)--Joseph James Tombura, the former Southern Region Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communications, was elected President of the High Executive Council (H.E.C.) of the Southern Region, at the first meeting of the newly elected Southern Region Peoples Assembly yesterday. Tombura has won the office by a majority of 62 votes against 49 votes gained by Clement Mboro, another candidate for the office of the (HEC) President. Both Tomburo and Mboro has been nominated for the office during the meeting of Southern Region Peoples Assembly SSU Group held early yesterday under the Chairmanship of Gasmallah Abdallah Rassas, the President of the Transitional High Executive Council. The meeting of the Peoples Assembly Group has also elected Mathew Obur Ayang Speaker of the Regional House. He won the office by a majority of 66 against 46 votes gained by the other candidate Martin Magier. Following those constitutional procedures, the Regional House then assembled and was addressed by Rassas who greeted the members and cited the great responsibilities bestowed on them. Rassas urged the members to collaborate with the new government by overcoming differences and tribal practices. The House then approved the SSU Group's candidates for the Presidency of the H.E.C. and the House Speaker. Andrew Kwaj and Clement Bazia were unanimously elected as deputy speakers. After the new officials were sworn in before Rassas, the deputy speaker of the National Peoples Assembly addressed the House and called for unity of ranks. He said time is ripe now for pooling efforts towards construction. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4166, 24 Jun 82 p 11]

TOMBURA CALLS FOR UNITY--Juba, June 24 (SUNA)--The newly elected presidency of the Southern Region H.E.C. Joseph James Tombura yesterday addressed the Regional Peoples Assembly. He praised the constitutional system established by May Revolution which have enabled the people to exercise the right of selecting their leaders. Elaborating on his assignment he said the new administration would work towards creating unity and harmony between Southerners. He appealed to his rival, Clement Mboro and his aides to pool their efforts towards improving peoples life. His government, he said, would base its policy within SSU formula. He further praised the contribution of Rassas government towards peace and stability in the Region. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4166, 24 Jun 82 p 12]

TOMBURA-CV--Khartoum, June 24 (SUNA)--Joseph James Tombura, the President elect of the High Executive Council of the Southern Region was born in 1929 in Wau. He is married, with eight children. He graduated from Khartoum Technical Institute and took a course in mechanical engineering in the United States. He visited Uganda, Kenya, Zaire, Egypt, Greece, England and the U.S.A. He was appointed Regional Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communications in 1979. He was awarded the Unity Medal and in 1978. The Second Class republican decoration. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4166, 24 Jun 82 p 12]

INVESTMENT PROGRAM REVIEWED --Khartoum, June 24 (SUNA)--The ministerial committee for the economic sector would soon submit the three-year investment programme for endorsement by the Council of Ministers, SUNA Learnt. This was decided after the committee held a series of meetings during which the programme was discussed in depth. Out of the project's allocation of L.S. 1.9 billion, 28% has been allocated for investment in the agricultural sector, 13% for regional development, 10% services, 9% mining and energy, 6-1/2% industry, 4% water and 3% for communications and transport. The investment programme aims at increasing gross national product by 4% through the renovation of existing schemes and encouraging the private sector. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4166, 24 Jun 82 p 5]

RAILWAYS DECENTRALIZATION--Khartoum, June 24 (SUNA)--As part of the Railways Corporation decentralization policy the Transport and Communications Minister yesterday cancelled posts of general administration directors. All administrations directors have been appointed advisors to the Corporation General Manager. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4166, 24 Jun 82 p 3]

CROP PRICES--Khartoum, June 24 (SUNA)--The system of fixing minimum prices for the main crops is being maintained in accordance with the state's programme aimed at both rewarding the producer and guaranteeing reasonable returns, said Cooperation, Commerce and Supply Minister Faruq al-Maqbul. He said the minimum prices are always considered with production costs and the world market fluctuations in mind. The producer, as the experience has shown, gains much more than the fixed minimum prices, he said. With regard to the new season, the minister announced that the following minimum prices were fixed after consultation with the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning: Sesame--Ls. 15 per quintal; groundnut (gadazif)--Ls. 9 per quintal; groundnuts (al jazirah)--Ls. 7.86 per quintal; groundnuts (new halfa)--Ls. 8.56 per quintal. Sayed al-Maqbul said that prices were up by 25% for the new season.

He also called upon all farmers to increase production and promised them the state's support to boost their earnings. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4166, 24 Jun 82 p 3]

REPUBLICAN DECREE--The President yesterday issued a Republication Decree appointing the Northern Region Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, to the post of Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northern Region Agricultural Corporation. The decree also appointed the General Manager of the White Nile Agricultural Corporation to the post of Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Corporation. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 4165, 23 Jun 82 p 8]

TAX RETURNS--Khartoum, June 21 (SUNA)--Up till the end of May tax returns for fiscal year 1981/82 totaled Ls 132.8 million according to Tax Department officials. This is Ls 2.8 million more than what had been estimated and compares with Ls 108.6 million for the same period last year. In a statement to SUNA, Tax-Department General Director Saad Yahya pledged that the Department would intensify efforts to collect information and identify financiers. Tax offices would be given greater manpower, more instruments and, most importantly, more cars, he said. New sources of information would be investigated, and collecting methods improved, the Director added. Moreover, proper estimates would be established, taking into account the financiers' true profits, he said. The Director pointed out that the Tax Department faces a perpetual problem identifying those who run businesses but have no offices. Such people, he said, have no trading license, no commercial name, and they don't follow legal procedures. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4163, 21 Jun 82 p 2]

BRITISH GRANT--Khartoum, June 21 (SUNA)--The United Kingdom has granted the Sudan 5.2 million pounds sterling to consolidate its balance of payments for fiscal 1982/83, SUNA learnt. It is understood that three separate agreements pertaining to the grant will be signed within the next few days by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning on behalf of the Sudanese government and the British charge D'Affaires here on behalf of his government. About 1.6 million pounds sterling from the grant will be spent on the purchase of new equipment for Burri power-station, and a further 1.6 million for importation of insecticides. In addition 1/2 million will be earmarked for the mechanical Transport Department, 1/2 million for spare parts of agricultural machinery in the southern region, and 1/2 million will be given in the form of food aid. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4163, 21 Jun 82 p 6]

ELECTIONS RESULT--Juba, June 23 (SUNA)--The Technical Committee of the Southern Region People's Assembly elections yesterday declared the following as winning candidates: 1. Susan abu 'Atim: Sudan Women Association seat-East Equatoria; 2. Mary Myateel Kol-Sudan Women Association seat-Jonglei. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English no 4165, 23 Jun 82 p 6]

PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS--Khartoum, June 23 (SUNA)--President Numayri yesterday decreed the formation of a Press and Publication Council. The Council will be chaired by the Minister of State for Internal Affairs. The committee will comprise Regional Information and Culture officials, a representative to the SSU, a representative to the Chamber of the Attorney general, newspaper

editors, the Director of the Government Printing Press, the Education Ministry Printing Press and the People's Armed Forces Printing Press, the director of Ideological Education and the Head of the Journalists' Union. The following are also included in the council: Muhammad Khugali Salihin, Nudaththir 'Abd-al-Rahim, 'Abd-al-Malik 'Abdallah, 'Ali al-Mek, Al-tayyish Zayn-al-'Abidin, Bashir Muhammad Said and Fadl Bashir. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4165, 23 Jun 82 p 3]

EMPLOYMENT--Khartoum, June 23 (SUNA)--President Numayri yesterday decreed the formation of the civil service selecting committee under the chairmanship of Salah Qurashi, the other members are Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali Nimr, Muhammad al-Murtada Mustafa, Fu'ad 'Id 'Ali and Abel 'Ati 'Abdallah. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English no 4165, 23 Jun 82 p 3]

KHALID MEETS UNION LEADERS--The leaders of the trade-union bodies in the Telecommunications Corporation announced that they welcome the administrative decisions which the Minister of Transport and Communications has recently made. They also confirmed their support for him and for the chairman of the board of directors and for the general director of the Corporation in assuming their role as leaders to set in motion and to promote work and raise the rates of production. This occurred during a meeting over which Mr. Khalid Hasan 'Abbas, Minister of Transport and Communications presided in his office yesterday morning with the leaders of the trade-union bodies of the Telecommunications Corporation in the presence of Mr. Hasan Ahmad Hadrabi, chairman of the board of directors and general director of the Corporation. In it the status of the application of the staffing to the workers and the steps which were taken in this connection were reviewed. The minister also expressed his agreement regarding the setting down of conditions of employment for the workers after he examined the memorandum on these conditions that the management of the Corporation had submitted to him. [Text] [Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 30 Jun 82 p 1]

CSO: 4504/414

MERITS OF ALLIANCE WITH USSR VIEWED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 263, 17-23 May 82 pp 21-22

[Article by Wadi' al-Hilu: "The Strategic Option is a Precondition for Achieving Equilibrium"]

[Text] There is a change in the Soviet Union's position towards Cairo and American efforts to settle the Middle East crisis. This was indicated by positive "signals" sent by the Soviet Union to President Husni Mubarak's government after the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat. It was made even more clear when the Soviet ambassador in Beirut, Alexander Soldatov, after a meeting with the Lebanese president, made a statement outlining the aftermath of the Sinai evacuation. He said that Egypt had replaced Israeli occupation with American occupation, and that the latter constitutes a direct threat to peace in the region and in the world.

These words may be added to what was stated in the past by another Soviet official about that country's conditions for a political settlement of the Middle East crisis. Similarly, President Leonid Brezhnev has previously offered an initiative plan that was received positively by some and rejected by others. That was before Saudi Crown Prince Fahd proposed his own eight-point plan. Diplomatic circles are circulating certain details that have been "appended" to this plan so as to secure the Soviet's public approval. These circles say that three articles have been added to the basic plan, and that the eleventh article provides for an Arab consensus as a necessary condition for the resumption of the endeavors of the Arab summit conference. The summit conference will probably be held next November.

But the two positions--if correct--conflict in form and content. Informed sources see in the statement of the Soviet ambassador in Beirut an escalation in the pitch of American-Soviet rivalry in the region, as part of the prevailing rivalry between them in other hot spots of the world. Indicative of this is that Presidents Reagan and Brezhnev are as yet unable to agree on a time and place for their meeting, even though there are indications that they do agree in principle.

Diplomatic circles propose the Middle East to be the site of real tension in the political and propaganda confrontation between the Americans and Soviets. In any case, this confrontation has already occurred by proxy, if we may use

the term. Before the latest Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and after, Menachem Begin stated that Israel has completed the last withdrawal it will ever make from occupied Arab lands, and that Israel will not consider withdrawing from the Golan, the West Bank, and Southern Lebanon. Similarly, another Israeli official mentioned the subject of Soviet missiles in the Biqa', and that Israel could destroy them in a matter of hours. A Syrian official responded to these statements, saying that Damascus would not remain silent over any attack on Lebanon, the Palestinian resistance, and the missiles, and that those missiles will be directed against any aircraft falling within their range. Previously, Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Syrian prime minister, stated in a newspaper interview that his country would defend Jordan in the event of an Israeli attack on its territory.

Since then, Israel has carried out two air attacks aimed at Palestinian and Lebanese bases in Damour, the Chouf plain, and the Sidon hills. Syrian pilots joined in the ensuing battle, and as a result two Syrian jets were downed.

The question posed by diplomatic circles is: Has what has happened so far actually a part of American-Soviet confrontation? Is the Israeli threat of attack and repression really part of the American threat? Is the Syrian response a part of the Soviet response?

Alliance and Treaty

It is now well-known that Israel has signed a treaty of strategic alliance with the U.S. After that, it proceeded to annex the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, and President Menachem Begin himself announced that the withdrawal from Sinai would be the last withdrawal.

Correspondingly, Syria signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union. Observers agree that, in their estimation, this is among the most important treaties to be signed between Moscow and a number of countries, but without the corresponding American-Israeli strategic agreement. Syrian-Soviet relations have not reached the point of a strategic alliance, although there is talk of the necessity for elevating relations between Damascus and Moscow to the level of such an alliance. But that would require the following:

- (1) That Moscow consider Soviet security a part of its own strategic security, and work toward fortifying Syria against American-Israeli conditions for settlement more than it has been, so that it will be a partner in imposing the political settlement needed in the Middle East.
- (2) That Moscow perceive in fact that the American military presence constitutes a threat to Soviet interests primarily, and to peace in the region and in the world, as was stated by the Soviet ambassador in Beirut.
- (3) That a Syrian-Soviet strategic alliance be the response to the Israeli-American strategic alliance. This means the possibility of more than political confrontation with the U.S., which considers the Middle East to constitute part of its strategic security.

(4) The question also requires a Soviet position partial to "certain" Arabs at the expense of the others. So far, the Soviets have announced their support of the policy of Arab solidarity, and their adherence to it, while urging their "friends" to do likewise.

(5) Finally, a Syrian-Soviet strategic alliance as an answer to the Israeli-American alliance means the bi-polarization of the region along the well-known lines in Europe, which is divided into eastern and western camps.

The Strategic Option

Therefore, the question doesn't appear to be an easy one, although this is not to say that it is impossible. On the contrary, it is very possible in light of the total American alignment with Israel, and in light of Syria's feelings that the American-Israeli pincer is aimed at ensnaring the Arab states and even Damascus itself. It is this that moves some people to talk of the strategic option as an inescapable condition for achieving strategic equilibrium between Syria and Israel. The Syrian leadership insists on it and considers it to be a strategic option from which there is not getting around. In the past, this leadership had stated that the conditions for a political settlement are not yet profuse. On the contrary, the regional and international situation, in the words of one Syrian official, in need of a "political shake-up" before any talk of settlement can be possible. Therefore, as the Syrian official sees it, the region is closer to war than to the political settlement which Syria worked for in the past, and which looks to be impossible now.

The question is: Does the Soviet Union see what Syria sees in regard to the preconditions for a political settlement? Is it prepared to aid Syria to achieve strategic equilibrium with Israel, before discussions of settlement can begin? Is it prepared to engage in more than a political confrontation with the U.S. over the Middle East? In other words, does Moscow consider the designs of Israel and the U.S. on Syria to mean that the Soviet Union is also an intended objective?

What if the regional situation becomes so grave that it threatens to crumble the prevailing, fragile equilibrium? What if the United States is unable to muzzle the expansionist, colonialist tendencies of Israel? Then, according to informed circles, the drive toward a Syrian alliance with the Soviet Union would become part of the effort of Syria to preserve its own national sovereignty and autonomy. The options at this level are neither plentiful nor easy. But there is no avoiding them. On this basis, the forthcoming visit of President al-Asad to Moscow resembles his visit to the Soviet capital 2 years ago which ended in the signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation. At that time, diplomatic circles considered the signing of that treaty, after years Syrian-Soviet relations, to represent the high point of relations between them. On the other hand, it was indicative of the attempts at encirclement that Damascus was exposed to. But now, in the estimation of diplomatic circles, in light of the presence of American forces and the multinational force in Sinai, and in light of a possible Arab axis based in Egypt and backed by the U.S. and Israel, Syrian-Soviet relations appear to propose a qualitatively new leap forward. Syria has become in need of more than

friendship and cooperation with Moscow. And, it appears that Moscow is in need of more than friendship and cooperation with Syria. And in anticipation of the announcement of a strategic alliance between them, it appears that the agenda for the meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Brezhnev will abound with questions and clarifications that will surely bear the desired answers. The alliance cannot be undertaken in isolation from what is now taking place in the Arab region and in the world. Moreover, the basic precondition of an alliance is decisions be taken in common. A decision of this kind requires the prevalence of the right objective conditions. President Al-Asad's visit to Moscow might be basically intended for a discussion of "objective conditions" and Soviet perceptions of them before taking a decision at the level of common destiny.

9945

CSO: 4404/520

PALESTINIAN SOLDIERS RECOUNT BATTLE DETAILS

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Jun 82 p 5

[Interview with Palestinian soldiers who recently fought against the Israelis in Lebanon, by Salamah Dahdal, 'Abd al-Karim Shahin, and 'Abd al-Rahman Sumudi, on 19 June 1982: "Exciting War Stories, Told by the Soldiers of the Palestinian Revolution, Concerning the Battles in Lebanon"; place of interview not specified]

[Text] The Syrian Artillery Protected Our Rear and Paved the Way for Us to Advance Toward the Enemy. Our Syrian Brothers Destroyed 15 [Israeli] Tanks in the Rashayya al-Wadi Battle and Killed All the [Enemy] Infantry.

We Accepted the Challenge, Committed Ourselves to Stand Fast, and Carried Out Our Task With Our Blood and Sacrifices.

We Resisted the First Landing and Destroyed an Enemy Battleship.

The Lebanese National Forces also resisted the invading Israeli forces, and the Syrian Arab Army plunged into the latest battle in order to defend Lebanon's honor and the domains of the Arab world. Likewise, the men of the Palestinian Resistance Movement fiercely confronted and resisted this Israeli aggression. They destroyed Israeli tanks and motorized vehicles, killed Israeli soldiers, and impeded the Israeli advance. In fact, in many places they halted the Israeli advance.

They were, and still are, fierce fighters who are giving their blood and their lives in order to achieve victory for their cause. In their battle, some of them lost their lives and some of them were wounded. But they did not fail, and they were not defeated. They are revolutionaries who have accepted the challenge, the heat of battle, and sacrifices--with more than words. Yesterday we met with some of those who were wounded and talked with them about their heroism. We interviewed them while they were in their hospital beds--where their wounds were being quickly bandaged and healed since they are due to go back into the arena of battle.

We Heard the Screams of the Enemy

The soldier Ahmad Muntasir said: "I was serving in an artillery company. On the first day of the war we moved toward the town of Jibshit in order to halt the advance of enemy Israeli forces which had entered Lebanon at the (F'fa'iyah) bridge [possibly refers to the town of Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr]. There we had a skirmish with the enemy, destroyed four enemy tanks, and the enemy was forced to halt his advance. Then we began to hear the Israelis scream and demand that their commanders send in air support. Only half an hour after all of this screaming the airplanes came and began to bombard us. We had to withdraw to the town of al-Nabatiyah and set up our positions there."

"The next day enemy forces attacked us. Our battle units resisted them and we stopped their advance after destroying eight more of their tanks and forcing them to retreat. In this case, the invading forces retreated toward the hills surrounding al-Nabatiyah. When we attempted to pursue them, enemy airplanes attacked us. However, we continued fighting and hit five of the enemy's vehicles. On the morning of the third day the enemy received new reinforcements and then had a total of about 600 vehicles. The enemy then began attacking us again, and a battle went on between us which lasted all day. During the battle we destroyed six more enemy tanks. These tanks were seen burning outside the town of al-Nabatiyah."

Concerning being wounded, he said: "We set up an ambush for the enemy in another spot. I was wounded by a rifle shot while we were attacking a concentration of enemy troops. This prevented me from continuing to fight, so I went back to the rear lines to a hospital in order to have my wounds bandaged and dressed."

Ahmad then pointed out that the Syrian air force had helped them a great deal during the battles, especially when Syrian helicopters bombarded enemy tank columns and impeded their advance.

We Taught Him a Lesson

The soldier Sa'd 'Ali al-Sa'di told us: "My comrade Rami and I were given the task of setting up an ambush for enemy tanks which were advancing toward Arnun. When these tanks came within range of our weapons, we fired on them and destroyed two of them. In addition to this, we destroyed an enemy troop transport vehicle which burned up along with all of the troops who were in it. Then we received orders from our commanders to move toward al-Nabatiyah. There we joined up with some of the Palestinian revolutionary forces and went out to meet enemy vehicles which were advancing toward al-Nabatiyah. After we took up our positions, enemy forces began passing by and we clashed with them. We damaged one of their tanks, and the other tanks changed their direction. When we attempted to pursue them, we were bombarded by enemy airplanes and it was then when I was wounded." He went on to say: "As I am talking here about the battles of honor which we fought, I do not want to forget to mention the heroic role played by the Syrian forces and the forces of the Lebanese National Movement which taught the enemy a lesson--which he will never forget. These forces attacked the troop concentrations of the enemy and inflicted huge losses on them in terms of personnel and materiel."

We Sank the Battleship

The soldier 'Awdah 'Awwad, of the 1st Armored Battalion of the Palestinian Revolution, told us: "My battle unit was stationed in the Ba'asir fortress in the District of al-Shuf before the attack which the Israelis undertook and which resulted in the killing of children and older people and the destruction of buildings along with those living inside them. While these battles were going on, we were informed that an Israeli landing might take place." "We then undertook guard and observation duty until the enemy attempted to land his forces in the area of the main bridge. Then we attacked these forces and sank the battleship which was moving toward shore."

"This aroused the ire and wrath of the enemy and caused him to take revenge on the civilian inhabitants in the area and to bombard civilian locations. On the morning of the next day enemy airplanes bombarded us with cluster bombs. Around noontime, the enemy tried to land its ground forces. We engaged in a skirmish with them, destroyed one of their boats, and prevented the landing. When the enemy aviation was unable to put us out of commission, on the third day the enemy sent about 100 tanks against us. We resisted their advance, destroyed three of them, and forced the others to retreat." He went on to say: "In the evening we withdrew to the Shhim junction in order to come to the aid of another of our units which was resisting another enemy landing in the area of al-Rumaylah. After stopping this landing, we received orders to go to Shtawrah. There we formed new battle units and began moving toward Beirut. As I was on my way there with my unit, I saw one member of our forces in the town of Barr Ilyas who was wounded. I gave him first aid and took him to the Ba'labakk hospital. When I was returning, my vehicle came under enemy fire and I was wounded in the head. My Syrian brothers took me to a place where I was given first aid. After that, I was brought to the hospital."

The Syrian Artillery Protected Our Rear

The soldier Salih Muhammad al-Hasanat said: "I had come from Libya 3 months before the battles began and had combat training in the camps of the Palestinian Revolution. While the Israelis were sweeping through Lebanon, my unit was assigned the task of resisting an expected landing."

"On 5 June we were detected by the enemy and the enemy began to bombard us from the air and with his rockets. Nevertheless, we did not retreat. That night we were given the task of keeping under observation the area which surrounded us since we feared a landing by invading forces. The next day enemy airplanes began bombarding us again, so we abandoned our position and stationed ourselves around this [previous] position. At about 3:00 pm that day, we saw two enemy boats approaching the coastline. We approached them and opened artillery fire on them. We hit one of them, and the other retreated back toward the sea. This caused the enemy once more to resort to using its air force, and we were fiercely bombarded. I was wounded as a result of this bombardment." Concerning the role played by Syrian forces, he said: "The Syrian artillery protected our rear, paved the way for us, and impeded the advance of enemy forces. This raised our morale and enabled us to inflict great losses on the enemy--and this is true in spite of the

claims made by the enemy and obvious attempts to minimize his losses." Concerning the enemy, he said: "The enemy fought a dirty battle and used against us bombs that are internationally banned."

Our Morale Is High

The soldier Abu Asad told us: "Four of my fellow-soldiers and I managed to destroy two tanks on the first day of battle. The next day, we set up an ambush for the enemy near al-Nabatiyah. During that ambush we were able to destroy and burn an enemy tank. Then we went to another location and set up another ambush. After waiting for about an hour, we heard enemy armored vehicles advancing. I fired an RPG missile at one of them and completely destroyed it. Then the enemy began firing at us, and shell fragments wounded my hand." He went on to say: "Our morale was high although we realized how vicious the enemy was and how much he hated us. It was our belief in our just cause which made us fight with a bravery which was rare and exceptional. The thing that makes us be even stauncher in battle is the fact that revolutionary Syria is always standing behind us. This has been demonstrated by the battles waged by, the blood shed by, and the sacrifices made by Syria for the sake of the Palestinian cause."

The Revolution Will Not Be Liquidated

The soldier Mahmud Kayali told us: "I had been studying in Germany and returned 5 months ago to Bairut where my family lives. When the Zionist invasion began, I enlisted at one of the PLO bases in order to take part in resisting the invaders who wanted to oppress the citizens of Lebanon and liquidate the Palestinian revolution. While the battles were going on I was assigned some missions in the area of Wadi al-Zayni, and I carried them out. Then I, along with some other soldiers of the revolution, carried out some other missions near Damur. There we were subjected to bombardment by enemy aircraft. But my comrades were able to shoot down one enemy airplane. However, I was wounded in my left leg by a shell fragment. I was then transported to an emergency hospital in 'Alayh, and then I was brought here." Concerning his opinion about the battle, he said: "This battle is being fought for our interests, and the Palestinian revolution will never be liquidated as long as the Arab people are around to fight for it." He was determined to achieve victory and drive out the aggressors. He was proud of the Syrian forces and the Syrian "eagles" who had turned the enemy airplanes into balls of flames, destroyed the enemy's convoys, and prevented the enemy from achieving the objectives which he had dreamed about achieving before launching his treacherous invasion. Concerning the battles, he added: "These battles were among the fiercest that have taken place in history. In spite of this, our Arab soldiers plunged into them with unprecedented bravery."

Seven Tanks and an Airplane

1st Lt Husayn Khalidah had this to say: "We clashed with invading Zionist forces at the Arnun fortress and al-Nabatiyah during the third day of battle and inflicted great losses on the enemy in terms of tanks and troops. As a result of our brave resistance which did not permit the invading forces to advance to the fortress and to al-Nabatiyah, the enemy began to fiercely

bombard our positions from distant areas by means of artillery and rockets. Enemy aircraft began to drop tear gas bombs and smoke bombs on us in order to pave the way for an airborne landing directed against our troops. We were forced to withdraw toward Yuhmur, Shukin, and Sawtar al-Gharbiyah and Sawtar al-Sharqiyah. Our forces took up their positions in order to launch a counterattack against enemy forces, but Israeli aircraft had already detected our positions and sent Israeli helicopters to undertake an airborne landing operation directed against our forces. When confronted with the fierce resistance put up by our troops, the enemy aircraft withdrew after we had brought down one of their aircraft. After that, fighter planes began bombarding our positions from the air in order to provide cover for an Israeli tank offensive which was moving toward our positions and along all of the battle lines. In spite of the heavy bombardment, we clashed with the enemy tanks and destroyed seven of them. We also brought down one enemy aircraft with missiles fired from the shoulder. But the enemy air attacks were so intense that our defensive capabilities were not a match for them. The enemy overcame us at Sawtar al-Gharbiyah and our troops withdrew after two of my comrades were killed and I along with three others was wounded."

Total Destruction

The volunteer soldier Ahmad Haydar said: "Our troops were stationed in the area of al-Shamlan, near Qabr Shamun, when Israeli forces began to be concentrated there. From Qabr Shamun we began to hit enemy positions with mortars and artillery in order to halt the advance of enemy forces and prevent enemy forces from receiving reinforcements. Then the enemy began to bombard and fire upon our forces with all sorts of weapons. This led to the total destruction of Qabr Shamun and al-Shamlan, with all of their civilian inhabitants. During the bombardment a shell landed near me and wounded me in the leg."

Many Battles and Numerous Battle Positions

The soldier Khalid Futani had the following to say: "I, along with three of my comrades, was picked for duty on a vehicle with a mounted antiaircraft machine gun. We were positioned at the Rahibat intersection in Sidon. We had gone up to the top of a high building in order to keep the seacoast under observation. It was then that Israeli airplanes began to bombard the Palestinian refugee camp in Sidon. I received orders to resist the enemy aircraft. Then the Zionist battleships detected us and began to bombard us from the sea. Then we received orders to abandon the building."

"We withdrew from this area to the cemetery in Sidon. From there we began to bombard a battleship which was near the Sidon coastline. However, the battleship replied to this by furiously bombarding us. Then we decided to withdraw to other positions near Sidon. That night we went up to the road between the university and al-Za'tari. There we were subjected to intense shelling and bombardment by enemy forces which had arrived there before we did. Also, enemy airplanes were dropping flare bombs in order to enable them to bombard us. After this aerial bombardment, the enemy landed his troops at the main bridge in Sidon. Then we received information that there were Israeli tanks in the Sharahbil area. So we withdrew, along with the soldiers of the combined forces which were stationed in that area. We regrouped in

the Majdalyun area and then headed for Jazzin. That night our commander assigned me and one of my comrades to go back to the Sidon area. On our way there, we detected some Israeli tanks in Majdalyun. We took up positions near them, fired B-7 missiles at them, and destroyed three enemy tanks. Then we withdrew again to Jazzin. There enemy airplanes subjected us to machine-gun fire, so we withdrew toward Shtawrah, in the area of the palace. There we broke up into squads and headed toward the Qir'awn bridge area. At that time Syrian forces were skirmishing with the invading forces. We formed two units and advanced toward the Maydun area which overlooks several road junctions. There enemy tanks were advancing toward the Syrian positions. We had a skirmish with them and destroyed four Israeli tanks. In the meantime, Syrian tanks had already encircled the enemy tanks from another direction and a battle took place in which the Syrian soldiers fought bravely and destroyed eight Israeli tanks. After that, the enemy tanks attempted to encircle both the Syrian forces and our forces at the same time. However, the Syrian forces had already managed to encircle them. A fierce battle then took place between the Syrian and Israeli tanks, and the result was that a large number of enemy tanks were destroyed. After that, we decided to withdraw from the area since we feared another air bombardment. This actually did take place, but the enemy nevertheless was not able to inflict any losses either on our forces or on the Syrian forces. In Rashayya al-Wadi we participated with Syrian forces which were supported by helicopters in resisting invading enemy forces. A fierce battle, also involving hand-to-hand combat, took place between the Syrian and Israeli forces. The result was the destruction of 15 enemy tanks and the killing of all of the Israeli infantry soldiers. The only thing that happened to the Syrian forces was that two soldiers were slightly wounded, and their wounds were bandaged and dressed on the battlefield. During another battle between us and the invading enemy forces, enemy airplanes bombarded our positions and nearby positions of Syrian forces. At this time, Syrian rocket launchers were firing south toward the area of the border between Lebanon and Occupied Palestine. During that time my unit ran out of ammunition. I tried to get a call through and ask for help, but it was no use because communications had been severed. Israeli airplanes were fiercely bombarding our positions. The result of this was that I, along with the three other persons in my unit, was wounded. Then we were taken to the hospital in a Syrian vehicle."

Eight Tanks Destroyed, and Two Captured

The soldier 'Ala al-Din told us; "While we were stationed in al-Dawhah, the enemy detected our positions and began to bombard us from the air, from the ground, and from the sea. After the bombardment, which lasted 4 hours, the invading forces attempted to land forces in the area. We clashed with them and frustrated two attempts which the enemy made to land forces by means of using helicopters and combat boats. Then the enemy intensified his bombardment of our positions, so we decided to withdraw to Qabr Shamun in order to resist the advance of invading forces. While we were in Qabr Shamun, the enemy began to bombard and fire upon us from Damur, using artillery and machine guns. Near the palace at al-Dawhah the enemy landed tanks from the air. We clashed with these enemy forces, put two Israeli tanks out of commission, and captured two other tanks. The remaining enemy tanks retreated and took up positions in the hills surrounding the palace at al-Dawhah."

"At 10:00 pm four Fedayeen infiltrated into these hills in order to fire on the tanks. The result of this operation was the destruction of six enemy tanks, and one of my comrades in this group was wounded. At dawn the next day Zionist airplanes and tanks bombarded our positions. As a result of this bombardment, I and the others in my unit received slight wounds. I will return to the battlefield after I recover from my wounds because my five fellow-Fedayeen are waiting for me there so that we can finish doing our duty of defending our existence and our cause."

"I am proud of the patriotic position taken by Syria and of how Syria's heroic men resisted the invading forces of the enemy. Syria remains the only nation which has defended, and still is defending, our cause."

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WORKERS DONATE TWO DAYS' PAY TO WAR EFFORT

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Jun 82 p 5

[Article: "Workers in Damascus, al-Qunaytirah, Dar'a, and al-Suwayda' Contribute Two Days' Pay To Support the War Effort and Show Appreciation for the Heroism of Our Armed Forces"]

[Text] Damascus--SANA--Yesterday morning the Damascus Federation of Labor Unions held an emergency meeting of its labor union organization leaders in the province. The meeting included [the members of] the Federation Council, labor union bureaus, labor union committees, and professional party groups.

This meeting was attended by Comrade 'Izz al-Din Nasir, who is a member of the Regional Command and head of the General Federation of Labor Unions. The meeting was also attended by other comrades who are members of the Federation's Executive Bureau as well as heads and members of the bureaus of the professional federations. The meeting also saw the participation of heads and members of the councils of the labor federations in Dar'a, al-Suwayda', and al-Qunaytirah.

At this meeting, Comrade Nasir talked about current conditions in the arena of confrontation with the Zionist enemy and circumstances of the battle going on against imperialism and Zionism, especially in view of the Israeli operation of sweeping through South Lebanon. He talked about how our brave armed forces were repelling this aggression and frustrating the enemy's objective of smashing and liquidating the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement.

Comrade Nasir began his speech by extending greetings to our heroic Syrian Arab Army which has shown great heroism in battle and made noble sacrifices in its efforts to defend the rights and dignity of the Arab nation, and has inflicted great losses on the Zionist enemy on all battle lines and fronts.

Comrade Nasir reaffirmed our country's commitment and constant readiness, under the leadership of Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the secretary general of the [Ba'th] Party and president of the republic, to back up the pan-Arab and national fundamental positions which it has taken--positions which have been stated and which are permanently established--to defend the rights of the Arab nation and to foil plans for settlement and capitulation, no matter how many sacrifices this will entail. He asserted that the forces of evil and imperialist and Zionist aggression have not succeeded, and will not succeed, in imposing their will on Syria, on the Arab masses, and on their revolutionary forces.

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Comrade Nasir criticized the positions taken by, and the attempts made by, reactionary regimes and their subservient propaganda organs which have the objective of effecting a [media] black-out concerning the role played by, and heroism of, our armed forces, and also have the objective of contributing toward achieving the aims of the Zionist enemy after these regimes have maintained a cowardly silence about what has been going on in Lebanon and the lies and psychological warfare of the enemy have been utilized as a sole source for what has been printed by these propaganda organs.

Comrade Nasir praised the positions taken which support, back up, and demonstrate solidarity with Syria's steadfastness and the positions which have been taken by the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the Islamic Revolution in Iran. He had words of praise for the support and backing shown by the forces of socialism and the national liberation movement in the world, which are led by their friend, the Soviet Union. He asserted that the Soviet Union's position always embodies the ties of friendship and joint cooperation which exist between us. Comrade Nasir then answered questions asked by the members of the labor federation.

The Damascus Federation of Labor Unions has announced the decision of [the members of its member labor unions] to donate two days' wages to support the war effort and to show appreciation for the heroism of our brave armed forces.

Likewise, the labor union organization leaders from the Provinces of Dar'a, al-Suwayda', and al-Qunaytirah, who were participating in this meeting, announced that a similar decision had been made in the name of the working masses in their provinces.

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EXPANSION OF ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS DESCRIBED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 275, 29 May 82 pp 46-47

[Interview with Syrian Minister of Electricity Ahmad 'Umar Yusuf by Marwan Saker in Damascus: "Electrification of the Countryside Has Halted Emigration to the Cities"; date not specified]

[Text] If the Americans are able to say that they live in the space age, the Arabs can say that they live in the electric age. While Americans and Europeans are easily able to see everything going on at the other end of the world while they are sitting at home, some Arabs still have to search for small things in total darkness. That is, the blessing of electricity that turned night into day (or what looks like day) is not available to many underdeveloped countries. Their nights continue to be pitch black.

Among underdeveloped countries, Syria is today trying to bring the blessing of electricity to every village, and corner of Syria.

Speaking of electricity utilities, Syrian Minister of Electricity Ahmad 'Umar Yusuf said in an interview:

"Every plant in Syria is now equipped with two electric power lines—one of them reserve—that carry the appropriate voltage and productive energy to the plant. In addition to the electric power needs of plants and generators, which we monitor continuously, there are lines to the television and radio station transmitters, and to other electricity consumers."

[Question] To what extent does the Euphrates Dam share in the production of electric energy and its supply to present and projected factories, and to what extent do Syrian cities benefit from its productive energy?

[Answer] Since March 1979 we have made use of all the energy provided by the dam commensurate with the amount of water in it. For example, these days we derive from the water from 10 million kilowatts per hour daily to 4 million kilowatts per hour daily, while our needs are 15 million kilowatts at present. We are also generating thermal electricity from thermal substances.

While there is no doubt that the Euphrates Dam supplies us with electricity, it only constitutes about 50 percent of our daily needs. This percentage will

fall in the future since we are going to start establishing thermal electricity generators that run on oil. This year we are going to put the Banyas generator to use in the Syrian plain (next October). It has 304 megawatts of power, and produces on the average 1.4 billion kilowatts, increasing to 2.3 billion kilowatts in the years ahead.

We are now studying proposals for starting a third thermal electric station in "Muhradah-Baniyas," and one to the south of "Widyan al-Rabi'," which lies 15 km. east of Damascus International Airport.

The latter will run on cooled air, since water is scarce there, and will have 30 megawatts of power. We expect it to be ready for use in 1985. The "Euphrates Dam--Muhradah-Baniyas" station and others will share in strengthening the national economy, lighting up cities, and electrifying the countryside.

[Question] In regard to the electrification of the countryside, can we say that the Syrian countryside now enjoys electricity? If not, what have been the obstacles preventing this to happen so far? What is the estimated time period in which the countryside can be expected to enjoy this essential service?

[Answer] Yes, the Syrian countryside now enjoys electricity. More than 80 percent of the residents of the rural sector enjoy electricity. The remainder consist of sparsely-populated villages, especially in al-Haska province. We seriously intend to fully electrify the countryside in the eighties.

To give an idea of the extent of our accomplishments in electrifying the countryside, let me say that in 1976, 86 villages had electricity. In 1977, 292 villages had electricity. In 1978, the number was 367 villages. In 1979, 386 villages. In 1980, 569 villages. In 1981, 722 villages had electricity.

This year, 311 villages received electricity during the period 1/1/82 to 5/1/82.

[Question] Complaints in the larger cities are directed at more than one quarter. Some complain of a cut-off in electricity, some of a reduction in the current in different neighborhoods. In your opinion, what is the reason for these occurrences that are so disconcerting to the citizen, particularly since some people are talking of material damages? Are efforts being made to correct these reductions in current?

[Answer] Damascus and certain other cities in Syria, especially Aleppo, are unfortunately surrounded by regions that vary in population in a random fashion. They comprise a heavy load on the rendering of services in Damascus, not only of electricity but also of water, roads, telephone, and health. In addition, these regions do not enjoy a very good social life, and we sometimes find that they illegally draw on the electric current, which generally affects the city's electric network. We are seriously trying to overcome these difficulties. We have managed to extend a new kind of medium-sized cables to cover the old quarters of Damascus. We are on the way to changing the low-

voltage network and turning it into heat-resistant cables. We are exerting every effort to improve electricity in an even-handed manner, in the towns and in the countryside. And there is no doubt that the electrification of the countryside has effectively helped to place a limit on rural emigration to the cities.

[Question] There is no question that Syrian industries have grown to increase their use of electric power. Can you give us an idea of the growth in the use of electricity in industries and factories? Is the level of consumption equal to productive capacity?

[Answer] As was previously shown, the capacity of the factories is linked to the general network by more than one line, in order to ensure constant power. We are developing this linkage so that we have the electric capacity to meet all of the country's needs in industry and agriculture. We transmit electricity to Lebanon, and we are linked up with Jordan and Lebanon to increase their supply of electricity.

[Question] What do you predict for the country's future, in light of satisfactory production of electric power? What projects is the ministry presently putting into effect, or plan to?

[Answer] I am very optimistic because so far we are planning electric power for 15 years ahead. We are now implementing a number of projects in the area of power generators: our engineers are studying technical proposals for creating a commercial generator with a 300 megawatt capacity near Damascus. In addition to helping to increase productive power for the country, this generator will lead to greater balance in the general electricity network of Syria. It will raise the level of power in southern Syria. This power plant is designed on the basis of two wells that run on dry air in order to ensure electricity for Damascus. It has been set to the east of Damascus so that there will be no pollution of the city. Our ministry is also creating a power plant in Banyas on the Syrian plain with a 340 megawatt capacity. It will be in use before the end of this year. We have also completed the expansion of the Qatina plant in Homs to an added capacity of 64 megawatts.

[Question] What is the extent of the benefit derived by Syria from existing dams for generating electric power, considering the needs of the country? Does the ministry have plans for the future production of energy so that Syria will enjoy a satisfactory level of production and consumption?

[Answer] We are cooperating with the Ministry for the Euphrates Dam in a study of the feasibility of creating dams for energy purposes all along the Euphrates, and especially in the region of the Yusef al-Basha dam. We hope it will provide up to 300 megawatts of power. We will also heighten the present Euphrates dam by 4 meters, so that we might obtain additional water capacity and increased power of 100 million kilowatts per hour annually. Similarly, operations are underway to create al-Tanthimi Dam at a distance of about 30 km. from al-Thawra Dam, under the river and with up to 45 megawatts of power.

The Ministry of Electricity has begun a study on water sources in the plain region to make use of this water in the generation of electricity in the guarantee of drinking water for the village population, and in the irrigation of thousands of hectares (200,000 hectares). The preliminary results indicate the feasibility of creating small dams with a combined capacity of 250 megawatts. There is no doubt that the implementation of this study will also lead to the prevention of floods and the creation of tourist projects. It will lead to the creation developed residential communities in the region.

Moreover, the ministry is undertaking the execution of the first power line operating on 400 kg. voltage from Hamah to 'Adhra' in Damascus. So far, the beams and towers have been raised in the al-Nabk region. We expect this line to be in service at the end of this year. This line will be capable of transmitting 800 megawatts to the Damascus region.

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BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SURPLUS DOWN

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 5 Jul 82 p 1

[Text]

THE UAE achieved a balance of payments surplus of Dh 12.9 billion last year against a surplus of Dh 18 billion in 1980.

This was disclosed in the half yearly report of the Central Bank issued yesterday.

The trade surplus in 1981 was Dh 44 billion compared to the surplus of Dh 49.4 billion in 1980. The smaller surplus was due to a fall in the oil export revenue to Dh 67.2 billion from Dh 72.1 billion following a 12.5 per cent cut in the production average. The shortfall was also despite an increase in the export prices of oil and the doubling of gas exports to Dh 4.4 billion.

Non-oil exports rose by 17.3 per cent from Dh 7.2 billion to Dh 8.4 billion. Imports rose from Dh 32 billion in 1980 to Dh 36 billion, a rate of increase of 12.5 per cent. However this increase was largely due to the rise in the costs of imports.

The net value of services, income and other transfers from and to the UAE was Dh 7.6 billion last year, an increase of Dh 0.6 billion. These include the returns on government and private investments, transfer of funds abroad, and transfers by foreign oil companies besides the net transfers by insurance, transport, tourism and other companies.

The UAE continued to provide grants and assistance to a number of Arab and Muslim countries. However, total assistances fell from Dh 6.3 billion to Dh 4 billion.

The UAE current account balance for 1981 was a surplus of Dh 33.8 billion compared to Dh 37.3 billion. The Central Bank report said that

the current account balance shows that the UAE is largely dependent on oil exports for obtaining foreign exchange, and the increase in revenues from the gas and other commodity exports is a healthy trend. It is hoped there will play a major role in the diversification of the export pattern, particularly with the petrochemical and aluminium projects starting production and exporting their surpluses.

It is expected that this trend will lead to reduction in imports of petroleum products and some other commodities, which are now competing with the imported goods. Thus the coming years will witness a change in the import pattern in favour of capital and medium goods. This may not mean an absolute fall in imports, the report said.

The estimates indicated that capital outflow Dh 20.9 billion in the governmental and private funds took place in 1981, Dh 1.6 billion more than in 1980. There included Dh 5.8 billion loans provided by the country, which means the loans tripled over the previous year.

The UAE's contribution to a number of regional and Arab economic establishments and Arab and Islamic development funds remained at the previous level of Dh 0.5 billion.

Foreign assets of financial institutions recorded an increase of Dh 8.5 billion last year compared to Dh 6.4 billion for 1980, while government foreign assets fell to Dh 4.3 billion from Dh 11.5 billion.

The Central Bank's report expected the balance of payments surplus to experience a noticeable fall this year

—WAM

BRIEFS

DELIVERY OF CARGO PLANES--In fulfilment of a contract signed in 1981, CASA of Madrid handed over the first two of four C-212 AVIOCARS to representatives of the United Arab Emirates on April 28, 1982. In a handing-over ceremony held at the San Pablo facilities in Sevilla, Lt Col Ibrahim and Mayar Ateek signed the acceptance papers on behalf of the UAE while Factory Director Arizon and M-E Sales Director Uriarte represented the manufacturers. The other two units are scheduled for delivery later this year. The U.A.E. is the second Middle-Eastern country to purchase the CASA C-212 and all the four aircraft will be used by the Armed Forces for passenger and cargo transportation, paratroop dropping missions and medivac. Cargo can be delivered in the base-to-base mode or by high and low altitude cargo extraction. To date the factory has racked up a total sales schedule of 320 units of this light STOL transport a/c powered by two Garret Air Research TPE-331-10-501-C 900 SHP turbines driving four-bladed propellers. So far 240 aircraft have been delivered to clients. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur ASIAN DEFENSE JOURNAL in English Jul 82 p 114]

LOCAL ADVERTISING FIRM SUCCESS--An advertising agency based in Dubai has achieved a unique distinction. It designed an original advertisement for a foreign client which was placed in the Time magazine. The agency is Caspian and the advertisement it designed is "Energizer" for Eveready Batteries Ltd. It appeared in the American magazine on June 7. Caspian was founded by Mohammed Abdoli in 1980. It now handles major international clients in more than 10 Arab countries in the region. In 1981 its billing reached 1.3 million dollars. The agency has produced hundreds of Press ads, promotional campaigns and over 300 TV and radio commercials. Caspian's major international clients include Eveready, Lipton Tea Co., Mitsubishi and Kent Cigarettes. It also runs a full-service group and only recently Carrier International Corporation of New York assigned it to conduct consumer research on room air-conditioners in the UAE market. Eveready instructed the agency to undertake a post-test to determine the effectiveness and impact of its advertising campaign for Energizer launched throughout the Middle East and measure the efficiency of media selection and scheduling. Other research projects Caspian is undertaking include concept testing, pre-test of creative work, attitude research, trade, consumer and media research. The agency also creates packaging concepts and designs, developing original ideas for its international clients. [Abbi Sharqui] [Text] [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English Jul 82 p 13]

SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN CONTRASTED WITH FIRST

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 118, 15-21 May 82 pp 44-45

[Article by al-Sarsavid Ahmad: "The Yemeni Economic Plans Regional Development"]

[Text] At the end of last month, the Government of North Yemen proposed a draft for the pace of the second-five-year development plan in a conference attended by representatives from 21 international and regional institutions, in addition to states like the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Somalia, India, Italy, and the EEC.

This plan covers 5 years beginning this year and ending in 1986. It requires the utilization of an estimated 29.3 billion Yemeni riyals, i.e., the equivalent of \$6.5 billion, for the purpose of achieving a growth rate of up to 7 percent per annum, as compared to 5.9 percent achieved under the first plan.

Before going into the details of the new plan, it is appropriate to outline the background of the preceding plan. Economic activity in its modern sense began in Yemen with the revolution of 26 September 1962, whereupon the foundations of the modern state were laid. But serious planning was not begun until 1973, with the proposal of the 3-year utilization plan of 1973-1975. Its main function was to emphasize the infrastructure and its necessary accompanying equipment, and to prepare the country for the first five-year plan.

That plan came in the wake of oil price hikes which transformed the Gulf into one huge work project. As a result, a large number of Yemenis emigrated to neighboring countries, especially to Saudi Arabia where they are now estimated at around 1 million. This led to an increased pace of consumption, on the one hand, and to an emphasis on consumer goods, on the other. There followed a general increase in consumption that exceeded local productive capacity, which in turn led to a continuous deficit in the balance of payments currently estimated at \$600 million.

Nevertheless, the first five-year plan succeeded in achieving a moderate annual rate of growth reaching 5.9 percent in the internal 1975/76 to 1980/81, even though most of this growth was greater in the services sector than in the commodity-production sector. This is indicated in the fact that the

agricultural sector did not exceed a growth rate of 1 percent, due to heavy emigration from the countryside to the city, and from Yemen to the oil-producing states.

As for development that occurred in the area of services, statistics show that, in education, the record was broken by an average of 166 at the end of the five-year plan when compared to the base year. Similarly, the number of doctors multiplied 249.5 percent. However, as Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, executive secretary of the economic committee for Western Asia, says, this situation means that services are growing independently, as if they are separate entities detached from the rest of the national economy's sectors. This state of affairs affected the realization of the goal of even development of Yemen's economic sectors.

An analysis of the first five-year plan indicates that most of the accomplished growth was dependent to a large extent on transfers from the Yemeni work force abroad, in addition to aid and loans, especially from Arab sources. The latter constituted 60-70 percent of total aid received by Yemen in recent years. The plan also depended for human resources on an influx of labor forces from abroad, especially for technical and highly-skilled work. According to some estimates, the size of this labor force amounted to 17,000 persons in 1980, 6,000 of them working in the private sector. It looks as if the reliance on external resources, human and financial, will continue in the second five-year plan also. The plan's draft puts foreign funding at 52 percent of total utilization.

The Second Plan

The main emphasis of the second development plan is on education and training with the aim of meeting the country's needs for skilled labor. Thus, in the interval between the beginning of the plan this year and its end, the education sector's goal will be to increase the number of primary school students from 16,554 to 141,905; preparatory school students from 7,163 to 41,789; general secondary school students from 2,807 to 17,106; and commercial secondary students from 124 students to 728 students. As for universities, the plan proposed to utilize new departments devoted to higher education, intensive higher education programs abroad, and the opening of new engineering and medical colleges. It will attempt to bring women into education and into productive work. It also aims to make available 155,000 new job opportunities, as compared with 104,000 opportunities accomplished during the preceding plan.

The plan also intends to direct financial resources towards productive exploitation, with the aim of increasing production and reducing imports. Annual increases in consumption are projected at 5 percent, compared to 6.6 percent in the previous plan; government consumption at 7.5 percent, compared to 5.7 percent under the previous plan. These averages exceed the increase in population, and are expected ultimately to lead to a real increase in average per capita consumption estimated at 1.4 percent.

Among the main objectives of the plan is to emphasize production, especially in the agricultural and mining fields, so as to make possible an escalation of

local production and thereby close the widening consumption gap. It also tends to work on exports, so that the rate of exports reaches 12.1 percent of local production by the end of the plan, as compared to 5.9 percent in the first plan. Also, it intends to reduce the rate of imports from 74.4 percent this year to 55.7 percent by the end of the plan.

The agricultural sector is accorded special attention because it is the mainstay of the national economy, and 70-80 percent of the Yemeni work force works in agriculture. Still, its share in the national economy does not exceed 28 percent. The second plan allocates 14 percent of its resources to the agricultural sector, as compared to 11 percent in the first plan. The increase is due to the increased attention being paid to the matter of assuring the supply of foodstuffs, especially since the deterioration that has afflicted several products; for example, production in the south fell by 14 percent.

The plan's utilization of resources of \$6.5 billion exceeds that which was accomplished under the first plan by an estimated 155 percent. Funding for the new plan is projected as follows: 47.2 percent from national savings; 1.7 percent from foreign capital transfers; 5.1 percent from direct private sources; and 46.1 percent from external loans and aid.

Untraditional

The conference that was held to discuss the plan was apparently not a very traditional one. Its debates were characterized by frankness and clarity. Mr Abdal-Latif al-Hamad, Kuwaiti minister of Finance and Planning, gave the best summary of the spirit that prevailed in the conference. He evaluated the conference as praiseworthy in its comprehensiveness of planning and clarity of objectives. He praised the unprecedented interjection of regional development in Yemeni economic planning. But al-Hamad did criticize the raising of the rate of utilization to the local producer, an estimated 32.39 percent, as unusually high and difficult to obtain. He also criticized the plan's reliance on external financing of about 52 percent, and also the reliance on expatriate transfers, because these two factors lie outside the control of the Yemeni government. If these two factors were not realized according to projections, they might affect the course of the entire plan.

The Kuwaiti minister went on to say that the plan expects the private sector to share by 34 percent in the total utilization of resources. But at the same time it does not mention the problems faced by the private sector, or how to solve them. Also, the plan talks of welcoming foreign and Arab capital, but it does not go beyond generalities. It needs to focus on practical details in the way of measures and regulations, and the removal of hindrances to the influx of this capital.

Al-Hamad proposed the necessity for mobilizing additional resources for the public sector, and the need for a study of economic gains as well as detailed studies of the projects themselves. He also asked for a review of the government's administrative structure, and the allocation of various responsibilities to the various units. He emphasized periodic maintenance of existing projects to ensure the maximum yields possible from them.

The conferees decided to set up an organization to supervise and implement the plan, and to evaluate its performance regularly, in order to ensure that the plan achieves its objectives.

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ROLE OF MEDIA IN COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSED

London Al-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 119, 22-28 May 82 p 7

[Interview with Minister of Information Hasan al-Lawzi by Muhammad al-Wazzan in Jiddah: "We Need a Comprehensive Strategy for Arab Information"; date not specified]

[Text] Yemen has many worries. As part of Yemen's cultural facade, the media is also reflective of these worries. Yemen's fortunes in the self-construction phase have ebbed and flowed since 1962. With construction comes resolve. Some share in construction, others destroy. In this meeting with Yemen's Information Minister Hasan al-Lawzi, AL-MAJALLAH tries to approach the problems of Yemen's course, of the media in San'a and its position on the Arab media, and how the region perceives the world through a common world vision.

It is easy to trace Yemen's history back to a time when it enjoyed a high culture, power and glory. Yemen can be found intruding throughout human history; its civilization exerted an influence on mankind for centuries. Yemen's civilization was also afflicted by the decline and fall that beset so many other civilizations, and for ages it lived in darkness, accompanied by poverty, pestilence, and spiritual and cultural illness.

Yemen's Minister of Information Hasan al-Lawzi is one of this generation's young men who shares his country's concerns, ambitions and hopes. He also shares concern for the media in Yemen's future. As the man responsible for information, he is trying to accomplish something. In this interview with AL-MAJALLAH, he addresses issues of the media with respect to Yemen, the Gulf, and the Arab world.

[Question] Where does the media fall in the process of Yemeni construction? Is it in pace with the process?

[Answer] It is not only the media that is in pace with construction, but all sectors of the country. However, they are not as precisely in pace as some people imagine. But I would like to say that intensive efforts are being exerted in the information processes, since information is a process that is in conjunction with all of the channels of development. It is connected to our desire for change. Efforts are being exerted in all of the means of communication, whether in radio, television, or print, so as to accomplish our

objectives. Our objective is that the media develop along with cultural development, and that it fulfill its role of clarifying and forming public opinion. National public opinion should be an enlightened opinion that truly knows what it wants and comprehend the desired goals in this stage, based on reliable reporting and total clarity.

[Question] What is the role of the media vis-a-vis the problems of Yemen's course of development.

[Answer] It plays an important role in people's lives by inter-weaving their efforts in order to accomplish the goals that everyone is working for. In this regard, we are concerned with the development of Yemeni cadres, especially in the area of the media. The development of journalism, radio and television are fundamentally important for the service of man. In Yemen today, television reaches two-thirds of the country's area. This indicates the state's concern for enlightening and guiding the citizen in order to utilize him as a cadre within society.

Welding Together the Arab Nation

[Question] Yemen has plunged into the "Cultural Weeks" experiment. Is it a media plan aimed abroad?

[Answer] The "Cultural Weeks" program was part of the ministry's work program, a program indexed with every fiscal year. It is really aimed at welding the Arab nation together, in all its diversity, as much as it aims at defending Yemen intellectually, culturally, and artistically. It does this in order to acquaint the audience with what nurtures Yemen in the way of intellectual, cultural and artistic movements through meeting poets, artists and writers. It is also an attempt at benefiting from these people. This question has numerous objectives. It has a direct impact on the promotion of culture and art in Yemen in a direction that serves to culturally integrate the various Arab regions. This year we are going to undertake several "Cultural Weeks" programs in Oman and Algeria. This year we have already presented a "Cultural Week" in Qatar and another in Saudi Arabia. Next year there will be a new plan through which we will aim in the direction of several Arab sectors. In this framework we will also add to the number of "Cultural Weeks" in Yemen. But we don't only want to travel to other countries, we also want others to come to us. What is really required is an effort towards appraisal and evaluation. And the very size of our ambitions makes it possible to arrive at our common goals.

[Question] As an Arab power in the region, how does San'a view the media in the countries of the region?

[Answer] It has an outlook based on San'a's faithful adherence to its national commitments and its feeling that Yemen is an integral part of the region. That means that the region constitutes one single entity. What is good for the region is good for Yemen, and vice-versa. The process of integrating the region is incumbent upon us, i.e., it is not a matter of choice. Integration is the duty of all states in the region in order to fortify it and protect it from

danger, so that it will be able to confront all dangers, conspiracies, and aggression. The Yemeni media views this region as a whole, with the same ideas and the same problems. Ultimately, the region will share a common destiny.

[Question] In view of what is happening in the region, can the Arab media face up to the challenges it is confronted with?

[Answer] Naturally not, because the Arab media is unfortunately preoccupied with various, marginal issues. And the Arab media will remain in this regressive state if it is not guided and liberated from fear, and if there is no clear planning. Many colleagues in the media field look forward to the day when we arrive at a comprehensive strategy for media work, whether in cooperation over particular issues in the Arab world, or over the many great challenges confronting us in many places. The current recalcitrance of the Arab media is one reason for the anxiety afflicting today's Arab. But there is no doubt that our media will progress step by step and free itself from apprehension. Then we will agree on a comprehensive strategy for action.

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