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Near East/South Asia Report

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NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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BOMBING OF MELBOURNE TURKISH CONSULATE DETAILED

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 24 Nov 86 p 1.

[Article by Amruta Slee]

[Text]

MELBOURNE: A body and a car, both mutilated beyond recognition, and a phone call from an obscure anti-Turkish organisation, were the only clues last night to a blast which destroyed the Turkish consulate in South Yarra yesterday.

The four-kilogram bomb was planted in the five-storey building's car park. It went off at 2.18 am, wrecking the building, damaging 19 shops in the area and gutting a nearby leather shop.

Later, police found the remains of a body scattered over a wide area near a car in the basement. Last night they had not been able to confirm whether it was male, and had no leads on its identity. They believe it could be the body of the bomber.

An organisation calling itself the Greek Bulgarian Armenian Front rang the Agence France Presse news agency in Sydney yesterday and claimed responsibility for the bomb. The male caller read a list of grievances against Turkey, including the creation of a Turkish republic in Cyprus, and said there would be more attacks.

Police spokesmen said they had received a number of other calls claiming responsibility.

In Canberra, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Hayden, said the Government would review diplomatic security procedures following the bombing.

He condemned the bombing "in the strongest possible terms", and said Australia's regret at the

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incident had been conveyed to the Turkish Government.

The Foreign Affairs Department had no immediate knowledge of the Greek-Bulgarian-Armenian Front which had claimed responsibility for the attack, he said.

Within minutes of the bomb going off, police and emergency services were on the scene. They evacuated the area up to 100 metres from the bomb site.

Gas leaking from the consulate building was brought under control, and 70 firemen tackled fires that had broken out in shops and offices.

Police said a 22-year-old student who was studying on the third floor of the building when the bomb exploded escaped serious injury because she had drawn the heavy curtains, which protected her from the blast. She had only minor scratches, and was treated for shock by ambulance officers.

Residents of the South Yarra said the explosion was huge and shook houses many streets away.

A shopkeeper described hearing "this bloody great boom, it would have been about five seconds long".

"I went out into Toorak Road and it was filled with glass and debris. There was a haze down the middle of the road. The feeling was that something had hit the building."

He said he had had "three near misses" with cars crashing near the shop, and at first he thought a car had hit the building.

Mrs Pat Howard, who owns a guesthouse in nearby Punt Road,

said she was watching television when the bomb went off. "The whole house shook, the bedroom vibrated," she said. "I knew right away it was a bomb."

Another resident, Mrs Angela Brett, said that until six months ago two security men were on 24-hour duty at the consulate. When the security men were taken off duty earlier this year, there had been a bomb hoax.

She said some local residents thought the consulate should not have been there because the area was densely populated.

The owner of the shop in the basement of the bombed building, Rachel Gradstein, said she had heard the news at 8 am when she turned on the radio. Since then she had spent all day trying to get to the shop to assess the damage but police were not allowing residents and shopowners into the area.

The bombing is the latest in a series of world wide attacks on Turkish diplomatic offices and staff.

In 1980 the Turkish Consul-General in Sydney was shot dead. A group known as the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide claimed responsibility.

The State Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Mathews, said there was concern that Victoria had become part of the international terrorist circuit.

A special task force of more than 20 police is being set up to investigate the bombing.

ARMENIAN 'HEADED FOR BEIRUT' ARRESTED, INTERROGATED

Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 28 Nov 86 p 2

[Article by Carmel McCauley]

[Text]

A NOTEBOOK containing the names and movements of Turkish consulate staff, the address of the consulate, and a book of diagrams of electrical devices and wiring were found by police in the home of an Armenian facing charges relating to last Sunday's Melbourne bombing, a court heard yesterday.

Levon Demirian, 34, had been booked on a flight for Beirut to have left Sydney on Wednesday. Senior Sergeant John Dick told Sydney's Central Criminal Court when opposing bail for Demirian.

He feared Demirian, a cook of Epping, a northern Sydney suburb, would leave the country if he were granted bail.

Sergeant Dick said 174 sticks of gelignite, detonators and fuses were found in a restaurant where Demirian worked.

Police had also found the original of a receipt found on the body of the man killed in the bombing, Hagop Levonian.

Demirian appeared before magistrate Mr Kevin Anderson charged with unlawfully conspiring with Levonian and other persons unknown on

November 22 to commit an act of criminal damage, intending the damage to endanger the lives of others.

He was also charged with using explosives to unlawfully and maliciously damage 44 Caroline St, South Yarra, thereby endangering the lives of persons, and of intentionally damaging property at 44 Caroline St, South Yarra, intending such destruction to endanger the lives of others.

Victorian police unsuccessfully sought Demirian's extradition to Melbourne.

Sergeant Dick said the investigation of an extremely serious crime was being held up because several high-ranking Melbourne policemen were in Sydney awaiting Demirian's extradition.

Demirian's counsel, Mr James Young, sought for the matter to be adjourned until Monday.

Mr Anderson agreed but refused Demirian bail and remanded him in custody, to appear again on Monday.

In opposing bail, Sergeant Dick said the bomb was detonated in the Turkish consulate buildings at 2.16am on Sunday, killing one person, injuring a woman and causing \$4 million damage.

After inquiries by NSW, Victorian and federal police, Demirian was arrested at his home.

Demirian had admitted being in Melbourne on the day of the explosion and admitted buying a white Torana sedan used to plant the bomb, he said.

Mr Young said Demirian denied he was involved in the purchase of the Torana and he intended to defend all of the charges, as well as the extradition.

He said Demirian had a regular job, was married with one child, and had no convictions. He would surrender his passport and could raise \$100,000 in cash for bail.

Mr Anderson refused bail, saying on the evidence provided it was unlikely Demirian would appear in court if he were released.

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MAN CHARGED OVER TURKISH CONSULATE BOMBING

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 27 Nov 86 p 3.

[Article by Simon Kent]

[Text]

Victorian police will apply today for the extradition of a 34-year-old Sydney man who has been charged in connection with Sunday's bombing of the Turkish Consulate in Melbourne.

Leon Demirian, of Chatswood, will appear in Central Court to face three separate extradition warrants.

Police allege he was in Melbourne at the time of the bombing and was an associate of the dead bomber.

Demirian was charged yesterday with intentionally causing damage to property thereby endangering the lives of others.

Today, he faces charges of conspiracy to commit damage thereby endangering the lives of others and of using an explosive substance thereby endangering the lives of others.

The scheduled court appearance follows a series of dawn raids on the homes of members of the Sydney and Canberra Armenian community yesterday morning, which saw eight people detained for questioning.

Victorian detectives from the Operation Caroline taskforce co-ordinated the raids. They later revealed that fingerprint tests were also to be carried out on a finger found in the wreckage of the building.

The simultaneous dawn raids were carried out in Epping, Willoughby and Lane Cove. Five men and three women were detained for questioning. One man was also detained in the Canberra suburb of Wanniasa, but was released after five hours with no charges laid. All other Sydney suspects were released last night after questioning.

Most members of the Victoria police taskforce set up to investigate the bombing flew to Canberra and Sydney for the combined operation, which was apparently precipitated after a group called the Greek-Bulgarian-Armenian front claimed responsibility for the bomb with a phone call to a Sydney-based international press service.

This claim has since been questioned by left-wing Turkish groups in Melbourne.

They allege the bombing was orchestrated by a group known as the Grey Wolves to help increase nationalistic feeling towards Turkey.

A reputed member of the Grey Wolves, Mehmet Ali Agca, was convicted of an assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II in 1981.

Senior police described the raids as "one of the best co-ordinated multi-State operations ever".

Commander Eric Sutton, of the Victoria Police Crime Department, said the investigation was "a tribute to the efforts of a lot of people, and to the high level of co-operation which has been displayed.

"We are hopeful that the inquiries made during the last 26 hours, and the work to be done, will yield positive results. There has been some highly professional work at the crime scene, and by the task force investigators."

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ARMENIAN ADVOCATE REJECTS VIOLENCE

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 27 Nov 86 p 3

[Article by Simon Kent]

[Text]

Khajaque Kortian, 22, is the vice-president of the Armenian National Day Committee. His position, and that of his political action group, on Sunday's Turkish Embassy bombing is simple.

"We are a political unit, not a terrorist organisation.

"We do not support violence in our desire to see justice prevail for the misplaced Armenian peoples.

"I have never heard of the so-called Greek-Bulgarian-Armenian front. If they are indeed responsible, I cannot support their action."

Sitting in his Chatswood office last night, Khajaque, a law student, was an eloquent advocate for his people.

"Our action committee exists to keep alive the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians who died at the

hands of the Turkish in the great genocide of 1915.

"It is our fear that the bombing will only cast a slur upon our people."

His Armenian people were part of what used to be known as Asia Minor, a tiny country squeezed in between the USSR and Turkey.

The source of disputation between great powers, it disappeared completely in 1920. But not before the entire population was almost totally destroyed in a tragic World War I sideshow.

"We eschew violence. The main obstacle to peaceful dialogue between the Turkish state and the Armenian people has always been violence. Only through such (peaceful) dialogue can extremists' acts be eliminated and a lasting solution found to the Armenian Question."

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KUWAIT'S AL-SIYASAH INTERVIEWS SUDAN'S AL-HINDI

JN211038 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 19 Dec 86 p 19

[Interview with al-Sharif Zayn-al-'Abidin al-Hindi, Sudanese deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by correspondent 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Amin in Khartoum--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-amin] Your excellency the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Sudanese diplomacy at this stage is regaining its strength to restore to this country its old regional and international status. How do you assess Sudan's relations with Ethiopia, Egypt, and Libya?

[Al-hindi] In its regional and international relations Sudan always proceeds from the basic constants of good neighborliness and normalization of relations within a realistic framework that takes into consideration objective circumstances. These basic constants keep Sudan away from any axis because axes engender counter axes.

With respect to the countries mentioned in your question, Sudan's relations with each have a special flavor and all these countries have special bonds with our country created by their geographic proximity and cultural heritage. Sudanese-egyptian relations exist from time immemorial and will continue to exist from the premise of their joint cultural heritage and interests. For this reason, I say that our relations with Egypt are more distinctive than with any other country. Relations with Libya are also more than relations of good neighborliness because they are relations based on Arabism, and relations which always endeavor to seek unionist bonds. Libya is affected if Sudan is harmed and Sudan is also affected if Libya is harmed. With respect to Ethiopia, Sudan has always tried to maintain relations of good neighborliness because Sudan had always sought peace. That's why Sudan did not try to do anything to disturb these relations and sometimes overlooked many problems or incidents with which it had no connection in spite of the fact that they were attributed to it. Sudan always dealt with these incidents calmly and patiently.

[Al-amin] Your excellency Al-sharif Zayn al-'abidin, does Sudan intend to open its borders to the Eritrean liberation movements as some kind of pressure against the Ethiopian Government's assistance to Colonel John Garang's movement?

[Al-hindi] Sudan continues to be patient toward what neighbor Ethiopia is doing. This patience should be attributed to weakness or to the inability to use any of the options we have but it is motivated by our desire to give the others the chance to reassess their calculations and stands.

[Al-amin] The existing belief was that when the Addis Ababa agreement was signed in 1972 between Sudan and the parties of the rebellion at the time, with the participation of the Ethiopian government, this agreement would not have been reached if Sudan had not threatened to allow Eritrean liberation movements to carry out military operations from its territory in reply to the Ethiopian assistance to the rebels in southern Sudan under Joseph Lagu. My question is: Do you intend to adopt such a course now after the Sudanese prime minister has publicly confirmed that John Garang's movement has become a puppet in the Ethiopian Government's hands?

[Al-hindi] Let us not anticipate events!

[Al-amin] Your excellency the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is there any mediation underway between Sudan and any other international party for the resumption of the dialogue with John Garang's movement?

[Al-hindi] I know nothing about any mediation. What I would like to say here is that we continue to abide by our stand which we have adopted since the formation of this government: Peace and dialogue. On the other hand, we do not intend to relinquish any inch of Sudanese territory to any military movement whatsoever.

[Al-amin] Your excellency the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, let us go back to the question of mediation on the war in the south. I have learned from well informed sources here in Khartoum that arrangements are underway for a visit by a well known Christian key figure to mediate between the Sudanese Government and John Garang's movement. Can you shed more light on these reports?

[Al-hindi] Your sources have disclosed to you something which has not yet been finalized. What I know is that this key figure is Bishop Capucci and he has shown great interest in visiting Sudan. Bishop Capucci is a very well known religious figure, and he has close relations with the Pope. On the other hand, Bishop Capucci has close relations with the Arab nation and he firmly believes in dialogue. I met him in Paris where we held lengthy discussions, and I found him to be the most understanding person in such matters. Bishop Capucci will come to Sudan, will become acquainted with the government's viewpoint, and will meet with the prime minister at a date that will be set later. He hopes that he can contribute to the elimination of many ambiguities with respect to this issue.

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GENERAL CRITICIZED FOR STATEMENTS ON SOUTH

Khartoum SUDAN TIMES in English 10 Dec 86 p 2

[Editorial: "It Is Not for the Army To Question Policy"]

[Text]

There was a small news item in Sunday's Sudan Times that could have easily been overlooked, but it said a lot about the balance of forces in the country today and about some of the obstacles to achieving peace in the South. The report quoted Equatoria Provincial Army Commander, General Abdel Rahman Said, as saying that the army does not presently support peace negotiations. The General went on to explain that this was because the rebels would soon be defeated.

If our response to this report seems slow, it is because we earnestly hoped that the government would either deny its authenticity or express to the General, and any other like minded officers in the army, a similar sentiment to the one we now intend to convey.

The message is a simple one and one that we would expect all of the military establishment to be familiar with: it is the role of democratically elected civilian politicians to establish policy; it is the role of the military to carry out that policy. More than that, government leaders are responsible to the public who elect them and that same public delegates them the authority to direct the army. The army neither makes policy nor has any right to publicly comment on or question policy.

That there should be any confusion over this point in view of the history of this country over the past two years is astounding. If the April Uprising has any message that almost all Sudanese, irrespective of ideology, should be able to agree on, it is that the people have collectively and emphatically said "no" to military leaders lacking democratic credentials masquerading as legitimate leaders. That notion, to quote Trotsky, is one for the dustbin of history.

There is another issue raised by the General's incautious remarks. We are well aware of the political pressures being brought to bear on Prime Minister Sadig El Mahdi by elements and parties within the Constituent Assembly, and even his own government, that favour war or what amounts to the same thing, favour policies that will ensure a violent response from some Southerners. What General Abdel Rahman Said has given us is an insight into the pro-war sentiment within the military that are being used to influence government decision making.

Again we are confronted with the impenetrable logic that argues that a deal can't be struck with the SPLA when it has the initiative [as was the case until a month ago], nor is there any value in striking a deal when the national army is on the march because victory is on the horizon - although a rather elusive horizon, past experience would suggest.

The General has also raised our ire by asserting that even after that great day in the sky when the SPLA is defeated, the army is not really to accept any of its fighters in its ranks. There is simply no place for this kind of narrow-minded thinking. When the tragic conflagration in the South is finally ended it will be absolutely essential to achieving a meaningful peace that SPLA cadres are integrated into a truly national army. Nor will this be merely a symbolic gesture. There will be a pressing need to demonstrate to Southerners that the army in their midst is "their" army. It will only be after this reformed and integrated army is established that the real work of construction and a true pacification, that will have the support of Southerners, can be attempted.

The logic of any extended war situation is to increase the power of the generals at the expense of civilian government leaders. World history and Sudanese history is replete with examples of this. For a civilian government facing this problem, such as that of Sadig El Mahdi's, two courses must be pursued simultaneously: first, keep the generals on a short leash, so that everyone understands at all times who is in control, and second, ensure that the war is quickly brought to an end so that a struggle over control of policy does not develop.

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SUDAN

BRIEFS

FOOD RELIEF TIED TO HARVEST PROBLEMS--Reports from the Gezira Scheme indicate that labourers are unwilling to participate in the cotton harvest for this season, said Al Siyassa yesterday. The only explanation for the labourers' attitude was that having been flooded with relief food and other items, they felt they could dispense with wages they received during harvest, the report said. The report has thus stressed the government's intervention to control and rationalize the distribution of relief food in order not to brake the existing harvest sytem. A reliable source at the Gezira Board said that a prosperous cotton harvest is expected, especially for the Shambat fibre which was cultivated over 87,000 feddans of the scheme.
[Text] [Khartoum SUDAN TIMES in English 15 Dec 86 p 2] /9317

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TUNISIA

BRIEFS

COMMUNIST OFFICIALS VISIT ISLAMIC LEADER--Abdelhamid Ben Mustafa, secretary of the Tunisian Communist Party, and Ismail Boulahia of the Socialist Democratic Movement's Political Bureau, visited Rached Ghannouchi who is currently in residence at his house, to inquire about his health and to express their solidarity with him against all of the restrictions against him and to discuss the ordeal that democracy in our country is still experiencing. [Text] [Tunis AL-TARIQ AL-JADID in Arabic 8 Dec 86 p 2] /6091

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MUSLIMS WHO SELL PROPERTY TO JEWS TERMED 'HERETICS'

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 29 Nov 86 p 1

[Article: "Popular Rally to Back Inhabitants of Occupied Jerusalem; No Interment in Muslim Graveyards; Tawfik Ziad Says Peaceful Coexistence Allows Racists To Assault Arabs"]

[Text] President of the Supreme Muslim Council in Jerusalem, al-Shaykh Sa'd-al-Din al-'Alami, has declared that anyone selling property or housing in the Holy City to Jews shall be considered a heretic in the eyes of Islam, with whom there shall be no dealings and who may not be interred in Muslim graveyards. Meanwhile, for the second consecutive week, Zionist bands have continued their assault on Arabs inside and outside the Old City, and the occupation authorities have again rejected al-Shaykh al-'Alami's proposal that an international force be sent in to protect the population from attacks by Jews.

The Muslim orphanage in Jerusalem was the scene of a major popular rally attended by representatives from various parts of occupied territory, to counter the Israeli scheme to drive the inhabitants out of the Holy City.

Addressing the rally, al-Shaykh Sa'd-al-Din al-'Alami, president of the Supreme Muslim Council declared that anyone selling property or housing in Jerusalem to Jews shall be considered a heretic in the eyes of Islam, with whom there shall be no dealings and who may not be interred in Muslim graveyards. al-'Alami reviewed what had befallen families in the Old City since the occupation authorities began building settlements and encouraging settlement in the heart of Arab, Muslim Jerusalem.

Anwar al-Khatib urged that no one belittle the events that have taken place in Jerusalem to date so that there should be no repetition of what happened during the Dayr Yasin massacre, when the inhabitants of whole Arab villages fled their hamlets and homes. He warned of a diabolical Israeli stratagem designed to bring about the evacuation of all Arab inhabitants from the Old City, which would then be taken over and Judaized. He demanded that all keep their wits about them to resist that stratagem.

Mayor of Nazareth Tawfiq Ziyad said that he, Tawfiq Tuba and others had come from all parts of Galilee and the Triangle, not only out of a spirit of solidarity but to face up to the plot and take part in the battle being waged

by the occupation authorities, assisted by the settlers, against Arabs everywhere and recently in Arab Jerusalem. He stressed that, since the occupation, aggression is being carried out against Palestinians everywhere.

Ziyad poured scorn on the concept of peaceful coexistence which the occupation authorities are attempting to promote and advance in the eyes of international public opinion and which he described as "Coexistence that allows racist bands savagely to assault the Arabs." He said that the "morass of the occupation" needs to be dried up and swept out of existence which can be achieved by embodying Arab unity under the banners of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Muhammad al-Kafrawy, who conducted the proceedings of the rally, announced that the Muslim Waqf Department intends to sign contracts with new Arab families to rehabilitate uninhabited housing in the Old City, in order to preserve them from confiscation and settlement.

A representative of Palestinian working women reviewed harassment levelled at inhabitants of the Old City and Arab nationals in occupied territories in general and urged speedy unification of Palestinian squads to meet the challenge.

President of the Society for Arab Studies, Faysal al-Husayni, spoke on behalf of Jerusalem and urged the urgent formation of committees to support endangered suburbs in the Old City, as a first step. He called for committees to be set up in other regions and cities saying: "As Palestinians we must depend on ourselves to meet the plots being weaved against, without awaiting assistance from anyone, but following the example of our kin in the Lebanese camps."

Speaking on behalf of the suburb vulnerable to Zionist settler threats, Hayil Sunduqah stressed that the inhabitants of the suburb were not intimidated despite all that had happened, but realize that there is a strategy to appropriate their houses, to which they had returned and which they are determined to retain. He emphasized that the inhabitants will not quit at any price.

He further urged constant and regular action to protect the inhabitants and that the people remain in their houses for they had no choice, but to stay or die.

Al-Shaykh Wajih al-Khatib, Imam of the Ibrahimi Mosque, quoted one of the Prophet's traditions as an example to strengthen the resolve of Muslims in the Old City and withstand any attempts to evict them from Jerusalem and the shelter of the Holy City.

Meanwhile Zionist extremists continued their attacks on the inhabitants of the Old City. They set fire to the house of 'Abd Muhammed Abu Hadwan in Bab al-Magharabah, smashed and destroyed dozens of automobiles parked near Dayr al-Ard in the Old City within sight and sound of occupation troops who took no action.

Zionist gangs also beat up an Arab and his family in his store.

Occupation forces escalated their repressive measures against faculty staff of places of learning, universities, and advanced colleges.

Moshe Arens, the Zionist responsible for Arab affairs in the enemy government, responded to al-Shaykh al-'Alami's call for an international force to protect the Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem by saying: "Jerusalem has been and will be the eternal capital of Israel and so the police will also be eternally Israeli".

Arens made the comment while touring the old city yesterday accompanied by the Hold City's Zionist mayor, Teddy Kollek.

13291/12913

CSO: 4404/133

BRIEFS

FOREIGN CURRENCY RESERVES UP--Israel's foreign currency reserves soared by almost \$1 billion in November to their highest level since early 1983. The receipt of the U.S. government's \$1.2 billion economic aid package for the American fiscal year 1987 pushed the total reserves figure through the \$4 billion mark, to stand at \$4.262b. In fact, the official reserves rose by only \$938m., according to Bank of Israel figures released yesterday, and not by the full \$1.2b. transferred by the U.S. Treasury. Although not formally confirmed, it is believed that the Israeli government used part of the aid to pay off a foreign debt that carries a significantly higher interest rate than that obtainable on deposits on international money markets--the form in which the reserves are held. The Treasury, meanwhile, announced that the government had absorbed NIS 39m. from the public in November. This net figure resulted from conflicting money flows in the government's "real operations," meaning all spending other than on debt servicing, which showed a surplus of NIS 133m. as against its capital market operations, which showed a deficit of NIS 173m. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Dec 86 p 2] [Article by Pinhas Landau] /9274

TIES WITH GREECE IMPROVING--The signing in Jerusalem last week of a bilateral tourism cooperation agreement was yet another indication of strengthening relations between Greece and Israel. Panagiotis Roumeliotis, the Greek deputy minister of national economy and tourism, said a series of developments between the two countries was leading to the "normalization" of ties. The highest ranking Greek official to visit Israel in the past 25 years, Roumeliotis announced that Israel can anticipate visits next year by Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papouliou and Culture Minister Melina Mercouri. There will also be a visit by a Greek parliamentary delegation in response to an invitation from the Knesset. As an outcome of talks in Athens between the Greek and Israeli directors-general of the Ministries of Agriculture, a delegation of Greek agriculture experts is due here before the end of the month. [Text] [Article by Greer Fay Cashman] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Dec 86 p 4] /9274

CSO: 4400/87

WEST BANK FARMER CONTESTS ISRAELI CLAIMS

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Dec 86 p 5

[Article by Josephine Zananiri]

[Text]

AMMAN — "The land for us is an *amaneh* (God's trust)," says Palestinian farmer Mr. Sabri Gharib, "we are entrusted with its care and must pass the land intact to our children." Mr. Gharib has struggled to uphold this *amaneh* against all the formidable force of the Israeli military occupation machine in the West Bank, who since 1979 has waged constant attempts to confiscate much of his 112 dunum farm.

Perched on the high craggy mountain peaks near the village of Beit Ijza, the Gharib lands fall between the Israeli Hadasha settlement on the east side of the mountain and the village on the west. Mr. Gharib's patch of Palestine is "beautiful, the air is fresh and the soft spring grass vividly green and the soil fertile," he lapses into a moment of silence, his eyes remembering each clod of turf, every peak and gully. "But," he adds, "all of Palestine is beauty."

The small, sturdily built farmer sits quietly discussing his problem. He has a ready wit and speaks in the colourful rhetoric shared by Arabs who work the land. He rarely gestures allowing his fluent words to illustrate the disasters that have overcome himself and his family. His clothes are neatly pressed and finely mended by a careful wife and he wears the traditional *hatta* with pride.

For the last seven years Mr. Gharib has thwarted every Israeli attempt to confiscate his land. The cost to him and his family, a wife, his sister and his twelve children has been enormous both financially and morally.

The establishment of the Jewish Hadasha settlement in 1979 started Mr. Gharib's chain of disasters. The land has been his family's for more generations than he remembers. "We paid taxes under the Turks and the British," he adds. His house, sited upon part of the land was constructed after receiving an Israeli building permit. However Israeli expediency coupled with the ever present desire for settler expansion ignored the historical, legal proprietorship of Mr. Gharib.

In the beginning of 1980 "I noticed that the settlement fence was two dunum inside my land. I went to the military governor of Ramallah to protest and I got a written order from him allowing me to work my land. I still have the permit," says the softly spoken farmer. Sometime later he, his wife and son Mahmoud were working the land, "thirteen settlers came towards us, ordering us off the land and threatening us with a gun." The incident alarmed him and he consulted two lawyers who advised him to initiate legal proceedings against the settlers.

Several days later he received a letter from the Israeli military governor in Ramallah offering to purchase the four dunum next to the settlement which, according to the document, would be used for the construction of a reservoir for the settlement. He took the letter to his lawyer who obtained an order from the high court delaying the enforced sale of the land. A few days later surveyors arrived to measure the property and the day after they brought bulldozers and started construction of a road through Mr. Gharib's property.

At first the Israeli military government alleged the land had been purchased by Israeli settlers in 1921. However no maps or plans of the time prove this to be true. Later the Israelis changed tactics and argued the land intended for expropriation (25 dunum) had not been used or planted and was therefore government land. Clearly this was untrue as Mr. Gharib had tilled the soil for many years.

At the end of 1980 the farmer's lawyers advised him that the 25 dunum could not be used by either him or the settlers until the objections committee (composed of reserve Israeli army officers) resolved the matter. Mr. Gharib abided by the decision and set about planting the rest of his farm with barley.

In June 1981 he brought a bulldozer to work his land. Shortly after a group of border police arrived and ordered him to stop working and later took him overnight to the Ramallah military headquarters. After his release he again started working his land with the help of his wife. Again the police forced him to go to the military headquarters but this time left him standing outside in the cold. With his identity card confiscated, he was ordered to return to his village and report the following day with his permit from the building and organisation committee. He was surprised by the demand as such permits are issued for construction of buildings not for permission to work the land.

The next day he started working but was again harassed by the border police for a third time and was kept in prison for 24 hours. His lawyers obtained a temporary order stating that he should not be harassed or arrested without formal charges. He continued working the land except for the 25 dunum. Sometime later an Israeli named Eli ordered Mr. Gharib to go to the military headquarters of Ramallah. When he asked his son Mahmoud to return the tools to the house, the Israeli promptly started shooting at the boy and both father and son were forced to accompany the Israeli to Ramallah. Throughout the journey Mr. Gharib was threatened and his son was abandoned half way and forced to return on foot to his village. Mr. Gharib was imprisoned and told he would have to spend 28 days in jail. His wife contacted their lawyer and after nine days he was released on bail.

The Israeli Eli later raised a case against Mr. Gharib claiming that, "I did not obey his orders," says the Palestinian farmer sweeping his usually motionless hands in a downward gesture of disgust. Eli later brought "a case against me claiming that I had not the right to be living in my house on my land as it was Jewish property." Mr. Gharib ignored the order, "as the house was clearly mine and built on my farm." Eli persistently returned to the Palestinian farmer's land for about ten days, "harassing me and threatening to demolish my house." Finally Eli brought a written warning for the demolition of the Gharib house. "My lawyers however obtained an order preventing demolition," recalls Mr. Gharib.

Later a group of Israeli soldiers appeared with the director of absentee property and told Mr. Gharib that 45 dunum, next to the contested 25 dunum, had not been tilled since 1967 and was therefore government land. "Clearly," he says, "they were determined by any means to take my land from me, as I had planted and tilled that soil every year."

Eli again returned and, "attempted to chase me off my land." He later arrived with a group of Israeli soldiers who tried to force Mr. Gharib to sign a survey and aerial photograph of the area. He refused and gave the picture to his lawyer who obtained a high court permission to till the land excluding the 25 dunums.

So the middle aged farmer set about working the soil, this time planting vines. Three soldiers arrived and later some settlers ordering Mr. Gharib off his land. When he refused, one of the soldiers kicked him and the other two beat his son Mahmoud. "We refused to move and the soldiers started shooting in the air," he adds obviously disturbed by the memory of one of his children suffering such physical abuse.

After the incident Mr. Gharib went to see his lawyers. However, during his absence an Israeli came to his house claiming to be an assistant of the military/governor and took two of his children to the Ramallah military headquarters, an incident that shocked both the Gharib parents.

His lawyer advised him to obtain medical reports as to his and his son's injuries — a concussion and broken hand for the father and injuries to the spinal chord for the boy. Mr. Gharib reported the attacks to the police only to be told that the settlers were bringing a suit against him over the fight. "But," he says, "they were seven and I was only one with a lad and it was they who came to fight me."

On November 2, 1981, while one of his sons was tilling the 45 dunum, an Israeli officer entered the property and struck the boy across the face. The lad ran for protection of the house and when Mr. Gharib came to his rescue the officer ordered the two to the Ramallah military headquarters where yet again the farmer's identity card was confiscated.

Harassment continued and in April 1984 the Israeli military objections committee reiterated its decision that Mr. Gharib's

property is "state land." A few days later his lawyers withdrew from the case after threats from the settlers.

Palestinian lawyer Jonathon Kuttab then took over the legal battle. Meanwhile Mr. Gharib had petitioned the high court to reverse the decision of the military objections committee. In April 1986 the court upheld the previous decision.

With the exhaustion of so many legal avenues, lawyer Kuttab advised Mr. Gharib to petition the court to lease his land back to him rather than the settlers as the Palestinian farmer had lived on the land for a far longer period than the settlers.

The entire calamity has obviously affected the small farmer as his livelihood is denied him and two thirds of his land is virtually confiscated. He has been forced to work as a labourer to

support his family and his eldest son left school early to assist the family too. But Sabri Gharib remains far from a broken man. "I will never leave my land," states the indomitable farmer. "I will die before they move me. "The daily existence of the family on the third of the remaining land stands as a testament to their extraordinary resilience. Fences erected by the settlers separate their house from the toilet and parts of the fences are as close as three metres to their dwelling.

Mr. Gharib's wife remains as steadfast as her husband. "Whenever she sees intruders on our land she would like to swallow them," says her husband.

The enormity of his problem sometimes seems overwhelming to Mr. Gharib. "But still we have to live," he adds, "the land for us is a sacred trust, we will hand it on to our children and our grandchildren."

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/9317

ALLOCATIONS TO MINISTRIES UNDER 1987 BUDGET DETAILED

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 86 p 5, 9 Dec 86 p 5

[Article by Samir Ghawi]

[8 Dec 86 p 5]

[Text]

The following is part 1 of a two-part article detailing the allocations given to various ministers under the new 1987 draft budget that was presented to Parliament on Saturday by the minister of finance. Part II will appear in Tuesday's issue of the Jordan Times.

AMMAN — The budget was allocated among nine sectors, namely: Central administration, defence, security and internal order, international affairs, financial administration, economic development services, social services, cultural and information services and communications and transport services.

General administration

The total spending in this sector was projected at JD 7.945 million, JD 326,000 and JD 2.473 million above 1986 and 1985 reestimates respectively.

The Royal Court was allocated JD 5.4 million, the Parliament JD 1.036 million, the Prime Ministry JD 0.6 million, the Audit Bureau JD 637,000 and the Civil Service Commission JD 272,000.

No capital spending was projected for any of the sections under the general administration sector. However, the aforementioned recurrent expenditures compared with 1986 and 1985 reestimates are as follows:

- 1) JD 29,000 and JD 1.760 million increases for the Royal Court;
- 2) JD 192,000 and JD 464,000 increases for the Parliament;
- 3) JD 53,000 and JD 92,000 increases for the Prime Ministry;
- 4) JD 44,000 and JD 87,000 increases for the Audit Bureau;
- 5) JD 8,000 and JD 70,000 increases for the Civil Service Commission.

The total spending in this sector represents nearly 0.8 per cent of the budget.

Defence

Only classified as recurrent expenditures, defence was allocated a total of JD 209 million, unchanged from 1986 reestimate but JD 20 million higher than that of 1985.

Under this sector and included in the total figure, JD 725,000 was earmarked for the Special Communications Corporation compared to JD 800,000 and JD 900,000 respectively for 1986 and 1985.

Defence represents nearly 20.5 per cent of the total budget.

Security and internal order

A total of JD 1.666 million was projected for the Ministry of Interior spending. Recurrent spending was estimated at JD 1.187 million including a participation of JD 75,000 to the Riyadh-based Centre for Security Studies and Training and to the Council of Arab Interior Ministers.

The recurrent expenditure was JD 60,000 down from 1986 reestimate but up JD 243,000 from 1985.

Capital spending for the Ministry of Interior was projected at JD 479,000, out of which JD 420,000 was classified as developmental and JD 59,000 as ordinary. The major item in this area was JD 400,000 to complete governorate and district-governorate buildings in Tafileh, Ramtha, Madaba and Aqaba.

Other sections under the security and internal order sector were the Public Security Department, Civil Defence Department, General Passports Department, Civil Registration

Department, Ministry of Justice and the Chief Islamic Judge Department.

The Public Security Department was allocated JD 40.110 million in recurrent spending, a hike of JD 2.860 million over 1986 reestimate and JD 9 million over 1985. Capital expenditure, described as ordinary, was projected at JD 6.353 million and includes JD 4.770 million for the purchase of weapons, ammunition, telecommunication equipment, other apparatus and to repay instalments falling due on contracts signed in 1986. The remaining JD 1.583 million was earmarked for construction of various police stations, border posts, prisons and for land appropriations and the employees' housing scheme.

For comparison purposes, the capital spending in this area was JD 623,000 above 1986 reestimate and more than double 1985 total.

As for the Civil Defence Department, the allocation stood, unchanged from 1986, at JD 3.337 million which included JD 450,000 in first aid. The recurrent expenditure for 1985 was JD 2.800 million out of which JD 380,000 was for first aid.

Capital spending, JD 1.020 million developmental and JD 180,000 ordinary, was mostly allocated for purchasing cars, a fire engine, an ambulance, various other equipment and apparatuses at a total cost of JD 800,000. Construction projects were appropriated JD 220,000 while for land appropriations, JD 180,000 was set aside.

Capital spending for the Civil Defence Department was reestimated at JD 1.590 million and JD 919,000 for 1986 and 1985 respectively.

The General Passports Department was allotted JD 628,000 in recurring spending only. The amount was down JD 64,000 from 1986, but higher than the JD 438,000 reestimate for 1985.

The Civil Registration Department was given JD 978,000 for recurring spending and JD 95,000 for ordinary capital

expenditure, mainly to buy computers. There was no capital spending by the department in previous years but the recurrent amount projected for 1987 was JD 110,000 and JD 133,000 above 1986 and 1985 reestimates respectively.

The Ministry of Justice was accounted JD 2.891 million in recurring expenditures and JD 390,000 in capital spending (JD 200,000 developmental and JD 190,000 ordinary). The recurring amount was JD 96,000 above 1986 reestimate and JD 371,000 higher than that of 1985.

The capital spending includes JD 200,000 to build a court of the First Instance in Ma'an, JD 100,000 to buy computers and JD 90,000 for employees' housing schemes. Total capital spending in the previous two years stood at JD 140,000 and JD 6,000 respectively.

The Department of the Chief Islamic Judge was allocated JD 981,000 for recurring expenditure only compared to JD 913,000 and JD 815,000 for 1986 and 1985 respectively.

In summary, the security and internal order sector was appropriated JD 58.629 million which is 5.7 per cent of the total budget.

International affairs

The budget appropriated JD 7.600 million for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Last year the amount showed JD 7.542 million while in 1985, it was JD 7.076 million.

For recurring spending, JD 6.100 million was earmarked. The figure includes Jordan's financial obligations and share participation in about 16 Arab and international organisations for a total amount of JD 350,000.

As for capital expenditure, JD 1.060 million developmental and JD 440,000 ordinary, about JD 1.2 million was for building and maintaining embassies abroad while the balance was for purchases of computers, cars and office equipment.

The share of the international affairs sector of the budget is about 0.74 per cent.

Finance administration

Finance administration was given the largest allocation, amounting to JD 348.740 million. The Ministry of Finance alone was allocated JD 150.740 million for recurrent spending and JD 181.647 million for capital expenditures, both ordinary and developmental.

The recurrent amount is down JD 3.401 million from this year's reestimate and JD 15.312 million lower than the 1985 figure.

Yet, figuring prominently among the various categories constituting the recurrent spending of the Ministry of Finance, is JD 67.235 million as interest on local and foreign loans, amounting to JD 23 million and JD 44.235 million respectively.

By contrast, reestimated figures for 1986 and 1985 budgets stood at JD 21.500 million and JD 17.800 million for interest on local loans while for foreign loans the interest was reestimated at JD 39.6 million and JD 34.2 million respectively.

Under the subheading "remunerations and support," the Ministry of Finance, was apportioned JD 65.026 million of which JD 47 million was earmarked for Pension Fund spending and other reimbursements.

For the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, JD 7.500 million was set aside while JD 3 million was apportioned for each of the Amman Municipality and the National Aid Fund. 19 other organisations were allocated JD 5 million.

The "remunerations and support" subheading totalled JD 62.946 million and JD 57.807 million under 1986 and 1985 reestimations respectively.

Under the subheading "emergency spending," JD 8 million was earmarked for refugee relief and steadfastness' support (JD 3 million), for subsidies on basic agricultural products (JD 4 million) and for other extraordinary unforeseen outlays (1 million).

Under capital spending, JD 62.037 million was allocated to

repay loan instalments falling due to 29 governments, Arab and international funds. Major creditors include Britain, France, Kuwait, the U.S., Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Italy, the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Bank (London), Union de Banque Arabe et Francaise (UBAF), the OPEC Fund, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Arab Bank (Bahrain), the International Development Association (IDA) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Repayments for 1986 and 1985 were reestimated at JD 48.421 million and JD 27.965 million respectively.

Another JD 4.037 million of repayments will take place next year under loans classified as commercial being owed to private foreign companies.

On local credits, JD34.923 million will fall due in 1987. JD 16.500 million will repay holders of development (treasury) bonds. JD 8 million will settle part of a loan granted by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and JD 5.015 will be instalment payments to the Housing Bank. Another JD 5.408 million will be discussed in repayment of other obligations.

Local debt repayment in 1986 was reestimated at JD 83.715 million while for 1985 it was reestimated at JD 9.409 million. No explanation was given for the rise in 1986 figure.

In an appendix to the budget, a table shows that as of Oct. 31, 1986, Jordan's net foreign debt stood at JD 817.892 million. 35 creditors (government, banks and funds) have extended Jordan credit lines totalling JD 1.180 billion of which only JD 961.280 million has been drawn (or utilised) while JD 143.388 million has already been repaid.

The largest foreign creditor is the U.S. with total outstanding figure of JD 86.052 million followed by IDA (JD 85.968 million), Kuwait (JD 72.841 million), Saudi Arabia (JD 70.716 million), Arab Bank Bahrain (JD 57.854 million) and Japan (JD 51.755 million).

Allocations for the Ministry of Finance capital spending include JD 4 million to be disbursed for land appropriations and JD 10 million for investments in projects in the occupied territories.

Reestimated expenditures for the aforementioned two areas during 1986 and 1985 stand at JD13 million and JD 1.400 million respectively.

Total amount for local investments and loans was estimated at JD 41.350 million, down JD 18.150 million from this year and JD 4.037 million from 1985.

In some detail, local investments in public institutions namely: The Housing Corporation, the Aqaba Railway Corporation, the Jordan National Geographic Centre, the Vocational Training Centre and the Aqaba Region Authority were budgeted at JD 4.750 million while JD 9.500 million and JD 11 million were set aside for Jordanian universities and the Water Authority respectively.

Investments in various companies were estimated at JD 4 million, compared to JD 16 million according to 1986 reestimate (JD 4.460 million in 1985).

The Jordan Cement Factories will receive JD 12 million in loans compared to JD 6 million in 1986.

As for other departments, falling under the finance administration sector, the following amounts were allocated:

a) Only recurrent spending of JD 135,000 was budgeted for the Budget Department.

b) Only recurrent spending of JD 972,000 was earmarked for the General Purchases Department. JD 470,000 of this amount is related to items for the Traffic Department's use. This year's figure amounted to JD 654,000.

c) The Customs Department's recurrent spending was estimated at JD 2.520 million, up about JD 350,000 on this year's figure. Capital expenditure was envisaged at JD 900,000, JD 590,000 of which to go for expanding and maintaining border posts and the balance for various purchases and

remodernisation and upgrading of existing assets. This year's reestimated spending was JD 428,000.

d) The Land and Survey Department was allocated JD 2 million (nearly unchanged from 1986) for recurrent expenditures and JD 230,000 for capital spending (also nearly unchanged from this year's figure). JD 140,000 of the amount in the capital part will finance remodernisation and expansion programmes.

e) The Income Tax Department was appropriated JD 1.899 million for recurrent expenditures, JD 91,000 less than 1986 and JD 180,000 down from 1985 reestimates. Capital spending of JD 97,000 was mainly for employees' housing scheme.

Communication and transportation services

This sector, which was allocated a total of JD 32.918 million, groups the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Transport, the Telecommunications Corporation, the Civil Aviation Authority and the Meteorology Department.

Recurrent spending for the Ministry of Communications amount to JD 3.987 million, up JD 161,000 from 1986 and JD 349,000 higher than 1985. Capital spending was budgeted at JD 560,000, JD 17,000 less than the 1986 reestimate but JD 222,000 above 1985 allocation.

Construction of new post offices under the capital expenditure would amount to JD 202,000 while studies and research programmes would cost JD 112,000 and various purchases of equipment, cars and apparatuses would total JD 125,000.

The Telecommunications Corporation was allocated JD 8.936 million for recurrent spending and JD 6.600 million for capital (developmental and ordinary) expenditure.

The recurrent part was higher by JD 181,000 and JD 1.261 million than the 1986 and 1985 figures respectively.

The capital expenditures comprised mainly the following:

- a) JD 4.460 million to purchase equipment for network, switchboard and microwave projects;
- b) JD 615,000 to purchase cars, facsimily equipment and spare parts;
- c) JD 200,000, for consultancy services to privatise the corporation;
- d) JD 75,000 for salaries of experts, technicians and others working in various projects;
- e) JD 200,000 for construction of offices;
- f) JD 240,000 for printing a new telephone directory.

The capital part for 1987 was JD 2.250 million above the 1986 reestimate.

The Ministry of Transport spending was projected at JD 147,000 and JD 3 million for recurrent and capital spending respectively.

The recurrent part was nearly unchanged from this year's amount but the capital part was up about JD 600,000 over 1986 and JD 2 million above 1985 reestimates.

Solely earmarked for Queen Alia International Airport, JD 2.344 million will go for various construction schemes while JD 250,000 will go for purchasing equipment and JD 250,000 for research and studies.

The Department of Meteorology was allocated JD 610,000 and JD 94,000 for recurrent and capital expenditures respectively.

For 1986 and 1985 the recurrent part was JD 580,000 and JD 543,000 while there was no capital spending during this year. The amount for 1987 will be mainly for purchases of equipment and remodernisation programmes.

The Civil Aviation Authority was appropriated JD 5.484 million for recurrent spending, JD 20,000 higher than 1986 reestimate and JD 368,000 over 1985 figure.

For capital spending amounting to JD 3.500 million, JD 2.507 million was allocated for purchases of aviation equipment,

spare parts, cars and other machinery, JD 572,000 for construction purposes, JD 80,000 to repay loans and other financial obligations and JD 281,000 for training and consultancy services.

The capital spending in 1987 is more than double the amount for 1986 which was in turn double the 1985 figure.

The communication and transportation services accounted for 3.2 per cent of the total budget.

Cultural and information services

This sector, which was allocated a total of JD 13.716 million, groups the Ministry of Information, Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, Press and Publication Department, Jordan News Agency, Youth Care Organisation, Arts and Culture Department, Archaeology Department and Documentation and Libraries Department.

The Ministry of Information had only a recurrent spending of JD 686,000 slightly upon this year's total. Included in the figures was a JD 450,000 "miscellaneous" amount apportioned to the information office in Washington (JD 290,000), Developmental Information Directorate (JD 50,000) and others. However, the total amount in previous years for "miscellaneous" was JD 470,000 and JD 482,000.

The Jordan Radio and Television Corporation was allocated JD 6.456 million for recurrent spending and JD 2.500 million for capital (developmental and ordinary) expenditures.

Recurrent expenditure for the radio station was JD 2.041 million, JD 36,000 down from 1986 but JD 166,000 up from 1985. Participation or share contribution to international news agencies was estimated at JD 71,000 down from JD 111,000. The amount in 1985 was reestimated at JD 67,000.

Recurrent spending for the Jordan Television was estimated at JD 4.247 million, up JD 243,000 from 1986 and JD 299,000 from 1985. Participation or share contribution to international news organisations

was JD 200,000, nearly 3.5 times as much as the 1986 amount.

For the commercial section of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, the recurrent spending was set at JD 168,000.

The capital expenditure, meanwhile, was appropriated as follows:

- a) JD 1.259 million for the radio station. JD 515,000 of the amount will be for purchasing equipment, JD 694,000 will go for connecting power to the new broadcasting station near Qasr Al Khazaneh and JD 50,000 for research and studies.

The 1986 capital expenditure for the radio station was JD 833,000 while in 1985 the reestimate stood at JD 167,000.

- b) JD 788,000 will finance the television station's purchases of equipment, cars and machinery while JD 453,000 will finance some construction costs.

The Press and Publication Department was allocated JD 162,000 in recurrent spending. The figure for 1986 and 1985 was JD 148,000 and JD 134,000 respectively.

The Jordan News Agency was estimated to spend JD 420,000 (recurrent) and JD 83,000 (capital). The recurrent spending was higher than the JD 393,000 and JD 366,000 allocations for 1986 and 1985.

Capital expenditure was all earmarked for purchase of equipment and cars. There was no capital spending in previous years.

The Youth Care Organisation was budgetted JD 1.140 million for recurrent spending and JD 1 million for developmental and ordinary capital expenditures.

Recurrent spending was broken down to the following areas:

- a) JD 489,000 for "youth and sports." Included in the amount was JD 180,000 contribution to support overseas Jordanian youth clubs and centres. The contribution was in line with the reestimated amount for 1985, but down about JD 10,000 from 1986. Yet, the total under this category was up JD 9,000 from 1986 and JD 42,000 from 1985.

b) JD 426,000 was allocated to Al Hussein Youth City, JD 23,000 up from 1986 and JD 33,000 up from 1985.

c) JD 225,000 was set aside for the Royal Cultural Centre, nearly JD 32,000 higher than 1986 and 1985 reestimates.

As a whole, the Youth Care Organisation had JD 54,000 in recurrent outlays than in 1986 and JD 109,000 than in 1985.

In capital expenditure, the Al Hussein Youth City was allocated JD 400,000 mainly for maintenance of various facilities and for furnishing the Palace of Culture. JD 596,000 was

appropriated for "youth and sports" mainly to construct various sports facilities.

The Arts and Culture Department was only allocated JD 230,000 for recurrent spending. The figures for 1986 and 1985 were JD 185,000 and JD 207,000 respectively.

The Documentation and Libraries Department was also allocated recurrent spending only. Estimated at JD 85,000, the amount was JD 4,000 higher than 1986 reestimate (same difference over 1985).

The Department of Archaeology was appropriated JD

466,000 for recurrent spending and JD 488,000 for developmental capital expenditure. The figures compared with JD 427,000 and JD 399,000 for 1986 and 1985 for the recurrent part and JD 452,000 and JD 412,000 for the capital part.

JD 433,000 in capital spending will finance maintenance, excavations and reparation of archaeological sites while JD 45,000 will finance purchases of archaeological pieces.

The cultural and information services accounted for 1.3 per cent of the total budget.

[9 Dec 86 p 5]

[Text]

Economic development services

This sector, allocated a total of JD 229,249 million, groups the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Planning/Central Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning/National Planning Council, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Archaeology/Tourism, Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs/Urban Development Department, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources/Natural Resources Authority, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Agriculture, Jordan Valley Authority and Ministry of Supply.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade was budgeted JD 908,000 for recurrent spending and JD 460,000 for capital spending. Reestimated expenditures for 1986 and 1985 were JD 826,000 and JD 757,000 respectively for the recurrent part and JD 240,000 for the capital part in 1986. There was no capital expenditures in 1985.

Participation or share payment in various Arab and international organisations amounted to JD

125,000 in the recurrent section which was mainly for salaries, allowances, pension and various administrative expenses.

Amman International Fair was appropriated JD 350,000 in capital spending while JD 90,000 was earmarked for purchasing equipment and JD 20,000 for studies and researches.

The Ministry of Planning/General statistics Department was allocated JD 541,000 and JD 535,000 for recurrent and developmental capital expenditures respectively. Compared to 1986 and 1985 figures, the recurrent spending was JD 446,000 and JD 452,000 while the capital expenditure was reestimated at JD 431,000 and JD 76,000 respectively.

Studies and statistical surveys were projected at JD 400,000 in capital spending, new equipment and cars were allocated JD 90,000 and relocation of the computer and other miscellaneous training expenses were expected to cost JD 45,000.

The Ministry of Planning/National Planning Council was budgeted JD 639,000 and JD 149 million for recurrent and developmental capital spending respectively. For 1986 and 1985 reestimates, the amounts were JD 627,000 and JD

494,000 (recurrent) and JD 120,526 million and JD 79,889 million (capital) respectively.

The capital spending under this category was classified as follows:

- 1) JD 3 million for studies (including energy studies);
- 2) JD 400,000 for supporting research institutes and joint or contractual research agreements;
- 3) JD 300,000 (participation or share in financing) for projects under the United Nations Development Programme;
- 4) JD 34.300 million (participation or share in financing) for projects to be originally financed by foreign loans and grants;
- 5) JD 1 million for the Aqaba Thermal Power Project;
- 6) JD 4.950 million for road projects (Zarqa/Mafraq/Syrian border, Zarqa ring-road or Zarqa bypass, Amman/Naour/Dead Sea, Al Zara/Ghor Haditheh, Al Azraq/Al Safawi/Al Ruweished, Al Yutum/South Aqaba, Salt/Central Ghor and Al Juweideh/Sawaqah);
- 7) JD 1.200 million for repairing railroads;
- 8) JD 6.500 million for education projects;
- 9) JD 12 million for water and sewage projects in Aqaba, Irbid, Zarqa, Ruseifeh, northern and southern cities, the greater Amman and Balqa governorate;

10) JD 2 million for telecommunication projects;

11) JD 600,000 for agricultural projects in the Zarqa River basin, Hammad basin and the highlands;

12) JD 1.130 million for urban development projects;

13) JD 2 million to develop transportation and traffic in Amman;

14) JD 950,000 for health projects;

15) JD 1.200 million for "greater radio" project;

16) JD 200,000 to develop human resources;

17) JD 500,000 to build Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid.

All aforementioned amounts are government obligations or share in cost for projects to be financed through foreign loans or grants.

The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Archaeology/Tourism was allocated JD 628,000 and JD 250,000 for recurrent and capital spending respectively. About JD 29,000 above the 1986 reestimate and JD 71,000 higher than 1985 in recurrent spending, the capital (developmental) expenditure was JD 236,000 more than the 1986 figure. Mostly to develop touristic sites in Wadi Rum, Aqaba, Makkawi and Petra at a cost of JD 50,000 for each location, an additional JD 50,000 was earmarked for studies and research.

Spending by the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment was projected at JD 1.009 million (recurrent) and JD 623,000 (ordinary and developmental capital).

The amount for recurrent expenditures totalled JD 930,000 in 1986 and JD 864,000 in 1985 according to reestimates for those years. For 1987, an additional JD 50,000 was earmarked for training engineers at the Ministry of Public Works.

The capital spending was down JD 217,000 from the 1986 figure which was higher than 1985 by about JD 285,000. Major outlays in this section include JD 165,000 for studies and research, JD 258,000 to draw plans, organise land usage and air photography,

JD 90,000 to buy equipment and cars and JD 50,000 for construction costs in rural areas.

The Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment/Urban Development Department was allocated JD 452,000 in recurrent spending for the first time without any amount for capital spending (though included under allocations for the Ministry of Planning).

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources was budgetted JD 157,000 in recurrent spending, up JD 43,000 from this year's reestimate and higher by JD 126,000 from the 1985 figure. Included in the recurrent spending was JD 42,000 being Jordan's participation in the various international energy organisations.

No capital expenditure was allocated to the ministry although large amounts were set aside for energy studies under separate allocations.

Spending by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources/Natural Resources Authority was envisaged at JD 1.280 million (recurrent) and JD 11 million (capital developmental).

Less by JD 42,000 in recurrent expenditures, than reestimated for 1986, the amount includes JD 30,000 being Jordan's participation in the Arab Organisation for Mineral Resources.

The capital spending was earmarked as follows:

a) JD 9.307 million for oil exploration (JD 4 million for studies and research, JD 3.547 million for equipment, JD 325,000 for construction and other miscellaneous items);

b) JD 306,000 for general exploration;

c) JD 248,000 for general geological survey;

d) JD 320,000 for seismology;

e) JD 125,000 for exploring thermal energy;

f) JD 573,000 for the oil shale project;

g) JD 121,000 for geological design of cities and public areas.

The Ministry of Public Works was envisaged to spend JD 2.729

million (recurrent) and JD 24.480 million (capital). Recurring spending in 1986 and 1985 amounted to JD 2.650 million and JD 2.379 million respectively while capital expenditure for the two years was JD 23 million and JD 15.850 million respectively.

Recurrent spending for 1987 was envisaged as follows:

a) JD 2.009 million for administration, technical departments and construction directorates;

b) JD 165,000 million for buildings' departments;

c) JD 57,000 for government tenders department;

d) JD 498,000 for Royal Palaces;

Capital expenditures was allocated as follows:

1) JD 3.500 million for roads maintenance;

2) JD 460,000 for studies and research;

3) JD 18.100 million for construction projects and for asphaltting roads mainly rural and secondary roads (unspecified), Zarqa/Sukheh/Jerash road, Sweileh/Salt road, Marj Al Hammam/Airport road connections, Rahab/Yarmouk University road, Refinery/Al Al Azraq triangle, Rashadieh/Desert road and many others;

4) JD 1.750 million for Royal Palaces.

The Ministry of Agriculture was allocated JD 5.183 million for recurrent spending and JD 2.474 million for capital spending. The figures compare with JD 4.915 million and JD 4.407 million in recurrent spending for 1986 and 1985 and JD 2.066 million and JD 1.819 million in capital expenditures respectively.

The government's contributions to seven Arab and international organisations amount to JD 105,000 of the ministry's recurrent outlays.

Out of the total envisaged in capital spending, the Ministry of Agriculture will spend JD 165,000 to buy equipment, cars and tractors, JD 200,000 for construction, JD 935,000 on foresteration and grazing projects, JD 608,000 on nurseries, JD 429,000 on developing highlands, JD 61,000 on improving

agricultural produces and JD 2.474 million on soil and water preservation in the King Talal Dam basin.

The Jordan Valley Authority was allocated JD 3.694 million for recurrent spending and JD 22.260 million for capital spending.

The recurrent expenditure was JD 294,000 higher than the 1986 reestimate while the capital spending was down from both 1986 and 1985 figures which totalled JD 24.113 million and JD 45.465 million respectively.

The capital expenditure was broken down as follows:

- a) JD 1.850 million for general administration mainly to compensate landowners for land appropriations at a cost of JD 750,000 and for electrifying the Jordan Valley at a cost of JD 630,000;
- b) JD 680,000 for constructing and maintaining roads and for organisation plans for cities;
- c) JD 330,000 for Wadi Al Arab Dam;
- d) JD 3.465 million to raise the capacity of King Talal Dam;
- e) JD 900,000 for Al Karameh Dam;
- f) JD 300,000 for maintenance of other dams and for research and studies;
- g) JD 1.050 for extending the Ghor Canal;
- h) JD 800,000 for irrigating Central Ghor;
- i) JD 1.060 million for irrigating Southern Ghor;
- j) JD 56,000 for underground water storage schemes;
- k) JD 900,000 for miscellaneous expenses by the irrigation directorate at the Ministry of Agriculture;
- l) JD 611,000 to develop Wadi Araba;
- m) JD 270,000 for various mechanical workshops.

The Ministry of Supply was budgetted JD 867,000 in recurrent spending and JD 80,000 in capital spending. Figures for 1986 and 1985 were JD 830,000 and JD 787,000 respectively for recurrent and JD 753,000 and 863,000 respectively for capital expenditure which for 1987 will all go for buying cars and equipping storage facilities.

The economic development services accounted for 22.5 per cent of the total budget.

Social services

This sector, allocated a total of JD 118.475 million, groups the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the Ministry of Occupied Territories.

The Ministry of Education was budgetted JD 70.325 million for recurrent expenditures and JD 6.250 million for ordinary and developmental capital spending.

Divided among 10 sections and mostly reflecting salaries, cost of living expenses, transportation expenses, rents and pensions the major items were as follows:

- a) JD 3.743 million for the administration;
- b) JD 59.999 million for general education;
- c) JD 435,000 for the Hotel Training College;
- d) JD 1.242 million for vocational training;
- e) JD 454,000 for agricultural education;
- f) JD 180,000 for illiteracy and adult education;
- g) JD 825,000 for educational activities;
- h) JD 370,000 for the Rehabilitation and Training Centre;
- i) JD 1.250 million for general examinations;
- j) JD 1.832 million for school textbooks and teaching aids.

The total recurrent spending was JD 3.022 million higher than the 1986 reestimate which in itself was higher than 1985 by JD 7.424 million.

Capital expenditure was allocated as follows:

JD 268,000 for purchasing equipment, furniture and cars and JD 250,000 for studies and research — all for capital spending on administration purposes.

JD 639,000 for purchasing furniture, JD 3.729 million for various construction costs of schools and JD 132,000 for equipment and apparatus — all for capital spending on general education.

JD 250,000 for equipment, JD 770,000 for construction costs and JD 48,000 for furniture — all for capital spending on vocational education.

JD 50,000 for agricultural education mainly for construction cost of Al Rabba Agricultural School (JD 32,000) and JD 10,000 for furniture.

For educational activities, capital spending was set at JD 105,000 mainly for miscellaneous equipment and furniture.

The Ministry of Higher Education was budgetted JD 6.991 million for recurrent expenditure and JD 500,000 for capital spending. The recurrent spending, which compared with JD 6.680 million for 1986 and JD 4.180 million for 1985, was allocated as follows:

- a) JD 1.087 million for administration;
- b) JD 3.064 million for community colleges;
- c) JD 2.485 million for scholarships;
- d) JD 355,000 for the diploma

In capital spending, JD 500,000 will go to community colleges for costs of equipments, furniture and cars. JD 150,000 for studies and research and JD 50,000 for equipment will be the capital spending on the part of the administration.

The Ministry of Health was appropriated JD 26.250 million for recurrent spending and JD 4.825 million in capital (ordinary and developmental) spending.

The increase that the Ministry of Health was given over 1986 recurrent spending reestimate amount to JD 450,000. The 1985 figure was JD 21 million. Among the many items in recurrent expenditure, JD 800,000 was for scholarships and JD 680,000 for rents.

Capital expenditure for the Ministry of Health will mainly be for purchasing cars and equipment at a total cost of JD 2.600 million. Land and buildings were estimated to cost 1.625 million, research and studies to amount to JD 200,000 while general maintenance was envisaged at JD 400,000.

The capital spending for the ministry was about 75 per cent over the 1986 figure.

The amount budgetted for the Ministry of Labour and Social Development was broken down into two parts: Labour and social development.

The Social development part was appropriated JD 2.488 million for recurrent expenditure and JD 60,000 for capital spending.

Being less by about JD 654,000 from the total 1986 reestimate, the social development recurrent spending for 1987 was also slashed by about 25 per cent for a total of JD 250,000 in the area of financial aid. The aid in 1986 amounted to JD 1.022 million.

The capital spending for social development will mainly finance some construction costs and purchases of buses and equipment.

For the labour part, only recurrent spending of JD 498,000 was allocated. The projected amount, which was less by JD 16,000 from 1986 reestimate, included JD 47,500 participation or share in both the Arab and International Labour Organisations.

The recurrent spending for the Ministry of Occupied Territories was envisaged at JD 288,000. No capital spending was budgetted.

The amount was JD 38,000 above the 1986 reestimate and JD 57,000 higher than 1985.

The social services accounted for 11.6 per cent of the total budget.

CSO: 4400/89
/9317

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET STATISTICS CITED

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Dec 86 p 11

[Article by Samir Ghawi]

[Text]

AMMAN — The industrial sector figured prominently in terms of the number of shares traded during October 1986 at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) but, in terms of the volume of trade, the banking and financial companies' sector topped the list.

Regarding the number of shares category, the AFM monthly bulletin showed that the industrial sector accounted for 45 per cent of the total while the banking and financial companies' sector came in second place accounting for 40 per cent. The figures given for both sectors were 1,334,921 shares and 1,159,282 shares respectively.

The services sector, totalling 295,753 shares, and the insurance sector, totalling 154,889 shares, ranked in third and fourth place respectively representing 10 per cent and five per cent of the overall total of 2,944,845 shares.

Regarding the volume of trade, the banking and financial companies' sector led by 64 per cent for a total of JD 3,354,376. The industrial, insurance and services sectors followed at JD 1,460,770; JD 245,979 and JD 167,904 respectively accounting for 28 per cent, five per cent and three per cent of the overall total of JD 5,229,029.

The number of contracts that covered the trading activities totalled 5,995 out of which 3,196 related to the financial sector, 2,036 to the industrial sector, 497 to the services sector and 266 to the insurance sector. In percentage terms, the figures represented 53 per cent, 34 per cent, eight per cent and five per cent respectively.

The trading activities for October 1986 were lower than those posted in the previous month except for the number of contracts which increased by 36 per cent as it amounted to 4,416 in September 1986.

The number of shares was down by nine per cent and the volume of trade was 14 per cent lower than the September figures of 3,244,173 shares and JD 6,097,408 respectively.

The average amount per contract plunged by 37 per cent from JD 1,381 in September to JD 872 in October while the average amount of daily trading fell by 10 per cent from JD 277,154 in September to JD 249,001 in October.

compared to October 1985 figures, the total number of shares traded during October 1986 was higher by 189,187 shares but down JD 2,062,455 in terms of total volume. The number of contracts during October 1985 amounted to 4,252 while for the same month in 1986 it stood at 5,995.

A comparative analysis by sector reveals that the total number of industrial shares traded during October 1986 was more than double the October 1985 total which amounted to 652,321 shares. There was an increase by

50,664 shares in the insurance sector but a decline of 472,525 shares and 71,552 shares in the financial sector and the services sector respectively.

On the volume side, the total for the industrial sector was nearly double the October 1985 figure which amounted to JD 757,869. JD 51,617 was also an increase in the insurance sector.

The financial sector was real low as the volume dropped from JD 6,150,280 in 1985 to JD 3,354,376 in 1986. The services sector was slightly down from 1985 by JD 21,069.

Top companies

Out of 105 public shareholding companies listed at the primary market of the AFM, 77 companies' shares changed hands during October 1986. Following are the top five companies which were most actively traded during the month in terms of: a) the number of shares, b) the volume of trade, c) the contracts concluded and d) the turnover per share.

a) Arab Aluminium Manufacturing (351,682 shares), Credit and Finance (226,389 shares), Aladdin Industries (208,648 shares), Petra Bank (197,891 shares) and Industrial Development Bank (123,680 shares).

b) Arab Bank (JD 859,149), Bank of Jordan/new issue (JD 667,490), Petra Bank (JD 469,082), Arab Aluminium Manufacturing (JD 345,900) and Jordan National Bank (JD 193,024).

c) Bank of Jordan/new issue (1,352), Bank of Jordan (388), Arab Bank (386), Aladdin Industries (313) and Credit and Finance (233).

d) Aladdin Industries (20.9%), Bank of Jordan/new issue (19.4%), Arab Aluminum Manufacturing (8.8%), Jordan French Insurance (5.3%) and National Cables and Wires Manufacturing (4.8%).

As to prices, the general average index at the end of October rose 1.7 points or 1.6 per cent above the prices of the previous month.

Family transfers

Outside the primary market, a total of 1,590,558 shares were transferred at a total value of JD 3,085,917. The amounts were mostly transfers of shares among families (up to third degree relationships) and inheritance allocations.

Secondary market

At the secondary market, 637,487 shares of eight public shareholding companies were traded for a total volume of JD 405,067. Spread among 637 contracts (down five per cent from September), the total number of shares and the volume of trading was down 20 per cent and two per cent from last month respectively.

The average amount per contract and the average daily trading during October was JD 719 and JD 21,813 respectively while for September the figures were JD 698 and JD 21,238 respectively.

The other and final section where trading occurred was in government development bonds. The number stood at 4,521 bonds for a total of JD 45,270. The nominal value of the bonds amount to JD 45,210.

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/9317

REASONS FOR FAILURE OF CONSERVATION PROGRAM DISCUSSED

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Dec 86 p 4

[Article by Dr Fahed Fanek]

[Text]

THE volume of energy consumed in Jordan is not any more increasing at the 17 per cent a year rate of the seventies and early eighties. Yet energy consumption is still growing faster than the economy as a whole. In fact, we are consuming more energy per unit of gross domestic product than we used to consume previously.

The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources is exerting efforts and conducting information and field campaigns to save energy. However, statistics indicate that things have been going in the opposite direction and that our efficiency in utilising energy has been worsening steadily.

During the first ten months of this year, the sales of fuel derivatives by Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company have increased by seven per cent over the same period of last year. There is of course no claim that the GDP grew at a similar or even comparable rate, if it grew at all.

Electricity consumption during the first half of this year rose by 12 per cent over the same period of last year as measured by the generation of electricity.

Apparently the lax in the area of energy conservation has come about after the steep decline in world oil prices although this decline may prove to be temporary. The drop in oil prices should not alter the long-term policy of energy conservation especially when our energy is 100 per cent imported.

For comparison purposes we read that the energy ministers of the European Community met recently and agreed on a unified European energy policy to achieve the following main objectives:

- Limiting oil consumption to about 40 per cent of total energy consumption.
- Limiting dependency on oil imports to one-third of total energy consumed.
- Further energy efficiency improvements of at least 20 per cent.
- Limiting the share of hydrocarbon in electricity production to less than 15 per cent of fuel imports.
- Improving the competitiveness of the Community's solid fuel production.
- Maintaining the current market share of natural gas.
- Increasing substantially the contribution of new and renewable energies.

At the same meeting of EC energy ministers, it was recognised that despite the Chernobyl accident, nuclear energy would continue to play a growing role in the community's energy requirement through the nineties, because of new plants already being built.

Against the background of these aggressive policies and procedures adopted by the rich European countries, what did we do to improve the efficiency of energy utilisation and conservation?

— We transferred the cost of street lights in our cities and towns to the account of the Treasury. Naturally the municipalities immediately responded by increasing the number of street lamps and their capacity. Some street lamps in Amman are left on during day time as one can repeatedly see upon passing through the Hussein Bin Ali street in the afternoons.

— We started to electrify our highways such as the Amman-Queen Alia Airport and the Amman-Zerka highways, instead of using proper markings as done elsewhere.

— We started to export electricity to neighbouring countries at the bare cost, without accounting for depreciation, interest on loans, or administration and overheads. Even the cost of fuel consumed in generating electricity was based on world prices, which are lower than our actual cost due to transportation and the method of pricing.

— We decided to reduce prices for electricity consumed in homes by 20 per cent.

— We allowed the refinery to go lax in its debt collection policy, especially where governmental institutions are concerned. The outstanding debts in the refinery books against public sector institutions range around JD 50 million. This policy encouraged more consumption on credit.

Comparing our energy policies and procedures with those of the European Economic Community, we understand that our continued waste of energy has not happened accidentally.

A collection of 48 articles by Dr. Fanek has now been published in a book entitled "Insights into Jordan's Economy." The book is sold at JD 2.500, and can be obtained from the author's own accounting and consulting firm, P.O. Box 950244, Tel. 603902, Amman.

CSO: 4400/91
/9317

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR IRRIGATION PROJECT

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18-19 Dec 86 p 3

[Text]

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has awarded a contract worth JD 8.8 million to an international firm to carry out an irrigation project in the Jordan Valley.

The project, which is within the JVA's five-year plan, entails replacing open canals, presently used to irrigate 57,000 dunums, with pipe networks and laying additional pipe networks to irrigate a further 6,000 dunums of land in the central Jordan Valley region.

The project is aimed at saving substantial amounts of water which are lost through evaporation in the open canal system. According to a JVA spokesman, an estimated 20 million cubic metres of water is lost through evaporation annually. He said that the new networks will bring in water from the Yarmouk and Zarqa Rivers and from the King Talal Reservoir to feed lands lying between Wadi Rajab in the north and the Masri junction in the south.

The project, which is expected to take three years to complete, also entails building four pumping stations to be built along the East Ghor Canal, laying 227 kilometres of pipes to bring water to the valley from the Zarqa and Yarmouk Rivers and the King Talal reservoir. The project also provides for improving agricultural roads and building new ones.

According to the spokesman, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development will provide JD 6 million and the Jordanian treasury will cover the remainder of the project cost. The contract was signed for the JVA by its president Dr. Munther Haddadin and the firm's representative in Jordan.

School, housing project

Also Wednesday, the JVA signed a second agreement with a local company under which the latter will set up a health centre at Wadi Araba, a school for the village of Ma'moura in the southern Jordan Valley and other buildings to house JVA workers in the region.

The project will take one year to complete and is part of the JVA's efforts to develop the southern Jordan Valley regions, according to the JVA spokesman. He said that two weeks ago, the authority embarked on a project to estimate water resources for Wadi Araba. The agreement with the local firm was signed by Dr. Haddadin and the company's director general.

Dr. Haddadin returned to Amman on Wednesday at the end of a visit to the United States and the United Kingdom. He said in a statement that he held talks with officials at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on projects the JVA intends to implement and possible USAID assistance in this respect.

One of these projects is to store water which collects on the sides of the valleys in the Jordan Valley region.

During his visit, which lasted several days, Dr. Haddadin took part in an international symposium held at the centre of international strategic studies at Georgetown University in Washington, which dealt with water resources in the Middle East region.

In Britain, Dr. Haddadin said he held talks with officials from the consultancy firm which is providing designs for the projected Al Karameh dam to be built in the Jordan Valley.

CSO: 4400/91
/9317

BRIEFS

GCC TO BUY AIRCRAFT--A British newspaper specializing in Middle East affairs reported that the GCC is negotiating with American, French, and Dutch companies for the purchase, in a joint deal, of naval patrol aircraft worth 1 billion dollars. The newspaper attributed to certain American officials the belief that Saudi Arabia is going to undertake the overall deal, although some of the 20 planes proposed in the deal will be stationed in other GCC countries. The newspaper report added that the GCC is currently studying the matter of choosing among the American Lockheed B-2 Orion, the French Atlantique, and the Dutch Fokker F-27 aircraft. All of these aircraft are specialized in naval surveillance and antiship and antisubmarine warfare.
[Text] [Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic 25 Nov 86 p7] /12913

CSO: 4404/154-P

FINANCE MINISTER RULES OUT FURTHER CURRENCY DEVALUATION

Doha DAILY GULF TIMES in English 14 Dec 86 p 11

[Text]

Muscat: Oman's Finance Minister has ruled out any further devaluation of the Sultanate's currency beyond the 10.2% devaluation last January.

In remarks published yesterday by the government owned English language *Oman Daily Observer*, Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qais bin Abdulmonim al-Zawawi also said there were no current plans to increase commercial taxation or customs duties.

There is no personal income tax in Oman.

Zawawi said government measures taken during 1986 to combat falling oil prices, including the January devaluation, 10% public expenditure cuts and a reallocation of project priorities, had "proved effective."

"I can say that the measures realised their objectives. Stability returned to the Omani rial's exchange rate. The balance of payments was restored and local liquidity was made available for economic activity in the production and services sectors," Zawawi said.

"The Omani rial was devalued as a protective measure to keep sound

the balance of payments on the one hand, and to reduce imports and cash transfers by expatriates and foreign companies, as well as to increase revenue from the rial's new value, on the other hand," he said.

"I would stress that devaluation has helped remarkably to deal with this ..." said the minister, adding that the Sultanate was not considering increasing customs duties or direct taxes to raise revenue.

"In the present situation of stagnant commercial activities, the government is not in favour of fixing new taxes on Omani companies," Zawawi said, though he added that the country's financial policy was flexible and would be reviewed when necessary.

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/9317

VARIOUS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 509, 22 Nov 86 p 35

[Article by Rami Nabil Khuri]

[Text] One result of the rapid development of the hydrocarbon fuels and service sectors over the last decade is the declining role of the agricultural and fishing sector, the share of which amounted to no more than 4 percent of non-petroleum GNP despite an increase of output by 25 percent during the period from 1980 to 1982. That increase was due to government subsidies (increasing by over 500 percent of the figure for the first plan) and certain technical changes. The main constraints to increased production can be summed up in a shortage of water resources, the dispersal and limited area of cultivated land, and the availability of more remunerative employment in the other sectors. There was little marked activity by the agricultural sector save for the cultivation of vegetables. This is largely due to developments in the Batinah coastal plain to cover demand in the metropolis. Fishing too was able to record a modest gain and is now one of the sectors that is earning revenues for the treasury. Fish sales are increasing by about 20 percent per annum with the government providing financial support to modernize fishing craft (for example, by installing marine engines) and with the construction of an integrated fish--processing plant.

The building (12.8 percent of GDP) and service (2 percent) subsectors dominate the industrial sector, while the relatively modern industrial sector accounts for about 3 percent. The building industry prospered markedly during the last 5 years because of the steady requirements of government projects and the heavy demand for housing by the private sector, which is funded by long-term loans furnished by the Housing Bank of Oman. This sector provides the principal incentive for industrial enterprises, most of which are involved in importing building materials and which depend to a large extent on abundant supplies of local rock and metals.

Implementation of a number of government projects has accelerated the growth rate of the industrial sector. The Sahar copper project, for example, incorporates laying a long pipeline to move gas used as raw material, an industrial estate, additional port facilities, and the plant itself, which will draw its resources from local mines. Oman is also expected to begin exporting chromite through the united Arab Emirates, being the second mineral to be exported after copper. Omani authorities believe that operations

involving other minerals, with the possible exception of asbestos, might not be economically feasible at present. There are also two gigantic projects to produce cement, one of which has already started production. While the Sahar copper project may prove economically feasible in a regional context in the long term, the success of the two cement enterprises is fully assured. The government is expected to privatize them, after production begins and profits are assured, in implementation of relevant Omani policy.

The substantial increase in earnings from petroleum from 1978 to 1981 enabled Oman to finance its recurrent government expenditure and development projects from tax revenues, of which oil accounts for 90 percent. The principal expenditure is on defense and national security. Such expenditure includes numerous projects of a civil nature. The other main item of expenditure is the government's contribution to the current expenses and development of the Petroleum Development Company. Since 1981 tax revenues have no longer been sufficient to cover government expenditures, and annual budgets have had to be set at levels determined by the volume of foreign aid and loans available. Were a total deficit to occur, even taking such assistance and loans into account, Oman would be able to cover its declared deficit from the State General Reserves Fund created in 1980. The government has allocated 15 percent of total oil revenues to that fund since its inception and retains interest earned by such transfers in the fund, to which any additional financial surplus is transferred, the only withdrawals allowed being those needed to cover any budget deficit.

The external position has remained good with a constant increase in the volume of oil exports offsetting declining prices, increased imports of capital goods, and mounting remittances by expatriate workers. On the other hand, increased net direct investments in the petroleum sector and the volume of concessionary loans from Arab states and multinational bodies over the last few years have enabled the Central Bank and the State General Reserves Fund to increase their foreign assets.

13291/12913
CSO: 4404/134

HEALTH DIRECTOR DISCUSSES SERVICES PROVIDED TO CITIZENS

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 21 Nov 86 p 2

[Interview with Dr Badr Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rabi'ah by Fahd al-Sulayman; place not given]

[Text] There is no aspect of life which the state has not treated with great concern and attention in order to grow, develop, and become a shining example of an exemplary structure. This is the structure which the country's leaders have made with confident and ambitious vigor for the sake of the country and the individual Saudi.

Health has received special concern and unique support because it represents one of the most important bases for national, social development in pursuing the principle of "a sound mind in a sound body!"

But in this sea of growth overflowing with activity and strength in every direction, AL-RIYAD held an interview with the general director of Health Affairs in the Ha'il region, Dr Badr Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rabi'ah.

[Question] There is no doubt that you have been able to instill the concept of primary health care in the citizens of this region within a brief period of time despite social and technical obstacles. But is not your excellency of the opinion that this type of service has come before its time?

[Answer] Officially and in practice we can acknowledge that we have been preparing primary health care programs for approximately 3 years. The administration began to implement the first center in the Sadyan quarter in Ha'il in A.H. 1404. Since this date, the administration has begun--in conjunction with the ministry, and in the light of carefully studied plans concerning the implementation of this plan in a phased manner--to establish a model center for other centers in the Kunwat region. Subsequently, the selection of ten primary health care centers to begin the second phase, which is the education phase, was completed. The second plan then failed because of a lack of homogeneity in services. This naturally affects the infirmed citizen. At the same time, it affects the workers because workers in primary health care centers provide time and effort, whether physical or mental, which is many times that of workers in regular centers. Previously the relationship was a relationship of the center to the sick person. This relationship is different now. It has become a relationship of primary health care to an

integral society. Health as a concept does not mean a total absence of illness. Rather, it means a state of mental, physical, psychological, and social wholeness. You will therefore find that the primary health care program is as much a health program as it is a development program. It strives to exist for the healthy and infirmed citizen so that our citizens will be productive. Consequently, there is a good economic return, and the living standard of the individual and family is thereby raised. This definitely reflects on society in the sense that through this concept we are creating individuals who are capable of giving and producing.

When we began the second phase, following the certainty of its failure caused by a lack of homogeneity in services, the employee or the doctor or nurse, who expend tremendous efforts in these centers, receive the same salary or compensation--depending on the work--as that which is received by others in other centers in addition to the disappearance of the incentive which makes him dedicate himself to the provision of these difficult services. The citizen, himself, might not have a clear idea of primary health care. He therefore wishes to go to the doctor and complain of his ailment. Regardless of whether the doctor hears it (I say this frankly)--this situation sometimes occurs and we must recognize this--he writes him a prescription for some sedatives or vitamins or antibiotics without any cause. He may not spend more than a minute with the doctor. Is it logical that a doctor can comprehend the facts pertaining to an ailment in one minute? It is completely the opposite in primary health care centers where you will find that the doctors are consummately qualified to examine him for an adequate period of time, officially determined to be no less than 15 minutes so that the doctor can precisely examine and diagnose. In follow-up cases, the examination period is no less than 5 minutes. He must also be subjected to the necessary laboratory tests, radiological examinations, and all examination apparatus. He does not prescribe treatment, which was previously prescribed in one minute, until the next day, following a thorough confirmation of the soundness of the diagnosis.

Transformation Is the Object of Our Concerns

[Question] It is noteworthy that hospitals do not presently accept referrals which are not transferred by these health services agencies at the same time that they lack specialized doctors and the equipment needed for bedside examinations. How do you view the success of these centers and this state?

[Answer] This question has been raised more than once and has been a point of contention. It is therefore necessary that we first realize and understand the goals of primary health care and the definition of health care in order to be able to answer this question.

Primary health care in its simplest conception means basic health services provided to society which society sanctions and in which society participates. I say "sanction" and "Participate" because society realizes its needs and requirements, and it is society which can orient services toward its practical needs and requirements. Our goal then, is health. Sound planning and the use of available and exemplary abilities are needed to achieve this goal. Therefore, the Ministry of Health formulated eight elements of primary health care from which it began, and left each health region free to add to these

elements new elements which stem from its special problems and concerns in accordance with the special character of society. They are as follows:

1--Treatment services and the provision of basic medicines.

2--Care of the mother and child, including maternity care, basic inoculations, and treatment.

3--Dehydration of children and the monitoring of healthy children.

4--The containment of, and the fight against, chronic and endemic diseases. I believe that any discriminating person who visits one of our presently existing hospitals, will see a number of sick people afflicted with hardening of the arteries to the extent that they are paralyzed and have become dependent on their families and society, and others afflicted with clots as a result of high blood pressure. If they had subjected themselves to primary health care from the outset, the disease would have been countered before its occurrence, and, if God so desires for them, it would have been detected early, and its complications would have been mitigated. They would therefore have provided themselves with the necessary health protection, would also have made a bed available, and would live a sound, happy life.

We do not claim that we exceed the appointed time of death at these centers of ours. The appointed time is in the hands of God, may He be praised. We do say, however, that these health centers are perhaps the reason for the early detection and termination of some diseases such that human beings may live a healthy life free from illness and disease.

5--The environment: ridding water sources of refuse, excrement, mosquitos, flies, and vermin in close cooperation with municipalities, thank God, and getting rid of anything which causes environmental pollution.

6--The enlightenment of the citizen regarding health is based on its urgent need. When we reach an advanced level of health consciousness we can create individual family members with comprehensive health awareness. This is certainly not our responsibility alone in health matters because solidarity among the branches of the media, the Ministry of Education, and numerous other official agencies with the Ministry of Health is needed to create an integrated health awareness. I hope that those official agencies carry out their role in creating awareness in the same measure as that carried out by the Ministry of Health.

7--Nutrition: This is not the sole specialty of the Ministry of Health. Rather, it is the responsibility of the family raiser and all official informational and educational agencies to explain sound nutritional elements to the citizen.

8--The training of the handicapped: This is a problem shared by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs with the families themselves--the family of the handicapped person himself. If we realize the eight elements, every center can define the health and social problems which

pertain to it through geographical surveys and population statistics, and will attain the intended goal of better health care.

An Observation Worthy of Concern

[Question] But the health centers close their doors at the end of office hours on Thursday; what does the citizen do for the remainder of Thursday and Friday; does he postpone his illness until official office hours in order to receive treatment or does he obtain a referral to the hospital?

[Answer] The administrative office for the civil service scheduled 35 hours per week for administrative offices and 50 hours per week for doctors. If we wanted to operate these centers of ours for 24 hours a day, it would mean that we would need twice the present manpower cadres. This would consequently require a doubling of our financial budget three times over because this would necessitate an increase in expenditures. This useless expense has no justification and I do not believe that we would have to open our centers for 24 hours because only the first aid units operate 24 hours.

As long as office hours are from 7:30 to 10:30 and from 4:30 to 7:30, all normal cases will be treated. With the exceptions of these times, referrals are made directly to the first aid units. Moreover, we in the Ha'il region have been able to keep one of our hospitals operating from 7:30 to 4:30 and the other from 4:30 to 7:30 in the evening. Therefore, we have 12 hours of complete coverage for health services in the outpatient clinics. If we were to do research on some of the centers now, if we had the manpower cadres, they would operate 24 hours a day.

We Applied the Ministry's Plan

[Question] Dr Badr al-Rabi'ah, in reference to your concerns, it is stated that you are very concerned with the principle of precedents, and that you desire your health region to always be the first in every new health system. Are you not of the opinion that this principle predominates at the expense of functional procedures. In other words, the region will constantly be an experimental field instead of benefiting from the experiences of other regions?

[Answer] Firstly, I believe that you are asking about the first center because everyone searches for precedents and relative perfection, and as they say, every diligent person has his fate. When I look for the precedent setting center, I am not doing anything new. Rather I am undertaking the implementation and application of the plan of the Ministry of Health. I am more of an executive than a planner!

The General Administration for Health Affairs in Ha'il receives directions from the ministry in regard to primary health care at the same time that they are received in other regions, and each one worked hard, but why did the Ha'il region (?begin). I have many health problems in the region and I found the circumstances pressing us to find solutions to them. We searched for the best solutions and found that the application of primary health care is the ideal solution to most of our health problems. I subsequently need a great number

of beds and the supply in the region might not be that planned by the Ministry of Health. I was consequently compelled to find an adequate number of beds for the infirmed who are in need. I therefore oriented the administration toward two goals, the first one being the provision of a greater number of beds, and the second, a reduction of the infirmed using these beds. Based on these two goals, we aimed for the expedient application of primary health care because it is the only means to realize these two goals.

I will give you an example: treatment for dehydration. It is a simple solution prepared by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with UNICEF. We have begun to apply the treatment for dehydration in Ha'il, and the precise numerical result is now before you in the hospitals--the number of admissions of dehydrated children has decreased by 70 percent, and the average cost of a bed is not less than 1,000 riyals daily per infirmed person. We can realize the extent of the savings in money and effort through a simple accounting procedure. We can therefore apply the principle. (Leave the bed for the sick person who actually needs it!) Therefore, I consider the search for precedents a point of personal pride. Each person, I believe, searches for the highest percentage of perfection; perfection belongs to God, may He be praised, be it in His work or in Himself.

[Question] What about the level and adequacy of the services provided by the King Khalid Hospital?

[Answer] The government established the King Khalid Hospital to benefit the citizen first and foremost. Consequently, the citizen must ideally benefit from it.

The King Khalid Hospital contains 200 beds and is currently operating at 120 percent capacity. Accordingly, there are appointments for examinations and non-emergency admissions. Delicate operations, considered the first of their kind in the region and among the advanced operations in the kingdom and world, are performed there. The Ministry of Health has formulated a good arrangement for relations between the citizen and the hospital. Any person can submit a complaint, and the General Administration for Health Affairs undertakes to substantiate it, whether it is a claim for a specific or general right. If it is a specific claim, there is a judicial medical court at the ministry headed by one of the kingdom's senior judges; it includes members from the Ministry of Health, the University, the Ministries of Defense, Aviation, and Education, the National Guard, and specialized doctors who are able to discuss the operation and the error, and reach a judgement of guilt or innocence based on the data available to them. If it is a general claim, it is referred to the Physicians Administrative Organization which includes Saudi medical consultants who study all documents and verifications in order to establish guilt or innocence.

The King Khalid Hospital is a modern hospital equipped with the most modern equipment. Three university professors and a large group of consultants from various parts of the world are located there, and I believe that a hospital of this quality will necessarily progress upon a firm scientific basis.

The ministry is very concerned with the development of this relationship and action to strengthen it, either by rendering services or by being open to the observations of the citizen. I ask anyone who is subjected to any negative attitude at this hospital, or other hospitals and centers, to turn to us and submit to us the evidence which corroborates the soundness of his claim. We are very willing to closely examine the facts and investigate any matter.

A Perfect Role for the Clinics

[Question] We have many family clinics in the Ha'il region. Have you noted that they began to attract sick people following the application of primary health care?

[Answer] Firstly, I differ with you in regard to what you are getting at, that we have many of them, because these clinics can be counted on the fingers of one hand. The Ha'il region needs a greater number of clinics and greater participation from the private sector in the development of health services.

Secondly, freedom of treatment is open to any citizen. Free treatment exists, and private treatment also exists. The prevailing direction of the private sector at present is toward institutions with large workforces. Do you then believe that the function of the Ministry is to cut off the private sector so that it does not participate? I consider the participation of the private sector to be very important, and it pleases me very much when I know that the private sector is profiting and realizing health goals at the same time. Therefore, in order to attain an advanced level in health services, the private sector must cover its costs and be profitable.

We Must Support the Private Sector

[Question] The commercial character has clearly appeared in the family clinics. For example, there are clinics which have analytical laboratories. Therefore, the doctors' prescriptions are not written until after the analysis even if the matter does not require that. Other clinics are selecting nursing equipment with specific specifications to attract people. What is your role in the regulation of treatment equipment and those practices in terms of supervision?!

[Answer] We must randomly weigh these accusations against the private sector because it concerns us and serves us also. Our supervision and responsibility regarding the private sector is the same as our supervision and responsibility regarding the public sector. Until now, no citizen has submitted any complaint of negligence or injury against the private sector. Those complaints of those who do submit them are investigated, and following confirmation, fines are imposed on those convicted. We have closed some clinics and we might close some clinics which are in violation, but this does not mean that our private sector is at a low level. If, as you say, it has attained a commercial aspect, we have laws and fines which are responsible for stopping any fraudulent acts. Thank God, we have good supervision over the private sector. We have ten supervisory committees, all of which supervise the private sector. Consequently, no doctor, nurse, orderly, or technical worker is granted a license to work in the private sector until after

interviews and difficult tests have been conducted. (I say this with all frankness.) Private sector personnel who work in the medical field realize that the administration is more strict with the private sector than with the public sector out of fear of providing any opportunity for fraudulent acts. I do not observe any fraudulent acts even in the private sector. How then, can the two questions be compared: your accusation against the private sector on the one hand, and your claim that many citizens head for the private sector for treatment?

[Question] A sick person will naturally seek a specialist physician which the health centers lack?

[Answer] The specialist physician is found in the general hospitals. We have tried to fulfill all of his treatment needs in those centers, and anyone who is referred can easily reach him. There is a difference between going at first to the specialist physician and going to him by way of a general practitioner. Presently one reaches the specialist or consultant through primary health care and the general practitioner because previously a sick person went to five clinics: one would go to the ophthalmologist, and then to the thoracic, gastrointestinal, cardiac, and rheumatism doctors; he leaves the hospital burdened with medicines which are perhaps incompatible, and each doctor does not know what the other doctor prescribed. The victim is the patient in his ignorance. At present, he has become a general practitioner and the function of the medical file is the coordination of specialties. This is something which is required.

Ten Monitoring Committees

[Question] Commercial pharmacies engage in the sale of medicine, even antibiotics, without medical prescriptions. What has the Health Affairs Administration done in regard to these violations?

[Answer] As I mentioned, we have ten monitoring committees which supervise the private sector/clinics/general pharmacies. If any complaint reaches us regarding these practices, we would stop them. These committees do not cope with every violation. We certainly cannot employ a monitoring committee to be stationed in every pharmacy. This is the responsibility of the citizen himself. In dealing with any violation of this sort, the punishments we impose include fines and the closing of the violating pharmacy for a defined period or permanently in accordance with size of the violation. If, however, there is no self-monitoring (monitoring of the conscience) we will not be able to settle these matters because the monitoring capability of the official agency is unable to bear the responsibility, regardless of its dimensions, without the participation of the citizen. The citizen must be aware so as not to take these medicines without a medical prescription. The pharmacist also, must have restraint and a conscience so as not to distribute any medicine without a prescription from a doctor.

A Task outside Our Boundaries

[Question] There are some medicines such as aspirin and (mercurochrome) which are sold in some grocery stores. What is your role with regard to this unhealthy phenomenon?

[Answer] We reject this except for normal things which do not affect general health and do not require control. The supervision of grocery stores, food stores, bakeries, and restaurants is among the tasks of environmental health.

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HIKMATYAR: SOVIETS FIGHTING UNWINNABLE WAR

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 86 pp 4-5

[Text]

Q: After eight and a half years, the Afghan situation appears to have reached a stage of sterile equilibrium, that is if we disregard the recent series of reports by Western journalists that the Soviets have begun to achieve an upperhand. So is it a situation of deadlock or decline?

GOLBADIN HIKMATYAR: Neither. We do not quarrel with the perception of Western media or their commentators. They have so much facility to publish and broadcast daily thousands of words that they have no problem contradicting and correcting themselves over and over again. When the Russians invaded Afghanistan in December 1979, everyone told us that they will be able to finish off the resistance in two weeks if not two days. So we better leave the distant perceptions and look into the ground situation.

The ground situation is like this: Ninety per cent of Afghanistan is controlled by the Mujahideen. The Russian control over the remaining 10 per cent is tenuous and fighting is going on in all the pockets and enclaves where they have garrisoned themselves.

They have so far lost 700 aircrafts and 8,500 tanks and armoured personnel carriers. They are spending 40m dollars a day for their military occupation of Afghanistan. Their casualty rate is 30 Russian soldiers, killed per day.

On the Afghan side, five million Afghans have been uprooted and forced to take refuge in Pakistan (3.5m) and Iran (1.5m); 1.5 million Afghan — men, women and children — have been martyred. The Russians have destroyed hundreds of villages, farms, orchards and small businesses. One-third of our population is either killed or forced into exile.

The Russians have been forced to nearly triple the size of their garrison, from 85,000 to 230,000. This was admitted by Najib when he recently assured an anxious questioner that by withdrawing six anti-aircraft and anti-tank regiments, the Russians did not mean to abandon their communist friends. He said the number of Soviet forces in Afghanistan was (only) less than 250,000. Yet nothing has deterred Afghans from their relentless jihad against Russian occupation.

Q: But is it not that static equilibrium that we earlier mentioned? The losses and expenses you mention are not beyond the tolerance level of Moscow; in any case they are far too small as compared to those in the Gulf war. Having arrived at a tolerable level of 'insurgency', the Russians might have decided to stay put and take time to bring about long-term social and political changes.

G.H.: It is not an equilibrium. It is not a situation of controlled war. The position of the Mujahideen is getting better every day. It is better in the level of organisation, in the scale and quality of

operations and in the ever-growing convergence of mass support.

The war has intensified many times more than before. The Russians who are fortified by tanks, mines, helicopter gunships and security rings are not safe even in Kabul. Our people are able to come and go and operate in and around Kabul. Only the other week there was a big explosion in front of the Russian embassy. It was aimed at a Moscow delegation about to visit the embassy, but the delegation was delayed and the bomb went off before their arrival. This year alone Mujahideen blew up four big ammunition stores, the last one had 3,000 ton explosives. In one operation in Shindand, 21 MiG aircraft were destroyed. Eight helicopters, five in Nangarhar, were shot down in the first week of October.

Today the Russians do not feel secure even inside their bases in Afghanistan. On the other hand the Mujahideen convoys and formations move virtually freely from one end of the country to another. The Russians are not able to stop them. This is not the equilibrium the Russians can feel happy about. Otherwise they would not be withdrawing six regiments.

Q: But you have rejected the withdrawal as a cosmetic exercise, to create a false impression about Soviet desire for a peaceful political solution.

G.H.: Yes it was a propaganda exercise, but at the same time it also underscored the deeper anxiety created inside Russia by the Afghan misadventure.

Q: What is your appreciation of the situation behind the Russian lines?

G.H: The morale of the Soviet army is pretty poor. Naturally the soldiers feel cheated when they don't find any Chinese, Americans and Pakistanis they were sent to fight with and few really believe in their cause. A number have crossed over, some have become Muslim and are fighting alongside the Mujahideen.

Q: These are not Central Asian soldiers?

G.H: No they are Russians and other non-Muslim nationalities.

Q: And the regime?

G.H: Confused, dispirited and not knowing what to do. The so-called ruling party PDPA (People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan) has become more fractionated. Previously it was split into Khalq and Parcham factions, now the Khalqis are largely liquidated and the Parchamis are further fragmented. Their ideological bonds were already tenuous enough, but Najib's installation as the new frontman for the Russians appears to have aggravated their internal contradictions. Najib did not have the calibre to be the general secretary of the party. I know him well. We were together in the executive of the students union. He was a third ranker in the party.

I was recently listening to a speech he made to a teachers' seminar. He was telling them that they should try to create a feeling of friendship for Russians. They are our sincere friends, they have sacrificed their sons for the 'freedom' of Afghanistan. History will never forget it etc., etc. He admitted that, on the other hand, that there were schools who were like the 'enemy' camp. Such talk may go well with his KGB masters, but it was against the grain of the Afghan nation.

Q: Why do you think the Russians divested Mr. Babrak Karmal of executive authority and brought in Mr. Najibullah? And isn't Najib the new face, they wanted to present to Afghans and the outside world?

G.H: Babrak had of course come to the end of his tether. A quote attributed to Babrak went around Kabul saying that 'the jail of the Mujahideen was better than

the president house.' It seems like Hafizullah Amin, he too was displaced), there were street demonstrations in Kabul saying, 'We want Babrak,' but also 'down with Russia', 'Russians go home'. It was an interesting mix of slogans raised by pro-Babrak Parchamis and common Afghans. As for Najib, he was indeed a new face, but only just so. His main qualification was his service as the obedient head of the regime's intelligence agency, KHAD which in fact is a subordinate office of KGB.

Q: But Najib seems to show some new vigour. He is even making 'Islamic' statements.

G.H: He is overdoing things which in any case lack conviction. His 'Islamic statements' are a sign of defeat. They now realise that Afghans cannot be weaned away from Islam, so he begins his speeches 'In the name of Allah...' and ends it by invoking His 'tawfique'. It is good insofar as it amounts to admitting failure in trying to substitute and displace Islam from the conscience and feelings of Afghans, but naturally people also know that all this is hypocritical.

Q: Has he not been able to bring in new people and expand the base of the regime?

G.H: He has expanded but in fact weakened his ideological base. People who join you not because of any principle will only weaken you. The regime is already divided and subdivided into factions and some who are brought on the basis of false or insincere slogans cannot be loyal to them. We have many such people inside the government who are with the Mujahideen.

Q: What about his 'expertise' with regard to the tribes, particularly those in the tribal belt between Afghanistan and Pakistan?

G.H: Because of his work in KHAD he had, as compared to Babrak Karmal, a better knowledge of the tribes but he has not been lucky.

Q: Was he not able to create problem for Mujahideen in the tribal belt?

G.H: It was a small nuisance which we soon got over, but it was not Najib who was responsible for the operation. The operation was conducted by a Russian general

and Najib was working under him. Anyway it was nothing serious. Our friends in the tribes disarmed them without firing a single shot. These people who had been trained, armed and paid for by the Russians, appeared before the Jirga (tribal assembly) repented their mistake, and surrendered their weapons. In all some 800 men were so disarmed and their arms and weapons given to Mujahideen.

The tribal belt is a strategic area for Mujahideen and thank Allah the Russians failed in his new line of offensive as well. I think the Russian will be able to do little from the side of the Afghan border.

Q: So the Russians have failed to incite the tribes, they have been unable to seal the border against the Mujahideen, they are not doing well in the fighting and their newest man in Kabul, Mr. Najibullah, has brought little good luck to them. What do you think the Russians would be thinking of doing now?

G.H: We expect them to do more of the same and suffer more discomfitures. They will intensify aerial bombardment against Afghan civilians, work more with some tribal elements and increase pressure on Pakistan.

What they may more seriously do is to try to create disorder in Pakistan and more importantly push Mr. Rajiv Gandhi to attack Pakistan on some excuse — what they had asked Mr. Morarji Desai to do when he was Prime Minister of India. In Afghanistan they will have to bring in more troops.

Q: How do you see the political climate in Pakistan with respect to Afghan refugees and the Afghan cause? Lately sections of Press and some left wing politicians appear to have become vocal against the refugees?

G.H: It is a very small minority of understandably left wing and secular elements, but as an Islamic people, by far the overwhelming majority of the Pakistani nation stands behind Afghan Refugees and their cause. Most people appreciate that the Mujahideen are fighting not only for their independence, they are also fighting for the independence and territorial integrity of Pakistan.

What's the position with regard to establishing a Mujahideen government of free Afghanistan? You claim to control 90 per cent of the territory, of Afghanistan.

G.H: We do have local governments inside Afghanistan, which are administered by Mujahideen, but to have central government a safe area is required, which is not possible under the conditions of war. A government in exile, on the other hand, will be too dependent on others, the one who gives it a seat, the ones who recognise it.

Q: There is perpetual concern about the state of the Mujahideen's unity. Sometimes it is said to be good, sometimes it is not so good. How's the situation now?

G.H: It is good but you have to understand that we had started our jihad in a nation which was deeply disunited and divided along tribal lines. Thank God we have been able to mobilise the whole Afghan nation. Hizb-e-Islami alone has 150,000 Mujahideen under its command. They come from different tribes. This shows we have been able to move forward. We are passing through a natural process of unity. The jihad has been and remains a great unifying forces and as we continue on this path we will achieve greater and still greater unity.

Q: What was the point in declining President Reagan's invitation to visit the White House?

G.H: We are fighting for an independent, Islamic and non-aligned Afghanistan and we do not want to compromise on our non-alignment. Besides, the Americans too want to bring their own Babrak, their own Najib. They do not want an Islamic Afghanistan.

Q: You lose nothing by meeting people, you understand them better, even if they refuse to show understanding to your point of view?

G.H: We saw no advantage except to provide a handle for Russian propaganda against the Mujahideen and to confuse our own people.

Q: You were worried about what the people may say?

G.H: The Afghan jihad has given a sublime dignity to Islam. People all over the world recognise that this singular resistance is only because of

Islam. That Islam is a living force, it has a strength of its own and has made it possible for a small and 'poor' nation to stand up against an 'almighty' superpower, and that it is the only true way to human dignity and liberation. But then to make people think, no it is not because of Iman and Islam, it is because of American support, would be unjust to the hundreds of thousands of martyrs who laid down their lives only for the sake of Islam. It would be unfair to the dignity of Islam.

Q: When do you think the Russians are expected to reach the stage where the pressure to get out becomes overbearing?

G.H: We are fighting on our own ground and we can afford to be patient. The Russians must know that the time is not on their side.

If they want to bring in more troops, they are welcome to do so. Russia is not America and Afghanistan is not Vietnam, but the repercussions of Afghanistan in the Soviet Union could be more profound than those produced by Vietnam in America. I would say that the best way out for the Russian leadership is to get out of Afghanistan.

Q: Don't the Geneva talks offer a way out?

G.H: Not as long as the two real belligerents, the Russians and Mujahideen are not negotiating directly about Russian withdrawal. Pakistan is not a party to the fighting, it is a victim of Soviet aggression against Afghanistan in that it has to host some 3.5 million Afghan refugees and more refugees were still coming. The Kabul regime has no independent existence.

The Russians have a clear political purpose in allowing the Geneva talks to be held. They want to show to the world that they are interested in a peaceful political solution though at the same time they have been increasing military pressure inside Afghanistan and intimidating Pakistan by violating its air space and bombing or strafing villages inside the country. In our view the Geneva talks have served neither the cause of peace nor the interests of Pakistan. It would have been more logical if Pakistan had told the Russians that is was a problem between the Mujahideen and

themselves which they should solve by direct negotiations. Now their involvement in these talks gives false credence to Russian propaganda that Pakistan is interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. However, if by going to Geneva, Pakistan wanted to impress the Russians that she wanted a peaceful and political solution of the problem in Afghanistan, then Moscow has refused to be grateful and each successive round has brought increased pressure on Pakistan and violation of its borders. Pakistan's peaceability has not appeased the Kremlin's hostility towards Islamabad.

Q: What happens supposedly if there is a deal between Pakistan and the Soviet Union? Or if there is a compact between Moscow and Washington?

G.H: I think it is highly improbable that Pakistan will ever compromise on its own vital national security interests and accept Russian soldiers in Afghanistan, but we have informed Pakistan that the Mujahideen will not cease their armed struggle as long as there was a single Red Army soldier in Afghanistan. As for any superpowers' deal, we did not start our struggle by the order of any power and we will not cease the jihad at the bidding of the superpowers. We shall never accept anything less than a free, independent and non-aligned Afghanistan.

Q: Even if Pakistan closes its borders?

G.H: Even if the border is closed.

Q: Even if there is no supply of arms?

G.H: Yes, even if there is no supply of arms. Our main source

of arms is the battlefield, the Russians themselves.

Q: Alright, if the Russians agree to total withdrawal, what security assurances or guarantees do you offer to them in return?

G.H: If a superpower begins to ask for security guarantees from a small country like Afghanistan then there must be something amiss in its own situation. We are a civilised people and the Russians have no moral or legal right to ask for any such guarantees. They have already inflicted a havoc on our country and our main problem would be to repair and rehabilitate this colossal destruction.

We want an unconditional withdrawal and that is what we are asking for. We do not intend to be a threat for anyone and the Russians well know that Afghanistan will never be an American base.

Q: What of the Russian fears of exporting' Islam into their Central Asian republics?

G.H: We do not have to 'export' Islam to Central Asia. It is very much there in spite of nearly 70 years of atheistic Marxist rule. It is, however, in Moscow's own interest or rethink and recast its policies towards Islam and Muslims which were formulated during the dark ages of European colonialism.

Q: But would it not be more prudent to obtain what may be practicable at this stage, because the objective situation in the region could drastically change. There could be a change in Iran. There could be a change in Pakistan?

G.H: May be there will be a change in the Soviet Union Why not? The Afghan jihad will go on escalating until victory.

(Courtesy: Impact International)

AFGHANISTAN

VISITING RESISTANCE OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED

AB121301 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 11 Dec 86

[Text] A delegation of the Afghan resistance led by Professor (Bouahamodeen Ravahi) was received in audience last Tuesday by President Seyni Kountche. The delegation came to inform the head of state of the difficulties that the Afghan resistance is facing and the consequences of the Soviet troops intervention in their country. Following the audience, our reporters examined the Afghan problems with Professor (Ravahi). Let us listen to this discussion.

[Begin recording] [(Ravahi) in vernacular followed by translation in French] During the audience, we discussed the difficulties facing our resistance. We want to be in contact with the Moslem people and heads of state with whom we have very solid and (?cordial) ties. I discussed with the head of state the dramatic consequences of the unjust intervention of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan. I also discussed the situation of my oppressed people who are fighting for justice. We talked about the dangers that Soviet intervention in Afghanistan can pose for the security and independence of the other people of the region. The president of Niger expressed words of support which gladden our hearts and I believe that our discussion was in line with the interests of my oppressed people.

[Unidentified reporter] So you came to Africa to enlist the diplomatic support which your movement requires to defend its cause on the international plane. Through this tour, do you mean that you were lacking this support in Africa?

[(Ravahi)] We share similar feelings and the same religion with the majority of the African people. We also share the same fight against colonialism and interventionism. It is for these reasons that I attach particular attention to this support. The majority of African people have given their diplomatic support to the Afghan people and we thought that we should move from this phase of defensive support to the phase of active support by making them vote for resolutions favoring Afghan independence, with a view toward achieving another milestone in this African support. Moreover, we both belong to the Third World. Our country was a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement. Thus it is normal and logical that our ties with the Third World be strengthened. Also, Africa has had an important experience in the fight against colonialism as we did in the past. We had an experience, on a smaller scale, in the area of resistance. It was in the 19th century against the English and we were able to achieve our independence in 1919. Today, we are painfully experiencing a historic trial,

we are fighting against Soviet imperialism, against the massacres in Afghanistan and this is why Africa's firm and more offensive support is vital to us.

[Unidentified reporter] Professor, after your short tour, what summation can you make? Did you receive any concrete assurance of support?

[(Ravahi)] In summation, I can say that the deep feeling existing between our peoples has been further strengthened. Our fraternal and harmonious ties were bolstered. These ties are important. During the various conferences I have held with international organizations in Niger and in other countries I have visited or will visit, the people demonstrated to us their open support for our cause. After this visit, I am returning home with more objective assurance and I know that these states will give more diplomatic support to Afghanistan. I am also sure that these ties will open more doors in Africa for our cause.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency, the struggle you are waging against the Soviet occupation has entered its seventh year. Concretely, what is the situation in the field?

[(Ravahi)] The 7 years of resistance we have had have been for a military defeat of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. In 7 years, we have acquired better discipline and better organization of our forces. We have learned more about Soviet tactics and the way to counter them.

The year 1986 has been the best for us compared to other years. In the border areas of the Soviet Union and in the western part of Afghanistan which are the strategic zones, we were able to carry out successful operations. We not only forced the invasion forces to retreat during our offensives, but we were also able to capture a number of important Soviet military bases, thus enabling our forces to acquire more weapons [words indistinct].

The Soviet Air Force suffered heavy losses this year, particularly during the last 2 months. Sixty Soviet helicopters were downed by our forces. However, we are still faced with the presence of 5 million refugees outside our borders, out of a population of 17 million. Two million people within Afghanistan have been displaced and our economy is almost devastated by repeated Soviet offensives. However, we still maintain 80 percent of our liberated territory, and it is under our administration.

On the administrative plane, this year the Soviet Union has experienced defeat once again. Some stooges are leaving, while others are coming in. The leadership has undergone changes. The foreign minister has just been dismissed. One can see the Soviet masquerade when one notes that the recently appointed president of the Republic is an illiterate. This appointment is also an ideological defeat for the Soviet Union which says it is fighting against the rich landowners and yet one can see that this so-called president of the Republic, an illiterate man, was a former feudal landlord. So we can say that on the military, ideological, and administrative planes, the Soviets have recorded defeat and the resistance is progressing.

[Unidentified reporter] On the political plane, what brought about the resignation of President Babrak Karmal in Afghanistan?

[(Ravahi)] If you can remember, in the past there were rivalries and significant fighting within the two factions of the Soviet Union's puppet Communist Party in Afghanistan [names indistinct]. With Babrak's resignation, which is rather a dismissal by the Soviets, a new breakdown has been recorded within the (?martial) faction itself and this further strengthens the dismantling of the administrative set up. [passage indistinct]

[Unidentified reporter] Professor, recently, the American press reported that funds were diverted from the sales of weapons to Iran and granted in the form of aid to the Afghan resistance. What is your reaction?

[(Ravahi)] I consider all these rumors as a baseless propaganda campaign which we strongly condemn. The Afghan cause and the Afghan issue have nothing to do with this kind of affair. We believe these reports are unfounded.

[Unidentified reporter] Professor, you have talked about the African resistance experience and struggle against all forms of foreign occupation. You know that Africa is also confronted with the illegal occupation of parts of its territory, such as Namibia. What do you think of this, and based on this example, do you plan to design a common platform on the international front to fight against this sort of phenomenon which is not new?

[(Ravahi)] We strongly condemn as disgusting phenomenon the apartheid system and its expansionist, domination designs on other African countries and peoples. We believe that the struggle for independence, security, peace and development cannot be separated either on a regional basis or on an international basis. We cannot accept freedom in one country and submission in another. We believe that when a people struggling for independence wins its battle in one country, this victory encourages the other liberation movements and demoralizes the invaders and the occupation forces. We believe in view of this fact that we could be complimentary [words indistinct].

African history shows that when one country attained independence, this fact triggered the independence of other countries. Our movement of resistance, which is aimed at defending our freedom, our freedom to choose our own destiny, and ensuring respect for our religious beliefs, cannot be indifferent to other freedom fighters and liberation movements and I think that an exchange of experience among them, at least in a first phase, is quite beneficial.

Before searching for a common platform, I think we must first determine common principles. We think that the principle of independence must be (?recognized). The struggle against one colonial power must not divide the liberation movements and make them free themselves of one power only to submit to another, especially not to another superpower. We do not want Afghanistan to become a ground for rivalry between the superpowers. We ask other movements not to sacrifice the blood of their martyrs, the blood of our peoples, in the game of outside superpowers. If our people want to be free, they must rely on the support of their own people and their determination. They must rely on the

support of their own people and their determination. They must be strengthened by the political bonds that can exist between the poor, and I think that the bonds between the poor are extremely strong when the people are united.

I believe that when imperialism changes face, colonialism changes as well. I know that sometimes the USSR claims to be a friend of the Third World movements. Look at our situation. Look at our country, Afghanistan, where the USSR has caused the death of 1 million persons. Look at our country falling to pieces! One million refugees are living outside while more than 2 million live inside our country. So do not forget Afghanistan.

[Unidentified reporter] Professor, do you expect a successful outcome in the current negotiations by the UN representative between Pakistan and the Kabul government on the withdrawal of Soviet troops?

[(Ravahi)] I think these negotiations are irrelevant and we are not expecting much out of these talks. The warring parties are not represented, that is the Soviet Union and the resistance movement representing the Afghan people. These indirect talks are conducted between Pakistan and the puppet Kabul regime.

Indeed, Pakistan is sheltering 3 million refugees according to official sources. We are grateful for this. Nevertheless, it cannot decide the fate of our people. The Kabul puppet regime is nothing but the Soviet Union's tool and therefore cannot speak on behalf of the Afghan people. The Soviets want to use this opportunity to deceive the world community by saying that they are going to withdraw depending on the outcome of these negotiations. Meanwhile the negotiations drag along and the war continues in Afghanistan. The Soviets are playing for time. If they seriously mean to withdraw, we feel that they must recognize the existence of the resistance and hold negotiations with the resistance. But the negotiable issue is the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. The future of Afghanistan and the Afghan political system and its independence are not subject to discussion.

[Unidentified reporter] A last question to conclude this meeting: After Africa, you are going to Belgium. What message are you going to convey to a European country, that is one outside the African Continent?

[(Ravahi)] I must say that I attach much more importance to our relations with Africa. However, we must also be active and present on the European scene and have contacts there. The Belgians can assist the Afghan refugees faced with a dramatic situation and provide diplomatic support within the United Nations.

But I must confess that when I let my heart speak, it is Africa that it prefers. In Africa, we are among brothers while in Europe, we are going to be among friends. Africa has an anticolonial experience. This reminds me of a poem of my country. It goes like this: Remember the oppressed elsewhere
They are like you
For the oppressors
Remember one another.

[end recording]

/9716

CSO: 4600/99

KHAD SUPERVISES WAR WOUNDED IN KABUL HOSPITAL

Peshawar AFGHAN REALITIES in English 1 Dec 86 pp 1-5

[Interview with Dr Abdul Qudoos Mansoor]

[Text]

Peshawar--A high ranking official of Kabul Medical Institute says that the KHAD (secret police) supervises the war wounded during their treatment in Kabul hospitals.

"The Ministry of Public Health does not enjoy any executive authority. It cannot appoint or transfer any official without the agreement of party organisations in the city," he said in an interview in Peshawar.

Dr. Abdul Qudoos Mansoor was the vice chairman of Kabul Medical Institute when he left Afghanistan and sought refuge in Pakistan.

Following is the transcript of the interview with Dr. Abdul Qudoos Mansoor:

(begin transcript)

Q: What is the procedure of Kabul hospitals for the war wounded?

A: When a wounded person is brought to a hospital, the case is immediately reported to the KHAD (secret police) by its informers. Within minutes, KHAD men reach the hospital and investigate the incident and the identity of the injured along with his companions. During his treatment, the injured is supervised by the informers who contact the KHAD upon the discharge of the patient. The KHAD interrogates suspected persons after treatment. Therefore, the Mujahideen cannot receive any treatment in Kabul hospitals.

Those innocent civilians who are injured in bombardments cannot reach the city hospitals due to transport problems.

Q: Where are the war wounded treated in Kabul?

A: The war wounded are treated according to their category and injuries in Kabul hospitals. In this connection, military personnel are treated in the 400-Bed Hospital and police personnel are admitted to the Police Hospital. On the other hand, the KHAD has set up its own hospitals for its injured agents.

Q: Which diseases are common among the people?

A: Those diseases are common in the country which are caused by mental worries and disturbances, such as bronchial asthma, hypertension, angina pectoris, etc. Also, parasitic diseases have greatly increased among the people. In addition, lack of foodstuff and high prices have caused malnutrition among infants and mothers in Kabul and the provinces of the country.

Q: Does the regime need qualified doctors for its health centres in the country?

A: Due to improper conditions in the provinces, nearly all health centres have stopped their activity, and the doctors have gathered in Kabul. So far, the authorities have not been able to fill the gap of doctors in the provinces. For example, Kandahar, which is one of the largest provinces of Afghanistan, does not have a female doctor for its patients. A similar situation is also observed in other provinces.

There were qualified and experienced professors in Kabul Medical College. However, they left the country and sought shelter in foreign countries. There are only eight former professors in the Institute.

Q: Do the hospitals require medicines?

A: Though most of the health centres in the provinces have stopped their activity, the Ministry of Public Health cannot provide required medicines to its hospitals in Kabul and the provincial centres of the country. Its budget of 110 million Afghanis is spent in other sectors, such as high salaries of Russian advisers, etc.

If a Russian doctor requires a refrigerator, he gets it within one day through the Ministry. However, the Ministry cannot provide the requirements of Kabul hospitals. The people are forced to buy medicine, gas, alcohol, surgical gloves, syringes, etc from the bazaar.

Q: Do Russian advisers serve in Afghan health centres?

A: Yes. The Ministry of Public Health has signed eight health agreements with the Soviet Union. According to these agreements, Russian doctors and their translators serve in various health centres, such as Health Insurance of Government Officials, Polyclinic of Government Workers and Employees, Blood Bank, Medical Institute, etc. There are forty

departments in the Medical Institute, where each department is run by a Russian doctor. Several Russian doctors have employed Tajik translators in their departments.

Q: What about the salaries of Russian doctors?

A: In the past, the salary of a Russian doctor was between 300 and 500 US dollars. At present, they receive salaries from US\$ 700 to 1,500. The amount of the salaries is deposited in the bank and its receipts are sent to the Soviet Embassy.

In addition to high salaries, the Ministry of Public Health provides accommodation for the Russians in Micro-ayan. It also provides their required goods, such as refrigerator, television set, car, furniture, carpets, etc.

Q: Does the number of the war wounded exceeds the capacity of Kabul hospitals?

A: Yes. The hospitals in Kabul face a large crowd of the war wounded. For example, the 400-Bed-Hospital (which has been built for 400 patients), treats about 1,000 or 1,200 patients. Sometimes tents are installed in the compound of the hospital due to large crowds of injured persons. Also, the corridors of the Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital are used when the number of the injured increases.

Q: The educational standard of the students of Medical Institute is low. What is the reason?

A: There are many reasons, but the following are very important:

a) The new graduates of the Institute has replaced most of the former professors who taught well in the Institute. When the students are graduate from the Institute, they are appointed as lecturers by the party, which does not recognise ability. For this reason, such inexperienced lecturers cannot carry out an effective teaching.

b) The graduates of high schools cannot join the Institute through entrance examination. A large number of these graduates are introduced to the Central Committee by various party organisations. Then, they are sent to the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education and admitted in the Institute without any test in the name of toilers.

It is interesting to say that the daughter of one of the deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers has also joined the Institute among other worker girls without any test. It is also worth mentioning that the Party gives one-year promotion to those who voluntarily join the organisation "Defenders of the Revolution". During their

studies, party students join the Defenders of the Revolution for three or six months and receive one year promotion upon showing a certificate of the organisation.

For example, when a student completes his first year and join the Defenders during the second year, he is promoted to 3rd year. For this reason, he cannot study bacteriology in the second year. Even he does not know about bacteria.

c) A number of non-medical subjects, such as Scientific Sociology, Political Economy, Modern History of Afghanistan, Physical Training, War Tactics, War Strategy, etc., have replaced other professional subjects.

Q: Where are the Russians treated?

A: The injured are either treated in the 400-Bed-Hospital or transferred to the Soviet Union. Ordinary patients are treated in the former hospital of the Central Command. The hospital only treats the Russians.

Q: What about non-party doctors and students?

A: They are in a bad condition, because the Ministry of Public Health does not have any executive authority. The appointment, dismissal and transfer of doctors and other medical personnel are conducted by various party organisations, such as the Publicity Commission of the Central Committee, Party Committee of Kabul and party wards and trade unions in Kabul. These organisations do

not consult the Ministry of Public Health when they dismiss non-party officials of that ministry. The ministry should seek the advise of Russian advisers and the consent of party organisations in its affairs. Hence, the Ministry does not enjoy any executive authority, and the fate of doctors and other medical staff lies in the hands of party authorities.

As a large number of students join the Institute through the party, there are few chances of admission for efficient non-party students. When non-party students get admission in the Institute, party organisations (Democratic Youth Organisation, Women Democratic Organisation and Primary Organisation) try to attract these students to the party. New party lecturers exploit the tests and examinations and pressurise non-party students to join the party. On the other hand, party students enjoy many facilities. They are given extra marks in examinations.

The students are kept under supervision in the Institute. The Primary Organisations divide each class into groups of 15 or 10 students, and appoint one or two party members for the control of each group. In this way, these organisations send suspected students to the KHAD (secret police) for interrogation. After release, these students are expelled from the Institute and forcefully sent to the army.

Q: How are the relations of Primary Organisations with the directors of hospitals?

A: All members of the party have learnt only one thing from the decisions and plenums of the Central Committee of the party. They have learnt that the party leads the government. Hence, the secretaries of the primary organisations consider themselves as the absolute rulers of hospitals and health centres. They think that only they are honest to the homeland and that the rest are traitors.

I must remind you that mechanics, nurses and laboratory technicians are the secretaries of primary organisations in Kabul hospitals. It is strange that a qualified director, who occupies a key post, obeys the orders of a lower-grade party official in Kabul hospitals.

CSO: 4600/97
/9317

PRICE OF COMMODITIES RISES

Peshawar AFGHAN INFORMATION CENTER in English No 68 Nov 86 p 10

[Excerpt]

As a result of constant bombardments and shellings with ground-to-ground rockets and mortars, most of the houses have been destroyed. The population has left for Pakistan and liberated areas. Also, many families have sought shelter in Kabul. Agriculture is at a standstill. In their operations, regime forces cut trees and burned crops and harvests. Besides, the regime also tries to prevent food supplies from coming to the area. The prices of commodities are very high as compared to those in the past.

Item	Present Prices		Last Year	
		Afs.		Afs.
Wheat	/7 kgs.	195		65
Flour	/7 kgs.	233		70
Rice	/7 kgs.	520		350
Potatoes	/7 kgs.	150		30
Onion	/7 kgs.	130		30
Firewood	/7 kgs.	55		10
Mutton	/kg.	200		60
Beef	/kg.	140		40
Sugar	/kg.	32		32
Edible Oil	/450 Grams	65		30
Black Tea	/450 Grams	240		120
Butter	/450 Grams	150		50
Tomatoes	/450 Grams	20		5
Bread	/piece	15		5
Milk	/450 Grams	15		5
Egg	/shell	10		3

CSO: 4600/97
/9317

PETROLEUM TRANSPORT ENTERPRISE EXCEEDS PLAN

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 18 Nov 86 p 2

[Text]

The Petroleum Transport Enterprise has fulfilled its plan by 103 per cent during the first six months of the current year. The Enterprise stood first and received the honorary banner of the Kabul city Party Committee in work emulations undertaken among transport establishments.

The Enterprise has stood first, second and third in work competitions since its establishment.

The Enterprise employs 1762 workers and employees including technicians and drivers and was set up in 1981 with the economic and technical assistance of the friendly Soviet Union and transports petroleum from Hairatan port to Kabul, Jauzjan, Samangan, Fariab, Badakhshan, Balkh, Parw-

an provinces and Pulekhumri district and from Kabul to Nangarhar, Paktia, Logar, Ghazni and Paktika provinces.

It has a fleet of 547 tankers and transported 124,570 tons of petroleum in the first half of the year which is four per cent more than in the corresponding period of last year. The capacity utilization increased by 2.30 per cent in the first six months of the current year which indicates 0.66 per cent rise over the corresponding period of last year.

The Enterprise earned over 187.09 million Afs in the same period which is three per cent more than planned. Technical workers of the Enterprise repaired several vehicles using old spare parts and saved 16.922 million Afs for their Enterprise.

The President of the Enterprise said: "The collective of the Enterprise carried out 15 times voluntary work in the first half of the year and saved 73,000 Afs. It has mobilized 460 experienced workers in 20 crash work groups, carrying out over 120 hours of crash work and made an income of over 1.435 million Afs.

Four technical and driving courses were begun in the same period in the Enterprise to raise the skills of workers and technicians. So far 130 workers and drivers have passed the courses.

For the implementation of the first five year plan after the revolution, the Enterprise will purchase 470 tankers. With that the volume of petroleum transportation will reach to 302,000 tons by 1991.

CSO: 4600/96
/9317

CONSUMER NEEDS IN FOOD, OTHER ITEMS MET

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 19 Nov 86 pp 1-2

[Text]

The state has adopted serious measures for supplying of enough quantity of foodstuffs to the people in various parts of Kabul city. Twenty five tons of flour are daily supplied to Kabul citizens in Baghi Qazi, Khairkhana Mena, Shah Shahid and Mirwais Maidan areas at reasonable price.

Quoting officials of the concerned organs, BIA reports: Kabul citizens are supplied their primary needs, including foodstuffs, and other consumer goods through 620 state-run stores and cooperatives at lower than market prices. The state also bears annually hundreds of millions of Afghanis as subsidy in supply of foodstuffs. For instance the food procurement department alone bears over Afs 1.155,000.000 subsidy annually and the state pays about 600 Afghanis as subsidy for each 56 kg of flour prov-

ided to the state employees and coupon holders. The food procurement department distributes monthly 10 kg of rice to each coupon holder which is 50 per cent cheaper than the open markets.

Also vegetable oil is supplied through free stores run by the department in different parts of Kabul city at 50 per cent reduced price.

The vegetable export company also supplies fowl, butter, eggs, cheese and other goods and has played important role in keeping the price line. For example, during the current year, it supplied enough quantity of goods through its 22 outlets, 20-100 per cent cheaper than the open market.

The friendship organisation for assistance and trade is also a public-service body which assists people by distributing consumer goods.

This organisation began its activities in HS 1359 (1980) with a gratis aid of 100 million roubles of the friendly country, Soviet Union. Essential goods—such as clothes, shoes, domestic utensils, toys for children and hundreds of other items are marketed by the organisation 25 per cent cheaper.

In the near future, the organisation plans to import electric appliances, refrigerators, sewing machines, etc. from the Soviet Union, GDR, Bulgaria and other countries.

To stabilize the prices of foodstuffs, the cooperative movement is being extended with the active participation of workers, peasants, state employees and other strata of the society. Thus, vegetable oil, tea, flour, rice and other cereals and vegetables as well as other consumer goods including clothes, electric appliances, shoes etc. are supplied to the members of the cooperatives and other working people of the Kabul city through 101 consumer and cooperative outlets.

CSO: 4600/96
/9317

METAL WORKS PLANT EXCEEDS PROJECTED PRODUCTION

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 20 Nov 86 p 1

[Article by Dost Mohammad]

[Text]

The metal works institute which has achieved a production of 350 tons in the first six months of the current Afghan year has overfulfilled its plan by 100 tons. This is 20 per cent more compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The present annual production capacity of the institute is 500 tons and it will increase to 3000 tons after installing new machines and completion of new shops in the first five year plan. This will meet the needs of industrial institutions of the country.

The main products of the institute are metal wares, water pipes, frames, water and oil tankers, gates for irrigation systems, bridges, shelves, filters etc.

The institute plans to supply 1640 tons of metal wares for the kilns council of peasants' co-operatives, irrigation and water resources projects which are under construction.

The institute receives raw material from the Soviet Union according to contract.

One hundred and seventy seven workers and technical staff are employed in the institute. So far, four medals, 40 letters of merit and many cash and kind prizes have been awarded to the model workers of the institute by Trade Unions of Afghanistan and the Irrigation and Water Resources Ministry.

To raise the knowledge and professional skills of workers, technical courses are conducted and 192 workers ha-

ve been trained in these courses so far.

The institute has taken active part in the campaign against illiteracy. During the last two years 80 persons graduated from literacy courses of the institute. Now there are two literacy courses with 31 students in the institute.

All workers of the institute are members of the trade union. Among them, 150 have also joined the self-defence group. The unit of the Democratic Youth Organization was established in the institute in 1360 HS (1981) and has 79 members. A kindergarten has been set up in the institute to help women workers and it is planned to increase its strength to 60 children.

BRIEFS

USSR METEOROLOGY EQUIPMENT--An agreement was signed today between the DRA Department of Hydrometeorology and the [name indistinct] department of the USSR today in Kabul for further cooperation between the two departments. Under the contract 21 pieces of equipment for hydrology, communication and meteorology will be delivered by the Soviet Union within the next 2 years as grant-in-aid. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 17 Dec 86 LD]

TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH GDR--Kabul, December 21, BAKHTAR--A trade protocol between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) for the year 1987 was signed in Berlin. In line with the protocol, trade relations between the two countries will be further expanded. The DRA will import electronic equipment, chemicals and medicines from the GDR, and will export dried fruits and agricultural products to that country. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 22 Dec 86 LD]

GUL GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE--Now he is above all concerned about prompting the tribes that are living in the tribal regions to stay on and stick out, Afghan resistance leader Khazan Gul stated in a talk to the press in Vienna yesterday [9 December]. The objective of his activity among the Tani tribe in Pakhtia Province is "to live the simple, dirty life with the Afghans at home" and to convince them to stay in the country despite the war of attrition conducted by the Soviet occupation power against the civilian population. One-third of the populace has already sought refuge abroad. "The resistance cannot defeat the Soviet Union militarily; our only hope consists of exerting economic pressure and of promoting the Soviets to withdraw." The national liberation struggle has made possible the fashioning of a political awareness among the populace, he said. Khazan Gul is on an information tour of Austria and the FRG. Representatives of the Committee for Assistance to Afghanistan reported about their work in refugee camps. [Text] [Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 10 Dec 86 p 2 AU]

USSR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION AID--Kabul, December 14, BAKHTAR: A contract for the delivery of road equipments for the reconstruction of Kabul-Hairatan Highway was signed between the DRA and the Soviet Union in the headquarters of the Ministry of Construction of the DRA today. Under this agreement, construction equipments worth more than five million roubles will be supplied to the DRA against the long-term credit of the Soviet Union. It is planned that during the coming 36 months dump trucks, drainage pipes, bulldozers, loaders,

asphalting machines, concrete mixers and other equipments needed will be delivered to the Afghan side. The cost of repair work of the Kabul-Hairatan Highway which was started two years ago, will be met out of the two billion Afghanis assistance of the Soviet Union and one billion Afghanis from the state budget from the DRA. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 15 Dec 86 LD]

HIGH OFFICIAL SEEKS REFUGE--A high-ranking official of the regime foreign ministry has recently sought refuge in Pakistan. The official, identified as Abdul Samad Sherzai, served in the Afghan ministry of foreign affairs for 21 years. He was the deputy director of research and studies in that ministry. The diplomat, who had served as second secretary in the Afghan embassies in Jeddah and Islamabad, arrived in Pakistan on November 17. He had sent his family earlier. According to Sherzai, the regime has appointed mostly KHAD agents as diplomats in its embassies abroad. Besides, the foreign policy of the regime is framed by the Russians. The appointment of new diplomats in foreign countries take place on the basis of approach and nepotism. He says that the role of Mahmud Baryalai, brother of Babrak Karmal, has diminished after the fall of Babrak Karmal. Abdul Samad Sherza says that the situation is worse in Kabul. The people face the burden of high prices, and Dr Najib has not been so far able to attract the support of his people. [Text] [Peshawar AFGHAN REALITIES in English 1 Dec 86 p 6] /9317

CSO: 4600/97

BRIEFS

JEWISH FAMILIES LEAVE FOR ISRAEL--Nicosia--Press sources in Nicosia reported that 60 Jewish families left Shiraz airport recently, heading for Occupied Palestine. These sources said that among these families was the family of the female Jewish doctor Sadereneh Moshe Ari'eli. This trip was designated a reunification trip. The influx of Iranian Jews into Occupied Palestine was achieved in a framework of cooperation existing between the Zionist Iranian regime and its Zionist entity ally. The press in Vienna had reported that hundreds of Iranian Jewish families had arrived in Austria on their way to Occupied Palestine. [Text] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Dec 86 p 1] /12913

CSO: 4404/150

BANGLADESH: PAPER ASKS PAKISTAN TO RESPECT SAARC SPIRIT

BK131557 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 21 Nov 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Expand the SAARC Spirit Into Reality"]

[Excerpts] The second summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] has ended in the beautiful south Indian city of Bangalore. The heads of state and government of 7 South Asian countries discussed various issues related to the destiny of the 1 billion people of the region. They have renewed their pledge to expand further the sphere of their cooperative activities within the spirit of SAARC.

At the Second SAARC Summit Pakistan was represented by Prime Minister Junejo, in lieu of President Ziaul Haq, and India by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. It should be mentioned here that under the Indian Constitution the prime minister is head of the government. On the other hand, a presidential form of government exists in Pakistan and the prime minister there is only the titular head of government. Therefore, as President Ziaul Haq did not take part in the summit, Pakistan's representation at the conference was not at the summit level.

Although it is not known whether the current relations between India and Pakistan was the cause of Ziaul Haq's absence from the summit, many people have ventured to guess in that direction. The SAARC is not a bilateral forum. It is an association for regional cooperation intended to bring even development to the seven member states. As a member, Pakistan should keep this in mind. Moreover, Pakistan's military [as published] rulers cannot deny their responsibility for the current cool relations between India and Pakistan. If Pakistan acquires an atomic bomb, the balance of power between the two nations will be disturbed and in that situation India cannot sit quiet. Pakistan's nuclear program is the primary cause of India's distrust. No matter how Pakistan might try to deny it, a review of a U.S. intelligence report certainly arouses suspicion concerning Pakistan's nuclear program. Similarly, India has genuine reason to be concerned about the allegation that Pakistan is providing training to Sikh extremists.

There are, of course, bilateral issues and are not supposed to be discussed at SAARC. However, it is a known fact that a major bilateral issue can hurt

the SAARC spirit and can even cast a negative influence on SAARC activities. On the other hand, frank discussions among the leaders assembled at the summit can have a positive effect in removing mistrust and in finding solutions to bilateral issues.

At the first SAARC summit, negotiations among Bangladesh, India and Nepal on the Ganges water dispute laid the foundation for possible cooperation between them. At the Ershad-Rajiv talks during the recent summit, the two sides further advanced toward finding a solution to the question of Tin Bigha corridor. Similarly, Rajiv-Jayewardene talks have brought a solution to Sri Lanka's Tamil issue nearer. If Ziaul Haq had taken part in the summit, he could have also availed himself of the opportunity to discuss bilateral issues with India and thereby remove the mistrust and solve disputes within the spirit of SAARC. Ziaul Haq has missed a chance by not taking part in the summit. Therefore, Pakistan has to prove in the future not only by words but through deeds that it truly believes in the SAARC spirit. We feel that doing so can only benefit them.

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CSO: 4600/91

COMMENTARY EXAMINES SECURITY OPTIONS, CONCERNS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18, 20 Dec 86

[Article by Dr Rasul Bux Rais]

[18 Dec 86 p 4]

[Text]

There are two factors that have constantly influenced the security environment of South Asia and will, of course, determine the prospects of war and peace in future. First is the bitter reality of power politics. In South Asia, the elements of geography, size, demography and military strength endow India with the attributes of an imminent regional power.

The second factor is the logical consequence of the vast disparity of resources and military power between Indian and Pakistan. Realising that neither Pakistan nor other small states on the periphery of India on their own can pose a countervailing threat to India's goals and ambitions, the Indian leaders have become increasingly conscious that regional dominance is not beyond India's reach. Already India wants to be acknowledged and treated as a major power.

INDIA'S CONDITIONS

India's conditions for peace with Pakistan imply the following:

- (a). Pakistan would not raise the Kashmir issue on international forums and would have to maintain status quo arrangements or eventually turn the existing cease-fire line into a permanent boundary with minor adjustments.
- (b). Pakistan would have to abandon its nuclear option.

(c). Pakistan's defense spendings and acquisition of military equipment from abroad would take into account India's sensitivities.

Peace with India on these terms is not acceptable primarily because it would limit Pakistan's sovereign rights and subject her security to India's regional imperatives.

Although we encounter serious difficulties in our relationship with India, we must continue to strive for peace. Pakistan has been relatively more open in its relations with India during the past six years and has made certain positive moves. They are, proposals of a no war pact, negotiations on mutually acceptable levels of conventional forces, mutual inspection of each other's nuclear installations and joint ratification of Non-Proliferation Treaty. A vigorous and skilful diplomacy is required to pursue these proposals.

A section of Pakistani commentators who tend to oppose Pakistan's present Afghan policy, and also disapprove of Pakistan's security linkages with the United States argue that Pakistan should vigorously pursue rapprochement with the Soviet Union. This suggestion has several implicit assumptions. First, Pakistan cannot afford to confront the Soviet power on its western frontiers. Secondly, projection of Pakistan as a front-line state would endanger her future security. Thirdly, Pakistan has unnecessarily entangled itself into the strategic designs of the United States. Fourthly, the

Soviet goals in Afghanistan are limited to stabilising a friendly regime there. Finally, the Soviet Union seems serious in withdrawing her military forces from Afghanistan provided Pakistan stops to act as conduit for U.S. supplies of weapons to the Afghan resistance. These assumptions point to the necessity of pragmatic acceptance of Soviet domination in Afghanistan as an irreversible political reality.

The security interests of Pakistan and geopolitical realism demand that Pakistan should actively seek the end of the Soviet war in Afghanistan. Every patriotic Pakistani wants to see an end to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and repatriation of the Afghan refugees to their homeland. More or less, there appears to be consensus among Pakistanis on this objective. However, opinions tend to diverge when we consider how to get the Soviet Union out of Afghanistan and thus reduce the threat to Pakistan's security on the western borders. Here, I would like to elaborate two competing views about seeking Soviet withdrawal. The first aims at increasing the cost of Soviet occupation. From this perspective, the Soviet Union should never get the impression that it can win its Afghan war. The assessment of the past performance of the Afghan resistance has somewhat reassured the proponents of this view. They assert that the Afghan Mujahideen are highly motivated, socially broad based and dedicated to fight a long war of attrition, and thus,

capable of maintaining the present level of insurgency against Kabul-Soviet forces. This is not to suggest that Mujahideen can defeat the Soviet forces. The obvious purpose of this strategy is to force the Soviet Union to accept a settlement which would recognise an independent and sovereign Afghanistan.

CYNICAL VIEW

The second perspective takes a cynical view of the capability of Afghan resistance to achieve a favourable settlement through conflict. Vast destruction in Afghanistan brought about by indiscriminate Soviet bombing, and forced migration of about one-third of the Afghan population presents a tragic picture. From this point of view, one should never discount the Soviet capability to carry on its counterinsurgency operations and its preparedness to inject more lethality in its already enormous kill power. It is the Afghan who has paid a big price for the blunders of Khalq leaders and perhaps he will have to accept a lot more in the coming years if a political settlement is not reached.

[20 Dec 86 p 4]

[Text]

The current level of Pakistan's conventional military forces does not match the massive strength of the Indian forces. A scant look over the India-Pakistan military postures would instantly reveal serious imbalance in the force structures and in their capabilities. India has constantly built the largest navy among the littoral states of the Indian Ocean and has more ambitious plans on the anvil for further naval expansion.

FLEXIBLE OPTIONS

The Indian Army and Air Force have also undergone rapid expansion and modernisation. Does an India ringed by small and weak states and separated from China by the Himalayan barrier need such a massive defence infrastructure? India needs this and perhaps little more to accomplish her regional task which is the Indian

The situation in Afghanistan presents difficult choices both for the Afghan resistance and Pakistan. However, the choice is not between capitulation and protracted conflict. The capitulationists argue for prompt accommodation with the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan and recognition of the new geopolitical reality. Their central emphasis is on the need to learn how to live on the periphery of the Soviet dominated country. But, the passive acceptance and total surrender to the hegemonical order based on military intervention would neither promote peace nor enhance our sense of independence. Similarly Jihad till victory, which is the battle cry of the Afghan resistance group, is sensible only to the extent of motivating fighters and mobilising masses. Although one should not discount the role of morale and commitment in warfare, yet this is an age of technological determinism. One should also take into account the Soviet resolve to use an appropriate level of force against the Mujahideen.

Pakistan's present strategic situation poses a two front dilemma in which active Indian-Soviet collaboration would place her in an extremely vulnerable position. Therefore, Pakistan should strive for a negotiated political settlement under which the Soviet Union withdraws its forces from Afghanistan. The Soviet Union and Pakistan have on many occasions expressed optimism about such a settlement. The settlement will certainly remove the Soviet threat and significantly reduce the possibility of a Soviet backed Indian attack. But the political settlement should neither be a sell out to the Russians nor should Pakistan withhold or refuse a settlement on account of American sensitivities. This would undoubtedly require cold-blooded assessment of Pakistan's national interests. Pakistan's security relationship with the United States is important but this should not prevent Pakistan from developing its own independent modus vivendi with the Russians. (To be continued.)

[The writer teaches International relations at Quaid-e-Azam University]

dominated security system in South Asia. Pakistan has no choice but to step up its efforts to expand and modernise its forces. It is neither prudent nor economically feasible to seek military parity with India. Our limited resource base and comparatively low level of technology does not allow us an arms race with India. We cannot afford it. But we will have to make tremendous sacrifices to maintain conventional forces sufficient and strong enough to dissuade India from resorting to the use of force. Facing a situation of perpetual threat requires that national survival must take precedence. But the dialectic of defence and development present difficult choices.

Pakistan faces serious difficulties in achieving an optimal level of conventional capability to deny India control over her strategic environment. Firstly, the indigenous arms manufacturing, with the exception of light infantry weapons, is neither sophisticated nor adequate to meet increasing defence requirements. Secondly, Pakistan depends too heavily on

foreign sources of arms supplies which might constrain our effectiveness during a conflict situation. Finally, the quality and quantity of weapon supplies to Pakistan are determined more by the global and regional security imperatives of the donor states than by actual needs of Pakistan.

Placing India in the centre of our threat perceptions, we have tried quite a few diplomatic combinations in the past for enhancing our security. But more than anything it was our relevance to the regional security arrangements of our allies that determined our importance and relationship with them. Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and revolution in Iran have once again raised Pakistan's strategic importance to both China and the United States. Unlike the 1950s the Sino-American strategic goals are not only compatible in this area but their counterpoise against the Soviet Union reinforce Pakistan's strategic importance. While Pakistan should use this counterpoise to enhance its security, it must maintain flexibility in its diplomatic options.

NUCLEAR

One area in which Pakistan has attained a respectable degree of independence is the development of its nuclear programme. Popular support for and national consensus on an independent nuclear programme has kept Pakistan's position on the main issues of nuclear debate unaffected by changes in political leadership. Despite disagreement with the Bhutto regime on almost every national issue, the Zia-Junejo government has kept the nuclear programme of its predecessor going and has used identical arguments in support of its independence.

It is quite obvious that the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes can provide the potential for nuclear weapons since nuclear power generation technologies support and enhance the ability to produce weapons usable materials. In the context of the South Asian adversary relationship,

India's nuclear capabilities have been the main influence on the political perceptions of Pakistan's policy makers concerning the choice of nuclear technology and the development of full nuclear fuel cycle aimed at acquiring self-sufficiency in the production of nuclear materials.

India's superiority in conventional weapons and its quest for strategic preeminence in the region appear to be a plausible motivating force for the Pakistani policy-makers to pursue the option of a nuclear balancer. The underlying assumption of this nuclear option is that Pakistan's nuclear military capability would not only defer India from invading Pakistan but would also redress the latter's inferiority in conventional weapons and achieve for it a reasonable degree of stability in its strategic environment. The theoretical plausibility of this option, however, should not make us oblivious to a wide range of political, economic and technological complexi-

ties. First, given the central dynamics of South Asian rivalry the exercise of nuclear option by either adversary would result in a nuclear arms race in which India would remain decisively ahead of Pakistan, on account of her comparative advantage in nuclear technology and weapons delivery systems. This may reduce the credibility of Pakistan's nuclear deterrence. Secondly, while Pakistan has attained the potential capability for producing weapons-quality materials, the absence of an aggregate of supplementary technologies inhibit Pakistan from exercising a nuclear option. Thirdly, the conventional and nuclear destructive power of India and the Soviet Union cannot be simultaneously contested through the development of a nuclear military capability in terms of the doctrine of proportionate deterrence. Finally, Pakistan's linkages of dependence on the United States may not lend it sufficient autonomy in nuclear decision making. (concluded)

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COMMENTARIES EXAMINE RELATIONS WITH USSR

MUSLIM on Balanced Foreign Policy

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Dec 86 pp 1, 3

[Article by Maleeha Lodhi]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 15: A number of developments in quick succession have underscored Moscow's mood for accommodation over Afghanistan and its desire to improve bilateral ties with Pakistan. The Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister, Yuli Vorontsov, is expected to visit Pakistan next month to keep the bilateral momentum going. This will be the first high level visit from the Soviet Union since the Deputy Foreign Minister, Nikolai Firubin, came to Pakistan in August 1981.

These developments have created new opportunities for Islamabad and focused on its possible response to the series of Soviet overtures. The country's policy makers need to seriously examine their options and carefully craft a suitable response. Failure to correctly evaluate opportunities at this juncture could have adverse consequences for both national and regional security. The chance of neutralising one flank at a time of increased Indian military pressure on another should not be squandered.

On the eve of the seventh anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, a flurry of diplomatic activity and continuing positive signs from Moscow—evident throughout 1986 seem to signal optimism for a negotiated settlement of the Afghan war.

However, this time, this has also been accompanied by the expression of the Soviet desire for warmer bilateral relations with Pakistan, with offers of expanding trade and economic collaboration. The Soviets it seems are intensifying diplomatic efforts to build

bridges in the region as part of their new Asia peace offensive unveiled in the landmark Vladivostok speech of the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in July. In this 'window to the East' address he vowed to improve relations with every country in Asia and confirmed that Asia would be the main target of the new Soviet diplomacy.

The tone for the present upbeat mood on prospects for regional peace was set by Mr. Gorbachev during his November visit to Delhi. His flexible formulation on Afghanistan and conciliatory tone towards Pakistan was not lost on Islamabad's somewhat astonished but relieved policy makers. This was explicitly acknowledged by President Ziaul Haq in a recent interview. In it, he said 'we have taken note of Moscow's "positive" frame of mind "visible from Mr. Gorbachev's press conference in India". In the same interview, the President voiced optimism over the next round of the proximity talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan scheduled to resume at Geneva on February 11. This recalled President Zia's hopeful statements of spring 1986 which contrasted sharply with his subsequent sceptical utterances on Afghanistan in the period which saw the rapturous return to Pakistan of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto from exile.

Evidence of "forward movement" towards an agreement came at the conclusion of UN mediator Diego Cordovez's shuttle diplomacy in the region which had taken him to Islamabad, Kabul and Tehran. Senor Cordovez announced that agreement had been reached

between the two sides on arrangements for the effective implementation of an eventual settlement. He described this as "a very significant step towards a settlement with a link to the (all crucial) issue of time frame" for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Although Cordovez declined to specify details, other UN sources disclosed that this involved Moscow's acceptance of Islamabad's insistence on a UN role in monitoring the Soviet pullout. Since the monitoring issue had been one of the sticking points in the Geneva talks, this meant that an important obstacle had been removed.

The agreement reportedly provides for the monitoring of a cutoff of arms to the Afghan resistance prior to the Soviet pullout. Islamabad and Washington are believed to have said that once the arms flow is suspended, Moscow must swiftly withdraw its forces so that there is no risk that the Soviets have the time to crush the Afghan guerillas. "Practical and technical aspects" of the monitoring procedure are said to have been agreed to by the two

parties. As Cordovez summarised it: "Instrument Four is complete, but there is a blank for the time frame". Thus the key issue which remains to be resolved is a mutually acceptable time frame for the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The reported Soviet willingness to offer a shortened time frame could clear the decks for an accord.

Close on the heels of the Cordovez mission was the visit to Moscow of Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Abdus Sattar. During the two day visit, undertaken on Soviet initiative, his meeting with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, which ranged generally over bilateral relations and Afghanistan, was described as 'long and useful'. While nothing specific such as the time frame of troops withdrawal was discussed, the clear message the Soviets wished to convey was that they wanted to improve relations with Pakistan.

Coinciding with this were significant remarks made by the Soviet Ambassador Abdul Rahman Wazirov in Karachi reaffirming the Soviet desire for a speedy political settlement of the Afghan issue. Moscow's envoy in Islamabad told reporters he was "hopeful" of a troop pullout and that the Soviet Union "sincerely wants an independent Afghanistan". This echoed Mr. Gorbachev's statement at his Delhi press conference last month in which he said he looked forward to "an independent, non-aligned, neutral Afghanistan". Stressing the need to promote good neighbourly relations between his country and Pakistan Ambassador Wazirov underlined the Soviet readiness to expand trade and economic ties with Pakistan. Amid these peace feelers and optimistic noises, Dr. Najibullah's appearance in Moscow added to the sense that something significant seemed to be happening. The importance of Dr. Najibullah's visit was not just that it was his first since he replaced Babrak Karmal as Afghan Communist Party Chief last May. That he was accompanied to Moscow by almost the entire

top Kabul leadership gave it added significance. It also generated speculation that Mr. Gorbachev had summoned the entire leadership to consult them about the possibility of a shortened timetable when the Geneva talks restart. He is also believed to have urged Kabul's leaders to end their factional squabbles and work swiftly to broaden the regime's base. After the talks, Dr. Najibullah declared that Soviet troops would not stay long in Afghanistan. He also said that he plans to form a government of "national unity which could include Afghans living abroad". At a dinner for the visiting delegation, Mr. Gorbachev said he hoped the Geneva peace talks would produce "decisive accords" for a troop pullout "in the nearest future". But this, he stressed, "is up to the other side, first of all, the American administration".

In calling for better bilateral relations between the two countries, Moscow appears to have put the ball squarely in Pakistan's court, with Islamabad according the gesture a cautious welcome.

In this context the past pattern of Pakistan-Soviet relations, especially the set of circumstances that urged governments in the past to seek an opening to Moscow, is instructive. Successive governments in Pakistan have instinctively been pro-West in their foreign policy orientation. They have adopted a more balanced relationship with Moscow only when they have felt let down by Washington vis-a-vis India or perceived a serious divergence of interests. This happened during Ayub Khan's rule in the period 1966-68 (after the '65 war) and during Bhutto's rule in 1975-76.

In one sense, the current regional setting is more favourable for Islamabad to respond to Soviet overtures. Three of Pakistan's close allies, Iran, China and Saudi Arabia, especially the first two, are themselves in the process of mending relations with Moscow, which was not the case in the past. For example, improved relations between Tehran and Moscow are reflected in the recent protocol on economic cooperation signed between the two countries. It is also evidenced in Tehran's decision to resume the export of natural gas to the Soviet Union, suspended in 1980, after the Islamic Revolution.

Islamabad's policy makers would be making a major mistake if they saw Gorbachev's foreign policy initiatives as different from his predecessors in only pace and style and not in substance. Because their foreign policy priorities seem to be different, the new Soviet leadership with their focus on Asia and their anxiety to mend fences with the Islamic world, ought to be taken on their word. And what Gorbachev describes as his "new political thinking" should be seriously probed.

As the year 1986 closes with the emergence of new opportunities, Pakistan's foreign policy makers can, on the one hand, simply confirm the country has become irrevocably committed to a pro-US position with all that this implies. On the other hand they could move the country towards a more balanced foreign policy (in its superpower orientation) and help the Soviets quit Afghanistan. The choice will have a lasting effect on Pakistan's future.

Commentary Favors Better Relations

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 18 Dec 86 p 34

[Text]

OUR FOREIGN Secretary Mr. Abdus Sattar's recent visit to Moscow for 'detailed and frank' talks and Mr Corbachev's statements during his recent Indian tour affirming his Government's commitment to peace in the subcontinent, are all indicative of a desire to normalise relations with Pakistan. The Soviet Ambassador, while addressing the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, alluded to his Government's sizeable contribution, in the past and present, to Pakistan's economic development in important areas like steel, power generation, etc. Mr. Vazirov concluded by saying: "We are reliable, very reliable. Please abide by us. . . ."

Mr Vazirov also touched on the important area of Soviet cooperation with our private sector and declared that a large scope existed for increasing bilateral trade between the two countries. Against the background of a trade surplus, Pakistan can ill afford to ignore this proposition especially considering that we have not achieved a surplus with our so-called 'major trading partners' like the U.S. and Japan. Secondly, right up to 1984, when differences between Pakistan and the USSR over the Afghan issue had been aired for quite some time, the Soviets continued their loans to us. If the USSR gives us a facility, like it has given to India, to repay loans with trade goods or rupees, then the importance of the Soviets would increase manifold. A revision of our attitude towards the Soviets is needed for our own economic development. This definitely does not imply our playing the 'stooge' for the Soviets for, as Mr. Vazirov correctly pointed out, his country 'extended help to even those countries which did not support its policies.' - THE NATION, Dec. 12

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COMMENTARY WELCOMES SOVIET AFGHAN COMMENTS

BK210846 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1615 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Hussain Haqqani commentary]

[Text] A senior Soviet Foreign Ministry official has stressed the urgency for a political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. He said in Moscow that there was need for an immediate solution to the conflict. The Soviet official's comments will obviously be welcomed by the international community which has pinned its hope on an early negotiated settlement of the Afghan-stani question.

The fundamental issue in Afghanistan relates to the presence of foreign troops in that country. If the Soviet Union is willing to add its weight to the search of negotiations for such withdrawal, there would be little reason for the Afghan dispute to persist. Pakistan's position on Afghanistan has been one of adherence to principles. It seeks the withdrawal of foreign troops from that country, leading to the restoration of its Islamic and nonaligned character.

The Afghan conflict has imposed a major burden on Pakistan in the form of over 3 million Afghan refugees who have been forced to flee from their homeland. Pakistan's humanitarian assistance for Afghan refugees flows from its commitment to the United Nations Charter and the spirit of Islamic brotherhood shared by Afghans and Pakistanis. Pakistan's stand on the Afghan issue enjoys the support of the world community. The United Nations General Assembly, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference have all supported Pakistan's call for a negotiated settlement of the Afghan question based on the withdrawal of foreign troops. In pursuance of its desire for such a settlement, Pakistan has entered and patiently pursued the process of indirect talks at Geneva. The Geneva talks have made steady though slow progress. Out of four instruments for a peaceful settlement, agreement has already been reached between the negotiators on three. The remaining issue at the moment is of an acceptable timeframe for the withdrawal of foreign troops. In Pakistan's view, this should be based solely on considerations of logistics for immediate withdrawal and need not stretch beyond a short duration. Apart from the Geneva peace process, Pakistan has also maintained direct consultations with

the Soviet Union on bilateral matter as well as the Afghanistan question. Indeed, Afghanistan is the only major issue on which Soviet and Pakistani positions contradict each other directly. Otherwise, Pakistan has always desired good relations with the USSR.

The recent visit to the Soviet Union by Pakistan's foreign secretary was part of this process of consultation. It is a positive sign that immediately after this visit, the Soviet Foreign Ministry has also emphasized the urgency of a peaceful solution to the Afghan question. One hopes that the concept for a negotiated settlement currently being discussed by Pakistani and Soviet officials will soon be concretized, bringing an honorable peace to Afghanistan and to the entire region.

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COMMENTARY DISCUSSES PROSPECTS FOR POST-1987 FOREIGN AID

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Dec 86 p 4

[Article by Aslam Sheikh]

[Text]

The visit of a US Congressional team to the Capital this week in a way initiates a nine-month process which will ultimately decide the fate of the promised American assistance of over 4 billion dollars for the coming six years starting in October 1987. Significantly the team is led by Stephen Solarz, a Democrat Congressman, widely tipped as the future Secretary of State if the Democrats manage to win the next Presidential elections in 1988.

While the Reagan administration pledged the post-1987 aid package to Pakistan early this summer, the actual disbursement is subject to Congressional approval which is now by no means a foregone conclusion. Since then a new Congress has emerged on the Capitol Hill after last November's elections. Its composition gives the Democrats majority in both the Houses, in the Senate for the first time in six years. While till recently, the US aid to Pakistan enjoyed bipartisan support on the Hill because of concern about Afghanistan, a recent visit to Washington indicated to this correspondent that prospects of the future are somewhat clouded by uncertainty.

While in Washington, it was noticed that interest in Afghanistan was somewhat overshadowed by controversies on Nicaragua, Reagan's

mishandling of the Iceland Summit, American economic difficulties, and last but not least the big furore over secret arms sales to Iran often described now as Reagan's 'Irangate! How a weakened Republican administration as well as the harassed President will be able to sell the new Pakistan aid package to a more defiant Congress is not easy to predict.

Of course, the hardest to sell will be the military component of the proposed package particularly any sophisticated version of early warning airborne system like the AWACS. Taking advantage of the changed situation, lobbies averse to any major reinforcement of Pakistan's military strength have reactivated their campaign about Islamabad's 'weapon-oriented nuclear ambitions'. One example of this campaign was the 'Washington Post' story about Pakistan's alleged production of bomb-grade uranium and detonation of an explosive device, quoting a classified Defence Intelligence Agency report. The story said despite President Reagan's secret letter to General Zia in 1984 that US would accept an enrichment level no higher than five per cent, Pakistan succeeded in enriching uranium to 93.5 per cent at its atomic plant at Kahuta.

Despite denial by Islamabad, the report was given wide credence in influential quarters in Washington. Well known journalist Selig Harrison is active again in opposing the sale of AWACS to Pakistan and said in a recent article that "whatever the short-term intelligence benefits of the Islamabad connection, they must be balanced against

the incalculable damage to long-term US security interests that would result from the growth of xenophobic anti-Americanism in India."

Notwithstanding Harrison's insistence that the Reagan administration has actually offered to sell to Pakistan advanced AWACS planes, this correspondent's inquiries at the Pentagon indicated that the issue is far from settled. Sources there said Pakistan had still to supply its shopping list for financing through the new aid package. Pentagon sources conceded that... "there is a great need for an airborne early warning system. But the problem is to try to find one that is cost-effective and technologically effective. AWACS is certainly one... the Hawkeye or the E-2 is another capable system that could be considered and it is much cheaper than AWACS. Tethered balloons are another way... Our job and the job of the Pakistanis will be to come up with the most complete package that is as cost-effective as possible. We have not made a decision nor have they made a specific request." It was also emphasised by these sources that it would probably take more than two years to deliver any planes of such types and therefore the possibility of a gap-filler until then was also considered.

Even though the future content of Pakistan's military requirements with new US military assistance is undetermined, some inquiries in Washington made it clear that over

\$2 billion committed for the post-1987 programme would not be sufficient to finance AWACS type capability. If Pakistan has to go for that kind of system, some additional funds would be necessary and these would have to come either from Pakistan's own resources or through additional funding by the United States. The financial dimension of the problem is therefore also quite formidable.

Apart from Congressional approval over the next few months, the new package has also to surmount the hurdle of the well-known Symington Amendment. This requires a Presidential waiver, certifying also that the recipient has no plans to go nuclear. In view of the new misgivings in certain quarters, the US President would need to offer more than routine assurances to the Congress on that count too.

The aid-processing procedures in the US in the months to come will also be subjecting Pakistan's performance on drug-control to close scrutiny. The reports of some recent new increase in drug production were received with concern. Considering the recent US government's decision to subject all its Federal employees to a stringent drug test indicates how the narcotics issue has become a major issue in US today. Pakistani officials in Washington will, therefore, have a tough job explaining recent increase in narcotic production and offering new assurances about the future.

According to sources in Washington, if all goes well by September 1987, the annual level of the post-'87 military sales to Pakistan will be 290 million dollars, or 1740 million dollars over a six-year period. The annual quantum of economic assistance will be 380 million dollars, aggregating over 2.2 billion up to 1993. Unlike the current package, all military assistance will be concessional and most of the economic aid will be grant, except the PL-480 loan of 480 million dollars.

In Washington it was interesting to see the US administration's justification for aid to Pakistan in these words: "Pakistan is of vital importance to US efforts to prevent further expansion of Soviet influence in South and Southwest Asia. Pakistan supports US efforts by continuing its opposition to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and by contributing military personnel to promote security in the Persian Gulf region. US assistance helps promote the self-confidence needed for Pakistan, to move towards acceptance of U.S. non-proliferation goals and strengthened democratic institutions. It also supports Pakistan's role as a voice for moderation and balance in Islamic councils and within the Non-Aligned Movement."

Perhaps in view of this projection, many observers in Washington thought that notwithstanding new uncertainties, Pakistan's post-1987 aid package will ultimately win Congressional approval.

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EDITORIAL CITES FOREIGN MINISTER ON 'FOREIGN BASES'

BK261659 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 Dec 86 p 4

[Editorial: "A Baseless Charge"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has done well to make a categorical statement in the National Assembly that Pakistan has not given any base for use by U.S. military aircraft or the aircraft of any other country for surveillance purposes. He said that there was no agreement between Pakistan and the U.S. for the use of Pakistan air force facilities by the U.S. nor had the latter been granted permission to use bases in Pakistan. He further stated that Pakistan's aid relationship with the U.S. was free of any secret strings and assured that the Government was fully aware of its responsibility in the matter and would zealously guard Pakistan's sovereignty, independence and freedom of action. He also said that although Pakistan had received large amounts of economic assistance and military sales credits from the U.S., this did not in any way compromise Pakistan's sovereignty and non-aligned status. In this context he cited the example of a large number of non-aligned countries receiving substantial economic and military aid from the United States and the Soviet Union. He made a particular reference to some leading non-aligned states having developed a special aid relationship with Moscow. He also took the occasion to clarify that Pakistan sometimes provided facilities on request to the civilian and military aircraft of foreign countries to land in Pakistan in transit to other destinations. But, he said, Pakistan made no distinction in the matter. The foreign minister disclosed that Pakistan had not only allowed U.S. aircraft to use transit facilities in Karachi but had recently cleared another Soviet request for the transport of heavy water for India's nuclear installations through Karachi.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's statement in the National Assembly on the issue of foreign bases in Pakistan comes as a welcome assurance and should set at rest doubts and fears expressed on this score by various quarters in the country. Rumours about foreign bases in Pakistan have been afloat for some time, and they basically had their roots in the speculative, tendentious and mendacious reports in a section of the Western press. The Indian media played no mean part in this campaign to vilify Pakistan. There is no doubt about the anti-Pakistan bias in a section of the Western press which misses no opportunity

to invent and circulate baseless stories to show Pakistan in an unfavourable light. Obviously the new aid relationship between Pakistan and the U.S. was the peg they chose to hang their latest stories on. The Indian newspapers had their own motive to lap up these reports and they further garnished them (their role in misleading public opinion on the phantom Pakistani nuclear bomb is well known). But what is surprising is that a section of opposition politicians in the country too joined this campaign and made all kinds of objectionable statements on the subject, seeking to sow confusion in the public mind. This has been highly irresponsible, to say the least. There are certain rules of the game in politics, and a line has to be drawn where partisan interests come into clash with the larger national interests. But it appears some of our opposition politicians would stop at nothing--and would not even care for the national interests--to advance their own personal and party political ends. And yet they never tire of claiming to be champions of people's rights and national interests. However, now that the Government has made a definitive statement on the issue one would hope they would stop making irresponsible statements and playing an unwitting tool in the hands of forces inimical to Pakistan.

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AFGHAN GOVERNMENT TO BUILD CULTURAL CENTERS FOR PAKHTOONS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Dec 86 p 8

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Dec 17: The DRA regime is building a cultural cooperation centre for the Pashtoon tribes at Jalalabad to serve as the headquarters for dealings with the tribes living on both sides of the Durand Line.

Construction work on the centre is progressing rapidly. Dr. Najibullah, who himself is a tribesman from Paktia province bordering Pakistan, recently told a ruling PDPA meeting in Kabul that the centre was being built in line with the increased importance given by the DRA government to the Tribal Areas.

According to the Kabul 'New Times' he expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs but pinpointed certain shortcomings like violation of protocols and agreement concluded by the State Department with the tribes.

Referring to the achievements, Dr. Najibullah said allocations for development of the border provinces of Afghanistan had doubled and 650 millions Afghanis were being spent during the current year, while law on guaranteeing the observance of traditional rights of Tribal Pashtoons had been endorsed. Moreover, he said a larger number of tribesmen were attracted to join the militias and volunteer regiments to guard the borders. He added that the Jirga of free Pashtoons and Baluch tribes in Kabul had become an event of immense importance. The DRA leader, however, conceded that efforts and work carried out in the Tribal Areas had not yielded the desired political gains.

NWFP RALLIES PROTEST ALLEGED ANTI-PAKHTOON BIAS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Dec 86 pp 1, 8

[Article by Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Dec 19: The ANP leader Begum Nasim Wali Khan has warned that Pakistan will suffer if the conspiracy to oust the Pakhtoons from the Federation was not abandoned forthwith.

Addressing a big protest meeting at Chowk Yadgar Peshawar on Friday she alleged that the Pakhtoons were being maligned and butchered. This treatment, she claimed, could force them to think on the same lines as did the Bengalis who were finally compelled to seek friendship with Hindu India. She refused to admit that the bloodshed in Karachi had resulted due to clean up operation in Sohrab Goth and instead contended that it was part of a generally hostile and discriminatory official policy aimed at kicking out the Pakhtoons from Sind.

The Peshawar public meeting, presided by the ANP Pakhtoonkhwa President Abdul Latif Afridi was one of the many organised by the party throughout the province to register its grief and anger over the carnage in urban Sind. Black flags (as mark of protest) fluttered above the venue of the meeting and a United States flag was burnt amidst vociferous anti-American slogans. Copies of four Karachi dailies 'Jang, Jasarat, Amn and Hurriyet' were publicly shown the torch as a mark of protest against their biased and anti-Pakhtoon coverage of the communal riots.

The Chowk Yadgar rally was followed by a procession which marched through the main city and Saddar thoroughfares before

terminating at the Peshawar Stadium Chowk in the Contonment area. The processionists chanted slogans against the rulers and the killers of the Pakhtoons. They also demanded revenge and held General Ziaul Haq, Mohammad Khan Junejo and Ghaus Ali Shah responsible for the Karachi violence.

Begum Nasim Wali announced that emergent meetings of the ANP Central and Provincial Executives are being convened to discuss the ethnic riots in Sind while a party committee was being sent to Karachi to assess the situation. She appealed to all Pakhtoons irrespective of their political creed, to rise as one nation and show solidarity with their brethren in Sind. She reminded the Pakhtoon leadership that their nation will refuse to accept them if they remained indifferent to its plight. She said the Pakhtoon must beef up their defences as the government could no longer be expected to provide them security.

The ANP central leader, who spoke in chaste Pushto, argued that the Pakhtoons were persecuted owing to their opposition to American imperialism. She remarked that Pakistan's ruling classes and other races could not tolerate the rise of the Pakhtoons as an educated, prosperous and ideologically committed nationality because they wanted to see them in their familiar roles as chokidars and shoe-shine boys forever. Begum Nasim stressed that her party's demand for greater provincial autonomy has been vindicated by the turn of events. The autonomy could enable all the

four provinces to develop their resources and provide employment to the people within their home province. She maintained that Pakhtoons living in urban Sind were neither drug pushers nor gun-runners but were poor labourers earning their livelihood. She said not a single Pakhtoon will cross Attock if they were provided jobs at home.

Begum Nasim Wali strongly criticised the Sohrab Goth operation and accused the authorities of perpetrating excesses against the Pakhtoons. She said the meagre quantity of narcotics and arms and ammunition recovered in operation clean up' had belied the official propaganda and had exposed the government designs. Criticising the decision to send back Afghan refugees from Sind to Pakhtoonkhwa she asked as to what had happened to official sermons of helping them in the name of Islam.

Addressing the processionists later in Peshawar Saddar, Begum Nasim asked the rulers not to tax the patience of the Pakhtoons as continuation of their repressive policy could force them to retaliate.

Ghulam Ahmad Bilour said the Pakhtoons from all over Pakhtoonkhwa and Baluchistan would contribute to provide succour to their hapless brethren in Karachi should a need arise. He insisted that the main reason why the mohajirs detested the Pakhtoons was their growing challenge to the monopoly of the urdu-speaking people over the political and economic life of the country. He lamented that Pakhtoons had no share in

Karachi's wealth which accounted for 60 per cent of the country's resources.

Latif Afridi in his speech said Karachi was built and developed with the blood and sweat of the Pakhtoons and yet they were being meted out a stepmotherly treatment. He abhorred the official propaganda and the prejudiced press coverage of the Karachi disturbances which painted the Pakhtoons as a lawless, criminal and wild race. He reminded that none among the official list of big-time smugglers released to the National Assembly was Pakhtoon. Mr Afridi accused the government of pursuing a policy of 'divide and rule' and said the Klashnikov and heroin culture has penetrated into Pakistan during General Zia's rule.

The PSF central President Mian Iftikhar Hussain threatened that the Pakhtoons would seek revenge and would no longer take insults and insinuations lying down. He said the Pakhtoons could always look to the DRA regime for help in times of need. He alleged that the present regime was pro-Muhajir as almost all the top Generals were refugees themselves.

The ANP also held meetings and staged protest marches in Mardan,

Nowshera, Swabi, Mingora, Timargarha, Bajaur Agency, Kohat, Karak, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan and Chathar plains in Mansehra district. Khudai Khidmatgar leader Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan addressed a big meeting at Chathar plains near Battgram and exhorted the Pakhtoons to forge unity in their ranks in a bid to win their usurped rights.

The Mardan meeting resolved that Federal Minister Haji Hanif Tayyab and Islamuddin Sheikh and Sind Minister Hafiz Mohammad Taqi should be dismissed as they had openly sided with the Muhajirs in the Karachi riots. It also called for hanging the Muhajir Qaumi movement President Altaf Hussain and for giving exemplary punishment to those responsible for the bloodshed in Sind. A big procession was later taken out which terminated at the College Chowk.

ANP's central leader Abdul Khaliq Khan cautioned that the country would be lost if riots in Sind escalated and spilled over to other provinces. He accused the government of sponsoring the ethnic strife to divert the attention of the people from the real issues. He added that 25 lakh Pakhtoons had left their homes to

earn an honest livelihood in urban Sind because their province lacked industries and was deficient in land. The meeting was also addressed by Dilbar Khan, Shahid Khan and Salim Khan.

The protest meeting at Swabi was addressed by Naeem Khan, Salim Khan and Jamil Khan. In Nowshera, the speakers included Latif Afridi, Arbab Mohammad Hymayun, Mohammad Ali Shah and Wali Mohammad Khan.

A big protest meeting at Nishat Chowk in Mingora was followed by a procession which paraded the city bazars. Protest meetings were also held in Timargarha and Dir. The ANP staged a protest meeting at Khar in Bajaur Agency yesterday.

The Kohat protest meeting was addressed by ANP provincial Joint Secretary Sarfraz Mahmud and district Chief Rab Nawaz Bangash. In Bannu, the speakers were Majid Khan, Attaullah Jan and Baz Mohammad. It was followed by a procession. The Dera Ismail Khan meeting was addressed by Habibur Rahman, Shahnawaz and Aslam Khan. The ANP is holding a protest rally at Batkhela in Malakand Agency tomorrow.

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/9317

JI SAID TO OPPOSE RESOLUTION CRITICAL OF ZIA

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Dec 86 p 8

[Article by Minhaj Barna]

[Text]

KARACHI, Dec 18: Leaders of the Jamaat-i-Islami led by Prof Ghafoor Ahmad staged a walk-out on Wednesday from a joint meeting of political parties as they were opposed to a resolution that condemned Gen Zia and his government by name for Karachi's ethnic riots and asked them to resign.

The meeting that finally adopted the resolution following the walk out by J.I. leaders was convened by Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Chief of the NPP at the Jatoi House and was attended by leaders of 13 political parties including (besides Mr Jatoi), Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo. (PNP), Prof Ghafoor Ahmad (JI), Sardar Sherbaz Mazari (NDP), Mairaj Mohammad Khan (QMA), Fatehyab Ali Khan (MKP), Shah Faridul Huq (JUP), Hakim Ali Zardari (ANP), Hakim Jamaluddin (JUI), Mushtaq Mirza (PDP), Musheer Ahmad Peshimam, Mahfooz Yar Khan (TI), Dr Azim Tariq (MQM), Mahmoodul Huq Usmani. (Unity Board), Tanveer Husaini (Gharib Awam Party), Pir Baqar Shah Gilani (PML, Qaiyum Group), S.M. Zafar (NPP) and several others belonging to above-named parties.

The Jamaat leaders who came in full force and included Mahmood Azam Farooqi, Abdus Sattar Afghani and Nematullah Khan (Leader of J.I. opposition group in Sind Assembly) did not agree to Mr Bizenjo's formulation that the Afghan refugees were responsible for the "heroin and Klashnikov culture and in a way responsible for creation of Sohrab Goths. Bizenjo was forcefully backed by Fatehyab Ali Khan and Mairaj Mohammad Khan.

The Jamaat leaders also reportedly maintained that it were not Afghan refugees but Russian agents who were responsible for attacking Orangi on Sunday last. Let us then pass a resolution asking the government to send all of them (refugees) back to Afghanistan forthwith" quipped a number of leaders which made the Jamaat leaders more furious.

The Jamaat leaders said that they would not agree to mentioning of Zia's name in the resolution nor they would agree to his condemnation. They said they would agree to the provincial government's resignation demanded and not that of the Centre.

At a point both Mr Jatoi and Mr Bizenjo were prepared to accommodate the J.I. but Fatehyab Ali Khan, Mairaj Mohammad Khan, Hakim Ali Zardari and some others insisted that Gen Zia's name be included for condemnation of the government and asking for his resignation.

The PPP was conspicuous by its absence from the meeting but the fact that most of the leaders of the MRD components joined the parleys at the initiative of Mr Jatoi was significant. The MRD itself has so far failed to convene any meeting to consider the Karachi situation. Yesterday Ms Benazir Bhutto told a questioner at her news conference that she was contacting Malik Qasim and others for an emergent meeting of the Alliance.

Later Shah Faridul Huq, Mairaj Mohammad Khan and Fatehyab Ali Khan told newsmen that they were not aware of full list of invitees, and did not know that J.I. leaders were also invited;

PAPER URGES ZIA TO ESTABLISH TRUE CIVILIAN RULE

BK281050 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Dec 86 p 4

[Editorial: "President's Political Aspirations"]

[Text] In a recent interview with a Western newspaper, President Ziaul Haq has reaffirmed his pledge to call it quits in 1990. He has also denied reports of differences with the Prime Minister and made it plain that he would continue to wear both hats, i.e., President and Chief of the Army Staff. While the reaffirmation of the President's political aspirations which he repeatedly says do not go beyond 1990 will be received with cynical disbelief by most, his interview does underline two dilemmas afflicting him as well as his predecessors.

Successive governments and their leaders in Pakistan have suffered from a yawning credibility chasm between professions and practices. Invariably the two have moved in opposite directions. Since there is no tradition of a graceful, voluntary exit from high office, either for military or civilian rulers in Pakistan it is difficult to assume that the present incumbent will be an exception to the norm. After all, it took President Ziaul Haq over 90 months to fulfill his pledge of holding polls within 90 days.

The other dilemma is that of creating institutions which outlast individuals. In Pakistan, its rulers have ended up destroying the very institutions they sought to create. Ayub Khan violated his own constitution by handing over to his handpicked military successor. Yahya Khan refused to accept the results of the elections whose sanctity he was committed to uphold. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto took no time in altering the democratic and federal character of the constitution which he very proudly claimed to be the architect. If General Zia on occasions proclaims displeasure over a display of independence by different components of the system he has spawned, his reaction is no different from his predecessors.

What is different in 1986 from the previous situations is the level of political consciousness of our people, the internal cleavages in Pakistani society and the radically changed regional environment which is threatening to challenge the area's status quo. In this context, the President will be

doing a service to the country and protecting the interests of his primary constituency--the Army--if he establishes an institutional mechanism for transition from military rule to civilian supremacy in national life. Otherwise, his long tenure at the helm of affairs will remain as flawed an experience as that of others before him who took upon themselves the task of guiding Pakistan's destiny.

/6662

CSO: 4600/91

COMMENTARY SPECULATES ON BHUTTO'S FUTURE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Dec 86 p 5

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 16: 'Sunday Telegraph' of London in its issue of Dec. 14, 1986 carries a despatch by Jamie Dettmer in Lahore under the caption "Bhutto's bright star begins to wane".

Jamie Dettmer who accompanied Benazir on her tour of the Punjab is of the view that though she can still draw big crowds and fire them with the rhetoric of revolt, she is as far away as ever from becoming the Prime Minister. Her aim to topple Zia looks beyond her reach. Leaders of other opposition parties are heavily critical of Miss Bhutto for calling demonstrations on last independence day. They claim it was a "premature" move and one which must be held responsible for the current apathy in the cities.

"August was a total failure. Not only did it defeat her but it was seriously a setback to all the democratic forces in this country." According to an opposition leader, there is not much goodwill between Benazir and the MRD. The MRD leaders accuse her of not heading to their advice and for acting on her own. She is strengthening Zia by disrupting us said one. Miss Bhutto's response to such criticism is robust. She said if I was not

sincere about the alliance, I would not sit down as I do with parties that should be lucky to get a seat in any real election.

The constant sniping within the movement for restoration of democracy is taking the pressure off Zia, who quite clearly expected a much rougher autumn and winter from his main political opponents. He should be thankful that the letup has come now.

Pakistan's economy has taken a turn for the worse and separatist feelings in the Sind province are threatening to explode. Serious splits in the ruling Muslim League party are developing apace. Miss Bhutto should have been in a position to benefit from the government's problems. For her challenge to start fizzling out at such a favourable time suggests that as a leader, she has grave limitations. Her own campaign is geared more to marketing her own personality than a presentation of a substantial alternative programme of government which could serve as a unifying focus for opposition forces. The politics of the PPP have become under Benazir a vague amalgam of everything from rural socialism to an industrial and welfare strategy.

Without a dearer and more sensible programme, Miss Bhutto will continue to fail to attract a large enough section of the middle class. Businessmen and Industrialists, on the whole, have done well under Zia and are not tempted by her name. Even with the poor, her credibility has been damaged by the passing of dead lines she herself set.

When she returned to Pakistan, Miss Bhutto promised that Zia would be out in a matter of weeks.

In the summer, she assured her supporters that by the autumn, she would have succeeded in securing free elections for the country. Such pledges appear naive. Zia is not a Marcos and will not panic. He is far stronger than Marcos was and more disciplined. He also knows when to offer the carrot, when to hit with the stick. A challenge based on personality and on a famous name is not going to defeat Zia. Miss Bhutto has relied too heavily on the popularity of her father. Quoting a newspaper editor, the writer says: "She has cashed in the cheques at the Bhutto's bank and has spent the money extravagantly. There is not much left in the account."—APP

CSO: 4600/100
/9317

MAIN FEATURES OF 9TH AMENDMENT BILL DISCUSSED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Dec 86 p 4

[Article by Dr Ijaz Hussain]

[Text]

The 9th Amendment Bill which was adopted last July by the Senate has now been referred to a Select Committee by the National Assembly. If adopted, it would have serious consequences not only with regard to the status and power of the Parliament but also for the future of Democracy in Pakistan. Though the proposed legislative measure has evoked much less noisy reaction than the Shariat Bill, it is no less important than the latter document. In fact, in a sense it is more important than the Shariat Bill because the fundamentals of the new order which is being proposed to be ushered in through the Islamic Sharia would be spelled out through it. Therefore, it needs close scrutiny before it becomes part of the constitution.

MAIN FEATURES

Looking at the main features of the 9th amendment bill, one notices that it proposes to bring about two amendments in the 1973 constitution. The first amendment relates to article 2 where Islam is described as the state religion. By virtue of the new amendment, the expression "Islam" is defined in terms of injunctions as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah. This amendment seems to

be more or less devoid of any controversy.

The second amendment relates to article 203 B (C) and 203 D (3). Before explaining the provisions of the foregoing articles and the intent of the proposed amendment, one needs to say a word about Chapter 3A of Part VII of the constitution in which they are placed. This Chapter was inserted by the Martial Law Government of Gen. Zia-ul-Haq in February 1979 (amended in May 1980) and carries ten articles (203 A to 203 J). By virtue of this Chapter, the Federal Shariat Court was empowered to review and to strike down any law which was found repugnant to the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah.

Dealing next with the articles which are proposed to be amended article 203 B (c) defines the jurisdiction of the Federal Shariat Court. According to it, the Federal Shariat Court is competent to deal with any matter except the Constitution, Muslim Personal Law, any law relating to procedure of any Court or Tribunal or, any fiscal law or any law relating to the levy and collection of taxes and fees or banking or insurance practice and procedure (the last-mentioned matter namely fiscal, taxes, etc... is to be exempted for ten years starting from the date of adoption of Chapter 3 A). The proposed amendment aims at amending article 203 B(c). It seeks to widen the Court's jurisdiction by empowering it to take cognisance of all the matters mentioned above with the exception of the Constitution.

The other amendment proposes to insert two new clauses (namely

3A and 3B) after clause (3) of article 203 D. According to clause 3A, in case the Federal Shariat court strikes down any fiscal law or any law relating to the levy and collection of taxes and fees or banking or insurance practice and procedure as being repugnant to the injunctions of Islam, it shall at the same time make specific recommendations to the Government on the basis of consultation with persons having special knowledge in the relevant areas. It also has to specify a reasonable time frame within which the Government will take adequate steps and bring the law in conformity with the injunctions of Islam. According to clause 3B, the existing laws in the said matters shall continue to operate till the time appropriate laws replacing them are enacted.

SHARIAT COURT

In short, it may be said that the adoption of amendments relating to articles 203 B (c) and 203D (3) into law would have the following results. The Federal Shariat Court will be made competent to deal with matters relating to the Muslim Personal Law, court procedure and fiscal laws, although it will not be empowered to entertain cases relating to the constitution. As to the last-mentioned area namely fiscal laws, the Court is under obligation to make specific recommendations to the Parliament in case it declares any such legislation to be contrary to the Islamic injunctions.

Assessing the significance of the extension of the Federal Shariat Court's jurisdiction, one may make the following observations. To begin with, the extension of the

Court's jurisdiction' in matters relating to the Muslim Personal Law has greatly upset the womenfolk

who perceive in such extension an attempt by the Islamic orthodoxy to deprive them of their hard won rights pertaining to marriage and divorce by getting the Court to declare the relevant legislation (specifically Muslim Family Laws Ordinance 1961, Dissolution of Marriage Act 1939 and Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929) as being un-Islamic. Their perception in the matter seems to be shaped by the prevailing atmosphere which is one of conservatism and obscurantism. Ever since the adoption in July last of the 9th amendment bill by the Senate, they have been agitating against it. They have been lobbying hard to get the matters relating to the Muslim Personal Law exempted from the Federal Shariat Court's jurisdiction. On the basis of informal exchange of views which the present writer had with some members of the National Assembly, the indications are that the said subject matter may be taken out of the ambit of the Federal Shariat Court.

SERIOUS OBJECTION

However, the most serious objection to the 9th amendment bill is the extension of the powers and jurisdiction of the Federal Shariat Court at the cost of those of the Parliament. By empowering the court not only to adjudge and declare whether a particular legislation is in consonance with the injunctions of Islam but also to propose an alternative legislation in case the verdict is in the negative, the proposed bill bestows more powers on it than are enjoyed by the highest court in a federal set up. In other words, whereas under the doctrine of judicial review the Supreme

Court of Pakistan is authorised to see to it that no legislation remains in force which is in contravention of the Constitution, under the 9th amendment the Federal Shariat Court would be at once entitled to strike down any law on the ground of its being un-Islamic as well as to propose an alternative legislation. If adopted in to law, the 9th amendment would have the effect of turning the Federal Shariat Court into a supra legislative body.

Such a development would have serious repercussions. First it would signify a clear infringement of the powers and status of the Parliament because an elected institution composed of several hundred representatives would become subordinate to a nominated body composed of a few individuals. The members of the Federal Shariat Court would be claiming a status higher than the members of the Legislature on the ground of their being well-versed in the injunctions of Islam. Whatever the justification, the fact remains that it would signal a death-knell for the sovereign authority of the Parliament and through it for the institution of democracy.

PECULIAR VERSION

The acceptance of superiority of the Federal Shariat Court over the Parliament would amount to accepting a peculiar version of democracy which when closely scrutinised turns out to be a negation of democracy. According to this viewpoint which is espoused by the Islamic orthodoxy, the sovereignty which belongs to Almighty Allah, is certainly not to be exercised by the people of Pakistan as the preamble to the Constitution proclaims. Instead it is to be exercised by those

who are well-versed in the teachings of Islam through the mechanism of Ijma (consensus). Since the people have never in the entire Islamic history, been well-versed in the teachings of Islam and shall never be so in the future, the Ijma would not be Ijma of the people but of the religious scholars. In other words, according to it there is no room for democracy in Islam as understood in the West. The acceptance of the 9th amendment bill would therefore mean a rejection of democracy to which we are apparently committed.

Lastly, the acceptance of the 9th amendment bill would constitute another step to the introduction of theocracy in Pakistan. This would be so because Pakistan would be run not only according to the precepts and teachings of Islam but also because such laws and rules would be legislated and interpreted by doctors of Islamic theology or on the basis of their advice. Such a development would be contrary to the vision of the Quaid and Iqbal.

Given the implications spelled out above which would flow from the adoption of the 9th amendment bill into law, the present members of the Parliament have the historic responsibility to shape the future of Pakistan. This is so because by their act of omission or commission they would decide the fate of the institution of whose members they are and through it that of the entire nation of Pakistan. The future generations would never forgive them if they deviate from the democratic ideals set by the Quaid. But, may be, it is asking for too much from those who are part of the System.

[The writer teaches international relations at the Quaid-e-Azam University].

COMMENTARY VIEWS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Dec 86 pp 1, 3

[Article by Anwar Iqbal]

[Text] Islamabad--Quorum bells, more than anything else, dominated the proceedings of the 8th and this year's longest session of the National Assembly--thanks to the apathy and indifference of the Treasury Benches. This session that began on 30th of October and ended on the 15th of this month did little serious business.

As Syed Fakhur Imam, leader of the Parliamentary Opposition Group (POG) pointed out: "Only a small piece of legislation concerning an amendment to the Senate Election Bill was done in more than one and half month." The former Speaker believes that the ruling Pakistan Muslim League party is too sure of its majority. That's why the PML members don't bother to come." Though Mr Imam is right in blaming the over-confidence of the Treasury Benches for some of the failings of the present Assembly, the problem seems much deeper than that.

To start with, the House does not even have its own rules of procedure which has drastically reduced the efficiency of individual members and the Opposition. They don't have anything to fall back upon when challenging a move by the Treasury Benches or trying to introduce a matter of urgent importance. In the absence of these rules they are simply steamrolled by the majority. References to other parliaments or previous Pakistani assemblies often look out of context, specially in view of the peculiar circumstances preceding the birth of the House.

Despite one's bias for the party system, one often feels, while listening to the proceedings of the House, that the Assembly was designed on a non-party system. Though the creation of the Muslim League as the ruling party later changed its basic character there are inconsistencies yet to be reformed.

The PML members who campaigned for the removal of the defection clause prohibiting floor-crossing had a point when they said that the House in its present form was not suited to the party system. However, their demand was more to achieve political gains than remind the members of a technical flaw.

Political forces outside the Parliament also have an adverse effect on its functioning. There is a general belief, even among some of the members, that this House does not enjoy mass support and that the real politicians are still outside the Parliament. Another extra-parliamentary force that even motivates some of the members is the President himself. Whether the President is personally involved in the internal politics of the Assembly or not it is difficult to say, but the attitude of some MNAs reflects that they still consider him "the real power," "the man who calls the shots."

Whenever an important bill is moved inside the House or a significant move is made outside, the President's name is mentioned. More recent examples are of the proposed 9th amendment to the Constitution seeking an expansion in the jurisdiction of the Federal Shariat Court and the efforts to remove the defection clause. In both the cases, the President's name was freely mentioned. Some of the members tried to make the media people believe that they enjoyed the blessings of the President and his men.

And then there is the Pir of Pagara and his computer that makes political predictions. One of his predictions about the downfall of the 'Iron baron' from Lahore, Mian Nawaz Sharif, proved too costly for the ruling party. It did more harm to them than the entire MRD campaign. It has made the people believe that the present Muslim League is no better than the one of the early '50s and that the day is not far when we will once again change our prime ministers more quickly than "Nehru changed his waistcoats."

The attempt to waive the defection clause was made by the supporters of the Punjab Chief Minister. However, one could clearly see that unlike the Opposition they were not serious about the change in the law against floor-crossing. It was just to counter the move against Nawaz Sharif. Once those talking about his alleged misappropriations and irregularities were made to keep quiet, the movers of the proposed changes in the defection clause also retired to their respective corners.

The Treasury Benches showed some skill in dealing with the proposed 9th Amendment Bill. Initially, the Bill was sandwiched between other issues and one felt that they were not interested in getting it through in the 8th session. However, the ruling party suddenly changed its strategy and they went along with the Jamaat and other religious groups in the Parliament in getting it accepted for a debate. Much to the dismay of the women members and the Opposition who thought that the PML was on their side.

The women seemed much disturbed as they fear that giving Family Laws under the jurisdiction of the Shariat Court will begin the process that will finally erode whatever "status they enjoy in what is a male dominated society." Attiya Inayatullah, the most prominent woman MNA of the PML was more disappointed than others. Whenever the question of the proposed 9th amendment came up for discussion inside the Parliament building, it was she who came forward to assure that her party would never allow any encroachment on women's rights and that she had the backing of those who mattered.

The Assembly also had its moments of glory when the members of the Armed Forces, after debates on defence issues inside the House, agreed to hold a briefing for the MNA. Attended by both the Opposition and the Treasury members, the briefing was a real open session. The members are reported to have spoken their minds. They were open, forthcoming and even harsh in their criticism of the way the defence of this country was being handled. Air Marshal (Retd) Nur Khan is believed to have given a tougher time than the others to the Generals briefing the members. It's a pity that the members of the media were not there to see and report. But at least Fakhar Imam demanded that in any such briefing in future the media should also be allowed to attend.

/9317

CSO: 4600/94

DEMAND FOR VICTIMS OF RIOTS VOICED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Dec 86 p 8

[Text] Karachi, Dec 20--Mairaj Mohammad Khan, Chairman, Qaumi Mohaz-e-Azadi, has urged the Federal Government to immediately provide Rs 25 crore to be spent on rehabilitation and relief of those affected by the ethnic riots in Karachi.

In a statement, he strongly condemned the massacre of the poor and innocent citizens of Karachi and the utterly callous attitude of the administration which, he said, "is in the hands of non-locals having little sympathy for the people of this city and province."

He lauded the services of some of the social welfare organisations, particularly the Edhi Trust run by Maulana Edhi.

However, this help, he said, is insufficient keeping in view the magnitude of the problem, and urged the Federal Government to immediately allocate Rs 25 crore for relief and rehabilitation of the poor people affected by the recent riots. He also demanded payment of rupees one lakh as compensation for the loss of each life and Rs 50,000 to each injured person.

Mairaj suggested that since nothing comes out of government appointed inquiries, the politically conscious jurists and lawyers should appoint their own inquiry commission and submit their conclusions and recommendations before the people so that the real factors behind the tragedy are known and the culprits punished.

He appealed to the people to maintain peace and intensify their struggle for democracy and provincial autonomy and stop payment of all further taxes.

CSO: 4600/94
/9314

STATESMAN VIEWS KARACHI RIOTS, PAKISTAN STABILITY

BK050715 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 18 Dec 86 p 8

[Editorial: "Trouble Next Door"]

[Text] The immediate effect of the ethnic riots in Karachi and Hyderabad, Sind, may be to further discredit the Prime Minister, Mr Junejo, and the Sind Chief Minister, Mr Ghaus Ali Shah, but the violence may also have ominous long-term implications for Pakistan's fragile political structure. That what began as a long overdue police action against illegal gun-running and drugs trafficking should escalate into a battle between Pathans and Urdu-speaking Muhajirs indicates the suppressed tensions that have no outlet in routine politics after nine years of military rule and decades of cynical social engineering in the name of religion. Arguably, the Pathans who went on the rampage were pawns in a bigger political game involving Sindhi separatists and the Punjabi-dominated Central Government in Islamabad, the Muhajirs caught in the crossfire being unfortunate victims of a way by proxy. These immigrants from UP., [Uttar Pradesh] and Hyderabad have traditionally been exploited by right-wing religious organizations in support of their specious claim that Pakistan is the natural home of all Muslims in the subcontinent. In 1968-69, the Muhajirs of Karachi, particularly the more disadvantaged sections, played an important part in the riots which overthrew the "modernist" Ayub Khan; in 1970, while the rest of Sind rallied behind Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the Karachi Muhajirs supported the fundamentalist Jammaat-i-Islami; and in 1977, the fundamentalists used them again in the civil disturbances which led to the military takeover. As symbol and champion of Pakistan's theocratic rationale, the Muhajirs were also the main instigators of the 1972 anti-Sindhi riots in Karachi which led to the loss of nearly 100 lives. Even if Bhutto tried to paper over the cracks by describing them as "new Sindhis" who had to learn to live in harmony with the "old Sindhis", it was evident that the Muhajirs had become Pakistan's fifth nationality.

If it now seems that the militant Muhajir Quami Movement [MQM] has outgrown the people who inspired it, and, indeed, has become a visible embarrassment to Islamabad, this is because invocations of Islamic unity can no longer contain regional subnationalism. The MQM is understandably outraged that General Zia-ul Haq should renege on his promise to bring "home" the estimated 200,000 Biharis who defended the Islamic homeland ideal in 1971 and are now

languishing in refugee camps in Bangladesh; but it is doubtful whether any other section of Pakistani society wishes to acknowledge the debt of past loyalty. The tragedy of this vocal minority which nurtured and sustained Mohammed Ali Jinnah's vision, is that since the emergence of Bangladesh, Pakistan has consciously turned its back on the concept of a Muslim homeland. General Zia's anti-Bihari observations after the Multan riots of 1981 should also have warned the Muhajirs that they no longer enjoy a privileged status. An additional handicap is that the community lacks leaders of any stature who can try to persuade Islamabad to keep faith with old commitments. The Government will no doubt take firm action against the lawless Pathans who were guilty of such communal butchery in Karachi and Hyderabad, but it may not be too displeased at the Muhajirs being shown their place. Professed sympathy for the riot victims may even enable General Zia to tighten central rule and find further excuses to postpone the return to democracy.

/6662

CSO: 4600/91

KARACHI RIOTS TERMED 'CARNAGE'; GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Dec 86 p 8

[Article by Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Text] Peshawar, Dec 20--The PPP, NWFP President, Aftab Ahmad Sherpao, has said the carnage in Karachi was the latest in a series of death and destruction gifted by the present government to the nation.

Addressing a gathering in the Chowk Yadgar Peshawar Saturday, he alleged that the bloodbath unleashed in Karachi was a direct consequence of the misconceived and provocative policies of an unrepresentative regime whose repressive policies had brought the country to the brink of disaster. Mr Sherpao ridiculed the Sohrab Goth operation and said it was ironic that the authorities were looking for narcotics in the shacks and houses of poor Pakhtoon labourers instead of banning the resourceful drug traffickers ensconced in Karachi's posh localities. He alleged that the operation clean-up was designed to provoke the Pakhtoons and add fuel to ethnic fire.

The PPP leader announced that his party was sending a fact-finding mission to Karachi and was thinking of ways to be of help to the affected population of Karachi. He termed the victims of the Karachi riots as martyrs.

Accusing the rulers of doing everything within their means to break up the country, Mr Sherpao remarked that those who had no love for Pakistan were in power while those who wanted to save the federation like PPP were in the opposition. Referring to the resignation of the Federal Cabinet, he said this was an eyewash and did not affect the MRD's demand for party-based elections and transfer of power to the elected government. The PPP leader also referred to the dangers on the borders and claimed that Pakistan's armed forces were incapable of defending the country while the United States was an unreliable friend.

Earlier, PPP Provincial General Secretary Mian Muzaffar Shah said there were only four nationalities in Pakistan as the Muhajirs did not qualify as the fifth nationality. He alleged that it was a government plot to raise the issue of Muhajir nationality through the Muhajir Quanii Movement and thus advance its policy of 'divide and rule.' He maintained that Karachi had attained its present prosperous state largely through Pakhtoon sweat and blood and it was naive to think that they could be evicted from there.

Earlier, the PPP workers marched in a procession to the Chowk Yadgar after performing Ghaibana Nimaz-i-Janaza for the victims of the Karachi bloodbath at the Qissa Khwani Bazar. PPP leaders Gen (Retd) Naseerullah Babar, Iftikhar Gilani, Masood Kausar, Rahimdad Khan, Dr Mamboobur Rehman, Saifur Rahman Kiani, Jamal Khattak and Saeed Ahmad Khan were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile a People's Students' Federation Press release said its workers brought out a procession from Government College Charsadda Saturday under the leadership of Provincial General Secretary Naeem Afridi to protest the carnage in Karachi. The procession terminated at the Tehsil Chowk where a protest meeting was held.

A meeting of the Tehrik Farooq-e-Afkar-e-Quaid-Awam, held in Peshawar Saturday also expressed concern over the ethnic riots and termed it as a failure of the government. The meeting, which was also attended by the Tehrik's Central President Abdul Qadir Shaheen and NWFP Chief Ayub Shah, advocate, demanded the government's resignation and compensation amounting to rupees one lakh for the dead and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

Meanwhile, the ANP Pakhtoonkhwa Saturday released the text of its resolution which was passed in its protest meeting at the Chowk Yadgar Friday. It expressed solidarity with the Pakhtoons in urban Sind and demanded release of those arrested and compensation for the affectees. The resolution strongly criticised the government for targeting the Pakhtoons in its Sohrab Goth operation and maligning them as drug pushers and gun-runners. It called upon all the Pakhtoons professing any political creed to defend their honour and interests at this time of national tragedy. The resolution accused Federal Minister Haji Hanif Tayyab and Sind Minister Hafiz Tai of patronising the Muhajirs and termed the attitude of Ahgus Ali Shah as anti-Pakhtoon.

A meeting of the Pakhtoon Students Federation at Government College Mardan demanded an end to the genocide of the Pakhtoons. The meeting, which was addressed by the PSF Central President Mian Ifrikhar Hussain, Hussain Shah Yousafzai and Gul Jamal Inquilabi, vowed to seek revenge from the killers of the Pakhtoons.

CSO: 4600/94
/9317

COMMENTARY VIEWS ETHNIC VIOLENCE

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 18 Dec 86 pp 5-6

[Text]

THE BELATED ACTION to cleanse Karachi's worst cesspools of crime and the consequential ethnic eruption expose some of the ugliest facets of national life. For many years, Pakistan's largest city has been a flourishing centre of the international trade in narcotics, smuggled arms, and every other conceivable item of contraband. With the whole Golden Crescent as its hinterland and Afghan refugees acting as privileged and reliable carriers, the trade in hard drugs has steadily made Karachi richer and in every sense filthier. As, inevitably, the drug habit spread within the country, heroin dens have sprouted in many of its sprawling suburbs; and as the drug mafia grew bigger and more influential, attempts to suppress the sale of narcotics became more subdued and less effective. In fact, often the law-enforcers allegedly discouraged, even fought against, social workers who had begun to agitate against the tribe of drug-peddlers who were able to make their sales openly in many mohallahs. The length of the mafia's arm may be judged from the fact that two officers, belonging to dif-

ferent branches of the armed forces, caught red-handed some months ago while trying to smuggle heroin, have both managed to escape from detention in what were said to be maximum security conditions.

However, if last Friday's operation can be regarded as only the beginning of the beginning in the campaign against the evil trade, the people will be given something for which they can be grateful to the regime. It is obviously essential that Karachi's other suspect suburbs and bastis should in due course be combed with equal thoroughness; although the operators here and elsewhere will have been warned, it should still be possible to lay siege to their establishments and ultimately arrest them or at least make it impossible for them to carry on their nefarious trade. It is alleged that the bigger sharks escaped the Sohrab Goth net because they had received prior notice of the raid. This, it is said, explains the poor haul of drugs and arms, which were transported to safer places. Anyhow, it is vital that all those arrested during the operation and found guilty must not escape the

punishment they so richly deserve. Failure to do so, on any grounds, will not only bring the law and law-enforcers into contempt, but it will mean that future drives will not even take off, and parts of Karachi will virtually have been handed over to criminal gangs.

The gruesome result of prolonged past neglect and present inefficiency or worse was witnessed on Sunday when, for no easily understandable reason, gangs of armed men went berserk in Karachi's Orangi colony and staged what is certainly the ghastliest massacre since the great Partition killings. It started early in the morning with protest demonstrations against the Sohrab Goth operation, in the background of certain Pushtoon leaders demanding that action against the local Bara should be suspended immediately; otherwise, it was said, there would be fearsome consequences. The city did not have to wait for long to discover what was meant by the threat. By mid-day, big crowds had gathered in the area, and presumably there was hostile sloganising against Authority and against the suburb's main population — mohajirs from Bihar and other parts of India — who were some how held responsible for instigating the clean-up operation. By the early afternoon, groups of Pushtoon toughs began looting shops, putting homes to the torch, and killing at random. At first only knives, axes and lathis were used, but very soon pistols and automatic rifles were brought into play. The insane blood-letting continued for many hours before the police and other law-enforcers came in sufficient numbers to stop the orgy. Before the murderous madness could be

halted, more than fifty persons, including some women and children, had been killed with merciless abandon and at least three hundred injured, most of them seriously. On the next day, although forewarned, the authorities were unable to prevent more blood being shed.

Many questions need to be asked in relation to these strange events and proper answers found to them. Apart from explaining why for so long Sohrab Goth was allowed to serve as an international market for arms and drugs, Government must find out and tell the people how news of the planned combined raid was leaked to its more influential magnates. Then, with greater immediacy, Authority must explain why the police force did not arrive in Orangi for many hours after the trouble started. In fact, keeping in view recent happenings, such incidents should have been anticipated and preventive steps taken. Karachi has been ill-served by its rulers for decades, but the present period of gross misrule is by far the worst. Under any other system, those responsible for the city's maladministration leading to such bloody chaos should either have resigned their high offices or been thrown out. Even today, although the existing framework does not provide for a proper remedy, the demands made in Karachi for ouster of the Provincial Chief Minister have acquired greater validity with the bungling witnessed over Sohrab Goth and the neglect shown in the matter of protecting the Orangi citizens' life and property. It should anyhow be conceded that all the responsibility for the present mess cannot be placed on

Government's shoulders. All national political parties need to give greater attention to the country's social and economic problems. They must concern themselves with the ethnic and sectarian divergences that are cutting our social fabric into small pieces which it will be difficult to put together again. The brutality and violence we see every day call for remedial effort at all levels of society, so that the nation does not sink in the morass in which it is floundering.

Finally, a most important factor, is Authority's will and determination to pursue the task that has been begun — until Karachi is no longer the city of endless infamy. It need hardly be said that similar operations must be conducted in other towns and areas which need the same treatment. Judging by all reports, Lahore should be the next target. Further, as part of the national campaign against drug-abuse and drug exports, more effective schemes must be

evolved to stop the cultivation of the poppy and the manufacture of heroin. Steps must also be taken to suppress the trade in the raw material, as well as the fatal finished product. Today, except in speeches meant mainly for foreign audiences, little serious attention is being paid to these priority tasks. Perhaps, it would help if officials who plan and conduct the anti-heroin operations are made to see and understand what such drugs can do to human beings. The human wrecks captured at Sohrab Goth should be introduced to the personnel of various law-enforcement agencies that have been assigned the duty of saving Pakistan from the frightening menace of drugs. It needs to be realised by every citizen that if the use of hard drugs cannot be controlled and eliminated, if it continues to spread at its present pace, it will certainly destroy our people's morale and stamina within the next few years.

CSO: 4600/102
/9317

DAILY COMMENTS ON 15 DEC KARACHI VIOLENCE

BK031225 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Dec 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Carnage in Karachi"]

[Text] The carnage in Karachi has given a great blow to the nation when harmony is the need of the hour. Chilling accounts have come to light of the savagery of killings. Yesterday, the National Assembly spent two hours discussing fertilisers when the nation's biggest city was in flames. What is happening in Karachi is the price which the country is paying for the perversion of the political process. The so-called artificial stability has served the oligarchy which continues to perpetuate its hold on the nation. Overall, one can sense a general contempt for law and order, and the manifestations of a system which is increasingly based on shows of strength and resort to arms.

During the past decade no one has been punished for failure in performance of duties to contain violence. There has been little accountability and a considerable rewarding of failures who still continue to cling on to their administrative posts. Karachi is gradually becoming a city divided by the ethnic ghettos. Instead of integration there is more deepening of divisions; and the normal process for redressing grievances has broken down, creating a situation which is putting even Beirut to shame. Involved in this massacre are elements who because of their mercenary bent are akin to professional killers enjoying the patronage of vested interests who unleash them at their own convenience.

A mafia-type network is operational in Karachi whose containment is now beyond the strained resources of the current administrative law and order machinery. In fact, the entire Sind administrative set-up has failed. The Governor instead of being in Karachi is sitting somewhere in Sri Lanka. There is a good case for a mass resignation of the Sind government. Passions in Karachi are now running very high. Therefore, it is all the more imperative that all political leaders should rush to the scene of violence and try to curb violence and mollify tensions.

It will be the height of disservice to the country if any person or party exploits this situation for short-term gains because if today Karachi is burning, tomorrow, the fire, if unchecked, can become a national conflagration. The immediate need is to remove the causes of tensions which have beset Karachi with communal frenzy, restore normalcy and harmony and to mete out severe punishment to the culpable elements.

/6662

CSO: 4600/91

CAMPUS UNREST: POLITICAL PARTIES TO BE APPROACHED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Dec 86 p 8

[Article by Tariq Butt]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 17: A group of five University Vice Chancellors will shortly approach the political parties which have their students' wings in the higher seats of learning, to seek their suggestions to end the increasing campus unrest.

The Vice Chancellors of the nation's 20 universities, who met here on Wednesday for six hours under the chairmanship of Federal Education Minister Nasim Aheer, formed a 5-member committee to probe the students' problems and recommend proposals for their removal.

Nasim Aheer, when contacted said that there was complete agreement on continuing the ban on students' organisations.

The five member committee represents the four provinces and the State of Azad Kashmir. Its members are G. M. Khattak (NWFP), S.M. Qureshi (Sind), Dr. Rafiq Ahmad (Punjab), Dr. Baluch (Baluchistan) and Dr. Tahir (Azad Kashmir).

The Minister said the committee would report back to him within three months and had been given vast powers to accomplish its assignment.

He said the Vice Chancellors would endeavour to thrash out the students' problems and would also contact parents, community leaders and other public figures to enable them to frame comprehen-

sive proposals.

Nasim Aheer said the committee would suggest how the ban on students' organisations can be continued more effectively, and the academic atmosphere improved satisfactorily.

He admitted that at present the campus atmosphere is permeated with disharmony, tension and unrest. This state of affairs is detrimental to the smooth functioning of the campuses. He said the students should be provided with a tranquil atmosphere where they can pursue their academic activities keenly.

In answer to a question the Minister explained that the Vice Chancellors' committee was not assigned any specific issue. It has a wide scope and will take into consideration all the ticklish issues confronting the prestigious institutions.

Nasim Aheer said these University administrators would visit all the higher educational institutions and ask the people to spell out their recommendations.

He said the formation of another committee to be headed by some top retired educationist was also decided in today's Vice Chancellors' meeting. This body will focus on the problems of the Universities, taking into account their hostel, laboratory residential and equipment requirements.

The committee, the Minister said, would draw up its recommendations keeping in view the institutions' needs for the next four years. He hoped that the implementation of these suggestions would transform the Universities into real higher seats of learning.

The meeting also discussed admission policies of the Universities and proposals were made to improve the procedure. It was felt that fairness and impartiality should be meticulously exercised while granting admission to the students.

The proposal to expand the graduate course from two to three years also came under discussion. A decision on the matter will be taken later.

It was decided that a Vice Chancellors' meeting will be held every three months under the chairmanship of the Federal Education Minister. To facilitate coordination and accommodate the provincial point of view on education matters, the Provincial Education Ministers will also attend such meetings in future.

Today's meeting also discussed some bloody incidents which took place in the educational institutions, and the teachers' strike at the Peshawar University some time back, which was also joined by the Vice Chancellor.

LAKHRA COAL PROJECT TERMED 'FEASIBLE'

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Dec 86 p 3

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 19--The studies of the Lakhra coal mine and power generation project have proved that the project which represented the first large scale coal-fired power plants based on the first large-scale commercial coal mine, was technically feasible. A USAID spokesman told the 'Khabr-o-Nazr,' a magazine of the American Centre, that the power plants to be set up under this project would start generating 500 mw of electricity by 1993, which would come a long way in meeting power shortage in the country.

The USAID has financed the feasibility studies of the Lakhra coal mine and power generation project by a total of five internationally recognised US consulting firm through Water and Power Development Authority. Both the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have been closely involved in the development of these feasibility studies.

The USAID set aside 11.8 million US dollars for these studies out of which 10.2 million dollars have already been spent over the last two years. The studies have been submitted to the Pakistan Government for their final approval.

The project is designed to exploit to selected area of the Lakhra coalfield near Kharot, containing about 120 million tons of coal for power generation through a 500 mw plant, comprising of two units of 250 mw each.

A unique feature of this project would be that thermal power would be generated by utilising coal reserves, as in Pakistan, the existing thermal power plants are either natural gas-based or oil-based and these resources are not as abundant as coal. This coal, though of poor quality, is good enough for use in the suggested power plants.

The preliminary estimates suggest that the project would eventually provide approximately 3,200 long-term jobs. The first power plant of 250 mw will begin producing electricity in early 1993 and its second unit would be commissioned about a year later.--PPI

CSO: 4600/101
/9317

REVISION OF TEXTILE POLICY URGED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Dec 86 p 4

[Text]

THE Government must now give up tinkering with the pattern of cotton production, export and textile manufacturing, and avoid ad hoc solutions to crises in its varied sectors. Setting up committees to consider distribution of textile export quotas without the kind of scandals which exploded recently or for meeting the yarn needs of power looms and other ancillary industries will not do.

The interests of too many sectors are in conflict in this sphere whose exports form 65 per cent of the national total. Hence the efforts of the Government to popularise cotton textile consumption at home as well by subsidising cotton consumed by textile mills to the tune of Rs. 80 per maund was frustrated by the textile millowners who did not want to sell cheaper yarn to the power looms and other yarn consumers.

The textile industry as a whole is facing too many problems, with too many sick mills and too few of the 200 mills for which sanction was given recently coming into existence. On the other side, because of the bumper crop of seven million bales of cotton there are fears of the cotton being exported too cheap, the high cost of storing the surplus and the people at home finding cotton textiles still too costly to wear. All this demands a new cotton and textile production and export policy.

A special commission may be essential to find answers to some of the major questions. Should Pakistan produce seven million bales of cotton or more at a heavy cost and then export it cheap because of the world cotton glut and because Pakistan's several major importers of cotton, like China, have become exporters themselves? Could not part of the acreage of cotton be directed to produce

oil-seeds which are in acute short supply? Is it not far better to export more textiles, ready-made garments, towels, bed-sheets and tents and increase domestic employment as well than try to export more and more yarn with its low value added? If cotton production has to be kept high what can be done to reduce the cost of production and make cotton textiles less expensive and more popular at home? And how to prevent the frequent, real or feigned, sickness of the textile mills which makes them a burden on the banking sector?

• These are some of the questions for which lasting answers have to be found, with the cooperation of the various producers in this very large sector, instead of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association trying to lay down the law for all others, while most of its members concentrate on simple yarn production. Let urgent steps be taken to formulate such a comprehensive long-term policy, unhampered by the recurrent crises which plague the cotton and textile sectors.

CSO: 4600/101
/9317

PROBLEMS OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM, CONSEQUENCES VIEWED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Dec 86 p 7

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 15: The entire economy of Pakistan is in peril because of serious deterioration of country's irrigation systems which is estimated to be 3000 years old and the world's largest one, said survey conducted by an international institution.

Water-logging of crop lands and adverse salinity conditions resulted from water seepage from poorly maintained canals and choked water drainage systems in continuously causing losses to fertile farmland as well as displacement of farmers and their families. Besides, the need for an extensive irrigation system, rehabilitation programme had come about due to an accumulation of deferred maintenance and outmoded operational practices resulting in eroded canal banks, heavy silt deposits in canal beds, inequitable water distribution and inadequate fireboard for overflow protections.

Though rainfall is also an important factor for the economic development of any area, even more important is snow fall. Heavy rainfall drains off rapidly in floods and, although used for flood irrigation, it does not have the same effect in meeting the deficiencies of irrigation water, as is done by a heavy cover of snowfall. Due to wastage of flood water, the ground water table goes down affecting yield of water, both for domestic and irrigation purposes.

To deal with the situation, various organisations came about. These included nuclear institute of agriculture and Biology, Faisalabad, Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resource, Islamabad. The former organisation conducted experiments to invest new techniques of cultivation like artificial rain. While the latter was established

in 1964 under the name of the Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control Research Council, to provide support on research side to WAPDA and other Federal and provincial development organisations and implementing agencies in the three major areas, irrigation, drainage and flood control for future development of the country.

With the approval of the national science and technology policy by the Government of Pakistan in 1984 and the top priority given in the policy to water as one of the major research areas, the Council was identified by the Ministry of Science and Technology to be the main research organisation to promote, conduct, coordinate and organise research in the water resources sector. Therefore, the Council was renamed as Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources, 1985.

Though the PCRWR is engaged to play a vital role in the national development and had been preparing projects which could be helpful in identifying thrust areas for future research and development including desertification control, development of arid lands, research studies in water sheds, and improvement of irrigation system management of irrigated lands but one must realise that there is still a lot to be done.

Difficulties in irrigation are not only being faced by Pakistan but in other Islamic countries also. On the one hand, the Islamic nations face lack of research facilities in the field, while on the other, they are also facing the acute shortage of experts in this particular area. Therefore, the high level experts group of organisation of Islamic countries recommended that an effective network of water resources

research be established amongst the member Islamic countries to provide a sound base for development in this specific field. The meeting recommended that Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources would head this network in the Asian region. Pakistan's offer of setting up a centre of excellence in water resources in Pakistan put forward by the Pakistani delegate, Makhmoor Ahmed Goheer, Secretary PCRWR was appreciated.

The proposed network came into practice after its formal approval by the OIC Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) held in Islamabad from Nov. 19 to 22, under the chairmanship of President Ziaul Haq who called for concerted efforts to meet the challenges faced by the OIC members in the field of science and technology.

The Council then organised a two-day book exhibition which was very rich in collection on Dec. 3 and 4. Undoubtedly, it gave an up-to-date and elaborative information on the rare topic of irrigation engineering and water management. The posters depicted various activities of PCRWR revealing its achievements in the fields of remote rainwater harvest-

ing, desertification control and exploration of water resources. But despite all this, the observers opined that the feed-back facilities for the research in water resources were inadequate. However, the exhibition could be considered as a first attempt to set a trend of disseminating information in water research, and it succeeded to some extent, to keep the people abreast of research conducted in this field in Pakistan and abroad. It highlighted the latest development in the experimentation undertaken by Pakistani and foreign experts.

Anyhow, the PCRWR is striving hard to find ways and means for research and in this connection, its Secretary recently visited China and studied the systems there.

This visit gave birth to a Sino-Pak agreement in this field which would shortly be signed. In this agreement, Pakistan would extend cooperation to China specially in the field of fruit farming, water logging and salinity and Karez system while China would help Pakistan in remote sensing, desertification control and other fields.

Similarly, the officials of the Council are also being set abroad under a phased programme to do doctorate in the specific field of water resources.—PPI

CSO: 4600/100
/9317

BRIEFS

AFGHAN REFUGEES ARRIVE--The distribution of wheat contributed by the donors to the World Food Program [WFP] for the newly arrived Afghan refugees in North-west Frontier Province [NWFP] has started, while in Baluchistan it will start soon. The WFO[as heard] has also arranged local purchase of vegetable oil for distribution to such refugees. The contributions including 660 tons of wheat and 37 tons of edible oil will benefit 27,000 newcomer refugees in NWFP and 25,000 in Baluchistan. A large number of refugees has crossed over to Pakistan in the recent months. The children of Afghan refugees demonstrated in Islamabad this morning in connection with the 7th anniversary of foreign intervention in Afghanistan. The Afghan children with placards and banners paraded the streets of the main bazaar of Islamabad and raised slogans. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Dec 86 BK] /6662

OUTGOING BANGLADESH ENVOY--Outgoing Bangladesh Ambassador Abul Hassan paid farewell calls on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi today. The president and the prime minister congratulated Abul Hassan for his being appointed as the first secretary general of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and prayed for his success in the discharge of his new responsibilities. They appreciated Abul Hassan's efforts in further promoting bilateral relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Dec 86 BK] /6662

OIL DISCOVERED IN BADIN--Oil has been discovered at a well in Badin District. It has been found at a depth of over 7,600 feet. The daily production of oil from this well is likely to be 4,070 barrels. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Dec 86 BK] /6662

PRK'S ZHAO ZIYANG TO VISIT--The Chinese prime minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang, is to pay an official visit to Pakistan some time next year at the invitation of Prime Minister Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo. An official of the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in Beijing that the exact date would be announced later. The invitation was extended by the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, during his meeting with Mr Zhao Ziyang. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Dec 86 BK] /6662

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AID--The Asian Development Bank is to provide assistance worth \$5 million and an equity investment of over \$2 million for a cement factory in Pakistan to enable it to double its production. This is the first time such assistance is being provided to a private sector company by the bank without government guarantee. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Dec 86 BK] /6662

OIL IMPORTS FROM ABU DHABI--Abu Dhabi is to supply 15,000 barrels of oil per day to Pakistan during next year. An agreement to renew Pakistan's annual contract for the next year has been reached in Abu Dhabi during the talks between the federal secretary for petroleum and natural resources, Mr Izharul Haq, with officials of the Abu Dhabi national oil company. Mr Izharul Haq has said Pakistan's current oil production is about 45,000 barrels per day as against its total consumption needs of 160,000 barrels per day. The supply gap, he said, is very largely being met through imports from Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Dec 86 BK] /6662

CSO: 4600/91

PRICES SOAR IN JAFFNA AS SHORTAGES HIT

BK060809 Hong Kong AFP in English 0753 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Colombo, 6 Jan (AFP)--The northern Jaffna peninsula is running short of fuel, and prices have increased almost tenfold after the Sri Lankan Government blocked fuel supplies to the area, officials and residents said Tuesday.

India's high commissioner here, Jyotindra Nath Dixit, said he had also received calls from doctors in Jaffna who said they were unable to perform operations because of a shortage of oxygen cylinders, and that the area was also running short of fresh vegetables and milk.

Colombo temporarily barred fuel supplies from being taken beyond the Elephant Pass, the entrance to the Jaffna peninsular, Friday, after Tamil militants said they were setting up a parallel civil administration and ordered vehicle owners to apply to them for licenses.

The government also barred aluminium supplies to the area Monday, saying that the militants were using the metal to make mortars to attack army camps and patrols.

Fuel was very hard to come by in Jaffna Tuesday, and what was available was selling at 100 rupees (about 3.5 dollars) for a 0.75 litre (1.3 pints) bottle, compared with a normal price of 13.50 rupees (about 50 U.S. cents) a litre (1.7 pints), sources in Jaffna said.

Mr Dixit told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that he had raised the problem of the shortages when he met with Sri Lanka President Junius Jayewardene on Monday.

(Press reports in New Delhi said Mr Dixit had also expressed concern over persistent rumors that Colombo was planning to exercise the "military option" in a bid to put an end to the Tamil separatist campaign in the north and east of the country.)

India is acting as mediator in a bid to find a peaceful political settlement to the Tamil conflict, and Mr Jayewardene summoned Mr Dixit Monday and told him that a senior minister was to go to New Delhi for further talks with the Indian authorities on the peace proposals.

Sri Lanka has proposed a form of provincial autonomy while militant Tamils have been calling for a separate state in the north and east.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali on Tuesday dismissed as a "simple trick" a demand by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil EElam [LTTE), the main militant group, for government concessions as a prelude to any talks.

The LTTE told reporters in southern India last week that they wanted Sri Lanka to release Tamil detainees and revoke an anti-terrorism law as a condition for any talks with the government.

Mr Athulathmudali said the LTTE would then go into talks making demands the government could not meet, and would say the talks had failed before having to make any concessions, while Colombo would already have granted them some demands.

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PAPER REPORTS 600 REBELS CAPTURED BY RIVAL GROUP

BK050349 Colombo SUN in English 18 Dec 86 p 1, 15

[By Anoma Tillekeratne]

[Excerpts] Over 600 Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) members have been rounded up or have surrendered to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) since fighting broke out between the two groups on Saturday.

The LTTE has also seized over 145 weapons mostly AK-47, SLR's [Self Loading Rifle], 303 rifles and machine guns.

Sources in Jaffna who spoke on the telephone to SUN said that a large number of the hardcore cadres of the EPRLF had fled in boats from Karainagar to Tamilnadu. Karainagar is regarded as an EPRLF stronghold and its members had fired at the naval base on several occasions.

Most of those who had surrendered or were rounded up, had belonged to peripheral ranks of the EPRLF.

Warnings through the public address system urging EPRLF members to surrender had ceased by yesterday. LTTE ranks, according to these sources were now poised to attack the members of the Tamil Eelam Army (TEA) led by Panagoda Maheshwaran.

The fighting between the two rival groups still continued in the EPRLF leaders in Chavakachcheri and Mannar had been captured by the LTTE cadres.

Clashes between LTTE, the most ruthless among terrorist groups and the EPRLF erupted on Saturday evening, after the LTTE Northern "Commander" Kittu gave orders to attack all EPRLF camps in the peninsula. Twenty EPRLF camps were raided and over 200 members were captured or surrendered in the first day of the battle.

Over 100 Tamil Terrorists were killed, mainly EPRLF members, in the battle for supremacy which spread into the entirety of the North and the East.

The fighting erupted seven months after the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization was eliminated. In a week-long battle 150 TELO members, including their leader T. Sri Sabaratnam, were killed.

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INDIA, GANDHI URGED TO 'LEASH' TAMIL TIGER REBELS

BK050323 Colombo SUN in English 17 Dec 86 p 7

[Editorial: "A Challenge to India"]

[Text] The pistol-packing Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and its chief hangman Velupillai Prabhakaran appear to be brazenly challenging the Indian Government, as two top emissaries of Premier Rajiv Gandhi arrive for crucial talks in Colombo. The LTTE has reportedly rejected the latest proposals conveyed to it by India and opted to ask for nothing less than the utopian Eelam.

Over the past few days, the bully boys of the LTTE have unleashed what is seen as an 'operation extermination' against the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF).

Amidst conflicting reports, indications are that the rampaging Tigers are doing to the EPRLF what they did to Sri Sabaratnam's Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO) some months ago. When Prabhakaran turned his guns on Tall Sri's men, he accused them of 'hobnobbing' with the Indian Government. Now the LTTE's petty dictator is accusing, according to All India Radio, the EPRLF of supporting the Indian Government's initiatives on the ethnic issue.

It is a direct challenge to the integrity and prestige of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the Government of India. Mr Gandhi has tackled bigger issues and bigger men than Prabhakaran. We believe he will not be swayed by the whims of the potentials Pol Pot of the North. God forbid another 'killing field'.

Indian Ministers of State P. Chidambaram and Natwar Singh are in Colombo for what could be a decisive round of negotiations. On the way, they met Tamilnadu leaders and representatives of the Tamil United Liberation Front and Tamil militant groups in Madras for two days of intensive talks on Sri Lanka's latest peace proposals. Latest reports indicate an intransigent response from the guerillas.

As a prelude to the vital Colombo talks, India's trouble shooting High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit on Monday gave President J.R. Jayewardene some encouraging and very significant assurances. He said India wished to work out a solution that would not erode the unity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka. India was also quite sensitive to the interests of the majority Sinhala community, Mr Dixit assured.

In Madras, the Indian Government's emissaries are reported to have warned the LTTE against bloody adventures that could scuttle the talks. Velupillai Prabhakaran is growling at the hand that fed and protected him. Until and unless he is muzzled, the negotiations may get nowhere. Last month's clampdown on the LTTE and other groups by the Tamilnadu Government of M.G. Ramachandran does not appear to have had much effect in disciplining the arrogant Tiger leader. If both Mr Ramachandran and Mr Gandhi -- with all the power behind their offices -- cannot leash a glorified criminal, then India's 'good offices' as a mediator cannot obviously mean much.

Mr Gandhi, yet recovering from the recent terrorist slaughter in Punjab, has reportedly set a December 31 deadline for the settlement of the Lankan conflict. To achieve that target, he must aim his moral force on Velupillai Prabhakaran.

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EDITORIAL: TAMIL REBELS 'CANNIBALIZING' OWN CAUSE

BK050255 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 18 Dec 86 p 8

[Editorial: "Destroying Their Own Kith and Kin"]

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], now hotting up their attacks on other rebel groups, are plainly doing no more than seeking to erect their own ascendancy over the bodies of their rivals and so claim for themselves any representative capacity that the Indian mediators may be disposed to accord to the guerrilla elements. The internecine warfare between the LTTE and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] over the week-end, and the onslaught by the LTTE on the LPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] units can hardly inspire much prospect of any democratic or well-ordered system of administration under any of these groups.

The current power struggle brings out the ugly truth that, as the various factions see the fighting drawing to an end, each wishes to secure its own survival -- not any common purpose. Neither the uncommitted Tamil community nor their friends in India can miss the significance of this enthusiasm to slaughter their own comrades-in-arms.

The suggestion of a fascist take-over in the ranks of the rebels is not far-fetched. The parallels in history are not difficult to recognize.

It is evidently not for nothing that it has been said that the revolution soon swallows up its own children. That is what is happening in the North and the East. It has been said often enough that dog does not eat dog. But what does one say of our two-legged Tigers? They are willing to prey on their kith and kin, it would seem if that is the only way they can ensure dominance.

What the LTTE does not seem to have fully comprehended is that any temporary success in a shoot-out may not secure lasting superiority. Those beaten in the field may return to the attack. After all, they themselves have experience of guerrilla tactics. What is even more important, is that however much the Prabhakaran group may exalt itself by turning its guns on its own allies, it could be another matter altogether whether their blooddrenched image will ever inspire any confidence in the mass of ordinary people in the North or the East.

The brutality of the LTTE will most certainly confirm the fears of the Sinhala and Muslim peoples of the East that Tamil overlordship might only be a short step away from a military dictatorship.

We have heard of kangaroo courts held by the various terrorist groups. Whatever the sins of a single day or week in July, '83 in the South, it cannot be denied that the separatist elements now have a far greater and a far more loathsome record of murder and atrocity than any other section of the community, no matter what guilt can be laid at the latter's door.

History will not deny that the separatists were originally moved by a sense of oppression and injustice of threatened repression. But history will also record that those early stirrings were soon lost in the foul killings, burning, robberies and rape that swamped them and led to an implacable blood-lust and thirst for vengeance; to sadistic appetites.

It speaks for the statesmanship of the Government, that even today the President has appointed a Human Rights Commission, that he has always declared his resolve to correct any injustice to any section of the people. It speaks for itself that the terrorist groups have never been willing to admit any excess -- not in the very face of running blood and the ever-looming specter of death that they cast wherever they go.

To say the least, the Tigers are only cannibalizing their own cause.

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VOICE OF TAMIL CONDEMNS LTTE'S ACTIONS

BK131042 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1328 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] The sad incidents which occurred in Batticaloa District recently have cast a slur on the history of our social, national liberation struggle. The shooting and killing of seven home guards by the Liberation Tigers [LTTE] has created a tense situation between two communities in Batticaloa, in addition to claiming 25 lives or more. The killing of these home guards belonging to the Muslim community by the LTTE has wounded the sentiments of the Tamil Muslims. The activities of the LTTE, lacking rationality and political insight, have led to bitter clashes in the past 3 years between the Tamil and the Muslim communities who have been living with traditional amity for a long time.

At times there were occurrences of such undesirable incidents as a result of the differences between two organizations. The recent killings of seven Muslim home guards by the LTTE is a great blow to the Tamil-Muslim friendship. Those who analyze the [word indistinct] history of the Liberation Tigers should look into some of their aggressive activities also. Otherwise, we will be regarded as betrayers of history and opportunists. Although the LTTE has been very popular in Batticalao District during the past 2 years, we can emphatically say that its present activities have generated anguish and hatred. We are fully aware of the fact that the Batticaloa people, who are very enthusiastic in the Tamil Eelam struggle, have been experiencing untold misery at the hands of the Sri Lankan security forces. Under these circumstances the people had faith only in the valor and sacrifice of the freedom fighters up until now. But the ever increasing acts of offences of the freedom fighters have taken the people to a stage wherein they are exposed to danger from both sides.

Voice of Tamil Eelam strongly condemns the surprising, heroic [as heard] deeds of the Batticaloa Liberation Tigers, who have not given any thought about the activities for future progress and are keeping quiet even after this. History teaches that no struggle will succeed without the cooperation of the people. [Text] [(Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1328 GMT 9 Dec 86 BK]

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CSO: 4600/93

TAMIL RADIO WANTS GOVERNMENT-TIGERS TALKS

BK261034 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali has made an appeal for observance of a 1-day ceasefire between the Tamil Eelam freedom fighters and the Jayewardene government's armed forces on 25 December. RETUER quoted Kanagaratnam, alias Raheem, as saying that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] welcomed this appeal. An LTTE spokesman said THE REUTER report is wrong: it claimed Raheem is the deputy commander of the Jaffna unit of the LTTE, whereas in fact he is only a translator. We, the lovers of peace, expect an authentic report on this cease-fire from Comrade Prabhakaran [leader of LTTE] and Comrade Kittu Krishnakumar [Leader of Jaffna unit of LTTE].

We would like to point out another thing. The observance of this cease-fire on Christmas day itself is incongruous to Communist ideologies. We do not like the importance given to December 25 and the observance of a cease-fire on that alone. A cease-fire should be a cease-fire. We should be vigilant and determined not to mix religion, described as an opium by Comrade Karl Marx, with revolutionary socialist ideologies. The Voice of Tamil Eelam welcomes the appeal of the Tigers [LTTE] and [words indistinct] Lalith. Besides, Sri Lankan Minister Lalith Athulathmudali has described the swapping of captives [Exchange of two Sri Lankan soldiers held by LTTE for two LTTE members held by Sri Lankan forces on 19 December] is the first step toward a solution to the problem and the cease-fire on 25 December as the second step. We can also sense that these two steps will lead to a third and can feel it beginning. The Sri Lankan Government has started thinking about holding direct talks with the LTTE without the mediation of India. If this materializes, the Communist Party of Tamil Eelam will be very happy along with the people of Tamil Eelam. We have been saying many times in the past that this is the way for real talks. The Communist Party of Tamil Eelam appeals to the unit chiefs of LTTE in Tamil Eelam -- (Rasaiah) Kittu, Santhosham, Aruna and (Achuthan) -- To take steps toward creating such a possibility and to exhibit reasonable political maturity based on their long experience.

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BRIEFS

RIVAL TAMIL GROUPS CLASH--In Sri Lanka, at least 20 people have been killed in heavy fighting between two Tamil rival militant groups -- Liberation Tigers for Tamil Eelam and Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front [EPRLF]. The fighting was said to have been particularly fierce in the eastern part of Sri Lanka where the EPRLF has its stronghold. Our Colombo correspondent Plabon Majumdar reports that 12 EPRLF persons were killed in the eastern Batticaloa District yesterday. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Dec 86 BK] /12624

USSR AID IN IRRIGATION PROJECTS--The soviet Union's participation in the construction of irrigation projects in Sri Lanka will become a new phenomenon in future bilateral economic cooperation. Negotiations in this regard are now underway. The participation of Soviet organization in modernizing the tire plant at Kelaniya and a steel plant in [Oruvella] built with Soviet assistance is now being negotiated. This was disclosed by Sri Lanka's trade counsellor, O.C. Dharmasena, at a seminar held recently in Moscow on new forms of trade and economic cooperation between the USSR and developing countries. Economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Sri Lanka has been developing successfully for nearly 3 decades. During this period, four large industrial projects were built in Sri Lanka with Soviet assistance. [Text] [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Dec 86 BK] /12624

SEPARATIST AMBUSH MARS OFFICIAL TALKS--Colombo, 19 Dec (AFP)--Sri Lankan President Junious Jayewardene met Indian mediators for a final round of talks Friday as reports reaching the capital said that fighting between government forces and Tamil separatists had killed 17 people in the previous 48 hours. Three civilians were among the victims of the latest clashes. Earlier in the day, military sources here said seven people were killed in the north-eastern Trincomalee District when their vehicle was ambushed by separatists. Three of the victims were civilians, another three were airmen while the seventh was a policeman. Four separatists were killed in a separate incident Thursday, police in the country's central district said. The separatists fired at a helicopter, injuring one soldier, they said. The helicopter apparnetly fired back. Another two separatists were killed Thursday in different clashes in the eastern Batticaloa District, sources said. Both were killed by security forces in retaliation to separatist attacks, they said. At least one incident reportedly involved the liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a militant separatist group. In other clashes, the

government Media Center said two separatists were killed in northern Jaffna when they attacked an army foot patrol at a place called Elephant Pass. On Wednesday, official sources said that the tigers killed two Moslem businessmen for refusing to give them free fuel. [Excerpts] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1408 GMT 19 Dec 86 BK] /12624

SECURITY FORCES RAID LTTE BASE--On information received from the public the Security Forces raided the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] base camp two miles south of Thirukovil in Amparai yesterday. On approaching the LTTE camp Security Forces encountered resistance from the terrorists. When the Security Forces retaliated, the terrorists retreated into the forest taking with them their dead and wounded. The Security Forces recovered three cans of gelignite, each weighing 20 kg, two Claymore mines, hand grenades with LTTE markings, two light rocket propelled shells and two (?as) weapons. LANKA PUWATH, quoting official sources, said that the LTTE has had the news for major operation and was the scene of an intense battle between the LTTE and the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] who have been engaged in fighting to gain supremacy in the Batticaloa District. [sentence as heard] [Text] [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Dec 86 BK] /12624

TAMIL RADIO CONDEMNS COMMUNIST PARTY--People should be very vigilant as many dangerous games are being played by some of the subversive forces among us in the Tamil Eelam freedom struggle. The Eelam Revolutionary Communist Party is just such an evil force. This party released a statement in Madras claiming responsibility for the two bombs which were planted in Colombo on 17 December by Indian and Sri Lankan reactionary forces. It is quite clear that this is an utter lie. The actual thing behind these bombs is the joint venture of the governments of India and Sri Lanka. These two governments, who blamed the EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] in the beginning have, in fact, met with failure. When the Eelam Revolutionary Communist Party, which was banned by the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organizations and comprises reactionary forces who claim responsibility for natural calamities and unexploded bombs, was requested by the two governments to accept responsibility for planting the bombs, K. Subrahmaniam released his statement. Nobody is going to believe it. This reactionary group comprising about seven members and having a lot of Sri Lankan Government money claimed responsibility for the Kantalai dam burst at the beginning of this year. It is a plain fact that this dam burst took place due to the carelessness of the inefficient irrigation officials of the Sri Lankan Government and none of the Eelam freedom fighters were involved in it. We strongly condemn the capitalist stooge K. Balasubrahmaniam who acts foolishly to bring disrepute to the people of Tamil Eelam that are struggling to set up a socialist government. He does what he does only for personal gain. [Text] [(Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1326 GMT 22 Dec 86 Bk] /12624

'TERRORISTS' KILLED, CAPTURED---In Kallady, Batticaloa, five armed terrorists yesterday afternoon attacked a security forces routine patrol. The security forces were compelled to return the fire and when the area was later searched a dead body of a terrorist was found. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the dead terrorist was a member of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and identified as Sudoo. The media center said that the dead terrorist was suspected to have been trained abroad. On Tuesday at (Warachenai), security forces on a routine patrol returned the fire when attacked by the terrorists. Three suspected terrorists -- one belonged to the EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] and two the LPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] -- were arrested. On information provided by them, the area was searched and the troops recovered one water pump, a tent, 60 bushels of paddy, 4 gallons of petrol, and 1 bicycle. Yesterday afternoon, the security forces recovered three tractors with trailers at Sangamankande at Tirukkivil in the Amparai District. One of these tractors had been stolen from the shipping corporation. These were recovered from an LTTE hideout. Sixty-six of the 226 terrorist suspects rounded at Kurunegala, Batticaloa, by the security forces on Tuesday, have been released after questioning. According to official sources, Special Task Force [STF] men who cordoned off the area about 1400 [0830 GMT] on Tuesday had taken in the suspects following a clash between terrorists and the forces. The clash had taken place when the terrorists threw grenades at the security forces personnel who approached the area. One man was killed when the STF men fired back. Two hand grenades have been found on him. [Text] [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Dec 86 BK] /12624

EFFORTS TO CONTACT LTTE--Sri Lanka Government appears to be making efforts to establish direct contact with the major militant group in the island -- the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] -- in a bid to find a political solution to the ethnic problem. As a move toward this a ruling [United] National Party member of the parliament, Mr Vincent Perera, got in touch with the Jaffna LTTE leaders yesterday to arrange for a possible visit by a three-member government goodwill mission to the militant controlled areas. Earlier, Mr Perera played a pivotal role in the release of two Sri Lankan soldiers who were held captive by the LTTE for over 2 months. The group and other details of the goodwill visit are yet to be finalized. In an exclusive interview with the All India Radio's Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, the Sri Lankan national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, said having discussions with the militants is inevitable. He said it is not so important in what way we reach the point of having discussions with the militants. The understanding for an incident free Christmas today is another step forward, Mr Athulathmudali added. He said it is difficult to predict whether the discussions will remain indirect or could reach to a point of direct contact. Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan finance minister, Mr Ronnie de Mel, told a public meeting that the government is in the final phase of the peace process. [Text] [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Dec 86 BK] /12624

26 KILLED IN BATTICALOA--Residents in Batticaloa in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka say that at least 26 terrorists have been killed in fighting between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the rival Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front -- EPRLF. The LTTE, which is in control in the Northern Province, is hunting its rival in the Eastern Province to establish supremacy over the other group. The LTTE turned on the EPRLF in the north 2 weeks ago. According to some estimates they killed more than 100 and forced about 1,000 EPRLF members to surrender. Meanwhile, several EPRLF terrorists surrendered with their arms to the security forces at Odusuddan in Vavuniya yesterday. They also handed in communications equipment. The minister of national security, Lality Athulathmudali, had earlier urged EPRLF cadres to surrender to government forces saying that they would be well treated. The surrender yesterday was the first response to this call. Military sources believe that more EPRLF men will make contact with the government if the LTTE continue their offensive against the rival group. The LTTE virtually eliminated another terrorist group, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, the TELO, killing its leader, Mohan Sri Sabartnam in May this year. [Text] [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Dec 86 BK] /12624

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BHUTAN--Colombo, 2 Jan (LANKA PUWATH)--The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Kingdom of Bhutan, in consideration of the close and friendly ties between the two countries as well as their mutual desire to further strengthening friendship and cooperation and as members of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation, have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the level of ambassadors from 1st January 1987, states a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo today. [Text] [Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1002 GMT 2 Jan 87 BK] /12624

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