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JPRS-NEA-85-038

15 March 1985

Near East/South Asia Report

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EEC IMPOSES DUTY ON METHANOL

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 28 Jan 85 pp 8-9

[Text]

The European Economic Community (EEC) has imposed a 13.5 per cent duty on imports of Saudi Arabian methanol, the Opec news agency reported late last week. Until last Thursday, Saudi methanol had entered the EEC duty-free under the Community's preferential trading scheme for developing countries.

However, the tax was imposed after Saudi Arabia exceeded an import quota of \$224,000 for the current year. This is 25 per cent higher than the 1984 quota. The EEC imported some 40,000 tonnes of Saudi methanol in 1984.

EEC officials said there were no quantitative restrictions on or protectionist moves against Saudi products and that the community had not "invented" the import duty to "punish" Saudi exporters. "The Community simply applied a duty, which had earlier been suspended, because Saudi exports broke through the duty-free ceiling fixed by the EEC's special preferential trade offer to the Third World," said Mr Christopher Audland, the EEC's director for energy policy. He said the Saudis did "not really need" the trade preference to sell on the European market.

The EEC and individual European governments are worried by what they regard as the threat of Saudi Arabian petrochemicals to indigenous chemical industries and the possible impact on employment levels. European manufacturers say the Saudis have an in-built cost advantage in cheap feedstock derived from associated gas from oil production. Saudi Arabian producers have countered this by claiming that their total exports would not exceed five per cent of the total world market and that transport and high capital start-up costs balance any price advantage in raw materials.

The continuing friction between the EEC and the Gulf Cooperation Council over the issue of petroleum-product sales is not likely to be overcome until a formal EEC-GCC agreement covering trade is in place. Exploratory talks on the scope of such an agreement have been going on for some time.

LOWER OIL REVENUES BRING CHANGES TO GULF BUSINESS

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 4 Feb 85 pp 10-11

[Text] Gulf business houses are having to change their patterns of trading to take account of much-reduced government spending and the economic recession that have followed the sharp drop in oil revenues since 1981. High revenues are not expected to return to the big oil-exporters until the end of the 1980s, when world demand for Opec oil is expected to rise. Even then, the heady days of the late 1970s have gone for good and the tumble of fresh business is no more. Much of the high-cost infrastructure, financed from oil earnings, is in place, and the government expects the growing private sector to assume a bigger role in future economic activity.

Reports from the Gulf suggest that attention will turn away from high-capital-cost industries towards high-technology and automated manufacturing, such as the production of electronic and consumer goods and processing of locally-grown foodstuffs, for domestic and regional markets. The move towards more specialisation will be felt throughout the economy, not least in the huge chemical industry, for which Saudi Arabia has such high hopes.

Between 1981 and 1984, the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman — have seen their aggregate oil revenues fall from \$170bn to \$100bn a year. While some of them also receive large earnings from previously invested oil revenues, the change in economic fortunes has affected the whole economy. Trading firms have seen a fall in their turnovers of 25 to 30 per cent, with some showing falls of up to 75 per cent in net earnings. An increasing amount of business is among the trading houses themselves rather than with the government.

Inevitably, some of the biggest groups have caused the biggest headlines: in Dubai, the collapse and government take-over of Mr Abdul Wahab Galadari's Union Bank of the Middle East; and in Saudi Arabia, the cash-flow problems that last year hit

the Carson al-Saudia and Shobokshi trading and construction groups.

While much of this news will not be welcome, it was not all bad. Saudi officials told the *Financial Times* recently that such changes were likely to prove beneficial, since they will lead manufacturers and their customers to examine their spending priorities more closely — whether this is for a new household refrigerator or equipment for a new plant — both because of more restricted income and the greater choice available.

Another development likely to follow the economic downturn in the Gulf is the emergence of more specific company and commercial law to institute orderly procedures for bankruptcies and to regulate financial relations between companies.

Perhaps even more importantly, the tough new economic environment is putting a premium on good management, particularly sound financial expertise, although it is in the nature of Arab business that ultimate control should remain fast within the owning family. This is not without its strains; as staff are laid off and equipment purchases are delayed, owners often seek to influence decisions on a more day-to-day basis. In many cases, this tight control by owners over even the smallest and least consequential of decisions is routine. However, in some instances, management and bureaucratic cuts have gone too far, with the result that some large companies have hived off their managers wholesale, leaving themselves much leaner but with cuts in profits far greater than cost savings.

CSO: 4400/81

MILLIYET: DIPLOMAT KILLED BY BULGARIANS, NOT ARMENIANS

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 28 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] MILLIYET writes that Bora Suelkan, the administrative attache of the Turkish consulate general in Burgas, Bulgaria, was murdered in 1982 by the Bulgarian secret police and not by Armenians.

Sources have disclosed that Suelkan unsettled Bulgarian authorities because of his close contacts with Turks living in Burgas. According to the same sources, Suelkan was declared as dangerous by the Bulgarians, and the secret police was subsequently instructed to eliminate him.

These sources have stated that "if the killers were Armenians, they would definitely have been arrested" and have noted that there are very few Armenians residing in Bulgaria. According to these sources, had the killers come from abroad they would definitely have been caught while leaving the country.

Meanwhile, it is reported that as a result of the provocative measures taken by the Bulgarian government against Turks living in Bulgaria, 48 Turks, including women and children, were killed in the Tranak village of Burgas.

9588

CSO: 4605/99

CARLOS CLAIMS TO BE COOPERATING WITH ARMENIAN GROUPS

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 28 Jan 85 pp 1,4

[Text] Madrid--Carlos, the world-renowned terrorist who is more commonly known as the "Jackal," disclosed in an interview with Spanish television reporters in a secret hideout in Colombia that there is a close collaboration between himself and Armenian terrorist organizations.

Carlos, who reportedly controls the entire South American narcotics trafficking network, answered the Spanish reporters' questions and said among other things: "Narcotics trafficking, which we control, is our most effective weapon; we can say it is our nuclear weapon. The narcotics trade enables us to continue our struggle against imperialist forces. We have links with the Armenian terrorist organizations. We help each other in every way and we collaborate closely."

Carlos insisted that trading in narcotics should not be considered a crime and that drugs are essential for Americans to carry on their lives. He said: "My Armenian friends at first disagreed with me on this issue and they resisted me. I was even tried before a court they set up, but I was found innocent."

The international terrorist also declared during the interview that the day of reckoning for U.S. imperialism will come in Latin America. He added that from now on he will fight for the rights of minorities and that he will step up his efforts to expand that struggle into wider proportions.

9588

CSO: 4605/100

AL-TALMASANI DISCUSSES BROTHERHOOD-WAFD RELATIONSHIP

Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 3 Jan 85 p 4

[Article by 'Umar al-Talmasani: "The Wafd and the Brotherhood, for the Third Time"]

[Text] To this day some people, journalists and nonjournalists, continue to pursue me with questions and inquiries about the relationship between the Wafd and the Brotherhood, and what its future is. If I had kept the matter to myself, the matter would have been ended by my answering their question. However, I am anxious for everyone to learn the matter so I thought I would write about it for the third time, with God's help.

When people began to talk about the elections, Professor Salah Abu Isma'il, a member of the People's Assembly, visited me and spoke to me about the matter, the gist of which was that the Wafd with its popularity was a legitimate channel, that the Brotherhood was broad-based, and that there were no quarrels between the Brotherhood and the Wafd that would prevent the group from cooperating in the election, and that the Wafd welcomed such a step. He had informed Mr Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din of that and set up an appointment between him and me so we could meet and reach an understanding of the situation and its steps. I met Mr Siraj-al-Din in his home, and agreement was reached on cooperating in this area for the good of the country, on condition that a member of the Brotherhood keep his Brotherhood principles, and a member of the Wafd keep his Wafd principles. The legal steps were taken to affiliate some of the Brotherhood candidates with the Wafd so they could be included on its list. That is all there is to it from beginning to end, clearly and simply.

No Secret Agreements

The elections took place, and those Wafd and Brotherhood members who got into the Assembly went in in true cooperation whose goal was the public welfare and nothing else at all. There are no secret agreements or hidden clauses between us and the Wafd, because both of us are operating in the light of day. This cooperation for the public welfare will continue by the grace of God, since there is nothing behind it other than the good of our beloved country. I would like to make clear once again that we, as an opposition, do not want problems, insults and accusations; on the contrary, we are always completely ready to

support every good work that the cabinet undertakes and in which the public welfare takes precedence, in our estimation. I have understood that this concept prevails within the Wafd leadership.

Therefore, the people can see that what is between us and the Wafd is nothing more than a pure relationship, and we are working for the public good. As for whether we will first form a party, that question is premature, because the matter of the Brotherhood's return is before the courts, and we are awaiting their ruling on it so we can decide on steps following that ruling. Let it not be forgotten that the Brotherhood does not reject the idea of parties in and of themselves, but going back to what the martyred Imam Hasan al-Banna wrote, and to what I have previously written, the criticism is for the methods used by the parties in Egypt and elsewhere to achieve their goals, most important of which is power. The Brotherhood does not strive for power for its own sake, but they would not refuse it if popular public opinion decided to entrust them with it. Furthermore, the Brotherhood, whether a party, group, or something else, whether in power or not, will not refrain from calling upon all national capabilities whatever their position, direction or thought, because what concerns the Muslim above all else is wisdom and its advantages, which we must all seize upon and take advantage of, whatever their source, especially since a law from our peers is our law, as long as it does not make the forbidden lawful or forbid the lawful, and it benefits Muslims.

Not Anyone's Enemy

The Brotherhood, in particular the Brotherhood, are not enemies or adversaries to anyone, because the concept of enmity and rivalry prevent the attainment of unanimity, unification and cooperation for what is good. Our hands are always extended to the service of the Islamic Call, and to all who wish to make use of that pure hand. The call to the way of God rejects from the outstart that the caller feel any enmity between himself and anyone, since calling people to their Lord is never compatible with hating them, even if they do wrong, even if they are cruel and oppressive, because the caller does not ask for mercy and grace from anyone except God alone, and the caller, no matter how hard he works and sacrifices, is too weak to fulfill some of his duty towards God.

Has the time come for people to refrain from questioning and going after what is behind the Wafd-Brotherhood relationship and what its strength, extent and purpose might be? Perhaps in what has been written there is a response to the urgency of that questioning. The Brotherhood, whether their presence is recognized by the law of their country or not, are really and truly here in a way no one can deny or fail to sense, unless he has lost his ability to sense what is going on around him. We do not care if people put down our doings or magnify them because we are not working for anything of the sort, and neither praise nor blame distracts us from what we have taken on ourselves. As for the newspaper attacks directed at my person, he has my forgiveness, and I ask for God's forgiveness for their originator. As for anything put forward objectively, I am always anxious to explain and clarify it, even though some newspapers refused to print a response to one of the eminent professors regarding what he had directed towards me; it would have been preferable to me to read

something about what he considers to be lofty program for the students whom he teaches in the university, considering that the teacher is an example to the student. In spite of that, God's thanks to him and the newspaper, since perhaps in its failure to print the response--even though it was my right--there was some good that God knows of but we do not, and God always and forever "speaks the truth and shows the right way."

12547

CSO: 4504/182

SHAYKH AL-AZHAR DISCUSSES COPTIC-MUSLIM RELATIONS

Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 9 Jan 85 pp 12-13

[Interview with Jadd-al-Haqq 'Ali Jadd-al-Haqq, Shaykh al-Azhar; date and place not specified]

[Text] AKHIR SA'AH conducted an important interview with His Excellence the Grand Imam al-Shaykh Jadd-al-Haqq 'Ali Jadd-al-Haqq, Shaykh al-Azhar, after his latest 2 week trip to Saudi Arabia, during which he attended the meetings of the 8th session of the selection committee of the International King Faysal Prize and the 10th session of the Supreme International Council for Mosques in Mecca.

In this interview, the grand imam discusses a number of important religious issues, especially the relation of Islam with Christianity and the treatment by Muslims of the peoples of the countries conquered by Islam; how learned men of Islam went to churches and Coptic priests to mosques to give sermons demanding independence and the evacuation of the British occupation forces in the 1919 revolution; and the saga of the historic victory in 1973, which was achieved by Egyptian soldiers, Muslims and Christians alike.

The grand imam told the moral of the wonderful story of the marriage of the Prophet of God (God bless him and grant him salvation) to the Coptic woman Maria. His excellence then closed his important discussion by congratulating Pope Shanudah and the Christian brothers on the occasion of the birthday of our lord the Messiah.

The discussion started when I asked hm:

[Question] What are the most important results accomplished by Your Excellence's visit to Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] The visit lasted 2 weeks. For 1 week, work continued in the committees of the International King Faysal Prize. I participated in judging and choosing winners in the Islamic Service category. There are prizes in Islamic studies, Arabic literature, medicine and science.

In the 2d week, I attended the meetings of the 10th session of the Supreme International Council for Mosques in my capacity as a member of this council.

That was in Mecca. This conference is held regularly on the first of the [Islamic] month of Rabi' al-Thani of every year. The sessions of the council were filled with many important subjects that concern the Islamic world. This conference produced a number of committees, among which are the Proposals Committee. The subject that I personally proposed is that of hunger and drought in Africa. And I did indeed form committees for the benefit of those who are subjected to this serious drought. We discussed various ways to deal with financing this humanitarian idea.

We also discussed the subject of Jerusalem and the occupied territory. From the budget of the Supreme International Council for Mosques we authorized assistance for the people of the occupied territory there to maintain their faith and protect their mosques. The council also discussed supporting Palestinian freedom fighters, and so came the idea of a Jerusalem Fund and a Jerusalem Week in the Islamic countries to call Muslims to contribute money to give every assistance to those in the occupied territory. Among the most important subjects I also discussed were the continuation of the call to apply the provisions of the Islamic Shari'ah in these Islamic countries and continuity of coordination among the Administrations of Koranic Affairs concerned with memorization and recitation of God's clear Book and especially care for the study of [Koran] readings, as well as the preservation and development of religious trusts for Muslims in all their countries by increasing their sources of income and by striving to direct their income into Islamic banks.

At the end of my trip, I visited the Islamic Broadcasting Organization and we discussed ways to cooperate with this organization to promote true Islamic awareness.

The Prophet's Marriage to the Copt Maria

[Question] Your visit to the holy land reminds me of wonderful stories that occurred on its pure soil, like the story of the Prophet's (God bless him and grant him salvation) marriage to the Coptic lady Maria. Would you be willing to tell it in your words?

[Answer] The Prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation) sent letters to the rulers of the lands adjoining the Arabian Peninsula after Islam had been firmly established in that area, including the Coptic leader Muqawqis, ruler of Egypt, whom he invited to turn to Islam. Muqawqis' response was a beautiful one, because he was a Christian who knew the prophecies in the Gospel regarding the Prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation!). He sent him some gifts, and sent a maidservant and a physician. The Prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation!) sent the physician back and said, "We have no need for him because we are a people who do not eat until we are hungry, and if we eat, we do not eat our fill." But he kept the maidservant and married her after she embraced Islam. She bore Ibrahim, who was a blessing to him. The Prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation!) had already been blessed with his son Qasim by Khadijah (May God be pleased with her), but the two passed away. When Ibrahim died, his eyes shed tears and he said, "The eye cries, and the heart mourns. We are grieved, Ibrahim, at your departure. We

say only what pleases our Lord. 'We belong to God and to Him we return' [Koran II, 156]."

Islam and Christianity

[Question] What is Islam's relationship with Christianity?

[Answer] The relationship of Islam with the two religions that preceded it, Judaism and Christianity, is a relationship of antecedence, in that they prepared the way for Islam. It is known that the prophets generally brought a plan from God to lead mankind to worship God alone and that they should lead good lives with respect to each other. All religions are related in the sense that they call to worship God and, through the order of their appearance, realize the goal and intention of sending the prophets, which is to call mankind to righteousness in life and belief. These antecedent religions, the most important of them now being Judaism and Christianity, came as a prelude to Islam, because Islam is the religion of God.

What I have mentioned is clearly found in the commandments of the Koran to the believers when He says, "The Prophet believes what has been revealed to him from his Lord, as have the believers. Each one believes in God and His angels and His books and his prophets. They said, 'We hear and obey. [We seek] Your forgiveness, Oh Lord. Our destiny leads to You' [Koran II, 285]."

To have consummate belief and faith, the Muslim must believe in the prophethood of all the preceding prophets, including Jesus (Peace be upon him). So Islam came as a seal of the divine epistles, calling all people to worship God alone. In addition to faith is the Koran and Sunnah that the Prophet of God brought (God bless him and grant him salvation). The relationship of Islam and Christianity is that between the introduction and the subject.

Treatment of Non-Muslims

[Question] How have Muslims treated the peoples of the countries conquered by Islam?

[Answer] The injunctions of the Prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation) relative to the treatment of non-Muslim citizens was to treat them and associate with them fairly as good neighbors. This is the principle of Islam in dealing with non-Muslim citizens. It leaves them and what they profess in their worship alone, and it does not distinguish between Muslims and non-Muslims in civil matters. All are alike before the judgment of God and before the law.

We should know that Islam treats all people equally as human beings. There is no difference in the treatment of a Muslim versus a non-Muslim. All are alike before the judgment of God, whether it be in normal civil situations, like buying, selling, trade, agriculture, etc.

Even in the case of legal penalties, we see that when Islam considers punishment, for example, we find that it treats the Muslim and the non-Muslim equally

when one of them commits a crime. If a Muslim intentionally kills a Christian, and this is established in court, then Islam will sentence him to be punished. Conversely, if a Christian intentionally kills a Muslim, and this is established in court, then Islam will sentence the Christian to be punished for killing the Muslim and so on. The general judgment of Islam does not distinguish between the one and the other. Everyone is equal before judgment. This treatment that does not distinguish between one religion and another or one sex and the other or one color and the other, this is what the Prophet of God (God bless him and grant him salvation) was referring to in his farewell plea when he said, "People are equal like the teeth of a comb."

The Prophet said "people," he did not say "Muslims" or "non-Muslims." The Arab does not have a special status over the non-Arab except by virtue of piety. There is no distinction in Islam in treatment, or in law, or in justice, or in judging between Muslims and non-Muslims as long as the element of duty is there.

The Story of Ibn 'Amr and the Copt

[Question] Perhaps, Your Excellence the Imam, we could recall the story of the son of 'Amr ibn al-'As and the Copt as the best proof of the truth of that.

[Answer] Yes. It happened that a Copt and 'Abdallah, the son of 'Amr ibn al-'As were racing each other on their horses. The Copt defeated 'Abdallah, so he became angry and beat the Copt a number of times with his staff. Then he became afraid of his father, 'Amr ibn al-'As, so he locked up the Copt so that he would not complain to anyone. When the Copt got out, he sent his complaint directly to 'Umar ibn al-Khattab, the caliph, in Medina. 'Umar ibn al-Khattab paid attention to the complaint, even amidst his many concerns relating to the scattered armies that were fighting in the lands of the Persians and the Byzantines. He summoned 'Amr ibn al-'As and his son and the Copt. When the Copt stated his complaint to him in front of 'Amr and his son, and 'Umar ibn al-Khattab ascertained the truth of the allegation, he ordered 'Amr to take off his turban. He gave the staff to the Copt and said, "Strike the son of the highborn," because 'Abdallah, 'Amr's son, had said to the Copt when he struck him, "I am the son of the highborn!"

The 'Umar ibn al-Khattab turned to 'Amr ibn al-'As and said the immortal words:

"'Amr, when did you enslave the people since their mothers bore them free?"

Al-Azhar and the Church

[Question] Modern history reminds us that learned men of Islam went to churches and Copts went to al-Azhar to give sermons for the sake of Egypt as a sign of national unity. When did that happen? And are there similar positions affirming this unity?

[Answer] It happened in 1919. The people participated in the revolution without distinction between Muslim and Christian because the bullets of the English did not distinguish between people on the basis of religion. It was one of the prominent signs of this revolution that the sects of the people were unified. Priests went to al-Azhar to preach there and learned men from al-Azhar went to the churches to preach there. In this way unity among citizens was strengthened in all actions of the people after that, from the revolution to the demand for independence and evacuation of the occupation forces.

In the wars that Egypt has engaged in, the Muslim and the Christian soldiers have fought in the army as the army of Egypt. During the war, the soldier feels, senses and thinks only that he is an Egyptian fighting in the name of his commitment to Egypt to free his homeland or to participate in freeing the Arab homeland. The last war in 1973 to free Sinai was perhaps a living example of the interconnectedness of the individuals of the people and their courage in going beyond all the difficulties and passing all the obstacles and impediments in their attack against their enemies to recover their land. Neither the Christian nor the Muslim gave any thought to the dangers of killing and death while achieving this goal, the glorious October victory.

The war of '73 was legendary by all standards of the wars that preceded it. That was only thanks to the solidarity and unity of the people, which nourished this army and supplied it with its determination and its solidity.

[Question] Your Excellence and Grand Imam, what do you have to say to our brothers the Copts on their festival?

[Answer] I say to the Christian citizens in Egypt, "I congratulate you on the festival of the birth of our lord the Messiah (Peace be upon him), for he was a symbol of peace, love and purity, who harbored no evil and oppressed no one. He called people to peace. Islam also came in his name, because it is derived from salam [Arabic: "peace"] because taslim [Arabic: "submission"] is to God.

May the Egyptian people be, as it has always been, one people that defends Egypt and works to make it exalted, honored and powerful. May there be no discrimination among people as to sect or party. Separateness is a weakness. It was said long ago, "When brought together, spears refuse to break, but if they are separated they break one by one."

I say again to all Christian citizens of all sects, "Congratulations on your festival, and for dear Egypt, I hope for lasting power, unity and happiness with the leadership of its president Muhammah Husni Mubarak."

"On this occasion, I have sent to the pope of the Copts, Abba Shunudah, a telegram of congratulations on the festival of the birth of our lord the Messiah. May you be well every year, and may Egypt and its people be well."

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SECULAR LAW CRITICIZED AS INADEQUATE

Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 2 Jan 85 p 10

[Article by Muhammad 'Amir]

[Text] What is this that is happening in the Muslim land of Egypt? What is this that is happening under the very nose of the positive law which we cling to and do not wish to abrogate or replace with the law that the Omniscient One laid down?

What happened in the apartment of one of our great artists (!!) is an example of what happened in many shameless homes which receive notable personalities who spend their nights in drunkenness, loud partying, and sacrilege without the check of conscience or morals. God has granted them a lot of money, not squander on sensual pleasures and on shameless nights, but to use to benefit God's creatures with productive projects and works which benefit God's creatures, instead of wasting it on what God has forbidden.

When shall we awaken from our heedlessness and distance from God? God has removed his blessing from our money and our works, so when shall we return to God?

From the investigation, it has been established that wine and various intoxicants dominated the place, and there is no doubt that what happened in that evil apartment took place in an atmosphere in which a person takes leave of his senses and becomes just like an animal, where he becomes blind and unreasonable and becomes clay in the hands of the devil. The Omniscient, All-knowing One spoke truly, "Oh ye who believe! Wine and the game of chance and idols and divining arrows are only an abomination of Satan's doing, so shun them so that you may prosper. Satan desires only to create enmity and hatred among you by means of wine and the game of chance, and to keep you back from the remembrance of God and from prayer. But will you be kept back?" (Surat al-Ma'idah, verses 90, 91).

What sort of life are the artists among us living in our Muslim land, within hearing and sight of the positive law which we refuse to leave or have leave us? !! Is this art? Are these artists?

The government of our sister Sudan, with which we are integrated, caught a minister drinking wine and imposed on him the penalty of flogging and removed him from his post. This is God's law for his people.

We do not wish to get ahead of events because the investigation is still going on. Thank God, our judges do not make judicial errors, and this year has been crowned with [word indistinct] on more than one case, foremost of which was the al-Jihad organization case. The words that fell from the tongue of Judge 'Abd-al-Ghaffar Muhammad ought to be written in gold. Every day in its decisions, the court still abhors following the positive law, and implores the government to apply the tenets of Islamic Law, so that conflicts will not occur not an Islamic society be torn apart, a society that declares that it is Muslim, its official religion is Islam, and Islamic Law is the principle source of legislation, but which at the same time appeals to man-made laws, which might be good for one society but not for another, and though perhaps good for one time are not good for another.

Then, in the application of Islamic Law one can correct a deviation that the deviant has found pleasure in, made a habit of, and become a slave to. Recently we read in the papers that a professional thief who had made a habit of thievery as well as of being imprisoned, cried out in court, "Cut off my hand so I will repent."

The thief says that prison to which positive law sentenced him did not reform or deter him. He had gotten used to it and enjoyed it until it wearied him... what more do we want? And what is so frightening about applying Islamic law?

A group of us Muslims announced before getting into the People's Assembly that they would not have tried to get in had it not been for the sake of Islamic law. The time elapsed since they got in has not been short, so why have their voices died down? Do you think they have forgotten that the people would not have elected them but for announcement alone?

If pressure is being put on them, why do they not announce that to the people, who have a right to know, or are they following the path of our media in hiding facts, so that the people must get them from the BBC, Voice of America, or Monte Carlo?

I hope, as do other Muslims with me, that they have not forgotten their promises and their duty towards their religion and their people because of the length of time elapsed, the tumult of the debates and the luster of membership.

God will surely grant victory to him who champions Him; God is surely powerful and mighty. I am waiting for them to announce their position within the People's Assembly and their party affiliations, and I hope that they will not neglect their affiliation to God in order to preserve their party membership. Otherwise, shall I not do my duty and bear witness to that?!

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CSO: 4504/179

ISLAMIC PAPER REVIEWS ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON THIRD ANNIVERSARY

Cairo AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI in Arabic 3 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] With this issue, AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI begins its 4th year of existence, which we hope will continue for generations in the service of God's religion and matters of truth. On the third of Rabi' al-Thani 1402 [A.H.] the first edition of AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI was issued, at a time when religious thought was facing the worst crisis it had ever faced in Egypt.

Concepts had become confused, and truths had been lost. The most optimistic were saying, "AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI will [sell] 100,000 copies or more."

Under great pressure, the amount was increased to 200,000 copies. The first issue came out, and within 1 hour it had disappeared from the market. In the 1st week following its issuance, its distribution rose to half a million copies. It was in demand by the people...by everyone, including young and old, men and women.

During its existence, AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI has been able to stand a giant in the field of religious thought, and it was the first religious publication to carry on a real dialogue with religious groups within and outside of the prisons.

AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI has been able to take every place by storm. It carried on a dialogue in the universities, met with workers in the factories, and went into the houses of God to carry on a dialogue with the masses everywhere. In the country and the cities, in the towns and villages, it engages the masses in discussion and opens up a dialogue before them on a problem that they face and on everything about which they do not know the religious point of view.

The dialogue was quiet at times, but often hot, but it was never one-sided; rather, we always used to preserve the word literally and transmit everything that was said and is said, and we would reply to it without any distortion or change. Thus AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI was known for the boldness of its dialogue, the reliability of what it wrote, and its discussion of sound Islamic views in every field.

AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI, beginning with its first issue, has taken on currents that try to harm this religion or that try to distort the picture. There was the well-known discussion on whether it was possible for a Muslim to be a communist, and our meeting with the Grouping party lasted for several hours; it was reprinted another time.

AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI also took on attacks that were written anonymously. It took it upon itself to reply to everyone with claimed that Islamic law was not appropriate to every time and place.

AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI attacked everyone who tried to harm this religion through the media, and it has been able to respond to all of them and to present the Islamic view and show the people how this religion is right for every time and place. AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI has been able with the grace and blessing of God to take on currents that were attacking the religion in the name of religion, and which were assulting Islam while wearing the clothing of Islam. It laid all of them bare, so that most of those people stopped attacking the religion, or else vanished.

Finally, AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI has carried out its mission during its past brief period of existence...and it will carry on with this mission with God's permission with the same strength, not fearing anyone except God, saying nothing but the truth, and not raising its voice except for the sake of Islam.

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SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSES REVIVAL OF RELATIONS WITH TURKEY

Cairo AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 20 Jan 85 p 6

[Article by Ahmad Yusuf al-Qar'i: "The Istanbul Symposium on Egyptian-Turkish Relations: New Scope for Relations between Cairo and Ankara"]

[Text] The symposium on Egyptian-Turkish relations was held recently on the west bank of the Bosphorus, in the city of Istanbul, under the supervision of the Middle East Research Center at 'Ayn Shams University, the Turkish Foreign Policy Institute and the federation of chambers of commerce in the two countries. Participating in the symposium were a number of professors of history, economics and political science, diplomats, businessmen and media figures, and they discussed a number of research works on various political, economic and cultural relations between the two countries, their historic roots and the scope for developing them in the present and future.

The symposium, by all standards, was a sign of the constant improvement in relations between Egypt and Turkey in recent years in various spheres, after a long period of stagnation. The two countries represent a cultural presence which has its historic roots in the Middle East; they have been linked by close social ties over a long period of time, are similar in terms of size of population (45 million people), and are similar in their progress and industrial advancement relative to the countries of the region. Political changes that have occurred in the area assert the need for joint Egyptian-Turkish action in the context of total understanding of the dimensions of the crisis in the Middle East and the importance of action on the part of the two biggest countries in the region.

The symposium presented a number of works of research from the two parties on the historic roots of Egyptian-Turkish relations and their development in the modern era and unanimity was expressed on the need to correct the erroneous notion of relations between the two countries under Ottoman rule.

On this point, Dr Salah al-'Aqqad, chairman of the History Department in the Girls' College at 'Ayn Shams University, said "The Turks now consider that the Ottoman state protected the Islamic East against the recent European invasion. They complain that the English and the French were the ones who deliberately wrote history in a manner driving a wedge between the Turks and the Arabs, including the Egyptians, and they are sorry that some Egyptian writers were influenced by those writings. This was true in the case of historic works

which appeared after the 1919 revolution and the elimination of the Ottoman state, and nationalists like Mustafa Kamil were involved with them. This tendency continued to prevail in schoolbooks, but after the seventies the history departments in Egyptian universities became active in re-evaluating this period. Most of the people who have submitted university theses have ended up with a new reading of the Ottoman era which proves that relations between the provinces and the state of the caliphate were ones of coex among different races in which no race of Moslems were superior to another; the revolutions which appeared in Egypt rose up against injustices of administration, especially in terms of financial aspects, and not against the principle of the legitimacy of Ottoman rule."

Social bonds

In his paper presented to the symposium, the Egyptian ambassador Muhammad Wafa' Hijazi referred to the social bonds highlighted by the stage of Ottoman rule in Egypt and said, "In spite of the resistance to the Ottoman occupation which Egyptian society expressed by various means, i.e., that is, Egyptian society, accepted and agreed to coexistence with the Turks through marriage and matrimony, as if the Egyptian rejection was focussed on the political formulation of the Turkish presence; however, this rejection did not extend or apply to social relations. This is a phenomenon which was not repeated in the context of the subsequent French and British occupations, since Egyptian society withdrew into itself and its refusal to deal and communicate with the occupying forces was the support on which its resistance to these forces was concentrated."

The Egyptian ambassador went on to say, "The Islamic identity of both the Turks and the Egyptians is paramount among the factors which led to this interaction and intermixture between the two people."

In his research work on historic relations between Turkey and Egypt, Dr Hakki Dursun Yilduz, dean of the Faculty of Letters at the University of Marmara, gave examples of the eternal effects which would remain a symbol of the genuine nature of relations between the two countries, including the Ibn Tulun Mosque in Egypt.

The retired Turkish ambassador Ismail Soysal, in his long documented research work, reviewed the stages of relations between the two countries since the first Egyptian ambassador presented his letters of accreditation to Kamal Ataturk in 1925, and considered that Egypt and Turkey were two fraternal countries, with nothing to soil the purity of brotherhood between them, and that the reason for the decline in relations between the two of them was erroneous interpretations.

The retired Turkish ambassador Samih Junur, who worked in Cairo between 1965 and 1971, stated that mutual trust became prominent during this period, the two Egyptian and Turkish parties showed full understanding and good intentions to develop relations were genuine.

The Notion of National Security

Dr 'Abd-al-'Azim Ramadan, dean of the Faculty of Education at al-Minufiyah University, raised the issue of national security in relations between the two countries

and said that the source of danger to national security in Egypt and Turkey affected relations between them. In the period before World War One, the source of danger was the same, the English, since the English had occupied Egypt and at the same time were hostile to the Ottoman state. Therefore Egypt's relations with Turkey were based on firm bonds, which was the reason Egypt took a position opposed to the revolution of al-Sharif Husayn. After World War Two the source of danger changed; the danger to Turkey then came from the Soviet Union, which prompted it to make alliance with the West, at a time when the source of danger to national security in Egypt was the English. Therefore, at a time when Turkey was joining foreign alliances, Egypt was hostile to Western alliances, and that became clearly prominent especially after the 23 July revolution, which led to a clash in interests between Egypt and Turkey. However, after al-Sadat turned toward the United States and alliance with the West, Turkish-Egyptian interests came closer together and there was no longer anything to prevent them from meeting and to prevent relations between them from growing closer.

Dr Sayfi Tashan, director of the Turkish Institute of Foreign Policy, described the most prominent objectives of Turkey's Middle East foreign policy and said that the first objective was noninterference in the internal affairs of any country and the pursuit of a policy of equality. Turkey is trying to revive relations with the Arab countries and is striving for the establishment of stability and peace in the region.

Factors for Rapprochement

The Egyptian ambassador Muhammad Wafa' Hijazi rounded out the stages in the development of Egyptian-Turkish relations in recent years, observing the most prominent factors which helped create rapprochement between them as follows:

1. The change which occurred in the past 10 years in the political orientation of both countries, especially in the area of their foreign policies. With respect to Turkey, this change was embodied in its directing more attention to supporting and consolidating its relations with the Arab and Islamic countries of the Middle East and making its orientation to these countries one of the basic focal points of its foreign policy.

As regards Egypt, the change in its political orientation was embodied in the basic transformations which took place in its policies in the seventies, in the context of its relations with the major international powers on the one hand and also in the framework of its relations with the countries situated in the Middle East on the other. This change in the recent period has come to be distinguished by Egypt's pursuit of a balanced policy in its international and regional relations, in a manner distinguished by cooperation with the group of Western countries and countries with moderate policies in the Middle East, while being concerned with its preservation of its identity as a founding member of the nonaligned group.

2. A convergence in the two countries' views and positions on the two most important problems threatening peace in the Middle East, the Arab-Israeli struggle and the war in progress between Iran and Iraq. The congruence in views between the two countries regarding the most suitable solutions for settling

these two problems, and their pursuit of a similar style in dealing with their implication, have greatly narrowed the distances between them and have created proper ground for the attainment of further understanding in the case of these two problems or other international problems and issues affecting the interests of the two countries.

3. A common feeling of the extent of the danger that the aggravation of problems stirred up in the Middle East, especially the two problems of the Arab-Israeli struggle and the Iranian-Iraqi war, now represents and that the situation now makes it mandatory for the countries with influence and weight in the region to meet and consult to seek ways out in order to eliminate the destructive effects which all countries without exception are suffering from.

Proceeding from this viewpoint, as Ambassador Muhammad Wafa' Hijazi said, the special importance acquired by cooperation between Egypt and Turkey in their capacity as the greatest countries of the region in terms of military forces, industrial progress and size of population, is apparent. The Egyptian ambassador considered that the real starting point in the positive transformation in relations was the Turkish government's provision on 27 January 1982 of a copy of the 1906 agreement and the maps accompanying it, determining the international boundaries between Egypt and Palestine. This was done in accordance with the Egyptian government's request to seek the aid of any documents which would be in Turkey's possession in order to establish the international boundaries between Egypt and Palestine in the framework of the process of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

In the context of variables and factors which both directly and indirectly influenced the mutual view between Egypt and Turkey, relations between the two came to be distinguished by the following characteristics:

1. They lacked the touchy feelings of the past and doubts; indeed, they now have acquired a charge of enthusiasm and sincere mutual desire to strengthen relations and ties in various fields.
2. The ~~illegible~~ of firm mutual understanding between the political, economic and military leaders in both countries and consequently the establishment of a broad system of direct and personal ties between leaders who have influence in making political decisions. This is a picture which had been totally lacking in the recent past.
3. The provision of a great amount of important information with the agencies and institutions of each country on various aspects and levels of activities the other country engages in in various areas. This matter has started to be of help in ascertaining and choosing the most suitable fields and forms of cooperation between the two countries in the various branches of bilateral relations.

Trade

The role of economists and commercial figures was apparent at the symposium. Prof Muhammad Bazar, chairman of the Federation of Turkish Chambers and Stock Exchanges, and Prof 'Abd-al-Fattah Abbas Zaki, chairman of the Federation of Cotton Merchants and Exporters and chairman of the Joint Turkish-Egyptian

Chamber of Commerce, presented their conceptions of the current state and future of trade between the two countries.

Professor Muhammad al-Sayyid, director general of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, and Dr Orhan Murfil presented a complete picture of the political-economic bases in their two countries.

One of the most prominent requests the Egyptian delegation presented was the attempt to remove third parties from trade between the two countries, preparatory to supporting commercial and economic relations between them. The total trade exchanged between the two parties in 1979 was \$19.5 million; in 1982 that came to \$140 million, and exceeded that figure in 1983. Then the volume of trade from January to October 1984 came to \$121 million.

Cultural Cooperation

Concerning cultural cooperation, the symposium discussed a number of works of research and presented a number of ideas for developing cooperation and for meetings among intellectuals in the two countries.

In his research work on linguistic relations between Turkish and the Egyptian dialect, Dr Ramadan 'Abd-al-'Awwab, dean of the Faculty of Letters at 'Ayn Shams University, praised the role of Turkish scholars in supplying the Arabic literature with works, interpretations and commentaries since the Turks embraced Islam. Dr Ramadan said, "Some of these works and marginalia were published and became famous, and many of them need the care of investigators so that the dust of time may be shaken from them and they may be produced for people in scholarly, researched form so that students and researchers may benefit from them."

Dr Fathi al-Nakalawi, chairman of the Turkish Language Department at al-Azhar University, also spoke about Egypt's interest in supporting the teaching of Turkish, investigation of the heritage written in the Turkish language and the importance of Egyptian-Turkish cooperation in this sphere.

In his paper presented to the symposium, Prof Fathi 'Uthman recommended a number of steps for strengthening cultural and media cooperation and said, "The cultural and media areas can find scope for revival and prosperity in an environment dominated by successful political understanding. Then culture and the media produce long-term fruit which strengthens the continued success of political understanding, and therefore the process of continuous mutual interaction goes on making both cultural and media cooperation on the one hand and successful political understanding on the other mutually indispensable."

Finally, the discussions which took place within the symposium were reinforced by the contacts which took place with men of the media and culture in the Society of Turkish Journalists, the Center of Islamic Research and Culture and the Federation of Chambers and Stock Markets. This became clear to the Turkish man on the street, who became acquainted with the Egyptian delegation. Dr 'Abd-al-'Azim Ramadan was truthful when he said that Egyptians did not feel estrangement in this city.

JUDICIAL RESTRICTIONS ON PRESS FREEDOM DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 2 Jan 85 p 3

[Editorial]

[Text] For the first time, AL-AHALI has published on the front page of this issue news about an order issued for the imprisonment of our colleague Wajdi Qandil in one of the publishing cases, one of a series of cases against the newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM being tried by the courts. We assigned our court editor, Tharwat Shalabi, the task of following them in order to publish the rulings on them issued by the court.

The cases currently brought against the official newspapers, including AKHBAR AL-YAWM, number in the dozens. That is not counting the cases brought against the opposition papers. Our colleague Wahid Ghazi, editor-in-chief of the newspaper AL-AHRAR--which no government writer describes as being a paper of sedition and slander--has mentioned that the cases brought against it had numbered more than a hundred during the last 2 years, and there were other cases, against AL-SHA'B and AL-WAFD.

In contrast to the unprofessional method followed by AL-AKBAR and the official papers, we are publishing these orders, not in order to gloat over our colleagues affected by them, or to mobilize public opinion over the imprisonment of a journalist, but to open up the file of laws on journalism and publishing in our country. The orders which the courts issue in themselves have our respect, but our right, and the right of others, to criticize the laws which the courts apply and to attack their constitutionality and to call for their change is a basic democratic right. We hope that all will rise above their petty quarrels and little hatreds, along with us, so that we can launch a joint campaign to change these harsh laws, the like of which is not seen in any civilized country, and which practically constitute legislation to take away the freedom of the press!

It is enough to know that the press laws applied in our country contain articles which place the burden of proof of any published news item on the newspaper, and not on the two parties to the dispute or on the one who gives false information, as is the case with all press laws in the world. This means that the paper will not publish any news item no matter how confident it is of its truth, unless it first has documented proof. They are the articles proposed by the

Wafd deputy Istafan Basili in 1951 and introduced as a draft bill, which the royal court was said to back, in order to prevent the newspapers from publishing their news. Suddenly the newspapers revolted and they all stopped publishing for a day. Suddenly, their trade union's general assembly convened an extraordinary, continuing session. Suddenly the unions and public opinion were supporting the journalists against this bill, and the newspaper AL-MISRI--organ of the Wafd party--took a stand against the bill and against the Wafd ministers and deputies who supported it. So the bill failed and was not issued as a law, but in the form of a decree and to this day it is still being applied!

That is one example of many that makes freedom of the press a mirage and prevent newspapers from citing the truth, and change them from platforms for the publicizing of facts into offices for searching for documents and proofs and trying to keep them in a country with an administrative system 7,000 years old able to conceal any document; sycophants revel in its shadow, afflicting every document and concealing every truth. Fortunately, so far the courts have not issued a final order against a single journalist or newspaper, whether government of opposition.

And fortunately, the only one demanding that press punishments be made harsher is Musa Sabri.

And fortunately, we at AL-AHALI have the courage to be ourselves and to rise above low-class gloating over our rivals. We possess manly courage, so we will defend them and rise above demanding that they be put down. For that reason we will begin a campaign against the press laws in order to protect our "colleagues" in the profession, even though they may be of the likes of Mr Writer standing on a pedestal.

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CSO: 4504/182

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE DISCUSSES CURRENT PROBLEMS

Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic No 2608, 17 Oct 84 p 19

[Interview with Yusuf Wali, minister of agriculture, by 'Uzzah 'Izzat: "When Will Troubles of New Landowners End? Have University Graduates Succeeded in Reclaiming Land? How Were Fallowing Operations Halted?"]

[Text] The state has proclaimed the necessity of conquering the desert, considering it the sole hope for most of the problems that Egypt is suffering in the face of the population explosion that is growing day by day.

However, has this experiment succeeded in its objective? Why were the successes of the previous experiments limited? What has been achieved by the experiment adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture of giving land ownership to graduates of the universities? Have material capabilities and expertise reached a crossroads on their path?

AKHIR SA'AH took these questions and the concerns of the new owners of reclaimed lands--poor services, unavailability of water, repeated malfunctioning of power stations--to Minister of Agriculture Dr Yusuf Wali, who answered them frankly.

[Question] Concerning the experiment to conquer the desert: Has it succeeded in the objective called for by the state, and what are the real reasons for the failure of the previous experiments, which began as long ago as 1937, that is, 45 years ago?

[Answer] Any limited success is attributable to administration. With respect to the agricultural sector, there are competent people, certainly. Let's take as an example the Shamal al-Tahrir Company. The previous chairman of its board of directors alleged that there was not enough water, and the newspapers dealt with the subject. But what happened as soon as the administration changed? A young man took his place, and he planted 12,000 feddans with the same resources!

To my way of thinking, any shortcoming that may appear in the land use projects has its basis in the administration. If competent directors are chosen, the picture will change. We are now proceeding in this direction with the appointment of competent directors and with collective work within the Organization for Agricultural Development, which oversees 400,000 feddans.

Reorganizing the House

[Question] Some workers in the agricultural sector hold the opinion that the reason for the failure of most previous experiments is the lack of stability in the agricultural sector, and the fact that many of the agricultural institutes and organizations have been transferred back and forth in their subordination between the ministries of Agriculture and Agricultural Reclamation, National Production and Scientific Research. We mention as an example the Desert Research Institute, whose subordination has been transferred among six organizations and ministries, and also the Desert Restoration Organization, of which there remains only the sign hung on its old buildings, after its subordination shifted several times, to the point where it was said that it got lost and its vitality stagnated. Will the reclamation and land use sector see some of the stability that is required as a factor of success?

[Answer] We were living in a completely different time, but we are now reorganizing our house from within, as they say, and we view matters objectively. A transfer is often based on the request of those who are in charge of the matter, and I approve the transfer as long as it is generally beneficial or as a kind of correction of the situation. This is what happened with respect to the Desert Research Institute; for 2 years now it has remained subordinate to the Ministry of Land Reclamation, with the consent of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Also with respect to the agricultural companies, the directorates of al-Tahrir and al-Nahdah and others, the minister of housing and land reclamation, Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, proposed that they be returned to the Ministry of Agriculture, and they were.

There is now integration within the cabinet. The Ministry of Agriculture has clearly defined work, and the Ministry of Land Reclamation has its own clearly defined work, in that it is responsible for providing basic structures, such as roads, irrigation canals, drainage ditches and electricity. Afterwards, the Ministry of Agriculture's task will begin.

There is cooperation between the Ministry of Reclamation and us, and between the Ministry of Reclamation and the Ministry of Irrigation; they both work together to rationalize water utilization.

I think that what is going on now is proper: Subordinate to the Ministry of Reclamation is a public construction organization in which there are larger general contractor and construction companies which invite bids and accept the lowest price for the basic construction work. After the land is reclaimed and planted, the Ministry of Agriculture assumes responsibility for determining who owns it and who manages it.

Problems of University Graduates

[Question] Let us return to discussing an experiment of utmost importance and significance, the experiment of the state giving land ownership for the purpose of reclamation to graduates of the institutes and universities.

Information obtained from research organization states that the results of this experiment are limited after many problems have stood in front of these young people, but the small owners and the usufructuaries had greater success because of being settled on their land. Is this true?

[Answer] I think the experiment with the graduates is successful, but the deficiency is in certain areas, and in the new lands only--specifically, in al-Nahdah and Maryut--and even the deficiency in these areas is attributable to a personnel shortage.

However, it is certainly the hope of every young person to own land, and to cultivate it in order to strengthen his personal finances and the economic condition of society.

On the other hand, the small usufructuaries are more qualified for the old manual agriculture. Perhaps it appears that the condition of their land is better than the graduates' land, because they enlist their sons along with them into agriculture.

However, the true problem is that the graduates are lacking loans because the Bank of Development and Credit refuses to grant them the long-term loans they need in order to buy tools and modern mechanized equipment. In view of the lack of a property deed they do not get the loans they need, but we will work on facilitating the granting of long-term loans, so that we can ease their task.

As for the assertion that loans are a burden upon them, I think they are not a burden at all; they are a burden only to those who do not want to work.

Solution to Deficient Services?

[Question] There is a complaint from most new owners of reclaimed land about the poor quality of the services they were promised at the time of purchase, the repeatedly and continuously malfunctioning power stations and the unavailability of water for weeks. This is what completely kills their young crops and wastes away their efforts into dust. Even their money is spent in vain. They also complain of slowness in solving these problems.

[Answer] This complaint reached me a week ago. It is found, specifically in the area of western al-Nubariyah. It was discussed with Eng Mahir 'Abazah, minister of electricity, because part of this region belongs to the Alexandria Governorate and part to al-Buhayrah Governorate. The minister promised to follow up on this complaint and solve it. With respect to al-Nubariyah, their problems will be solved immediately, because he is studying the establishment of an administration for western al-Nubariyah. I shall follow up this matter myself with the minister of electricity.

Negative Aspects of Land Use

[Question] Some of the negative aspects of the land use sector involve what is done by some of the owners who buy reclaimed land and let it lie fallow

for years. This causes it to lose much of its suitability for agriculture. They may even not plant it and leave it until the price rises, then sell it, or use it for something else entirely. There are many examples of this, and we see it all along the Cairo--Ismailia road: hundreds of fenced feddans bearing the sign "farm," and which bear only the name. Is there any intention to take restrictive measures toward those who let reclaimed land lie fallow? Why do you not define a specific time limit for planting the land, which cannot be exceeded?

[Answer] There is a law which forbids fallowing. If any reclaimed land is left fallow, it will be planted by the Ministry of Agriculture. Letters have been sent to all buyers as warnings of this: If they do not plant, the land will be withdrawn from them and the purchase cancelled--and their money will be remitted to them, of course, but in this case they will forfeit the difference in the price, about 2,000 or 3,000 Egyptian pounds. It is better for them, naturally, to hurry up and plant.

Obstacles to al-Salihiyah--Why?

[Question] Much is being repeated concerning obstacles to the al-Salihiyah project, among them the lack of material flow which hampered completion of the livestock production projects which were to be established.

[Answer] I believe there is no deficiency with respect to the al-Salihiyah project. They are phased in the plan, and they have their share of the budget. We even give them food security loans so that they raise the animals for the benefit of the Ministry of Supply. I have not heard this complaint!

[Question] In conclusion, Dr Wali, we have definitely become familiar with what the Ministry of Agriculture is doing. You speak well of this important and vital sector on which we hang our hopes for a solution to many of Egypt's problems and its chronic crises.

[Answer] The Ministry of Agriculture is in accord with the thinking adopted by the Ministry of Reclamation, which depends on reclaiming lands adjacent to the [Nile] valley and the Delta, and near to water sources first, and then beginning to invade deep into the desert later. Thus, the ministry feels that the al-'Uwaynat project, for example, is merely an experiment that must be assessed very carefully, especially since about 9 million Egyptian pounds have been spent on it and questions about it have been raised in the People's Assembly. The wish is that the Ministry of Petroleum will terminate operations to discover underground stores, after which an experimental area will be planted in cooperation with the ministry concerned. The Ministry of Agriculture cooperates in this by rendering technical assistance.

The Ministry of Agriculture is now building 150 automatic service stations. This was contained in the president's message last July. With the building of these stations, agriculture will move from animal-powered equipment to replacing people with machines at these stations. With this new move, we will enter a new and happy agricultural era, God willing.

9605

CSO: 4504/73

PROGRESS IN MANUFACTURE OF AUTOS, OTHER VEHICLES CITED

Cairo AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWALIYAH in Arabic 27 Jan 85 p 9

/Article by Ahmad al-'Attar: "The Automobile Industry in Egypt: Actual Conditions and the Future"/

/Text/ There is no doubt that there is great interest, at the present time, in increasing the production of vehicles of various kinds in Egypt and at the same time trying to increase the rate of local vehicle manufacture, in a manner which will make it possible to cope with increasing domestic consumption needs for them. How, however, can that be achieved?

Eng 'Uzz-al-Din Haykal, chairman of the al-Nasr Automobile Manufacturing Company, stated that 22,000 passenger vehicles are to be produced this year, 1984-85, to meet the market's vehicle requirements. Commitment will be made to delivery dates at the prices specified when contract was made, without any modifications. He added that there was great interest in increasing the rate of local manufacture to produce cars and that the stage of partial manufacture of cars produced locally has in fact begun, since some parts are now being manufactured for these cars and the rate of local passenger car manufacture in the assembly stage now comes to about 20 percent, whereas last year it had just been 8 percent.

Eng Salah al-Hadari, head of the company's marketing and passenger vehicle service department, added that there now are 120 factories contributing to the production of industries feeding the automobile industry, producing some parts for cars. In the course of the coming year, 1985-86, the production of passenger cars will increase to 25,000, an increase of 3,000 over this year. This production will include 7,000 /model/ 128 cars, 8,000 Flora cars, 8,000 Rogatta cars and 2,000 Bolognese cars.

Eng 'Uzz-al-Din Haykal added that as far as the new project to manufacture a small and an intermediate car is concerned, a study and evaluation is now being made of the bids presented for the manufacture of these two cars. The project has the goal of producing 60,000 small cars, which will later increase to 100,000, in addition to manufacturing 40,000 intermediate cars, which will increase to 60,000. The rate of local manufacture of these two cars will rise to about 60 percent.

As regards trucks, for which an import guidance decree has been issued, it has been decided that 4,000 trucks will be produced this year, of which 3,000 will be intermediate and 1,000 heavy. The current truck manufacturing production capacity is adequate to cover all applications for their delivery, and a complete marketing study is now being carried out to determine the country's need for trucks of various kinds and load capacities so that it will be possible to prepare a production plan on the basis of it. Next year production will be increased to 5,000 trucks, 4,000 of them intermediate and 1,000 heavy.

As regards buses, for which an import prohibition decree was issued recently, their production will roughly double in the coming year to cope with demand for them. The number of buses to be produced this year comes to 850. Eng Salah al-Hadari added that these include 150 heavy and 700 intermediate buses, of which 400 are new buses of a wholly Egyptian design. Production of this bus began this month and it will begin to be delivered for the first time in February. Next year 1,500 buses will be produced, of which 300 will be heavy and 1,200 intermediate buses. At present a study is underway to determine Egypt's needs for buses of various types in order to prepare a plan to produce them in accordance with that.

Eng 'Izz-al-Din Haykal said that the rate of local manufacture of trucks and intermediate buses is high and comes to 75 percent, since many of their parts, such as motors, tires, windows, gear boxes and axles, are now being produced. This high rate of local manufacture has been realized by pursuit of the method of a single production group, since intermediate buses and trucks are produced in a single group, and consequently many parts of their components are common, that is, can be installed in either, which makes it possible to produce these components in large quantities. Consequently it is now possible to manufacture them locally. The single group method will be applied in the production of heavy buses and trucks, which will make it possible to increase their local manufacture rate from 50 to 75 percent.

With respect to tractors, this year 5,000 tractors will be manufactured, 35 percent with 60 horsepower and 65 percent with 65 horsepower. Next year, 1985-86, the tractor production will be increased to 6,000; this production will be enough to cover the needs of local consumption, which amounts to 6,000 tractors. Thus self-sufficiency will be achieved in the production of tractors for the first time next year.

11887

CSO: 4504/209

EFFORTS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY OF RURAL AREAS EXPANDED

Cairo AL-AHRAM: AL-TAB'AH AL-DUWAIJIYAH in Arabic 24 Jan 85 p 3

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Hamid: "Egypt Enters the Age of Intensified Farming"]

[Text] At the beginning of January, Egypt entered the era of intensified farming through the small farmer project. The experiment was successfully begun in three governorates by Egyptian and American experts. However, this state has a distinctive character, since it has been decided to apply the project to eight new governorates, preparatory to putting it in general use in the other governorates, although with 100 percent Egyptian expertise.

What goal does the project have? What will be its results? What changes can it add to the shape of the agricultural map in Egypt?

At the beginning, Fathallah Rif'at, chairman of the board of the main Agricultural Development and Credit Bank and project manager, said a signature was made on this project by Egypt and the American Agency for International Development for a limited period, 5 years, from July 1980 to the end of 1985, provided that it be carried out in three banks belonging to the Agricultural Development and Credit Bank covering 153 villages in the three governorates. However, in light of the main points brought out by the economic and social evaluation of this project in its various stages and positive results over the years of execution, which have put it in central place among the development projects the Ministry of Agriculture is carrying out in cooperation with the American Agency for International Development, the American party and the Egyptian government have agreed to extend the period of work on the project to 1987 and to support the project budget."

Project Expansion To Include Eight New Governorates

Fathallah Rif'at said that since the small farmer project has realized most of its goals and has become a pilot project since it is an experimental one, it is necessary to expand its scope of application to other governorates. The higher committee on policies and economic affairs has given agreement to expanding its application to the Governorates of al-Gharbiyah, al-Minufiyah, Kafr al-Shaykh, Giza, al-Fayyum, Bani Suwayf, Dumyat and al-Daqahliyah, with reliance on Egyptian expertise and local financing, to bring about gradual expansion, and it has been decided that the project will include al-Daqahliyah.

Concerning the goals of the project, Fathallah Rif'at said, "The project is arrived at increasing small farmers' production and developing the Egyptian village by transferring modern technology to fields and villages, strengthening the agricultural guidance system and raising the level of credit banking performance in the village banks through a work plan, which is:

"To choose three village banks in the area of activity of each of the banks in the governorates by which the choice of starting execution is made, so that the choice at the first stage will be at the village bank level.

"To delegate authorities and increase the powers of the directors of the village banks and branches.

"To develop village banks so that they will become independent economic units with their own resources and expenses, capable of changing their operating methods through a periodic performance evaluation and the modification of work plans.

"To establish an information system which will help higher and middle management plan, adopt appropriate decisions and make sound evaluations.

"To provide suitable, appropriate locations and systems for banking activity and provide the atmosphere, equipment and facilities necessary for production.

"To simplify internal operating methods and develop and simplify the documents used and the documentation cycle.

"To develop programs for attracting and accumulating savings and directing them toward the financing of investment projects, to meet financing needs for production accessories, and to consider credit an accessory of agricultural production.

"To link short- and medium-term credit to the use of modern scientific methods of agriculture, to transfer the results of agricultural research to small farmers and to increase the volume of medium- and short-term loans.

Returning the Village to Production

"The executive measures have been started with the expansion of the project to include eight new governorates, and it will offer a solution to many problems facing the Egyptian village at the present time, one of the most important of which is the rise in wages of farm labor as a result of emigration in search of work. I believe that agricultural mechanization, through its application will replace man in many stages of farming. There also is the phenomenon of the shift of the village to a consuming organism and the appeal to continue to return it to production. As part of its plan, the small farmer project proposes to create new patterns which will help return the village to production in a manner in keeping with its economic and social circumstances, and all people's and local agencies are called on and requested to take part by putting this watchword into practice so that the village will return to its real role, having for hundreds of years continued to be a real source of agricultural and food production, whereas it has at the present time become a burden on the town. In this, attention will be given to the natural and human circumstances and economic assets of each governorate."

Concerning the plan to train by means of the project, the project manager said that a start had been made in carrying out a plan which includes raising the technical and administrative level of competence of the training system and developing training programs to keep abreast of the most up-to-date levels training methods have reached, so that these programs will include all rural development areas and increase the skills and competence of people working in credit and banking activities in the village banks.

95 Percent of the Farmers in Egypt Are Small Peasants

Kamal Nasir, the deputy project manager, said that the focus of the idea behind the project is that 95 percent of the farmers in Egypt are small peasants who own less than 5 feddans and that in order to create agricultural development it is necessary to deal with this majority. The conclusions of research have shown that there are great opportunities for increasing various crops and activities by from 55 to 100 percent using modern technology. To increase these farmers' production, the situation requires that they be guided in order to apply the conclusions of this research and provide suitable financing to apply these conclusions.

The project has developed lending systems so that an opportunity will be given to small farmers to obtain loans necessary for financing their projects which have not been given out through the bank's traditional system of lending, which is based on the system of lending with real estate collateral. The project has also given small peasants an opportunity to obtain real needs for financing their activities, since the present system specifies a specific amount of financing, which generally does not meet actual requirements.

Supporting Farm Management

It has been decided to establish a work team at the village level through the bank and the Agricultural Guidance [Department] to strengthen and improve channels of communication between the agricultural research agencies and local guidance and the peasant; thus, the farm management team will consist of a village bank manager, agricultural guidance officer, agricultural supervisor and agricultural financial analysis specialist. In addition, the farm management team will be supported by transportation facilities, document file cabinets, educational equipment and office equipment. Work at the beginning of the project will be concentrated on and directed intensively toward a group of cooperative farmers in about 25 farms; their communities will in effect be a guidance field where the results of agricultural research in all areas related to soil, mechanization, agriculture, the application of fertilizer and pest resistance will be applied.

In addition, cooperative peasants will be chosen among farmers whose properties or holdings do not exceed 5 feddans and through the project they will be offered the requisite services which will directly influence the process of production, development and improvement of storage methods, raise the competence of its treatment in the local context, provide transportation machinery and equipment and provide scientific studies to increase storage and transportation competence.

On the development of the accounting and savings system of the village bank:

Kamal Nasir said that studies have shown that the titles of accounts used in the village bank come to 355 as a result of the failure to consolidate titles on the one hand and the lack of precision in directing accounting restrictions on the other. This has revealed the need to simplify, classify and unite the banks' accounts in a comprehensive manner. The consulting firm has completed setting out a unified accounting reference for village banks after carrying out studies and taking steps.

As an example from the governorates, Murad Muhammad 'Ali, the chairman of the board of the agricultural credit bank in al-Gharbiyah, said that the project which is to begin to be carried out in the village will remedy all the gaps to which rural society is exposed, and use will be made of all the assets in being in the governorate, be they economic, social or human. It will help increase agricultural production and village development so that the village may return to its former condition as a productive society, in order to represent an area of attraction, having become an area of expulsion threatening the town and casting many burdens on it which affect its activity.

11887

CSO: 4504/210

DRAFT BUDGET FIGURES FOR 1985

Paris AFRICAN DEFENCE in English No 53, Jan 85 pp 30-31

[Text]

Mr. Abdellatif Jouahri, Moroccan Finance Minister, presented a draft 1985 budget to parliament on November 19. «This draft», Mr. Jouahri stated, «reflects the relative improvement that is starting to be felt in our domestic financial situation, following the recovery and readjustment efforts that have been applied since the summer of 1983. This improvement is part of a programme aimed at the medium term re-establishment of our economic and financial balance».

State budget

Expenditures and receipts for the general state budget for 1985 are, respectively: 44,312,691,237 dirhams compared with 38,828,756,947 DH in 1984, and 38,054,773,342 DH compared with 32,479,081,996 DH in 1984 (+17%).

Operating expenditures

Operating expenditures have been estimated at: 21,283,626,490 DH compared with 19,266,000,000 DH in 1984, marking an increase of 2,057,626,490 in absolute value and 10.7% in relative value. These expenditures are broken down as follows:

Civil list and royal expenses: 176,000,000 DH; personnel: 12,737,169,711 DH; equipment: 4,601,854,297 DH; contingency expenses: 875,000,000 DH; joint expenses: 793,602,482 DH; compensation: 2,100,000,000 DH.

The jobs to be created in 1985 are mainly allotted to the departments under the National Defence and Security Ministry, the National Education Ministry and professional training departments. Under the equipment allotments, the National Defence and Royal Gendarmerie sections have received an increase of over 132 million DH.

Equipment expenditures

The total credits provided in 1985 under the state investment budget come to 12,281,750,127 DH, compared with 10,154,756,947 DH in 1984, for an increase of 2,126,993,180 in absolute value, and 20.95%

in relative value.

If account is taken of the equipment expenditures financed directly by state resources through the annex budget for land conservation and topographic work, amounting to 41,900,000 DH, the overall investment budget provided for 1985 comes to 12,323,650,127 DH. To these payment credits are added credits for commitment to expenditure for 1986 and beyond amounting to 47,610,569,800 DH.

The Equipment, Management Training and Professional Training Ministry (2,831,504,000 DH) also noted that for portuary operations the programme decided upon includes the following principal elements:

- continuation of construction work on the ports of Agadir, Laayoune and Sidi Ifni;
- continuation of the superstructure work on the Jorf Lasfar port, which is to become operational during 1985.

For reorganization of the port system, plans call for the setting up of a port directorate. This state-run office will be in charge of the operation and commercial management of the country's main ports. This new office will also head a major construction effort aimed at carrying out major repairs required on the port of Casablanca, in order to optimize the productivity of existing installations. It will also carry out construction of two oil tanker stations and begin work on container facilities for the port

Partial breakdown of credits allotted for operating expenditures (in dirhams)

Civil List and Sovereign Expenses

His Majesty the King	82,640,000
Civil List and members of the royal family	1,200,000
Allotment to the sovereign	92,160,000

TOTAL..... 176,000,000

Services and organizations directly headed by the King

Royal Palace services (personnel)	92,356,472
Royal Palace services (equipment and miscellaneous expenses)	254,048,786
Minister, personal representative of His Majesty the King (personnel)	638,012
Minister, personal representative of His Majesty the King (equipment and miscellaneous expenses)	350,000
Ministry of the Royal House, protocol and chancery (personnel)	29,886,711
Ministry of the Royal House, protocol and chancery (equipment and miscellaneous expenses)	5,776,000
Royal Guard (personnel)	34,307,000
Royal Guard (equipment and miscellaneous expenses)	11,727,000

TOTAL..... 429,089,981

Ministry of the Interior

Ministry of the Interior (personnel)	341,454,000
Ministry of the Interior (equipment and miscellaneous expenses)	745,860,000
Ministry of the Interior — auxiliary forces (personnel)	701,155,000
Ministry of the Interior — auxiliary forces (equipment and miscellaneous expenses)	74,753,000
Ministry of the Interior — National Security Directorate (personnel)	532,383,250
Ministry of the Interior — National security Directorate (equipment and miscellaneous expenses)	96,660,000
Ministry of the Interior — Territorial Supervision Directorate (personnel)	38,928,000
Ministry of the Interior — Territorial Supervision Directorate (equipment and miscellaneous expenditures)	38,928,000

TOTAL..... 2,548,928,250

National Defence Administration

National Defence Administration (personnel)	3,049,369,500
National Defence Administration (equipment and miscellaneous expenses)	929,906,000
National Defence Administration — Royal Gendarmerie (personnel)	223,845,000
National Defence Administration — Royal Gendarmerie (equipment and miscellaneous expenses)	94,687,000

TOTAL..... 4,297,807,500

High Commission for Veterans

High Commission for Resistance Veterans and Army of Liberation Veterans (personnel)	8,408,000
High Commission for Resistance Veterans and Army of Liberation Veterans (equipment and miscellaneous expenses)	2,772,000

TOTAL..... 11,180,000

Breakdown of investment expenditures

Ministry or Department	1985 Payment Credits	Credits for commitment to expenditure for 1986 and beyond	Total
Royal Court and subordinate departments	130,000,000	51,000,000	181,000,000
Ministry of the Interior	535,240,003	646,933,302	1,182,173,305
National Defence Administration	947,643,500	3,882,452,000	4,830,095,500
High Commission for Resistance Veterans and Army of Liberation Veterans	2,500,000	8,970,000	11,470,000

Breakdown of payment credits made under the provisions of budgets for 1984 and previous years

Ministry of the Interior	58,748,707,89
National Defence Administration	190,000,000,00
High Commission for Resistance Veterans and Army of Liberation Veterans	5,725,657,85

of Mohammedia.

The Transportation Ministry budget (884,980,000 DH, +68.8%) calls for the air transportation office to receive an allotment of 119,530,000 DH in 1985 for the continuation of a programme to launch a number of operations, including an air safety improvement scheme. The airfields at Rabat, Salé and Fez will be reinforced, radioelectrical equipment is to be purchased for in-flight calibration, aerial navigation aids are to be acquired and meteorological stations are to receive new equipment. A special programme is also planned for work at the Casablanca airport headquarters.

The credits provided for the Ministry of the Interior for 1985 total 535,240,003 DH, compared with 378,150,600 DH for 1984. This represents an increase in absolute value of 157,089,403 DH, and 41.5% in relative value. This ministry's activities mainly cover continuing work on establishing an administrative infrastructure for the provinces and prefectures of the kingdom. In this area, a number of command posts and general secretariats are to be set up.

Amortizable and floating debt expenditures

Credits provided to service the domestic and foreign debts in capital, interest and commissions, amount to 10,750,314,620 DH, compared with 9,448,000,000 DH in 1984. This represents an increase of 1,299,314,620 DH in absolute value, and a 13.75% rise in relative value. This increase is mainly due to the jump in value of the US dollar, which has gone from an average exchange rate of 8.20 DH for \$1 to a projected rate of 9 DH to the dollar.

CSO: 4500/47

NUMAYRI ON U.S. AID SUSPENSION, LIBYAN RELATIONS

EA192124 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] President of the republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri held a press conference at noon today at the People's Palace, in which he dealt with numerous domestic and (?regional) issues through his replies to questions by several (?correspondents) of the international mass media.

In reply to a question about the measures Sudan will take toward repeated reports about the suspension of the U.S. Government's assistance to Sudan, the president of the republic stressed that Sudan has not received any official information from the U.S. Government in this connection. He indicated that all the information Sudan has received regarding this was what has been reported by the BBC.

His excellency said the United States is a country that is friendly with Sudan, that Sudan expects more assistance from it and not its suspension, and that he had doubts about the accuracy of the repeated reports regarding the suspension (word indistinct) that assistance. He noted that in the event this information is confirmed, then the president of the republic (?will) not make a decision alone, but will present the matter to the various institutions in the country to help him issue the right decision.

The president of the republic explained that Sudan is the only Third World state that abided by and implemented the IMF program. In this respect, he pointed out that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a brotherly country and its support is continuing, and it is an influential member of the fund and can offer assistance to Sudan.

The president of the republic stressed that in the name of Sudan's interests, he will agree to hold a dialogue with any person if he is earnest and willing to work for the sake of building the homeland. This was said in his reply to a question at the conference on the possibility of holding negotiations with John Garang. In this respect he said that the events taking place in the southern part of the homeland will not be solved by a military solution [words indistinct] war in which there is no victor nor vanquished. Rather it will leave effects of serious harm.

[Words indistinct] What is happening in Eritrea (?and that) southern Sudan is part of Sudan and Eritrea was annexed (dhummat) to Ethiopia by a mandate from the United Nations organization.

His excellency stressed in his reply to a question that Sudan sheltered Eritreans who were seeking refuge and gave them all possible assistance. His excellency said that once the Ethiopian government agreed to the arrival of relief supplies for the refugees Ethiopia (word indistinct) influx of Eritreans into Sudan would be reduced.

He pointed out that the doors of Sudan will remain open to give shelter to anyone who seeks refuge, and will daily share food with him, despite the fact that Sudan is suffering from the same natural and economic conditions.

He pointed out that Sudan was not in need of food aid as much as it needed contributions for its implementation of ambitious projects in agriculture and development.

The president of the republic was asked about reports that Libya has offered Sudan \$6 billion to compensate it for the reported suspension of aid from other states. He said: Libya itself, despite being an oil country, is in need of aid and assistance, and our expenditure exceeds its income.

Regarding contacts between Sudan and Libya and bilateral relations, the president of the republic said Sudan would take a cautious stand, since it has past experience that whenever such rumors were given currency, Libya had been harboring something against Sudan. He affirmed that Sudan will not close the door of dialogue to achieve and spread the principles of peace and good-neighborliness.

The president of the republic made a speech at the beginning of the press conference, in which he explained that Sudan now hosts 1.5 million refugees. His excellency welcomed the concern that the world shows for Africa under these circumstances.

At the end of his speech, his excellency stressed that Sudan will continue to welcome refugees, and its borders will remain open in spite of the big problems that it is suffering from. He said: With the will of God and through the assistance that we will receive from friendly states, we will confront the problems and build our future. We will share what we have with our brothers who come to us because of the famine.

CSO: 4500/45

'UTHMAN RESPONDS TO ETHIOPIAN COUNTERPARTS CHARGES ON REFUGEES

EA101743 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman has reiterated that the credibility of Sudan's capacity to shelter and prepare camps for refugees is above proof or evidence, regardless of whether the refugees are arriving in Sudan due to civil wars or persecution in neighboring states or whether they are leaving Sudan. That is what Hashim 'Uthman told SUNA with regard to agency reports of the Ethiopian regime's foreign minister's allegations that Sudan is forcing Ethiopians to remain, forbidding them to return to Ethiopia voluntarily, and of preventing diplomats from visiting the camps.

He ['Uthman] said Sudan operated in accordance with international norms and conventions and in full coordination with the UNHCR [United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Refugees]. Hashim 'Uthman said Sudan had taken up its humanitarian responsibility in this connection without any form of indebtedness or exaggeration [as heard]. He said Sudan was aspiring to implement the president of the republic's directives on radically solving the problem until the country is free of refugees.

He said Sudan had encountered constructive cooperation on this issue from all its neighbors with the exception of Ethiopia. Hashim 'Uthman said the international community was free to visit the refugee camps to ascertain the condition of the refugees and discuss the possibility of their voluntary return home.

Hashim 'Uthman said the Ethiopian regime was imposing a full blackout on the position of refugees in its country. This was reflected in the prevention of visits to learn of the conditions of refugees in Ethiopia.

Meanwhile, (Abd al-Majid Bashir al-Ahmadi), the refugee commissioner, in reply to a question from SUNA regarding the Ethiopian regime's foreign minister's allegations about collusion between the UNHCR and Sudan to transport the Falashas to Israel via Europe said there was absolutely no truth in the Ethiopian minister's allegations: It was more than a mere fabrication. He added that the UNHCR itself had previously made an official denial of this. Al-Ahmadi said no diplomat in Khartoum had asked to visit the refugee camps. He pointed out that he had invited the accredited Arab ambassadors last April to visit the refugee camps. Al-Ahmadi expressed his readiness to organize visits to the refugee camps for any diplomats accredited to the country.

CSO: 4500/45

AGRICULTURE MINISTER ON COMBATTING DROUGHT, DESERTIFICATION

JN121151 Khartoum SUNA in English 0945 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, Jumada Al-Awwal 22, Feb 12 (SUNA)--Agriculture Minister 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Rahman Hakim, in a reply to a question by member Al-Tayyib Ahmad 'Abdallah, explained that the ministry has been concerned with the drought and desertification phenomena since 1940.

He added that the cost required for executing the drought and desertification combat programs is 46 million dollars and that his ministry managed to secure finance for a number of projects, i.e. the rehabilitation of the gum-arabic bolt [as received] at a cost of 3,800,000 dollars, the promotion of pastures project near (Elodaiya) financed by Sudan and a Canadian organization at a cost of 1,400,000 dollars. The third project is the project of boosting and promoting the coordination office for combating drought and desertification at the Ministry of Agriculture implemented at a cost of 475,000 dollars.

The fifth one [as received] is the plantation of agricultural schemes in the northern region financed by the Sudan and the World Churches Council at a cost of 600,000 dollars and the sixth one is the project of exploiting ground water dams in the northern region with participation of Italy, Kuwait, UN development program at a cost of five million dollars, and the last one is the projects of surveying the pasture land natural resources through the earth satellite analysis which will be financed by FAO and will cover Kordofan, Central Northern and Darfur region.

Hakim said that all these projects were approved by the International Conference for Desertification convened in Nairobi. He added that the FAO and the United Nations development program in cooperation with the regional agricultural ministries at the drought-affected areas worked out some 44 projects in light of the strategy for combatting the desertification at a cost of 22,299,000 dollars.

CSO: 4500/45

PRINTING HOUSE FOUNDED; TRANSMITTERS INSTALLED

JN111104 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, Jumada Al-Awwal 21, Feb 11 (SUNA)--President Numayri has directed the establishment of a printing and publications house under the name Al-Masirah House for Printing and Publications. The president's directive was made when he received here yesterday Minister of Culture and Information 'Ali Muhammad Shammu. The house will publish the proposed AL-MASIRAH magazine to help disseminate Islamic thought and heritage as humanitarian and cultural phenomenon.

"A group of charitable people has expressed readiness to undertake this national and charity work and that the government will contribute through its cultural institutions in this respect," Shammu quoted President Numayri saying. Shammu said that President Numayri had expressed his determination to exempt materials of printing and publications from custom duties. He added that necessary measures would be implemented to the president's directives in this regards.

Meanwhile, Shammu briefed the president during the meeting on the final steps pertaining to the project of increasing broadcasting transmission power. He further reviewed with President Numayri the signing of an agreement with Japan Government to install five broadcasting transmitters. In his capacity as board chairman of Radio and Television Corporation, Shammu will sign for Sudan the said agreement February 25 in Tokyo.

CSO: 4500/45

SUDAN

BRIEFS

SUDANESE-ROMANIAN COOPERATION--The Central Region and a Romanian company yesterday signed an agreement to import equipment of an electricity grid at the value of 9 million U.S. dollars within the framework of the economic cooperation protocol between Sudan and Romania which was concluded in Bucharest last September. Central Region Governor 'Abd-al-Rahim Mahmud who attended the ceremony along with Energy and Mining Minister Sharif al-Tuhami delivered a speech in which he praised the continuous cooperation between Sudan and the socialist state of Romania. The Romanian ambassador to Sudan also delivered a speech confirming the strong ties between the two countries. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 10 Feb 85 JN]

CSO: 4500/45

ARABS URGED NOT TO DEPEND ON U.S. ARMS

GF012000 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 1 Feb 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] The United States, as we have seen in the past, reviews its policies and trends toward the Middle East only to reformulate them in a way that suits "its security strategy and vital interests." In the heart of this security strategy and vital interests we find Israel. The U.S. security strategy and Israel's military activities are two inseparable matters in U.S. policy. That is why 16 congressmen opposed--at the beginning of their campaign--the proposed Saudi-U.S. military deal. The U.S. administration also stated that it is reviewing its policy on weapons sales--even to friendly countries--in light of the U.S. security strategy in the Middle East. So it decided not to sell the Arabs new weapons until after mapping out this policy. This decision came shortly after approving military aid worth \$1.8 billion to Israel and before the visit of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to Washington in order to hold talks on the Middle East and on the arms deal.

He pointed out that this decision and the campaign against the deal in congress have been aimed at delaying the Saudi-U.S. deal in particular and blocking the way of any Arab moves to obtain U.S. arms. These measures mean that the United States, having placed its security strategy and vital interests solely with Israel, does not ever wish to strengthen the Arab military force. On the contrary, it is trying to turn it into a fragile force which might crack in the face of any Israeli strikes. These measures also mean that after the United States has decided on a weak military position for the Arabs, they must now try to vary their sources of arms in order to confront the tyrannical Israeli military force and protect their national independence and sovereignty.

CSO: 4400/87

FINANCE MINISTER DISCUSSES ECONOMY

GF160624 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 16 Feb 85 pp 6, 7

[Excerpts] Bahrain's Cabinet is now tackling the major task of setting budget and fiscal policy for the next 10 years. Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim, minister of finance and national economy, has been assigned the key role of submitting reports on all issues relating to revenue and expenditure. He spoke exclusively to GULF DAILY NEWS editor George Willians.

[Question] Oil fuels roughly two-thirds of Bahrain's budget. How do you see the proportion a decade from now?

[Answer] During the past 10 years, the contribution of oil revenue to the budget increased as oil prices rose. It is worth mentioning here that the percentage of oil revenue to total revenue decreased from 84 percent in 1974 to 65 percent in 1984. Now the oil prices are down so oil revenue will level off too and the government has to give careful consideration both to its expenditure and also to the contribution of non-oil revenue. Looking ahead to the next 10 years is not easy but the proportion of non-oil revenue in future budgets will depend mainly upon how fast the non-oil sectors of the economy expand.

[Question] Diversification first saw banking arrive, then industry. What happens after that?

[Answer] Economic diversification has been the policy of the government since the mid-60s: The non-oil sector in 1974 was 60 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and rose to 75 percent in 1983. A number of large industrial projects have been established and also during the 70s the banking sector experienced substantial growth (by 1983 its share of GDP reached 16 percent). The government has also encouraged the service sector to expand and, as you know from the recent news, telecommunications and tourism will now have a boost.

But the industrial sector too has great growth potential, particularly "downstream" of existing industries, as with aluminium and petro-chemicals. The availability of manpower skills and the well-developed infrastructure will have good positive effects. Moreover, special consideration over the next 10 years will be given to only high technology projects with

emphasis on capital intensity and the efficient utilisation of energy and water. The government in particular welcomes developments which involve industrial training to cope with new technologies.

[Question] Is the idea of a Gulf currency feasible, or is it simply an impractical dream?

[Answer] We have had experiences of common currencies in the past. Today the GCC agreements lay stress on the need for harmonisation of economic policies and this will have the effect of bringing the currencies of member countries together. This will be a long-term goal which can develop in stages. For example, one possible stage is the harmonisation of exchange rates which would inevitably lead to a common unit of account for all GCC transactions while each country retains the identity of its own currency.

[Question] GCC officials talk of common custom tariffs. Yet, as we all know there is a huge difference in pricing structures for goods in Bahrain and the rest of the region, so that the cost of living is higher here. Will this always be so--even after the Causeway is opened?

[Answer] The prices of durable goods in Bahrain may be higher than in other GCC countries because of the economies of scale and the limitation of the local market, but basic food prices are lower. The unified economic agreement has led to the abolition of tariffs on traded goods of Gulf origin and this will help to equalise prices of those commodities.

As far as the cost of living as a whole is concerned, the price indices in Bahrain have been stable over recent years, and recorded a slight drop between 1983 and 1984. As far as the imported goods from non-GCC countries are concerned we have already observed a narrowing of the gap in prices in GCC states. The completion of the Bahrain-Saudi causeway and the further unification of customs tariffs between our countries will tend to reduce any price differences.

[Question] The strong dollar makes Gulf exports less attractive to most foreign countries--could you see the dinar being devalued or the link with the dollar re-assessed?

[Answer] Since Bahrain's main exports are petroleum products and aluminium which are traded in dollars, devaluation offers no great advantage. Bahrain's policy in exchange rates is based on the stability factor and you may be well aware that the Bahrain dinar is officially linked to the Special Drawing Rights issued and managed by the International Monetary Fund and the dollar is only used as an intervention currency rather than an official peg.

CSO: 4400/87

PREPARATIONS MADE FOR NEW IRANIAN OFFENSIVE

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 354-355, 24 Dec 84 pp 18-19

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Qaysi: "The Considerations Behind Iraq's Resumption Of Its Attacks On Tankers"]

[Text] Iraq has threatened Iran that it will make the entire country of Iran the battlefield for the final, total struggle, if Iran dares to launch its anticipated offensive. Iraq has said, "This offensive will bring about a true, historic, total catastrophe for Iran."

Iraq wants a decisive, total battle, while Iran is evading the Iraqi challenge, apparently desiring an "installment battle," although the military option of a tactical Iranian move to make the hostilities more bitter and prolong the war has been dropped.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is challenging Iran to uphold the statements of its officials, Khomeyni, Rafsanjani, Khamen'i and others, and has declared, "We will make them turn black in the face."

The Iranian offensive is imminent, and will probably occur along the Maysan front, where the Iraqi Fourth Army is stationed. Another possibility is the central sector, the Iraqi Second Army's area of operations. The Iranian offensive appears to have been hampered and delayed by Iraqi warplanes, which have run a record number of 456 raids over the last 4 days. The raids peaked on 16 December, when 155 raids were carried out. An Iraqi statement confirmed the news that the offensive was about to begin, saying, "The people's armed forces inundated the scattered remnants of the tottering regime of Khomeyni, the author of hollow deception, with a rain of destruction from the bombs which the falcons of the airforce and the men of the artillery dropped on the troops which Khomeyni had mobilized for the attack on Iraq." The statement went on to say, "We have buried them, as they deserve."

AL-DUSTUR has learned that Iraq was able to cut off military reinforcements by means of its planes, which penetrated deep into Iran, and its artillery, which fired at the rate of three shells a minute. Warplanes were seen in the air every 5 minutes. The delayed Iranian offensive appeared to

have been hampered by the planes, the artillery, and the fierce downpour of rain which created artificial lakes on the Iranian side. Furthermore, Iran had apparently not learned any lessons from its previous defeats in this very sector (the Maysan sector).

The Iranian officials also apparently do not want to remember the battles of al-Zubaydiyat, al-Tayyib, al-Shayb and al-Fakki. According to information received, the new Iranian strategy (the installment attack) seems to be directed at two positions: the Maysan sector of operations and the al-Fakki sector, where Iran suffered a defeat in February 1983.

According to information received by AL-DUSTUR, the second installment offensive might be launched from the central sector, the Naft-Khanah area to be precise, and might consist of limited operations, since Iran is not strong enough to drive spearheads as it did before in the summer of 1982 east of Basrah.

A military source told AL-DUSTUR, "Iran has lost its military option, and is incapable of undertaking any operation of military significance, except for maneuvers to prolong the war which arise from the Iranian regime's belief that a miracle might happen. But the miracle they are talking about is remote, in the face of Iraq's determination, might, advanced weaponry, military strategy, watchfulness, precise intelligence, and rapid initiative in creating "decisive incidents."

Iran is moving its units around like someone gambling at roulette. One time it withdraws its forces from the central sector to the southern sector, and another time from the southern to the central sector, and so on, from here to there. Iraqi air strikes pursue them to whatever area they occupy, even before they take up their positions, for the Iraqi warplanes give them no chance to catch their breath.

In another context, the Iranian military command is divided among itself. The majority of its senior officers support neither the offensive nor the continuation of the war, and are openly declaring that they do not want to launch the attack. Others in the military command are keeping silent, but deep in their hearts they support the decision of the first group, their military command colleagues, to call for a halt to the war.

Doubt in Iranian capabilities has reached such a point that Syrian policymakers are disclaiming all responsibility for the continued Iranian failure. In fact, now that the Syrian regime has become convinced that Iran cannot undertake any operation worth mentioning, it feels that it has made a new mistake in joining forces with the Iranians against Iraq without getting a clear picture of what the Iranians are driving at.

In a reaction to defeats along the combat fronts, the Iranians, with Syrian planning and training, blew up a large case of milk recently, killing three innocent Baghdad children.

On the maritime front, Iraq is resuming its blockade after a period of relative calm. It will be remembered that Iraq's decision to stop bombing tankers was a political decision based on three considerations. The halt was timed to coincide, first, with the Gulf summit, so as to give the GCC a chance to undertake its own initiative for ending the war, and, second, with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz's visit to the United States and the resumption of Iraqi-American relations, so as to affirm Iraq's peaceful intentions. The third consideration seems to have been Iraq's desire to give Iran one last chance to return to its senses, by comparing the state of peace with the state of war, and to make the world aware of Iraq's peaceful intentions, before Iraq adopts its final decision to enter the path of no-return and destroy Kharj Island totally, in order to cut the arteries which feed the Iranian war machine. An Iranian news campaign initiated by Rafsanjani confirms that the offensive will take place. This time, however, he does not say anything definite about the plan for this offensive, merely saying, "The plans and considerations for the operations have been carried out." This was confirmed by President of the Iranian Republic Khamenei, who indirectly attacked the Arab Gulf countries and accused them of collaborating with Iraq. This journalistic browbeating appears to have been intended for local consumption, to impel the naive and simple-minded into the holocaust and to raise morale.

Over the past 4 years, casualties--killed, wounded and maimed--have been so high as to wipe out entire generations. Also, the proportion of middle-aged Iranian women to men has reached eighteen to one.

8559

CSO: 4404/191

ISRAELI OFFER TO ASSIST GREEK GOVERNMENT IN CYPRUS ISSUE

Athens PONDIKI in Greek 8 Feb 85 pp 12-13

/Text/ The two pieces of news are altogether different and yet they are somehow "tied together" and they lead to ...peculiar conclusions.

News item number one: Israel has offered its "good services" to Greece over the Cyprus issue! How? Last week a secret telegram arrived in Athens signed by our ambassador to the United Nations, namely Mr Doundas, an old and good Cyprus hand.

So, Doundas informed his superiors that he had received the visit of an Israeli colleague, namely the Israeli representative at the United Nations. The latter started out by saying that he was happy over the fact that in 1984 Greece had considerably improved its position vis-a-vis Israel in the UN General Assembly compared to the previous 2 years. He stressed that Tel Aviv appreciated this very much. He then suddenly made his proposal.

Greece should look at the "agenda" of the UN General Assembly issues (September 1985) with a favorable outlook on those issue affecting Israel and his country (in exchange) would offer assistance in the development of the Cyprus issue so long as Israel could "exercise influence" on the Americans through its all-powerful lobby....

In other words, Israel is undertaking its first involvement in the Cyprus issue and it is very difficult for us to believe that it is being done without there being some prior "informing" of Washington.

In the past, in the first post-war years, the Israelis had shown intense interest in Cyprus and in certain other Greek islands, such as Rhodes. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs they still remember those Tel Aviv maps that showed Cyprus and Rhodes as "Israeli islands!"

Now, when Israel is playing a big role in the Middle East and when we are on the eve of rearrangements in the "spheres of influence" in the Middle East, we are curious to learn what answer Athens gave (or will give) to the Israeli proposal....

News item number two: So that you will not think that the government hides only Sterns' visits to the prime minister and reveals them only when the newspapers have caught up, we are informing you about another little visit that was not announced.

On 21 January, an Israeli delegation, headed by an ambassador who is competent in EEC affairs, came to Athens to see Pangalos. The rendezvous was not so easy an affair because our people did not want that meeting too much (since the delegation was not headed by a deputy minister), but the Israelis insisted that they wanted to see any political official and they finally succeeded!

The discussion was not over Greek-Israeli relations but Israeli-EEC relations.

In short, the Israelis, who have a preferential agreement with the EEC, are concerned over what will happen now when Spain and Portugal are entering the European Community since their products are the same as theirs. This is so because when Spain and Portugal were not yet in the EEC, the EEC could show preference to Israeli products, but now that they are in the EEC that tune will not be an easy one to continue, of course.

For that reason the Israelis started going to EEC countries to exert pressure -- and you can be sure that they succeeded in something. (Besides, they are in the Euro-vision system and they are playing basketball in the European tournament...)

What has been our position? We do not know but we can say what it is with our eyes closed: i.e. as an EEC country we cannot prefer their products over those of Spain and Portugal because then we are calling for the breakup of the European Community. But if the EEC decides to sign some other new preferential agreement with Israel Greece will not be the one to "veto" it!

5671

CSO: 3521/180

JOURNALISTS NEED CHANCE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES

JN021559 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Feb 85 p 28

["Letter" by Badr 'Abd al-Haq in the "Seven Days" column]

[Text] Let us admit that journalists are currently facing an unprecedented charge, and that we have not been granted the opportunity to defend ourselves--despite the fact that we live in a country that has not been accustomed to denying anyone his rights, and under a regime that has never deprived any of its citizens of his right to defend himself. I will not go into details or list certain relevant points, but I sincerely demand--while expressing my profound love for truth and justice, and my respect for the noble ideals of this society--that we be given the opportunity we need in order to speak out openly and to not whisper behind the scenes.

I demand--and this is not a very big demand--that a court or a special tribunal be formed in order to look into the journalists' sins and errors; to thoroughly discuss and study them; to call all kinds of witnesses, both for the defense and the prosecution; and to issue a final decision that would uphold the right and expunge the wrong.

The journalists are sons of this homeland. They love it passionately, and wish it prosperity and progress. However, they may do right or wrong, good or bad, fully aware that in all cases they are free men in a country that sanctifies freedom, and that they are citizens in a country that has no wealth except its citizens. They speak up and move on, wholeheartedly hoping for a more beautiful Jordan and stronger Arab nation, which they wish would restore its great status among the nations of the world.

These are the journalists. They have something to say, and they intensely wish to be heard with an open heart and with love for this country and nation.

CSO: 4400/85

POLLUTION IN AQABA SAID INCREASING

JN261844 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Feb 85 p 3

[Article by Monika Warich, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Aqaba--Many visitors to Aqaba in the past few years could not help to notice the increasing pollution of the sea when swimming, diving or taking trips on a glass-boat. On the one hand, there is a lot of garbage in the water such as empty cans, tires and the like and on the other, visitors might wonder whether the white phosphate layer that covers the seabed in some areas along the coast could not cause harm to marine life.

This may well be true, says Dr Fu'ad Hashwah, professor and microbiologist at Jordan University, who completed a study on the pollution of the coastal region of Aqaba 3 years ago, financed through the Ford Foundation and the then National Planning Council (NPC) and by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company. At that time only one million tons of phosphate were exported yearly, while this amount has increased to 6-7 million tons today and the spillage of phosphate during the loading process went up accordingly. The loading facilities which are used in Aqaba Harbour consist of uncovered conveyor belts from which some phosphate regularly drops on the ground and into the sea.

Various effects are caused by the phosphate dust, Dr Hashwah explains. Apart from permanent clouds of dust in the air, it forms a white thick layer on the ground in the 1,000 square meter loading area which is hostile to any vegetation, while in the water it causes turbidity and poor visibility before settling down to cover the ground up to depth of 15 meters below sea level. Underneath this layer of white dust, a black sediment has developed which does not support life for aquatic animals or plants, he said.

These conditions have been prevailing for many years and although the amount of phosphate exported has increased by more than 600 percent, no improvement of the loading facilities has taken place to date, he added.

In an interview with the JORDAN TIMES, Dr Hashwah pointed out that the phosphate deposited in the Gulf of Aqaba is thought to be relatively

harmless to the existing marine life, as it is not easily soluble in the sea water. But followup research has shown that in longer periods of time, some dissolving is taking place and that the water is slowly getting enriched with phosphates, which constitute a major nutrient for marine plants, particularly algae.

Today, 3 years after the completion of the study, increased and abundant growth of algae in the coastal region near the phosphate loading berths can be noticed. Algae consume a great amount of oxygen when decomposing and diminish the amount of light that can penetrate through the water. This may lead to damage or even the disappearance of corals and the marine plant and animal colonies associated with them, as they both need a lot of oxygen and light.

The crystal-clear waters of the Gulf of Aqaba offer perfect conditions for rich coral reefs and they are believed to be unique in the northern hemisphere. But, as is well known, coral reefs are very sensitive to pollution and deterioration of the water quality of any kind.

Dr Hashwah and his colleague Dr 'Adil Mahasinah also studied the effects of the discharge of sewerage into the sea, and their findings were published in the Jordan Medical Journal of November 1983. The rapid growth of the population of Aqaba (now about 25,000) and the increasing number of tourists has led to a significant rise in the discharge of untreated raw sewerage into the sea. The report says: "The main source of faecal matter is the partially functional treatment plant located at the seaside from which the sewerage is discharged regularly after primary treatment only."

Some hotels and residential areas also discharge smaller amounts of untreated sewerage at irregular intervals. However, the sewerage plant is located far away from the tourist hotels and their beaches are not affected. Only in the very rare cases of a south wind, a higher concentration of bacteria which are indicators of pathogeniuty, could be measured in these areas," the study says. The cleanest water, free from pollution of any kind, was found south of the marine research station, where the most beautiful and rich coral reefs can also be observed.

Considering the importance of Jordan's coastal region for both the tourist trade and as a unique natural environment, Dr Hashwah calls for improved techniques at the phosphate loading berths and to check possible pollution by other industrial waste. He also suggests monitoring the bathing areas for contamination and to take immediate action to prevent the disposal of untreated domestic wastewater into the sea.

At the moment, construction work is being carried out to extend and improve the sewerage treatment facilities, and they should be functional in the near future.

POTASH PRODUCTION TO INCREASE NEXT YEAR

JN140749 Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 14-20 Feb 85 p 11

[Article by Pam Dougherty, STAR staff writer]

[Text] The Arab Potash Company (APC) is due to transfer its administrative offices to the site of the potash works at Ghor al-Safi by 1 March. The move is designed to improve the overall efficiency of the plant which has experienced some difficulties in achieving its original goals.

When the plant at Ghor al-Safi went into production late in 1982 a spokesman for the company estimated that it would reach full production of 1.2 million tonnes per year by 1985 and would ultimately be able to earn \$200 million annually for Jordan.

At this point, neither of these goals has been achieved, but a spokesman for the APC says early production difficulties have been overcome and the plant's output is rising steadily.

Commercial production at Ghor al-Safi began in 1983 with 280,000 of which 211,000 tonnes was sold for JD 5.5 million. At this time the company had to deal with a technical problem with the solar harvester and this slowed the work down. Following work to extend the pipe system at the plant output has increased substantially.

In 1984 production reached 486,000 tonnes and of which 450,000 tonnes were sold for JD 14.5 million.

Production for 1985 is estimated at 800,000 tonnes with sales of 840,000 at a value of JD 28 million. By 1986 production should reach one million tonnes.

The APC spokesman admitted, however, that the achievement of full capacity at the plant does not depend only on time but will require certain adaptations as the present solar system does not have sufficient capacity. A study on suitable modifications is due for completion in the first quarter of 1985.

So when can the company expect to move into the black? Company losses in 1983 were JD 19.2 million; 1984 figures are not yet finalised but the company spokesman says there will be a loss again. Profitability will depend on three things--good prices, successful sales and the achievement of full production capacity.

At present world prices for potash are not what was anticipated in the original feasibility studies for the plant but they are reasonable and are rising. The company is also helped by the present high price of the American dollar as its sales are in dollars.

Sales themselves also do not present a serious problem. They are heavily influenced by the actions of the world's major potash producers, the U.S. and the USSR. In 1982-83, the U.S. Government was offering American farmers incentives for not to produce because of surpluses and this in turn reduced the demand for all types of fertilisers. These incentives have now been discontinued, agricultural prices are raising and the demand has recovered. But as even at full capacity the APC will produce less than 1 percent of the world's potash, the company believes they will always be able to find good markets.

But the company points out that it cannot expect to make a profit until production expands. Fixed costs represent 85 percent of the total company costs each year leaving only a 15 percent variable cost related to production. The company is hopeful of reaching the break even point, possible in 1986 at which time the promise of dollar earnings made back in 1982 should start to become a reality.

CSO: 4400/85

BRIEFS

EXPLOITATION OF HAMZAH OIL WELLS--Amman--The government has started actual exploitation of crude oil from the Hamzah well in the Al-Azraq area following last month's indications that well No 3 contains promising quantities of oil. Actual exploitation is currently confined to Wells No 1 and 2 despite their weak pressure. The output from these will cover a small portion of local consumption demands. The daily production rate from the two wells is estimated at 32,000 gallons, which is equivalent to 2,800 barrels. As for well No 3, from which crude oil flowed last month and on which great hopes are pinned, it is still blocked. Yesterday, equipment and modern machines, flown especially from Iraq, were installed at the well to determine oil production and quantities. Responsible sources indicated that officials of the Natural Resources Authority will next week be able to determine these quantities and continue digging in well No 3 to a distance of between 100-200 meters deeper in order to reach the rocky layer which is scientifically known not to have oil beneath it. [Excerpt] [Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Feb 85 pp 1, 18]

TWO LOAN AGREEMENTS SIGNED--Kuwait, 10 Feb (PETRA)--Jordan and the Arab Economic and Social Development Fund signed two loan agreements here today under which the fund will extend 6.45 million Kuwaiti dinars to Jordan to implement the central Jordan Valley irrigation project, improve the seismologic network, and bolster the network for registering strong tremors. [Text] [Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 10 Feb 85]

SWISS LOAN AGREEMENT INITIALLED--Amman--A consortium of Swiss banks and the Swiss Government will grant Jordan a loan of 60 million Swiss francs (JD9M) to help the kingdom finance the purchase of Swiss goods and services needed for development projects being carried out by the public and private sectors in Jordan. Agreement has been initialled on the loan here during a visit to Jordan by a delegation representing the banks and the Swiss Government. Swiss Embassy trade officer Sulayman al-Far told the JORDAN TIMES that a third of the loan to be supplied by the Swiss Government will be interest-free and repayable over 25 years with 10 years grace period while the rest will be provided by the consortium at 6.5 percent interest, with a 3-year grace period and repayable over 10 years. [Excerpt] [Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Feb 85 p 3]

ARAB BANK IN TOP PLACE--Amman--The Arab Bank has attained number one status among Arab banks in the world in syndicated loans management for 1984 in Asian deals, the bank said Tuesday. The January 1985 issue of ASIA BANKING states that the allocated share for the Arab Bank as lead manager in 1984 was \$226 million, a bank spokesman said. Also the bank's share as agent in syndicated loans for 1984 was \$183 million, he added. [Text] [Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Feb 85 p 1]

CSO: 4400/85

BRIEFS

ENERGY COOPERATION WITH PRC--A cooperation agreement signed last week between Kuwait and China is expected to lead to joint-ventures in a number of energy projects and fertiliser production, according to reports from both countries. Sheikh Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, Kuwait's oil and finance minister, was in China for talks on oil and to take the first steps in setting up a joint development corporation. Priority is expected to be given to ammonia fertiliser production, based on the huge gasfield now being developed by the Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation and Atlantic Richfield. Santa Fe, which is wholly owned by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, has a 30 per cent share in the field. According to reports, up to six plants may be set up, to produce some 1,500 tonnes of fertiliser a day. This would require about 300mm cubic feet of gas daily. Sheikh Ali Khalifa was also expected to sign a \$29.60mn loan agreement on behalf of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, which will be used to finance a Chinese hydro-electric scheme. The Shaqikou hydro-electric scheme, the total cost of which is \$204.39mn, is expected to be completed in 1988 and will provide energy for Fujian Province and improve river navigation in the area. The loan, which carries 3.5 per cent interest, is repayable over 20 years. The Kuwaiti minister, as an Opec leader, was also expected to put pressure on his Chinese counterpart to reduce oil output as a way of supporting Opec in its efforts to maintain its current pricing and production formula. [Text] [Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 7 Jan 85 p 10]

LEAD-FREE GAS SOLD IN EUROPE--Kuwait Petroleum International, the marketing arm of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, has been selling lead-free petrol at 30 of its 1,500 service stations in Europe since the beginning of the year. KPI says lead-free petrol will be available from 150 stations within three months and up to 500 over the next two years. The company says it is the first multinational to supply lead-free petrol across a number of countries. KPC bought 1,500 service stations from Gulf Petroleum last year as part of a general strategy of diversification into downstream operations. Outlets in Britain and Switzerland, which are still owned by Gulf, will not be supplying lead-free petrol. The lead-free petrol has been brand-named "2085" and dubbed "the fuel for the next 100 years". According to company estimates, about 25 per cent of cars in Europe will be able to take the new blend. Some scientific studies have shown that lead in petrol can have a harmful effect upon the brain when liberated into the atmosphere. [Text] [Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 7 Jan 85 pp 10-11]

INVESTMENT IN FRENCH HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY--Kuwaiti and French institutions and oil companies have combined to invest in high-technology companies in France, the FINANCIAL TIMES has reported. The new company, Compagnie d'Investissement dans les Technologies Avancees (CITA), is being supported by France's Industrial Development Institute, ElfAquitaine and Paribas. From the Kuwaiti side, partners include the Industrial Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Petroleum Company. The new firm will have a paid-up capital of FFrl00mn (\$10.3mn). The establishment of the company reflects, in part, the improved relations between France and a number of Gulf states following French ministerial visits--particularly by trade minister Edith Cresson and defence minister Charles Hernu--to the region last year. [Text]
[Beirut AN NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 4 Feb 85 p 10]

CSO: 4400/80

ISRAELI AGENT RECOUNTS HIS ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH LEBANON

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 27 Dec 84 p 8

[Article from the Minar Press: "Agent Confesses and Reveals the Practices of Zionist Intelligence"]

[Text] With the increasingly arbitrary Zionist measures in South Lebanon, and the increasingly active role of Israeli intelligence in sowing discord among the inhabitants of an area or village, the role of the agents and their abettors who have been recruited by Zionist intelligence to spread the poisons of internecine fighting and rivalry for Israeli favors, and who in the future would support those who believe that Israel should continue to exist, is being revealed. Such activity is taking on the ugliest form known to mankind, one condemned by every divine religion--denunciation.

This is where the resistance's active multi-frontal role to confront Israeli plots on all levels--political, social, economic and cultural--comes in. The resistance is not limited to rifles and shells; all the people and citizens of the South are resisting, in their own way and according to their abilities, in order to augment the resistance. The people of the South are embracing one another in order to bind up the South's debilitating wounds. The Southerners' awareness can confirm that this bloodshed is watering the land with the blood of its people, which is only right, for the land of the South is exhausted and needs blood. It has been given life by its young people, who have remained its true friends over the years, and who reject the idea that it should not remain theirs or that they should not continue to belong there.

These firm bonds between the land's integrity and its people's purity has been an important factor in purging corrupt elements lock, stock and barrel.

For this reason, the resistance has constantly striven to strike a blow to corruption and eliminate the germs planted in the body of this resisting people by Zionist intelligence. Not a single agent has been spared. The lot of some has been execution, while that of others has been banishment. They have all found themselves at the mercy of the resistance, which has done its best to punish these agents to the same degree as they have dishonored their own people.

We were able to obtain the confessions of one of the agents arrested by the resistance, and to select excerpts from these confessions which would not harm the course of the investigations or the security of the resistance fighters. Here is the text of the interrogation.

Name: not given

Father's name: not given

Age: 20 years

Occupation: automotive iron-worker

Education: intermediate school diploma

[Question] When did you leave the South?

[Answer] Last week.

[Question] Why did you leave?

[Answer] Because I was threatened by a letter from the national resistance.

[Question] What did the threat say?

[Answer] The letter said, "We know all about the activities of those who live in this house, especially you. You had better leave the South within 24 hours, or else you will suffer the same fate as the agents before you. He who warns is excused."

[Question] When you reached the Batir roadblock, what did the Zionist soldiers say to you?

[Answer] They asked me my name, and what town I was from. I told him I was from the [not given] area. Then he said, "Are you working with Ghazi Ilyas too?" I answered that I was, and then he asked me, "When do you meet him?" I said, "Whenever he wants." Then the Israeli officer asked me, "Why are you going to Beirut?" I answered, "To get a birth certificate from the personal identity registry office in Beirut." The officer asked me, "What can you tell us about Beirut when you return?" I replied, "Anything you want."

[Question] Who is Ghazi?

[Answer] He is with Israeli Intelligence.

[Question] What is his rank?

[Answer] He is a major.

[Question] Where is he stationed?

[Answer] At the al-Riji factory in al-Nabatiyah.

[Question] How often would you see him?

[Answer] I would see him at the al-Riji factory once a week. The last time we met, he ordered me not to come again until he wrote and asked me to.

[Question] Could you describe Major Ghazi to me?

[Answer] Yes. He is a young man in his forties, strongly built, and always wears sunglasses. He is an Israeli Druze.

[Question] How did your connections with Israeli Intelligence begin?

[Answer] In the beginning, they suggested that I work with them through an agent in Sur, who came to me and explained the "humanitarian goals" (!!) of Israeli Intelligence. He informed me that my town would be attacked by occupation forces and many people would be killed, and said that if I didn't work with them, I would meet the same fate. Since I do not have a Lebanese identity card because my father neglected to register me when I was born, I knew that I would have to go along with their request. My first meeting with Israeli Intelligence was at the al-Riji factory in al-Nabatiyah. The case officer at the time, who preceded Ghazi, was "Michel." At that meeting, I was told to observe the young people of my village and three neighboring villages. They told me some of their names.

[Question] What else did they tell you to do, besides observing the young people?

[Answer] They assigned me to observe and report on the activities of the young people, and whether they were members of the resistance or not. Through me, they were able to arrest a young man named 'Ali, from a village next to ours.

[Question] How much did they pay you for this?

[Answer] They paid me 1,500 Lebanese pounds for this job. Major Ghazi was very encouraging, and told me that he would guarantee me a car if I was successful next time.

[Question] Did they give you a car?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Could you tell us the names of the agents in your area?

[Answer] Yes. [He listed all their names]

[Question] What else did they have you do?

[Answer] At one of the weekly meetings, Major Ghazi asked me to meet him in the evening in a near-by village and to wear a military uniform. He said that he wanted me to dress this way, with something on my head, so that no one would recognize me. The mission was to set up a roadblock for the intelligence at the village crossroads. My particular task was to point out, without speaking, everyone who was suspected or known to belong to the resistance. At the time, Major Ghazi told me, "You must point out to me everyone who goes to the mosque in your town, without exception."

[Question] What did you do?

[Answer] I did not go on this mission. When he asked me the next day, I told him that I was afraid to go, because the young people of the town suspected me. He made no comment.

[Question] Who else did you denounce?

[Answer] I reported on [unidentified person], whom I saw concealing his weapon, a B-7 anti-tank mortar. He confessed after he was arrested, but he had moved the weapon. He claimed that a young resistance fighter had taken it from him.

[Question] Are you lying?

[Answer] No, I swear to you.

[Question] What about the rockets?

[Answer] What rockets?

[Question] Are you lying again? I am talking about the rockets which were positioned at the town cemetery, aimed at Israeli positions. Our information says that you and Qasim told the Israelis about them. If you don't confess, you will be tortured, just like the Zionist enemy does to those they arrest, especially those who betray them.

[Answer] Last month, one of the young people working with me, whom I had been giving money on a continual basis so that he would tell me everything he heard and saw, came and told me that he had seen a young resistance fighter positioning rockets near the village cemetery. The rockets were aimed at a large military barracks used by the occupation forces, which houses about 20 tanks and propeller planes in addition to a large number of soldiers. It was 6:00 in the evening, and I immediately hurried to the hills overlooking the cemetery. I saw them putting the final touches on the rockets. I went to Israeli Intelligence right away, and they sent a large force which surrounded the town and dismantled the rockets.

[Question] Were you with them?

[Answer] No. I went back before they entered the town, and stayed home throughout the siege.

[Question] What kind of rockets were they?

[Answer] I don't know, but Major Ghazi told me that they were medium grade rockets and were very large.

[Question] How much did they pay you for this operation?

[Answer] They gave me 1,500 pounds, and said they would give me some more.

[Question] What else, besides the rockets?

[Answer] (Here the agent confessed how many small weapons, i.e. rifles and hand grenades, he had reported.)

[Question] What about the resistance fighter 'Abbas?

[Answer] Intelligence Officer Ghazi told me that he wanted to know the whereabouts of 'Abbas so that he could arrest him, because he belonged to the resistance. One evening I saw 'Abbas in the town square, so I followed him. He was going to the mosque to pray, so I left him and went and told Ghazi. Ghazi assembled an intelligence patrol and ordered me to wear military clothes, which I did. He gave me a weapon and took me with him in his car. The weapon he gave me was empty. We went to the town and 'Abbas was arrested at the mosque.

[Question] Was your face covered?

[Answer] No, it wasn't, but Ghazi stopped the car in some shadows so that none of the townspeople would see me. He ordered his men to clear the way so that no one would meet up with the car.

[Question] Why did he give you a weapon without any bullets?

[Answer] Because he was afraid of being killed, and did not trust any of his agents. He even said so.

[Question] How much did they pay you after the operation?

[Answer] 700 pounds.

[Question] How did you get around in the South?

[Answer] I got around on an identity card Major Ghazi gave me. He told me "This card will make things easy for you, especially since you don't have an identity card."

[Question] How much did you get from Israeli Intelligence altogether?

[Answer] About 10,000 Lebanese pounds, in return for the information I gave.

[Question] Why did you go to Beirut?

[Answer] I told you; I went there after the threat I received from the resistance.

[Question] Did Israeli Intelligence send any agents to Beirut to gather information?

[Answer] Yes, they sent more than one. (Here he mentioned names.)

The interrogation continued, and the agent continued his confessions, speaking of the incentives Israeli Intelligence offers their agents.

But there is something more important than these incentives, and that is protecting the homeland and human dignity. The national resistance is carrying on, pursuing agents, attacking Zionist occupation, and inflicting losses on it, because that is the sole option for the people of the South, whatever their sect. Never-ending determination is necessary for the sake of the future generations of this land, where everyone is resisting.

8559

CSO: 4404/191

BRIEFS

GOVT BORROWS TO BRIDGE BUDGET GAP--Oman has taken measures to finance the 199bn-riyal budget gap in the current year from commercial loans and bonds. The first loan, for \$300mn, was from 39 international banks led by the International Gulf Bank, the International Bank of Oman and the Omani National Bank. The loan is over eight years with a four-year grace period. The loan is at 3/8 per cent over Libor (the London inter-bank offered rate) for the first two years and at 1/2 per cent over Libor for the remaining six years. The agreement also calls for 1/8 per cent interest on the undrawn part of the loan and a front-end fee of .425 per cent for International Gulf Bank, as well as an administrative fee of \$10,000 per annum and a fee of \$80,000 for expenses in drawing up the agreement. Under a second agreement, International Gulf Bank has been mandated to dispose of \$100mn of bonds in the name of the Sultanate of Oman. The bonds, at three- and six-month maturities, will be sold in Oman and abroad over five years and liable to be called in at 30 days' notice. The bonds will carry a rate of 1/8 per cent above Libor. Other costs include an annual \$25,000 fee to International Gulf Bank for administration, plus \$125,000 for drawing up the agreement. [Text] [Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 4 Feb 85 p 10]

RECRUITMENT OF ARMY OFFICERS--PA Hamilton. The tiny Persian Gulf oil State of Oman has been enticing New Zealand Army officers to join its forces with tax-free salaries equivalent to more than \$100,000 a year, the "Waikato Times" reported yesterday. A recruiting team from the Sultanate of Oman had interviewed officers in New Zealand late last year, a Defence Department spokesman said yesterday. "The department is aware there was a recruiting drive late last year," Lieutenant-Commander Gerry Power said. "It's something we're prepared to live with. There's nothing we can do to stop them." Commander Power said there was nothing to stop a commercial firm, or any other interest, bidding on the labour market for skills employed in the services. Quoting informal sources, the "Times" said about 70 Army officers were interviewed by the Omani team at meeting places arranged in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch last November. They ranked up to colonel and covered a wide range of specialist fields. A number were members or former members of the elite Special Air Service. Tax-free salaries equivalent to more than \$100,000 a year were offered on two-year contracts, the informal sources said. Four or five officers are believed to be considering firm offers. Others are expecting firm offers shortly. At least one officer is believed to hold a senior position at Defence Headquarters, Wellington. Commander Power said officers who resigned continued to be bound by the Official Secrets Act. Oman, on the eastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula, juts into the Persian Gulf at its narrowest

point, the Strait of Hormuz, where tankers have been hit in the Iran-Iraq war. It has a population of 850,000. Until recent years it borrowed specialist military personnel on secondment from the British armed forces. Oman produces about 360,000 barrels of oil a day. Oman has 19,500 volunteer soldiers in its Army. The 1983 Budget allocation for defence was equivalent to \$US1.77. In June, 1980 Oman finalised a defence agreement with the United States, under the terms of which America would develop port and airport facilities in return for the right to stockpile supplies for possible use by the United States Rapid Deployment Force.

[Text] [Christchurch THE PRESS in English 5 Jan 85 p 5]

CSO: 4400/80

FRANCE, U. S. IN CONTENTION FOR PLANES DEAL

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 28 Jan 85 p 8

[Text] Three months away from signing its first deal ever for the sale of French Mirage jet fighters to Saudi Arabia, France still faces a major hurdle: the United States. Having beaten its British competitor to the finishing line after 18 months of negotiations, France does not want to lose the \$3bn deal to the Americans.

French fears are based on a precedent set by the Carter Administration in 1978. Saudi Arabia dropped its order for Mirage 2000s when Mr. Carter managed to win last-minute Congressional approval for the sale of 60 F-15 fighters. Saudi Arabia has apparently ordered 40 F-15s from the United States and has reportedly received assurances from the Reagan Administration that it would push for Congressional approval of the arms' sale by March of this year.

Meanwhile, reports from Paris last week on the progress of the Saudi-French negotiations for the sale of 46 Mirage 2000s said the deal would be concluded in April. It would not be the first or largest arms' deal struck between Riyadh and Paris. France is Saudi Arabia's second-largest supplier of arms after the United States, but it has yet to provide jet fighters to the Saudi Arabian Air Force. France's nationalized military aircraft company, Dassault, emerged as one of the main contenders for the \$3bn contract after the British failed to convince the Saudis to buy their Tornado fighters.

Taking advantage of Saudi Arabia's purported disappointment with the United States' policies in the area recently, Dassault reportedly tried to persuade Saudi Arabia to diversify its Air Force's sources of armaments. In anticipation of American competition, Dassault is also said to have underlined the fact that the use of its Mirages would be free of the type of constraints the US would impose on the sale of its fighters.

Having been beaten by the Americans once before, the French are keenly aware that the deal is far

from in the bag. French President François Mitterrand is said to be personally interested in the negotiations and will probably be closely watching the outcome of King Fahd's visit to Washington in February when the Saudi monarch is expected to renew his country's request for the F-15 jets.

According to the same reports from Paris, the Saudi Arabians have assured Dassault that they would purchase their planes even if Congress does approve their arms' request. The same reports say, however, that the French believe Saudi Arabia is using its threat to buy French Mirages as a bargaining chip in Washington. For the moment though, the best that Dassault can do is hope that its arguments will win the day and that the Americans don't succeed in pulling the rug from under its feet again.

CSO: 4400/80

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

DECREE ON MILITARY SERVICE--Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the Political Bureau and defense minister, has issued a ministerial decree summoning the 18th group to perform its military and national service according to the military service law No 12 of 1977. The decree also applies to those from previous groups, whose military service was postponed, those who completed the period of the postponement and those who did not join the previous group. [Summary] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Feb 85]

CULTURAL AGREEMENTS--Two agreements for scientific and cultural cooperation were signed at Aden Hotel yesterday between Aden University and the universities of Damascus and Aleppo in the Arab Republic of Syria. [Excerpt] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 21 Feb 85]

CSO: 4400/88

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

ISLAMIC BANK LOAN--An agreement was signed in Dhaka today between our country and the Islamic Development Bank according to which an \$8.8 million loan will be given to our country to finance the construction of an agricultural college at Sanaa University. The agreement was signed by Brother 'Abdallah al-Sanadani, Central Bank governor; and was signed on behalf of the Islamic Development Bank by Brother Muhammad Ahmad 'Ali, chairman of the bank. [Text] [Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Feb 85]

AMF LOAN--Abu Dhabi, 19 Feb (WAKH)--Yemen Arab Republic is to receive a loan of \$11.5 million from the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund [AMF] according to an agreement signed here today. The 3-year loan, carrying an annual interest rate ranging from 3.75 to 4.75 percent will be repaid in four equal bi-annual installments, the first of which will be paid after 1 and 1/2 years from today. It will help YAR to balance the deficit in its balance of payment. Sa'id Ghabash, president of the AMF signed the loan for the fund while, Muhammad Hatim al-Khawi, YAR ambassador to the UAE signed for his country. So far YAR has received four loans totalling \$47.5 million from AMF, including today's loan. [Text] [Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 19 Feb 85]

CSO: 4400/86

REPORTS ON KARMAL'S REPLACEMENT SAID TO BE 'PREFABRICATED'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Feb 85 pp 1, 2

[Text]

NEW DELHI -- Travellers arriving here from Kabul and other cities of Afghanistan say members of the Mujahideen Moslem guerillas downed three helicopters of the Soviet troops in Qandahar of Afghanistan last week as the aircraft were landing on an area in the province which their pilots figured to be safe. Many Soviet soldiers were also killed as they were alighting the aircraft.

In related news members of the Mujahideen reportedly captured a group of 12 members of government secret police (KHAD) agents who had disguised themselves as members of the Mujahideen. They were executed by the Moslem guerillas in the wake of a summary trial.

Fighting continues between the Mujahideen and government troops in Nangahar Province of Afghanistan which borders Pakistan. Also a highway linking Jalalabad to Turkham at the border of Afghanistan-Pakistan was closed for five days last week as a result of escalating encounters between the Mujahideen and government troops in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, a foreign policy spokesman of the ruling Afghan People's Party denied yesterday in Paris reports from Pakistan on a forthcoming replacement of Afghan government Leader Babrak Karmal.

The spokesman, Assad Keshmand, said the reports had been "prefabricated" by foreign diplomats.

The reports said the Soviet authorities had announced in Kabul that Karmal was ill and would soon be replaced by his Defense Minister, General Nazar.

To his knowledge Karmal was in good health, said Keshmand who had come to Paris to attend the French Communist Party Congress.

AFGHANISTAN

MUJAHIDIN INFLICT HEAVY BLOWS ON GOVERNMENT, OCCUPATION FORCES

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 14 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] In severe clashes between the Afghan Muslim Mujahidin and the mercenary forces of Babrak Karmal in the course of the past few days in the region of Bazar-e Kabul in the Province of Qandahar, three government soldiers from the Parcham Party were captured and a jeep along with six Kalashnikovs and hand guns were also taken. According to the CENTRAL NEWS UNIT, quoting reliable news sources in Afghanistan, in addition, at the start of the sixth year of the occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet forces, in infiltration operations in Kabulishah region, the Mujahidin eliminated nine of the mercenaries with hand weapons, taking a number of Kalashnikovs and spare parts, and returned to their base with three Russian jeeps. Other reports indicate that during a march held by the mercenaries of the Karmal regime, which took place on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of [the invasion of] Afghanistan and the coming to power of Babrak Karmal, in the Province of Qandahar, on 27 December, the Afghan Mujahidin in the Mahi region in Yanjavani district, in the course of clashes which continued for two days and nights, succeeded in destroying about 11 armored tanks and their crews. In these operations, in which a large number of government soldiers were captured, and the joint occupying and government forces were forced to retreat and escape from the region on the same day the Afghan Mujahidin inflicted casualties and damages and disrupted the celebration of the government functionaries and the Russian occupiers by throwing 70 mortars at the military barracks of the Province of Qandahar.

10,000

CSO: 4640/342

AFGHANISTAN

KARMAL CLAIMS SOVIET TROOPS LIMITED IN NUMBER

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 15 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] Babrak Karmal, the head of the governing regime in Afghanistan, once again stressed the continuation of the presence of the forces of the Soviet occupying army in Afghanistan and described the number of occupying troops as "limited." According to the FRENCH NEWS AGENCY, in his statements in Kabul, Karmal said that the Soviet army helps his country strengthen what he has called the "fruits of the Afghan revolution." Without mentioning the reason for the expansive Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979, the head of the regime governing Afghanistan said: The Soviet forces will leave Afghanistan when all foreign interference is stopped. Also, without referring to the presence of more than 100,000 Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan, Karmal said: The limited number of Soviet soldiers will not remain in Afghanistan forever.

Operations of Afghan Muslim Revolutionaries Against the Occupying Forces on the Anniversary of the Establishment of the Afghanistan Communist Party

The 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Afghanistan Communist Party was celebrated in Kabul, to the total disgust of the people of this city, under severe security measures taken in the capital of Afghanistan.

According to a report by IRNA in New Delhi, in these ceremonies, the representatives of the Soviet satellite countries in Kabul gathered under a severe security watch, during which six government security personnel died as a result of the severe cold weather in Kabul.

According to this report, despite the severe security measures by the police, the army and the intelligence organization of the Afghan government, (KHAD), last week the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries launched a series of aggressive operations against the military base of the Soviet invading army in the "Darolaman" area near "Forugh" Mountain. These operations

continued for three hours. No reports have been received yet on the casualties and damages inflicted on the occupiers.

This report adds: In the past week, the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries killed a number of the members of the Afghanistan Communist Party in the course of an attack on the security area of "Shah-e Shahid" in the center of Kabul.

The IRNA report from New Delhi indicates that in a severe battle between the Soviet occupying forces and the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries in "Khowst" and "Gardez" in the Province of Paktia, casualties and damages were inflicted on the occupying forces. Following and in retaliation for their defeat, the Soviet occupiers engaged in bombing the innocent people of that area.

10,000
CSO: 4640/342

TOP MUJAHID LEADER REPORTEDLY DIES IN BATTLE WITH SOVIETS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 2 Feb 85 p 16

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Fri. — Afghan resistance commander Qari Abdus Samad died fighting a Soviet search-and-destroy unit in eastern Afghanistan last Monday, resistance sources in Pakistan reported yesterday.

Mr Samad, 29, was said to have fought to the last bullet along with three comrades when a Soviet helicopter unit encircled Siah Cho village in Shinwar region of Ningarhar province bordering Pakistan where they were holed up.

Mr Samad is the second important commander whose loss the resistance has reported in three days.

On Tuesday, the Jamiat's Islami group announced that its celebrated commander Zabih Ullah was killed last month when his jeep hit a land mine somewhere in the northern Balkh province. The group suspected it was an "internal job" in collaboration with Soviet and Afghan intelligence.

Revenge

In the latest incident, the faction of Hizb'e Islami group led by battle-hardened Yunus Khalis claimed the Soviets went after Mr Samad to revenge the execution of eight agents of the Afghan secret service, "Khad" ordered by him after they were captured by his fighters in the Shinwar region four months ago.

On Jan. 16, commander Samad's group was said to have killed the commander of Afghan militia

forces in Shinwar, Mohammad Naeem, in an attack on the 71st Afghan Brigade stationed at Ghani Khel in the region.

Hizb's Islami sources said the Russians who entered Siah Cho village after silencing the guns of Mr Samad last Monday gunned down 18 civilians in village streets.

In similar revenge killings, Soviet troops were said to have killed 32 civilians in an unidentified village near Kaga in the Khogiani district of Ningarhar province last Friday and another 20 civilians and five mujahids (Afghan resistance fighters) in Rooghani village, southeast of the provincial capital Jalalabad, two weeks ago.

For some months the Soviets have been increasing pressure on the resistance forces operating in the three eastern provinces of Ningarhar, Paktia and Kunar in efforts to snuff out the resistance and seal the border with Pakistan which it uses as sanctuary. — Bernama-DIA

CSO: 4600/293

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

SOVIET FORCES NUMBER 200,000--One of the leaders of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries announced the presence of 200,000 Soviet forces in Afghanistan and revealed that Afghan Muslim fighters control 80 percent of the soil of Afghanistan and that the struggle against the occupying forces is sometimes dragged onto Soviet soil. According to the CENTRAL NEWS UNIT, quoting the FRENCH NEWS AGENCY, in an interview with the Arab language newspaper AL-'ALAM, he said: The problems of Afghanistan will only be resolved with the unconditional exit of the Soviet forces from that country. This leader of Afghan Muslim revolutionaries said: There is nothing to negotiate with the aggressive Soviet Union, which has violated international laws and human values, and the Afghan Muslim Mujahidin are determined to defend their rights by continuing the battle to victory. He emphasized: The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries control 80 percent of the Afghan soil and the fight is sometimes dragged onto Soviet soil. This leader of Afghan Muslim strugglers also pointed out: The Afghan liberation movements have no conflicts on the battlefronts and enjoy complete unity. [Text] [Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 17 Jan 85 p 3] 10,000

SOVIET COPTERS DESTROYED--Islamabad, Tues.--Afghan Mujahideen (resistance fighters) destroyed at least 10 Soviet helicopters in a daytime rocket attack on the Bagram air base, north of Kabul, last week, western diplomatic sources reported here today. According to the diplomats the Mujahideen took advantage of a snow storm that had grounded the Soviet aircraft using the major air base on Jan. 16. The attack followed heavy bombing of the Paglman area south of Bagram by the Soviets six days earlier, the sources said. A civilian aircraft of the domestic Bakhtar Airlines was also hit by the Mujahideen on Jan. 9 but its wounded pilot landed the plane safely, the diplomats said. Meanwhile, the Soviets were reported to be continuing their efforts to knock out Mujahideen communications lines in the two eastern provinces of Ningerhar and Paktia and to seal their border with Pakistan. Elements of a Soviet division were despatched to the Jaji area of Paktia province on Jan. 15 where intense fighting has been going on for several months, the diplomats said. [Text] [Penang THE STAR in English 23 Jan 85 p 14]

'MARKET HORROR' REPORTED--Kandahar, Afghanistan: Soviet soldiers poured machine gun fire into a crowded market to avenge the killing of a communist party official by Moslem rebels. Forty-five people were killed and 17 wounded. It was one of a series of retaliatory attacks in which people were shot at indiscriminately. Rebels killed 19 Soviet soldiers and abducted 17 in a raid on a Soviet garrison and later overran a nearby Afghan military post. They also killed the barber of President Babrak Karmal after he refused to join a conspiracy to murder the Marxist leader. [Text] [Fort Moresby PAPUA NEW GUINEA POST COURIER in English 1/ Feb 85 p 11]

CSO: 4600/285

COMMENTARY ON 'FOOD FOR WORKS' PROGRAM

Dhaka ITTEFAQ in Bengali 3 Nov 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Food for Works"]

[Text] Since last Thursday, 1 November, Food for Works projects have started all over the country. On that day, Prime Minister, Hon Ataur Rahman formally inaugurated this program in the village of Kalma. It is learned that this time including 45 million taka worth of wheat, a total of 2.5 billion taka will be spent. It has also been reported that 55 million taka has been allocated for transportation and incidental expenses. Last Wednesday, in an interview, the Relief and Rehabilitation Minister, Prof Yusuf Ali has informed that this program will undertake implementation of a total of 4,501 projects. He has further informed that more than 60 percent of this program will involve earth removal work, and 450y000 tons of wheat has been allocated for this purpose. It should be mentioned that last year a total of 2.2 billion take was spent for this program.

This year our country has suffered repeated ravages of flood. Of course, there was need for relief during the flood. However, no matter how hungry or naked our countrymen may be, they want work, not hand-outs; they want to earn their living through work. But in some instances, the bureaucratic feeling seems to prevail that they would not only have to provide food, they would have to feed it to the people as well. But this attitude creates more disservice than good. We have voiced our concern on every occasion.

Apart from this, during previous Food for Works Programs, we voiced our strong objections to the adoption of unplanned projects, haphazard distribution of wheat and lack of maintenance of work done. We are happy to learn that this time all projects have been initiated from the basic village units. Arrangements have been made to take full accounting of proper implementation of projects.

We know, year after year, the same roads are built with earth dug from the sides of the roads. But in the dry heat of the summer months, the earth turns into dust, making it impossible for its use by people or vehicles. Then, when the monsoon season arrives, the dirt gets washed away. Though it is known to all concerned that the permanency of roads are vital to our economic prosperity, similar to the importance of arteries to our human existence, why

such calamities are allowed to happen again and again is our big question. We feel, a total lack of proper and effective planning is at the root of such happenings.

It is necessary to point out that we are not only speaking about the importance of widening village roads. We are also speaking about paving these roads to make them permanent as much as possible, at least with gravel or stone chips. We should also plant grass and shrubs along the sides of the roads to keep them from washing away. Plans to irrigate such vegetation should also be there. These additional steps may result in building fewer roads, but these permanent roads will eliminate the need for spending more money or allocating more wheat next year.

Currently, political subdivisions have been transformed into administrative centers. Therefore, we should take additional steps to maintain permanent communication with the farthest of our villages, and it can only be done by building permanent roads. If we keep this noble objective in perspective while undertaking these programs, we firmly believe, within a very short time, the effect of Food For Works programs will prove to be anything but good for us.

12195

CSO: 4607/01

TELEGU DESAM'S EMERGENCE AS NATIONAL PARTY ASSESSED

New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 14 Jan 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Bharat Desam Via the Lok Sabha"]

[Text] Ramarao should be called overzealous if he is thinking of changing the history of this country with the help of the 28 members of the Lok Sabha (Indian Parliament) belonging to his party. Because of the importance of Andhra Pradesh, he has become the leader of the strongest opposition party in the Lok Sabha. He thinks that it is his responsibility to fill the vacuum created by the defeat of other national opposition parties. He wants to start a major project on the occasion of the annual convention of Telegu Desam on 27-28 May. During the last elections, Rajiv Gandhi had challenged him and had advised people to think about "Bharat Desam" (India as a whole) rather than "Telegu Desam" (provinces). To counter this, Ramarao had gone ahead and announced formation of the Bharat Desam Party. Mr Ramarao, who is famous for dramatics in his actions, did not give any details of this new party. He just hinted that like Telegu Desam, each province will have a provincial party. They could be called "Kannada Desam" and "Uttar Pradesam." These provincial parties would then unite into the "Bharat Desam."

In other words, he wants to case in on the tendency of voters to support a party with a national label and also wants to take advantage of people's interest in regional parties. The idea of a national party is not a bad one. Traditionally, people serving in regional governments have accepted the supremacy of leaders working at the national level. In this way, while power was centralized, regional parties continued to flourish. Only time will tell whether Ramarao can succeed in making a national party. The Telegu Desam movement was born and bred around the personality of a leader. This party got momentum from Telegu pride. The same is not true about other provinces. It will not be easy to become a leader in other regions. Even in the south, each province thinks of itself as a separate and better entity. Ramarao might be more successful if he asks regional political coalitions to strengthen their parties and then form a national front.

Ramarao seems to think that only a coalition of opposition parties led by a single leader can counter Congress. His successes have made him famous

all over the country. Even the Hindi newspapers are subscribing to the idea of all opposition parties uniting under the leadership of Mr Ramarao and making a central "Bharat Desam" party. Such popularity, however, can be neither dependable nor lasting. Basing one's ambitions on it is unrealistic. Ramarao had been battling to gain the national political stage for a long time. The problem is that he had been playing it by ear and has not succeeded in strengthening his roots, even in his home province. He has, however, succeeded in increasing the number of his followers by leaps and bounds. The announcement of "Bharat Desam" is of great interest locally. The Congress party, with its national prominence, will try to tell this upstart regional party that it holds the keys to power.

Congress will try to uproot Ramarao, since it also has money behind it. In order to protect his followers from this national party, Ramarao has announced a national role for his regional party. Since Telegu Desam has strong roots and following in Andhra Pradesh, it feels psychologically ready. Anyhow, Ramarao has demonstrated that he is equal to Congress people when it comes to playing political games. Other major political parties were beaten by Congress in this area.

Ramarao is preparing his MP's for the Lok Sabha session beginning on the 15th of next month. Ramarao has hinted of his strategy by advising them to be knowledgeable about problems in other provinces and be vocal about them. Ramarao's political ambitions rest on the degree of success with which his team plays this role. At this point, the opposition parties are all but vanquished, but they are still there and might rise again. There are enough members of the Marxist party and the Janata Party to raise their voices loud enough to be heard by the majority.

7997

CSO: 4624/7

VOTING BEHAVIOR VIEWED AS PROBLEMATIC FOR CONGRESS (I)

New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 5 Jan 85 p 4

[Article by Giriraj Kishore: "Voters Know What They Are Doing"]

[Text] Our voters are smarter than our representatives and leaders, and Indian leaders are not as intelligent and thoughtful as the voters. The reasons for this are the feudal attitude and the mentality of our leaders. They think that the rights given to them by voters belong to them permanently. But those who give rights can take them back; our leaders forget that and become despotic. The 1984 elections were an open challenge to this attitude. The lesson for those who go against the wishes of the voters is written on the wall. Those who can read it will benefit.

The voters make a rough 5-year plan before each election. This plan reflects their expectations and hopes. The voters do not go around asking each other, they just use their sixth sense. It can also be called their political awareness. You may call it a chain or mutual understanding of voters. This time the voters were smarter than before. They did not let the leaders know what they wanted. There were only two ways to discern their wishes--well-organized public relations and scientific research. Indian political parties do not give any importance to scientific opinion surveys and are cutting down on public relations as well. They have stopped these because they have no fear or worries. Even the Communist Party ignores these practices. The Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RSS) was somewhat active in this area. It is unfortunate that during the last 35 years our political parties have not made any progress in finding ways to learn about our voters' political views.

The 5-year plan of Indian voters was very different this time. It happened in 1970 also. The voters rose above their personal problems and focused on national issues. The opposition parties reaped huge benefits from this attitude, but they learned nothing from it. The voters were even more concerned about national issues this time. The opposition parties, however, did not notice. Atal Behari Vajpayee and Chandra Shekhar labeled this concern of voters "sympathy wave [for Rajiv]" and tried to hide their embarrassment. It is strange that political parties are so stingy in giving any credit to voters for intelligence. The voters were called dishonest; attempts were made by contractors to buy them and they were lured by issues such as language, caste and religion issues. In 1984, when none of these tricks worked, the voters were labeled as sentimental and intellectually bankrupt.

It is strange that our political parties label the voters sentimental, naive and blind followers and yet they want them to stay that way for an easy mark. Even now the political parties do not believe that the voters have some intelligence. Indian voters are strongly opposed to political oppression. They demonstrated this in the 1977 and 1980 elections. Be it Indira Gandhi and her Congress party or Charan Singh and his Janata Party, whenever this sensitive element in the voters was disturbed, they reacted by giving a 1,000-megawatt shock to the perpetrator. It is childish to think that people voted overwhelmingly for Rajiv Gandhi because they were sorry for him because his mother had been murdered. Our voters are illiterate, and it is difficult, if not impossible, to analyze their actions, but questioning their intelligence only shows our lack of understanding. A look at the election results indicates that the voters had a better understanding of the political issues related to Indira Gandhi's death than most leaders.

The voters knew that the Golden Temple incident had led the country toward a national crisis and to deal with it a strong government with a firm policy was necessary. They developed even more profound understanding of the situation when Mrs Gandhi was assassinated. At that time, they decided to support a party that is clear on national issues. The most important issues were national unity, defense and stability. The present political culture emanated from the Congress party. These people who live in the past are either protecting their interests by staying in the Congress party or fighting it from outside. The Indian voter acted in accordance with a predetermined plan. It supported a person who had not made any sacrifice during the struggle for freedom but was associated with this tradition. The Indian Republic had to reach a crossroads finally.

Mrs Gandhi's death brought us to this crossroads earlier than expected. The voters wanted to support a person who would raise their voice against the traditional Congress mentality of neglecting corruption, laziness and incompetence. They wanted someone to be in position to eradicate these evils. Other political parties also raised these issues but only weakly. Their past records muffled their weak voices even more.

All these parties have been a part of the Congress culture and have used the trick of cashing in on their sacrifices during the struggle for freedom. They have defended corruption, laziness and incompetence as necessary for the time being. No government in the past ever made an issue of these problems. All prime ministers, from Pandit Nehru to Mrs Gandhi, have expressed concern about education, but it is the first time that it has become a serious national issue. These issues impinge at both the personal and national levels. The voters were more sensitive to this than the leaders. They looked at the possibilities. They thought that if a group can think about these problems and articulate their feelings, then it can also work toward alleviating them.

The voters knew that to raise these issues during the elections does not mean that they will be solved within the 5 years. Opposition parties had dwelled on the issue of poverty, which is still here despite all those "eradicate poverty" slogans raised during election campaigns. An action-oriented government was promised, but the problem of inaction is still here.

The voters ignored this, too. All these things indicate that the voters wanted to support a person who is not harping on his past sacrifices. They wanted to see if such a person is different. The voters will be satisfied with a government that works towards the goals it promised during the campaign. Mrs Gandhi may not have succeeded in eradicating poverty, but she made the country self-sufficient in food production. The unemployment is still here, but there are plans that show promise of creating more jobs. It is being repeated that the new government will follow the policies laid out by Mrs Gandhi. We know, however, that except for some special issues, no government follows its predecessor blindly. The same goes for Rajiv Gandhi, and the voters know it. He cannot fulfill his promises if he follows the old policies blindly.

A new tendency has evolved among political parties. They are more faithful to the party boss than the party itself. Be it Charan Singh or Indira Gandhi or Chandra Shekhar, the elected representatives consider it necessary to please the leader in order to strengthen their position. The voters, however, do not overlook these actions. They keep a keen eye on their parliament and assemblies. Members of parliament and the state assemblies have to be faithful to their parties, but being faithful to the voter is the prime requirement. The recent elections have demonstrated that elected representatives and parties that ignore the voters get kicked out. If a legislative body fails to communicate the desires of its constituents to the top, it is bound to fail. Such failure can jeopardize the future of the whole party. The party bosses and the party secretariates have to understand that the elected candidates have obligations to the voters. Prime examples of this are Jethmalani, Chandra Shekhar, Subramaniam Swamy and Narasimha Rao. The stand taken by the three MP's on the Punjab issue was not approved by the voters. Minister of Home Affairs Narasimha Rao met with the same fate. He had, however, followed the party line. He still had to lose his minister-ship for going against the wishes of the voters. Our constitution does not give the voters a right to recall their elected officers. They use a more powerful method. It is good that they do not have the power to recall or they would have been corrupted by the politicians. The Indian voters have a lot of patience; waiting for 5 years is no big deal.

Perhaps we do not want to recognize the fact that Indian voters are more aware and smarter than U.S. voters in some areas. We try to insult our voters without understanding all the issues. Propaganda, which is weighted as 30 to 40 points in the United States, is worth only 10 to 15 points in India. Indian voters use the propaganda machinery only to receive information. This medium plays a very small role in the decision-making process when it comes to voting. The Congress party did its best in Andhra Pradesh, but the people there did not support it as well as they did during the last elections. If Rama Rao had not been fired by [Governor] Ram Lal, Congress would not have been beaten there so badly. The appearance of a regional political party like Telugu Desam in our parliament as an important opposition party is an open warning to our government. The voters are openly saying that they will not tolerate any hanky-panky. With this warning, Andhra voters let six Congress members of parliament return this time. This also indicates that Andhra Pradesh is not unaware of the national issues.

The voters not only warned the central government but also the opposition parties ruling in Bengal and Karnataka. If the opposition parties decide to ignore national issues then they will have to eat dust. The case of Mr Ramakrishna Hegde is different. He resigned like an honest politician. He followed the principles of a democratic government and also saved face for his party.

Now the question arises: If these educated voters are fully qualified, then how come Indian democracy is still on its knees? Actually, Indian democracy is not alive because of our politicians but because of our voters and their decisiveness. Undermining the power and understanding of the voters is a conspiracy against democracy. Democracy is on its knees because of the distance between the voters, their representatives, and the government. These three look at each other and try to scare the other out. They use various tricks to make each other happy. To make democracy strong, we must eliminate this distance. This is a special political moment. It is a time when efforts to reduce this distance can begin. We need a political structure that can consider all issues in an objective way.

The opposition is weak at present. The party in power has to be very careful about using its political know-how. In each province, they should establish task forces of legislators belonging to the majority party. These legislators should collect data on popular opinions and do an objective analysis. The results of these analyses should be shared with the whole legislative body. They should adopt a two-way information system in which the public reaction is fed to the government and all actions taken in the assembly to help people are made known to the voters. The assemblies should be given the help necessary to achieve this goal. Elected officials are wrong if they think they can get by by keeping the voters ignorant of their activities. The majority party should be well aware of the fact that an uninformed voter can be dangerous. When the voters take the ruling party to task, they first punish the representatives they voted for previously. Frustrated with the inactivity of government and their elected representatives, the voters can cause political instability. While there is time, political parties should work on establishing relationships between their members and the voters. The amount of public relations work done by elected representatives should be audited every month or twice a year.

The voters are not interested in armchair politicians. They want their representatives walking around and working. They do not care whether the leaders are immature or inexperienced. They are tired of mature and experienced leaders. Indian voters are experimenters at heart. They want to experiment and see the difference between the experienced and the inexperienced. This time the voters rejected all those candidates who were playing the harp of old glories, who have been using politics for a free ride. The voters are not dazzled by experience or maturity anymore. Perhaps the voters will find this experiment of judging maturity a failure. But they will not give up until the experiment is completed. Later they may try a much more revolutionary experiment!

In any case, the voters have hung a sword over the head of the ruling party by giving it this strong support!

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH SYRIAN, LIBYAN COUNTERPARTS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jan 85 p 18

[Text] The Iranian, Syrian and Libyan foreign ministers studied the changes in the region and the conspiracies of the oppressive powers, especially those of the Zionist regime, in a joint meeting in Tehran yesterday afternoon.

In this meeting, the conspiracies of the Zionist regime against the Islamic revolutionary forces were discussed by Dr Velayati, al-Turayki and Faruq al-Shar', the foreign ministers of the three countries.

In this meeting with the foreign ministers of Syria and Libya, Dr Velayati, the foreign minister of our country, offered an analysis of the present conditions in the region and stressed the necessity for cooperation and coordination among the progressive forces against the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies.

The Message of Hafiz al-Assad to Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i

Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister of Syria, who carried a message from Hafiz al-Assad, the prime minister of that country, to Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Tehran yesterday afternoon and was welcomed by the minister and a group of the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Upon his arrival at Tehran Airport, Faruq al-Shar' said: Iran and Syria have common means and ends which require constant contact and discussions. My visit to Tehran takes place in connection with the expansive bilateral relations between Iran and Syria, and I am happy to be in a country which fights Zionism and imperialism.

Concerning the visit of Faruq al-Shar', Dr Velayati, the foreign minister, said: The visit of the Syrian foreign minister to Iran

takes place within the framework of the brotherly relations between the two countries.

He added: Considering the changes which occur in the region, it is necessary for us to be in constant touch with the friendly countries and to make decisions in regards to ways to confront the events which happen or are anticipated to happen in the future.

The foreign minister continued: Naturally, in the above-mentioned negotiations, the bilateral relations which have been growing since the revolution and the cooperation which must take place among the progressive Muslim countries will be discussed. In conclusion, he added: Visits by the Syrian and Iranian officials are not only diplomatically unusual in the world, but such contact must be studied within the framework of the brotherly relations between the two countries.

Talks Between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Libya

Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, the secretary of the people's office of foreign liaison of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, who is in Tehran, met and spoke with Dr Velayati, the foreign minister, yesterday morning.

In this meeting, al-Turayki, referred to the brotherly relations between the two countries and said: What characterizes the relations between Iran and Libya is their common strong, strategic direction. We thank God that Islam became victorious in the brother country of Iran and the Muslim nation of Iran took over the government. In another part of his statements, referring to the Palestinian issue is an Islamic and Arab one and, naturally, we are all responsible for it. It is on the basis of this belief that we oppose and fight Camp David. He also referred to the problem of the transportation of Ethiopian Jews and the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Libya in this regard and said: The Sudan regime must pay for this action. Also, in response, referring to the strategic relations between Iran and Libya, Dr Velayati said: Fortunately, the relations and cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya have been coupled with much success on the global political scene. God willing, the cooperation will expand and continue in all areas. In connection with the Palestinian issue, the foreign minister said: One point which affords us much hope is that a positive and hopeful movement has appeared among the people of the occupied lands. The victory of the people of Lebanon is great news for the liberation movements in the future and is a serious warning to the enemies of Islam. Referring to the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from southern Lebanon, Velayati said: This is the first time that the Zionist regime has announced unilaterally

that it intends to withdraw from the occupied lands. Naturally, this step is a result of the struggles of the Muslim people of southern Lebanon. He added: Concerning the transfer of the Ethiopian Jews by the Zionist regime, if we do not take the necessary steps, naturally, this trend will continue in other areas as well. For this reason, we submitted a note of protest to the Islamic conference. In this meeting, both sides also agreed to form a joint committee for economic, commercial, cultural and technical cooperation.

10,000

CSO: 4640/347

ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, CULTURAL ACCORDS SIGNED WITH TURKEY

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 23 Jan 85 p 12

[Text] Engineer Musavi, the prime minister, on the second day of his official visit to Turkey, met and spoke with Mr Kenan Evren, the president of that country, in Ankara.

In this meeting in which Messers Turgut Ozal, the prime minister, and Vahit Halefoglu, the foreign minister of Turkey, and Messers 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, deputy foreign minister, and Ganjidust, the ambassador of our country to Ankara, as well as the Turkish ambassador to Tehran were present to discuss various issues of interest to both countries.

Signing Cultural Accord

The protocol for cultural exchanges between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey was signed in the afternoon of the day before yesterday (Monday) in Ankara. According to this protocol, which has been devised for three years (21 March 1985-20 March 1988), the two countries will engage in exchanging professors and students and the IRNA and ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY as well as the radio and television networks of both countries will cooperate in the area of news exchange. In this agreement, in addition to anticipating athletic cooperation, each of the countries has agreed to place 15 university scholarships at the disposal of the other. Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran will provide Turkey with five scholarships in Persian language and literature. The protocol for the cultural exchanges between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey was signed by the cultural directors general of the foreign ministries of both countries.

Mr Seyyed Asghar Qoreyshi, the cultural director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country, after signing this protocol, expressed hope that the implementation of this agreement will be a positive step towards the expansion of relations and better understanding between the two nations.

He also said: The IRNA and ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY as well as the radio and television networks of both countries will soon study the details of the contracts that must be exchanged between them.

Mr (Odunsen Alan), the cultural director general of the Turkish foreign ministry, in a brief statement, also called the signing of the above-mentioned agreement an important step in the development of relations between the two countries and expressed hope that its implementation will be in the interests of the two nations.

Commercial and Economic Cooperation Agreements

On Monday evening, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey signed a commercial and economic agreement at a value of \$3 billion for a period of one year in Ankara.

On the basis of this agreement, which was signed after four days of negotiations and exchanges of views between the experts of the joint economic cooperation of the two countries in the presence of Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Mr Turgut Ozal, the prime minister of Turkey, by Mr Behzad Nabavi, the minister of heavy industries, and Mr (Mostafa Titiz), minister without portfolio of the Turkish Cabinet, in the office of the prime minister of that country, in exchange for the export of 6 million tons of oil and 2 million tons of petroleum products as well as certain non-petroleum items to Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran will purchase metals, textile machinery, industrial tools and electric and electronic equipment, chemical and plastic materials, as well as some other products from that country.

Following the signing of this agreement, in a speech, Mr Turgut Ozal referred to the importance of the agreement and said: What is more important than these figures is its content.

With the signing of this agreement, the grounds for economic, technical and industrial cooperation between the two countries will expand and cooperation in regards to aluminum, electronic, ceramics, cement, health equipment and cigarettes will begin. He added: With the signing of this agreement, we have created a special system in the cooperation between the two countries. Mr Ozal said: In the area of air transport, passenger travel will increase and similar engineering services in agriculture will be paid attention to.

He also said: The creation of a communication system between Iran, Turkey and Pakistan has been anticipated in this agreement, through which we will exchange the television programs of the two countries on a more expansive level. Mr Turgut Ozal said: Fortunately, the minor problems which existed last year were

eliminated in these negotiations and we have taken important steps in the area of industrial and commercial cooperation. The prime minister of Turkey pointed out that due to the particular nature of this agreement, he has confined his statements to economic issues. He also expressed pleasure in the beneficial political negotiations with Mr Musavi and added: I ask God that this agreement be beneficial to both countries.

Then Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister of our country, expressed his thanks for the statements of Mr Turgut Ozal and his efforts in regard to this agreement and said: In my opinion, in addition to its trade and commercial aspects, this agreement has a deep political meaning for our two nations. We witness a deep interest by our nation in the nation of Turkey. Engineer Musavi added: I am certain that these are merely preliminary steps in our political, economic and trade relations with Turkey. The figures mentioned are very important in themselves. I believe they are unmatched among the Islamic countries. Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi said: I think that with this agreement coming to fruition, despite the chaotic situation of the world today, our relations will be deepened and I hope its implementation will result in the signing of a larger and more meaningful protocol in future years.

In conclusion, Mr Musavi thanked the government and nation of Turkey for their hospitality. Also, this report indicates that during the signing of this agreement, Messers Agazadeh, minister without portfolio for executive affairs; Ja'fari, minister of commerce; Besharati, deputy foreign minister; Kazempur-Ardabili, deputy for economic and international affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Honardust, international deputy of the Ministry of Petroleum from the Islamic Republic of Iran, were present. This report also indicates that on Monday evening, a dinner party was arranged in the honor of Mr Turgut Ozal, the prime minister of Turkey, by Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic in Ankara, at which the companions of Mr Musavi and a group of the Turkish officials were present.

Agreement to Build Pipeline

An agreement to build an oil and natural gas pipeline from Iran to Turkey was signed by the prime ministers of the countries yesterday morning (Tuesday), Engineer Musavi from Iran and Mr Turgut Ozal from Turkey.

According to this agreement, Iranian crude oil will be transmitted to the shores of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea through the pipeline, and Turkey will procure its needs in this way as well. Also, natural gas will reach Turkey through a pipeline and will be transmitted to Europe through that country.

According to this agreement, a special committee will also be appointed by the two countries to supervise over all the phases of the preparation of the plan and its executive management.

It should be pointed out that the final decision for the implementation of this plan will be made after the preliminary studies by the two governments.

After the signing of the protocol, Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish prime minister, emphasized that the signing of the above-mentioned agreement was the result of long negotiations, expressed hope for the rapid materialization of the plan, and called it an example of cooperation between two Muslim countries which can be a model for other Islamic countries. The Turkish prime minister hoped that the implementation of this agreement would be a good omen and blessing for both nations of Iran and Turkey.

Then Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, our prime minister, said in this connection: We consider this action an important step in expanding our relations with Turkey and making use of the resources of both Muslim nations. The implementation of this plan shows to what extent cooperation between Islamic nations can be effective and important in various aspects of their lives, including the economy and the culture.

Mr Musavi stressed that the signing of the above-mentioned protocol shows the will of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand its cooperation with a neighboring Muslim country in the region and pointed out that the final decision for the implementation of the plan will be made after studies are made of all its aspects by both governments. He added: Of course, the preliminary studies have resulted in the signing of the protocol.

The prime minister of our country expressed hope for starting the activities of the joint committee of the two countries as soon as possible and described the signing of the agreement a symbolic movement among the Islamic countries. He added: In our view, the Islamic countries must expand the fundamental activities among themselves as much as possible and employ their resources in the interests of each other.

Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi referred to the various resources of the Muslim countries and the importance of utilizing them and emphasized that the Islamic countries benefitting from each other's resources will certainly make them stronger, will ultimately make them independent of the great powers, and will also make their voice more resonant on the international scene.

Mr Musavi expressed hope that the signing of this treaty will be a very beneficial step for the Muslim nations of Iran and Turkey.

After the signing of this agreement, the prime ministers of the two countries left for Istanbul.

The IRNA report indicates that on the departure of Mr Musavi at Ankara Airport, official departure ceremonies were held and then Mr Turgut Ozal and a group of Turkish officials accompanied our prime minister to Istanbul.

Trip of the Ministers of Iran and Turkey to Istanbul

Yesterday (Tuesday) at noon local time, prime minister Musavi, accompanied by prime minister Turgut Ozal of Turkey and the accompanying delegation as well as a group of Turkish officials, performed their prayers in Soltan Ahmad Mosque in Istanbul.

The prime minister of our country visited the large, beautiful Hagia Sophia mosque earlier and upon leaving the mosque, wrote in the visitors' book the phrase: "Hoping for a congregational prayer with all Muslims and Islamic nations in this grand mosque."

The prime ministers of the two countries and their companions, after performing their prayers in Soltan Ahmad Mosque, left for Topkapi Museum and visited its various sections.

Mr Musavi and his companions had lunch with their hosts at Topkapi Museum.

Reflections on the Prime Minister's Trip

The news of the visit of Engineer Musavi, the prime minister, to Turkey was widely reported in the news on Voice of Turkey radio yesterday. In its news section, at 1530 hours yesterday local time, Voice of Turkey radio quoted the prime ministers of the two countries and broadcast the results of the visit of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Turkey.

In this program on the visit of our prime minister to Istanbul, Turgut Ozal explained the fruitful results of the negotiations of the Turkish officials with the Iranian officials and said: The joint follow-up committee for the oil and gas pipeline project from Iran to Turkey will begin its work in earnest next Christian month.

Quoting Engineer Musavi, radio Voice of Turkey said: If the resources of Islamic countries are joined, Muslims will be very strong.

Voice of Turkey radio also broadcast the news of the meeting of the prime minister with the president of Turkey in detail.

Yesterday's Turkish newspapers devoted top coverage to the news and reports of Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the Iranian prime minister.

According to this report, the newspaper CUMHURIYET wrote in this connection: Iran and Turkey reached an agreement about the oil and natural gas pipeline. The prime minister of Iran issued the necessary instructions in regards to the increase in the volume of trade between the two countries of up to \$3 billion.

The newspaper MILLIYET also wrote under the heading of complete agreement with Iran that the volume of trade between the two countries has reached \$3 billion.

The newspaper GUNES also wrote: The prime minister of Iran stated that there is a group which intends to threaten the friendly relations between the two countries.

The newspaper DUNYA wrote: In 1985, \$2 billion in goods will be exported from Turkey to Iran.

On the other hand, the newspaper TURKIYE wrote: This year, Turkey will export \$1.5 billion in goods to Iran and will purchase \$6 billion in oil from Iran.

The newspaper GUNYADIN wrote: According to this agreement, the transportation of oil to Turkey from Iran's Kharg Island will end.

The newspaper TERCUMAN also wrote: Musavi promised that Iran will not allow terrorist acts against Turkey.

The newspaper HURRIYET also referred to the agreements between the two countries and wrote: A new phase was created in the relations between Iran and Turkey and the two countries have agreed on building an oil pipeline.

Meeting of Iranian Students in Turkey with Prime Minister

Yesterday afternoon, Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi met and spoke with Iranian students residing in Turkey in the Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to IRNA, in this meeting, Mr Musavi emphasized the importance of the war and committed forces for the construction of the country and recommended to the students to make efforts to strengthen the atmosphere for the forces interested in serving our Islamic country. The prime minister added: The greatest duty of our young people abroad is to pay attention to the authentic Islamic values and avoid probable deviations so that upon returning to the country they will be able to best serve the country. In this meeting, in which several of Mr Musavi's companions and the ambassador of the Islamic Republic in Ankara were present, the students discussed their problems with Mr Musavi.

IRAN

ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS TO RECEIVE 30 PERCENT OF SEIZED GOODS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] KEYHAN political service. The open session of the Majlis was chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In this session, after the pre-agenda speeches for the first round of discussions of the representatives of Khomeyn, Mianeh, Qa'emshahr and Savadkuh, the bill for collecting 1.2 percent from the total customs revenues and commercial profits and the procedures for spending them to achieve the goals and advance the customs affairs was discussed, and the spokesmen of the economic affairs and finance committee and the representative of the government provided explanations in connection with the bill.

Then the general points of this bill were put to a vote. It was not ratified, but rejected.

Then, in the second round of discussions, the bill to amend Article 19 of the penal law for smugglers ratified during the period 21 March 1933-20 March 1934 and its later amendments were discussed and the spokesman of the economic affairs and finance committee provided explanations concerning the bill.

Then the single article of this bill was read, put to a vote, and ratified.

The single article of this bill states: All funds from the sale of or fines from smuggled goods, which have been or will be confiscated by the government in accordance with related regulations, as well as rials or rial amounts of foreign currency which have been or will be confiscated, must be deposited in an account opened for this purpose by the treasury. Discovered currency will be placed at the disposal of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran in order for the amount in rials to be deposited in the above-mentioned account.

Note 1 of the bill states: The government is allowed to make use of at most 30 percent of the funds that are deposited in the treasury account in accordance with this law for payment as reward to the discoverers, informers and law enforcement agents who have been involved in the discovery and confiscation of the smuggled goods and discovery of rials and currency.

10,000

CSO: 4640/347

PAPER COMMENTS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF ISLAMIC REGIME

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Feb 85 p 3

[Text]

WHEN the Islamic movement under the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini was striking hard at the monarchy in late 1978, both the Superpowers for the first time felt uneasy. The Soviet Union was unhappy because it was not the Marxist but the Islamic forces that were close to victory. The U.S. was desperate because its client, whose throne and empire they had guarded jealously since toppling Mossadegh in 1953, was crumbling under the strain.

For the Soviet Union, a secular pro-U.S. 'Shahinshah' was still preferable to the Ayatollahs. To apply pressure on Mohammad Reza, all the Soviets had to do was to manipulate Washington diplomatically. But the Ayatollahs were directed by Islam — and if the Soviets wanted to pressure them, how could they be manipulated? So while Soviet diplomats in Washington tried to persuade American diplomats that the U.S. should do something concrete to support the monarch, Brezhnev publicly made speeches threatening to intervene if any outside forces landed in Iran. Despite such threatening postures, however, the Islamic Revolution succeeded and the Islamic Republic was established in 1979.

Other Moslem countries still under colonial influence and indoctrinated by orientalist views of Islam believed that an Islamic State was an ideal which could never be achieved in the 20th century. The Superpowers, on the other hand, could never even think of Islam as a third force to be reckoned with. The two Superpowers were obsessed with each other's expansionist objectives and could see no further than that. But once an Islamic State had been established, obstacles had to be

placed in its path so that the Islamic Republic could not consolidate itself.

But inspite of all these obstacles the Islamic Republic has survived, and is now beginning its seventh year. Its achievements have created a new self-image of Islam and replaced the poor image which Moslems have suffered from previously. But the evil reaction which the Islamic Revolution generated and the schemes, plots, intrigues and obstacles placed in the path of Islam should not be forgotten, for the path which Islam treads is not free of thorns.

These intrigues and schemes against Islamic Iran came from three quarters: the Soviet Union, the U.S. and the Moslem countries. Each mobilized its forces to dismantle the regime. The Soviets immediately activated the Tudeh Party to start their spying activities and to direct the pro-Moscow gucrilla forces such as the Fedayeen-e Khalq to create subversion inside the Islamic Republic. The Tudeh was also expected to mobilize their trade unionist activities within the industrial and oil sectors to undermine the economy and to infiltrate the Iranian armed forces to stage a military coup d'etat on Moscow's order. Soviet agents also instigated insurgencies amongst the Kurds and other groups in Azerbaijan.

All these obstacles were overcome by the Islamic government. What the Soviets had failed to realize was that Ayatollah Khomeini was concerned about the welfare of the mustadafin (the oppressed masses) and that the threat of strikes was defused. The Islamic Republic's revolutionary organizations, such as the Pasdaran-e Inqilab and the Komitche confronted the Com-

munist guerrillas trying to fight the regime. The armed forces were purged and the Tudeh Party was given enough time to align its program with the Islamic regime.

When the Tudeh leadership under Kianouri did not heed the chances given to it but still continued its subversive and spying activities, the Islamic government arrested the leaders and thousands of their supporters in 1982. The party was banned and Kianouri confessed to six major 'misdeeds'. First, the Tudeh had collaborated with Moscow. Second, it had instigated military officers against the regime. Third, it had not surrendered its arms to the authorities. Fourth, it had not dissolved its secret bodies conspiring against the regime. Fifth, its members had travelled abroad passing sensitive information to the Soviet Union, and sixth party members who had penetrated various governmental organizations refused to disclose their party affiliations when the government had solicited such information.

So threatened were the Soviets by the Islamic ideology that they occupied Afghanistan in December 1979 lest the Communist officers' coup in that country suffer set-backs. The Islamic leaders of Iran condemned this occupation so vehemently that Moscow-Iran relations since the invasion of Afghanistan have never been smooth.

The United States on the other hand had built a large network of spies in Iran over the years, and these were now mobilized to create insurgencies against the regime. When the 56 U.S. 'diplomats' were taken hostage in November 1979, the hands of the U.S. were tied and it was forced to return some of the Iranian money frozen by the U.S. in American banks. The U.S. soon activated its Iranian agents who had posed as Islamic devotees. In reality they were fifth-columnists like Bani-Sadr and Sadeq Qutbzadeh. The latter, on official trips abroad, used to meet Hamilton Jordan, a White House official, secretly, and passed State secrets to him in Paris. After he was removed from his position, he instigated a military coup, with the U.S.'s prompting, which planned to kill the whole Islamic leadership. But it was discovered in time and Qutbzadeh and some of his collaborators were executed.

Bani-Sadr, on the other hand, tried, as President of the Islamic Republic, to steer the course of the country to suit the vested interests of the U.S. When Islamic leaders such as Ayatollah Beheshti began to see through his policies, he formed alliances with the nationalist forces of Masud Rajavi, the leader of the Mujahideen-e Khalq. Both finally escaped secretly to France. There they set up the National Council of Resistance and mobilized

other Iranian exiles, such as Matin-Daftary of the National Democratic Front, to combat the Islamic Revolution jointly. Many other Iranian groups, under royalist generals and ex-Prime Minister Bakhtiar, were also operating from Western countries.

But before the Muhahideen-e Khalq was finally crushed by the Islamic forces it had assassinated many Islamic leaders: the President (Rajai) and Prime Minister (Balonar), the Head of the Islamic Republic Party (Beheshti) and more than 70 members of the Majlis were blown up in an explosion at the IRP headquarters. At least 2,000 ulama were assassinated, starting from Motahhari in April 1979. The Islamic Republic, however, survived this systematic effort to decimate its leadership. Such methods proved counter-productive, since Islamic leaders readily courted martyrdom.

The U.S. having failed in April 1980 to rescue its hostages and failing to subvert the Islamic regime internally, instigated Iraq to declare war on Iran in September 1981. It had also formed its own Rapid Deployment Force and supplied AWACS to Saudi Arabia to spy on Iranian shipping and the war with Iraq. It also built bases in Oman and threatened to intervene if Iran resorted to closing the Straits of Hormuz. So important had the destruction of the Islamic regime become that, not only did the U.S. and other Western bloc countries, such as France, supply sophisticated arms to Iraq to damage and weaken Iran's oil industry based in the Shatt-al Arab, but the Soviets did likewise. Since 1981, Iran has paid a high price in human lives but maintained its upper hand. Its internal economic situation also has survived with hardship on its people but with a pride and patience and a firm commitment to its Islamic future.

Among the Moslem countries, Saudi Arabia, the client-state of the U.S., has led the Moslem world against Islamic Iran. It formed the Gulf Cooperation Council (comprising Kuwait, Oman, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia) in 1981 and by 1984 the GCC had formed its own Gulf Rapid Deployment Force. These were all being mobilized not only to guard against internal uprisings of their own people, but also to help the opposition forces in Iran at an appropriate time. It also mobilized other pro-U.S. countries, particularly Egypt and Jordan, in the Gulf war so that Iran could be defeated.

So far all these forces have tried their best to get their way against the Islamic Republic, and failed. Their effort to dismantle the Islamic State, so that the status quo of oppression and imperialism would prevail, has failed. Iran clings steadfast to the path of Islam.

EMIGRE PAPER COMMENTS ON COUNTRY'S 'AILING INDUSTRIES'

London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Feb 85 p 6

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] Minister of Islamic Industries Shafe'i has drawn a moving picture of the situation of the industries in an interview with JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Tehran. Shafe'i makes it clear that in the course of six years of the government of the ayatollahs, not only have no new industries been established, but hundreds of existing units have been closed.

When Mehdi Bazargan formed his Cabinet, Iran had 14,000 industrial units with more than 50 workers and employees each. Now, Shafe'i reports that only 8,000 units are under the supervision of the Ministry of Industries. With the addition of 2,000 large units (more than 100 workers and employees each), which are mostly government units and are generally under the supervision of [the Ministry of] Heavy Industries, again we see that at least 4,000 production units in the country have been destroyed during the Islamic revolution.

However, here is the picture that Shafe'i presents: He says that at the present time, only the light industries in the country spend about \$8 billion in currency (that is, one-third of the total oil revenues) on purchasing raw materials and parts needed from abroad. In other words, more than half of the total production value for these industries involves some kind of imports. All the programs which had begun to achieve self-sufficiency before the revolution have now been completely set aside.

The second issue that Shafe'i raises concerns the ownership of industries. He considers the "lack of boundaries concerning ownership in this sector of the national economy" as one of the three main problems and either with a very polite tone or fearfully stresses that the "Council of Guardians" is responsible for this amazing situation. The failure of the Islamic

government to determine a serious and constant policy in regards to ownership has caused even the most daring investors or those most willing to gamble not to dare to invest in Iran. The result is that investments have been directed towards the non-productive sectors, the black market, land prospecting and stock market games involving public provisions and the principle of "pillage and plunder" has replaced normal commercial "profit and interest" and investments.

When Musavi-Khamene'i, the Islamic prime minister, reports that a group of "ungodly individuals" have pocketed more than 30 billion rials through the sale of the agricultural products of Dasht-e Moghan, is it possible to encourage anyone to engage in long-term investments at a reasonable profit? Besides, the people see that the "ungodly individuals" who are criticized by the Islamic prime minister have neither been identified nor punished, while the owners of many small and large industrial workshops have met with no other fate than execution, imprisonment, exile and confiscation of their property.

Shafe'i also raises the issue of management and shows that he has much on his mind (or at least he pretends to have). Many of the managers of the country--whose number was not sufficient in any case--have either gone abroad or are in prisons or confined to their homes. As for the managers who remain, often an ayatollah or a hojjat ol-eslam interferes in their work or they are caught up in the so-called Islamic committees. It is clear that Shafe'i is not very happy with these committees, but there is nothing that he can do about them either, especially now that the committees, as the "executive arms" of the Ministry of Information and Security, have found a new role as well.

The Islamic minister finally arrives at the problem of work slowdowns and the low rate of output in Iranian industries. He believes that the existence of hundreds of thousands of workers in industries is excessive. For this reason, the Islamic authorities have discussed the plan to dispatch workers to the war fronts, and through intricate deceptions they are trying to use artificial unemployment as a weapon in economic policy.

Shafe'i's unfair attack on the Iranian worker, even if not ill-intentioned, is a sign of his lack of understanding of economic issues. He does not know that the work force is one of the production factors and its competence cannot be seriously evaluated without taking into consideration the other factors of production, capital investment, technology, raw materials and management.

Shafe'i remains silent about one important fact, which is that the Islamic Republic is not only unable to but does not want Iran to become industrialized.

Ayatollah Najafi, the representative of Yasuj to the Majlis, has said: "Certain hands do not allow the country to progress in industry."

Which hands?

10,000

CSO: 4640/352

IRAN

EMIGRE PAPER VIEWS AIR POWER IN PERSIAN GULF

GF231022 London KEYHAN in Persian 31 Jan 85 p 16

[All figures as published]

[Text] The United States is trying to turn Saudi Arabia into a first-class air power in the Persian Gulf region. Ronald Reagan's regime last week agreed to sell to Saudi Arabia 20 F-15 fighter-bombers. Prior to this, the United States had agreed to sell 120 of the same model aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

The new F-15's will replace the British "Lightning" aircraft in the Saudi Arabian Air Force. The "Lightning" aircraft are at present based at "Tabuk" base close to the Israeli border. Although Saudi Arabia has no common border with Israel, "Tabuk" is on the border of Saudi Arabia and Jordan and only a few minutes' flight from Israeli airspace. It is on this account that supporters of Israel will oppose the sale of the new jets to Saudi Arabia.

At present Iraq has the strongest air force in the region with 900 French and Soviet-made fighters, but Saudi Arabia, with 400 fighters and the most sophisticated equipment, can claim to be the top air power in the region.

Kuwait with 180 fighters, Oman with 120, UAE with 110, and the Islamic Republic with 65 hold respectively from fourth to sixth place [as published] in the Persian Gulf.

Prior to the Islamic revolution, Iran was the top air power in the region and, in addition to the Persian Gulf, had tried to extend its military power to the Sea of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

CSO: 4640/403

TEHRAN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS JUDGE ON ISLAMIC JUSTICE

GF211102 ETTELA'AT in Persian 28 Jan 85 pp 9, 13

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam Majid Ansari, the representative of the Supreme Judicial Council in the revolutionary courts and prisons subordinate to those courts, gave an interview to ETTELA'AT.

Majid Ansari said the revolutionary courts were really among the major achievements of the Islamic revolution.

Because of these courts, from the inception, we put a stop to chaos and even the first people arrested, he said. The henchmen of the past cruel regime of the Shah were not arrested or executed without any legal justification on a trial. We may recall that even Nasiri and Hoveyda and their likes, and other criminals connected with the United States, and the true pioneers and founders of the Shah's cruel regime, when they were arrested, were put on trial by the revolutionary courts in accordance with the laws of Islam and received punishment. They were not tried or punished haphazardly or without the proper procedure or without legalities.

There had been plans to disrupt our economy by capitalists affiliated with the old regime by hoarding and buying goods needed by the people and then destroying them or setting fire to crops. Such acts happened at the beginning of the revolution. Such things still happen sometimes. It was the revolutionary courts that stood fast against the minigroups. Not only were many of these corrupt groups exposed to the people, groups like the Tudeh Party or the Hypocrites, but the courts were also able to uproot to a large extent these thoroughly corrupt and evil elements from the country and to punish these criminals. The courts also cleansed the revolution of criminals attached to the world oppressors.

Ansari said: One of the other things which the revolutionary courts launched was a very effective struggle against the peddlers of death--smugglers of narcotics. This political-economic racket was started by the oppressors and their henchmen in order to make addicts out of all the country's youth and to destroy the country's economy. We saw that the revolutionary courts and the associated judicial authorities stood against these corrupt elements with firmness and routed them.

Now there is still some complaints about continued smuggling of narcotics. While I admit this to be true, I will detail at the end of the interview what can be done. But I may also point out the importance of the work done by the revolutionary courts so far. Today, if it wasn't for these courts, it might not have been possible to find young people fit enough to go to the war fronts.

It would be naive to think that the days of the revolutionary courts are over and that we don't need them anymore. It could even be said that the main axis of judicial work is on the revolutionary courts and that gradually the public courts' systems will take their examples from the revolutionary courts and we will reach the day that we could call all the ordinary courts, revolutionary courts. When that happens we will not have two systems, one a public court system and the other a revolutionary court, but only one system.

Although issues such as dealing with smugglers and counterrevolutionaries naturally need special courts. The normal complaints of the people can be handled by other courts. We have nothing against a division of labor. But in the ways and the nature of work, in the future, all actions of all judicial organs, with the will of God, must have the speed and the firmness of the revolutionary courts.

[The end of this interview is on page 9 of the newspaper which is missing]

CSO: 4640/402

FREEDOM OF PRESS EXAMINED BY DAILY

GF210720 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 28 Jan 85 pp 1, 19

[Excerpts] One of the things that will probably come to the attention of the respected brothers and the respected Majlis deputies is the definition of "news" and its importance in the text of the proposed press laws.

The draft press law seems to be silent on this point and it does not make clear what criterion or criteria should be applied to the printing of news. What is "news"? What is important enough to be printed and what "news" is not worth printing?

Is news to be judged by the same popular merits mentioned in the press laws under the title "Limits of the Press"?

Does this mean that the only printable news is that which is "not against principles of Islam, public interest, is not heretic or deviated, is not colonial and oppressive propaganda, does not spread prostitution and immoral behavior, does not promote foreign goods, promotes thrift, discourages love of luxury and consumer-oriented behavior, does not sow discord among the various levels of society in any way, does not incite or encourage violations of security, is not against the dignity and the principles of the Islamic Republic, does not libel or insult things sacred to the religion, or dignity of officials and institutions and does not leak state secrets, confidential military orders and deliberations at confidential meetings, etc"?

Or is news as defined in the chapter dealing with duties of the press which is that only one point should be considered for printing or not printing a news item and that is whether it is true or not?

But this cannot be. We should not judge the importance of a news item by considering its prudence or value alone just by seeing whether it is true or false. In no country, from the most Eastern to the most Western and even in the most free and the most nonaligned countries, are such things done. Those people do not print just any news and they do not report just any incident or happening. Then, what is to be done?

Here, we find our first series of discussions, titles, articles, and matters which are published in the first of these series of editorials.

Of course we must also say that in the chapter titled "The Limits of the Press" there is a clause that deals with a ban on publishing "secret messages, military secrets, and the printing of Majlis and courtroom debates without permission." This clause most deals with the news departments of newspapers and other printed matter. In this section of the law we can find some criteria for printing and not printing certain news items.

In addition to this it has a clause dealing with the ban on publishing of material "spreading prostitution and immoral activity and the pornography in print and photographs which are against public morality." This is another test which applies the absolute rule of Islam regarding publishing and broadcasting of certain news.

Other than these cases cited above one must not have any objections over the printing of a news article. We cannot say a certain printed matter is true and has actually happened but the reader might get the wrong impression from it and understand it in a way different that what was intended.

CSO: 4640/401

MUSAVI-ARDABILI: WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FAMILIES OF MARTYRS

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 2 Jan 85 p 15

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

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

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

Then Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili spoke, calling on the officials of the province to have trust in God in all affairs, and said: In Islamic culture, the primary value is God and the second is man. Human value depends on his actions. Errors, mistakes and pretension lower human beings. Then, inviting the people to make more concerted efforts to solve the problems of the people, he said: To people who have given martyrs and have not stopped at any effort and self-sacrifice to advance the goals of the revolution, we cannot only offer talk. We are responsible toward them. He added: You have two problems, one is connected with the people and their expectations. The first problem must be resolved with intelligence, for there is no other way, and as for the second, you must never stand up to the people and should

treat them calmly and logically. Either solve their problems or gain their trust by explaining to them, and be certain that if the people know the problems and they are explained to them, they will be with you and cooperate.

In conclusion, in regards to various administrative affairs and the relationship between the organizations and the judicial branch, he offered some directives and expressed hope that by preserving the existing coordination among the officials, the problems will be solved.

Visiting the Reconstruction Crusade Headquarters for the War-Struck Regions

In continuing his visit to Shiraz, Mr Musavi-Ardabili, the chief justice, accompanied by the governor general of Fars, the representative of the imam and Friday imam of Shiraz, and several officials, visited the support headquarters of the war regions of the Reconstruction Crusade of this city yesterday morning.

According to reports, in this visit, the chief justice, addressing the sisters who prepared bread for the combatants, said: It is your belief, faith and self-sacrifice for Islam which will bring about the final victory, with the help of Almighty God, and, God willing, we will all go to Karbala victorious over the forces of heathenism.

In conclusion, he visited various areas of the support headquarters of the war regions of the Reconstruction Crusade.

Visit to the Royal Tents of the Past Regime

Yesterday morning, Mr Musavi-Ardabili, the chief justice, visited the royal tents near Marvdasht, Fars, the location of the treasonous 2500th anniversary celebration of injustice and oppression over Iran.

According to reports, in this visit to the tents, now under the control of the Shahid foundation, the chief justice, addressing the Friday imam, governor and military and law enforcement commanders of Marvdasht who had come to welcome him, praised the unity and coordination between the people and officials of this region as well as the overall support of the Hezbollah nation for the battlefronts of truth against falsehood and proposed that these royal tents be turned into a public park and exhibition as a document of the crimes of the shah's regime.

Return to Tehran

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, the chief justice, after examining the judicial problems of the Provinces of Fars, Kohkiluyeh and Boyer

Ahmad, and Bushehr, returned to Tehran yesterday afternoon.

At Shiraz Airport, the clerics, Friday imams, governor general of Fars, revolution and public prosecutor of Shiraz, officials of the Province, and military and law enforcement commands attended the departure of the chief justice.

10,000

CSO: 4640/315

ENDOWMENT OWNERSHIP DEEDS CONTRARY TO SHARI'AH DECLARED VOID

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 85 p 3

/Text/ E'temadian, the director of the endowment organization said yesterday in a press conference: "The endowment ownership deeds issued contrary to the shari'ah (religious law) are void and instead of those deeds rental deeds will be issued."

The director of the endowment organization at the beginning of this interview said: "In the past, the kings tried to eliminate the endowments. In 1942 during the 12th session of the Majlis a law for the sale of endowment properties was ratified but due to the clergy's protest at that time the mentioned law was made void. In 1963 after the approval of the land distribution law they intended to sell some of the endowment properties. In 1970 as a continuation of the land reform law another law was approved in the Majlis called the exchange for cash law. In that year due to many farmers' knowledge of Islamic jurisprudence, the regime did not succeed in executing this law until some of the mobility related to the imperial court and royal relations purchased the endowment lands and this caused the gradual elimination of the endowment properties.

The director of the endowment organization said: "After the victory of the Islamic revolution due to the efforts of many Muslim and aware people those laws were made void and the land returned to the endowment organization. To execute the so-called exchange for cash law, 6,989 farms were sold and around 22,446 farmers with land purchased the endowment lands in this manner. This law was not executed in 907 villages due to the farmers opposition.

"In the beginning of the revolution those who had witnessed the sale of the endowment properties for many years approached the Friday imams and congregations and requested the clearance of these properties. During the premiership of martyr Raja'i this subject was discussed in the cabinet and due to the importance of this issue it was agreed to discuss this matter with the imam. The imam stated that in the first place these deals are all void and in the second place our Muslim nation follows the Islamic orders. Therefore these views were referred to the cabinet members and the Majlis. As a result a law in the form of a single article called the law of void of deeds of the sales of registered crown, water and endowment properties was ratified by the Majlis and was approved by the guardian council on 23 April 1984 and was referred to the endowment organization for execution.

"The executive regulations of the above law were compiled by the endowment organization and the ministry of agriculture with the cooperation of specialists of different organizations, the documents registration office and land transfer missions and was approved 1 October 1984 by the cabinet and is ready for execution. The director of the endowment organization added: "The subject which must be brought to the attention of the Muslim and religious nation is that in the execution of the above law, land, houses, gardens, shops and other usable places will not be taken from individuals. Only ownership deeds which were issued contrary to the shari'ah are void and a lease deed will be issued for the occupants. Certainly in most cases, the land is only endowed and therefore the established builds belong to those who have built them on the land or have purchased them from previous owners. Other concessions are made in this regard too for electricity, water, telephone, key-money and even areas where people have planted trees or established wells and water canals belong to the occupants or their previous owners and the endowment organization will only rent the lands."

9815

CSO: 4640/319

IRAN

BUREAU OF STATISTICS EXAMINES SERVICES OF PRIVATE INSTITUTES

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 2 Jan 85 p 12

[Text] A. Typing and Language Schools

During the period 21 March 1983-20 March 1984, in the urban areas under study in the country, 191 typing and language schools were in operation, of which 139 were typing schools and the remaining 52 were foreign language schools.

These schools were operated by 821 persons, of which 220 were non-salaried employees (owners and partners) and the remaining 601 were salaried and wage-earning employees. The wages, salaries and insurance payments of wage-earning employees in the year under study amounted to about 242 million rials.

The value of the sale of services in these schools in the year studied was more than 586 million rials, of which about 327 million rials was the share for Tehran, 209 million rials that for other large cities, and the remaining 50 million rials for other urban areas under study.

During the 1983-84 period, the value of the mediate expenditures of the above-mentioned schools amounted to about 97 million rials. After subtracting this figure from the total sales figure for services, the gross added value amounts to 490 million rials, of which amount the share for Tehran, other large cities, and urban areas under study were 254 million rials, 190 million rials, and 46 million rials respectively.

About 49.3 percent (242 million rials) of the gross additional value consist of the wages, salaries and insurance payments, 16.1 percent (79 million rials) for the rental fees and the remaining 34.6 percent (169 million rials) were profits, banking costs and attrition.

B. Driver Education Schools

During the 1983-84 period, a total of 392 driver education schools were operating in the urban areas. These schools were operated by 2,089 persons, of which 1,324 were non-wage-earning (owners and partners) and the remaining 765 were wage-earning and salaried employees. Wages, salaries and insurance payments to the wage-earning employees amounted to about 383 million rials.

The value of the sale of services of the driver education schools during the 1983-84 period reached about 2,198 million rials, of which 754 million rials was the share for Tehran, 726 million rials that for other cities, and 718 million rials that for other urban areas under study.

The value of expenditures for driver education schools in the year under study amounted to 675 million rials. Subtracting this figure from the figure of the value of the sale of services, the gross value amounts to 1,523 million rials.

The share for Tehran, other large cities, and other urban areas under study was 475 million rials, 516 million rials, and 532 million rials respectively.

About 25.1 percent (383 million rials) consisted of the gross value of the wages, salaries and insurance payments; 5.8 percent (88 million rials) consisted of rental fees; and the remaining 69.1 percent (1,052 million rials) consisted of profits, banking costs and attrition.

The level of investments in this sector of services amounted to about 230 million rials.

Level of Activities (in Gross National Product) of Driver Education Schools in Urban Areas Under Study During the Period 21 March 1983-20 March 1984

Subject	Value of Sale of Services	Value of Mediate Expenditures	Gross Added Value
Areas Under Study			
All Cities			
Under Study	2,197,955	675,200	1,522,755
Tehran	754,153	279,611	474,542
Other Large Cities	725,805	209,278	516,527
Other Urban Areas Under Study	717,997	186,311	531,686

Appendix to the Report

Aim of the Study

The aim of the study of the private schools was to arrive at the added gross value of this sector of services in order to calculate the gross national product.

At the same time, secondary information, such as the number of employees, the establishment of investment, and so on, have also been collected.

Method of Study

All language, typing, and driver education schools of the cities under study (except for Tehran, which was sampled) were studied from censuses taken and direct economic statistics gathered by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The list of the Tehran schools was provided by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, and the driver education schools union. In other cities, they were collected through the statistics units of the Central Bank.

Bureau of Economic Statistics of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran

10,000

CSO: 4640/315

THOUSANDS OF KILOMETERS OF ROAD IMPROVEMENT UNDERWAY

Tehran BURS in Persian 19 Dec 84 p 5

[Text] The spokesman of the ministry of road and transport announced: "Following the action taken in regard to the establishment of the main and secondary roads and rural roads by the ministry of road and transport and in order to protect the roads and improve traffic, steps have been taken for the nation's road improvement by this ministry's office of improvement and funds have been provided from the road improvement projects funds. Therefore this year improvements to 5900 kilometers of roads are being executed; 4334 kilometers of these roads are operated through trusteeship and the rest administered through a department of the ministry of road and transport.

"One of the new projects approved this year is improvements to the Na'in Ardakan road. This road is 107 kilometers long and improvements will cost 700 million rials. Contracts has been drawn up with contractors and the activities of the work equipment are in the process of being established. Also the work of coating for reinforcing the asphalt of 26 kilometers of the Karaj-Chalus road costing around 200 million rials has started and until now 17 kilometers of the road's length has been reinforced with double asphalt coating and also 14 kilometers of the asphalt coating work of Qazvin-Takestan road which is 30 kilometers long and costing 160 million rials is in the process of execution.

"Roads which will have improvements completed this year total 940 kilometers and include Gorgan, Azadshahr, Sari, Behshahr, Mianeh Qareh Chaman, Qareh Chaman-Sareskandar, Andimeshk, Dasht-e'Abbas Ardakan, Yasuj, Babameydan, Qomsheh Abadeh, a part of Qochan-Mashhad highway, a part of Mahan-Shurehgaz road, Karaj-Qazvin and part of the Tehran-Qom road. Until now 122 kilometers of this route has been reinforced with asphalt and the work will continue this year when the weather permits. Also the reinforced asphalt coating of 99 kilometers of the 111 kilometers roads of Qareh Chaman, Takestan, and Avoy is complete and the rest is in the process of completion.

"Road improvement to the 126 kilometer long road of Eslamabad-Ilam is among the plans that are underway and the asphalt coating of all the road is completed and only the completion of the final asphalt coating of 80 kilometers is postponed until the coming year. Also the 158 kilometer improvement to the Eslamabad-Malavi road in two parts is underway and until now the asphalt coating of 90 kilometers of the mentioned route is complete.

MAJLIS AMENDS SMUGGLERS' PUNISHMENT ACT

GF201352 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 29 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] In an open session of the Majlis which started at 0820 today under the chairmanship of speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, an amendment to Clause 19 of the punishment of Smugglers Act 1312 was approved, together with corrections to its rules.

According to the details of this bill, all funds confiscated from the sale of and fines paid on smuggled goods which have been or will be confiscated by the government, as well as the rial value of foreign currency which has been or will be seized and confiscated must be deposited in a separate account which has been opened at the treasury for this purpose. The seized foreign currency will be placed at the disposal of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran so that its rial value can be deposited in the mentioned account.

According to Footnote No 1 of this bill, the government is allowed to keep a maximum of 30 percent of this sum, which according to the law is to be deposited into the treasury account, to be paid as reward to discoverers, informers, and law officers who have helped in the discovery of rials of foreign currency.

According to Footnote No 4 of this bill, the government is permitted to use 50 percent of the total sum of funds confiscated from narcotics smugglers by the revolution courts or by the public courts to pay informers, discoverers, and law officers and the special investigation division for their use.

CSO: 4640/400

ARMENIAN PRELATE INSPECTS WORK IN AHVAZ

GF201848 Tabriz Domestic Service in Armenian 1730 GMT 20 Feb 85

[Text] His Grace Archbishop Goryun Babian, prelate of Armenian diocese of Esfahan and the south, who is visiting Khuzestan Province, yesterday inspected the work of Armenian craftsmen in Ahvaz who had been dispatched from Tehran and acquainted himself with their services on the fronts of the imposed war. During the visit, which was also attended by Mr Baghumian, representative of the Armenians of the south at the Majlis, a person responsible for the Armenian craftsmen explained their various technical services to the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At the conclusion of the visit, the holy father explained in an interview with a correspondent of the Central News Agency the sacrifices of the Armenian brothers on the battle fronts as an example of the participation of the Iranian-Armenians in the struggle against the Zionist Ba'th Party of Iraq. The representative of the Armenians in the south noted that so far 53 armenians have been killed and many wounded on the battlefronts and stated that centers have been allocated at the churches to collect public aid and dispatch it to the fronts.

CSO: 4605/88

BRIEFS

NAJAF ROAD CONSTRUCTION--Engineer Nejad Hoseynian the minister of road and transport, visited the construction site of the Najaf road department which is in charge of constructing strategic roads, and the reconstruction and new construction of the war region roads in the west of the country. Based on the report of IRNA, the development under secretary of the Bakhtaran governor general's office and the general manager of road and transport of Bakhtaran Province accompanied the minister of road and transport on this trip. They visited the reconstruction and newly built asphalt and bridge construction sites of Qasr-e Shirin, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab Direh, Gilan -e Qarb, and Vije Nan in the cities of Sar-e Pol-e, Qasr-e Shirin and Gilan-e Qarb and praised the efforts of the officials of the Najaf road department which has constructed and asphalted over 200 kilometers of the region's roads in a short time. In this trip the general director of road and transport of Bakhtaran Province stated in a report: "During the current year this office has spent 264.3 million rials for 8 bridge construction projects and the leveling and gravelling of 100 kilometers of secondary roads. [Text] [Tehran BURS in Persian 23 Dec 84 p 2] 9815

MAZANDARAN AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY--During the past nine months over 16,137 pieces of heavy and light agricultural machinery has been distributed by the agricultural machinery and tools distribution unit of the reconstruction crusade of Mazandaran Province to farmers of this region to help improve agricultural production. According to IRNA, in order to execute the country's agricultural policy with attention to Mazandaran province as a main pole of the economic axis during the mentioned time, 140,264 tractors and tires, 164,389 different kinds of belts, 5,147 spare parts, 8,249 spools of special yarn for reaper and straw collecting machinery, 1,235 kilograms of fireproof yarn, 5,548 disk blades and different kinds of trailer jacks were distributed by the agricultural machinery and tools distribution unit of the reconstruction crusade of the Mazandaran province to the farmers of this region. According to this report 5,622 units of the mentioned agricultural machinery and tools containing heavy and basic agricultural machinery like combines, agricultural and garden tractors, trailers, threshers and corn reapers and 10,650 pieces included different kinds of spare motors and various sprays, fertilizer sprays, plough shares, disks and other kinds of agricultural tools. It is worth mentioning that the total distributed agriculture machinery and tools by the agricultural machinery and tools distribution unit of Mazandaran province during last year has been over 14,200 pieces of machinery and tools. [Text] [Tehran BURS in Persian 26 Dec 84 p 5] 9815

120 IRAQI TROOPS KILLED--Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Pr., 21 February, IRNA--Reports reaching here say more than 120 Iraqi soldiers have been killed over the past 7 days in fighting between Kurdish guerrillas and Iraqi troops. Fighting is still continuing in the highlands in northern Iraq, the reports said. The Kurds have carried out a series of raids against government troops in the Zakhu, Sulaymaniyah, and Halabjah areas, inflicting heavy human and material losses. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 21 Feb 85 LD]

ENDOWMENT PROPERTIES LEASED TO OCCUPANTS--Shemiran--KEYHAN reporter--Endowments generate a worthwhile economic roel in the society and researches and scholars have not yet studied the full economic effects of endowment on the society. Endowment produces a financial source and economic reserve for the society and is the answer to many needs. The endowers through their financial will administer the society and those who have endowed their property have not died in poverty. Since they were providers during their lives, they are providers after their death which is life itself. Hojjat ol-Eslam Nezamzadeh the imam's representative to the endowment organization on the second day of the seminar for studying the revival of the nation's endowments in announcing the above subject added: "The endower makes endowments but he passes away; the endower is now a stranger to the endowed property and it becomes the capital of the people's treasury and the endower does not have the right to defloration or drawing." He added: "In 1970 the public terror of the endowment properties started. But a number of people did not permit the endowment property to be plundered and even most of the farmers propounded that they were daily wage workers of the endowment organization and representatives of the public prosecutor signed in their place. Now the endowment organization wants to revive the Islamic culture and responsible authorities must use their efforts to protect honestly and efficiently and the endowment revenue must be used for the poor." He stated: "The custodians and officials of the endowment organization are the deputies of the endowers and carry heavy responsibilities on their shoulders." The imam's representative to the endowment organization in the continuation of his speech stated: "The endowment properties will be leased to occupants without putting them up to the highest bidder and it is suggested to the specialist that they do not charge high rent to the occupants. Although this question needs time it must be enforced rapidly." Then the questions and problems of execution of the laws for voiding ownership deeds of the endowed properties in the previous regime were discussed and views exchanged. /Text/ /Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 85 p 3/ 9815

OIL AGREEMENT WITH SWEDEN--Stockholm, 23 February, IRNA--Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili, said here Friday that according to an agreement signed between representatives of the Iranian Oil Ministry and officials of the Volvo group, the latter will buy 250-million-dollars worth of oil from Iran during the current year. With the Volvo group purchase of Iranian oil, Iran will export a 400-million-dollar worth of its oil to Sweden during the year, Kazempur-Ardabili added. Kazempur-Ardabili, deputy foreign minister for economic and international affairs, described present economic ties between Iran and Sweden as "positive" and added that there were many other avenues to be explored for the expansion of bilateral cooperation. Agreements similar to the one concluded with the Volvo group are expected to be signed between the Iranian delegation and other Swedish oil companies, Kazempur-Ardabili said. [Excerpts] [Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT 23 Feb 85 LD]

COMMENTS ON ARMS, ENDING WAR--Quetta, 9 February--Iran's Ambassador Mahmud Musavi said that during the course of the war with Iraq, Iran obtained some arms from the open market, as well as some manufactured by the Iranians themselves. Other weapons were those seized from the Iraqis during the war. In a press conference here he said: Iran's economic conditions in the war has improved instead of worsening. Last year's industrial production increased 27 percent. He added: Iran's three conditions to end the war are that Iraqi forces withdraw from Iranian territory, Iran should be paid war reparations, and the Ba'th Party should be removed from power in Iraq. He said: There are 15 Lakh Afghan refugees in Pakistan who can live freely here and who have had camps set up for them. Iran has not taken any aid from any organization or country for them and they have enough arms for themselves. [Article by a staff correspondent] [Text] [Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 10 Feb 85 p 1 GF]

SPREAD OF NARCOTICS DISCUSSED--Mr Nateq-Nuri, minister of interior, yesterday met with political officers of all governors general offices. During the first session of their meeting, Mr Nateq-Nuri commented on the vast programs of the world oppressors aimed at the destruction of the Islamic Revolution by spreading drugs and said: The spread of narcotics throughout society is not an automatic phenomenon. Rather, the enemy has made a huge investment in it and at present the big question is how to stop the spread of heroin usage in our society. Mr Nateq-Nuri added: The enemy, because of its lack of success in the imposed war, has now started to spread addiction throughout our society. We must destroy through legal and military means this sinister plot as much as we can. [Excerpts] [Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 28 Jan 85 p 9]

WARRIORS LEAVE FOR FRONT--Continuing the vast flow of our self-sacrificing people to the battlefronts of the war of justice against injustice, over the past 2 days a large party of self-sacrificing Basi'ji and members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Bushehr Province, and the cities of Shiraz, (Behshahr), Qa'emshahr Birjand, Bokruyeh, (Isham), Kashmar, Semnan, Shahrud, Damghan, (Garmsal), and (Mahsusar) set off for the war regions. Another large group of Jihad-waging expert brothers including [words indistinct], ironsmiths, drivers, and (?relief workers), set off for the western war regions from the headquarters for the support of the war of the reconstruction Jihad in Damghan. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Feb 85 LD]

PNEUMATIC COMPRESSOR PRODUCED--Arak, Central Pr., 24 February, IRNA--An official of Krupp companies said here today that a prototype pneumatic compressor for loading and off-loading cereal and other materials had been designed by Iranian engineers and manufactured in Iran with a total capital expenditure of 35 million rials (dls 364,000). The components of the prototype compressor have been built in Iran. The compressor can off-load and reload as much as 27 tons of cement or other powders. The compressor is mounted on a bunker and is expected to be mass produced in the future for export to Middle East countries. Since last spring the Krupp factories produced about 100 bunkers. Next year the factories are expected to produce about 250 to 300 bunkers saving about 1.5 billion rials (dls 16m) in foreign exchange for Iran. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 24 Feb 85 LD]

LEADER SPEAKS AGAINST CURBS ON ELECTIONEERING

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Feb 85 p 8

[Text]

KARACHI, Feb. 4: Kunwar Qutbuddin, Chief Organiser, defunct Pakistan Muslim League (Pagara Group) has demanded relaxation in restrictions on electioneering as in his opinion the imposition of Sec. 144, and curb on the use of loud-speakers have cast doubts on the entire electoral process.

Addressing a news conference here this afternoon, he said there were lakhs of voters in a constituency and it was well-nigh impossible to meet them and convey to them the candidates' message without proper meetings and without the use of loud-speakers. He demanded withdrawal of Sec. 144, and permission for the use of "at least megaphone, if not the loud-speakers."

He also emphasised the need for opening the doors of Radio and Television to all candidates and said this could make up for the disadvantage being faced by the candidates owing to the ban on meetings and loud-speakers.

He also accused the Ministers and Shooras members of using their official influence and means for their own election campaign. On a query, he said they were "misusing official transport and other facilities".

He asked the authorities to appoint a committee to investigate and restrain the Ministers and Shooras members from "election malpractices".

He demanded re-introduction of the National Identity Cards as a measure to prevent bogus voting.

Asked what were his prospects of winning the election, he said in his constituency the main contest was between himself and a Jamaat-e-Islami Shooras member and provincial Minister Jaganwala, and he thought he would win because he had the support of "ahle sunnat" and "pro-PPP members" - both against the Jamaat and the Shooras.

He also referred to the threats he alleged he was receiving on telephone saying "you should remember the fate of Zahurul Hasan Bhopali". He said he had already written a letter to the Home Secretary and the Divisional Engineer, Telephone in this connection.

Asked why he was contesting the polls on non-party basis when he was associated with a political party, he replied, "I believe in democracy and think democracy should be restored whether on party or non-party basis."

CSO: 4600/280

BENAZIR SAYS REGIME 'NOT DISPOSED TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Maleeha Lodhi]

[Text] LONDON, Jan. 27--Miss Benazir Bhutto, acting Chairperson of the PPP, has declared that the people of Pakistan will boycott the coming 'selections' because "our people want democratic and representative government which ensures that the wealth of Pakistan is equitably distributed, the people have a just share in the federation and the sense of deprivation of the smaller provinces is removed".

In an exclusive interview with "The Muslim" on telephone, Miss Bhutto, who is in France, said that the Government was "spreading all sorts of false stories" about an alleged dialogue between itself and the opposition.

Vehemently denying there was any basis for such stories, she said "the PPP is the major component of the MRD, and if any dialogue had taken place, the PPP would have known about it." She stated that the Government considered the MRD as "the biggest obstacle to its plan to consolidate a system based on exploitation of man by man" and "not to return the country to democracy". "There is", she stressed, "no question of the regime preparing the ground for a dialogue". Even now military trials continue, political workers remain in detention and fresh arrests are taking place of political leaders like Nawabzada Nasrullah, Malik Qasim, Rao Rashid and others. She said she strongly condemned these arrests.

Miss Bhutto explained that "on the question of my return to Pakistan, which I was planning in order to campaign for a boycott of the "selections" and for which I issued instructions to Karachi, the regime intercepted my message and had 70 Clifton surrounded by troops and ordered special security alert at Karachi airport. These actions are a clear indication of the regime's intention to arrest me. This hardly suggests that it is interested in creating a conducive atmosphere".

Answering a question about what the MRD's next move should be, Miss Bhutto said "the MRD is now contemplating an active boycott of selections"--and she laid stress on the word "active". According to her, "the regime has found itself in a weaker position after the MRD's successful appeal for a boycott of

the Referendum". "This," she said, "has put the Government in a state of panic. All its plans to divide the opposition have failed and it is now worried that it may again be repudiated by the ballot box".

Commenting on her 15 minutes conversation on telephone with Asghar Khan last week, Miss Bhutto said that "an important meeting was taking place and I was anxious to know what was the outcome. The military regime had hoped to divide the opposition by allowing certain people to contest the selection. They failed. When I telephoned, Asghar Khan gave me the good news that total unity was displayed at the MRD meeting and the opposition had taken a united stand"

Asked how she felt about the move directed at turning the MRD into an election alliance, Miss Bhutto said she was unaware that any such formal move had been made. Describing the issue as premature "since there is no democracy and no elections", she added that "the MRD charter clearly envisaged that the constituent parties keep their separate identities and programmes".

Asked if she had full confidence in Mr. Jatoi, she answered",I have full confidence in all our leaders, including Mr. Jatoi, who has ably represented the PPP in the MRD and who made tremendous sacrifices during the MRD movement in 1983". Miss Bhutto is due to leave for Abu Dhabi next week to consult with Pakistanis there and to attend the wedding of General Imtiaz's daughter on Feb. 2.

CSO: 4600/278

PAKISTAN TO APPROACH WORLD AGENCIES FOR PRISONERS IN ISRAEL

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 9 Feb 85 p 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Feb 8: The Secretary General of the OIC Sharifuddin Pirzada said here on Thursday that his Secretariat will make approach to international agencies for an early release of Pakistani and Palestinian prisoners of war from Zionist jails.

Talking to the newsmen before his departure for Istanbul in the early hours yesterday, he said that he had instructed his Secretariat to gather the details of those Pakistani and Palestinian prisoners of war which were captured by the Zionist troops from Lebanon in 1982.

Pirzada, who had a marathon meeting with Pakistan President Zia-ul-Haq here on Wednesday night, said he had appraised President Zia on his meeting with President Ershad of Bangladesh on the question of Gulf War and OIC's future initiatives for ceasefire. He said since President Zia and President Ershad were the members of Ummah's peace meeting, therefore, a consultation with these two heads of state was all the more essential.

In reply to a question he said that this time he has noticed encouraging and positive approach in the Iranian attitude towards the Gulf war.

Referring to the fresh efforts he said, "our job is to solve the problem gradually — firstly we are working on the exchange of prisoners of war from Iran and Iraq, secondly we are trying to persuade both the warring countries to refrain from the use of chemical weapons and thirdly our aim is that two Islamic countries should also desist from attacking each other's economic targets.

RELEASE OF REPORT ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR FALL OF DHAKA DEMANDED

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 24 Dec 84 pp 9, 10

[Article by Yunus Khalish: "Release the Report on the Fall of Dhaka"]

[Text] The fall of Dhaka shocked and moistened the eyes of every Pakistani. The whole country was saddened when this heart-breaking news was received here. Every person was drowned in sorrow. Losing a part of our country was analogous to losing our heart. Had the country known the culprit who was responsible for losing East Pakistan, that person would have been beheaded publicly--people were that upset at the time. Time is the best healer. Old wounds healed. People became busy in their routine, and everything was forgotten. Now perhaps we do not even remember that once East Pakistan was part of our country.

It is said that King Faisal was greatly affected by this tragedy. He was depressed for almost 3 years. When asked why he was crying over a tragedy that most Pakistanis had already forgotten, he replied that he was shedding tears over the fact that our countrymen had lost their sensitivity also.

Mr Bhutto came to power after East Pakistan was lost. In his first speech he announced that he had appointed Mr Humoodur Rahman as chairman of a commission to investigate the reasons for the fall of Dhaka. The commission was composed of three judges--Humoodur Rahman, Mr Justice Anwarul Haq and Mr Justice Tufail Ali Abdur Rahman. Mr Bhutto promised his countrymen that this report would be made public to unmask the criminals who had caused the fall of Dhaka. This commission finished its report in 1972 and presented it to the former prime minister. People expected the publication of this report after a while, but Mr Bhutto refused to do so, explaining that its publication would affect our foreign relations.

The nation and newspapers continued to demand publication of the report so that the country might lick its wounds. The government, however, kept quiet. The country knew that it was futile to expect the person who started the slogan "We stay here and you stay there" and who threatened elected legislatures with dismemberment if they visited Dhaka to publish this report.

The continuous hesitancy in publication of the commission's report made people think that Mr Bhutto did not want the facts made public because he was

involved in the fall of Dhaka. During this period, Mr Justice Tufail Ali, one of the commission members, died. Mr Anwarul Haq and the late Humoodur Rahman had kept personal copies of the report. Mr Bhutto's assistants, however, took these copies from them on one or another pretext. When the commission was dissolved in 1972, every document connected with it was destroyed. Mr Justice Anwarul Haq informed IMROZ that at the beginning of this commission, they (Anwarul Haq and Humoodur Rahman) were assured that the government was arranging publication of the report and was in need of their copies. When they asked why their copies were needed when they had already submitted all documents to the government, they were told that the document was of an historical nature and could not be sent to the printers. When they tried to delay giving up their copies of the report, they were accused of sending one copy to India for publication there. Mr Justice Humoodur Rahman had said that he submitted all copies to the government in the hope that the report would be published. The government, however, never kept its promise.

When Justice Humoodur Rahman was asked if he suspected the government of doctoring the report, he said that he could answer only when the government published the report. "For this reason, Anwarul Haq and I want this report published during our lifetime. We could then certify to its authenticity."

When General Zia came to power, he was asked by the press to publish the report. The president announced at a press conference that the report contained exactly the same information that Altaf Husain Qureshi had published in URDU DIGEST in the article titled "The Curtain Goes Up on the Fall of Dhaka."

It is commonly believed that the Humoodur Rahman commission blamed the former prime minister for the fall of Dhaka. For this reason, he did not allow the facts to be revealed. Another source believes that had the commission blamed military personnel and politicians for the fall of Dhaka, Mr Bhutto would have made the report public in no time. There is another viewpoint. Mr Bhutto could have used this report to falsely accuse his rivals and enemies and send them to prison camps like the infamous Dulai Camp. Unmasking the involved politicians in context with this report would have given Bhutto an opportunity to purge his enemies. It is believed that Mr Bhutto played an important role in the loss of East Pakistan. Now that Bhutto has died and the government is controlled by General Zia, he must have studied the report. If Bhutto could be tried for murder he could also have been tried for the fall of Dhaka. Thus, we can believe that Mr Bhutto was not accused of losing East Pakistan. In this respect, the following news item in MUSAWAT deserves attention.

When the government demanded copies of the Humoodur Rahman commission report on the fall of East Pakistan, the BBC quoted Bhutto's daughter, Benazir Bhutto, in its Islamabad correspondent Simon Henderson's dispatch. According to this report, it was requested that either this report (the commission's) be kept totally secret or only some excerpts be published. There would have been unrest in either case. In any case, Pakistanis could not object to the publication of some excerpts. If the entire report were to be published, relations with India and other countries would have to be kept in mind. At

that time, the government rejected earlier reports that all copies of the commission's report had been destroyed during the Bhutto era.

It is true that Mr Bhutto did not publish this report and backed out of his promise. This led to the belief that this report accused Mr Bhutto and some important political and military officers of losing East Pakistan. People believe that Mr Bhutto had an important role in the establishment of Bangladesh because Mr Bhutto was slighted in the one Pakistan by Shiekh Mujibur Rahman. Mr Bhutto wanted absolute power in the government.

On 2 February 1978, the BBC announced in its editorial program that Benazir Bhutto had told their Islamabad correspondent that her father was not willing to give the Humoodur Rahman commission report to the martial law government unless the former chief justice of Pakistan attested to the authenticity of the report. The BBC correspondent reported that some government officials had admitted that not all copies of the report had been destroyed.

This report is linked to a very important time in Pakistan. Since this report is of a legal nature, its contents will be highly believable. The former prime minister had promised to publish it, but he backed out of this promise for fear that it might harm foreign relations.

We cannot say if the present government wants to publish this report or not. The fact remains that our countrymen are eager to learn about the causes of the fall of Dhaka. This report, however, has become a puzzle with time. People get excited whenever its name is mentioned.

There is another report. When Bhutto lost his seat of power, a British writer who had been working at the Foreign Office for over 6 months reportedly disappeared with a photo copy of the Humoodur Rahman report. Mr Bhutto had appointed that well-known British writer to that job himself to write a book on the fall of Dhaka. This book was supposed to prove that Mr Bhutto had nothing to do with the fall of Dhaka. That writer was studying highly secret files in the Foreign Office. He not only took important files with him but also a photo copy of the Humoodur Rahman report. The late Malik Ghulam Jelani had said in an interview that Ghulam Ishaq Khan was aware of the purpose for which that British author was working. He had seen a copy of the commission's report with the help of that British author.

Malik Ghulam Jilani also reported that Yahyah Khan had taken full blame for the fall of Dhaka in his statement to the court. He also said that the court had exonerated Mr Bhutto of responsibility for the fall of Dhaka. Malik Ghulam Jilani was the only politician who had read the Humoodur Rahman commission report and also obtained a photo copy of it from the British writer. We can depend on his statement. Mr Jilani admitted that several people in our country were responsible for the loss of Dhaka. According to the report that he read, several of Mr Bhutto's associates were accused in this regard. Mr Bhutto was unwilling to unmask his associates, no matter what the cost. That is why he did not allow publication of this report while he was in power. When he fell from power, there was no need to protect his friends. That is when his own newspapers began to demand publication of the report.

There is another group of people who think that this report was not valid. Mr Wali Khan has expressed his concern in some of his interviews. This writer interviewed Wali Khan in May 1982. In answer to a question, Mr Khan said that the commission's report was biased. It should be kept in mind that this commission had also taken Wali Khan's statement. Wali Khan had read the court copy later and was surprised to see that most of his statement was changed drastically. He recorded another statement and had a copy validated in the court. He had personally given a copy of his statement to Humoodur Rahman and had commented to him that he (Rahman) should be ashamed of what was happening because he was a judge. In response, Mr Rahman had hung his head in shame. The late Mr Jilani had also expressed his doubts about the report. It is depressing to know that some politicians suspect and challenge the integrity of this report.

Two of the commission members have died. Justice Anwarul Haq is the only one alive. It behooves Mr Haq to inform our people of the facts and tell us how correct those politicians are in suspecting this report. Pakistan's legal system is looked up to with respect and every intelligent citizen of our country trusts this institution. Our countrymen would be grateful to Mr Haq if he could talk and help maintain that faith in our system of justice.

The government should explain everything to the people. The nation needs to know who was responsible for the fall of Dhaka--who were our people and who were our enemies, who and where were these conspiracies hatched? These criminals will walk around happily if they are not unmasked. They will get involved in another conspiracy if they are not discouraged. It is our misfortune that people in other countries are knowledgeable about the Humoodur Rahman commission's report, but we Pakistanis are not. Who in our government will tell us about it and who will do his duty?

7997

CSO: 4656/71

NON-ALIGNMENT: IMPACT ON ECONOMY ANALYZED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27, 28, 29 Jan 85

[Article by Omar Asghar Khan]

[27 Jan 85 p 4]

[Text] Costs of Dependence

The area that makes up Pakistan is of great strategic importance to both the super powers. The Straits of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of the West's oil supplies move, are not too far from Pakistan. The northern parts of Pakistan consisting of the NWFP and Baluchistan while bordering with Iran and Afghanistan are close to the soft southern belly of the Soviet Union, inhabited by a population of Muslim ethnic origin. Besides its geographic location the fact that Pakistan has a fairly large military machine increases its importance in the eyes of the super powers. After the fall of the Shah in Iran and the pursuance of a militantly-nationalistic foreign policy by the Islamic fundamentalist regime of Imam Khomeini, Pakistan's significance has increased manifold. With the large Soviet presence in Afghanistan since 1979, Pakistan has been termed a 'front line state' by the United States.

It was only after the Soviet move into Afghanistan that Pakistan, which had been a fairly large recipient of U.S. assistance in the sixties, again found its strategic importance greatly enhanced. It has therefore received large amounts of aid from the West since 1979.

Afghan Issue

The people of Pakistan are not in favour of fighting any war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. This does not mean that they condone the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. Pakistan should try to create conditions for the Soviets to leave Afghanistan. The way to achieve this is not by becoming a pawn in the super power game but by negotiating with the Afghans and assuring them of Pakistan's strict neutrality. It is in Pakistan's national interest to resolve the Afghan problem by talking directly to the Afghan government.

Ever since partition, Pakistan has followed an unrealistic foreign policy. This has especially been so in its relations with Afghanistan. Short sighted

and one sided policies of successive governments have pushed the Afghans further away from Pakistan. Pakistan's unreasonable attitude towards Afghanistan whenever the latter has made a move for better relations was more befitting a super power than a newly independent state. In its relations with its neighbours Pakistan appeared to be set upon the course that was charted by the British Imperial government in the days of the 'raj'. Little did Pakistan's ruling elite realise that neither did they have an empire nor the resources to be able to afford pursuing an aggressive foreign policy. And if they thought that because of Pakistan's tilt towards the U.S. in its foreign policy, the country would be safe against external aggression, they were fooling themselves.

None of the security agreements between Pakistan and the U.S. have covered aggression against Pakistan by a non-communist power. This was because the United States could never agree to commit forces in defence of a country, however friendly, on the Asian mainland. In any case, it would be difficult for the U.S. to carry out military action successfully in a region where there is not much good-will for the United States: The imperatives of Pakistan's geographical position demand that it should not let itself be used as an extension of U.S. foreign policy in either the Gulf or in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union as this could prove costly to the stability of the state. Pakistan should therefore follow a policy of strict neutrality between the two super powers and deny its territory to either of them.

To consistently follow a genuinely non-aligned foreign policy within a long-term perspective certain fundamental changes not only at the political level but also at the socio-economic level would be necessary. To ensure that the country is put firmly on the path of a balanced foreign policy, far reaching economic changes will have to be initiated so that reliance on traditional western countries for trade and aid is reduced on the one hand and the control of feudal and comprador elements over institutions of state power is eliminated on the other. An essential element in such a politico-economic strategy would be to diversify and trade so that while preparing the ground for the development of a self reliant economy, the interference of donor countries and agencies in the formulation of economic policies is minimised and is eventually put to an end.

Although there has been some diversification in the geographical concentration of imports over the years, the share of Western countries (OECD) at 50 per cent of all imports to Pakistan is still fairly large. Imports from Japan at close to \$1 billion out of a total import bill of \$6 billion in 1983/84 were the largest amongst all countries. One of the reasons for Pakistan's dependence for imports on western countries is the tied nature of most of the aid that Pakistan receives. According to the government's figures, out of the total aid commitments so far of \$22.4 billion only 7 per cent was of an untied nature. The remaining 93 per cent, were confined to purchases from donor countries and was therefore of a tied nature.

'With Strings'

It is, however, important to bear in mind that the so-called, untied aid, termed 'unrestricted balance of payments support' in official parlance, in

actual fact, can hardly be viewed as free of strings. 94 per cent of all aid (loans and grants) received by Pakistan in 1982/83 were from western sources. The share of the U.S.A. in total bilateral (country to country) aid which was 40 per cent in 1982/83 was the largest among donor countries. U.S. Bilateral aid to Pakistan after having reached a peak during the Second Plan (1960-65) period, had dropped considerably in the Seventies and in 1978/79 was at its lowest at 18 per cent of total bilateral aid. The share Western countries in total aid received by Pakistan after having fallen to 52 per cent in the mid seventies had once again in the mid eighties reached the level of the sixties a time when Pakistan was considered one of the most 'allied ally' of the West. The increasing control that international financial institutions such as the I.M.F. and World Bank have come to exercise over the formulation of economic policies in the country is brought out by the increase in the share of multilateral-aid in total aid contracted from all sources by Pakistan. While the share of multilateral aid in total aid was 16 per cent in 1973-74, it had increased to 43 per cent in 1982-83. All multilateral aid in 1982-83 was from the World Bank. Prior to this, the I.M.F. was an important source of multilateral aid. But after the disbursement of the \$1.7 billion aid package by the I.M.F. over the three year period 1980-83, the World Bank has come to occupy a more important position as Pakistan's main source of multilateral aid.

External control and influence over economic policies in Pakistan was at its peak in the late fifties when under the garb of the 'Harvard Advisory Group' a team of American experts literally formulated and executed Pakistan's Five Year Plan (1960-65). Although development and growth over the first half of the decade, according to Western capitalistic standards was impressive, and Pakistan was acclaimed a 'model of development' the economy did not fare so well over the second half of the decade. Due to a slow-down in foreign aid inflows, growth over the second half of the decade was not so rapid. It was during this period of stagnation following the Indo-Pak war of 1965 that United States interest in Pakistan waned.

Diversification

Although there was a diversification of sources of aid from almost total reliance on the U.S.A. in the sixties to an increasing importance of non-traditional sources (Muslim countries especially Iran and Arab countries) in the seventies, development strategy by and large conformed rather closely, except for some digression in industrial policy, to the I.M.F. World Bank framework. After the havoc caused by U.S. sponsored development strategy based on growthmanship in the sixties, it was only natural for the U.S. to maintain a low profile by allowing the U.S. sponsored World Bank and I.M.F. to assume 'responsibility' for Pakistan's economic development. Whether it was was 1972 I.M.F. package which led to the unprecedented devaluation of 130 per cent, the 1980 three year I.M.F. Extended Fund Facility, or more recently consortium aid, sponsored by the World Bank, the public interest has consistently been ignored. I.M.F. and World Bank conditionality which have accompanied loans from these institutions have imposed a heavy burden on the people, and the economy has not been permitted to move towards the goal of self-sustaining growth.

The costs of loans from these international financial institutions have been expressed in the form of rising prices of fertilizer, wheat and pesticide (due to the withdrawal of subsidies), increased unemployment (as a result of cut backs in public sector investment) and a squeeze on wages. The 'Structural Adjustment Loan' approved by the World Bank to Pakistan in 1983 laid down that fertilizer subsidy should be withdrawn by mid 1985 and all pesticide subsidies should be discontinued by the end of 1983. Another feature of the World Bank package was the introduction of user charges for water. Over the period 1978-79 to 1981-82 irrigation water charges were raised by 75 per cent. Federal and Provincial government subsidies were reduced on wheat from Rs. 1757 million in 1979-80 to Rs. 1121 million in 1982-83 and on fertilizer from Rs. 2454 million to 1720 million. The subsidy on edible oils and plant protection which amounted to Rs. 884 million and 218 million respectively in 1979-80 were completely withdrawn by 1982-83. It is interesting to note that while the subsidies on agricultural commodities like wheat and edible oils as well as on inputs like fertilizer and pesticides have been reduced or withdrawn, government expenditure on defence has doubled from Rs. 12655 million in 1979-80 to Rs. 25219 million in 1983-84.

Due to excessive borrowing from Western countries Pakistan has accumulated a foreign debt of over 12 billion dollars, which is close to 35 per cent of the country's income. The country pays back in debt servicing over a billion dollars annually to donor countries and agencies. As a result of an increase in debt servicing obligations, net aid as a proportion of gross aid has fallen from 70 per cent in the mid seventies to less than 10 per cent presently.

Debt Servicing

Out of total gross aid disbursements of \$6904 million over the period 1974-75 to 1980-81 \$4136 or almost 60 per cent was returned to donors as debt servicing. Had debt relief not been provided during this period, a higher proportion of gross aid would have been allocated for debt servicing, thus reducing the net availability of foreign aid. However, relief in the form of a moratorium on debt servicing obligations has gradually shrunk from 38 per cent of annual maturities in 1974-75 to 12 per cent in the early eighties. Besides the shift in the composition of foreign economic assistance from grant-type assistance, which does not involve repayment, towards loans there has been a shift from soft loans repayable in non-convertible rupees towards hard loans repayable in foreign exchange, thus placing a burden on the country's meagre foreign exchange earnings.

Most aid received by Pakistan has been tied to both source and utilisation, with the result that credit purchases under most aid agreements have been made by Pakistan at above average world prices. Since major donor countries like the U.S. have traditionally preferred to finance a number of specific projects, rather than just one or two projects, they come to gain control over a large proportion of development expenditure. Not only does tied aid allow donor countries to increase their influence over the recipient country by virtue of their control over the manner in which aid is utilised, but it also imposes a financial burden on the recipient because of the monopoly position such aid confers on donors. Under the terms of such aid agreements since a

specific proportion of the goods and services have to be purchased from donor countries, suppliers in donor countries have been able to charge upto 170 per cent more than lowest quoted price on the international market. Higher prices charged by creditor/suppliers inflates not only the principal that has to be repaid but increases interest payments. This imposes a heavy burden on the recipient.

[28 Jan 85 p 4]

[Text] Pakistan's Pattern of Development

Pakistan's excessive dependence on foreign aid has been caused by the structure of economy and society inherited at the time of Partition as well as the pattern of economic development followed by the country since then. Pakistan's pattern of economic development has in turn been conditioned by the influence that sections of the ruling classes have exercised on the government. At the time of Partition there was hardly any industry in Pakistan and most manufactured commodities were imported. At the time of Partition therefore Pakistan inherited a feudal-dominated agrarian economy with hardly any industry. With the demand for manufactured goods being fairly high and diversified, there was considerable scope for investment in industry. Given the government's commitment to a laissez faire policy, its restrictive import policy, and the liberal inflows of United States aid, a favourable climate for private investment was created. Taking advantage of such a situation, a number of Muslim trading families who had moved to Pakistan from India or belonged to areas within the territories that made up Pakistan started investing in industry.

Merchant Capital

The transformation of merchant capital into industrial capital did not follow the classic laissez faire model of Western Europe, where there had been a protracted struggle at the economic, political, social and cultural levels between the feudal lords and the emerging industrial class. Whereas in the case of Western Europe at the time of the genesis of the modern nation state feudal power and influence had waned, in the case of Pakistan this was not so. The Pakistan Movement did not incorporate in it an anti-feudal programme, nor did the policies of successive governments since independence provide for meaningful land reforms.

After Partition, the commercial classes were not in the same socially and politically dominant position as the feudals, who wielded greater influence in their respective areas. The migrant trading classes, with their distinct ethnic and cultural identity did not really integrate into the socio-cultural milieu of the regions where they settled. Instead of checking the power of the feudals by developing alliances with the middle classes, the working classes and the peasantry, the trading classes, in their haste to transform themselves into industrialists, developed links with the bureaucracy with whose patronage and support they developed. Since the industrialists could influence the government's policies through contacts with the bureaucracy, they did not find it necessary to develop an independent political base by

challenging the hegemony of the feudals. As a result, large areas of feudal domination existed alongside of centres of capitalist activity. On the other hand, the feudals either directly controlled state power or through their links with the military-bureaucratic oligarchy, wielded influence over government policies. On the economic level such a structural relationship based on the coexistence of semifeudal and capitalist relations has given rise to an uneven pattern of development.

Rural Elite

The concentrated structure of land ownership which characterises Pakistan's agrarian structure and the accompanying consumption pattern of the rural elite leave few resources for productive investment. A large amount of resources are transferred from the rural to the urban areas in the form of luxury consumption by the feudal classes. A significant proportion of the luxury consumption of the rural elite is in the form of expensive imported times. Such wasteful consumption does not encourage the growth of domestic industry but rather diverts a significant proportion of foreign exchange resources from essential imports such as raw materials and capital goods. Besides the wasteful expenditure of the feudal and capitalist class, the maintenance of a large bureaucratic machine, which has historically proved its role as a protector of the status quo, consumes a large amount of resources. This leaves little for investment in productive and socially desirable programmes.

In 1984-85 the federal government's non-development budget (Rs. 70736 million) was double that of the development budget (Rs. 33290 million). The largest share of resources was taken up by the defence services for which Rs. 29191 million were budgeted. Adding to the defence budget the expenditures on administration, law and order and internal security raised the government's expenditure on itself to Rs. 32929 million or close to 50 per cent of the total current expenditure. Given the wasteful and non-productive expenditure incurred by an exploitative economic structure, foreign resource inflows have been needed to meet investment requirements.

Structural Changes

Dependent nature of Pakistan's economy is brought out by the fact that the share of the capital goods sector in total manufacturing value added to the large-scale manufacturing sector after having increased from 12 per cent in 1954/55 to 24 per cent in 1964/65, declined to 20 per cent in 1975/76 and has remained at that level since then.

The structural basis of a non-aligned foreign policy is the development of a self reliant economy. This would only be possible if the country were to develop a capital goods sector capable of producing machinery for industrial agricultural and defence purposes.

Western countries are often reluctant to help developing countries develop the capacities to produce machinery because this would constrict the market for a large proportion of their manufactured goods. The success of a self-reliant development strategy within the framework of a mixed economy would depend on

the extent to which the influence and control of dependent capitalist elements who are linked to metropolitan capital is curbed. Unless the politico-economic space presently occupied by these elements is filled by an alliance of small entrepreneurs, small farmers, the working class and the peasantry, the restructuring of economy and politics will remain an elusive goal.

The control and influence of these dependent elements over the economy is expressed through an intricate network of multinational corporations with part of their capital within the country and part of it abroad. The investment and market strategy of these corporations, some of which are partially owned and controlled by Pakistanis are dictated not by national considerations but by their over-all global strategy which is aimed at the maximisation of growth and profit. Besides large industrial houses, certain traditional feudal families have developed strong connections with metropolitan capital and are also involved in a number of joint ventures, which are being financed by international lending agencies. However, due to the uncertain political climate in the country and the lack of infrastructural facilities, MNC's have been reluctant to invest in a big way. The little investment that has taken place has, however, been of a capital intensive nature with little benefit to the local economy.

The capital intensive nature of most of the projects being set up by MNC's would only aggravate the unemployment problem. A large number of these projects are being set up by U.S. multinational corporations. The capital intensive nature of these investments can be gauged from the hatchery that Agro-Associates of West Hartford has installed with a capacity of 100,000 chicks per week.

Foreign Assistance

Value of this new investment in terms of equipment and building amounts to \$250000. The new hatchery will employ only 15 workers. In a joint venture which another American MNC has entered with Saudi-Pak investment, a poultry feed project is to be set up outside Lahore with a 300,000 tone capacity. The investment will total \$1.5 million and will create jobs at the feed mill for 40 people.

In the Multan-Sukkur area Agro-associates in collaboration with Dekalb Inc, of Chicago will grow soya beans over 500 acres. In Sind, the Asian Development Bank in collaboration with local landlords is involved in finding a large livestock and dairy project. Such investments in large tracts of land and agro-based capital intensive projects would not only be labour displacing but would make it difficult for subsistence of farmers and small producers to compete with large conglomerates. In the absence of land reforms, a strategy based on seeking the assistance of multinationals and international funding agencies would only reinforce the highly concentrated land ownership structure that characterises Pakistan's rural area.

[29 Jan 85 p 4]

[Text] Pakistan's Agrarian Structure

In recent years the trend towards large scale farming has resulted in a more concentrated land ownership structure on the one hand and an increase in landlessness among the rural poor on the other. A comparison of the 1980 Agricultural census with the census of 1972 reveals a polarisation in the size distribution of farms with the number of small holdings (below 5 acres) increasing from 28 per cent of the total in 1972 to 34 per cent in 1980. On the other hand, the area cultivated by small farmers increased only marginally from 5 per cent to 7 per cent. Large farmers (50 acres and above), whose holdings made up only 2 per cent of total farm area, controlled 24 per cent of farm area.

On the other hand, small farms (25 acres and less), which constituted 92 per cent of total holdings, had only 60 per cent of the total farm area. The trend towards self cultivation has been accompanied by mechanisation which in turn has resulted in the displacement of family labour by hired labour. This has been caused by mechanisation and a resumption of previously rented out land by large farmers for self cultivation. However, 48 per cent of the total farm area in 1980 was still tenant operated.

Mechanisation

Mechanisation and resumption of land by large farmers has resulted in an increase in landlessness among the rural population. Nonagricultural and landless labour who constituted less than 25 per cent of the total rural households increased to over 50 per cent in 1972. About one third of rural households in 1972 were landless. The rapid rate of tractorisation after 1972 and the resumption of land for cultivation by large farmers must have further increased landlessness in the rural areas. As a result of an increase in landlessness, the incidence of poverty and problems of malnutrition have become more acute over the years in Pakistan's rural areas. In a recent study based on data collected by the Planning Commission of Pakistan, poverty is more wide-spread among the non-farm rural population than among the farming population. While 35 per cent of the rural population were living below the poverty line (defined in terms of a minimum caloric intake necessary for subsistence) in 1977, the percentage of the rural poor had increased to close to 40 per cent in 1979.

So long as Pakistan's power structure remains intact, any attempt to restructure Pakistan's economy will not succeed. Only a far reaching land reform can alter the balance of power in favour of those elements whose interest would lie in developing a self-reliant economy. The fact that many in the power structure are drawn from the land owning elite and that members of each are awarded land grants establishes their strong vested interest in the status quo. The dependence of feudal interests on the bureaucratic machinery on the one hand and the close ties between Western powers on the other, ensures the perpetuation of a status quo in which neither can socio-economic restructuring be initiated nor a balanced foreign policy be followed.

As compared to the feudal elite and monopoly capitalist who have strong links with metropolitan capital, whose investments are spread across national boundaries, the small scale industrialist is far more nationalistic in his outlook. His investments are invariably concentrated within the country. In contrast to the monopoly capitalist he does not transfer his capital abroad. In other words the small entrepreneur has much more of a stake in the country. He is socially and culturally much more a part of the region in which he resides. However, in spite of the dynamic entrepreneurial spirit of the small producer, the small scale manufacturing sector has faced an unfavourable incentive structure and policy framework. Government policies have by and large favoured the large scale manufacturing sector at the cost of the small scale sector. Whether it has been credit, import policy, licences, etc, the big business houses, due to their contracts with the bureaucracy, have been able to manipulate economic policies in their favour. Such an extravaganza is beyond the means available to the small entrepreneur. He is therefore at a disadvantage in dealing with the bureaucracy and resents the manner in which the bureaucrat-big business link operates.

Whereas the small entrepreneurs have to rely almost entirely on their own funds or those mobilised from informal sources, the large business houses manage to finance their investments almost wholly from credit from state-controlled financial institutions. Such investments therefore have a very small risk element. Most of the investments in the large-scale manufacturing sector have a substantial foreign exchange component received as loans from international financial institutions like the World Bank. Besides placing a heavy burden on the country, these loans increase the control and influence of donor agencies over the formulation of economic policies in the country.

Inflation Rate

The phenomenal increase in the rate of inflation in recent years has increased manifold the cost of investment. Large plants in the fertilizer, cement and heavy machinery industries now cost upto half a billion dollars. It is not possible for a local entrepreneur, no matter how large he may be, to raise the funds necessary to set up such plants. In order to set up such industries, local entrepreneurs would have to either opt for large loans from state financial institutions such as PICIC or IDBP or invite foreign collaboration, in which case the control of multinationals over the domestic economy would increase.

In order to minimise the control of international lending agencies (e.g. World Bank), it is desirable that large projects be run as public sector enterprises. Whether such projects are in the steel, fertilizer, cement or textile industries, the criterion for placing them in the private or public sector should be the size of investment and the mode of financing and not the industry in which investment is to take place. If the project is very large and the bulk of investment is externally financed, there should be a strong case for it to be in the public sector.

In the case of Pakistan the choice of technology between labour intensive and capital intensive technologies within particular industries is limited by the

tied nature of most aid agreements. Under such aid agreements Pakistan has had to purchase the plant and machinery from the countries providing the aid. The technology transferred from Western donor countries under tied aid agreements is capital intensive and does not conform to the factor endowments of a developing country like Pakistan where labour is abundant and capital is scarce.

Linkages

In view of the linkages between the large scale and small scale manufacturing sectors, the health of the large scale manufacturing sector affects to a great extent the performance of the small scale sector. In order to ensure a ready supply of inputs at reasonable prices so as to provide a market to the burgeoning small scale manufacturing sector, an efficient public sector is most vital. The public sector can also play an important role in developing the technological base of the country. While encouraging the private sector to invest in small and medium scale projects, the public sector must play the leading role in setting up large and technologically sophisticated projects. The public sector must, however, be made to operate according to commercial criteria.

In the final analysis a country's foreign policy is determined by the balance of internal forces at a particular time. Along with Western powers, our indigenous ruling elites, have not permitted the country to embark on a truly non-aligned foreign policy. Unless their control over the reigns of government is loosened, it will be difficult for Pakistan to follow a genuinely non-aligned foreign policy.

CSO: 4600/278

CONSTITUTIONAL DARKNESS SEEN AS THREAT TO NATIONAL EXISTENCE

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 8 Jan 85 p 3

[Editorial: "How Can We Come Out of a Dark Tunnel?"]

[Text] In a conference on constitutional affairs held at the Karachi Press Club, former judge of the supreme court Mr Dorab Patel, analyzing the present constitutional situation in Pakistan, said that we are in a dark tunnel and are totally ignorant of the future. The fact of the matter is that whereas we intend to set forward anew on the legal and constitutional journey, even after more than 7 years of constitutional suspension, legal questions and constitutional dilemmas appear to be impinging on the nation's nerves, the reason being that the 1973 Constitution has not been restored in a clear and straightforward manner and the president has amendments in mind that are designed to satisfy him. What will these amendments be? In this regard, the nation knows nothing, nor is President Ziaul Haq's mind decisive and clear about them. Nevertheless, the point, which, to an extent, is a source of satisfaction, is that during his meeting with Mian Tufail Mohammad and in certain newspaper statements as well, the president has assured the nation that he will not make any amendments to the 1973 Constitution that could be construed as mutilating it.

Mr Dorab Patel rightly declared in this conference that the Supreme Court has not granted any authority to destroy the soul of the 1973 Constitution. At the time when a decision was reached in Nusrat Bhutto's case, it was made clear that the bases of the constitution would not be tampered with, and under the theory of necessity, the ordinances issued by the current administration would have to pass through the stages of judicial screening and approval. The statement made by Retired Justice Abdul Hafeez Maimun that the Supreme Court had declared the 1973 Constitution the country's supreme law is also totally correct. There should be no deviation from its stipulations, since we acquired it with great difficulty. The dangers and suspicions that live in the minds of the people regarding this constitution are based on political farsightedness and patriotism. Termination of the 1973 Constitution will be a strangling of constitutional life. Mr Abdul Hafeez has also stated correctly that the constitution should not be perceived merely as a book. It is a symbol of the country's integrity, prestige and honor. A nation that does not respect its constitution is dead. We wish to add just this much to the statements

issued by Mr Maimun, that God does not grant the right to live to a nation whose constitution is considered a plaything by its rulers and in which this situation is also tolerated by the people, or whose rulers keep on changing the constitution for their own power and interest, instead of molding themselves according to the constitution. If Pakistan's lawful and constitutional life is dear to us, there should be nothing of this sort. How very unfortunate we are that the constitutional experts of our country formulate constitutions for other countries, where they prove to be long-lasting, just as the example of Malaysia was cited at this conference. However, in Pakistan itself, whatever laws the constitutional experts and the representatives of the people made consecutively, none has been safe from being down-trodden. Our situation is like that of a traveler wandering in the darkness when, accidentally, the brightness of electricity provides him some light, but whose permanent fate is nothing but pitch darkness. This constitutional darkness that overshadows our entire constitutional history and the recurring unlawful and unconstitutional condition of ours is a threat to the national existence such that no sensible nation is prepared to tolerate even for one moment. We, however, have been afflicted by this situation for years and are made to suffer accordingly. If such a situation continues, our existence will certainly come to an end.

It is a great tragedy that even after 37 years of independence, constitutionally we are stuck in a dark tunnel. But what is more unfortunate and serious is that if once we escape from this dark tunnel, we will still never know when a new martial law might push us once again into another dark tunnel. After coming out of the tunnel, the bright and open environment may prove to be temporary and deceptive. To remedy this danger, the National Security Council's antidote is presented. But the point is that the constitution into which this prescription is entered will be declared defunct whenever the martial law so wishes or else it will be placed in a niche on the wall. What will the poor nation do then? Just as Retired Justice Fazal Ghani has said that the sword is mightier than the pen--and if the point of our sword has already been smeared with the blood of the law and the constitution, how can we be protected from the malice of this sword?

In this regard, certain individuals put their hopes in the courts. But circumstances and experience have proved that this hope, too, is not at all effective. Although in every era our courts have performed their responsibilities, nevertheless, according to Mr Fazal Ghani, the task that needs to be performed by the political leaders and parties cannot be accomplished by the courts. For political tasks, political people must throw off their bonds and come out. To come out does not at all mean that whenever a signal is given from behind the curtain we sound the bugle of a democratic movement and take to the streets, and after bringing about a new martial law, return happily to our respective homes. Instead, we will have to adopt, in the true meaning of the word, a political attitude, which means to pursue political work in the country on the people's level. We should organize the people, create self-confidence in them and give them political consciousness and education. All this, however, cannot be achieved with the shouting of slogans. The first condition for this is that the

intellectual element in the political parties be given importance and the false gold and silver figures of politics be gotten rid of so as to bring forward those new individuals who can inculcate in the nation the love and passion for a certain goal and whose aim is not personal or collective gain or conflict. Instead, through democratic and political education, they make the nation an indomitable power that proves not to be an easy victim for any oppressive and coercive power, and such that the might of the sword is not felt on the neck of the nation but rather becomes its helping hand. Since the political parties have evaded this basic political task, they have never been strong enough to stop the enforcement of any martial law and to make them recognize that political life of the country that exists independent of them. It is an unfortunate reality that those capable of politics are weak, while the swordsmen are powerful. Politics now appears to be a slave girl in their homes. Traditional political agitation cannot perform the task of altering this situation. In order to create in the people a love and attachment to democracy, we will have to bring about an intellectual revolution. At present, the situation is that, leaving aside the common people, the high class and the educated people also are not clear about the importance and necessity of democracy. As long as one living democratic idea of the nation is not erected, no democratic system will come into existence, and even if it did, it would prove to be only transitory. On the other hand, our rulers should also understand that law, politics and journalism should all be granted freedom. Because, as Mr Fakharudin Ji Ibrahim has said, if the path of peaceful process is closed, the people will take the course of excessiveness, and the country will thus become a cemetery. It is indeed a sad thing that we call our for Islam and the enforcement of Islam, while justice and fairness are bound with the shackles and chains of restrictions. People are deprived of the right to receive justice from the courts. Retired Justice Mohammad Ali very truly said at the conference that the judiciary is the conscience of the nation. There should be neither intervention in this conscience nor suppression through the burden of restrictions.

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CSO: 4656/75

PIR PAGARA, AKBAR BAGTI, POLITICAL PARTY ACTIONS REPORTED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 10 Dec 84 p 3

[Feature: "Lahore: Political Diary" by Hafiz Abdul Khaliq]

[Text] It is not out of place to call the 56th birthday of Pir Pagara, head of the defunct Muslim League, the beginning of the election campaign. The birthday celebrations held at the residence of Makhdoom Zada Hassan Mahmoud, Pagara's brother-in-law and senior vice-president of the Muslim League, at Gulbarg were seen as overwhelming from the standpoint that the participants included not only the top-ranking League leaders but at the same time many former judges; Khwaja Mohammad Safdar, chairman, as well as many members of the Advisory Council; and the minister of Punjab.

Pir Pagara's position right from the beginning has been that the Muslim League will participate in the elections in whatever form they are held, but an influential group inside the Muslim League has opposed this. In their addresses, speakers [at the birthday party] presented strong arguments in support of their stand, creating the impression that the Muslim League has not made up its mind in this matter. But Pir Pagara, expressing indignation at the state of affairs in his address, said that the chapter that had been closed should not be reopened because this would cause confusion in the ranks of the workers. He made it clear in unambiguous terms that the people who would like to contest the elections should send their names to us so that we can see which candidates can be delivered.

During the course of the celebrations, some responsible speakers gave the impression that the Muslim League was really about to form the government. Kanwar Qutbuddin, chief organizer of the Muslim League, went so far as to say that Pir Pagara's 57th birthday cake, to be presented by the cabinet, will be cut in the assembly. That same evening, when talks were held with Kanwar Qutbuddin on the same subject during a reception, he said that the Muslim League is a party of the big people who believe in drawing-room politics compared with field politics. He said that vested interests are in the majority and as long as they are hopeful that the Muslim League will form the government they will remain in the League, and so to keep the League firmly established, such talks are indispensable.

Pir Pagara has been insisting for many years now that when a political government is formed it be a Muslim League government. He has repeatedly pointed to the philosophy underlying this policy. His repeated assertions about the Muslim League forming the government have influenced not only the landlords but also the ministers in Punjab. During Pir Pagara's stay in Lahore many provincial ministers who met him asked him to nominate and support them because they were Muslim Leaguers. The six provincial cabinet ministers who have announced their desire to contest the elections include Mian Salahuddin, Nawaz Sharif, Chaudhry Abdul Ghafoor, Hamid Nasir Chatha, Rafiq Haidar Laghari and Ghazanfar Mohammad Khan. Of these, the elder statesman, Mian Salahuddin, attended Pir Pagara's birthday anniversary along with Rafiq Haidar Laghari and seated themselves in the fourth row among the general seats. In this way, they provided proof of being 'modest' Muslim League workers and presented to Pir Pagara cigars of his choice as a gift for his birthday. Since we are talking about gifts, the gifts presented to Pir Pagara filled the room. What the wrapped packages contained remains a mystery. But a large kite together with string presented by some enthusiast could not be taken inside the room and so was put on the balcony awaiting the Pir Saheb. Pir Pagara stayed for more than a week in the provincial capital. He went to Rawalpindi and had large banquets with important people. He was unusually active during his current stay in Lahore. He met with many political leaders, including elder statesman Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and the late Mufti Mahmud's son, Maulana Fazlur Rahman. Many receptions were arranged in his honor, among them, two receptions, one given by advocates belonging to the Muslim League and the other arranged by the Muslim League ladies group, deserve special mention. On both the occasions, Pir Pagara made well-balanced speeches and during the function given by the advocates spoke for the first time seriously. During the ladies' reception, by saying that he cannot have his say in his house and that he has to do whatever they say, he encouraged the ladies. Pir Pagara, who rarely pays any attention to the correspondents, on this occasion particularly looked out for them and inquired about them.

Though no definite date has yet been announced for elections, political parties have kept this democratic tradition alive by holding elections in their own ranks. Many political parties have held elections in their own group at various levels. These include the defunct Jamaat-e Islami, Tahrik-e Istiqlal, Jamiatul Ulema-e Islam (Darkhasti group), the National Democratic Party and the defunct Pakistan National Party. Jamiatul Ulema-e Pakistan also held elections at all levels by electing central office officials on 28 November.

In the elections held by Jamiatul Ulema-e Pakistan, Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani was elected president for the third time as expected and Maulana Abdus Sattar Niazi was elected general secretary. The deputy secretary, Prof Shah Faridul Haq, was promoted to the office of vice president, with the result that the post of deputy secretary is now vacant. Many resolutions were passed at the meeting of the general council held following the elections. One of the resolutions called for fair and impartial elections on a party basis under the 1973 constitution and the handing over of power to elected representatives of the people. It also stated

that any elections held under some other law would be a mockery of democracy and participation in such an election would be a waste of time and money. Another resolution expressed concern over the illegal entry of foreign money and its distribution in the country and called for imposing restrictions on such funds. The resolution said that such money is being used to spread communal violence and sabotage. One other resolution called for an open trial of individuals detained in various prisons in the country. Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani held meetings with various political leaders during his stay in Lahore and assured them that his party would not participate in any elections held on a non-party basis as being against the provisions of the 1973 constitution.

May Nawab Akbar Bagti, former governor of Baluchistan, live in peace. He is still adamant in his decision to boycott Urdu. When he came to Lahore recently after a long absence, his meetings were not successful. At one time he used to hold regular meetings in a five-star hotel. But this time people learned of his arrival after several days. He met mostly with his personal friends and he kept on reminding us that we should not speak to him in Urdu and that only the queen's and king's languages should be used while communicating with him. He calls English the queen's language and Punjabi the king's language. One day I talked to him over the telephone in the morning and expressed my desire to see him. He said I could come over. When I went to see him in the Lahore gymkhana where he was staying this time, he was waiting for me in his silk gown after having taken a shower. According to him, he does not have pain in his leg anymore. He talked for about an hour on various topics in English and Punjabi. When I asked him about developments and progress in Baluchistan, he said that when he was in prison during Ayub Khan's regime they used to get the PAKISTAN TIMES, which daily published some news about development projects in Baluchistan. He said that he kept a regular record of such news items and that when he was released from prison after a number of years, according to those new reports some hundreds of millions of rupees had been spent in Baluchistan and that because of these developments Baluchistan would have changed beyond recognition. He said that when he returned to Baluchistan it was overcast with gloom and that developments had been made only in the PAKISTAN TIMES and that even now development is only verbal; if there is any progress at all it is not for the people of Baluchistan but for the goals of the military rulers. He said that they call him a traitor and asked if it was an act of treason to demand one's rights. It is entirely up to the rulers to call anyone they please a traitor. In the beginning, Ghaffar Khan and Wali Khan were given medals for patriotism that were later taken back. When I asked him if he intends to join some party or remain an independent, he said that he does not enjoy any freedom and that he is a slave.

As for the struggle of small provinces, he said that their sense of deprivation has reached a climax. I told him that the people of Punjab, too, are deprived of their rights just like the people of other provinces and that the people of other provinces are oppressed as much as the people of Baluchistan. He replied by saying that one of the leaders in Punjab had said the same thing during a meeting and had asked him what rights he was demanding. He said that he told him that the rights he was demanding

were rights there within Punjab itself and that if he were allowed to dig these out from there the whole problem would be solved.

Akbar Bagti speaks Punjabi very fluently and beautifully, but because he has boycotted Urdu, the number of people that meet with him has dropped sharply. During the dinner given by Malik Qasim in honor of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, when Prof Shah Faridul Haq tried to speak with him in Urdu, Akbar Bagti asked him to speak in some other language. In response to these remarks, Shah Faridul Haq left him, saying that since Akbar Bagti does not wish to speak in Urdu, why should he speak to him in some other language.

9315

CSO: 4656/62

VIGILANCE URGED OVER THE DECLINING RUPEE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Feb 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Rupee's Dollar Connections"]

[Text] The state bank governor, Mr A.G.N. Kazi, has come out with a new defence of the government's January 1982 decision to put our rupee on the managed float vis-a-vis other major currencies. He has also clarified that the recent surge of the mighty dollar does not necessarily imply an absolute weakening of the external value of the rupee.

Notwithstanding this elaboration, the overall situation with regard to the health of our rupee remains somewhat shrouded in mystery. He has also conceded that the decision was taken under some kind of stress, because in view of international developments it was no longer possible to retain a fixed parity. But how the system is operating overall remains to be clarified. Dollar remains an 'intervention currency' for us. We continue to be affected substantially by its slight variation from day to day. The latest reports say that yet another realignment has pushed down the rupee to Rs 15.79 per dollar--a new low marking an almost 60 percent depreciation since January 1982 in terms of dollars. In the process of new adjustments, the rupee is reported to have yielded ground to some other currencies. True, the rupee is not the only currency to get a battering from the ever-appreciating dollar, but with our deteriorating import-export disequilibrium, we have our own strong reasons to keep the evolving situation under unusual vigilance.

Instead of making general statements about our being not worse off than many others, let those concerned with the management of the economy come out with a detailed analysis of the precise implication of the current chaotic exchange rate situation--particularly in respect of major trading partners, key goods and services transacted and, above all, how invisible payments to external clients are being affected. After all, invisibles have a fairly heavy weight in our overall balance of payments budget.

Official silence on the precise quantum of our dollar trade is intriguing. Many suspect that our dollar connection is much wider than is generally conceded. Apart from oil imports, which are exclusively financed by dollars, many other transactions are handled via this currency. In view of the heavy weight of dollar credits in our total imported capital, the pressure of the escalating dollar on our overall import budget must be fairly substantial. Let all the pluses and minuses of our wide-ranging dollar connection be clearly spelled out if the concern over our sinking rupee is to be allayed.

REPORT EXAMINES HYDERABAD POLITICAL SCENE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Feb 85 p 6

[Article by Nisar Channa]

[Text]

HYDERABAD, Feb. 4: The focus of attention of the people of Sind is the tough battle between Mir Ali Ahmed Khan Talpur, Defence Minister of Pakistan, and Sind Minister for Communications Kazi Abdul Majeed Abid, for NA-171, Hyderabad district.

Mir Ali Ahmed has contradicted news items appearing in a section of the press (not The Muslim), that he had compromise talks on Saturday with Kazi Abid. A spokesman of the Talpur family informed 'The Muslim' that Mir Ali Ahmed Khan Talpur had already brought to the knowledge of the President of Pakistan that NA-171 was his own area, as his agricultural landed property was situated there, and Kazi Abid had made an encroachment while filing his nomination for the same seat.

Kazi Abid has said that in the 1970 elections, Mir Ali Ahmed Khan Talpur was elected in a by-election from the National Assembly seat of Badin district, which was vacated by the late Prime Minister Z.A. Bhutto. Kazi Abid said his brother, Kazi Mohammad Azam was elected in the elections of 1970 and 1977 from PA-46, Hyderabad, from where now, the nephew of Mir Ali Ahmed Khan Talpur, Mir Rafique, had filed nomination against him.

A spokesman for the Talpur family, has alleged that in the elections of 1970, late Kazi Akbar and Kazi Abid were with the Ayub regime, while for political gain, their third brother Kazi Mohammad Azam had joined the defunct PPP and till last year, the Kazi family was in the PPP and abandoned it when they observed that Gen. Zia

was still going strong.

The Muslim has learnt that the head of the Muslim League, Pir Pagara, is working against Mir Ali Ahmed Khan Talpur. However, Makhdoom Talib-ul-Moula, the spiritual leader of Sarwari Jamaat and senior Vice-President of PPP (defunct), in a press statement issued last night, has directed his followers not to participate in the next election, as his party had declared to boycott the elections.

The Muslim has learnt that Makhdoom Sahib of Hala felt it necessary to issue such a statement at this juncture, as several thousand of his followers living in NA-171 were given the impression that Makhdoom Sahib of Hala was secretly supporting Mir Ali Ahmed Khan Talpur, and some other candidates of Sind.

However, Pir Pagara is quite happy over the present political situation of Sind, as his own man, Mohammad Khan Junejo was elected unopposed from the National Assembly seat of Sanghar and his two candidates for Provincial Assembly seats PA-68 and 67 (his two followers) Wariyam Fakcer and Khalifa Mohammad Aqil have been declared elected unopposed, while another candidate of his for National Assembly seat of Sanghar, Atta Mohammad Mari seems to be stronger than his two rivals, Sattar Ghor and Ghulam Rasool Kakepot, as several thousand followers of Pir Pagara are spread out in that constituency.

Pir Pagara has directed Mohammad Khan Junejo to extend his support to the candidates of pro-Pir Pagara Group in Tharparkar district, and other adjoining districts. In Badin district, the two political Groups of Abdullah Halepota and Ghulam Ali Nizae

mani are at daggers drawn.

Abdullah Halepota was expelled from the defunct PPP four days ago, while Ghulam Ali Nizamani was shunted out of PPP when he had contested in the local bodies elections.

In Thatta district, Mamoon Khan Malkani and Moosa Chandio Groups are rivals and they both and their candidates, are contesting for two seats of the National Assembly and for Provincial Assembly seats. Mamoon Khan Malkani was arrested during the MRD Movement and was detained in jail under MLO 78 and his membership of defunct PPP was terminated by Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi about three days ago, when Mamoon Khan Malkani insisted on contesting the elections, while Mohammad Moosa Chandio was expelled from defunct PPP a few years ago, when he had become the Chairman of District Council, Thatta.

But recently, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi was his guest and Mohammad Moosa Chandio had taken Mr. Jatoi and his friends for hunting on his lands.

CSO: 4600/279

ISLAMIC COMMON MARKET IDEA DISCUSSED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Feb 85 p 8

[Text]

DHAKA, Feb. 4: The Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, told the Governors of central banks of the Muslim world to help achieve collective self-reliance with the ultimate objective of integrating our economies into an Islamic common market."

He was speaking at the inauguration of the two-day sixth meeting of the Board of Governors of central banks and monetary authorities of OIC countries which opened here today.

Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Mr. A.G.N. Kazi, is representing his country at the meeting with the agenda among other things to review the world economic and financial situation with special reference to Islamic countries, examination of the report of the expert group on capital markets, and consideration of the study on payment arrangements among member states.

The bank's President, Dr. Ahmad Mohammad Ali, who was re-elected the Chief Executive of Islamic Development Bank told a Press conference this afternoon that his goal would be to attach priority to Islamic brotherhood and strengthening economic relations. He said there were a number of steps that could be taken towards achieving these goals through mutual trade

promotion, fostering economic relations, transfer of technology and exchange of experts and experiences.

Referring to specific proposals for creating a soft loan window of the Islamic Development Bank on the lines of other international development financing institutions, he said the bank management would examine the possibilities.

Asked whether the bank would provide interest free loans to the least developed countries, he said these countries would always receive priority in different programmes of the Bank which will conduct a special study as to what practical measures could be taken in this regard.

CONVENTION: Later, Mr. Pirzada told IINA that the OIC proposed to call a convention on migrant workers to ensure their social security.

Mr. Pirzada said after visiting the Dhaka-based OIC project of Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research that experts were now working on the proposed convention and hoped it would be finalised soon.

He said as soon as the convention was ready it would be adopted.

Mr. Pirzada, who attended the ninth annual meeting of the Board of Governors on the Islamic Development Bank Feb. 2 and the 6th meeting of Governors of Central Banks of OIC member states here today, visited the dollar 23 million OIC project at Tongi, 20 miles from here this afternoon.

CSO: 4600/280

PROGRESS IN AGRICULTURE REVIEWED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Feb 85 p 7

[Article by Abdul Majid Khan]

[Text]

Agriculture covers the production of major and minor crops, livestock and poultry farming, inland and marine fisheries and forestry. Agriculture is the backbone of the Pakistan economy. In 1983-84 despite seasonal setback, agricultural output accounted for 26.4 per cent of gross national product, 45 per cent of exports, and 52 per cent of civilian labour force. Manufacturing depends on agriculture for the supply of most of raw material, such as raw cotton, raw wool, sugarcane and tobacco in addition to hides and skins. Most of the food supplies such as cereals pulses edible oils and ghee, sugar, fruits and vegetables, poultry products and meat come from domestic agriculture.

Since 1977, the Government of Pakistan has been according high priority to development of agriculture, policies about the development of agriculture and rural areas have resulted in achievement of self-sufficiency in wheat and sugar. Not only that, the country is now exporting small quantities of these. Record outputs of wheat, rice, sugarcane, cotton and maize were achieved during early 1980's.

AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

Alongwith increase in the supplies of irrigation water, the use of modern inputs such as fertilizers, improved seeds, pesticides and agricultural machinery was stepped up. There was significant increase in supplies of irrigation water between

1976-77 and 1983-84. According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 1983-84, total irrigation supplies at the farmgate increased by about 22.6 per cent from 84.57 million acre feet in 1976-77 to 103.69 million acre feet during 1983-84. The increase in water supplies during Kharif season was sharper than during the rabi season. During Kharif the supplies were 28.6 per cent higher at 61.95 million acre feet during 1983-84 than 48.16 million acre feet during 1976-77. During the same period, rabi supplies increased by 14.6 per cent from 36.41 million acre feet to 41.74 million acre feet.

During the Fifth Plan Period (1978-83), Rs. 16.451 billion were invested by the Government for the development of irrigation and related facilities, of this amount Rs. 5.322 billion were spent on Tarbela and Indus Basin Works, Rs. 4.119 billion on irrigation, Rs. 4.348 billion on drainage and reclamation of waterlogged and salined land, and Rs. 2.662 billion on flood control, on farm water management, survey, investigation and research and other projects. For the development of irrigation facilities during the Sixth Plan Period Rs. 32.10 billion have been allocated, Rs. 14.024 billion would be spent on on-going projects and rest on new projects.

The use of chemical fertilizer almost doubled, from 631.300 nutrient tonnes in 1976-77 to 1.262 million nutrient tonnes in 1983-84. Average application of fertilizer went up by more than 100 per cent from 32 Kg. per hectare in 1976-77 to 65 Kg. in 1983-84. In this connection, it may be pointed out that the Government of Pakistan provides significant amount of subsidy for the distribution of chemical fertilizer among farmers.

Steps have been taken to enhance the use of improved seeds in the country. Efforts are being made with the assistance of the World Bank to increase the supplies of improved seeds of wheat and cotton. Improved seeds of other crops are also being provided to the farmers at increasing levels. Seed processing plants are being set up in different parts of the country. Distribution of improved seeds went up by over 41.5 per cent from 93,550 metric tons in 1976-77 to 132,410 metric tons in 1983-84.

The availability of farm machinery is being increased fast. In the middle of 1983, there were 137,417 agricultural tractors in Pakistan. Another 19,000 tractors were imported during 1983-84. As such, there were more than 156,000 tractors in the middle of 1984. In addition, thousands of pieces of cultivating equipment, sowing, fertilizing and spraying equipment and harvesting and haulage equipment and other machines are in use on farms and with passage of time their number is increasing.

In order to increase the domestic supply of tractors and machinery, plants are being set up in private and public sectors. Investment in tractor plants and units for the fabrication of other farm machinery is estimated at Rs. 270 million. For improvement of agricultural output and financing of all activities on farms heavy doses of farm credit are needed. There has been a spectacular increase in credit facilities to meet the short, medium and long-term requirements of agriculture. Between 1976-77 and 1983-84, agricultural credit facilities increased by over 422 per cent from Rs. 1.717 billion to Rs. 8.965 billion. This shows the progressive characteristics of the Pakistani farmer and his response to the facilities provided by the Government.

PROCUREMENT/SUPPORT PRICES

In order to encourage the farmer to increase agricultural production, the Government provides farm support prices and procures major agricultural commodities at reasonable rates to assure significant farm income. There has been significant increase in such prices. A few examples are given below.

The year 1983-84 was not a happy period of agricultural production due to adverse weather conditions. The index of agricultural production (Base 1959-60 = 100) declined from 270 points in 1982-83 to 244 points in 1983-84. There

was significant increase in production between 1976-77 and 1983-84. Overall production index increased by 33 per cent from 203 points in 1976-77 to 270 points in 1983-84. Most significant increase was recorded in case of fibre crops followed by food crops as shown below.

According to provisional estimates of the Federal Bureau of Statistics, area under food crops increased by 10 per cent from 11.127 million hectares in 1976-77 to 12.239 million hectares in 1983-84. Production on the other hand increased more significantly by over 28.5 per cent from 13,990 million tonnes in 1976-77 to 17.982 million tonnes in 1982-83 although it declined slightly to 17.032 million tonnes in 1983-84. Between 1976-77 and 1982-83 output of wheat increased from 9.144 million tonnes to 12.414 million tonnes and decreased to 11.531 million tonnes in 1983-84, of rice increased from 2.737 million tonnes in 1976-77 to 3.445 million tonnes in 1982-83 but decreased to 3.368 million tonnes in 1983-84, and of maize increased from 764,000 tonnes in 1976-77 to 1.008 million tonnes in 1983-84.

Among non-food crops, the output of sugarcane increased by 17 per cent from 29.524 million tonnes in 1976-77, to 34.502 million tonnes in 1983-84, of cotton by 89.4 per cent from 2.557 million bales in 1976-77 to 4.844 million bales in 1982-83 but declined sharply to 2.959 million bales in 1983-84.

The country is now self-sufficient in wheat and sugar and small quantities of these are being exported. Spectacular development of agriculture is anticipated during the Sixth Plan period when it would be developed as an export industry.

LIVESTOCK

Livestock farming is being developed on commercial basis. Production of milk is estimated at 9.7 million tonnes in 1982-83 against 8.5 million tonnes in 1976-77. During the same period, production of beef increased from 366,000 tonnes to 464,000 tonnes. of mutton from 314,000 tonnes to 408,000 tonnes, and of poultry meat from 29,000 tonnes to 75,000 tonnes and eggs from 1343 million to 3213 million.

Significant progress has been made in the development of fisheries. Production increased from 267,900 tonnes in 1976-77 to about 350,000 tonnes in 1983-84.

PROCUREMENT/SUPPORT PRICES OF SELECTED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES 1976-77 & 1983-84 (Rs. Per 40 Kg.)

	1976-77	1983-84	% CHANGE
1) Wheat	39.65	64.00	62.0
2) Rice Basmati	108.80	157.50	44.8
3) Sugarcane (Sind)	6.32	9.81	55.2
4) Cotton Lint (Desi)	359.00	426.40	18.8
	(1977-78)		
5) Potato	26.80	40.50	51.1
6) Onion	19.30	30.00	55.4

**INDEX OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION (Base 1959-60
= 100)**

PARTICULARS	1976-77	1982-83	% CHANGE
All crops	203	270	(+) 33.0
Food crops	212	277	(+) 30.7
Fibre crops	149	283	(+) 89.9
Other crops	224	235	(+) 4.9

CSO: 4600/280

ROLLING PLAN FOR SIND PREPARED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 9 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by G N Mughul]

[Text]

A three-year rolling plan for Sind has been prepared on the basis of the new order of priorities set by the Planning Commission, by curtailing the original size of the programme for the next three years of the Sixth Five-Year Plan, but it is not certain that this size would be approved.

It is said that the Sind Government has revised the original provincial plan to the minimum but its size is still about 6.5 billion, while Planning Commission is learnt to have given the indication that it should not be more than six billion. Moreover, indications were these that even this reduced size was subject to revision.

It would be recalled that the size of the original Sixth Five-Year Plan for Sind was about Rs.11.5 billion. Against this, the funds received by the province during the first two years were about three billion rupees. This amount plus Rs.6 billion, that is, the size of three-year rolling plan, total size of the Sixth Five-Year Plan would come to Rs.9 billion i.e. Rs.2.5 billion less than

the original size.

It would also be recalled that the original size of the Fifth Five-Year Plan of Sind was about Rs.10 billion but the actual funds released during

the plan period were not more than Rs.5 billion.

Meanwhile, according to the informed circles, the priorities set by the Planning Commission for the preparation of three-year rolling plan, being launched from the next financial year, are:

(a) completion of the ongoing schemes and (b) foreign aided projects.

In the light of these priorities, it is apprehended that new schemes envisaged to be included in the current Five-Year Plan will have to be excluded.

Sind received funds for the first and second year of Sixth Five-Year Plan less by about 17 per cent and 23 per cent respectively than the original allocations.

Similarly, Federal Development Programme also suffered due to financial constraints and during the first and second year it was reduced by 2.8 per cent and 9.3 per cent respectively.

CSO: 4600/281

ALARM EXPRESSED OVER POPULATION GROWTH

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 9 Feb 85 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

According to the latest figures of the Federal Bureau of Statistics, Pakistan's population continues to swell at an alarming rate of over three per cent per annum and is estimated now to be 95 million. Disturbingly the population increase in Pakistan is in great contrast to the trend seen around as the world's annual population growth rate has declined during the last decade from 2 per cent to 1.7 per cent and total world population, according to the United Nations, is now over 4.75 billion.

The planning and Development Minister, Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq, while addressing the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Council in Islamabad, has rightly sounded the alarm that rapid increase in the population is eating away almost half of the country's economic development and putting public services such as

education, health, transport and telephones under great stress, specially in major cities of the country.

Pakistan, like other underdeveloped nations, is facing twin problems — one being the rapid population growth, and the other the mass migration of rural population to the cities. The consequences of failure to bring the country's current population growth rate under control would be frightening; widespread undernourishment and joblessness, accompanied by environmental devastation and cancerous urban growth. Politically, the outcome could be heightened instability, violence, authoritarianism, a country without hope and gripped by desperation. Some of the baleful effects of excessive population growth are already evident. In addition to unrestrained urban growth, we can see the increasing

inadequacy of our agriculture, owing in part to rural overpopulation, and the economic distortions caused by efforts to palliate the tidal wave of urban consumers.

The writing on the wall can be seen in Karachi. Mass immigration has made it, once proudly claimed as the cleanest city in Asia, in just over three decades into a fast growing hell. More than 100,000 humans from the north are moving in every year for jobs. Industrial and population growth has converted the city into a cluster of slums and pollution. Majority of its people have no running water in their homes, even though they have access to water, but for many it means one faucet shared by an entire block. Majority of Karachi residents have no sewerage facilities — so tons of waste is left in gutters and vacant lots to become part of city's water and part of its dust. These facts inspire prophecies of disaster. The question is no more whether Karachites would be able to lead a pleasant life a few years from now but whether they will be able to survive it. **BUSINESS RECORDER** has repeatedly stressed the need to make our goods & services available in the rural area and to provide gainful employment at the village level.

So far nature has been kind and the country has

witnessed a sustained economic growth rate of around 6.5 per cent during the last few years. However, this high economic growth rate continues to be diluted with rapid population growth. A large labour force with low level of wages should mean a flow of more manufacturing jobs from industrialized countries to Pakistan. However, the experience in textile sector has shown that it has provoked more protectionist measures in the international free trade system and a voluminous work force could convert from an asset in the development of economic potential to a peril.

For over two decades, lack of education, socio-economic and religious compulsions have been the cause of failure of both government and non-government agencies in making any major headway in our population welfare programmes. Dependence on outside advice completely devoid of local realities has until now resulted in colossal waste of aid money and local resources in these programmes. One hard fact in our society is that it is the woman who is the main sufferer in making of large families, both physically and mentally. Therefore she is more willing, comparatively speaking, to adopt birth control measures. However, in our male dominated society

she fears her mate, who is averse or indifferent to birth control. Thus it is essential for our population experts to devise ways and means for educating and aiding the female and also to make the programme a part of our agricultural extension service. It may be recalled that the Government had announced over two years ago that it would use the marketing expertise and services of pharmaceutical companies and distributors to effectively provide birth control aids throughout the country. It was contended that this novel approach would get the desired result. Tender bids were also solicited for this purpose, but so far no progress seems to have been made. The current plan has allocated Rs. 50 million for NGO's out of a total sum of Rs. 1,800 million budgeted for this sector. If the Government puts its money where its mouth is, the barriers against population control could yet be shattered.

CSO: 4600/281

BRIEFS

EQUAL STATUS FOR SINDHI DEMANDED--KARACHI, Feb. 4--The Supreme Council of the 'Servants of Sindh Society' has strongly criticised the government decision to introduce Urdu as medium of instruction at all levels by 1989 and demanded the "province should remain bilingual" and the equal status of Sindhi language should not be adversely affected. The meeting presided over by its President Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, pointed out through a resolution, that "status of the two languages is statutorily recognised and the law does not permit any distinction in respect of any of the two languages." The education policy under which the educational institutions remain closed for months together was also criticised. It regretted the shelving of the scheme to introduce Sindhi typewriters in government departments and local bodies. In another resolution, the meeting referred to discovery of oil and gas in Sind and demanded that as in the case of Sui gas, the province of Sind be given its due share from the revenues and economic opportunities generated by the oil discoveries. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Feb 85 p 6]

INDUS DIVERSION PROJECT COMPLETED--The mighty river Indus has been successfully tamed and diverted under the just completed Dera Ismail Khan-Darya Khan bridge at D. I. Khan. The bridge, which is a joint venture, so to say, of the National Highway Board and the Communication and Works Department of the government of NWFP, is estimated to cost Rs. 580 million on completion. It is over 3,000 feet long and 28 feet wide. On commissioning of the bridge, it would fulfil a long standing cherished desire of the people of D. I. Khan and D. G. Khan for having a direct uninterrupted access across the Indus. The bridge is scheduled for completion before June this year and shall be commissioned to traffic thereafter. The bridge, which is being constructed by the Mechanised Construction of Pakistan (MCP) will shorten the distance between D. I. Khan and Multan by 80 miles and between D. I. Khan and Karachi by 110 miles. [Excerpt] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Feb 85 p 6]

INTERVIEW WITH PRISONERS DEMANDED--LAHORE, Feb. 4--Syed Afzal Haider, member Pakistan Bar Council, has asked the home Secretary Punjab Government that he should be allowed to have an interview with detenus, namely Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Malik Mohammad Qasim, Malik Mehraj Khalid, Maj. Ijaz Ahmad, and Rana Zulqarnain. He said, he wanted to meet the detenus in order to get further instructions from them to challenge the detention orders. He said they wanted to seek legal remedy from the court of law. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Feb 85 p 6]

PNP DISCUSSES SITUATION--PESHAWAR, Feb. 5--The defunct Pakistan National, Party, Peshawar, which met here with Habibur Rahman in the chair, discussed the national issues, including the current political situation, and endorsed the decisions taken by Central MRD at Abbottabad. The meeting demanded the release of political prisoners, students, lawyers, peasants and workers and also the withdrawal of cases against them. It also condemned the ban on the movement of national leaders from one province to another. It said that such curbs were not conducive to national integrity and were prejudicial to the national interest. The meeting demanded political liberties, restoration of the Constitution and freedom of expression. By another resolution it emphasised the need for a positive independent non-aligned foreign policy in the light of the current global and regional changes, and friendly relations with neighbouring countries. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Feb 85 p 7]

LEAFLETS AGAINST ELECTIONS--LAHORE, Feb. 5--Two persons allegedly possessing leaflets appealing boycott of the forthcoming elections were held by the Police here today. They are Islam Khan, General Secretary defunct Qaumi Mahaz-i-Azadi Lahore and Mohsin of Lahore Art Press. Various MRD leaders including Willayat Hussain Gardezi, Hanif Goraya Riaz Lone, Abdul Rehman Khatak and Dr. Israr Shah while condemning the arrest of the two have demanded the release of all the political prisoners. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Feb 85 p 7]

COAL FIELD EXPANSION--QUETTA, Feb 8--The Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) has started work on the expansion of coal fields in Sharigh about 150 kilometres from here. Baluchistan is rich in numerous important minerals including coal, a conventional source of energy. Coal is mined from about a dozen places at present. According to an estimation, there are about one million tons of coal reserves in Baluchistan. In Sharigh the coal mines are operating under the control of PMDC. Its expansion programme is aimed at augmenting the coal output from existing 50,000 tons of 100,000 tons per annum. As a result of these efforts the coal production has risen to 70,000 tons per year. The expansion programme envisages a total expenditure of Rs 3.90 crore including a foreign exchange component of more than Rs 1.5 crore. The entire production will be supplied to the country's first coal washing plant set up by the PMDC at Sharigh. This expansion programme will not only result in increased avenues of employment for the local population but also effect sizeable saving in foreign exchange. The project will ensure direct job opportunities to 550 persons and indirectly benefit a large segment of population. [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 9 Feb 85 p 1]

GAS RESERVES DISCOVERED--Islamabad, 21 February--Gas reserves have been discovered by the Oil and Gas Development Corporation (OGDC) at Panjpir, 40 miles northeast of Multan. This is the second discovery of oil or gas in the vast Punjab plains after Nandpur and has special significance as it has confirmed the oil and gas potential of this area, greatly enhancing the prospects of finding more gas deposits. The Panjpir structure located about 25 km southwest of Shorkot, is a sub-surface of feature spreading over an area of 20 square km. It was delineated after extensive geological and geophysical survey carried out by OGDC--in their Kabirwala concession. [Excerpt] [Karachi DAWN in English 22 Feb 85 Economic and Business Review Supplement p 1 GF]

USSR AMBASSADOR'S SPEECHES QUESTIONED--Lahore, 11 February--The president of the Quaid-i-Azam Society, Mr Ashraf Fallahi, has asked the Pakistan Government for an explanation as to whether the Pakistani envoy in Moscow is permitted to discuss Pakistan's stand on the Afghanistan issue with the citizens of Moscow, since the Soviet envoy had done so on many occasions and he is due to address the Lahore residents again on 14 February. If Pakistanis are not allowed to address any Moscow gathering, then who has permitted the Soviet Union to do the same? Mr Fallahi added: Soviet agents come to the people and recite verses from the Koran and even add Muslim names like Mohammad to their names and propagate their orthodoxy--these acts are like an opiate to them [as published]. This endangers the nurturing of the Pakistani spirit. [Excerpts] [Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 12 Feb 85 p 1 GF]

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