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TRANSLATIONS ON NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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CONTENTS

PAGE

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Moslem Involvement in Heavy Industry, Arms Contemplated (UKAZ, 29 Sep 76)	1
--	---

IRAQ

Oil Minister Speaks on OPEC Decisions (AL-THAWRAH, 26 Nov 76)	8
Public Reserve Fund Critiqued (AL-THAWRAH, 30 Nov 76)	10
Irrigation Projects in Irbil (Husayn Zaydan; AL-THAWRAH, 30 Nov 76)	12
Environmental Protection Required for Growth (Husayn Zaydan; AL-THAWRAH, 25 Nov 76)	14
Public Trade Sector Developments (Haman 'Abd-al-Ghani; AL-THAWRAH, 25 Nov 76)	17
Briefs	
First Mediterranean Socialists Conference	22
PFLP Delegation in Baghdad	22
Ba'th Delegation Visits Moscow	23

ISRAEL

New Incentives for Small/Medium Export Firms (THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST, Dec 76)	24
Trade Deficit Cut 25 Percent (THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST, Dec 76)	25

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
Employment Problems for Educated Arabs (Barbie Zelizer; THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST, Dec 76)	26
Underground Water Reserves Found in Negev (THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST, Dec 76)	30
Ousted Religious Party Girds for New Effort (Yonah Cohen; HAZOFEH, 24 Dec 76)	31
Hard Choices for Israel on Water Rights (Amir Shapira; AL HAMISHMAR, 24 Dec 76)	37
Youth Reflect on Ofer Suicide (Yitzhak Latz; MA'ARIV, 10 Jan 77)	47
Report of Government's Legal Counsel on Ofer Affair (HA'AREZ, 10 Jan 77) ..	50
Barak Advises Probe of Survivors Involved With Ofer (HA'AREZ, 10 Jan 77)	54
Briefs	
Polio Outbreak	57
JORDAN	
Jordan and Poland Hold Economic Talks (AL-DUSTUR, 16 Nov 76)	58
Briefs	
Electricity Projects	60
Meteorology Project	60
SAUDI ARABIA	
Ministers Discuss Bidding Competition, Upgrading Armed Forces (AL-RIYADH, 3 Nov 76)	61
New Factories To Be Constructed (Abd-al-Muhsin al-Da'ud; AL-RIYADH, 4 Nov 76)	62
Israel Said Disinclined To Establish Just Peace in Area (Editorial; UKAZ, 1 Jan 77)	64
Nation To Have Nuclear Reactor (Rida Muhammad Lari; UKAZ, 19 Dec 76)	65

CONTENTS (Continued)

Page

Agriculture Ministry Prepares Major Report on Water Projects ('Abd-al-Muhsin Dawud; AL-RIYADH, 28 Dec 76)	67
---	----

Briefs

Road Projects	70
SA-China Transport Cooperation	70
Economic Relations With India	71
SA-New Zealand Trade Cooperation	71
Licenses for New Factories	71

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Security of UAE Achieved With Unification of Armed Forces ('Ali al-Najjar; AL-ITTIHAD, 3 Nov 76)	72
--	----

Fertilizer Plants Being Built by Swiss Firm (AL-ITTIHAD, 4 Nov 76)	76
---	----

Economic Projects With France Reviewed (AL-ITTIHAD, 30 Oct 76)	78
---	----

UAE To Import Cholera Vaccine From Egypt (AL-ITTIHAD, 30 Oct 76)	81
---	----

Briefs

Umm al-Qaywayn Port Development	83
---------------------------------	----

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

MOSLEM INVOLVEMENT IN HEAVY INDUSTRY, ARMS CONTEMPLATED

Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 29 Sep 76 p 3

/Article by 'UKAZ Staff in Cairo: "The Scientific and Strategic Program in Islam: Moslems Rush To Conduct Research in All Spiritual and Material Fields"/

/Excerpts/ Maj Gen Jamal-al-Din Mahfuz talked to 'UKAZ about the scientific and military strategic program in Islam, and heavy industries and industries of strategic deterrence in Islamic military thinking. Here is the text of his statement to 'UKAZ:

The "capacity to take a sound decision" is a vital characteristic of the military man in modern war, be he a soldier or commander

The adoption of a decision is an intellectual process into which concentrated thinking has gone; it is one in which various data, factors and circumstances have been studied, thoroughly examined, and weighed in order that the optimum alternative or solution may be chosen.

The era in which bravery and physical strength constituted the basic ingredients for victory in battle has ended and organized scientific thinking has become the prime vital requirement for success in command and combat both.

The world's armies, especially after World War I, have been concerned with developing organized scientific thinking in the minds of their members and establishing special military institutes (known as staff or war staff colleges) to train their commanders and officers in the art of thinking and issuing decisions. It is related that the commander general of a major nation proceeded to open a staff college established for the first time after World War I, and the speech he gave to the first group of student officers came to only three words: "Learn to think."

Field Marshal Montgomery, in his book on war throughout history, states, "I have become convinced that no commander in the 20th century may become

a great one, a distinguished practitioner of the art of war, unless he has before all else studied and thought scientifically about war." After Montgomery reviewed the problems of modern war and the commander's responsibilities concerning it, he stated, "The commander must be a totally pure thinker, able to separate and extract the essential elements from the accumulations of less important factors and phenomena related to every problem. The commander will usually fail if his thinking is not organized."

The most modern scientific theories which are aimed at solving problems--known as "operations research"--are essentially founded on the use of the "scientific method" in analyzing problems, as follows:

Proper definition of the problem.

Study and analysis of data, or presentation of specific assumptions concerning the problem, then selection of each of the assumptions.

Review of alternatives which will help solve the problem in the light of the data or the correct assumptions.

Choice of the optimum alternative.

Modern armies have started to possess operations research departments to which problems facing command are submitted, so that it may seek out solutions to them through the scientific method.

Heavy Industry and Arms Manufacture in Islamic Strategy

War Industry is one of the sciences whose gravity the Holy Koran extolled, praising the value of skill in it and in other arts and sciences which the nation requires in defending its existence and its rights.

The Koran has given attention to war industry as a model of the veracity of faith and the virtue of holy war, as may be understood from the statement of Almighty God, "We have brought iron down to man. It contains intense harm and benefits for man and God knows whom He has made triumphant or sent unseen as a prophet, for God is powerful and mighty."

That is, we have created iron so that swords, spears, armor and other powerful instruments of war which repel and subdue the aggressor may be made from it. In iron lie benefits for man in his needs, his livelihood, his industry and the affairs of his life. "God is powerful and mighty" "God knows whom He has made triumphant or sent unseen as a prophet"--that is, He has done this to see that you are partisans of His religion, using arms to conduct holy war against His enemies, and to see that you are partisans of His prophets, who are absent from among you for they do not see you. "God is powerful and mighty"--that is, God, by His strength, combats the evil person who turns away from his people; He is in command of His affairs and no one can avert an obstacle when it confronts one of his

creatures. Likewise, the end of the verse, through the two exalted names, "powerful and mighty", refers to the fact that God wishes power and might for those who serve Him faithfully and that anything which provides this, in theory or in practice, is a means for drawing close to Him and is proof of piety towards Him--great be His dominion.

God has extolled a number of His glorious prophets and righteous servants and has mentioned their supremacy in industrial sciences and their efforts to subject this supremacy to the victory of truth. He--great be His dominion--describes David, "We have made iron malleable for him: fashion forms and value iron for weaving." The working of iron is the skill to create various implements from iron and bring the fabrication of iron to a level of proficiency devoid of incompetence or shortcoming as a result of good experience and long training. God ordered David to value weaving: that is an order to become proficient in weaving, for mail for the long garments he produces, so that they will be produced at the highest possible level.

In another place, David is described by two types of servitude and knowledge; the first of them is the length of meditation and reciting of catechisms, the second is proficiency with military equipment. Almighty God said, "We have subdued the mountains with David, so that he may enclose others, and we have done so, and we have taught him the fabrication of clothing for you, to fortify you against the evil which surrounds you; are you grateful?"

The Koran has proved the worthiness of God's worthy servants; they perform splendid acts which prove a knowledge of life and a profound experience in its affairs. "It is Alexander who says to those to whom he has granted skill, 'since He has built them a dam to protect them from their enemies in which my Lord has established me firmly and well, and they have given me strength to put up a wall between you and them.'"

Here man's knowledge of building fortresses becomes apparent, transforming his place of work into factories where copper may be smelted, kilns may be fired, iron cut, the land prepared and the foothills levelled. Pious men will perform their duties in this manner, protecting the weak, keeping the truth inviolate and raising the dominion of the faith. "Bring me pieces of iron so that both blades may be equal. He said, 'blow, so that it may be turned into fire.' He said, 'bring it to me so that I may pour a drop upon it.' They could not make it appear and they could not perforate it."

Establishment of Industries Is a Religious Duty

Scholars are agreed in expressing the religious legal opinion that the establishment of crafts and industries is a religious obligation on all society which it is a sin to abandon, and that righteous persons in these crafts, with their talents and abilities, must be proficient at them and

serve their people and their mission.

It is a well known principle of military strategy that the organization and arming of armies, and the methods and strategy by which they fight, depend first and foremost on the level of development of industry and means of communications and scientific and technological advancement.

Discoveries and inventions play a great role in this field. The invention of gunpowder and firearms, for instance, led to the creation of a radical change in combat formations and the theory of dispersed formations appeared, taking the place of organized formations in order to reduce loss of life. Similarly, the invention of the radio created a great transformation in theories of the command and control of forces.

If we ponder the Koran's directive on iron, we can deduce the following:

First, that the Islamic nation should base its economic foundation on industry in general, in view of the fact that industry is the basis of the progress, resurgence and strength of nations.

Second, that it should turn, in its industrial planning, toward "heavy industrialization," or "heavy industry," without which the manufacture of heavy weapons and military equipment such as artillery, tanks, airplanes, war ships, missiles, bombs and so forth is not possible.

Third, that it establish an "iron and steel industry," because heavy industry, as is well known among economists, can only be established on the foundations of an iron and steel industry.

Thus Islam directs the Islamic nation to possess the reins of an iron and steel industry, since it is the basis of true power, whether in the field of war--"in which there is intense harm"--or in the field of general economic development--"and benefits for man."

Fourth, that it establish "war factories" for the manufacture of arms, military equipment and ammunition, for it is obvious that it requires strong, comprehensive planning for the Islamic nation to furnish these industries, by exploring and drilling for iron, arranging the necessary raw materials, preparing and training men who will work at all levels, high and low, and establishing the laboratories, institutes and training and research centers this will require, along with the necessary capital for these massive projects.

Strategists know the value of iron and steel and their great effect on military strategy. Among the most conspicuous points they mention is the railway construction iron and steel have prompted, on a broad scale which has led the volume of transport to rise and increase, facilitating the task of transporting forces, making it possible to mobilize forces in operations theaters at great speed and with great concentration and adding to the

ability of commands to conduct strategic maneuvers with their forces, that is, move large forces from one area to another over a not insignificant distance.

Among the prominent historic examples in this area is the constant development in the iron and steel industry brought about by the astonishing development of the armaments and war equipment industry and the concomitant solution to many of the problems faced by commanders in the area of combat and war management in general.

The Strategy of Deterrence in Islamic Military Thinking

"Deterrence" has become the key to modern strategy in the 20th century. Its objective is to "prevent the adversary from taking the decision to use his arms, or to prevent him from acting or responding to a specific situation."

The strategy of deterrence made its appearance, in particular, following the advent of nuclear weapons and the like, which are called weapons of comprehensive destruction, engendering in the east and the west alike the conviction that war is not feasible and that the outbreak of war between the two would be a terrible act of suicide because either possesses the power to respond and take revenge if it receives a destructive blow at first.

The great strategist Andre Bouver says, "Twentieth century man, on whom has been visited the tragedy of World War I and II, and who is armed with all the means of modern science, may finally have found the means to prevent the occurrence of this type of tragedy; this means is the strategy of deterrence."

This strategy of "deterrence," which crystallized in the minds of experts in military strategy only in this era, after long, bitter suffering in devastating wars which seared the world with its flames, has been Islam's position of principle vis-a-vis its enemies and the enemies of its nation for 14 centuries.

This may be understood from the words of Almighty God: "Prepare whatever force and mounted divisions you can against him, so you can terrify the enemy of God and your enemy with them." (The Surah on "Spoils", No 60).

It may also be understood by the words of the Prophet, on whom be God's peace and blessings, "I triumphed through terror for a month's journey" (al-Bukhari's "Sahih" /traditions of the Prophet/).

Terrorizing the Enemy

From this glorious verse, it is to be understood that the purpose in preparing forces and garrisons is to "terrorize" the enemy and make him

fearful of the consequences of aggression. From the noble tradition, as well, it is to be understood that the manifestation of force before and terrorization of the enemy will achieve victory over him and will lead to the attainment of victory and the objectives of the Islamic mission.

It is clear and established that Islam was the forerunner as far as the theory of deterrence is concerned; this needs no proof. What ought perhaps to be said is that what a comparative study of the theory of deterrence and the modern strategy of deterrence has discovered is that the Islamic theory is distinguished by a nobility of goals and objectives because it clearly conforms with the essence of Islam, which is the religion of peace. The modern strategy of deterrence arose in the nuclear age and is most intensely linked with what is called "nuclear balance"-- which arose from the possession by both blocs of a roughly equal capability in arms of total destruction and of restraint on the part of both, due to each one's ability to reply and avenge itself if attacked first.

This strategy's attachment and connection to nuclear balance does not inspire confidence or lead to trust that real peace will be established in this world. The "loss" of this equilibrium--a likelihood which will arise when one of the two blocs attains overwhelming supremacy over the other--will certainly lead to the outbreak of nuclear war, leading Gen Andre Bouver himself to wonder if we are progressing toward peace. Certainly not, because man's love of force, added to the mysterious force governing man's economic and biological development, will always seek scope for expansion and aggrandizement.

Islamic Strategy

Here the nobility of objectives and goals with which Islamic deterrent strategy is distinguished becomes clear. If the Islamic nation possesses the power to prevail over its adversaries in such a manner that the balance of power will be in its favor, this will not entice it to use force against these adversaries as long as they refrain from committing aggression. The Islamic nation does not transcend the bounds of deterrence as long as the objective behind it, which is to terrify the enemy and prevent him from aggression, is being achieved. This is the original objective in preparing forces: "terrify." Aggression is not one of the objectives of Islam; fighting is lawful only for advancing God's word and defending the Islamic nation against aggression.

This is the secret behind the fact that, even though the modern strategy of deterrence aims at preventing war, it will not end the arms race which mankind is suffering from, due to a lack of confidence between nations, the spread of greed, and the rule of the law of the logic of force for attaining objectives and interests.

Islamic strategy does not lead to an arms race, because Islam prohibits aggression. This inspires in peace-loving nations which want to live in

peace all the trust and confidence in the good intentions of the Islamic nation; in the light of this security, they direct their powers away from perfidy and toward what is good for them and for all mankind--not toward the race to arm, which oppresses their economies, intensifies tension and leads to the outbreak of war.

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IRAQ

OIL MINISTER SPEAKS ON OPEC DECISIONS

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Nov 76 pp 1, 7

[Article from INA: "Minister of Oil Returns to Baghdad and Talks About OPEC Conference Decisions"]

[Text] Mr Tayih 'Abd-al-Karim minister of oil and chairman of the Iraqi delegation to the 17th ministerial meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries [OPEC] that was held in Kuwait last Tuesday and Wednesday returned to Baghdad yesterday afternoon.

In a statement to INA the minister said that the ministerial meeting investigated numerous common issues related to the activities of the Arab organization. This included an Arab petroleum institute to prepare teachers in the institutes of [other Arab] countries and provide them with training methods and courses.

The conference also investigated the activities of Arab companies that have sprung from the organization, and it approved the organization's 1977 budget of 1,460,000 Kuwaiti dinars to be borne equally by the member countries.

The minister added, "We carried out numerous contacts during the course of the meeting with oil ministers in Algiers, Libya and Qatar concerning the oil price amendment whose approval is forthcoming by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) at its next ministerial meeting in mid-December in al-Dawhah.

Mr 'Abd-al-Karim pointed out that there was agreement in points of view about the need for and the justice of amending oil prices in proportion to the inflation rates exported by the industrial countries to the OPEC nations.

He also said, "During my stopover in Teheran I conducted talks with Dr Jamshid Muzikar, Iran's representative to the organization's ministerial council. Our talks dealt with the subject of prices and with the pressure exerted by the mouthpieces of western propaganda which they have become accustomed to spread

before OPEC meetings in order to influence its decisions and undermine the unity of its positions and its solidarity. There was agreement in both parties' points of view regarding what was discussed."

Mr 'Abd-al-Karim explained that the Organization of Arab Countries Exporting Petroleum will hold an emergency ministerial meeting in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, on 8 January to announce the establishment of the Arab Company for Petroleum Services. This will be the fourth joint project that comes out of the organization. Iraq is to participate in this project.

8592

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IRAQ

PUBLIC RESERVE FUND CRITIQUED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Nov 76 pp 1, 7

[Article: "Commentary on Kuwaiti Government's Decision To Create So-Called Public Reserve Fund for Future Generations"]

[Text] The Kuwaiti Government has announced that it will deduct 50 percent of the current public reserve and 10 percent of future public revenues for a fund it called the Public Reserve Fund for Future Generations.

All records indicate that oil in Kuwait will not last more than 15 years. Since oil by its nature is an exhaustible resource, the alternative to oil is development. Investments for development can either be agricultural investments or industrial investments or both. And since we know that Kuwait and all the countries of the Arabian Gulf have no arable lands, investments in agricultural projects become irrelevant and impractical. It is investments in industrial projects that remain afterwards. In Kuwait and in the remaining areas of the Arab Gulf these investments face a basic obstacle which is the scarcity of labor--this is besides the lack of experience. And if there is a trend to establish industrial development projects, this trend would open the doors to foreign labor and that would have serious consequences on the Arab character of these areas.

What then is the solution?

The solution lies in saving, but not in saving in the traditional way, that is, by depositing funds in banks on the pretext of placing them at the disposal of future generations. It is known economically that the actual value of money diminishes as years go by due to price increases and other inflation factors. As years go by money loses a percentage of its actual value; that is not to be overlooked.

The right road to take to obviate this fact in order to serve future generations is to maintain the petroleum resources and not to deplete them in the service of foreign monopolies and imperialist circles. [This may be carried

out] in the context of regulating oil production so as to make it subject to a delicate equation that would balance the actual need for resources against the right of future generations to benefit from their national resources.

In the context of this analysis the Kuwaiti Government's decision to establish the so-called Public Reserve Fund for Future Generations entails concealing the truth and misleading the people. It would harm future generations and deprive them of reaping the real benefits of the national wealth while [allowing] foreign monopolies to harvest the fruits of increased production that is unrelated to the real needs for surplus financial resources either in Kuwait or in the other Arab Gulf countries.

Our call for regulating oil production in Arab Gulf areas emanates from a national responsibility and a desire for future Arab generations to [experience] the utmost benefit from their oil wealth and not to dissipate it in projects or decrees that result in serving the foreigner and the capitalist monopolies.

Likewise, when we propose that oil production be regulated in the countries that have come under the threat of depleting their oil resources during the next few years, we do not need to assert that we have huge reserves of this wealth. This is besides our broad development course in all areas. This course is based on the availability of all the requirements of comprehensive economic development.

8592

CSO: 4802

IRAQ

IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN IRBIL

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Nov 76 p 4

[Article by Husayn Zaydan: "Iskikilik Is a Project Contributing to Development of Agricultural Reality in Self-Government Area"]

[Text] The Ministry of Irrigation will implement a number of dams and irrigation projects in the self-government area during the current year for the purpose of utilizing the water to increase the cultivated area and raise the economic and living standard of the area's residents.

The Iskikilik Irrigation project is considered the first large irrigation project in Irbil Governorate. Its completion is expected in the first quarter of next year.

The project's territory consists of a plain that runs parallel to the Great Zab River and south of the low hills that extend along the plan of Damir Dag which widens toward the south and becomes 3.5 kilometers wide.

The project enjoys numerous advantages. Among them is the fertility of its territory and the lack of salts in it. This advantage can be utilized for the purpose of cultivating sugar beets to furnish the sugar refinery at al-Mawsil. Besides, different kinds of most summer and winter crops can be cultivated.

The total area for the project amounts to approximately 53,000 donums. The area that can be irrigated is estimated at 41,000 donums. Thus the vastness of the territory that will be irrigated by the waters of the project becomes clear.

The Great Zab River is the principal source of water for the project which will irrigate 20,000 donums of agricultural land by means of running water and 21,000 donums by means of pumping the water.

The work of implementing the project has been divided into two stages. The first one includes building a principal canal that begins from the principal

Nazim al-Sadr and extends to the feet of the low hills until the village of Mala 'Umar. Tributary and secondary streams branch off from this canal.

The project also includes other installations such as bridges for cars and pedestrians, flood-control dams and pumps for the flow of canal waters beneath the valleys. These intersect with the principal canal, with the drainage installations and with tributary streams.

The second stage includes building a canal that branches off the left side of the principal canal and tributary and subordinate streams whose length would total 122 kilometers. [The second stage also includes] installing the machines and the special equipment for the project.

The second stage also includes implementing the mechanical and electrical work for the two pumping stations which consist of four large units and eight small units. It also consists of building two elevating canals. The first is 23 kilometers long, and the second is 52. The second stage consists of building other installations like bridges, waterfalls and a number of [water] stopping barrages.

Completing this huge project which sources of the Ministry of Irrigation expect to be accomplished during the first quarter of next year will undoubtedly contribute to developing the agricultural reality in the self government area by means of preparing thousands of donums of arable lands.

8592

CSO: 4802

IRAQ

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REQUIRED FOR GROWTH

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Nov 76 p 4

[Article by Husayn Zaydan: "Environmental Protection Is Desirable Requirement for Progress"]

[Text] The Industrial Development and Environmental Pollution Convention has recently been concluded. It was organized by the Iraqi Industries Union with the cooperation of the Supreme Council for Human Environment and the International Organization for Industrial Development.

Representatives of the organizations of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, of the Ministry of Health, the International Organization for Industrial Development and the Supreme Council for Human Environment took part in the meetings of this convention. In addition, there were representatives of the Iraqi Industries Union and a number of specialists.

The convention issued a number of recommendations that included a call to the urgency of directing existing economic and service establishments to prepare special studies for dealing with the pollution that results from industrialization operations when new projects are established and when existing projects are in operation. Thus the extent of the pollution produced from these projects can be determined, units to deal with the pollution inside these projects can be formed, and maximum use can be made from incidental waste.

The matter of attending to dealing with the pollution resulting from industrial operations is at the forefront of the remedies that must be brought about, especially in residential areas where industrial projects abound.

The convention has therefore recommended expedition in establishing industrial complexes and providing them with basic requirements in a manner that guarantees control over the sources of pollution. It recommended that primitive methods of production be abandoned and modern machines utilized so as to guarantee that the exposure of workers to dangers be diminished.

The revolution's concern with treating the environmental pollution problem appears evident through its establishment of hundreds of water collection units. Besides, it has established major water projects that contribute to providing pure water to citizens in these areas.

In this regard the convention called for conducting practical surveys of the waters of the Dijlah, Euphrates and Shatt al-'Arab rivers to examine the degree of water pollution and remedy it. The convention called for preparing scientific investigations of pollution and establishing a technical center specializing in environmental research.

The convention recommended aiming towards the consideration of public transportation by using the best means of transportation that produce little pollution. This can be done by importing means of transportation with standard specifications through which resulting pollution can be controlled.

During the opening session Undersecretary of State for the Ministry of Industry and Minerals Mr Subhi Yasin pointed out that the relationship between industrial and technological progress and increased environmental pollution weighs heavily on the minds of researchers and scientists. Numerous studies and investigations have been submitted for the purpose of drawing up the measures and the preventive treatments to curb this dangerous phenomenon.

In one of its recommendations the convention has therefore called for the convening of a national conference in Baghdad next year for protecting the environment against pollution. Arab and international organizations specializing in the environment are to take part in this conference. The convention recommended reconsideration of legislation pertaining to pollution in the context of current progress in all areas so as to guarantee human beings protection from the dangers of pollution.

It is known that among the reasons for environmental pollution are the unplanned garbage burning operations that currently take place near residential establishments and districts. They are carried out by some units of the capital's municipality, but they must be carried out outside the city.

A source in the Department of Public Health Protection at the Ministry of Health asserts that burning garbage causes numerous damages. Among these are air pollution and an increase in the pains of those suffering from heart disease, lung disease and allergy.

The fact that the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and the Iraqi Industries Union undertook to set up this convention and the decisions that were issued by the convention must contribute effectively in the preparation of studies and proposals that contribute to checking environmental pollution in all the governorates of the country.

The Supreme Council for Human Environment and the agencies of the Ministry of Health are being called upon to take the necessary measures for stopping garbage burning operations that are carried out in numerous areas of Baghdad in the vicinity of residential establishments and districts. Their danger has been scientifically proven.

Now then, ... With the cooperation of remaining organizations and citizens the Industrial Development and Environmental Pollution Convention and the decisions it reached must contribute to shedding light on dealing with this phenomenon for the sake of protecting man.

8592

CSO: 4802

IRAQ

PUBLIC TRADE SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Nov 76 p 3

[Article by Hamam 'Abd-al-Ghani: "Public Trade Sector Developments and Distribution Outlets"]

[Text] There can be no doubt that assuring citizens' needs, providing them with an honorable life, developing and raising their standard of living, and enabling them to obtain everything that can yield them material and spiritual prosperity are among the party's and the revolution's basic goals. It is natural that the central factor in achieving these goals is production. Unless we produce material goods or make them available, we cannot talk about marketing or distributing them. Consequently, we cannot talk about delivering them to the ultimate consumer where they will acquire a utilitarian value. This is the ultimate purpose of the production process. The marketing process, however, is a basic complementary aspect of the production process during which products are passed along to the consumer. The matter of sound marketing and flow of goods has therefore occupied an important and a major place in economic studies; it has attracted the attention of political forces in their positive as well as in their negative struggle.

In our country since the 17 July revolution the party's and the revolution's political leadership has been giving special attention to raising the citizen's standard of living and assuring his needs of goods and commodities in accordance with the big increase in citizens' incomes. The rate of increase in average per capita income in 1975 was 337.2 percent over average per capita income in 1968. This is an annual rate of increase of 25.4 percent as was announced by the National Accounting Office of the Central Agency for Statistics. Consequently, citizens' demand for different commodities and goods has increased. The demand has also increased in proportion to the major development activity and the cultural development that are ongoing in the country. On the basis of what was mentioned in the political report on the country's eighth conference for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the political leadership's attention to raising the citizen's standard of living was reflected in the economic, political and social treatments and in what was mentioned on different occasions in the speeches and directives of the president and commander and those of the vice president of the Revolutionary

Command Council. The latest of these valuable directives was issued by the president during his visit to the Ministry of Internal Trade when he referred to [the following].

"The political leadership of the party and the revolution is giving its exclusive attention to the matter of making consumer goods and especially food available in a manner that makes them easy to acquire. This would guarantee the building of a strong and sound economy that would bring about the goals of the new changes in the society that we seek."

His Excellency also called for the following:

"The utmost efforts must be spent and doubled to provide citizens with consumer goods in the easiest and least complicated manner. Efforts must be spent to develop storage, distribution and sales agencies and to improve the efficiency of administrative agencies to the level that is commensurate with the tasks entrusted to them." He asserted the necessity of working to make the citizen comfortable, to make it easier for him to obtain his needs, to control his anxiety and not to provide opposite forces with the opportunity to tamper with local markets.

It was with such conciseness and clarity that the president, the commander, summarized the economic, social and political importance of sound commodity flow. Commodity slowdowns and the scarcity of essential products, especially food products, are among the most serious gaps through which enemies of the people disseminate their poison and sow suspicion, doubt and anxiety between the revolution and its masses.

The Importance of Distribution Channels and Outlets

Emanating from the importance of these outlets and their sensitive relationships with the consuming public, and in keeping with the revolution's course and with the fact that it is applying itself to laying down the material bases for the socialist transformation, the matter of improving distribution outlets won increasing attention. This matter continues to gain increasing attention from the revolution's leadership and duly qualified agencies as well as from all progressive specialists.

Providing suitable channels of distribution to cover local markets is a task for the present and for the future. The proper application of scientific, economic law in the course of programmed, coordinated development consists of making an effort to develop channels of distribution quantitatively and qualitatively, distributing them on a sound geographic basis, and laying down scientific, practical plans for that by means of complete, programmed coordination that can be carried out in conjunction with developing the production and import sectors. Thus the ultimate result [of all this activity] would be the parallel development of these sectors. Thus development should accompany and be consistent with the society's development

activity and with the political leadership's great ambitions to create the new society--the Arab, socialist, democratic, unified society.

The importance of distribution outlets emanates from [the following]:

Distribution outlets constitute a link. In most cases they comprise the last link in commodity processing from production to consumption where the cycle of production is completed in order to begin anew. They also comprise one of the tools the revolution is using to bring about material prosperity to the citizens by providing them with the needs and requirements of a good life and cultural development. This means that the abundance of these channels and outlets and the soundness of their operation are related to the lives and livelihoods of millions of citizens. Consequently, they are related to the life of the revolution itself which represents the broad masses of the people who perceive the revolution's achievements and the success of its agencies in their ability to obtain with ease and without complications the goods and commodities they need.

Distribution outlets constitute one of the important tools for estimating the volume and the nature of demand. They determine the appropriate seasons for releasing [goods into the market] because it is not possible for a developed agency to estimate the volume of demand and the needs of the market in a state of isolation. Direct distribution outlets are to the market what the eye is to the body.

These outlets--whether they are public or private sector outlets--constitute the standard gauge that gives detailed indications of market activity and the factual evidence about demand. These outlets can therefore play a major role, besides statistics and planning agencies, in rendering assistance in programming and planning internal and foreign trade. Distribution outlets can offer supportive indicators to production sectors.

Distribution outlets are part of the storage capacity available in the country. It is no secret that current storage capacity has not been able to keep pace with the development of the country's economy in production and imports. The fact that national production has been increasing, the fact that development requirements are being imported, that many production and consumer goods and commodities that have been imposed by the new economic reality in the country are [also] being imported, and the fact that the political leadership demonstrated its far-sightedness by suggesting that establishing a strategic reserve of essential products was necessary--all this and other factors--have made the reality of [our] storage capacity incapable of keeping up with these conditions.

It is true that a major effort is underway to meet the country's need for the two kinds of warehouses: regular warehouses and those with special specifications. The percentage of warehouses that are being implemented amounts to 25 percent of total warehouses presently available. These amount to 2,146 warehouses. Twenty four percent of warehouses have been planned for completion by 1980. This means that as far as the number of

warehouses is concerned, there will be a 49 percent increase; regarding the area of warehouses, there will be a 125 percent increase. Total area of three kinds of warehouses--this includes those that are available at present, those that are under construction and those whose construction has been planned--amounts to 14,210,264 square meters. This is the figure shown by the results of the survey conducted in this regard by the Central Agency for Statistics. We are stating that in spite of this major effort, utilizing distribution outlets to alleviate the current tightness in storage capacity is a pertinent matter for the present and for the future. If the flow [of goods] into distribution outlets and [the process of] furnishing those outlets were to emanate from this view, the public sector would have relatively been able to overcome the storage crisis and would not have had to pay close to 1 million dinars annually in rent for warehouses, as the results of the aforementioned survey stated. Furthermore, the appropriate flow of goods will provide a natural stream of goods and commodities, thereby eliminating all commodity slowdowns and meeting the needs of the consumer in the easiest ways. Thus two goals are achieved simultaneously.

What Are the Distribution Channels Presently Available?

At present there are three forms of distribution channels available in the country. These are:

1. Direct sales branches and showrooms affiliated with the three branches of the public sector: the commercial, industrial and agricultural.
2. Public sector agents and other private sector boutiques and stores that do not have authority to represent the public sector.
3. Consumer cooperative societies.

The Public Trade Sector's Outlets of Distribution

The change in the public trade sector was a far-reaching and a major change both quantitatively and qualitatively. It was in keeping with the revolution's thought and with the fact that it was pointing towards the revolutionary transformation and change of society. This required the existence of a developing and a leading public sector in the different areas of society's life. The change was [also] in agreement with the development of other branches of the national economy. Therefore, a large group of organizations and companies has been introduced and a broad network of branches, showrooms and agents became widespread. This is besides the research, statistics and planning divisions that have also been introduced.

The significant development that has taken place in the quantity and quality of the distribution outlets affiliated with this sector reflects the vital and sensitive position that the public trade sector occupies in the life of the society. It also reflects the extent of its development and the increasing importance afforded it by the party and the revolution's leadership.

Branches and Showrooms

Public distribution outlets exemplified in direct sales branches and showrooms that are affiliated with public trade sector establishments occupy the foremost position of importance and are considered the nucleus of the socialist sector in distribution. They have actually won the patronage of the revolution's command and duly qualified agencies during the period of the Ministry of Economy (which has been abolished) and after the introduction of the ministries of internal trade and foreign trade.

Before the revolution public trade sector institutions throughout Iraq had no more than three or four branches of the Iraqi Storage Company and the Iraqi Commercial Company. But this situation was changed completely after the revolution. In March 1975 the number of these branches amounted to 64; and in the latter part of May 1976 the figure rose to 140 branches. This means that the rate of increase during that period was 118.75 percent. This reflects the major concern with establishing these branches, and it reflects an application that is aware of [the need to] strengthen the role of the public sector in the life of the country.

Direct sales showrooms also underwent significant developments. There were no independent direct sales showrooms belonging to any of the public trade sector establishments before the revolution. At the end of March 1975 there were 166 direct sales showrooms and centers affiliated with these establishments. By the end of May 1976 there were 260 direct sales showrooms and centers. This is an increase of 56.67 percent.

It has been observed that the rate of expansion in establishing branches and showrooms was higher with those establishments that deal in food products and other consumer goods. The Governmental Sales Administration, for example, had 14 branches and 43 showrooms in March 1975; at the end of May 1976 it had 15 branches and 74 showrooms. Iraqi Storage [Company] had 13 showrooms that rose to 29 during the same period. The Iraqi Commercial Company had 36 direct sales showrooms; it [now] has 41 showrooms.

These establishments have drawn up ambitious plans to spread their branches and their showrooms in all the cities of the country under the slogan, "A showroom in every district" during the years of the current Five-Year Plan. But it seems that a staff shortage and the unavailability of suitable locations for these branches and showrooms are preventing the speedy accomplishment of these plans.

8592
CSO: 4802

IRAQ

BRIEFS

FIRST MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALISTS CONFERENCE--The two comrades, Shafiq 'Abd-al-Jabbar the Qatari leadership's candidate to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Sa'd Qasim Haumdi a staff member of the National Publishing Information Office, left for Madrid yesterday to represent the party in the first Mediterranean area conference for socialist parties. In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency Comrade Shafiq 'Abd-al-Jabbar affirmed that a meeting of socialist forces in the Mediterranean area was important. He affirmed that it was necessary to strengthen cooperation between the socialist forces and coordinate their positions so that imperialist and Zionist attempts to deceive [public opinion] against the rights of the Arab Palestinian people and the struggle of our Arab nation can be opposed. The subjects that will be discussed at the conference cover a significant area of the intellectual and political issues with which revolutionary and progressive people in our area and throughout the rest of the world are preoccupied. [Representatives of] 16 parties and Arab and European socialist movements are participating in the conference that will last 3 days. Conference topics were focused around socialist applications, the methods of confronting imperialism and racist Zionism, the security of the area, world peace and cooperative relations among the nations of the area. [Text] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Nov 76 p 1] 8592

PFLP DELEGATION IN BAGHDAD--The PFLP delegation (the general command) arrived in Baghdad yesterday evening on a visit to the country that will last several days. It is headed by Lt Gen 'Ali Ishaq chairman of the steering committee for the Front's fifth general conference. Lt Gen Ishaq said that the delegation will contact officials in the country in order to exchange points of view regarding the total developments that the Arab area is experiencing, and especially those events that are taking place in Lebanon. He added, "We are convinced that total developments in the Lebanese arena emanate from the grind of the pacifist and liquidating settlement of the Palestine question. The battle that is ongoing is a battle that opposes the settlement." He said that the retrogressive regime in Damascus was able to hide behind the Arab League slogan, and that its forces have turned from conquering troops into security and restrictive forces. He said that this was one of the most serious developments. [Text] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Nov 76 p 5] 8592

BA'TH DELEGATION VISITS MOSCOW--A party delegation headed by Lt Gen Nadim Ahmad al-Yasin (director of public information) left for Moscow. The purpose of the delegation's visit, which is to implement the protocol concluded between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Soviet Communist Party, is to strengthen relations in information areas, to exchange experiences and to examine information agencies in the Soviet Union. Members of the delegation include representatives of the National Publishing and Information Office, the Iraqi News Agency, the Public Organization for Radio and Television and AL-THAWRAH newspaper. [Text] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Nov 76 p 4] 8592

CSO: 4802

ISRAEL

NEW INCENTIVES FOR SMALL/MEDIUM EXPORT FIRMS

Jerusalem THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST in English Dec 76 p 8

[Text]

Another plan to help small and medium export firms is being worked out by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. About 15% of exports in the industrial field originate from 130 such firms who receive 2% of the value of their exports in the form of a government grant and another 1% if the deal was with a developing country. So far, the government has not recognised the trading commission of foreign agents for incentive purposes, but the new plan calls for this trading margin to be recognized, providing all the necessary documents are produced. It is hoped to boost 6,000 small exporters whose share of the market is only 2%. (1,450 medium exporters have an 18% share of the market and 350 large exporters 80%.)

As of November 1, government financing of production-for-export rose by 12% so that exporters now receive IL 7.65 per dollar. The increase was anticipated since there is a procedure for adjusting the figures periodically to keep pace with changes in production costs.

The increase means that the total amount of regulated credit available for export firms is up by IL 240 million to IL 6,000 million. These funds are allocated to various sectors on the following basis: IL 2,000 million total credit for industrial exporters; IL 800 million to finance foreign currency outlays made by

manufacturers buying production inputs; IL 2,700 in foreign currency credit for the diamond industry, and; IL 500 million for agriculture. Altogether, some one thousand Israeli exporting firms benefit from this regulated credit.

CSO: 4820

ISRAEL

TRADE DEFICIT CUT 25 PERCENT

Jerusalem THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST in English Dec 76 p 8

[Text]

Israel's balance-of-payments gap was substantially closed this year, according to Moshe Mandelbaum, Director-General of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. By the end of the year, the accumulated deficit will have been reduced by about \$800 million or 21% of \$3 billion.

Exports have risen 24% in the first 11 months of the year from \$1,651 million in January-November 1975 to \$2,049 million this year. Diamond exports amounted to \$640 million, as compared with \$500 million in the comparable 1975 period. In November, diamond exports totalled \$68.6 million, an increase of 60% over November 1975. During November as a whole, exports totalled \$206 million, including \$182 million industrial exports (that cover the diamond figure as well) and \$24 million agricultural goods. Excluding seasonal factors, exports were 5% higher than in September.

LOOKING GOOD

October's exports were some 5% below the value of goods sent abroad in September. Still, the \$185 million worth

of products sold in October helped ensure that the balance sheet for the first ten months of the year would show a significant increase in earnings compared to the same period in 1975. Net exports totalled \$1,834 million representing an overall 22% hike.* In specific categories, the changes registered from January to October were:

metals, machinery and electronics	+53%
diamonds	+24%
industrial goods	+21%
textiles and clothing	+21%
agricultural produce	+20%
drinks and tobacco	+16%
chemicals, plastics, and rubber	+13%
paper and printing products	+3%
minerals and mining products	-27%

* Between January and September, exports were also up by 22%, while imports fell by 4%. As a result, the balance of trade deficit in the first nine months of the year was 24% less than it had been a year earlier, \$1,304 million versus \$1,719. Excluding trade in ships fuel and diamonds, the deficit dropped from \$1,348 million to \$989 million. In September alone, the trade gap was reduced by 32%.

ISRAEL

EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS FOR EDUCATED ARABS

Jerusalem THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST in English Dec 1976 pp 19-20

[Commentary by Barbie Zelizer]

[Text] For generations, education has been seen as the key to real employment opportunities. Today, however, economic difficulties have called this notion into question. In almost every country, the plight of the highly educated job-seeker who must stand in line at labour exchanges is a not uncommon scene. Israel, too, has its share of similar stories.

Among the country's Arab sector, there is a growing opinion that this problem goes beyond that affecting the Jewish majority. A substantial belief has developed that educated Arabs have more difficulty securing positions commensurate with their training. What they see as a deliberate lack of appropriate government response has only reinforced their conviction that the problem is due, in part, to political considerations. They argue that both the public service and private industry are almost closed to them and that they are steered back to their villages rather than being allowed to integrate into the employment mainstream. Consequently, they claim, whatever opportunities they find are limited to a few fields such as education. Though there has been discontent in the past, it seems to be intensifying. While more and more Israeli Arabs win university degrees on the one hand, apparent government indifference continues, on the other.

An in-depth evaluation is difficult because of the pronounced lack of available statistics and a fairly obvious attempt by officialdom to downplay the issue. However, there does seem to be some merit in the arguments of Israel's Arabs.

A starting point is the educational system which serves them. By and large, the Arab minority continues to live in rural villages. There, three types of elementary and secondary school are available: those directed by Israel's Ministry of Education (and which serve most of the Arab student population); un-official institutions supervised by the Ministry, and still other un-official bodies which are not. It is only after matriculation that Arab students share classes with their Jewish counterparts at university.

According to those familiar with this setting, the standards offered to the Israeli Arab through high school are far inferior to those in Jewish schools. Classes contain an average of six to seven more pupils; there is a lack of instructional material, a shortage of classroom space and a phenomenally high number (approximately 50 percent) of unqualified teachers.

However, the major bone of contention relates to the inability of many Israeli Arabs to pass the national matriculation examinations. The most recent statistics reveal that in 1973-74, only 700 pupils out of a total of 1,959 (35 percent) succeeded. Although the corresponding success rate among Jewish Israeli (47 percent) is not encouraging either, the fact is that both groups take the same tests (either in Arabic or Hebrew as a mother tongue). The difference in percentages is revealing.

The Ministry of Education contends that this gap in standards is due to the relative novelty of Arab education in the Jewish State. Starting in 1949, the Government began adapting the existing Arab educational system to the new Israeli norms. This included updating textbooks and teaching methods, instituting minimal teacher qualifications, and improving classrooms and schools. Yet, it was not until the early 1960s that a school construction programme actually began. Only in 1967 were statistics first issued on Arab intermediate school pupils. Today, on a comparative basis, the standards of Israeli Arab elementary education are well ahead of those in neighbouring Arab countries, indicating that progress has been made. However, at the secondary and higher levels, Israel lags behind.

Once the Israeli Arab does pass his matriculations, he can continue studying. In the academic year 1973-74, 1,099 Arabs were registered at institutions for higher learning, nearly 25 percent at the University of Haifa and another 25 percent at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The degrees in which they majored ranged from the humanities to the social and natural sciences.

The end of formal education marks the start of a particular set of problems. Many educated Israeli Arabs contend that they cannot return to their village where decision-making is left almost exclusively to the more traditional village elders. Not only do they resent the intrusion of the young graduate into their realm of authority, but the community, in general, distrusts him for having "integrated" himself into Jewish cultural and social institutions. In addition, the village does not have the conditions to absorb successfully the growing influx of educated Arabs.

As a result, the graduate must compete on the Jewish labour market, where job opportunities for him are scarce. Again, exact statistics are not available; however, in Arab circles it is agreed that discrimination exists. They take, as an example, employment in the civil service. In many government ministries, where security is not a major issue, security considerations are given to explain the refusal to employ Israeli Arabs. In addition, compulsory army service is many times cited as a prerequisite. Since Israel's Arabs do not serve, they are often refused government posts.

(This does not apply to the nation's Druze and Circassian sectors, who do complete army service. They comprise a somewhat different minority category than Israeli Arabs. It is generally felt that the Druze, in particular, secure employment more easily than do Israeli Arabs. Kamal Mansour, the President's Advisor on Minority Affairs, and Mahmoud Biadsi, an advisor to the Minister of Health, are two examples.)

This is not to say that there are no Arabs employed in senior government posts: Rasmi Biadsi serves as sub-advisor on Arab Affairs in the Prime Minister's Office. Until he recently resigned from the Government to sit as a back-bencher, Sheikh Jabir Moabi was deputy minister of Communications and, later, of Agriculture. On the whole, however, the jobs filled by Arabs seem to be token positions and comprise a very select and minimal proportion of the educated Israeli Arabs who are qualified to fill jobs of a similar status.

This tone of refusal in government posts sets the pace for private companies and banks. Here, too, there are no statistics available, but it is clear that the rate of Arab employment is low. During the academic year 1975-76, an Arab M. A. student studying at the Hebrew University was required to do his thesis on the basis of field work completed in industry. Because he could find no factory willing to allow him to do his field work in the Jerusalem area, the university was forced to give him his M.A. without his having completed the necessary requirements.

Until last month, there was no Arab (or Druze) on Israel's delegation to the United Nations' General Assembly. (Ali Hidar, the Arab chosen to go, was sent only for a short time and specific issue.) The highest executive position obtained by an Arab is that of deputy minister. The department for Arab affairs is almost exclusively managed and directed by Jews.

It seems that the most certain full-time job opportunity for the educated Israeli Arab lies in the teaching profession. Yet teaching has become crowded with so many Arab professionals facing the impossibility of finding a job elsewhere.

This is borne out in a study recently by the Shiloah Centre. Of 328 university graduates receiving academic degrees from 1961-1971, 256 were interviewed. Eighty-six percent were employed immediately upon graduating, while 14 percent were unemployed for periods of 6 months to 3 years. What is revealing is that 47 percent of all the respondents, regardless of the type of academic degree they received, were employed in educating and teaching. Nearly all were dissatisfied with their wages. More than half wanted to change their place of work, citing the difficulties in bridging the gap between their university experience with Western culture and the more traditional Arab village mores.

The Government's indifference to the issue has only hindered progress. Although the official policy is to integrate Arab intellectuals into suitable

jobs, there has been little evidence of efforts to do so. The Government recently created a committee (composed of 54 Arabs and 46 Jews) to deal specifically with Arab affairs. This may be a step, finally, towards a concrete action.

Until now, there has been a lack of planning on the part of the State for affording aid to educated Israeli Arabs. The young intellectual elite among them has only since 1968 really begun to crystallize. The Shiloah Centre report predicts that in 1978 alone, over 300 Arabs will be graduating from Israeli universities. In the face of this, some specific programmes must be developed.

CSO: 4820

ISRAEL

UNDERGROUND WATER RESERVES FOUND IN NEGEV

Jerusalem THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST in English Dec 76 p 7

[Text]

Desert agriculture, already highly developed in Israel, should receive an important boost soon. Large quantities of underground water reserves dating back many millenia have been found by the Mekorot Water Company in the heart of the Negev near Nahal Zin. When the taps were opened on experimental drillings at a depth of 820 metres, the water burst out over the dry, rocky desert at a rate of 440 cubic metres per hour, creating a wide stream.

Although high in salinity, the water can easily be treated for desalination. In its present state, however, it is already suitable for agricultural irrigation as well as industrial uses at nearby phosphate mines.

It is hard to estimate the enormous impact which these new sources are likely to have on the future development of the

Negev. The vast subterranean reservoir is believed to stretch from Ein Gedi southwards to Timna, north of Elat, and onwards into Sinai. Geologists and hydrologists studying the new finds, as well as those at other sites, believe that the total quantity probably amounts to hundreds of millions of cubic metres in water supply.

At least eight new settlements in the desert can be established on the basis of these early finds. Moreover, the new source is also expected to substantially ease the plight of existing farming settlements in the Arava which have had to depend on water pumped long distances or on inadequate local wells.

CSO: 4820

ISRAEL

OUSTED RELIGIOUS PARTY GIRDS FOR NEW EFFORT

Tel Aviv HAZOFEH in Hebrew 24 Dec 76 p 3

/Article by Yonah Cohen: "United and With Increased Vigor We Should Prepare for the Elections"

/Text For a long time the religious Zionist movement has seen itself as a bridge of communication between the religious camp and the non-religious camp in the nation. Since the start of organized and practical Zionism leaders of religious Zionism have been exerting effort to increase implemented projects and to magnify accomplishment in settlement and in standing up to external enemies. Together with this they take pains to inject into the nation and the state the awareness and the understanding that the Jewish religion is not "a private matter," and that there must be a return to Judaism even before the return to the land of the Jews.

Because of a sense of responsibility for the unity of the nation and the status of the state in the tests of the generation, the Mafdal /National Religious Party made its participation in the government coalition dependent on an agreement which requires preservation of religious values in general, and the sanctity of the Sabbath in particular, in the public life of the state, on a foundation of a firm and explicit agreement in the coalition agreement and in the "guidelines for the work of the government," for the preservation of "the status quo." Mapam and the Independent Liberals are also signatories to this agreement and these "guidelines."

When this agreement is violated, whether by design or unintentionally, repeatedly (on one occasion in negotiations on the matter of work and strikes specifically on the essence of the Sabbath, and on another occasion through inane merrymaking upon the arrival of three F-15 aircraft...) the Mafdal is not able to pass this over in silence. Mafdal representatives in the government thought to satisfy themselves by abstaining from voting in order to give the prime minister and the government as a whole extended "credit" on the Sabbath issue, relying upon the putting forth of a proposal and explanations which had been made known to the representatives of the Mafdal and at the government meeting.

When Mr Rabin chose to follow the line which his colleagues had imposed upon him, and brought the state to a government crisis, leaders of the Mafdal took their position in the full Knesset and with proud bearing began to call their former partners to account. Dr Burg, Dr Raphael and Z. Hammer, each in his own manner, pointed out the heavy responsibility that the Labor Party and its leaders took upon themselves in giving preference to petty-political-party considerations over the historical partnership between the religious camp which builds and the Labor Movement, which who knows whether it will in fact renew itself....

In the storm of deliberations in the Knesset on the parliamentary and national implication of the government's resignation following the resignation of the Mafdal minister members from the government, we presented to Dr Burg and to Dr Raphael three questions:

- (a) How do you sum up Mafdal's sitting in with the government to date?
- (b) In what do you summarize your work, within the framework of your assignment, in the government?
- (c) What do you foresee for the state and the party in the coming year?

Dr Yosef Burg: Accomplishments in the Religious Area and Settlement

The response of Dr Yosef Burg was on this occasion short and in outline form (in addition to his speech in the Knesset, published in our newspaper in the Tuesday, 21 December edition).

- (a) To the first question he said:

Mafdal's sitting in with the government brought about, among other things, the institution of registration of the population in accordance with religious tradition;

Defense of settlement points throughout the country;

Establishment and development of settlement points in the Golan Heights, in Gush Ezion and in Kiryat Arba, including granting of municipal status to Kiryat Arba;

Protection against proposals which might harm and change the "status quo" generally and in the area of marriage and divorce;

Protection against proposals of the Independent Liberals on the issue of conscription of yeshiva /religious academy/ students, compulsory conscription of girls, worship in the Cave of Makhpela, and the like;

A clear line in the conduct of foreign policy and security;

The ministry has been prepared to be organized in case of an emergency. An awareness of the topics of evacuation, support and victims, and emergency procedures has been introduced and thoroughly drilled into all local jurisdictions.

(b) To the second question he said:

Budgets of local offices have increased to the sum of about 10 billion pounds annually;

The government lent its support to the conclusions of the Commission (the Kubarsky Commission) for reforms in the manner of financing local offices;

Recently a proposal was put before the government on the decision to set up a committee of experts, under the chairmanship of Mr Zanbar which will propose far-reaching reforms regarding local rule within 20 months;

The Environmental Protection Service has recently been transferred to the Interior Ministry and the ministry has begun preparations for its operation;

The government approved fundamental and far-reaching plans which had been proposed by the Interior Minister and his top aides on the matter of distribution of the population and the establishment of public institutions;

A national highway profile plan was put together and completed.

(c) For the third question he let a short and incisive sentence suffice: It is not good for the state and the nation when there is a government without religious persons. Our efforts should be unified and more vigorous in order that we may approach the Ninth Knesset with a more aggressive representation in view of the challenges and the tasks which will be facing the state.

Dr Yizhak Raphael: Unity for the Tests Before Us

To the first question:

In my announcement of resignation from the government which I submitted this week in the Knesset, I already said that it is natural and logical that a coalition government composed of representatives of various views functions with differences of opinion. It was for that reason that we joined the government. We knew that the Mafdal representation would be a minority in it, so before our entry we took care to assure ourselves in the guidelines and in the coalition agreement a list of vital and even compulsory matters which formed the basis for cooperative effort. In a large portion of the ongoing questions which come on to the agenda in the deliberations of the government, in its committees and in its day-to-day work, we found ourselves partners in opinion and even allies. In general,

the approaches are not determined by a party segment, the discussion is topical and each person is open for receiving influence and persuasion. Only seldom do issues evolve into decisions of principal and party considerations. There were matters, unimportant ones, where the majority members took the opinion of the Mafdal representatives into consideration when they estimated that those matters were most important to them and the relationships did not become sharp. In any case, I cannot recall cases of "irritating" resolutions in particular although, of course quite often neither I nor my colleagues were satisfied with one process or another.

The special coalitional agreement with us on matters of religion and education has been only partially implemented. There are sections which are in essence being implemented and there have been matters which have not been carried out to my great regret. During the period of my service questions of foreign policy as well as of internal politics impinged upon us and postponed dealing with other questions. If it was one's duty with relatively little influence (only three members!) to curb developments and events which in one's opinion endangered the unity in the nation, the influence of one's struggles in other important areas was thereby as a matter of course lessened.

We Were Faithful Messengers for Those Who Sent Us

I particularly regret my lack of success in achieving agreement to amend the definition "Who is a Jew" in the Law of Return, for in the coalition agreement "an agreed to solution" was promised--and the other partners in the coalition did not budge from their positions. As chairman of the committee for this matter I held fundamental and in depth clarification sessions with all elements affected by the matter, in this country and abroad, and I did not find a solution that could satisfy everyone.

From a practical standpoint we stood guard on this vital issue. Through intensive and coordinated cooperation between the Interior Ministry and the Religious Ministry we found practical solutions for the questions which arose in knowing other governmental factors.

In general there were mutually correct and professional relations among members of the government. Only seldom were tempers aroused during deliberations, mainly on questions of religion. Mostly a good spirit prevailed in the practical deliberations, with the prime minister guiding them.

In summarizing the period of my service in the government, which was a relatively short one, I can say without hesitation that my colleagues and I, representatives of the Mafdal (for more than 1 year our colleague Hazzani, of blessed memory, was with us) contributed to the work of the government a significant contribution through our participation in its deliberations and our activities on its committees. We always saw ourselves as messengers of a large and varied public which is faithful without limit to the State of Israel and its needs and we weighed every issue by means of a broad totality-of-Israeli approach.

To the second question:

As a government member I participated in a series of important committees, among them: The committee for economic, legislative, settlement, Jerusalem affairs and others, as well as in a succession of committees for special issues--which keep their members occupied many hours in the week. I tried to contribute my share to them to the best of my ability. I saw the principal task in the Ministry of Religious Affairs, to which I devoted most of my time. This is an important ministry which provides widespread and varied services to all sections of the population, more religious or less religious, Jews and even non-Jews. It is our duty to develop efficient services to satisfy the public. There is no limit to the possibilities but no end to the difficulties. Far be it from me to brag and say that I am leaving an ordered ministry, functioning faultlessly, as I would have liked to see it and as it should and even is required to function according to my concept. I came to the ministry during difficult days from many standpoints and it was particularly difficult to get things moving then. This was a ministry without a sufficient budgetary base and I managed after much effort to improve the situation somewhat. Several things were accomplished. Several things which I began have remained unfinished. For any fundamental changes law amendments were required which should be made after much responsible deliberation and with maximum caution. In a series of fundamental issues you are bound to others and are not free to innovate even if the initiative is demanded. I am still not free to tell all that is to be told on these issues. This too requires thought. Certainly I learned a great deal from the experience which I shall be happy to put at the disposal of anyone who will come to work at the Ministry of Religious Affairs with a will to build and to improve.

A young and refreshing staff of workers has crystallized in this ministry, capable of efficiently conducting a government ministry.

Responsibility for the Crisis on Rabin and His Colleagues

To the third question:

Exactly what I had anticipated would happen, did happen. The government was unable to maintain a position without the participation of the Mafdal for even a single week. Even the prime minister recognized that the next day and he had to resign and precipitate elections. It is highly doubtful that he wanted that, and that he so intended.

We shall have an extended election campaign, needlessly and without justification while there will be no stable government to guide the ship. No one should envy Rabin when he appears before the new president and his administration in Washington while his government is segmented and crumbled and no one, not even he himself, knows whether he is the person with whom discussions will be carried on in the future. This is, above all, bad for a state wallowing in a complex of severe diplomatic and economic problems which seek a solution. Who will curb the inflation, who will control the

frenetic labor conflicts, who will bring about an agreement between the Histadrut and the employers without a stable government, with no majority in the Knesset, without even the possibility to decide upon an interim budget?

Now everyone will be occupied with preparations for the elections, will burst forth with slogans, will scatter promises, will arouse delusions in the public--but there is no real one to be concerned with matters.

The crisis which was caused is very bad for the state and all the responsibility is on the one who generated it, Yitzhak Rabin and his group of advisers who incited him to this ill considered and irresponsible step.

The Mafdal did what it had to do, for it operated according to the dictate of the religious conscience and in accordance with the will of its public. I have no doubt that the religious community will properly evaluate the conduct of Mafdal and reward it through expression of support and loyalty.

My first reaction to this incident was that now it is our duty to set aside all factional differences of opinion within the movement and to take a position shoulder to shoulder for building the party and saving religious life in the state. This is my feeling today: We must unite in a supreme effort to succeed in the tests which are before us.

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CSO: 4805

HARD CHOICES FOR ISRAEL ON WATER RIGHTS

Tel Aviv AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Dec 76 pp 5-7

/Article by 'Amir Shapira: "Returning to the Struggle for Water"; words in boldface in source indicated within slantlines/

Text 7 Against the background of the Lebanese crisis, a new reality is crystallizing on the eastern border: a Jordanian-Syrian rapprochement leading to a water accommodation whose center is the Makarian Project. Construction of the Makarian Dam will place before Israel a cruel choice: quiet waiving of its rights to the waters of the Yarmoukh River, or the undermining of its position as sovereign over Judea and Samaria.

The Jordanian hydrologists waited patiently. The American briefing proved to be accurate: The Lebanese crisis--so they assumed--would bring the Syrians back to the Joint Water Commission table. Since Black September (1970), Jordan has been awaiting a Syrian return to a new examination of the plan for impounding and diverting the water of the Yarmoukh River, and now it seems as though it has not waited in vain. The patience was rewarded: The Jordanian Agriculture Ministry received advance warning of the expected visit to Jordan of the Syrian president. Assad's entourage included--so it has been reported--a Syrian staff on water matters.

The Jordanian-Syrian rapprochement against the background of the Lebanese crisis brought the sides together for a series of discussions on matters of policy and security, whose main thrust is coordination and the structuring of a mutual strategy. But behind the worrisome proclamations about structuring an option of an "eastern front," a (seemingly) marginal fact which few noted was intentionally hidden: Far from the glare of the spotlights, a fundamental agreement on return to the old water accommodation was signed. One day after Assad's departure from Amman, western intelligence sources were alerted: The beginning of the Jordanian-Syrian move to execute the Makarian Dam project was underway. From Israel's standpoint this was the opening of a new front whose meaning is--return to the struggle over water.

Background /See Jordan Valley Cross-Section/

The Jordan Valley was formed as a depression in the Syrian-African Break, and extends from the Sea of Galilee /Lake Tiberias/ to the Dead Sea at levels of between -200 to -400' below sea level. Its /the Jordan Valley's/ length is 104 kilometers and its width between 4 and 16 km. Its cross section is constructed of steps from east to west and includes the Majesty of the Jordan (the riverbed) and its flooding plains. The steps are called "'Or" and the flooding plains "Jor." The 'Or slopes vary around 3 percent in the direction toward the river and in large sections for the length of the river the lower portion of the 'Or has been eroded and its form distorted.

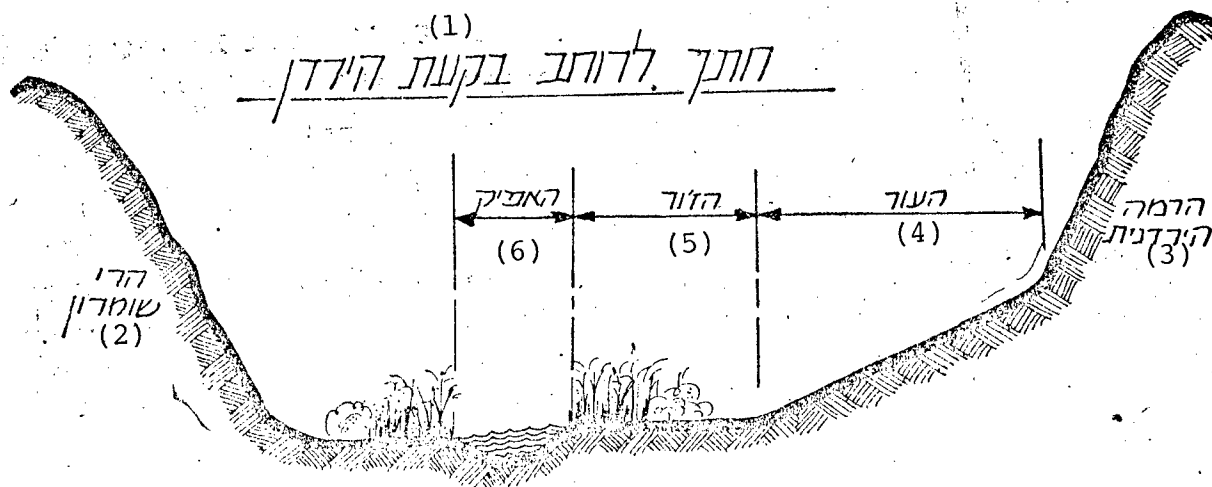
Eleven streams transsect the eastern 'Or to the Jordan River (the largest of them: The Yarmoukh River, 450 million kubs /measure of capacity/ annually, and the Zarka--90 million kubs) and only four transsect the western 'Or, which is under Israeli jurisdiction.

The climate in the valley is Mediterranean, varying between 0 and 5 degrees Celsius in winter and up to 45 degrees Celsius in the summer. The amount of precipitation (between October and May) is around 100 mm in the vicinity of the Dead Sea with a gradual increase to 400 mm in the vicinity of the Sea of Galilee.

The soils are calcareous with concentrations of gypsum and the topography is suitable for irrigation because of top drainage through natural sloping in the direction of the river. The soil is suitable for intensive agricultural cultivation and at a distance from the river ground water of satisfactory salinity is to be found.

From Banger to Simanski

Many world hydrologists practiced their craft on the Jordanian diversion plan. The dominant among the schools of thought which struggled with the diplomatic, logistical and technical questions involved in the implementation of the Yarmoukh Project were two: The one which sought to convert the Israeli Sea of Galilee to a reservoir for the winter water which flows in the Yarmoukh and distribute it over the months of the year in an irrigation system to be built on both sides of the river. Opposed to that-- the one which holds that the Yarmoukh water should be impounded with the rising of the river by damming and release of the water to diversion canals. The advantage of the former school (its low cost) does not overcome its principal disadvantage: the need for cooperation between the neighboring countries on both sides of the Jordan River. There were in fact years during which a bilateral Israeli-Jordanian agreement on mutual exploitation of the water did not seem hopeless and beyond attainment.



Key:

1. Jordan Valley Cross Section
2. Mountains of Samaria
3. Jordanian Rise
4. The 'Or /Step/
5. The Jor /Flooding Plain/
6. Riverbed

Prior to the arrival of Miles Banger (a man from the U.S. State Department) in Jordan at the beginning of the decade of the fifties, the Hashemite water specialists backed the plans which were developed by the M.G. Unidas Company, and the MacDonald Engineering Company whose reports recommended the Sea of Galilee as a regional reservoir and construction of an irrigation system for the valley to include main canals along the length of both banks of the Jordan River. Banger was the one who recommended a plan for impounding the Yarmoukh by means of a dam on the riverbed in the vicinity of the village of Makarian. Banger himself noted that there was sufficient water in the Yarmoukh and the tributaries flowing into the Jordan River from its east bank to irrigate all the areas of the Jordanian Plain and the Jordan Valley on the eastern side of the river. /The Banger Plan was designed for unilateral exploitation of the water while disregarding the Israeli interest./

"Inclusion of the Jordan River in the Yarmoukh Plan," Banger stated, "stems from diplomatic factors only." But even his plan required a diplomatic context: The Yarmoukh has its source and flows for a considerable distance

in Syrian areas. There was a need to involve the Syrians in the distribution of the water, and in the allocation of the electricity which was planned to be obtained within the framework of the diversion project.

In 1953 a Syrian-Jordanian agreement for setting up the Makarian Dam was signed, providing fundamentally: that Jordan would bear 95 percent of the expenses of setting up the dam, Syria 5 percent and in exchange for this Jordan would be permitted to use all the water of the reservoir for its own purposes. In contrast, Syria would be granted priority of a concession for the utilization of the electricity (to be generated by a power station) at a ratio of 1:3.

Jordan in effect received Syrian permission for a unilateral course of planning the large irrigation project which it sought to build along the length of the Jordan Valley on both sides of the river.

In 1953 an agreement was signed with the American Baker-Harza Companies for a detailed survey of the Yarmoukh Plan, including field tests, soils classification, investigation of water utilization, and hydrologic surveys. The purpose of the survey was to compare the Banger Plan with the data derived from the surveys and in particular on the topic of the /Makarian Dam as a water-impounding project/. Those conducting the survey differed with Banger and recommended the Sea of Galilee as an ideal site for collecting the surplus water of the Yarmoukh River. Parallel to the development of the plan by the Baker-Harza engineers, the Americans put forth the Johnston Plan as more of a 'diplomatic' than /hydrologic/ plan, but the negotiations between Johnston and the governments of the countries situated on the water sources--negotiation which turned upon the quantity of water to be allocated to each country and on the locations of the impoundment--fell through.

In the Fall of 1955 (Johnston's fourth visit to the region) a negative Arab response (on the matter of signing a mutual agreement with Israel) closed the book on the chapter.

In January 1956 a new plan crystallized in the joint (Syrian-Jordanian) Yarmoukh Commission: Implementation of a segment of the Banger Plan, a freeze on the Makarian Dam issue and dealing with the issue of diversion from the area of the Yarmoukh's point of flow into the Jordan ('Adassia) along the length of the east bank to near the Dead Sea. The diversion issue is adaptable in any variation--said the Jordanians--and time is pressing.

In February the Jordanian 'Or Plan appeared in its first metamorphosis: Digging of a canal in the vicinity of 'Adassia to divert the water of the Yarmoukh southward. The costs were estimated at 600,000 dinars (while by the calculations of the Jordanians they would obtain 1.5 million dinars annually from the irrigated area) and tens of thousands of workers would be employed in the project. There was a diplomatic tinge to the plan which the Jordanians made no effort to hide: frustrating the resurrection of

the Johnston Plan, but an /Achilles' heel/ as well: Syria objected to it for economic and particularly for diplomatic reasons. Despite Jordanian talk of "full Syrian agreement," Syria grumbled about the one-sided advantage which would accrue to Jordan from the plan, and what is more important: the diversion project at 'Adassia /would grant license to Israel to begin diversion of the flow/ of the Jordan in the Syrian demilitarized zone. The comparison--in the view of the Syrians--would imply a similar process: diversion of river water which passes through the territory of neighboring states by one state. The United States, which was alert to the diplomatic complexities, encouraged the Syrian stand without hesitation.

The Jordanian reaction was dismemberment of the Joint Yarmoukh Commission and preparations for independent implementation of the Jordanian 'Or Plan. The Syrians waited patiently: the Yarmoukh sources which are on their territory returned the commission to the conference table. The Jordanians discovered that nothing would happen without the consent of the Syrians.

In July 1956 the 'Or Plan appears in its revised metamorphosis, as a model plan for "utilization of the Yarmoukh and its tributaries." The father of the plan Nickolai Simansky (a Polish hydrologist sent by the United Nations) drew two central axes for it: irrigation of an agricultural area of 100,000 donums and setting up a tie-in for obtaining sugar. According to his calculations the irrigated area where beet and cane sugar was to be grown, in combination with a cultivation project would save the Jordanian treasury 2.5 million dinars annually while the cost of the entire canal would be covered in a short time and what is more important: its worth (because of the lack of need for expensive dams) would permit its dovetailing with any other plan and would make possible the training of engineers and administrators for their task in /the implementation of the total Yarmoukh Plan/.

The Simansky Plan concentrated on the 'Or Canal (a tunnel dug in the mesa north of 'Adassia for a length of 900 meters and an exit to an open canal east of the Jordan River bed, stretching for a length of 70 km to the vicinity of Wadi Zarka) and on the utilization of other streams draining into the Jordan.

The U.S. State Department, which revealed opposition to the plan for fear of diplomatic complications, slowly warmed up its reservations. It crammed the Syrians full of Israeli promises about a lack of intention on its part to begin diversionary operations in the demilitarized zone and it tied the Jordanians back again to the Johnston Plan whose name had been withdrawn from it. For the United States, which had not finally crystallized a position with respect to the overall Yarmoukh Project, it was important to exploit the Syrian-Jordanian conflict in order to advance an independent Jordanian project (whose American financing conditions would make possible assurance of Israel's share in the water) and what was no less important:

digging of the eastern canal would be the first step for realization of the Johnston Plan /for settling the majority of the refugees in the Jordan Valley region on both sides of the river, and their employment in irrigation and electrification projects which would be set up within the framework of the plan/.

The Political Outlook

A quiet dialogue in the State Department:

Israel: Our sovereignty over Judea and Samaria--fact. Kindly concern yourselves about our share of the water.

The United States: Our position is known to you. Judea and Samaria are not Israeli territory and the political decision must precede the hydrological one.

Opening of a Dialogue With the United States

The Makarian Dam, designed to impound the streams flowing to the Yarmoukh tributaries, to capture the water during the rise in the riverbed (in the winter) and to free it during the summer in accordance with the needs of the Jordanian diversion by means of the 'Or Project, was projected as a Jordanian-Syrian irrigation project, for the benefit of both sides of the common boundary. Return to the Makarian Plan (which was originally projected as the second story of a Jordanian diversion structure) is meant to serve both countries, to test the weak link in the Johnston Plan, meaning: /a test of the proprietorship of the water/.

The degree of latitude afforded to the one who is sitting on the sources (as compared to the one making use of the flow) increased because of diplomatic imperatives: the State Department has a growing interest in cooperation with the Syrians and the modest Jordanian muscle-flexing (Husayn's jump to Moscow) served him as a good setting. The result: American hydrologists rushed to remember Amman.

The decisive fact which was not hidden from Israel--the U.S. commitment to finance the plan--has raised fears. To Israel it appears /appropriate and essential/ to reopen a dialogue with the State Department on the nature of the Johnston Plan which is gathering dust in the archives of the governments signed on it.

The hydrologist staff of the State Department waited for an Israeli envoy, who arrived very soon. On the regional water map and in the presence of diplomats and professionals the intentions of the joint Makarian project were localized while the Americans are not hiding the considerable interest which they have in it. The message transmitted to Israel at the conclusion of the quiet discussions was unequivocal: the Foreign Ministry would have to prepare for a political struggle well-saturated with explosive material.

Israel's inferiority was conspicuous in two areas: timing, over which we have no control, and argumentation, whose prospects for success are few.

Return to the Johnston Plan--which Israel adhered to--would perplex the Americans, would force them to a political decision, and that is bad--the experts believed. On the other hand--they said--adherence to a plan (which was hatched in an American incubator) currently affords Israel a stature which it lacked during the journeys of the American envoy in 1954. Israel will stand before a sharp alternative: /silently waiving its rights, or demand for the status of a party on the water issue, and forcing the United States to a decision/. Both uncomfortable possibilities and there is no escaping a decision between them.

Diversion--A Constructive Project

At the close of 1954 the journeys of Eric Johnston came to an end. Representatives of four countries--Israel, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon--met separately to study the draft of the agreement for distribution of the water in the region (this being in effect negotiation about the quantity of water to be allocated to each country and the storage places). American policy, which was designed to bring peace and stability to the Middle East by means of the water, was crystallized in a memorandum of understanding which was placed before the foreign ministers of the countries of the region. Refusal of the Arabs (under pressure of the Arab League) to sign the joint memorandum with Israel ("signing is tantamount to recognition"), did not make it superfluous: bilateral agreements between the United States and each one of the countries in the region were signed, while the basic principles of the plan take hold and benefit from the agreement of all.

The Israeli-American understanding recognized the plan (which includes joint utilization of the water stored in the Sea of Galilee and the streams coming down to the Jordan) as a "constructive" project: Israel was praised in humanistic terms and took pains to note that the Jordanian irrigation plan would constitute an incentive for revitalizing the Jordan Valley (on both sides of the river) as a land strip destined to aid in the process of rehabilitating the refugees of 1948, through settling them there.

The Johnston Plan which assembled data and proposed combinations for multinational utilization of the water, allocated certain portions of the flow for Israeli projects as for Jordanian projects. /The water was registered "in the name of"/. In Jerusalem the entire Jordanian irrigation plan was favorably received as "a construct of peace which will crumble the Arab argument."

Who Owns Water of the West Bank

But the days of '54 did not resemble the reality of '76: in the course of 22 years which passed the waters of the Jordan became mixed with blood. The central element to change about the river was--/sovereignty over the western Jordan Valley/.

Israel settled Jews in the valley and is about to fasten itself onto the barren plains along the length of the Syrian-African Break by means of the double column plan which is crouching under the weight of the vision which has been demanded of it.

For that reason (and with regrettable tardiness) the need has arisen to test if Israel's share of the water (as sovereign over the western Jordan Valley) has been preserved. /That is: Does the distribution of the water (according to Johnston) hold in the reality of 1976. As the government under whose responsibility the West Bank is being administered, does Israel have any status in the deliberations on the water projects which are about to shape a reality different from that which was delineated in the Johnston Plan?/

The Makarian Plan was to be a second stage in the Jordanian diversion (which developed in a different path from what had been envisaged because of political events) and its being the top plank in the dam system (the Makarian at the rise of the Yarmoukh, and after it the Muhiyava and the 'Or Canal) will create a new reality in two senses: One--conversion of the Yarmoukh to a desolate riverbed (from the dam and forward) which is tantamount to an undermining of the Israeli-Jordanian agreement on mutual utilization of the Yarmoukh waters (according to defined percentages which had been established as an American directive upon the entry of the United States to the financing of the 'Or Project). And the second--harm to /Israel's rights/ to the water designated for the western Jordan Valley.

The Jordanian-Syrian argument for linking the Johnston Plan to defined targets (for example--percentages of water in accordance with sovereignty), will lead to an unavoidable Israeli-American confrontation on a cardinal question: /Who is proprietor of the Yarmoukh water which is destined to be diverted into the Jordanian canals, to the plains of the Jordan Valley east and west of the river? Israel, in whose area the western Jordan Valley is located, or the Arabs from whom the land was conquered, but whose right to the water is recognized for the purpose for which it was intended (resettlement of refugees)?/

Undermining of the Israeli Position

At one and the same time: Israel's demand (of the Americans) to consider it a party to the issue of the Makarian Dam--through assurance of its share in the water of the Yarmoukh on the strength of its occupation of the West Bank--will compel the United States to decide, in an open and public decision, on the question of its relationship /to Israel's status on the West Bank/. The Makarian Dam is destined to be--if it is constructed--the /Archimedean Point/in the relationship of the sides of the triangle (Israel-Jordan-United States) to one another: it is destined to become an incentive to cooperation and is likely to be the start of the renewed struggle over the water. The key is in the hands of the United States and we may not err in delusions regarding its sensitivity: the United States accepts an interpretation which dictates an injunction against the use

of the water of the Yarmoukh (in accordance with the Johnston Plan) to implement /a plan of broad Jewish settlement in the/ Jordan Valley. The gist of this opinion was transmitted to Israel rigidly and without hedging.

When Israel asked the Americans: What is our status in the Makarian Project?, it was answered directly and in a clear manner: our conceptions regarding your status as a sovereign state in Judea and Samaria have never been concealed from you. However, it is best that you know that your demand on this issue will place us before a need to decide, and the decision will be painful. Judea and Samaria are territories which have been conquered, and are not included within the bounds of the State of Israel.

There is a great measure of naivete, therefore, in the formation of grandiose plans which allocate resources and manpower to the valley before water has been assured.

Surface drillings in the valley have brought up saline water and going further beyond the crests of the Samaritan Mountains makes pumping more expensive and moves the Israeli presence (which sought to tie into the vacant plains along the length of the river) westward. /The yearning for water from the Yarmoukh tributaries--which will be sealed off--will meet an American decree that Israel is not prepared to meet./

It is thus correct to say that the Makarian Plan will catch Israel with settlement plans but without water and without American backing, and this is perhaps the most important meaning (from the Arabs standpoint) of the return to The Struggle for Water.

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CSO: 4805

ISRAEL

YOUTH REFLECT ON OFER SUICIDE

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Jan 77 p 17

[Article by Yitzhak Latz: "'Give Us a Chance'--Youth of All Parties Demand, 'Politics Must Not Be Left to the Top Echelon Only'"]

[Text] An additional wave of youth has of late joined the various political movement, following the moving forward of the date of elections to the Knesset. There are no official statistics but a graph of the new members of age twenty-plus posted in the rooms of the youth coordinators in the various parties indicates a steep rise in the number of youth who have turned during the past year to vigorous political activity. They demand of the senior members to be given a chance, too.

"The Israeli youth is old in character, and if we add to that also the negative image associated with political activity we can understand why the ordinary Israeli youth fears politics so much," says Gil Leidner, age 25, who is responsible for the disposition of lecturers and public relations personnel in the Democratic Movement for Change.

Gil proclaims that he is not running for the Knesset and will not even present his candidacy for election. Gil sees the forthcoming elections as the most decisive in the course of all the years of the state's existence, and is working to advance his ideas and personalities who in his opinion may be able to extricate the state from the crisis in which it is embroiled.

In the Democratic Movement for Change, although many of its active members are youth (1,500), there is no homogeneous youth segment such as in the Young Generation in the Labor Party. "Biological segregation is laughable, if not worse," Gil contends. According to him any youth can be elected to any elective body in the Movement and his age has no bearing on the degree of his success.

Haim [identified in photo as Avraham] Rimon, age 26, is completing work for his undergraduate degree in law and his principal occupation is that of public relations coordinator of the Young Generation of the Labor Party.

"Unlike many others, I was released from the military before the Yom Kippur War and I turned immediately to political activity within the context of the Party. I did not need a war to stimulate my political activity," he says.

"My first introduction to the Party was at the university when I became a student," he relates. "I was active in the students' cell of the Labor Party and was elected leader of the cell. From there the road to the inner institutions of the Party was paved. We realized that politics must not be left to the people at the top only. Whoever does not want to get involved with politics--politics gets him involved." Haim stresses that youth in the Labor Party enjoy considerable influence on the policy processes of the Party, and at the party convention during the month of February they will attempt to effectuate their power and include the Palestinian issue in the election platform of the Party.

Pini Aviv, age 23, chairman of the Likud Youth Council, does not see the title Knesset Member as the peak of aspiration. "My aspirations, for myself and for my fellow members of the movement and its ideology, are modest. A person must be imbued with self-knowledge as to the importance of his mission. The task accompanying this knowledge is not significant as far as I am concerned."

Pini joined the Likud Youth Movement after the Yom Kippur War, following his release from the IDF. "As a young person wishing to exert influence, I saw that only in a political body of youth would I be able to change things."

Pini is a first year law student at the University of Tel Aviv and active in the student cell of the Likud, within the framework of the student council.

Shlomo Brant, age 24, is currently a third-year dental student in Jerusalem. He devotes most of his free time to activity in the Free Center Youth.

However, he still considers his studies as most important and only after them political activity. He is chairman of the national students' cell of the Free Center.

Says Shlomo: "Although my studies drain most of my time and energy, I just could not sit on the sidelines. I was impelled, perhaps for the sake of my conscience, to get into the issues and to make changes from within. I saw in the Free Center what was closest to me in world outlook than any of the other parties."

David Men'a too sought to become "involved from within" among the Herut youth. David, age 24, is a third-year student in international relations at Bar Ilan University, secretary of the Herut Movement branch at Ramat Gan and coordinator of the Dan branches. In his secondary occupation he earns a token salary.

"I first heard of Jabotinsky when I was in the eleventh grade," he relates. "Courses at the secondary level were for the most part one sided and it often seemed that only the Palmah and Hagana existed in the Jewish community prior to the establishment of the State." Already at an early age he took an interest in politics and "I had started to read a newspaper in first grade."

In his opinion, Herut is the only party which holds a convention every two years, so that every two years it is possible to choose and to be chosen.

The suicide of Minister Ofer only strengthened David's conviction that there are no political friendships. "It is the friendship of the moment," he believes.

Abi Tanzman is secretary of the Independent Liberal Youth. Age 23, a second year student at the Kibutzim Seminary, majoring in physical education. When he was released from the IDF he realized that the ideas of the Independent Liberal Movement were the closest to his world outlook. That is the reason he joined that party.

Abi is aware that today the youth of the Independent Liberals do not yet influence the processes of the party. The youth have a representation of a mere 5 percent in the upper institutions of the party and this is a minuscule degree of influence. "That will change during the coming convention," he promises. "It must change."



Photos left to right: 1. Abi Tanzman, 2. Pini Aviv, 3. Gil Leidner, 4. David Men'a, 5. Avraham Rimon [identified in text as Haim Rimon], 6. Shlomo Brant

ISRAEL

REPORT OF GOVERNMENT'S LEGAL COUNSEL ON OFER AFFAIR

Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 10 Jan 77 p 3

[Article: "This Is the Development of the Ofer Affair"]

[Text] The government's legal counsel yesterday submitted two memoranda to the prime minister related to the inquiry into the suspicions aroused against deceased Minister Avraham Ofer.

An opinion on the question of continuation of the inquiry (see separate report);

A summary of the development of the events in the inquiry which the police conducted and of the contacts which were conducted on the ministerial level.

Following is a summary of the unfolding of the events, as submitted yesterday by the legal counsel to the government:

Jerusalem, 19 Tevet [5] 737
9 January 1977

To: THE PRIME MINISTER

Mr Prime Minister,

1. As you requested, I shall place in writing, in summary, the development of events regarding the inquiry which the police conducted following "complaints" which it received on the affair of the deceased Minister Avraham Ofer. The complaints related to the period during which the deceased Minister Ofer was Director General of Shikun Ovdim [Workers' Housing-Construction Company].

2. Things began on 10 November 1976. On that day Mr Yigal Laviv [an investigative journalist] submitted a letter of "complaint" addressed to Commander Ya'akov Kadmi, chief of the Investigations Branch of the police department. In this letter of complaint Mr Laviv wrote on ten different topics in which he raised suspicions regarding the commission of illegal acts by the deceased Minister Ofer.

3. The matter of the complaint was brought to my attention and on the next day 11 November 1976 I conducted a meeting in my office at which the solicitor general and the chief of the Investigations Branch were present. At this meeting it was concluded that the information which Mr Laviv had submitted would be examined by the police in order to determine its nature, its importance and the manner required to deal with it. On behalf of the minister of police the chief of the Investigations Branch was directed to conduct the inquiry through a team of officers headed by the chief of the investigations department of the national staff, Deputy Commander R. Minkovsky. This team consisted of 4 persons.

4. The team, on behalf of the chief of the Investigations Branch decided to begin the inquiry with the recording of detailed testimony from Mr Laviv, who at that time was serving in the reserves. Mr Laviv was summoned and gave testimony on 17 November 1976. On that day, with the recording of his testimony, Mr Laviv submitted to the police an additional letter of complaint in which he presented twelve more matters in which he raised suspicions on commission of illegal acts by the deceased Minister Ofer.

On 29 November 1976 and 14 December 1976 Mr Laviv submitted two additional letters of complaint in which there were eight more matters arousing suspicion of commission of illegal acts by the deceased Minister Ofer.

5. From 17 November 1976, the day on which testimony of Mr Laviv was first taken, the team was engaged in an examination of the matters which had been raised in the first letter of complaint and during the course of the inquiry upon receipt of the additional letters of complaint the team also examined the additional matters which were raised in those letters.

6. The matters complained of which were examined by the team were many and varied and required the taking of testimony of a considerable number of witnesses, preparation of myriad copies and the examination of hundreds of memoranda. The team was subject to the limitations required by the nature and character of the inquiry. What was being dealt with was a preliminary police inquiry of information which was not accompanied by proof. For that reason, and as is customary in similar cases, the team had to guarantee discretion, prevent publicity and unwarranted damage to the good name of a person. Needless to say, such an inquiry involves, by the nature of the matters, an indirect and confidential approach to persons and memoranda--as is different from a direct approach which is customary in a regular police investigation--and such procedures constitute a delaying factor.

7. The head of the investigating team reported in an ongoing manner on the progress of the inquiry to Commander Y. Kadmi and the latter submitted an ongoing report to the Minister of Police and to me. I, in turn, reported to you and the Minister of Justice daily on the progress of the inquiry.

8. Starting from the middle of the month of December, approximately, and after many repeated requests by you and by the Minister of Justice, I requested Commander Kadmi to act to accelerate the inquiry so that the team might conclude its work as quickly as possible. A directive to this effect was issued by the Minister of Police.

9. On Friday, 31 December 76, the inquiry was concluded with respect to the large majority of the matters of complaint by Mr Laviv and the team concluded that there was nothing in the material assembled regarding those matters to afford a basis to the suspicions aroused by Mr Laviv. However, on that very day additional testimony in writing was submitted to the police by a witness, raising additional matters for inquiry. This testimony related to acts which took place during the period in which the deceased Minister Ofer served as Director General of Shikun 'Ovdim and in which the witness was involved personally.

The suspicion raised in the new testimony required an additional inquiry and completion and prevented the team from concluding its activity. The team was to conduct the additional inquiry and completion promptly at the beginning of the following week.

10. The contents of that testimony was brought by the chief of the Investigations Branch to the attention of the Minister of Police and to my attention during mid-day hours of 31 December 1976. Shortly thereafter I reported to you on the existence of the evidence and its main thrust and proposed an invitation for a meeting to report in detail with the participation of the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Police. In accordance with your directive the discussion was scheduled for Saturday 1 January 1977 at 11:30 at your home.

11. At the meeting which took place at your home--with the participation of the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Police--I reported on the development of matters as enumerated above and in particular on the new testimony which had been submitted on the previous day. In the course of the meeting the question was raised as to the details which might be communicated at this stage to the late Minister Ofer and I undertook to look into the matter and to have an answer the next day. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Police Minister promised, in response to the request of the participants, to do his level best to accelerate the inquiry processes so that it might be possible to conclude it within a few days.

12. The next day, Sunday 2 January 1977, after the meeting of the government, there was a get-together in your office with the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Police and myself participating. In the course of that get-together we again discussed the issue of which details should be reported to the late Minister Ofer. My position was that it would be proper to act in this case according to the accepted rule whereby no details are reported to an interested party regarding the contents of an inquiry until after it has

been concluded, that is, only at the stage at which it is possible to decide whether to initiate a full investigation during the course of which the interested party will be investigated, or whether to direct that the material of the examination be shelved. At the same time I noted that there is no objection to reporting to the late Minister Ofer that the inquiry is in its final stages and that an effort will be made to conclude it promptly.

Sincerely,

Prof Aharon Barak
Legal Counsel to the Government

Copy: Minister of Justice
Minister of Police

8090

CSO: 4805

ISRAEL

BARAK ADVISES PROBE OF SURVIVORS INVOLVED WITH OFER

Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 10 Jan 77 p 3

[Article: "Drop Investigation of Ofer Affair, Do not Discontinue Probe Regarding Others"]

[Text] What follows is the opinion of the government's legal counsel, Prof Aharon Barak, which was submitted to the government yesterday.

TO: THE PRIME MINISTER

Mr Prime Minister,

1. You requested my opinion on the question of whether the police should continue the inquiry which it had begun in the affair of the deceased Minister Ofer. I reported to you in my letter today on the development of the matters in that inquiry.

And this is my opinion:

2. The directive of the law pertaining to our matter is to be found in Paragraph 207 of the criminal code, 5725-1965, which establishes the following:

"Upon the demise of an individual any criminal proceeding against that individual is to cease."

The term "criminal proceeding" in this context includes, as a matter of principle, any proceeding in accordance with the directives of the aforementioned law and these directives include also the inquiry and investigative activities of the police. My opinion is, therefore, that the directive of Paragraph 207 of the law applies to police inquiry and investigation which are to cease with the demise of the individual regarding whom they had been conducted.

3. Cessation of inquiry and investigation, as stated, is required even for reasons contained in the base of the activity of the police in the inquiry into complaints submitted to it. Police investigation is an aid to the state for achieving specific ends and is not a goal in itself. Under the circumstances such as those in our matter, it is not clarification of the facts themselves which is the aim of the inquiry, but rather assembling of the proof required to determine a stand on the matter of bringing a person to trial. The police inquiry must assume the possibility--although the hypothetical possibility--of bringing a person to trial, and in this context it [the possibility] must be examined. Once the base underlying the existence of the possibility of bringing a person to trial has been removed, there is no longer any point--neither a point of logic nor a point of law--in continuance of the inquiry and the investigation by the police.

4. No less important and critical is the human factor of the person regarding whom an inquiry or investigation is being conducted by the police. The assessment of the force and weight of an inquiry and an investigation involves, by the nature of the matters, existence of an opportunity for the subject of the investigation to have his say and to react--in any manner which he chooses--on the matters of suspicion being raised against him. In the absence of an opportunity to react--which cannot be found when the subject has passed away--the inquiry or the investigation can never be completed and it is perforce deficient by reason of lacuna. It follows, then, that not only will the police be unable to arrive at the determination of an unequivocal position with regard to the results of the inquiry, but in addition those would tend to be one-sided, to project a totally distorted picture, thereby causing irreparable damage to the deceased. This is an additional reason, of great substantive and practical weight, which leads to the conclusion that there is no room for continuing the inquiry in our matter.

5. In sum: With respect to a person regarding whom an inquiry was being conducted by the police--and who has gone to his eternal rest prior to the conclusion of the inquiry--the law stipulates that the inquiry is to cease, whether by fiat of the legislator or for the reason that the inquiry will not serve any purpose of the purposes for which it was designed, or for the reason that it will not be possible to conclude it properly while doing justice to the subject of the inquiry.

6. Needless to say, in instances where the inquiry--whether at its initiation or as a result of facts which come to light during its progress--touches a number of persons, the demise of one of them is insufficient to bring about a halt with respect to the others, and the inquiry will continue to the extent that is required with respect to them. In the case under discussion, therefore, it will be the duty of the police to examine the material assembled to determine whether the condition stated exists for continuation of the inquiry.

Conclusion: The police inquiry into anything regarding the deceased Minister Ofer--must legally be terminated.

A most important principle of law is that a person is presumed innocent for as long as a court has not determined otherwise. The deceased Minister Ofer was presumed to be innocent in his lifetime and remains thus in death.

Sincerely,
Prof Aharon Barak
Legal Counsel to the Government

Copy: Minister of Justice
Minister of Police

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CSO: 4805

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

POLIO OUTBREAK--A strenuous campaign by the Health Ministry has succeeded in inoculating more than 80 percent of all children in Gaza since July of this year following a recent outbreak of polio. Seventy-five cases in Gaza and a further 12 in Judea and Samaria have been reported so far this year. Cholera, too, has once again made its appearance in the West Bank after a recent large scale outbreak in Amman, Jordan. Failure by the Jordanian officials to report the new epidemic when it first appeared led to its introduction by travellers from Jordan to the West Bank and Gaza. Health authorities have now imposed stringent supervision of agricultural imports but isolated cases continued to appear throughout November and December. [Text] [Jerusalem THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST in English Dec 1976 p 15]

CSO: 4820

JORDAN

JORDAN AND POLAND HOLD ECONOMIC TALKS

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Nov 76 p 3

[Article: "The Start of the Economic Talks Between Jordan and Poland: Poland Is Prepared To Contribute to the Five-Year Development Plan Projects"]

[Text] Amman--J.P.A.--The first session of economic talks between Jordan and Poland began yesterday in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and they aim to expand the horizons of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries and to discuss the possibility of Poland participating in the implementation of the Jordanian development plans, especially irrigation projects and the purchase from Jordan of phosphate and chemical fertilizers.

Jordan was represented in these talks by a high level economic delegation that included the minister of trade and industry, director general of the phosphate company, the directors of railroads, of industry, of economic cooperation and exports development in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, in addition to a number of Jordanian specialists and experts.

The Polish side was represented by a high level official delegation that included the minister and high official of the ministry of Foreign Trade and Maritime Economy, and Polish experts.

At the start of the meeting, the Jordanian minister of Trade and Industry welcomed the visiting Polish minister and members of his delegation, presented a general view of the economic conditions in Jordan, spoke of the accomplishments in all sectors of the 3-year development plan, and mentioned the projects and goals of the 5-year development plan and the accomplishments it seeks to realize.

The minister also spoke of the areas of cooperation between Jordan and Poland, particularly in the realms of phosphate and fertilizers. He welcomed any cooperation in these areas for the benefit of the two peoples.

The Polish minister also spoke and offered his thanks for the reception his delegation received in Jordan.

He expressed his hope that the Jordanian-Polish talks will produce positive results for the benefit of both countries.

The Polish minister indicated the willingness of Poland to import Jordanian phosphate.

He also announced the willingness of Poland to purchase Jordanian chemical fertilizers which will be produced by the Jordanian fertilizer factory, soon to be created.

The Polish minister also announced that Poland is prepared to share with Jordan its experience in extracting copper, and pointed out that Poland has long experience in this area which he hoped Jordan could benefit from.

He stressed that Poland will study the Jordanian 5-year development plan as a prelude to participating in the execution of some of these projects.

The Polish minister of Trade, heading an official Polish economic delegation, arrived in Jordan the day before yesterday to conduct talks with the Jordanian officials for the purpose of strengthening the economic ties between Jordan and Poland.

The delegation, whose visit will last 4 days, includes a number of prominent experts in Polish economic affairs.

The Polish-Jordanian talks to strengthen the economic ties and cooperation between the two countries were resumed yesterday afternoon in the conference hall of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The Jordanian and Polish technical committees met to establish the technical criteria which are related to the desire of Poland to purchase Jordanian phosphate and fertilizer and its willingness to participate in the implementation of the 5-year development plan projects.

Yesterday noon the Polish delegation visited the city of Jarash to view its historic and touristic attractions.

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CSO: 4802

JORDAN

BRIEFS

ELECTRICITY PROJECTS--Yesterday afternoon a delegation of Soviet electrical engineers and experts left Amman. During its 3-week visit to Jordan, the delegation studied the projects prepared by the Jordanian Electrical Authority to extend electricity to the Jordanian countryside. The implementation of these projects, estimated to cost 15 million dinars, will provide electricity to 285 villages by 1990. The delegation expressed the interest of the Soviet Union in supporting the projects to provide electricity to the Jordanian countryside, and indicated its hope that positive results could be achieved in this regard. It could be mentioned that the visit of the Soviet engineers and experts delegation to Jordan was the result of the visit to the Soviet Union last June by His Majesty King Husayn and the discussions held during that visit between Jordan and the Soviet Union. [Text] [Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Nov 76 p 2] 8907

METEOROLOGY PROJECT--His Excellency the Prime Minister issued a defense decree confiscating land plots number 34, 35, 36, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 56, 55, 54, 53, 37, 38, 39, and 40 of section number 5, al-'Alah of Abu 'Alanda lands for the purpose of creating a radar meteorological project to monitor cloud movements and thunder storms. It was stated in the defense decree that the above mentioned plots of land will be confiscated until their ownership is transferred in accordance with the public domain law. The Prime Minister requested the director of the Lands Bureau to conduct a survey of the property to determine precisely and in detail the nature of the property, which will be relied upon when estimating its compensatory value. He also requested the director of the Land Bureau to proceed with the ownership transfer in accordance with the law. [Text] [Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Nov 76 p 3] 8907

CSO: 4802

SAUDI ARABIA

MINISTERS DISCUSS BIDDING COMPETITION, UPGRADING ARMED FORCES

Riyadh AL-RIYADH in Arabic 3 Nov 76 p 2

[Article: "Study of a New System of Bidding Competition To Bring About Sufficient Flexibility To Implement Projects"]

[Text] Yesterday the Council of Ministers discussed a system of bidding competition to bring about more flexibility in the speed of implementing projects and also discussed the construction of special ports in some areas. The council also debated projects to develop the armed forces.

The Council of Ministers held its regular session at 1830 yesterday evening under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard. The session continued until 2100.

Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, minister of information for the Saudi News Agency, explained that the council devoted a substantial part of this session to discussion of some projects of the Ministry of Defense and Aviation which are aimed at developing the armed forces and raising their standard and competence.

Dr Yamani stated that the council heard a proposal to build some ports related to the projects which would be in areas deprived of ports.

He added that the council considered different sides to a system of bidding competition and recognized the importance of providing sufficient flexibility so that the present developmental stage in the country, which necessitates producing a new system of bidding competition in the shortest time possible, can proceed. However, the system is to be discussed in a future session of the council.

Dr Yamani stated further that the council agreed to make a request to the acting minister of finance to appoint Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Dukayl assistant secretary for budgetary affairs for the Ministry of Finance and the National Economy, and Dr Salih 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'Amir an assistant in the Ministry of Finance with the rank of undersecretary.

Dr Yamani concluded his statement by saying that these decisions will be submitted to His Majesty King Khalid (may God protect him) for his approval and agreement.

NEW FACTORIES TO BE CONSTRUCTED

Riyadh AL-RIYADH in Arabic 4 Nov 76 p 2

[Article by 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Da'ud: "Permit for Construction of 2 Bakeries and 13 New Factories; Production of Cement Products, Fuel, Containers and Luggage"]

[Text] New permits have been issued for construction of 2 bakeries and 13 plants for cement products, fuel, metal containers, other containers, suitcases and cabinets.

Dr Ghazi al-Qasaybi, minister of industry and electricity, has issued permits for the following bakeries and factories:

--An automated bakery in Riyadh, with a capital of 12.3 million riyals and a productive capacity of 4,050 tons per year.

--An automated bakery in Medina with a capital of 12.3 million riyals and a productive capacity of 4,050 tons per year.

--A prefabricated concrete factory in Riyadh with a capital of 4.6 million riyals and a productive capacity of 8,450 cubic meters annually.

--A factory for fuel tanks, metal containers, pedestrian bridges and bridges in Riyadh with a capital of 2.6 million riyals and a productive capacity of 35,320 units annually.

--A cement block factory in Riyadh with a productive capacity of 2.4 million blocks annually and a capital of 1.6 million riyals.

--A cement block factory in the Eastern Province with a productive capacity of 4 million blocks and a capital of 9.2 million riyals.

--A factory for production of sets of melamine service for food, tea and coffee with a productive capacity of 328 tons annually and a capital of 2.7 million riyals.

--A factory for production of acetylene gas in Buraydah with a capital of 4.2 million riyals and a productive capacity of 14,400 bottles.

--An ice plant in Jiddah with a capital of 4.2 million riyals and a productive capacity of 22,500 tons.

--A factory for concrete castings, paving stones and blocks in Medina with a capital of 18.7 million riyals and a productive capacity of 207,500 square meters and 2.3 million blocks annually.

--A factory for concrete paving stones and ready-mixed liquid concrete in Riyadh with a capital of 23.1 million riyals and a productive capacity of 86,400 cubic meters of paving stone, 5,760 cubic meters of ready-mixed concrete and 37,400 cubic meters of sand and gravel.

--A factory to produce metal containers in Riyadh [with a capital of] 1.4 million riyals and a productive capacity of 100 metal containers, 50 tons of sheet metal, and assembly of 250 chassis per year.

--A block factory in Riyadh with a capital of 5.7 million riyals and a productive capacity of 1.6 million blocks and 126,000 cubic meters of graded gravel.

--A factory for paving stones, blocks and stone in Riyadh with a capital of 3.2 million riyals and a productive capacity of 1.8 million blocks, 1 million paving stones and 300,000 [square] meters surface area of stone.

--A luggage and cabinet factory in Jiddah with a capital of 3.3 million riyals and a productive capacity of 13,500 sets of luggage, 12,000 cabinets and 1,100 linear meters of metal stoves.

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CSO: 4802

SAUDI ARABIA

ISRAEL SAID DISINCLINED TO ESTABLISH JUST PEACE IN AREA

Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 1 Jan 77 p 1

[Editorial: "Israel's Position on Middle East Crisis"]

[Text] Israel is seeking to obstruct any international settlement to solve the Middle East problem because it realizes that such a peaceful settlement will compel it to immediately withdraw from the territories it usurped in 1967. This is why the Israeli political and military leaderships have begun to engage in provocative acts toward southern Lebanon to prove to the world that the Lebanese civil war has not ended yet and that there are Lebanese leaderships and commands that refuse to be bound to the political leadership in Beirut because such a bond will cause constant turbulence on Israel's northern borders and will constitute a threat to its security and existence. Israel also wants to prove to the world that the peace talks should not start until all the traces of the Lebanese civil war are eliminated and that it is impossible for Israel to enter into negotiations for the establishment of peace in the area unless the serious problem on its northern borders is solved.

This twisted Israeli logic, which is being reiterated by the Israeli press, actually reflects Israel's disinclination to establish a measure of just and permanent peace in the area in which we live. This logic also gives the impression that Israel is lying in wait for us in order to find a gap through which it may infiltrate to deal us a new blow.

We believe that as Arabs, we should understand this danger and should act with utter seriousness and dispatch to end the turbulent conditions in southern Lebanon. We should do this not only to restore political unity to Lebanon and to re-establish loyalty among all its citizens for the legitimate authority in Beirut but also to foil Israel's attempt to exploit this weak point to infiltrate through it to a new Arab region so as to draw the world's attention to this region and to make the world demand strongly the return of this region, at the expense of forgetting our legitimate right to the West Bank and Gaza. This serious and quick action should be accompanied by extreme caution vis-a-vis the hostile state that is still lying in wait to inflict a quick and lightning defeat on us, as it did in 1967, to make us lose our balance and to shake our current international position so as to insure through such a defeat its everlasting presence on the territories it usurped in 1967 as territories within the regional borders of Palestine, borders which represent to the Israelis the natural borders of the state of Israel.

SAUDI ARABIA

NATION TO HAVE NUCLEAR REACTOR

Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 19 Dec 76 p 1

[Article by Rida Muhammad Lari: "Saudi Arabia Enters Nuclear Age"]

[Text] His Excellency Shaykh Ghazi Sultan, undersecretary of the Ministry of Mineral Wealth, has stated that a cooperation [agreement] was signed with the French Atom Technique Company on 15 October 1975 to study the general feasibility of establishing a nuclear research center in Saudi Arabia and that the company has so far provided the General Directorate of Mineral Wealth with three reports through which the objectives and effectiveness of the nuclear center and the scientific laboratories which it will contain have been determined. This selection has been made on the basis of the assessment of the expected Saudi needs in the field of the peaceful use of nuclear power.

Studies have also been conducted on several sites in the eastern, central and western areas and that the eastern area has been chosen for this project due to objective circumstances, including the presence of a scientific and industrial environment that serves the objectives that this nuclear reactor [sic] seeks to achieve in conditions suitable for it.

I asked his excellency if Saudi Arabia will be subject to the international controls to insure that this reactor is not used for non-peaceful purposes, especially in moments of despair.

[He said] The presence of international control is required in accordance with the international system in force within the International Nuclear Energy Agency. However, this issue is still under study by the authorities concerned. This control is confined to checking and taking stock of active uranium 235 and of plutonium to insure that they are not used in the production of nuclear weapons. Under this international control, the nuclear reactor's fuel cannot be transformed for non-peaceful uses and also the nuclear installations subject to the control and inspection cannot be used for such purposes.

I then asked his excellency if this reactor will be operated by Saudi elements specialized in this field and he explained to me that there is currently a small nucleus of Saudi elements specialized in various nuclear sciences and that this group of Saudi experts is discussing the details of this project, each specialist in his own field, with the French side to insure that the project is complete and reflects the country's actual needs in the various nuclear fields. There is, for example, Dr Muhammad Hasan Qattan who is an isotopes specialist and who heads the Nuclear Energy Directorate; Dr Mustafa 'Ali al-Dughaythir, also an isotopes specialist who works as assistant director of the Nuclear Energy Directorate; Khamis 'Amir al-Nahdi who has an M.A. in reactor physics, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Shawli who has an M.A. in electronic engineering, specifically in nuclear equipment, and 'Abd-al-Rahman Malibari who also has an M.A. in electronic engineering. This is in addition to the presence of a number of physicists who have their B.A. in physics and a number of technicians. The future work stages provide for training a large number of specialists at all levels and in all fields of nuclear science and technology. The purpose of this effort is to enable local expertise to replace foreign experts when the reactor and the laboratories it will contain are put into operation. I also asked him about the extent to which our universities are exploited in this field of training and he said: of course, especially that most of these universities have begun to introduce nuclear science programs and nuclear science research in the undergraduate stages.

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CSO: 4802

SAUDI ARABIA

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY PREPARES MAJOR REPORT ON WATER PROJECTS

Riyadh AL-RIYADH in Arabic 28 Dec 76 p 3

[Article by 'Abd-al-Muhsin Dawud: "For a Drop of Water; Important Report by Ministry of Agriculture on Drinking Water Projects in Various Parts of Country; Work Is Underway in More Than 80 Drinking Water Projects and 16 Dams"]

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture has prepared an important report on drinking water projects in various parts of the kingdom. The ministry is now implementing more than 80 drinking water projects and 16 dams in several areas. Some of these projects have already been approved and will be submitted for bids shortly, others have already been received [completed], still others are in the process of being handed over and a large number of these projects are under implementation. All these are drinking water projects in addition to the Jiddah and Riyadh water projects.

These projects are listed in the report prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture on drinking water projects, dams and buildings in the month of Dhi al-Qi'dah of 1396-97. The projects are divided according to their priority, the date on which the contracts for the projects are awarded, the dates of project approval, the date on which the projects will be presented for bids and the projects that are under implementation.

The projects for which contracts have been awarded are the drinking water project in the town of Khaybar, the drinking water project in the town of al-Dagharir, in the village of Ramadah in Jizan and the drinking water project in the town of Mahidah in al-Sir. The projects presented for bids are the second stage of al-Qatif project and the repairs in al-Dumtha project. The projects for which preparations are underway to be presented for bids are al-Kharj drinking water project, al-Ta'if water project, the Samitah project, the Umm al-Dabban water project in 'Ar'ar, al-Marah project in al-Ahsa', the second stage of al-Zulfa project, the second stage of the Satbah and Taqtuqah project, the al-Sadr and al-'Atayyan project, the construction of five wheat silos, the Tamir project in Sudayr area, the fourth stage of the Buraydah water project.

Shortly in a Bid

There is a number of projects that have been approved and that will be shortly presented for bids. These are al-Ghab project, building installations ['uqam] to protect al-Rass wells, establishing agricultural directorates in Abha, al-Ahsa' and al-Qasim, the Wadi al-Safrat dam project, al-Shu'ara' dam, the Murrat dam, the Sutum dam, the Najran dam, al-Nabaqiyah project in al-Qasim, the construction of wheat silos in al-Jawf, the construction of buildings in the national parks in Jiddah, al-Ta'if, al-Bahah and in al-Jurshi in Tabuk, the construction of seven warehouses in Abha and the construction of six pools [water reservoirs] in Medina, Mecca and the roads to Ha'il al-'Iraq and 'Ar'ar.

Projects That Are Being Handed Over

These are the projects that have already been received and others that are being handed over. The projects that have already been received are al-Dahinah and al-Jurayfah projects, the Nafi project in al-Dawadimi, the 'Arwa project and the repair work in al-Mujamma'ah. The projects that are in the process of being handed over are al-'Uqdah dam in Ha'il, al-Salaf dam in Ha'il, the project to smooth the course of Wadi al-Dar' in Ha'il and the project to build 13 villages in al-Sharqiyah.

Projects Under Implementation

The drinking water projects that are under implementation are numerous and include completing al-Hufuf and al-Mubarraz water project, the water project for al-Qatif and the neighboring villages, the Najran water project, the Sanabis and al-Rabi'iyah water project in al-Sharqiyah, the water project for 13 villages in al-Sharqiyah, the Tabuk water project, the 'Anak water project, the Yanbu' water project, the 'Arja' water project in al-Dawadimi, the Zulm water project, al-Khurmah water project, al-Mughaylif water project, al-Jamshi water project in al-Dawadimi, al-Asamilah and al-'Amudiyah water project in Jizan, al-Salamah and al-Quway'iyah water project in Jizan, al-'Uyun water project in al-Ahsa, Qulayb al-'Ujman and al-Suwayrah water project, al-Suwayq water project in Yanbu' al-Nakhl, expansion of Sudayr water reservoir, al-Dahu project in Bishah, Shuwayyat al-'Araq project in al-'Ujman, the third stage of al-Rass project, the 'Ayn ibn Fuhayd project in al-Asyah, al-Thamiriyah project in al-Mudhannab, the Khamis Mushayt project, al-Markiz project in al-Ahsa, the Saqwa and Rahban project in 'Asir, the second part of a project for 13 villages, al-Jashshah and al-Malihah project in al-Sharqiyah, the Abu Ma'an project in al-Sharqiyah, al-Zughayn project in al-Sharqiyah, the 'Ayn Dar project, the Mughatta Nazzal project in al-Sharqiyah, Umm al-Sahik project in al-Sharqiyah, the second phase of al-Mujamma'ah project, al-Naysiyah project in Ha'il, al-Ahmar project in al-Aflaj, the Marwan, Suwaydan and al-Ruzayqiyah project in al-Aflaj, completion of al-Tamrah and Huzam Tamrah project in al-Layl, the second stage of al-Salil project, the Na'am project in al-Hariq, al-Badi' al-Shamali

and al-Badi' al-Janubi project in al-Aflaj, the second stage of Tathlith project, al-Taraf project in al-Ahsa', al-Dagharir and al-Qusaynah project in Jizan, al-Kawamilah project in Jizan, al-Rawdah and al-Safw project in al-Aflaj, al-Qamari and Damad project in Jizan, al-Qubal and Dharna project in al-Nammas, the Umm Ishtayfah project in Jizan, the Rajjal Alma' project in 'Asir, the second stage of al-Mudhannab project, al-'Uruj project in Sabya, the second stage of Hafr al-Batin project, al-Sha'fuliyah and al-Suwayrah project in Jizan, the construction of 'Ali water reservoir in al-Dar'iyah, the water network project for Badr and eight villages, the Wasat Bariq project in 'Asir, al-Burak project in al-Qunfudhah, al-Bahah and al-Dhufayr project, al-Ni'jan project in al-Karj, al-Hulaylah project in al-Sharqiyah, al-'Imran al-Shamali and al-'Imran al-Janubi project in al-Sharqiyah, the Umm al-Hamam project in al-Sharqiyah, the project to replace the water network in Jizan, the Fayd and al-Wasi'ah project in Ha'il, the Hudayjah project in al-Dawadimi, the Hayy al-Salihiyah project in Layla, al-Aflaj, the Jizan project in Wadi al-Dawasir, al-Faydah project in al-Nabhaniyah, al-Qasim, al-Tuwaym project in Sudayr, the Tabuk project, the Hijrat Khaff and al-'Atawi project in al-Sir, the Rubayq and al-Rubayqiyah project in al-Rass, al-Jarudiyah and al-Kuwaylidiyah project in al-Qatif and al-Faysaliyah project in al-Dawadimi.

Dam Projects

We now turn to the dam projects which consist of about 16 projects and include Mudarraaj al-Hunayfi dam project in Sudayr, the project to protect al-Far'ah and al-Bada'i' from floods, the Ju'ayrah dam in al-Qunfudhah, the project to repair the Riyadh dams, al-Muqallab dam project in Medina, Tariq al-'Ushr dam project in Mecca, the Rawdat Sudayr dam project, the Layya dam project in al-Ta'if, the Wadi Qiran dam project in al-Suwayriqiyah, Wadi al-Tur'ah dam project and Wadi al-Rammah dam project.

In Jiddah and Riyadh

There are two major drinking water projects in Jiddah and Riyadh. In the Jiddah water project, the pipelines are being currently laid for the first, second and third stages of the project. The reservoir and the pumping station for the Khulays water are also being constructed. In the Riyadh water project, the piping for the third and fourth stages of the water pipeline is being laid so as to replace the old pipeline. Construction is also in progress in the Salbukh water purification station which is expected to be completed in 1398 [of the hejira] and which will supply Riyadh with an additional quantity of water estimated at 70,000 cubic meters daily.

Work is also proceeding in the Manfuhah water treatment station, in the Salbukh water pipeline and in installing the pumps in the Salbukh wells. A housing town is also under construction in Salbukh and additional water lines and connections are being built in Riyadh.

The Ministry of Agriculture is thus continuing the implementation of its extensive projects to provide drinking water to all parts of the kingdom.

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

ROAD PROJECTS--Work will soon begin on projects for 276 km of new roads and connections at a cost of 467 million riyals. In addition, equipment for 14 sections of farm roads has been guaranteed at a cost of 85 million riyals. Mr Husayn al-Mansuri, minister of communications, signed several contracts yesterday morning for construction of some roads in the kingdom, and signed several other contracts concerning guaranteeing equipment for sections of farm roads. The contracts for construction of new roads will cost 466,811,647 riyals and will include constructing and paving the following roads: the al-Nimas--Wadi Ghatt road with a length of 65 km; connecting roads for al-Suwayr and al-Laqa'it at al-Jawf with a length of 25 km; a road from the al-'Amar junction to the Rawdat al-Hasu connection with a length of 68 km; a (Dukhnah)-[Nafa] junction road with a length of 106 km. These contracts also include construction and paving of some road connections in [al-Dar'iyah], Sudus and (al-'Uyaynah) with a length of 20 km, a road connection branching off from the Medina interchange with a length of 2 km, and road connections for some facilities of the National Guard in al-Ta'if and Jiddah with a length of 10 km. The cost of the contracts to guarantee equipment amounts to 84,958,131 riyals. These contracts require guaranteeing 510 pieces of equipment for construction of 14 sections of farm roads in scattered places within the kingdom, namely al-Jawf, Tayma', al-Bid', al-Suwayriqiyah, Abha, Najran, [Nuhamah], al-Zahran, Rijal, al-Ma', al-Qunfudhah) and Sabya. [Text] [Riyadh AL-RIYADH in Arabic 2 Nov 76 p 2] 8591

SA-CHINA TRANSPORT COOPERATION--This afternoon in his office Minister of Communications Husayn al-Mansuri met with Mr S. S. Chang, deputy minister of communications for the Republic of China, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Dr Nasir al-Sallum, undersecretary of communications, from the Saudi side and by the Chinese ambassador to the kingdom from the Chinese side. During the meeting certain aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of roads, transport and railroads were discussed, as was the exchange of technical expertise between the two countries in these fields. The minister of communications held a luncheon yesterday afternoon in the al-Sa'udiyah Hotel in honor of the Chinese deputy minister of communications and his accompanying delegation [Text] [Riyadh AL-RIYADH in Arabic 3 Nov 76 p 2] 8591

ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH INDIA--A meeting was held yesterday at midday in the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources which included the following persons: Mr Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; Mr Ibrahim al-'Anqari, minister of labor and social affairs; Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi, minister of industry and electricity; Dr 'Abd-al-Rahman Al al-Shaykh, minister of agriculture and water; Dr Sulayman al-Sulaym, minister of commerce; and Mr Faysal al-Zaydan, undersecretary of telegraph and post. During the meeting, discussions were held concerning economic relations between the kingdom and India and the means of developing these relations. [Text]]Riyadh AL-RIYADH in Arabic 4 Nov 76 p 2] 8591

SA-NEW ZEALAND TRADE COOPERATION--Working meetings were held yesterday including one between Minister of Agriculture and Water Dr 'Abd-al-Rahman Al al-Shaykh and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development and Foreign Trade Talboys and his accompanying delegation from New Zealand dealing with cooperation between the kingdom and New Zealand. A meeting was also held between the minister from New Zealand and Minister of Trade Dr Sulayman al-Sulaym concerning the possibility of having expertise from New Zealand participate in the field of agriculture and the agricultural products industry in the kingdom. The minister of trade and development from New Zealand is to make a fact-finding visit today to the sheep and chicken farming project at Harad. Also, Mr Hisham Nazir, minister of planning, met yesterday at midday with Mr Talboys, New Zealand's deputy prime minister and minister of development and foreign trade, and his accompanying delegation. In this meeting the New Zealanders were given a brief explanation of the second 5-year plan for development in the kingdom and the potentials for cooperation between the two countries in the area of implementing various projects included in the plan. [Text] [Riyadh AL-RIYADH in Arabic 4 Nov 76 p 2] 8591

LICENSES FOR NEW FACTORIES--Report by 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Dawud--Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi, the minister of industry and electricity, has issued licenses for several factories in various parts of the kingdom. Following are the factories; the basic metals factory in Riyadh, with a capital of 6 million riyals; the Saudi bakeries in Jiddah, Mecca and Riyadh, each with a capital of 8.7 million riyals; a quarry in Riyadh with a capital of 6.5 million riyals; a project for the production of gravel, sand and asphalt mixtures with a capital of 5 million riyals; the tile, mosaic, marble and plated tile factory in Riyadh with a capital of 6 million riyals; a factory for the production of cement blocks in Riyadh with a capital of 2.06 million riyals; a red brick factory in Yanbu' with a capital of 13 million riyals; an aluminum plant in al-Dammam with a capital of 2.6 million riyals; a tile and marble plant in al-Dammam with a capital of 13.1 million riyals; a quarry in Riyadh with a capital of 5.4 million riyals; metal installations plant in Riyadh with a capital of 14.3 million riyals; gravel and ornamental stone plant in Riyadh with a capital of 3.3 million riyals and a mosaic tile plant in Medina with a capital of 1.6 million riyals. [Text] [Riyadh AL-RIYADH in Arabic 28 Dec 76 p 2]

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

SECURITY OF UAE ACHIEVED WITH UNIFICATION OF ARMED FORCES

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 3 Nov 76 p 3

[Article by 'Ali al-Najjar: "The Unification of the Armed Forces and the Security That Has Been Achieved"]

[Text] There are days in the history of every nation in which their peoples and future generations take pride and of which they retain a precious memory.

It was 2 December 1971 that assumed the foremost place in the history of this nation, for that was the day that saw the birth of the state of the United Arab Emirates. The lustrous days in the record of this nation have come in succession without interruption, reminding future generations that those men who preceded them raised the flag and set out under the banner of unity, after laying the cornerstone for the edifice of their state and their federation.

One of those days came approximately 7 months ago, Thursday, 6 May 1976 to be exact. On that day the UAE acquired a single army under a single, centralized command designated the General Command of the Armed Forces. That step was in implementation of a decision issued by the Supreme Defense Council under the presidency of His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan, the commander in chief. In accordance with the decision, the land, naval and air forces were unified under a single command. It will ensure the security to this people, as long as its flag flies.

What significance did the decision to unify the forces have?

The First Fruits of the Unification of These Forces Under a Single Banner:

Participation in the Arab Force of Deterrence Is the First Manifestation of the Unity of Our Armed Forces; The Opportunity Given to the UAE to Assume Its National Obligation

Very briefly, I will say that a single look at what was in the Provisional Constitution, specifically at what Article 142 stipulated, makes us appreciate the great importance of that decision.

The article states: "The Member Emirates shall have the right to establish local armed forces that can be [so] equipped that the defense apparatus can unify them when necessary, for defense against any external aggression."

This should make us feel the importance of that decision and the great significance that it reflects. Its significance has been in the fact that we are getting closer to our goals, and that contrary to what detractors have said, progression has never stopped. Likewise, it means that the goals of the federation have become an indisputable matter and that the effort exerted is one of the details in achieving those goals.

Now, 7 months after that decision, have we been able to overcome these details and reach the desired goal?

The answer, which also is indisputable and which I can give very clearly, is that what we have witnessed during this week and will witness in the next few days confirms that we have indeed attained the goal and that on the soil of the UAE, from north to south and from east to west, there no longer is anything but a single army, the "army of the federation."

Lest it be said that I am speaking at random, let us stop to consider certain details or aspects that bear out the truth of what I am saying, the truth of what AL-ITTIHAD published several weeks ago.

Today AL-ITTIHAD published the following among its leading headlines: "The Armed Forces Complete Their Definitive Organization" and "Unification of the Defense Budget."

I do not want to go into details that were duly published previously. All I want to say is that the persevering action was continual throughout this past period. The formation of the General Command of the Armed Forces entailed many meetings, during which the staff put the finishing touches to the structure that the federal forces should have, under the close supervision of His Excellency the supreme commander and in accordance with his instructions. Around him were honest men working quietly to convert the decision of the Supreme Defense Council to a reality. That is what those men wished for.

AL-ITTIHAD was keeping an eye on all these developments from afar, but as the saying goes, "Not everything that is known is spoken."

Some people, motivated by a desire to be informed, may ask how it all ended or whether indeed it has been concluded.

I answer them by asking, in turn:

[First,] if what I said were not factual, how could His Excellency the Head of State have stood before all the Arab kings and presidents during the Arab Summit Conference in Cairo to announce that the UAE, in response to the call to duty made of her, has decided to participate in the Arab forces of deterrence, adding a part of this single army to all the other armies that are helping stop the flow of blood in the sister nation of Lebanon?

The second fact is this: How could the supreme commander of the armed forces have issued an order to the General Command to take measures to ensure that these forces are equipped and prepared to set out in a matter of days?

The third fact: How could the announcement issued by the deputy supreme commander of the armed forces have included an order to the commanding officers of the military regions and al-Yarmuk District?

It is noteworthy that the announcement, which was issued yesterday, included the following statement: "It has been decided that the force will consist of a battalion-size group, fully equipped, [formed] from the three military regions and al-Yarmuk District."

There is a fourth fact, namely the appointment of a commanding officer for these forces that were selected from all our armed formations. If these formations were not under a single command and a single banner, why was the supreme command given the opportunity to select the commanding officer for these forces? The official announcement issued yesterday was clear and unambiguous, stating: "His Highness the Supreme Commander will designate a responsible officer to head this force."

From these given data, we derive one fact containing the meaning of the aggregate of facts, and that is that the unification of the armed forces is not just a domestic national gain but a national [Arab] gain in that it permits the UAE to undertake her national obligation and to play an important role on the Arab scene, stemming from her belief in the obligation of Arab brotherhood, of helping to raise the banners of love and brotherhood on the territory of the sister nation of Lebanon and taking part in the fulfillment of this national duty.

One manifestation of that participation and of its federal implications is the fact that these forces are drawn from various military sectors in the country, thus confirming that the unity of our armed forces has truly been attained and become an irrefutable reality.

All that can be summed up by saying simply that participation in the Arab forces of deterrence is considered to be the first appearance of the "army of the federation" on the Arab national scene.

If that is the first indication of the unity of the "army of the federation," the next few days will witness the second one in the form of a unique and splendid sight. I did not want to jump the gun, but [I was] motivated by my journalistic excess and my strong desire to see that sight that I and the people of the UAE had wished for so often, namely, that this army would have a single entity in every sense of the word, a single insignia, a single uniform, a single arm, a single training effort, a single command.

There is nothing more wonderful for me than to see that this security has been achieved, and God willing, it will be achieved.

To everyone who wants to know, I say: "When the day dawns on the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the state of the federation, and thousands of the sons of this wholly good people come together and scores of people come from the four corners of the earth to join with us in our national holiday, they will see what they have not seen heretofore. They will see but one banner flying over all the military sectors participating in the military parade.

On that day, there will not be a separate insignia distinguishing the Abu Dhabi defense forces from those of Dubai and Ra's al-Khaymah. On that day, the colors will be blended into one color, that of the federation.

On that day, the aircraft will not be participating under the name of the "Abu Dhabi Defense Forces" but rather under the name of the Air Force of the Armed Forces.

On that day, every trace of sadness and sorrow will disappear from the faces that had witnessed the multiplicity of armies during the celebration of the previous national holidays, knowing that the manifestations of disunion they were seeing before them were a far cry from nationalism!

On that day, the confusion of the broadcaster will be dispelled and he will convey a harmonious picture of the events of the celebration, for he will not be faced with a number of armies, each having its own name and a flag not that of the federation.

We will see much on that day that we have been waiting for impatiently. It will be a testimonial to "the man" who has worked quietly and patiently, surrounded by reliable, honest men who devoted themselves to the service of their nation and their people.

How much we suffered when we saw how our armed forces were; they were a page hidden in the corners of history.

In conclusion, I wish to bring good news to all those who will witness our celebration of the fifth national holiday, by saying to them: "On that day you will see before you only one army, the 'army of federation,' and one banner, the banner of federation, waving on high."

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

FERTILIZER PLANTS BEING BUILT BY SWISS FIRM

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 4 Nov 76 p 2

[Text] His Excellency, Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of oil and mineral wealth, and the head of the oil department in Abu Dhabi signed an agreement yesterday morning for the construction of a new plant to produce fertilizer from refuse. The plant will be built in the city of al-'Ayn and will cost 30 million dirhams. It will take 18 months to complete and its daily production will range from 80 to 100 tons.

Dr al-'Utaybah stated that the plant will utilize the refuse left over from human consumption in the city of al-'Ayn, as the best use that can be made of it is to convert it to the fertilizer needed for the farms in the eastern region, rather than burn it, with ensuing harm to public health.

The new fertilizer plant will be able to take in 150 tons of refuse per day, and its capacity may increase in the future with a population increase and the consequent additional refuse.

In accordance with the contract signed yesterday, work will begin at once on the project, which will occupy an area of 9,100 square meters. The plant will require 1,250 kilovolts of electricity daily and only 25 cubic meters of water. The administrators and technicians will be granted 45 days of leave.

Abu Dhabi Plant to Be Completed in the Latter Part of This Month

His Excellency Dr Mani' al-'Utaybah declared that the plant being built in Abu Dhabi to process fertilizer from refuse is near completion and that the loose ends will be tied up by late November. According to plans, the plant will begin production at the beginning of December. His Excellency said that he expects that studies will begin shortly on expanding the capacity of the Abu Dhabi plant to increase its daily capacity from 150 to about 300 tons to meet the anticipated increase in consumption.

In addition, the work of expanding the Abu Dhabi plant's warehouses will be finished by the date set for its completion, before the plant's opening.

His Excellency the minister thanked the representatives of the Swiss company executing the project for the progress of the work on the project and for its completion on schedule.

Present at the signing of the agreement were Abdallah Isma'il, representing the Oil Department, and Dr Muwaffaq 'Arif, director of industry in the department. Signing for the contracting [Swiss] firm was Mr Weber, head of its fertilizer branch.

5346

CSO: 4802

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

ECONOMIC PROJECTS WITH FRANCE REVIEWED

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 30 Oct 76 p 4

[Text] The report on the third meeting of the Joint Committee for Economic and Industrial Cooperation Between the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of France was signed in the evening the day before last.

It was signed for the UAE by Muhammad Khalifah al-Yusif, director of the General Department for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and for France by Mr (Christian Dumal), minister plenipotentiary and director for bilateral economic relations in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The report contains an exchange of the views of the two sides regarding the bilateral relations and the international economic matters of mutual interest.

In the Field of International Economic Cooperation

The French side informed the UAE side of the progress made by the International Economic Conference, presenting in particular the French viewpoints regarding the texts that had been debated in the Committee on Energy. The UAE side again expressed its interest in the French initiative, which had subsequently developed into a dialogue, and the two sides noted that each favors the establishment of a new world economic system that will be simultaneously responsive to the aims of both the developing and the industrial nations.

In the field of bilateral economic relations, the two sides agreed on the following:

In the Field of Commercial Relations

The two sides considered that the existing commercial relations between their two countries are directed toward positive development in both imports and exports.

The French side expressed the desire of France to increase the level of French exports to the UAE in order to equalize the balance of trade between the two countries.

The UAE side expressed its understanding of that desire, while explaining the nature of the free market available to the state and the equality of opportunity for imports from the countries of the world, asserting nevertheless the government's desire to strengthen the commercial relations between the two countries.

To that end, the two sides agreed to promote the exchange of official visits between the chambers of commerce and businessmen of both countries. The French side stated that France will spare no effort in encouraging French firms to give more attention to the UAE market.

In the Field of Industrial Cooperation

The French side stressed the importance that French firms attach to a number of important projects, including certain projects that may be decided upon in the UAE in the near future, dealing with desalination of sea water, oil refining, petrochemicals and gas transport, public works, general equipment, and the construction of airports, hotels, housing, and other real estate enterprises.

The French side desired to call attention particularly to the project for seawater desalination in the eastern part of Umm al-Nar Island.

The UAE side explained that open international bids are being invited on these projects, on the principle of completely free competition among the various firms doing the bidding, and that the French firms are invited to participate in these bids.

On Cooperation in the Energy Field

The French side expressed the importance of the existing oil dealings between the two countries, pointing out that France is the second largest importer of the oil produced in the UAE. The UAE side stated that the present cooperation between the Abu Dhabi National Petroleum Company and the French Petroleum Company in the fields of oil exploration, in particular the recent agreement signed by these two companies for the development of the (Sath al-Razbut) oilfield, is indicative of excellent future cooperation between them.

The French side indicated that it attaches importance to the increased exploitation of gas and oil in the UAE, especially to their production and transport.

The French side also pointed to the proposals that had been made by certain French agencies immediately after having sent delegations to the UAE, concerning the use of energy for peaceful purposes and integrating the use of solar energy as part of the electric power network. The UAE side indicated that these proposals are being studied.

The French side cited the ample opportunities for cooperation in the fields of agriculture, water power, fishing and color television, and the UAE side expressed its interest in steady cooperation between the two countries in these fields.

Both sides expressed their complete satisfaction with the effective cooperation between the specialized agencies in the two countries in carrying out joint economic projects in certain other countries.

Both sides agreed on the great importance that each attaches to the continuation of constructive dialogue between them and of the exchange of information in this field in order to find new practical applications of that cooperation.

It was agreed to hold the fourth meeting of the joint committee in Paris during [the remaining several words of the text were not available].

5346

CSO: 4802

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UAE TO IMPORT CHOLERA VACCINE FROM EGYPT

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 30 Oct 76 p 4

[Text] The Ministry of Health has decided to take all preventive measures against any potential outbreak of cholera, after cases of the disease appeared in several bordering countries. Dr 'Abd-al-Rahim Ja'far, representing the ministry, announced that 700,000 doses of cholera serum will be imported from the ARE.

A quantity of that serum, amounting to 30,000 doses, arrived yesterday.

A study is now underway for the establishment of centers in various parts of the state in order to be prepared to inoculate the citizens immediately after the appearance of any case of the disease.

The police have issued instructions to the police stations at border entry points to prevent the passage of any vegetables coming from the bordering countries, in accordance with the directives of the Ministry of Health, in order to keep the disease from penetrating the country.

Dr 'Abd-al-Rahim Ja'far stated that fresh vegetables are one of the most serious ways of transmitting the disease to a human being.

Dr 'Abd-al-Rahim stressed the necessity of being careful to clean and wash the vegetables thoroughly before they are eaten.

He said that he felt it was a good idea to add a small proportion of potassium permanganate to the water used to wash vegetables and that the ministry has asked the Water and Electricity Department to increase the chlorine content in the water supply system as a preventive measure against any disease.

On the other hand, the inoculation centers of the Preventive Medicine Service are beginning today to receive all Moslems desiring to fulfill the religious obligation of making the pilgrimage to Mecca this year to take the necessary anti-cholera doses. Instructions were issued to airlines

and pilgrimage agencies not to permit any person to travel to Saudi Arabia to fulfill the pilgrimage obligation unless he has obtained a certificate of inoculation showing he has had two doses of the cholera serum.

An official source in the Preventive Medicine Service stated that these are merely preventive measures ensuring that everyone will have a good pilgrimage.

5346

CSO: 4802

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

UMM AL-QAYWAYN PORT DEVELOPMENT--Umm al-Qaywayn--His Excellency Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Ma'la, deputy governor and crown prince of Umm al-Qaywayn, has signed a new agreement for the development of the port of Umm al-Qaywayn, the first stage of which is to be completed by the end of May 1977. Present at the signing were Sultan 'Umayyir, director of the municipality of Umm al-Qaywayn, and a number of officials and representatives of the (Horaligene) Company, which has been commissioned to execute the project. In implementation of the agreement, work will begin this morning on laying the foundations for and the construction of a 300-meter-long pier and on deepening the wall of the port to a depth of 7.5 m to permit the anchorage of large ships and medium-size freighters. The work on this first stage of the port of Umm al-Qaywayn will be completed in 7 months. [Text] [Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 1 Nov 76 p 4] 5346

CSO: 4802

END