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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

SAUDI FIGURE ACCUSES BAHAIS OF TREASON TO ISLAM

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 5-11 Mar 86 pp 25-27

[Interview with former Information Minister Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani: "The Bahais Are Infiltrating the Area and Constitute a Fifth Column for Zionism!"]

[Text] Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, former Saudi minister of information, is one of the most prominent thinkers standing up to the danger of the Bahai, Babist and al-Qadiyani movements, on grounds that they are destructive movements which seek to distort Islam and fight Moslems over their belief and their religion.

In this conversation AL-MAJALLAH held with him, Dr Yamani talked about the relationship between these suspect movements and European colonialism, their role in destroying the Islamic Ottoman Empire and their strong alliance with the Zionist movement. He also shed light on the spread of these movements among young Moslem Arabs in Egypt and the Arab Gulf through destructive appeals which promote evil and immorality. Herewith is the text of the conversation:

[Question] We have followed up on the series you published concerning Babism and Bahaism. We would like to ask in particular about the political aspect and the relationship between these groups on the one hand (here we are talking about Babism and Bahaism) and the colonialist forces which have stood behind them.

[Answer] Very few are those who have been able to reveal this deception and have confirmed the claims of the Bab, who says that he is the gateway to the absent imam and the awaited Mahdi -- says, in the Arabic statement "the same seven letters (',l, y,m,h,m and d) (meaning himself, 'Ali Muhammad) are God's gate to those who are in the realm of heaven and earth and what is between them all in the verses of God, by whom they are guided." He also claimed that he belonged to the prophetic family and always kept saying "I am the gateway," invoking as evidence the famous statement "I am the city of learning and the gate to it is upon me." He claimed that he was what was meant by this matter. He then went beyond this statement and claimed that he was the awaited Mahdi, that the spirit of the absent imam had taken dwelling

in him and therefore he had been sent down to fill the earth with justice after it had been filled with tyranny. His spirt then continued to prompt him to become insolent over the prophets and messengers, to the point where he claimed the nature of a prophet and messenger. In his ludicrous interpretation of the chapter on Joseph, the Bab of Shiraz said "God has revealed to me that if you love God, follow me." In his book to Lalusi, on whom may God have mercy, he said, "God sent me just as he sent Muhammad as a prophet of God earlier." He said, "We have uplifted everything which you are aware of." Then he added, "Follow only what has been revealed in the statement; that is what is of benefit for you." The insolence did not leave him at this point, either; he claimed that he was better than the greatest prophet (on whom be God's prayers and peace) and that his book crammed with errors was better than the holy Koran, since he said "I am better than Muhammad, and my Koran is better than Muhammad's Koran. While Muhammad spoke of man's inability to bring forth a verse of his Koran, I speak of many's inability to bring forth a letter of my Koran. Muhammad was of the status of the letter A, and I am of the status of the dot." He also said that he was a prophet, that God revealed a book to him called the statement and that he was the one referred to in his almighty statement "The knowledge of creation is the statement, the man is 'Ali Muhammad and the statement is this book which has been revealed to him." We then find him slandering God with lies and continuing in apostasy and waywardness. He was not content to claim that he was the gateway to the absent imam then to claim that he was the awaited Mahdi, that he was a prophet and messenger, that he was better than all the prophets and messengers, indeed that he was better than the beloved pure spirit, our lord Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, and that his book, the statement, was better than the Koran that was revealed to Muhammad. Then after all that we find him ascending the pulpit of divinity, squatting on the throne of divinity and saying "I am the one of everlasting names, what has passed over my emergence has passed and I have persevered until everything has been obliterated and only my face remains, and I know that that is not me, but that I am a mirror, and that only God can see into me." He also said that the highest of the true divine rank had found dwelling in his person in material and corporal form.

As for Husayn 'Ali al-Mazandarani, Baha', the founder of the Bahai appeal, he declared in 1863 that he was the awaited Mahdi, that the Bab of Shiraz was only someone who had brought tidings of his advent, and that it was he that God revealed. He also declared that he was the bearer of the independent religious law, that he had brought a new religious law, that his religious law was a repeal of the Bab's religious laws, that a new book had been revealed to him called The Holiest, and that this book was a repeal of all the previous divine books and also a repeal of the statement the Shirazi had written. Baha' said: "Only God's form can be seen in my form, only his beauty in my beauty, only his being in my being, and only his essence in my essence. Only God can be seen in my essence." Baha' also said, "Whoever comes to me has come toward the object of devotion and has rendered judgment regarding the book and judged the matter from the presence of God, lord of the two worlds." In these expressions, we can observe that he did not content himself with claiming that he was the one whom God had revealed, and he did not content himself, either, with claiming that he was a prophet who came after Muhammad, on whom be God's prayers and peace, after he had tried

to manipulate the belief that prophethood came to an end with the prophecy of Muhammad and claimed that what was meant by the holy verse in his almighty statement "Muhammad was not the father of any of your men, but the prophet of God and the final prophet" was the end of the prophets and not the end of the messengers. This is manipulation of words so that the road will be open to them to claim possession of the message. In spite of that, they did not content themselves with all this. Rather, we find Husayn 'Ali al-Baha' pursuing a course which the Bab of Shiraz pursued before him, and most boldly and impudently claiming divinity and godliness.

A Russian Embrace

The czarist government in Russia actively embraced these destructive movements in order rapidly to destroy the foundations of the Ottoman Empire, and they knew that the key to the strength of the Islamic state lay in its Islamic belief and in the Moslems' adherence to their belief. Their entire concern was to weaken the thrust of Islam after they had suffered from the power of the Ottoman Empire, which had been established on an Islamic basis and through which they had felt the power of the Islamic state and the Moslems. The colonialist countries did not forget the dimensions of the Islamic tide and its strength, especially since the source of the strength lay, as was pointed out, in Islamic law and Islamic belief. Therefore they agreed in terms of goals on the importance of striking at Islam and of having the blows directed at the heart of the belief and the distortion of it, and propounded various ideologies for turning Moslems away from their religion.

The best idea, without a doubt, was that of "developing" the Islamic religion on the one hand -- as if the Islamic religion needed development, although it is God's eternal law and is suited to every time and place. If there is anything that needs development, that is the Moslems themselves, not Islamic law, because that was revealed by almighty glorious God and through its structure and its law is suited to every time and place. Then they came from the other angle, which is the issue of presenting destructive beliefs, such as the Babist belief then the Bahai belief and Qadiyanism, and tried to attribute them to the Islamic religion by falsehood and lies. They came in by means of the approach of the issue we talked about in detail, which is that the prophet (on whom be God's prayers and peace) was the final prophet and not the final messenger, and from this angle started manipulating people's feelings and arousing their emotions through the facilities they offered them, such as making adultery and libertinism in general permissible and dissolving the prayers and rituals of worship.

Concerning the relationship between the Babists, then the Bahais, and Russian colonialism, then later English colonialism, I would like to summarize this relationship in the following:

First, the Bab's relationship to Czarist Russia. We find that the Russian ambassador in Iran at that time, known as Kanyaz Dalgorki, by instructions from his superiors, participated in the practical sense in forming and creating the Babist religion, then the Bahai religion after that, and we find how he disguised himself in the garb of Moslem scholars and was given the name of Shaykh 'Isa al-Nakrani. He attended the meetings of the sheikhs who

talked about the imminent appearance of the awaited Mahdi and the absent promised one, and through his intelligence was able to convince 'Ali Muhammad al-Shirazi that he himself was the promised one that the Shiite accounts had talked about. Whenever he met him he called him "the master of the situation," until this idea fermented in the Shirazi's head and encouraged him to declare that he had become the Bab in 1844. He stood by his side and helped him with money and arms. Indeed, he permitted the Babists to have military training in the city of Eshqabad and instruction in means of using modern weapons so that they could use them in the acts of violence and destruction that they carried out against the Iranian government, indeed against everyone who differed with them and did not embrace the Babist religion. Russia's interest in Babism was great, as stated in Point K, to the effect that the Russian ambassador blamed the Iranian government for what he called oppression of the Babists. Indeed, the Czar of Russia wrote asking and inquiring about the conditions of the Babists. Their interest in the execution of the Bab was great, and they made dogged attempts to save him, to the point where they bribed the soldiers assigned to fire on him in the square to fire at the ropes that tied him to the post they had prepared in the square, after which they would assume the task of smuggling him out. However, the conspiracy was laid bare, the Bab of Shiraz was arrested again and the death sentence was carried out against him. The Russian consul cried over the execution of the Bab, and photographed this spectacle and sent the photographs to the Russian government.

Second, al-Baha''s relation to Russia. After the Iranian government hanged the Bab of Shiraz (the Russians' creation), most of their interest was then toward 'Ali al-Mazandarani (al-Baha'), in order to save his life so that he would continue to play the same dubious role the Bab of Shiraz had played before him on behalf of these colonialist powers. The Russian spy Kinyaz Dalgorky said in his memoirs, "When the Babists shot Nasir-al-Din Shah, the king of Iran at that time, they were arrested. Among them were Mirza Husayn 'Ali al-Baha' and some others who were secret friends of mine. I defended them and through a thousand hardships proved that they were not criminals, and the workers and employees of the embassy gave testimony. We spared them from death and directed them to Baghdad." Al-Mazandarani said with the utmost impudence that he was saved from fetters and chains only by the support and backing of the Russian ambassador, and said, in the verse of the framework, "King of the Russians, when I was a prisoner in fetters and chains in Tehran prison, your ambassador supported me." He wrote that the Bahai proselytizers were spared this: "Finally it was realized that Baha'allah did not participate in the crime of aggression against the shah and the Russian ambassador gave testimony through the purity of his morals."

However, the promises of the English were stronger and their enticements to Husayn al-Baha' and his followers to travel to Iraq, and from there to Edirne, until he reached 'Aka in Palestine, were numerous. In Palestine the English welcomed him, as did the Jews and international Zionism, and they inundated him with gifts and presents, and protection as well. There his acts of treason against Islam and the Moslems became apparent, and his dissension bore fruit and produced. At that time the beginnings of the ambition to take Palestine as a national home for the Jews dispersed over all areas of the world appeared, and the Jews found in him a useful agent, one who bore

intense rancor against Islam and the Moslems. Therefore, the Zionist Jews seized this opportunity, helped him and supported him with all resources and various means. He stayed about 24 years in Palestine (in 'Aka and Haifa), working in order to bring down the Ottoman Islamic caliphate and to enable the English to extend their influence over Moslem Arab Palestine, unrightfully give the Jews a national home at the expense of the Palestinians and establish the notion of usury which they strove toward.

They Eradicate Holy War

[Question] What is the Babists' and Bahais' position on holy war?

[Answer] In my rapid review of the colonialist forces which stood behind the Babist and Bahai movement, I mentioned Czarist Russia's obvious, declared role in supporting the Babists, standing behind the Bab of Shiraz and his followers, supporting them with money and arms and frankly intervening for the sake of saving the Shirazi from execution of the death sentence against him, and mentioned how the Russian consul in Tehran, Kinyaz Dalgorky, tried to bribe the soldiers assigned to carry out the death sentence against the Bab, how after the killing of the Shirazi he cried, went to the place where they had thrown his corpse, took a number of pictures of him and sent them to his government in Russia, and how the Russian Czar blamed the Iranian government for its oppression of the Babists. Here I will shed light on another of the colonialist powers which supported and backed the Shirazi Bab and his followers in Iran, the English government. "The history of the English in Iran was no more honorable than their history in India. They tried to infiltrate ranks, ignite the fire of enmity among Moslems and help the destructive movements which arose to destroy the pillars of Islam. Part of this was their actual aid to the Babist movement and their encouragement and blatant intervention to save them from just retribution." After all the attempts and forms of pressure carried out by these colonialist countries on the Iranian government in an attempt to save the Bab from execution, we find that these forces all joined ranks in confronting the Iranian government when it tried to kill the the followers of the Bab after the unsuccessful assassination attempt which these followers had carried out against the Shah. Indeed, most of them were arrested and the death sentence was carried out against some of them, such as Qurrat al-'Ayn, Muhammad 'Ali al-Barfurushi and others. We find that the Russian government and the English government intervened blatantly through their consuls in Tehran to save those Babists who had survived, especially Husayn 'Ali al-Mazandarani and his followers, because "the English saw that their last hope lay in their support of Mirza Husayn al-Baha' and in preparation of the necessary circumstances to make his appeal a success, after the Babists' movement's abject failure to take over Iran. Therefore they sought recourse in every means to save him from execution, cooperating with the Russians and international Jewry in that, because they saw in him the person who could offer them the most exalted services." He returned the favor for that by eradicating the notion of holy war and totally surrendering to the colonialist usurpers, so that they could take over the Islamic countries and take over their resources and powers, because holy war is one of the basic pillars on which the Moslems focus the struggle against apostasy and its aides, provinces and nations." Al-Baha' said, "The first good tidings which were given by the mother of books

in this most magnificent revelation before all the people of the world concerned the eradication of the stipulation of holy war from the book. This irrevocable order was revealed by the most official will of the king of ancient times." His function as an agent of the colonialist and Zionist forces is thus apparent, because he is thus serving colonialist interests, because if the people are convinced that holy war has been eradicated, they will be converted into people who have surrendered and are servile and do not display the least resistance to any colonial forces occupying their land and draining away their resources. Thus the spirit of holy war is eliminated through the dissemination of these destructive, false beliefs, so that Moslems will not take up arms against the English colonizer or against the gangs of Jews in Palestine. This shows the extent of the great seriousness of the presence of the Bahais among the Islamic armies. In this instance, they are in effect a fifth column in the midst of the Moslems, frustrating their concerns, divulging their secrets to their enemies and stabbing them in the back with the weapons of vileness, treason and treachery. Let us look, moreover, at the succession of al-Baha' 'Abd-al-Baha', to whom the affairs of the Bahai appeal were assigned after the death of his father. We find him ingratiating himself with the English and getting close to them. "His secret movements against the Turkish Islamic government escalated in the period between 1904 and 1907, his acts of hostility toward the government and opposition to their interests manifested themselves and his suspect contacts against the Islamic government were reaffirmed. Nonetheless, he was not concerned, and the Italian consul hastened to get in touch with him and offered him Italian citizenship so that he would be under Italy's protection. However, he preferred to be under the protection of the English and the Jewish Zionists in Palestine and continued to offer services to these colonizers, until the coup took place which eliminated the Turkish government in punishment for the acts 'Abbas Effendi carried out in this Moslem country in the form of espionage and Judaization. The English and international Zionism prepared his trip to Europe so that he could renew the official loyalty between himself and British colonialism on the one hand and his trip to America where the Jews are concentrated and whose economy they control, to receive new instructions to serve them on the other hand. From America he went back to London, then Paris, then headed for Germany, Switzerland, Budapest and Vienna in Austria. He spent about 2 years in these European countries, from 1911 to 1913, during which he was a guest of British colonialism and international Zionism, preparing conspiracies with them, arranging schemes with them to do away with the Moslems, transmitting information to the Zionists in various countries of Europe and carrying out the wishes of the English a little before World War Two.

"In London 'Abd-al-Baha' stated at a press conference that he had propounded evil as a means for getting close to God, and he also ingratiated himself with women in the environment of London and its suburbs and clubs because his appeal called for liberation from everything and called on its followers to do everything a person found it his pleasure to do. No moral crimes exist in the context of Bahaism, because this is the law of al-Baha', the spirit of God. What gives proof that Bahaism created its principles from imperialist bodies is what the rabbi of the City Temple synagogue said, "'Abd-al-Baha', who is the guest of the British government and now sitting in the confines of the synagogue, has told us about Bahaism.' Subsequent to this

the East met the West in this synagogue and 'Abd-al-Baha' prayed with deep thought and a confidential spirit in the church of Saint James, and his prayers were under the inspiration of world Judaism. 'Abd-al-Baha' was contradictory in his statements and his speeches. We see him religious in the confines of the churches and Jewish temples and insolent in the confines of clubs and sessions. In his unrefined conversations he ingratiated himself with the beautiful English women in their midst, to the point where he was on the same level as them and they soon showed their ingratiation with him by stating openly 'His conversations are becoming and prompt a sense of desire to liberate oneself from clothes, because he makes us feel power and the desire to do this.' 'Abd-al-Baha' translated everything that was said about Islam in the West and his cries were an intellectual echo of Western colonialism. He always shrank from Islam before his masters in the West. 'Abd-al-Baha' was in contact with international Judaism. From it he received its orders, as could be observed from his visit to Switzerland and his stay in its most luxurious hotels at the expense of international Zionism. He was an tool to prepare for the entry of the Jews into Palestine. After they had financed him with money and liberally bestowed generous gifts on him, he started to advocate their appeals and publish their poisoned thoughts. 'Abd-al-Baha' said, 'The prophecies in the old books cited that the Jews would meet on the holy land and the Jewish nation which had been dispersed east and west, south and north would be united and concentrated here (that is, in Palestine). These prophecies were realized only in the era of the blessed beauty (he meant al-Baha'). See now that the tribes of the Jews are coming from the various parts of the earth and corners of the world to this holy land (Palestine), owning land and villages, living in them, and gradually increasing until all of Palestine becomes a nation of theirs.' When World War One took place, he was in firm contact with the Jewish agency in 'Aka, and it gave him land on Lake Tiberias. The Turkish forces surrounded al-Baha' and his followers in Haifa when they learned of their treason, the acts of espionage they were carrying out and their acts on behalf of the tyrannical crusader colonialism, and the English, headed by Lord Curzon and the British foreign minister at that time, Lord Balfour (the one who gave the Jews the famous promise of their right to establish a national home for themselves in Palestine), were compelled to send an urgent cable to the commander of the English forces, Gen Allenby, stressing to him that he should try to seek to his fullest seriousness and effort to protect 'Abd-al-Baha' and his family and subjects.

"From all the foregoing, we can sense the extent to which this group was the agent of colonialism, colonialists and international Zionism, starting with the Bab of Shiraz, Husayn 'Ali al-Baha' and 'Abbas Effendi ('Abd-al-Baha') to their successors who came after them to this day."

A Suspicious Emphasis on Egypt

[Question] Why is there emphasis on the subject of Bahaism in Egypt specifically? Do they have expanded activity? If so, to what extent have they spread outside Egypt or taken off from it?

[Answer] There is no emphasis in the proper sense on Egypt, but that perhaps started when a group of thinkers and writers, such as Dr Mustafa Mahmud, Dr

Bint al-Shati', Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Sharaf and others, stood up to the Bahai issue in Egypt in particular, having observed the gravity of the spread of these groups among the ranks of young Egyptians which under a cover of virtue and religion had actually started to corrupt the genuine temperament which God had instilled in people and brought in a group of ideas with which to win young people over under a cover of false appeals such as equality, tolerance, intellectual development and so forth, something which in its outward appearance is mercy and within itself is torment. Thus they started to expand and spread and their number unfortunately increased among some educated groups. Therefore a concern arose on the part of these intellectuals to stand up to this movement, which was not restricted to Egypt but had spread about in many areas of the world, unbeknownst to the people, who thought the matter superficial, simple and not serious. They also found scope for themselves to spread in some foreign environments, such as America, in which they spread out and won over a number of young people under the cover of equality, tolerance, the unity of religions and similar ideas which they promoted falsely and deviously. However, the situation as far as Egypt goes is different since some Bahais traveled outside Egypt and unfortunately tried to concentrate in some Gulf countries in particular, in the media and education, and started to spread out and expand the circle of their activity silently, deviously and with followup, exploiting the negligence which loomed over the nation and the preoccupation of men of science and scholars with transitory issues of sophistry which had no connection with people's life today, in order to seek to work in that atmosphere to attract these young people, cater to their emotions and beguile them in the same methods that were followed, of failing to reveal the truth of Bahaism, emphasizing things which seduce weak, naive people who suffer from an intellectual, religious, social or cultural vacuum. Therefore, many facts and names were revealed during the trials and acts of surveillance of the Bahais which took place in Egypt, since it was proved that a considerable number had chosen the Arab Gulf in particular as a theater for their activity and had started to spread their poisons there, as people were diverted from them, thought little of their activity or were deceived by their appeals. These are the most serious factors which helped increase their influence and activity there. The fact is that we must not ignore these sorts of Bahais, think little of their activity or neglect carrying out surveillance of their groupings and their spread, because they are like worms which gnaw at the bones of the nation. In old times in Egypt they had activities which the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, may God reward him with good things for this act, did away with. He monitored them, was aware of their danger and did away with them. He banned their activity, and that without a doubt stopped this vicious tide which had started to spread in those times, and in these times as well. The concern and followup we have seen on the part of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who has started to be wary of this serious Bahai spread and prevented the famous Bahai Bikar from engaging his activity after he started to deceive people in the name of Islam, have gladdened us greatly. Al-Azhar's position also without a doubt is a very honorable one, and the statement it has issued is to be considered a thorough, decisive and serious one, in which there is awareness of the dimensions and gravity of this wayward group. I ask God to help us all stand before this apostate current which oppresses itself and society. God prevails over his affairs, but most people do not know.

A Threat to the Gulf

[Question] Do these people constitute an actual threat in your view in the Gulf? What are your recommendations regarding their current situation?

[Answer] The brothers in the Gulf must be aware of the danger of these people and must be wary of them and oversee their activities so that they do not spread their poisons among our young people in particular. There is no doubt that the best step is to extirpate them and remove them, and consequently totally eliminate this group, because it represents a destructive appeal and obvious polytheism. The prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace, has called on us to purge the Arabs' peninsula of polytheism, after the message of Muhammad purged it, and our duty toward the removal of these people has become doubled. There is no doubt that the groups of these people which are active in education and the media are the most dangerous, especially since they are working secretly and are concerned to infiltrate our societies by sensing the points of weakness among us, and how many of those there are.

One's hopes are attached to the awakening of the rulers and officials in our proud Gulf so that our nation within it, God willing, will be protected and removed from the points of apostasy, waywardness and such corruption as distorts the human temperament.

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CSO: 4404/275

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

EGYPTIAN DELEGATION SEEKS TRADE WITH SAUDI ARABIA

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 5-11 Mar 86 pp 38, 39

[Article: "The Saudi Chambers of Commerce Set out Their Conditions for Dealing with Egyptian Businessmen"]

[Text] The value of the transactions carried out by the Egyptian trade mission which visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recently, through contracts which it concluded with a number of Saudi businessmen, came to $8,467,000.

After the return of the Egyptian trade mission, the Egyptian Ministry of Economy started to study the results of the tour, in particular the request Saudi businessmen presented on the need to establish a Saudi-Egyptian company concerned with trade between the two countries and the pursuit of international commercial activities.

The members of the Egyptian trade delegation consider that their trip did not measure up to the success their other delegations to European and Gulf markets had achieved, but they left room for profound study of ways of strengthening commercial cooperation.

The reasons for that, as the minister delegate, Husni al-Tahawi, told AL-MAJALLAH, can be attributed to the Saudi market itself, since it is an open market in which competition is intense on the one hand and in which great change has taken place. It is no longer considered a fruit and vegetable market in the old sense, although Egyptian fruit and vegetables meet with a reception and appreciation with the Saudi consumer.

The chairman of the mission, Minister al-Tahawi, added that as proof of that manufactured goods constituted 95 percent of the contractual arrangements made between the two parties and agricultural commodities constituted just 5 percent. However, the success of the mission, as he said, is that it started a dialogue between Saudi and Egyptian factories and between businessmen here and there, and a greater dialogue between two markets in which the elements of integration are much more numerous than the elements of competition. Therefore the reception of the mission was great on all levels and there was frankness in dealing with commercial issues and a sincere desire for mutual cooperation.

Saudis Prefer To Deal with the Private Sector

One problem the Egyptians are now discussing is the Saudi party's objection to the establishment of a joint company for trade and the execution of equal transactions in which their partners, on the Egyptian side, are public sector companies. They want a corresponding Egyptian private sector, while the Egyptian government refuses to have the private sector carry out separate equal transactions. Indeed, the Ministry of Economy stipulates that they carry them out by means of the public sector, as has been the custom. Numerous recommendations have been set out for discussion, especially since the government is oriented toward giving the private sector a strong push and indeed similar companies exist between Egypt and Jordan and Egypt and Iraq.

The Egyptian government is also seriously discussing the request of some Saudi businessmen to transfer construction material and housing factories after their mission is completed in Saudi Arabia, especially since Egypt is suffering from a housing shortage and needs this quality, and this will be better from all standpoints than importing similar quality into Egypt from abroad. At present a discussion is taking place on the possibility that the owners of these factories will participate in the form of joint investment projects in the context of the countries the Saudi businessmen discussed, which is in keeping with the law on corporations and the law on Arab and foreign capital investment in Egypt. Indeed they can enjoy the latest benefits Dr 'Ali Lutfi, the prime minister, declared to rid themselves of red tape as far as new cities projects go.

The Egyptian government also took the initiative of sending the Egyptian experts the Saudis had requested to establish a Saudi export council along the lines of the center to develop Egyptian exports. The Egyptian commercial counsellor in Saudi Arabia was notified to monitor the measures bearing on this, including placing the Egyptian center's resources at the disposal of the Saudi center, activity which it is now carrying out in Morocco to prepare a Moroccan export development center.

Discussion is also taking place on the Saudi demand to establish a Saudi-Egyptian company to make use of the land route for moving cargo via Yanbu' similar to the Jordanian-Egyptian company for this purpose. A study is also being made on the recommendations of Saudi and Egyptian businessmen working there to establish light industries and agricultural projects and establish agricultural industrial complexes, a type that is desired for Arab businessmen's investment projects in general. The last of the obstacles in the way of Arab investors, which was the issue of ownership, was eliminated following the Council of State ruling in favor of the Ministry of Redevelopment and Land Reclamation, which supported the right of corporations to own the land they reclaim.

An Appeal for Attention to Publicity and Packaging

One idea which 'Abdallah Sadiq Dahlan, the secretary general of the Chamber of Commerce in Jiddah, presented was to send Egyptian delegations representing the sector of industry or agriculture, consisting of the best of experts, to reside in the kingdom for a period of 3 straight months which they

would devote to constant discussion with their counterparts and to study markets, tastes and desires in order to create real mutual interests between the factories and the merchants in the two countries. The mission also requested attention to canning and packaging as an alternative to the current form they take, which might not give them a competitive opportunity relative to other manufactured goods, and it requested attention to commercial advertising and the use of modern technology in the form of video movies in addition to publications. It also presented them with the notion that the commercial delegations should continue, so that they would constitute feasible activity and constant trade.

Egyptian coolers (refrigerator cars), which are manufactured jointly with Germany, were the mission's first contract there with Saudi transportation companies, coming to $2.3 million in volume. This industry actually met with a good response in all the commercial missions to various countries.

Agreement was also made on joint projects such as those for decorative palms, pharmaceutical equipment, herbs such as coriander and cumin, perfumes, cosmetic equipment, electronic publicity screens, aluminum strips and chemicals, in addition to peanuts, honey, molasses, canned goods and chocolate.

An Unsuccessful Trip for Clothes Merchants

The only category of Egyptian industries which did not meet with the reception it had expected was that of clothes and textiles. Saudi businessmen expressed observations about this sort of industry from the standpoint of prices and quality, and their contracts did not exceed the sum of $1 million. However, the most important thing that happened as far as they were concerned, as Minister al-Tahawi said, was that one Egyptian private sector factory declared its readiness to carry out the recommendations of the Saudi merchants in a short period of time. The Saudi businessman actually came to Egypt, took part in executing the desired specifications and made a contract for the quantity he wanted.

11887
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SITUATION OF ARAB LABORERS IN FRANCE EXAMINED

Raba AL-'ALAM in Arabic 16 Mar 86 p 3

[Article by Hamadi al-Ghari]

[Text] The subject of the emigration of the Arab labor force in general, and the North African one in particular, still arouses many questions. The matter has become a social phenomenon, and sociologists and those interested in social psychology, as well as politicians, literary men and artists, are still trying to discover its causes, define its fixed and variable characteristics, and uncover its dimensions. Moreover, the racist campaign against the Arab community in general in European countries, and the hostile media escalation, have prompted Arab researchers to review the situation of this group of our people and the oppression, deprivation, and attacks that they suffer there in the misty countries, and to link this situation to the colonialist reality which used to be practiced previously in the Arab countries.

A Reminder

In Europe there are more than a million and a half Arabs, most of whom are from the countries of Arab North Africa and they constitute about half the number of immigrants. This labor force, which has formed a distinct population group abroad, has helped to consolidate the economic structures of the western societies, building roads, buildings, and factories. In return, their standard of living and housing situation have remained low. In addition to that, the European "view" of Arab workers has remained "negative," and is based first and foremost upon economic interests and the realization of "the timely profits that they bring." On top of that, certain parties, especially the extreme right, have blamed them for the economic crisis and the circumstances arising from it. In fact, these parties have not hesitated to raise such hostile slogans as: "A million unemployed equal 2 million immigrants," which has prompted the saying that the racial dimension was not a political choice in and of itself, but rather "a hatred against the Arab presence."

On the other hand, the immigration was at first organized, and the concerned European authorities established special agencies for it, such as the National Immigration Office in France, for example. But before long this operation left the official "organized" path, and some establishments began to request and bring over laborers through agents and brokers. In return, the originating countries for their part encouraged emigration.

The Development of Immigration to Europe

It can be said that most Arab immigrants to Europe, and to France in particular, are "emigrants who reach maturity at the expense of their mother countries, and grow up within an educational framework that possesses important resources, but they are restricted in the countries to which they emigrate to areas of work that are shunned by the natives of those countries. They receive low pay, and do not receive any vocational training."

Looking at the ratio of the foreign population to the total population of France, it appears that the percentage of immigrants in 1931 was 6.6 percent; in 1975, 6.55 percent; and in 1982, 6.8 percent. Note here that Algerians were counted among the foreign population, even though they were considered Frenchmen, especially between 1954 and 1962.

According to the geographical distribution of the immigrants, it can be seen that there has been a drop in the proportion of immigrants from other European countries to France (Italians, Spaniards...), while there has been a rise in the number of Africans, in particular from 1962 to 1982, such that in the former year a percentage of 19.7 percent was recorded, while in the latter year (1982) it was 42.8 percent.

As for Arab emigration, primarily that of the labor force from Arab North Africa which constitutes 98.5 percent of all Arab immigrants in France, it had the following composition in 1982:

Algeria: 795,920

Morocco: 431,120

Tunisia: 189,400

Lebanon: 11,200

Egypt: 4,340

It should be noted that the proportion of emigrant Arab children recorded an important development, in that the proportion of 14 year olds in 1962 was 16.9 percent, and 20 years later it had reached 25.8 percent.

With respect to nationality, the proportion of Tunisian children who are in the 14 year-old group was 47 percent; Moroccans, 36.3 percent; Algerians, 32 percent; and Iraqis, 25.3 percent. The proportion of youth under 25 years is as follows:

Moroccans, 50.3 percent; Algerians, 47.7 percent; Lebanese, 42.25 percent; Syrians, 36.7 percent; and Tunisians 24.2 percent. It should be noted that about half of the Arab immigrants are in this group, while among the French they only constitute a third: 14-year-olds, 20.3 percent, and those under 25 years 36.2 percent.

Situation of Emigrant Families

The following figures show that Arab emigrants, primarily those from Arab North Africa, have more children compared to the structure of the French family, since we see that French families without children constitute 51.6 percent; Tunisian families, 22.6 percent; Algerian families, 21.7 percent; and Moroccan families, 17.7 percent. As for families that have at least three children, Moroccans are first with 48 percent, followed by Algerians with 44.9 percent, and then Tunsians with 35.9 percent, while the percentage for the French does not exceed 8.2 percent. In the group of those with more than five children, we see that Algerian families lead the list with 17 percent, then Moroccans at 15.4 percent and Tunisians at 8.5 percent, compared to 0.6 percent for French families.

It should be especially noted here that the second sector takes in more than half of the foreign workers, and with the exception of the agricultural, fishing, industrial, and commercial sectors, in which there is a high proportion of French workers, the construction and civil engineering sector takes in 22.4 percent of the foreign workers, compared to 8.2 percent of the French workers. This means that foreign workers (Arabs) are working only in the most toilsome and difficult sectors. This is clearly shown by the percentage of manual laborers, since the proportion of French among them, for example, is 32.6 percent, compared to 69.4 percent of the foreigners. The situation becomes even clearer when we know that the proportion of highly skilled people among the Arabs is 2.5 percent, while the proportion of laborers among the Arabs is high (75.93 percent).

In other words, 75 percent of Arab workers and employees carry out manual tasks that do not require advanced skills.

Unemployment

Statistics say that among immigrants, 218,140 were registered as looking for work (a third of whom were women), and that 30 percent of them were no more than 25 years old. We see that 34.9 percent of the men and 50.7 percent of the women amongst foreign workers between 15 and 19 years of age are unemployed.

Overall, 40 percent of the young men in the aforementioned age group, and 50.7 percent of the young women, suffer the distress of unemployment.

A Warning

A report of the higher population council by G. Marenge, entitled "The Assimilation of Foreign Youth into French Society" (French Document Publications 1983), says that more than 80 percent of the children of migrant workers under 4 years of age were born in France, and that this percentage varies between 60 and 65 percent for those under 26. Heading the list are immigrants from Arab North Africa:

Algerians: 278,572 (35 percent)

Moroccans: 108,642 (25.2 percent)

Tunisians: 55,763 (29.4 percent)

There is no doubt that these high percentages of those born abroad (in France) will have serious complications, the first signs of which have begun to appear in the newly-appearing term "the second generation," which will find itself knowing nothing about its fatherland, if it is not in fact foreign to it, and different from it in every aspect. In addition to the backwardness of its original society, increasing unemployment, the entrenchment of the racist phenomenon in Europe in general and the hostile provocations that accompany it, and the slow improvement in the economic and social circumstances in the country of origin, all this by its nature turns these factors into subjective justifications for assuming the nationality of the other country, and for entering a phase of alienation and then detachment from everything pertaining to the country of origin. If things have not yet gone so far, no one used to imagine before that the present situation of our people who had emigrated would develop to this degree either.

Finally we will point out that out of an original 28,459 applications for French citizenship, 4,741 applications were counted, including 2,004 Algerian, 1,693 Moroccan, and 1,044 Tunisian in 1982.

(Figures are from the magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL AL-'ARABI 85).

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ALGERIA

REGIONAL PLANNING MINISTER SPEAKS ON URBAN, RURAL HOUSING

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 7 Mar 86 p 2

[Text] We must learn the lessons taught by experience and use all existing potential, particularly in this situation of international economic crisis. Such were, in substance, the remarks made by Abdelmalek Nourani, minister of regional development, urbanism and construction, before directors of urbanism, construction and housing from the different governorates meeting Thursday at INFORBA (Building Training Institute) headquarters.

In a long introduction, the minister developed four themes: urban housing, rural housing, construction and urbanism.

Regarding urban housing, Nourani said that the government could no longer play its now traditional role in housing. Rather, he said, we must mobilize the social fund and the personal contribution of workers in the area of financing, just as it is necessary to transfer responsibility to local communities in real estate promotion. The latter must be viewed as the overall effort of all energies. Concerning urban housing, the minister said that the structures must be set up and made operational as soon as possible.

"Housing as now delivered to the citizen is very poorly finished," Nourani observed. "This means in all cases that the buyer himself must redo the apartment. We must therefore learn the appropriate lessons and examine what means must be brought into play to achieve personalized housing, consisting of leaving the finishing up to the buyer."

Concerning rural housing, it must henceforth be conceived as a strategical axis. Different actions must therefore be envisioned very rapidly. The minister noted the mobilization of building technicians, the publication of highly simplified catalogues and the use of local materials.

Taking up the matter of construction, Nourani was very firm about certain negative aspects affecting the sector for a long time, particularly cost, delays and poor workmanship. "It is time that we wake up. Systematic reevaluations are no longer tolerable. We must realize that a lycee that costs 160 percent of the original sum means that the next one cannot be built. It is time for austerity and economy and we shall therefore be very demanding."

Finally, concerning urbanism, Nourani emphasized that the urbanism plan is now drafted as far as the year 2000 and even beyond.

There remains all the work of urban planning, along with urban plannning norms that must be carried out.

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EGYPT

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY REVIEWS TEXTILE STRIKES, MEMBER'S IMMUNITY

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Feb 86 p 6

[Article by Mahmud Mu'awwad, 'Abd-al-Jawad 'Ali, and Sharif al-'Abd: "Special People's Assembly Session To Discuss Sit-in and Strike at ESCO and al-Mahallah"]

[Text] Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, the People's Assembly speaker, amended the agenda of yesterday's session so that it may be devoted to discussing the queries and questions submitted to the ministers of interior and industry on the workers' sit-in and strike at the ESCO and al-Mahallah al-Kubra plants.

Ahmad Rushdi, the minister of interior, declared that Egypt's workers know perfectly well that any interruption of work and production, which is what emanates from strikes, means cutting off a mouthful from the loaf of bread supplied to the citizens and that this means raising the prices. The minister said that the security agencies do not interfere until the last minute and that they know their duty and role.

Eng Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, the minister of industry, said that the government is most eager to give the workers all their rights, without having these rights tied to sit-ins and strikes.

At the outset of the session, the interpellations and questions submitted to the ministers of interior and industry on the strike and sit-in at ESCO and al-Mahallah al-Kubra were reviewed.

Fathi Bayyumi, an Assembly member who submitted one of the interpellations, said: Recently, some papers carried reports saying that a small group of workers in al-Mahallah came out carrying what looked like unprohibited weapons and proceeded to force the workers to stop working and that this group even shut down a number of production units. The papers then reported that al-Mahallah workers resumed production.

This is why I submitted my query, especially since there was a sit-in by ESCO workers a few days ago. The yarn and textile sector is no small sector and it includes 110,000 workers employed in 33 public sector companies.

This group of Egyptian workers is a select and distinguished group because the workers are employed in the oldest industry known to Egypt.

Whatever happened in ESCO has happened. A committee comprised of ministers and the general union met in accordance with a decision calling for ESCO workers being paid the wages of 26 days per month to be paid the wages of 30 days per month. After the decision was made, a committee was formed to examine the cases to which this decision applies. But so far, no decision has been made on implementation.

I wonder: What is the number of those few workers? Are they detained in police stations, or have they been referred to the prosecutor? I also wonder about the fate of the decision issued in ESCO's favor.

Counselor Mumtaz Nassar, the opposition leader, said: There is no doubt that we laud the Egyptian workers' efforts and urge that these efforts be channeled toward abundant production. Having heard the broadcast reports, I say in the name of the Wafd Parliamentary Committee, which underlines the workers' rights, that we believe that what has happened in the factories of al-Mahallah al-Kubra, which has a rich history and a good international reputation in the sphere of exports, merits a pause. We cannot refuse to recognize the rights of al-Mahallah al-Kubra workers. If the workers have legitimate demands to make their wages compatible with their production, then we support them. I heard that a sit-in took place at ESCO and that a committee has been formed. Why the reluctance to discuss the workers' rights? A court decision has been issued in favor of the workers and this requires that the workers' rights be discussed. I tell the minister of interior that the Central Security forces stormed the yarn plants in al-Mahallah against the workers who were engaged in their work. This led to interrupting the work. Wouldn't it have been better to discuss the workers' demands seriously than to storm the plants against the workers?

Danger Alarm

Muhammad Mahfuz al-Sayyid from the Wafd Party said: I have asked about this strike in order to be reassured. But I must point out that time's race with prices is draining these workers, some of whom stand, by virtue of the nature of their work, in cold spots and others in hot spots. Special meals used to be supplied to these workers but these meals have now been cancelled and replaced by a cash allowance of 150 piasters.

A greeting to Dr 'Ali Lutfi who has devoted his attention to this issue and contacted the minister of industry to tackle the crisis, telling him: I do not approve of suppression.

I am now sounding the alarm in this hall. This policy of oppression must not be continued and the company must not be surrounded by armor, as if we were in a state of war. Why don't the media report this strike, its causes, and the means to deal with it? Have not the media reported the news of strikes in France, Italy, or other countries?

I say: A greeting to al-Mahallah workers who always sacrifice and give.

Why Was The Judiciary's Decision Not Carried Out?

Eng Ibrahim Shukri, the Labor Party chairman, said: I have submitted a query on al-Mahallah al-Kubra incidents.

I want to talk about the legitimate channels and about the means to deal with the disagreement between the management and the workers. Did the workers follow the right path or did they stray from it? The truth is that they moved on the right path from the beginning but found no listening ears. The committees paid no attention to the issue of paid vacations and the workers resorted to the judiciary, which ruled in their favor. When this decision was appealed, the ruling again came in their favor. Al-Sayyid Rustum asked why the appellate court ruling was not carried out, and was told that the ruling would be appealed before the Court of Cassation. This appeal was made and the Court of Cassation again ruled in the workers' favor. The workers waited for the decision to be carried out, but it has not been carried out.

This right is also connected with al-Mahallah workers.

Details Hour by Hour

Ahmad Rushdi, the minister of interior, said in his response to the queries: I have not hesitated to respond to the invitation I received only an hour ago to appear before the Assembly to discuss the questions and queries submitted by the members on this issue.

This Assembly is indisputably entitled to submit these questions and queries and it is our duty to respond to the Assembly's request immediately. The policies, plans, and positions of the Ministry of Interior move according to constant rules and we have nothing to hide or to justify insofar as any incident is concerned.

The minister said: The incidents at the ESCO and al-Mahallah al-Kubra companies developed as follows:

Insofar as the ESCO Company is concerned, a decision was issued by the appellate court on 29 December 1985 in favor of the ESCO workers--17,500 workers--instructing that weekends be included as paid work days. When the workers demended implementation of the decision, the ministry announced that the pay will be on the basis of 30 workdays. If an examination shows something to the contrary, then the ministry is obliged to pay. On 28 January 1986, a group of workers, numbering 700, refused to leave the plant at the end of a shift. Other workers followed suit. On the following day, the situation intensified when the number of workers staging a sit-in strike amounted to 1,620 workers, thus leading to the total interruption of work by all 3 shifts. On 30 January, the workers further intensified the situation and engaged in a number of irresponsible acts, with the wool plant workers cutting off power to the mill and shouting slogans against management. The number of sit-in strikers then rose to 18,600 [as published] and work in the production units came to a halt. On the 4th day, 31 January, the number of sit-in strikers rose to 3,000. During these events, numerous endeavors were made to pacify the workers and to advise them that their demands were the subject of examination by the officials.

The minister added that Dr Yusuf Wali, the deputy prime minister and National Party secretary general, held meetings with representatives of the workers, management, and the Ministry of Industry. A decision was made to form a committee comprised of representatives of the Accounting Agency, the work force, the General Yarn and Textile Union, and the company's management to study the text and contents of the court decision. The committee will complete its work on 9 February. A meeting was held yesterday at the office of the minister of industry and was attended by the minister of manpower, Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, and the minister of industry to complete discussion on the issue. The efforts made have succeeded in pacifying the workers and the situation is now calm.

So, there were no troops armed to the teeth. We do not ignite fires but use the legitimate means and the path of enlightenment and let the agencies perform their role. The security agencies do not interfere until the last minute and these agencies know their duty and role.

As for al-Mahallah al-Kubra, the minister said: In light of the sit-in strike at ESCO for implementation of the court decision, a total of 450 workers gathered during the first shift in the company to demand pay for weekends on an equal footing with the ESCO workers. As we are all aware, personal court decisions apply only to those involved in the lawsuit. Al-Mahallah workers also demanded that their overtime pay be raised by 150-200 percent, basing their demand at the prodding of certain people--on what happened at ESCO. At 1500 on 7 February, the first-shirt workers departed peacefully. As soon as the second shift began, 2,500 workers, out of a total of 10,000 workers, gathered and refused to work, voicing hostile slogans. When their leaders threatened to engage in acts of sabotage, the security agencies did not intervene because all this happened inside the plant. When this shift departed, 250 workers gathered in the wool plant and refused to work. The company chairman demanded that the sit-in strike in the plant be ended quickly when the leaders of the strikers intensified their activity and threatened to use bladed weapons against the honorable workers in case the latter continued to work. It is well known that the company's warehouses are stocked with cotton, yarn, and chemicals. Consequently, the company management summoned the state security prosecutor, who indentified the elements leading the strike, totaling 23 elements. By virture of its responsibility and out of its concern to protect the public's money, the company demanded that the sit-in strike be ended quickly to protect the safety of the company and of the honorable workers. Administrative citation No 443 of 1986 was made in the second precinct of al-Mahallah. In accordance with the prosecution's permission, the police detained 104 workers.

Nobody in Egypt Has Been Arrested

The minister of interior further added: I regret that there are those who say that there have been arrests. No illegal arrest has been made in Egypt since I assumed my position in the Ministry of Interior. I apply the law. These detainees are in safe hands and the prosecutor is interrogating them. The investigations carried out so far have proven that some elements with radical intellectual affiliations and you know whom I mean, lead these workers for the purpose of instigation. Ten other elements have been identified and 7 of them detained, with the total number of detainees thus amounting to 111 workers.

Appeal from Minister of Interior

Ahmad Rushdi also said: Permit me to place these important considerations before you in order to deal with the situation:

We are going through a critical economic phase as a result of numerous international developments that have had their impact on our foreign currency revenues. Despite the difference of opinion on the solutions, we all fully and completely agree that production is the only way out of the difficult situation. There may be reasonable and fair demands on the part of the workers to improve their conditions--and everybody is entitled to voice his demands--and we believe that the agencies concerned must hear and study these demands and respond to whatever is fair among them. But resorting to strikes with the aim of putting pressure on the agencies concerned to make them meet the demands is a totally rejected course. We must not allow ourselves to respond to sit-in strikes, or else we will be encouraging the disruption of work in the various sectors and the destruction of their economy. Moreover, strikes and the disruption of production constitute a crime punishable by the law, perhaps the most serious crime of undermining our national economy. The security agencies cannot abandon their responsibility. The investigations conducted have shown that there are parties and elements that have no direct interest in the workers' demands and that they encourage the stoppage of work and try to exploit the situation to serve their interests by instigating the people and spreading chaos. The security agencies have not and will not permit the perpetration of the crime of strikes, of stoppage of work, and of the interruption of production. Whoever tries to stage, encourage, or instigate such strikes will be brought before the law. The Egyptian labor base consists of the honorable production soldiers who fully realize that these endeavors seek narrow intrinsic interests.

What Do The Strikes Mean?

The minister added: Egypt's workers are fully aware that the stoppage of work and any interruption of the production mean that a mouthful of the loaf of bread supplied to the citizens is taken away and that this means raising the prices of goods and services. I say to those who stir the workers to stop working: Fear God for your country's sake and fear God for your great Egyptian people's sake. You should alleviate the hardship and help the people instead of instigating them.

Eng Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, the minister of industry, said: I thank the gentlemen who submitted the queries because I have felt that there is concern for the production sites managed by the public sector, which belongs to the people, who are eager to strengthen and maintain this sector.

He added: What is happening is a result of the ministerial decree which formed a committee to discuss the workers' problems. What has happened is a violation of the law and a violation against the decision maker, namely the minister of industry.

If the worker has a right, we are most eager to give it to him. We give people their rights and always seek to give rights to those entitled to them.

Strikes and sit-ins are in violation of the law. In this case, some may think that an injustice has been done the workers. But the manner in which these workers expressed themselves has made them violate the law. In the case of al-Mahallah, there have been no specific demands in order that they may be discussed. The strike was started by a small group which used means to which we are not accustomed. This is the first time we see pen knives used to obstruct production. We will not permit the use of such means again because we are concerned with increasing production.

Al-Mahallah al-Kubra contains major Egyptian companies and these companies realized last year their objective of increasing production by 6 percent. They have achieved a growth of 14 percent. Al-Mahallah al-Kubra has honorable men in the industrial public sector. There is real qualitative development in al-Mahallah al-Kubra's production. We hope that such an incident will not recur in the future. All of al-Mahallah al-Kubra's workers reject this deviation on the part of a few workers.

The members submitting the questions voiced their responses and 'Abd-al-Fattah Badr said: I hope that the minister of industry will exert immediate efforts to solve any problems facing the workers so that they may not experience hardships that curtail their productivity and so as to make it actually possible to disregard any saboteur elements surfacing here or there.

Salah al-Taruti said: We support work and all the workers' rights. The honest and detailed statements by the minister of interior and the minister of industry have clarified all the circumstances and have reassured us regarding Egypt's workers. A right is gained and delivered to those entitled to it only through the legitimate channels.

Sayyid Rustum from the Labor Party siad: Insofar as the ESCO Company problem is concerned, we demand that the resolutions of the committee formed to study and examine the issue be announced speedily so that the worker may not feel that a right to which he is entitled is still unavailable.

As for al-Mahallah company, the management should have asked the labor leaderships to hold a dialogue with the workers to end the strike instead of resorting to the police.

Muhammad 'Awdah from the National Party said: The problem began as a result of the court decision concerning the wages of workers working 26 days per month. The security authorities handled the problem wisely and did not interfere at all. The ESCO Company workers also rose up to the level of the responsibility and did not permit anybody to interfere in order to determine their position or to threaten their factories. We will not permit any oneupmanship or any intervention between Shubra al-Khaymah workers and their representatives from the National Party. There is no doubt that all are eager to give rights to those entitled to them and to respect every decision made by the Egyptian judiciary.

Sa'id Jum'ah from the National Party said: I laud the police for their position. All were eager to handle the matter wisely and without intervention. We, as representatives of Shubra al-Khaymah workers, have been mediators in this role.

I greet the role of the police who have constantly observed the supremacy of the law and who have been eager not to permit provocative elements to spread among Shubra al-Khaymah workers. Out of concern for Egypt and for increased production, I demand that everybody be given his right.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr Kamal al-Janzuri said: The subject of the query is an economic issue primarily. I observed yesterday's debates, which focused on the economic situation in Egypt, and I tell you that Egypt is nowadays targeted from abroad and is facing problems beyond its control. Egypt exports 300,000 barrels of oil a day and the 7-dollar drop in oil prices means a daily loss of $2 million. Moreover, the remittances of Egyptians working abroad have declined and the tourist revenues have decreased.

Despite this, Egypt constantly tries to improve its economic situation.

I wish to refer to the indebtedness issue about which some people have spoken and on which I will make a statement before the Assembly. Why didn't these people shed tears when this indebtedness rose throughout the past 10 years? I address this question to those Egyptians who are outside Egypt.

How can Egypt develop in agriculture, industry, and construction? They are displeased because the African-Arab world is seeking to return to Egypt.

Do they recall the time when oil prices dropped to $25 a barrel? Some countries have reduced their workers' wages by 50 percent. Poor Egypt, as they call it, has not reduced its wages but rather seeks to work and produce. The state budget shoulders total wages amounting to 7 billion pounds paid to 4.8 million workers.

I appeal to the Egyptian people to unite and confront this tendentious campaign.

Mahmud Ibrahim said: ESCO Company has formed a committee to establish a right. Therefore, there is no place for oneupmanship insofar as the court decision is concerned and no place for saying that an increase should be given to the workers, as has happened at ESCO. We seek to explore all the possibilities to give what is right. If it turns out that there are rights beyond the framework of the court decision, we will give them to the workers.

Lifting Shardi's Immunity

In its evening session, the People's Assembly agreed twice to lift the immunity of member Mustafa Shardi, the chief editor of AL-WAFD, in response to the requests submitted by Alexandria Governor Fawzi Ma'adh and journalist Musa Sabri so that a direct lawsuit may be filed against AL-WAFD's chief editor.

The committee's first report said that the governor was surprised to find Shardi publishing in AL-WAFD provocative bannerlines likely to influence the judiciary, an act constituting a violation of the law.

The second report dealt with Musa Sabri's request, which states that the charge made against Mustafa Shardi is the charge of insult and slander published in AL-WAFD.

All the opposition deputies, namely Mumtax Nassar, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Faraj, Tahir Hazin, 'Abd-al-Rahim Hammadi, and Mamduh Qinawi, asserted that this lifting of the immunity is conspiratorial because what was published by AL-WAFD is permissible and cannot influence the judiciary. The opposition deputies said that the Consultative Council had refused to lift the immunity of Musa Sabri at the request of a judge subjected to insult by Sabri whereas the People's Assembly is now lifting the immunity of a journalist who responded to Sabri's words with milder words.

The Assembly also agreed to refer to the Assembly's Office Committee a proposal submitted by 20 Wafdist members to hold a closed session this--Tuesday--morning to discuss the members' affairs and rights.

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TUNISIA

MESSAADIA PRESIDES OVER 6TH UNFA CONGRESS

Congress Begins Work

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8 Mar 86 p 3

[Text] The congress, being held only a few months after the referendum on the National Constitution, fits into the framework of the consolidation of the accomplishments of the revolution, at a time when the effects of the worldwide economic crisis will automatically reduce our export receipts. It is a congress held under the banner of systematic hard work, complying with slogans and relying on oneself, for organization has a prime role to play in the education of women, particularly mothers, in order to inculcate in them a spirit of self-discipline in using the bare minimum.

Following the election by raised hands of the congressional bureau, made up of five members and presided over by Mrs Benhabyles, delegates to the congress (477) unanimously passed the agenda and bylaws. The head of the permanent secretariat of the Central Committee gave an address marked by militant frankness and in which she developed the main lines of the tasks entrusted to the UNFA [National Union of Algerian Women] and emphasized that the women's organization is part and parcel of the vast process of nationbuilding.

Delegates to the congress began their work by electing the members of the eight committees and passing their organization's moral report.

Describing the organizational situation since the Fifth Congress, the report indicated an evolution in organic action. The number of members has risen from 140,000 in 1982 to 177,000 today.

In addition, the report notes the participation of Algerian women in various development actions.

Delegates to the congress immediately began their discussion of the moral report, followed by a reading of the candidacy committee report. The latter announced the participation of 477 out of the 491 delegates, whose cultural level is high school.

Congressional delegates also heard the reading of a congratulatory message from the Pan African Women's Organization (OPF) sent on the occasion of the congress.

The afternoon of the first day of work was marked by the reading of regional reports and the beginning of committee work.

Of particular importance in the reading of reports presented by regional delegates was the presentation of the record of activities in all areas of the organization on a national level, along with future goals and projects: Taking up the organization's material problems and involving women in the different types of action undertaken in the country are the key elements.

Tayeb Belakhdar, member of the Central Committee and secretary general of the UGTA [General Union of Algerian Workers], spoke at the congress.

"It is the right and duty of women to participate in national development action," he said. "It is needless to speak of the role and place of women in the production battle," so obvious are they in the home as well as at the work place, the UGTA official said.

Nouredine Djellouli, Central Committee member and secretary general of the UNJA [National Union of Algerian Youth], closed the series of speeches by leaders of the mass organizations and thus the work of the first day of the Sixth Congress.

Djellouli said in substance that Algerian young people are aware of the important role played by women in the country's economic and social development.

Yesterday morning, work of the second day was marked by the speech by Ahmed Ali Ghazali, member of the Central Committee in charge of economic and social affairs, and those of government officials.

The speakers were Aboubakr Belkaid, Mohamed-Cherif Kherroubi, Mohamed Nabi and Djamel Houhou, members of the Central Committee and respectively ministers of professional training and labor, justice, social protection and public health.

The foreign relations and emigration committee submitted numerous resolutions to the congress and they were unanimously adopted.

After recalling the recommendations of the Fifth Congress of the FLN and the Central Committee relative to a strengthening of the fight for independence, the resolutions call for increased support for countries fighting for their independence and freedom. They also call for a strengthening of relations with OAU and nonaligned nations.

In addition, they reiterate their support for the members of the ANC, the SWAPO and the PLO.

They stress the need to develop coordination between the Algerian organization of Algerian women and those of the Arab and African countries.

Turning to the chapter devoted to emigration, the resolutions call for an effective application of the policy of the return of that fringe of the nation. Work continued in the afternoon with the reading of committee resolutions.

Messaadia Addresses UNFA Congress

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8 Mar 86 p 3

[Text] Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and head of the permanent secretariat of the Central Committee, presided over the opening session of the Sixth Congress of the National Union of Algerian Women (UNFA) at the Palace of Nations Thursday morning.

In the important orientation speech which the congress adopted as its basic working document, Messaadia analyzed the conditions under which the congress was being held and recalled the mission and role befalling the Union with respect to the family unit and society. He called upon participants to come out with an up-to-date and feasible program of action and to designate leadership for assigned goals.

Greeting the congress on behalf of political leaders headed by President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the FLN Party, Messaadia recalled the events occurring before the Sixth Congress of the UNFA, to wit, the enrichment and widespread adoption of the National Constitution by the people, the holding of the Fifth Congress and the special party congress, as well as the immense progress made in organic, political and economic fields since the Fourth Congress.

The head of the permanent secretariat continued by observing that this congress comes on the heels of the constitutional institutions and holding of the Fifth Congress of the party, which made an objective evaluation of these institutions and defined the objectives and perspectives of the life of the revolution and the nation. It is therefore not surprising to see the great awareness of our masses, based on the fundamental options and principles of our revolution, concerning the enrichment of our National Constitution, he said.

Within this context, Messaadia proudly pointed out the high level of awareness of the masses marking debates on the enrichment of the National Constitution. This awareness is no accident, he continued, but rather, the result of great sacrifices made in a spirit of self-sacrifice by sincere militants loyal to the memory of our martyrs.

In addition, Messaadia evoked the complementary nature of the institutions of the revolution, which are the institutions of the party of the National Liberation Front, and emphasized their foundations and objectives in complete keeping with the interest of the people and the country. It is the FLN Party, he continued, which plans, guides, defines programs and supplies organic cadres for all these institutions for the purpose of enabling all social strata to become active and express themselves.

Concerning the natural extensions of the party, Messaadia said that the mass organizations (the UGTA, the UNJA, the UNPA [National Union of Algerian Peasants] and the UNFA) are organic structures practicing awareness training, mobilization, organization and effective contributions to the building of society.

Regarding the UNFA, the head of the Central Committee's permanent secretariat said that its mission is among the most difficult and complex because of considerations dictated by society and imposed by real experience.

Within that same context, Messaadia said that the idea of the institution of the National Union of Algerian Women was born with the creation of the party of the National Liberation Front because of the participation of women in the liberation struggle alongside their brothers.

Analyzing the sacred mission of women, Messaadia proudly emphasized the role played by them and pointed out their balanced presence in schools and the working world. He concluded that to do without the female element is absurd in the dictionary of militancy because of the love of Algerian women for their country and their effective participation in the task of nationbuilding.

Despite many limitations, the Union of Algerian Women has succeeded, thanks to the determination of its members, in winning important victories.

"On this occasion, it is our duty to pay homage to the efforts of all our sisters who have sacrificed themselves for the good of Algerian women," Messaadia said.

After evaluating UNFA action between the two congresses, the head of the permanent secretariat emphasized the difficulties of its mission because of the environment and stressed the qualitative progress made by the different structures.

Turning to militant action, Messaadia stated that responsibility in no way means privilege, but rather effort, contribution and sacrifice. He observed that the real leadership of this organization or any other is one guiding the masses, using persuasion rather than fear or greed.

When a shared conviction exists and when common goals have been set, the militant's awareness turns into national conscience, Messaadia added, noting in this connection the importance of the family in the education of society.

The UNFA's mission is important in the family and education because, he noted, whatever the program taught by the teacher or professor, its effectiveness depends a great deal on the education provided by the family.

Messaadia then recalled certain cultural phenomena that are foreign to our authentic culture, phenomena that constitute obstacles to aspirations to progress, aspirations of an authentic revolution that makes the very challenge its style, relying on oneself its method and the advancement of society toward a better life its objective.

Speaking of the role of women, the head of the permanent secretariat said that emigrant women are inseparable from society.

"Consequently, when we speak of women and of their role, which in this situation is on a par with the tasks to be accomplished, we are speaking of Algerian women wherever they are found," he said.

Messaadia recalled within this context the guidelines of President Chadli Bandjedid, secretary general of the FLN Party, who has repeatedly emphasized the need to provide Algerian women with an opportunity to play their complete role.

In conclusion, Messaadia urged participants to contribute to the clarification of concepts so as to draw up a program of action that will take the current phase into account, a phase characterized by the economic aggression of imperialism. (APS)

Contribution of Women Stressed

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8 Mar 86 p 3

[Article by Salima Zighem]

[Text] The presence of women is a considerable contribution of competence that must not be ignored or forgotten, said Mrs Fatma Zohra Djeghroud, secretary general of the UNFA. Deprived of their most basic rights by colonial forces, women did not hesitate to defend their country with determination and participated until the dawn of our independence in the resistance and the armed revolution. They were the guardians of our spiritual values, while preserving Algerian authenticity and our personality and maintaining in the hearts of their children our heritage and confidence in a happy future.

Within the framework of the continuity of the revolution, the speaker emphasized the role of women in the country's economic and social development, for they have proved their personality and competence in the different tasks of nationbuilding.

Turning to the situation of organization since the Fifth Congress, Djeghroud indicated an evolution in organic action. The number of members has risen from 140,000 in 1982 to 177,622.

The UNFA has responded to women's needs, Djeghroud emphasized. It has worked to ensure that they might be elevated to the role of political responsibilities at all levels of the national economy so as to participate on an equal footing with men in the different nationbuilding tasks.

Inspired by the principles and objectives formulated in our basic documents, Djeghroud said, our organization contributes effectively to strengthening party ranks by raising the level of awareness of women and improving their mobilization around the main lines of the revolution and for their effective participation in development.

Committed on the domestic level, Algerian women have, through their organization, expressed their solidarity with the struggles waged by other women in different areas of the world, while expressing the principles of our revolution in the fulfillment of objectives and for the triumph of the noble ideals of peace and justice.

Regarding education and training, Djeghroud emphasized the efforts of the organization, which has granted special attention to the broadening of the training of women.

As for the participation of women in active life, she noted that despite certain obstacles, they have enjoyed consistent progress thanks to measures taken by the government to promote the total integration of women into society. She said that progress in women's participation in government production and services is a significant sign of the level of development and one factor of economic and social progress.

Concerning the situation of emigrant women, Djeghroud emphasized that they are the main concern of our organization, which hopes that they might return to their country under the proper conditions.

In conclusion, the speaker emphasized the role of the UNFA, which must be recognized despite backward ways of thinking and prejudice.

Educational, Economic Role

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8 Mar 86 p 3

[Article by Salima Zighem]

[Text] In her speech, Minister of Professional Training Aboubakr Belqaid first of all noted the importance of the place and role which the National Constitution grants to women. The minister of professional training and labor expressed his determination to use every possible means in order, working jointly with the UNFA, to ensure fulfillment of objectives relating to the development and training of female workers.

Within this context, Belkaid did not fail to point out encouraging results already achieved in the field.

Concerning the employment of women and its development, the minister emphasized that during the first 5-year plan, it registered an average annual increase of some 20 percent, twice the rate of that registered by the overall development of employment, which was about 10 percent for the same period.

He also noted that this quantitative evolution was accompanied by an improvement in the structure of the skills of women, inasmuch as the share of skilled women rose from 32 percent in 1977 to 80 percent in 1984.

Taking up the topic of women's training, the minister pointed out that the large investments which political leaders have made in their development have made it possible to increase the number of jobs, which went from 3,500 in 1979 to 25,000 in 1985, ensure a better distribution of promotional structures throughout the national territory, widen the range of specialization from 14 in 1979 to 40 in 1985, set up 5,000 training posts as part of an apprenticeship program, organize extension training and increase the number of instructors from 250 in 1979 to 1,200 in 1986.

After affirming the willingness of the Ministry of Professional Training and Labor to join with UNFA leadership bodies in pursuing the process of the development of women's training and integration into active life, the minister also stressed the importance of the efforts yet to be made, especially in this period of international economic crisis that particularly affects Third World nations. This situation requires an increased mobilization of all the nation's live forces so as to achieve the goals of the Second 5-Year Plan under the best possible conditions.

Speaking previously, Mohamed Nabi, alternate member of the Central Committee and minister of social welfare, emphasized the need to guide women, who make up half of the Algerian population.

Concerning working women, the minister recalled the important role they play in the education of the coming generations and emphasized that they must enjoy protection in all fields. Women in the home, as wives or mothers of those belonging to the national insurance plan, can enjoy medical care in the case of illness and a number of benefits when the insured party dies.

The minister added that for their part, rightful claimants will receive reversionary pensions.

Family Protection

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8 Mar 86 p 3

[Article by R. Semmad]

[Text] Work on the second day was marked by the morning speeches of Ahmed Ali Ghazali and Djamel Houhou, both members of the Central Committee. The former is head of economic and social affairs on the party's permanent secretariat and the latter is minister of health. Topics touched upon by the two officials had to do with sectors intimately linked with current needs, but particularly decisive factors in the UNFA's effective responsibility for the problem of family planning and maternal and child care.

Ghazali told congressional delegates of the negative aspects of the increase in births, emphasizing in particular the education of mothers so that they might assume responsibility for the problem and thus bring about a balance between the country's socioeconomic development and population growth. Uncontrolled growth could constitute an obstacle to the development process, he added.

Speaking of family planning, the head of the economic and social affairs sector said that such action is not in contradiction with religion, which recognizes the need for better care of children.

For his part, after recalling that population growth has a negative influence on the health of the mother because of the great risk involved in rapidly succeeding births, as well as on economic development, the minister of health then spoke of maternal mortality, which has reached alarming proportions. The risk remains mainly due to lack of care during pregnancy and conditions of delivery. Houhou pointed out efforts being made by the government within the framework of the national health policy. He defined the main guidelines of

priority action aimed at reducing maternal mortality through improved maternity clinics, improved prenatal care at maternal and infant care centers (PMI), the development of training for obstetricians and gynecologists, the availability of contraceptives (on the market) and the spreading of information and knowledge about risks connected with pregnancy.

Regarding infant mortality, the minister emphasized that despite progress made in this field, the rate remains high, with enormous gaps between rural and urban zones. A program of action within the framework of the 5-year plan has been launched, Houhou said, in order to reduce the mortality rate to 50 per 1000. This fight will involve nursing mothers and the vaccination of children against major risks through constant followup of the child by the PMI, particularly in rural areas, where such action must be intensified.

Concerning the spacing of births, the minister of health said that the PMI are the mainstay of implementation of the policy, whose purpose is a redefinition of the role of the woman in the family and society, but also the promotion of a stable, responsible family, in keeping with national development goals.

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BAHRAIN

COMMERCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF NEW CAUSEWAY DISCUSSED

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 13 Mar 86 p 9

[Article by Sami 'Amarah: "Increased Cooperation in the Re-export Area between the Two Countries; Use of the Free Zones"]

[Text] As the date of the opening of the Bahrain-Saudi Arabia causeway approaches, there are numerous meetings among businessmen and merchants in both countries aimed at setting out a conception for cooperation, uplifting the level of commercial and economic relations between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia after the opening of the causeway and transcending the barrier of fear among some merchants and businessmen concerning what they describe as the emergence of negative effects with the causeway.

Although the Bahrain-Saudi Arabia causeway is a massive project of civilization which has been carried out as a response to the desire of the governments and people of the two countries for further rapprochement and political, social and economic solidarity and as an embodiment of the firm, historic fraternal and family relations between them, fear on the part of some businessmen and merchants exists.

This fear and anxiety on the part of some may be attributed to two main eventualities:

First is competition from Saudi merchants in the Bahrain market.

Second is diversion of the Bahraini customer to the Saudi market.

Some people are also afraid that negative effects will be inflicted on the sectors of commerce, industry, agriculture and services, as the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry memorandum stated.

Discussion on the negative effects which could have a reflection on the merchants of Bahrain after construction of the causeway project went about at a whisper among merchants in the Bahraini commercial street. This voice soon rose, turning loud and reaching the hearing of officials in the government of Bahrain and in the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, through the meetings, symposia and memoranda which discussed this fear and went beyond all the negative effects.

The Ministry of Finance and National Economy in the government of Bahrain prepared a full study on this subject and set out solutions in the form of recommendations which officials in the two countries were to study in utmost seriousness before the official opening of the causeway.

There was additional activity on the part of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Eastern Province Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Merchants and businessmen in the two countries held a number of meetings to discuss all the negative aspects which could emerge with the opening of the causeway. A joint committee was formed, the basic goal in whose formation was defined as working to raise the level of commercial and economic relations between the two countries and reduce all possible difficulties after the opening of the causeway.

No Effect on the Environment or Fish Resources

There was further activity on the part of the scientific bodies and the Society of Bahraini Engineers to discuss any effects which might arise after the opening of the causeway on the environment and fish resources. The Society of Bahraini Engineers held a symposium a few days ago to discuss this subject.

Mr Yusuf al-Shirawi, Bahraini minister of development and industry, said that the causeway had no effect on the environment or fish resources.

Mr Yusuf al-Shirawi said, "Since the causeway's technical consultant was selected, the most important thing that gave officials in the two governments anxiety was to reduce the effects of this project on the natural environment and the beauty of the causeway and also fish resources and preserve an acceptable level of seawater salinity. This subject was agreed on before a single line was drawn in execution of the project.

"I became connected with this project 30 years ago and had the honor of following up on it from its beginning, since it was decided to start on it about 25 years ago, which is a short period of time in the life of a great project such as this one, proving the determination and insistence of the ambitious leaders in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia to tie the region together."

An Opinion Poll on the Challenges the Merchants Expect

At a meeting in the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr 'Abd-al-Nabi Shu'lah, member of the chamber's board and chairman of the public relations and information committee in the chamber, said, "The subject of building the Bahrain-Saudi Arabia causeway has attracted great, extensive attention on the part of officials in the government and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce.

"The first signs of this interest became apparent from the study officials in the Ministry of Finance and National Economy prepared on the economic effects of the causeway. The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry also took the initiative by holding an opinion poll of chamber members regarding the hopes they harbored with respect to the causeway and the challenges they

expected, the presence of difficulties or negative features, and the means that could be taken to cope with such matters to reduce the severity of any negative features that might arise and make as much use as possible of any positive aspects, which are numerous, as the studies affirm.

"We delivered a copy of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry study to officials in the government in order to make use of it to the greatest possible extent in defining the policies which would govern traffic on the causeway. This was followed by a meeting among businessmen and members in the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and members of the Eastern Province Chamber of Commerce in Saudi Arabia, by invitation of the Eastern Province Chamber of Commerce. Views were exchanged and a group of decisions were made, among the most important of which was to form a committee to follow up on what had been discussed and follow up on the developments of the causeway project and the laws and statutes the two countries had embraced governing traffic on this causeway and having an effect on the movement of businessmen and merchants."

The Merchants Feel Anxiety over the Effects of Operation of the Causeway

I asked Mr 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Shu'lah whether the opinion poll had covered all the merchants.

He answered, "This poll covered a sample which reached 500 merchants representing all commercial sectors, from imports and exports, wholesale and retail trade to businessmen, commission agents and other commercial sectors."

[Question] What did this poll state?

Mr 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Shu'lah replied, "The poll stated that a number of Bahraini merchants felt anxiety over the effects that might arise from operation of the causeway. This anxiety could be attributed to two main eventualities:

"Competition from Saudi merchants in the Bahrain market.

"The diversion of Bahraini merchants to the Saudi market.

"At the outset, these fears appear to be without justification, since it is noted the prices of some goods are low in the Saudi markets in comparison with the Bahrain markets as a result of a number of factors, including low customs duties and the deductions the merchants receive in importing massive amounts of goods, not to talk about generous government subsidies.

"If these benefits the Saudi merchants enjoy continue, it is likely that the Saudi markets will attract a substantial part of the buying power of our markets. This is perhaps the major challenge which the operation of the causeway will impose on commercial circles in Bahrain at a time when numerous other opportunities are being provided to expand and develop commercial activities.

"If this discrepancy in commercial circumstances in the two countries must be corrected, it will be necessary to unify customs statutes and policies

related to incentives and subsidization of trade and other economic activities in the two countries.

"In addition to that, if Bahraini merchants are to enjoy a deduction for large transaction volumes, as do their colleagues the Saudi businessmen, it will thus be necessary to open the Saudi markets up to them. Of course that must give a corresponding opportunity to the Saudi merchant who in turn can increase the volume of his sales by adding the Bahrain market to his basically extensive one. This is the object of anxiety among Bahraini merchants, who believe that they will be the weaker party in the arena of competition, especially since the Saudi commercial community has acquired and formed a stronger financial base and broader marketing resources and the Saudi commercial environment was formed a long time ago and has become accustomed to the challenges, complexities and demands of massive markets, by virtue of the nature of the Saudi markets.

"From the viewpoint of the Bahraini merchant, Bahrain is expected to function over the long term as a transit station for a large portion of the imports directed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This will have the effect of supporting transit and re-export trade and will lead to the creation of organizations working in this area, and an increase in job opportunities in general will be generated by this."

Support for Industrial Activities and Encouragement of Investors

[Question] But will the causeway bring Bahraini merchants any benefits?

Mr 'Abd-al-Nabi Shu'lah replied, "Bahraini merchants will benefit, inevitably, if they adapt to the situation.

"The final form the course of cooperation takes will rely on laws and statutes governing the traffic of individuals and goods and services over the causeway. Even in the event the current system, which does not allow Bahrainis or Saudis to engage in trade in one another's country, is retained, Bahraini merchants will benefit ultimately from the causeway through the increase in the volume of their commercial transactions if they adapt to the changing situation and respond to the challenges.

"This will not stop at the preservation of local buying power but will go beyond that to attract new buying power from the Eastern Province. In addition to that, there are strong possibilities that numerous joint projects will be established among businessmen in the two countries.

"There is no doubt that the causeway will support industrial activities in Bahrain and the presence of a larger market will result in encouraging Bahraini investors who have traditionally continued to concentrate on commercial activities to enter into the area of industrial investments.

"It is well known that all heavy industries call for the establishment of many peripheral industries which rely on their products and many commercial activities related to them. Since the Eastern Province has become headquarters for a number of giant industrial projects, it is expected that many

auxiliary machinery industries connected to them will develop in Bahrain as one result arising from the operation of the causeway.

"The banking and financial activities sector will have a strong impetus, especially since the increase in commercial transactions will have to be accompanied by a parallel increase in banking activities. Competition among banks in financing joint projects will arise from this.

"Therefore, we note that while the causeway will involve some difficulties for people who have become accustomed to working within a limited, isolated market, the opening of the causeway will occur in conjunction with many benefits for the Bahraini economy as a whole."

Suitable Steps To Protect Trade in Bahrain

[Question] What, however, did the working paper the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented say about the causeway's economic effects on the commercial sector in Bahrain?

Mr 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Shu'lah, member of the board of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said:

"Bahrain went through a golden age in the fifties and sixties, in which trade was brisk, and Bahrain's intermediate geographic position in the Gulf and the presence of advanced ports and maritime services at that time helped this revival, helping the growth of transit and also re-export trade and giving Bahrain merchants a chance to acquire good expertise and extensive deployment abroad to meet the needs of adjacent markets. This commercial activity was marked by the advent of merchants from all countries of the Gulf to buy from the Bahraini market and its merchants, and not the opposite -- that is, Bahraini merchants did not go to these markets, and thus these activities were modest in their volume and did not grow sufficiently.

"However, in the early seventies Bahrain lost this advantage following the development of ports in the Gulf as a result of the requirements of development in these countries and activity in other centers in the Gulf to respond to regional needs. Thus, transit trade was active in Dubai and Kuwait at the expense of Bahrain, and the ports in the kingdom and Qatar fulfilled most of their requirements for goods.

"As a result of that, commercial activity in Bahrain was confined to responding to the needs of Bahrain alone, except in the sector of services connected to oil installations, while commercial activity, especially in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, grew; there merchants appeared who engaged in their commercial activity in a number of centers through the branches they established, which sometimes numbered as many as 15. Such activity in a great widespread market gave Saudi merchants an opportunity to benefit from a large volume, build administrative and marketing agencies to deal with the proliferation and even diversity of a number of marketing centers and centers of activities and also to use modern means of transport and communications among these centers, all this while the Bahraini merchant was sitting in his small market and thus lost his dynamic characteristics and was no

longer able to persevere in the ongoing competition, which threatened commerce in Bahrain with annihilation after the causeway, unless appropriate steps were taken to protect it. That reflects the view of Bahraini marchants through the poll the chamber carried out and also the meetings the chamber held with merchants, and on that basis the chamber recommended the following policies for the trade sector:

"First, to work to realize the same benefits and privileges for Bahrain merchants, in terms of commercial and financial legislation and other advantages, that Saudi merchants enjoy.

"Second, to work to unfity customs and administrative levies on imported goods.

"Third, to facilitate organizational and administrative measures helping to facilitate the flow of goods between the two parties through registered merchants only.

"Fourth, to improve loading and unloading services, facilitate the measures of customs clearance of goods and work to reduce the costs of levies for storing goods in Bahrain ports.

"Fifth, to simplify and facilitate transit trade measures in Bahrain ports and work to establish free zones close to the causeway.

"Sixth, to impose customs oversight on goods carried by travelers coming from Saudi Arabia so that it will exempt goods which are for personal use only and within the limits of a specific amount from customs duties.

"Seventh, to preserve the system of agencies in Bahrain because of the inability of Bahrain agents to compete with Saudi agents.

"Eighth, since the purpose in these policies is to protect Bahraini merchants, help them rise above the negative features which appear in conjunction with the opening of the causeway and raise their standard so that they will be able to stand and persevere in the face of Saudi merchants, and since the inevitable goal in the causeway is to liberate all restrictions and open the two markets to one another, we consider that the joint committee which was formed at the al-Dammam meeting between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia should be assigned to discuss means for liberating trade between the two countries as far as imported goods go and as far as commercial activity between them goes."

Steps To Spare the Industrial Sector Competition

With respect to the industry sector, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry stated in the working paper it presented:

"Industry in the two countries is of recent origin; it is fledgling industry which needs much support, encouragement and assistance in order that it may be enabled to stand in the face of foreign competition and contribute seriously to national product. Industry is the area which is still open to the

domestic economy in the Gulf so that it may realize some progress and growth in the current difficult circumstances. The unified economic agreement of the Cooperation Council countries has included this area in its oversight and has set out the appropriate steps for liberating it from restrictions and helping it spread in the Cooperation Council countries. These are good steps and the chamber has no reservations in their regard, but the chamber considers that the Bahraini party must hasten to adopt the steps which will spare the industrial sector unequal competition with Saudi industries, and the chamber considers it appropriate to pursue the following policies in the area of industry:

"First, granting suitable facilities to domestic industries in Bahrain which will be similar to those given industry in Saudi Arabia, so that they will be able to compete.

"Second, giving full permission for goods of national origin to move between the two countries, considering them domestic goods with both parties and giving them the advantages and protection granted to domestic goods.

"Third, on the Bahraini side, completing measures for protecting domestic industry with speed in keeping with conditions newly arising in the Gulf and internationally.

"Fourth, forming a board of industrial projects out of the private sector, which will be independent and attached to the prime minister, with the participation of the government, for which all circumstances and resources will be provided to make plans for industry, help it and care for it from the time it takes form as an idea so it can market and compete in a manner that is in keeping with the national strategy for industry.

"Fifth, permitting domestic industries to open branches for themselves for marketing in both countries without local agents."

With respect to the agricultural sector, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce presented the following recommendations:

First, reviewing the facilitation of ways and means for the movement of agricultural goods, with attention devoted in particular to their nature and reduction of all administrative and bureaucratic complications obstructing them.

Second, supporting agricultural and livestock production in the country, preserving it and increasing it so that it can stand up to the subsidized prices of Saudi production.

Third, limiting the export of certain types such as poultry and eggs and setting out rules for the imports of certain types of vegetables in the event they are locally available in specific seasons.

Special Permits Facilitate the Everyday Process of Circulating

With respect to the services sector, the chamber recommended:

First, seeking freedom of movement for citizens from either of the two countries to the other within the narrowest limits of administrative obstructions.

Second, facilitating the issuance of entry visas for businessmen and foreign tourists to visit Bahrain.

Third, seeking freedom of housing for foreigners in Bahrain and work in Saudi Arabia in accordance with special permits facilitating the everyday process of circulating to and from work.

Fourth, facilitating and regulating the entry of trucks at specific times and seeking to create inspection centers at product unloading sites.

Fifth, with the Saudi government, seeking to facilitate Saudi merchants' use of financial, banking and insurance services in Bahrain and viewing practices in Bahrain as if they were in Saudi Arabia.

Sixth, regulating the hotel sector and also regulating activity in furnished apartments in specific areas within clear limits.

Seventh, regulating the entry of private cars in a manner in keeping with road capacity and also offering public means of transport and taxis of various types scope to benefit from the flow of Saudi visitors.

Eighth, carrying out the unified economic agreement regarding freedom of work and movement of persons to work between the two countries and in areas the agreement has allowed.

Mr 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Shu'lah said, "The contents of this document are a summary of many results of joint meetings between the chamber and the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture and the chamber and the commercial and industrial sector in the country and are based on commercial public opinion polls which the chamber has carried out. The chamber is confident that the contents of this document do not differ from the orientations of the country's upright government. The interests of all parties taking part in the economic process in the country, the consumer and the merchant, were observed in a manner which will yield benefit to everyone, spare the country and its economy the dangers of unequal competition and prepare it to assume its subsequent place in the unified Gulf household."

[Question] What, however, does the study the Ministry of Finance and National Economy in the country of Bahrain say on this subject?

[Answer] The study says that it is evident that effects of a negative and positive character on the industrial sector exist, and the causeway will bring them along with it when it is inaugurated, through the summary review the paper prepared by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy tried to present in summary, concentrated form, covering and including the positive and negative efffects of the causeway and the results of their interaction, in an effort to arrive at clear results and factors for these effects, as follows:

The causeway does not deviate from the rules and initial obvious features of any process; in its totality, it is a new operation which all in all includes activities and interactions for the input and output of numerous elements from which positive and negative effects arise.

Industrial activity in the two countries will be affected by the abovementioned influences in the positive or negative sense in varying proportions.

The positive effects, as is apparent from the study, will be more concentrated over the long run, and these will to some extent cover the negative effects which for the most part will be in the short run.

The preceding conclusions are based on allowing positive and negative effects to interact with one another without intentional outside intervention to limit the effect of the negative influences over the short run and increase the effect of the positive influences over the long run.

A Basis for New Economic Relations between the Two Countries

The Bahrain-Saudi Arabia causeway, as is well known, connects Bahrain to Saudi Arabia. It connects the causeway area in Bahrain to a zone 5 kilometers from al-Khubar in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, providing a basis for economic ties between Bahrain and the Eastern Province. Through a study of the economic assets of the Eastern Province, it is to be noted that approximately 80 percent of Saudi Arabia's gross domestic product, crude oil and oil products, is generated by the Eastern Province.

One can note general similarity in the economies of the two countries, except that in the Eastern Province the character of agriculture and fishing predominates, in addition to the oil sector.

In addition to that, an industrial complex is now being established in the town of al-Jubayl in Saudi Arabia containing numerous petrochemical projects, including plastics, lubricating oils, glass, aluminum and iron ingots.

The distance between the bridge at its end in Saudi Arabia and Saudi towns is as follows: Dhahran, 15 kilometers, al-Dammam, 30 kilometers, and al-Khubar from 10 to 120 kilometers [sic].

We find that economically the link between the two areas should be considered a basis for new economic relations. However, the exact form of these relations will to a great extent depend on their legal framework. It is not yet certain if an economic federation will exist which will permit movement with freedom or whether activity will be within the emerging relationship in the Gulf Cooperation Council. In the absence of any clear statement on the foregoing, one can offer a conception of the economic effects.

Customs Duties Will Protect Domestic Products

Mr Hasan al-Nisf, deputy minister of commerce, asserted that he did not believe that there would be a special agreement between Bahrain and Saudi

Arabia. A unified economic agreement, which the countries of the Cooperation Council have signed, exists, but bilateral meetings are taking place between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia to discuss matters related to the facilitation of procedures for travel, movement and the transit of goods.

Concerning the fears of Bahrain's merchants, Mr Hasan al-Nisf, deputy minister of commerce, said, "In my opinion, the Bahrain-Saudi Arabia causeway may have a marginal effect on prices if the merchants can keep abreast of the new changes. I believe that matters will return to balanced levels and prices will become stabilized. If the consumer feels that no benefit exists in moving to buy from another market, he will prefer to deal with his own country's market."

On the fear of competition from foreign products, customs duties in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia will protect domestic products from competition from these products.

The Real Estate Market in the Two Countries Suffers from Low Demand

Concerning the rise in land and real estate prices and the rise in rents which some people anticipate, Mr Ahmad 'Ali Kanu, chairman of the board of the National Bank of Bahrain, a government bank owned by the government of Bahrain, said, once again, "There is an exaggeration in this regard, because it is not reasonable that brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia should move to Bahrain to rent apartments and houses, since there is a limit to everything. The real estate market in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait and other Cooperation Council Countries is suffering from low demand. Previously, demand was greater than supply and renters would pay what the owner of the property would ask. Now the situation has become different.

"The price of a square meter in buildings, which was 6 dinars, has dropped. Indeed, it has shrunk to 3 dinars and they cannot find tenants. The statistics we have assert that there are 16,000 vacant apartments and houses which are not rented out."

Mr Hasan 'Ali Jum'ah, director general of the National Bank of Bahrain, said, "Here in the National Bank of Bahrain we have prepared a detailed study on the situation of the real estate market in Bahrain, and the study has disclosed that the situation is not encouraging. We give warnings to people who intend to invest in the real estate market, because there is a great imbalance between supply and demand in the real estate market. In general, it is not in one's interests to enter into new investments in the real estate market, because there will be a great surplus until new demand absorbs this surplus."

Mr 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Shu'lah, member of the board of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, returned to talk about the Bahrain merchants' fear and said that this fear has grown great. The Bahraini council of ministers formed a special ministerial committee to study means for guaranteeing that the scope of the positive effects of the causeway expanded and that any negative effects were limited.

In another area, a delegation of Bahraini merchants and businessmen made a visit to al-Dammam on the basis of an invitation from the Eastern Province Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to discuss the various effects the causeway might have on commercial work and activities in both countries involving Saudi businessmen. A permanent committee was formed to study ways and means to guarantee that optimum benefits would be realized from the causeway.

At the al-Dammam meeting, which lasted for a period of 2 days, the two parties ended up issuing a statement containing a number of recommendations:

Emphasizing consideration of the two Bahraini and Saudi markets as integrated markets where each one meets the needs of the other by strengthening the bonds of cooperation between merchants in the two countries, especially merchants of a single commodity or agents of single companies, provided that that be done on organized bases so that the benefit between the two countries can be general.

Coordinating joint imports between the two countries, which will raise import competence and reduce its costs and strengthen negotiating buying power in a manner reflecting positively on both the merchant and the consumer.

Making the effort with both governments to unify customs duties in a manner yielding general benefit to citizens in both countries.

Seeking to simplify administrative and other measures in the official departments concerned in both countries to enable them to keep abreast of the requirements of the coming stage.

The construction of the causeway will make inevitable a greater amount of cooperation in the area of re-exports between the two countries, maximum possible benefit from the free zones, especially in the field of the storage of re-exported goods and cargoes, and maximum possible benefit from exemptions of customs duties in these areas. There is no doubt that this will redouble prosperity in transit activity and will realize greater benefit for merchants.

Emphasizing the regulation of commercial agencies among the bodies concerned in both countries.

Putting unified sections of the agreement among the Gulf Cooperation Council countries into application in the industrial area, seeking to support cooperation among industries which are similar in terms of production and marketing and providing the necessary incentives to protect and support the industrial sector.

Encouraging cooperation in the agricultural area between the two countries and seeking to provide self-sufficiency in food by increasing domestic agricultural products and establishing joint projects.

Seeking to establish a joint corporation between the two parties to transport passengers and freight between the two countries.

Seeking to support cooperation in the investment area between the two sectors in both countries.

By invitation of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a joint committee meeting was held recently. At this meeting the committee stressed the importance of encouraging an increase in trade between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain and making coordination between businessmen in the two countries. The committee also stressed the importance of joint projects in the industrial, agricultural, commercial and financial areas and called for an effort to provide means of cooperation and coordination between agents of the same commodities in both countries and to simplify customs and administrative measures to facilitate the movement of persons and trade between the two countries. The committee suggested the adoption of some steps to realize these goals.

Mr Qasim Fakhru, chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, asserted that what has been realized and accomplished in the committee meetings in Bahrain is a natural result of the absolute mutual trust between members of the two chambers and a result of the depth of relations and ties binding the two countries.

Concerning the Bahrain merchants' anxiety that they will turn into retailers for wholesalers in Saudi Arabia, Mr Qasim Fakhru said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are taking joint steps in the area of the Cooperation Council countries' unified economic agreement, whose sections are being carried out in stages.

One of the committee's goals is to create coordination and cooperation between the private sector in the two countries, increase the positive effects arising from the construction of the causeway and control any effects which might be viewed in the short term as negative even though they are not so in the long run. There is no doubt that the future will bring the good tidings that the Bahraini and Saudi markets will turn into a single market, meaning that the positive effects will multiply in a manner that is beneficial to the people of the two countries.

On the statement some circles have been repeatedly making regarding the presence of reservations some commercial sectors in Bahrain have raised, since the causeway will underline some negative features in the commercial sector, Mr Qasim Fakhru said "Every project or new development in every area will have positive and negative consequences. The causeway must be treated as a reality which will bring about the interests of various parties over the long term.

"The reservations some people raise are inappropriate ones. The causeway will change the commercial and economic situation only in a positive direction and constant meetings among officials in the two countries on various levels and in all frameworks are aimed at deepening the positive features and controlling the negative ones to create the greatest amount of gains and benefits for the people of the two countries.

"Finally, with the approach of the date for the inauguration of the Bahrain-Saudi causeway, this massive civilized project, while fears are fermenting

in the minds of some Bahraini merchants, I believe that they have been eliminated, now that the governments of the two countries have decided to control the negative aspects that are expected to occur. Conversely, there are ambitions and perspectives which bode well."

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IRAQ

PLANNING MINISTER DISCUSSES PRIORITIES OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 25 Jan 86 pp 25-26

[Interview with Dr Samal Majid Faraj, minister of planning, by As'ad al-'Aquli: "We Have Foiled Blockade Endeavors and Priority Goes to Repelling Aggression"; in Baghdad, date not specified]

[Text] Baghdad--With the start of the Iraqi 5-year plan of 1986-1990, the approach toward the ongoing war conditions that have persisted for more than 5 years has shifted from considering them temporary conditions to dealing with them as an ongoing reality that dictates that one adapt to it and coexist with it. The Iraqi Ministry of Planning has succeeded in establishing the desirable balance between the war efforts and the development efforts. The ministry's agencies have succeeded beyond all expectations in achieving this accomplishment, with this success reaching the point where Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has personally honored many of this ministry's workers.

To familiarize ourselves with the features of the new 5-year plan and to review the rise and development of planning in Iraq, AL-TADAMUN conducted this interview with Dr Samal Majid Faraj, the Iraqi minister of planning.

[Question] Two and a half decades have passed since the founding of the Iraqi Ministry of Planning and numerous developments have materialized during this period. What is your evaluation of the progress phases of the Iraqi planning process insofar as its basic objectives, its accuracy and comprehensiveness, and its means and instruments are concerned?

[Answer] Planning is a scientific system employed to achieve economic and social development through the ideal utilization of the available financial and human capabilities and resources. This system differs in comprehensiveness, depth, and obligation with the difference of the nature of the existing political, economic, and social system. This difference becomes clear upon reviewing the procession of planning and of development plans in Iraq.

The beginning dates back to the early 1950's when the Development Board was formed and entrusted with the tasks of preparing work programs and implementing the projects included in such programs. The source of financing was that part of the oil revenues which was allocated for this purpose.

The Development Board programs were confined to some economic sectors. The task of implementing the projects included in those programs was entrusted to the technical departments attached to the board, meaning that the board combined the tasks of preparing the programs and of implementing them. Those programs were far from being complete and comprehensive economic plans founded on clear and specific economic and social strategies and policies.

After the July 1958 revolution, the planning process entered a new, distinguished, and advanced phase when compared to the preceding phase. The Ministry of Planning was established in 1959 and it began to prepare more comprehensive plans which extended to the various economic sectors. In this phase, lasting until 1970, three development plans were drawn up, focusing on investments in the government sector only.

The year 1970 can be considered the beginning of a new phase in the country's planning procession because it represents the starting point for the 5-year plan of 1970-1974 constituted an endeavor on the path of the process of the comprehensive planning of the Iraqi economy. A general national development strategy was drawn up within the framework of that plan.

The past 5 years of the country's planning efforts have witnessed evident development in the content and dimensions of the planning process, in addition to the achievement of greater accuracy in the plans prepared. A broad scientific planning base founded on a profound study and a careful analysis of the real condition and development of the Iraqi economy has been established so that it may act as the sound starting point for the scientific forward surge in preparing the development plans. Moreover, emphasis has been put on developing and completing all the planning dimensions and attention has been focused on the 5-year and regional plans, in addition to the annual plans. Obvious attention has also been devoted to long-range planning and to production planning.

[Question] The Third 5-year Plan (the 1981-1985 plan) has ended. What is your evaluation of the general level of implementation of the plan's major objectives and indicators?

[Answer] Good efforts have been exerted by all the ministries and executive agencies to complete the projects stipulated in the annual investment plans. It is obvious that from 1981 until the present, Iraq has been living for more than 5 years under extraordinary circumstances resulting from the Iranian aggression. The efforts have had to be united in two main directions:

First, repel the aggression and achieve military victory on all the battlefronts.

Second, bolster and entrench the economic base and strengthen the development procession.

It is worth stressing here that hundreds of important basic projects have been actually implemented in the industry, energy, agriculture, transport, and communications sectors, not to mention the projects to supply basic services to the citizens in the spheres of education, healthcare, culture, and other areas.

[Question] In President Saddam Husayn's statements, beginning with the start of implementation of the Second National Development Plan of 1976-1980, the emphasis has been put on fundamental issues which have to be tackled within the framework of the planning process, especially the issues of coordination between the economic production and service sectors and of bolstering the followup procedure with the aim of narrowing the gap that has continued to exist between the objectives and indicators of the annual and 5-year development plans and the level of their implementation. What is your evaluation of the relative degree by which these issues have been tackled?

[Answer] The fundamental gaps characterizing some of the previous plans include the inadequate attention given to two main axes in the sphere of planning, namely coordination and integration between the economic sectors, especially the agricultural and industrial sectors, and to the achievement of spatial balance in development; i.e., the rational, equal, and balanced distribution of development projects among all parts of the country. This is why attention has had to be focused on overcoming this fault and why scientific studies have been conducted with the aim of developing fundamental and detailed cures and of embodying them within the framework of the development plans.

On the other hand, it has been noticed that there was a difference between the objectives set for the previous 5-year plans and the accomplishments actually achieved. This difference resulted from numerous factors, including the lack of accuracy in setting objectives and the change in the actual and objective circumstances following the approval of those plans, in addition to the procrastination and delay which afflicted certain aspects of implementation of the development plans. It is certain that the inadequate follow-up, especially follow-up in the field, at certain junctures of the work had its negative impact in this regard.

[Question] Under the war circumstances, the economic agencies, particularly the planning agencies, have been faced with the task of making the necessary modifications to make the plans compatible with the current developments. This fact is reflected in the Third National Development Plan (1981-1985). What are the most significant steps and measures taken to give the necessary dimensions to the process of economic adaptation to the requirements of the war phase?

[Answer] The war imposed on Iraq is a severe and ferocious war by virtue of its allout nature, its aggressive intentions, and its fierce battles. The Iranian enemy's objectives include the objective of paralyzing or inflicting the heaviest damage on the Iraqi national economy. Being aware of this fact, the leadership has formulated policies and plans seeking to bolster and strengthen the capacities and capabilities of the Iraqi economy so that it may remain strong and firm and may continue to be the solid base supporting the battlefronts and contributing to bolstering our army's morale and combat capabilities. Major steps and policies have been charted to confront the war of aggression. Before anything else, we should note the mobilization and enlightenment of the popular masses and the reinforcement of their morale so that they may shoulder their historic duty in this decisive phase of the country's history. This has been done through various means and methods of

political, informational, and mobilizational action. This popular mobilization is considered the broad base without which all the economic policies and development plans cannot be implemented and brought to fruition. This is in addition to the actual participation required for the direct war effort.

In addition to this main starting point, there are other starting points for the strategic action under the canopy of the war, especially:

1. Putting the emphasis on enhancing productivity and improving the performance level.

2. Introducing some changes into the development plans' tendencies and directions to insure that these plans focus on investments that serve the war effort primarily and then focus on the other aspects.

3. Reconsidering the fiscal, currency, price, and wage policies and other policies.

[Question] Iraq has overcome the consequences and ramifications of the attempt to impose a blockade on its national economy through the so-called "war of attrition" launched by the Iranian regime or through the closing of the pipelines passing through Syrian territories and the closing of the Syrian borders themselves in the face of the movement of goods by land in both directions. What are the factors that have enabled Iraq to overcome the hostile blockades and what impact will this Iraqi success have on the general frameworks, spheres, and priorities of the investment plan approved for 1986?

[Answer] In the pre-war years, Iraq was able to make a long stride in building a firm economic base by utilizing the state resources to develop and expand the production and service activities. Iraq also expanded the scope of its foreign export and import dealings through numerous and varied outlets and sources. This strategic approach and these serious actions, as well as the new economic policies developed to be compatible with the war conditions, have had their effective role in enabling the Iraqi economy to stand fast.

Regarding oil exports, for example, Iraq has been able to build and develop broad and varied outlets. The blockade of some outlets as a result of the war has not affected the capability to export this important wealth. As for the partial blockade which had developed at one time, it has been eliminated with the construction of the strategic pipeline to export oil via Saudi Arabia, the first phase of which has already been completed and put into operation. This is in addition to enlarging the capacity of the Turkish pipeline, keeping in mind that work goes on to complete the second phase of the Saudi pipeline and to build another pipeline next to the existing Turkish pipeline.

There is no doubt that enhancing the financial capabilities will provide greater opportunities to strengthen and entrench the national economy by building greater production capacities and developing the existing capacities. The 1986 investment plan, which is an extension of the country's comprehensive development procession, seeks primarily to complete hundreds of production and service projects whose implementation started in the war years.

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ISRAEL

RABIN REPORTEDLY LOSING CONTROL OF DEFENSE MINISTRY

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Mar 86 p 7

[Article by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] At least seven names have been mentioned as possible successors for Menahem Meron, who was director general of the Defense Ministry. Mr Rabin did not like some of them at all; others, who seemed better qualified, did not want the complex job. Maj Gen (reserve) David 'Ivri was offered the job in the past, by Ari'el Sharon, but he turned it down and preferred the appointment as acting chairman of the aerospace industry. He held the job for only 1 year, was rather successful at it, and only Rabin's difficulties apparently convinced him to accept the offer which he had rejected in the past.

David 'Ivri is taking upon himself responsibilities in the areas where Rabin himself failed, i.e., the management of the Defense Ministry. One and a half years after assuming office as defense minister it is obvious that Rabin has not instituted any changes in the civilian section of his office. Things have continued to deteriorate. The civilian section of the Defense Ministry is in the shadow, as far as the public is concerend, because the media's attention is focused on the military part of the system, the IDF, its operations, and all that pertains to them. But one ought to remember that this is the largest government office, with the largest budget. What happens there has direct implications not only on the IDF but also on large industrial and economic systems.

Rabin's failure in the Defense Ministry is most prominent in two areas. The first is the budget. The ministry, and the minister heading it, have very poor control over the defense budget. Some experts maintain that there are signs of loss of control. The minister and his top advisors are led by operational budgetary constraints rather than managerial aspects. Offices which are common to both the IDF and the Defense Ministry (such as the planning office and the financial advisor to the chief of staff, who is also head of the budget office in the ministry) are pulling in opposite directions. The Finance Ministry, which is trying more than ever to understand the complexities of the Defense Ministry's budget, has not been any more successful.

The other area where Rabin's poor leadership in the Defense Ministry is showing is the increasing power of the workers' committee. This is not a body which deals primarily with improving the working conditions of its members. It is a very strong union, with veto power, which is often abused by intervention in important appointments in the ministry. Appointments are hampered or delayed. At issue are not only appointments of top officials, such as the deputy director general, the leadership of acquisitions management, or external liaison, but the union intervenes in appointments of mid-level managers, such as economists and auditors in the audit office, or economists for the Lavi project.

Last year the defense system auditor, Maj Gen (reserve) Shlomo Har'el, was very critical about the union. Among others, he said in his report that Mr Rabin finds it difficult to appoint auditors from within his ministry because he cannot find qualified people. He can find qualified former officers, but the union foils any attempt to appoint anyone from outside. As a result internal auditing on economic issues is lacking. Har'el's criticism was directed not only at the union but primarily at the management of the Defense Minisstry, which is unwilling, so he said, to face the problem and insist on its authority, although both the law and labor contracts so stipulate. The auditor said that he considers it a serious flaw and he called on the ministry's management to remove the union from intervention on auditing issues. This happened a year ago. Nothing has changed since.

Not just one department is affected. Actually the whole ministry is stagnant. This has been going on for years. One proof is the tendency of the better people to leave. Many progress to a certain point and then leave. Few qualified young people have been joining the Defense Ministry in recent years. Those who get there leave after a few years. Thus there is an attrition of personnel who have been trained at great cost.

One could point out some examples of this poor control, but too many details are superfluous. It is obvious that better leadership and control could have prevented some of the complications. When one looks for achievements in recent years, they are hard to find. Even arms exports have only been able to maintain previous levels with great difficulty, all thanks to efforts that were made in the past.

When the director general who just resigned, Menahem (Mendi) Meron, joined the Defense Ministry, he was given wide authority by the then defense minister, Moshe Arens. This was in complete contrast to his three predecessors (Yosef Ma'ayan, Avraham Bar-Yosef, and Aharon Beyt-Halahmi) not all of whom had their minister's full trust, or who served for only short periods. Meron's mistake was the priorities he set for himself. He opted to be, first and foremost, the Defense Ministry's "foreign minister." As a result he traveled abroad more than any of his predecessors. Subjects such as the strategic cooperation with the United States benefited, but others, just as important, were impacted because of this.

David `Ivri has a big job awaiting him. He will has no choice but to put the budget on top of his priority list. He can expect some very harsh battles on that issue within the ministry and in the IDF as well. But it would be wrong

to assume that it is possible to separate the budget from the union, because managing and controlling the budget necessitates the proper appointments. It is hard to believe that the "industrial peace and quiet" that Rabin wanted to institute in the ministry and in the IDF are a formula for success.

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ISRAEL

NEW SCHEDULES FOR RESERVE UNITS SET

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Mar 86 pp 1, 9

[Article by Yosef Walter, political correspondent for MA'ARIV]

[Text] The IDF has started reorganizing the training schedules of all field units. The plan is part of a substantial change in the conception of training stemming from the budgetary difficulties. According to the plan, which was worked out in the field command and in the planning office of the chief of staff, field units will train in a 3 year cycle. Starting with the 1986 training schedule, beginning on 1 April, only some of the field units will be ordered for reserve service. Other units will only be called for curtailed periods. Yet others will not be called at all. Those who will not train at all in the 1st year will be ordered for a curtailed schedule the following year and for a full schedule, which will complete the training plan, the 3d year.

The plan will enable the allotment of more resources, especially more machine time, for those units that will be called for a complete training schedule, at the expense of those units not called at all.

This is in contrast to the schedule employed so far, according to which all field units were recalled every year for short training periods. Thus every unit received "something of everything." Schedules had to be lacking and machine time had to be curtailed, which in turn reduced the effectiveness and skill of the reserve system.

The new plans makes it possible to offer proper training for all units and implement new battle techniques, as well as the lessons from the Lebanese War, while, at the same time, stressing some other elements such as night warfare.

Senior military officials stress that the new plan enables better utilization of human resources. Most of the stress will still take place among infantry units.

Special orders were issued by the Manpower Command in order to create the proper balance between operational activities and the training schedules. The

orders came in the form of detailed instructions, designed to decrease substantially the reserve duties for both officers and enlisted. These directives are intended to divide up the reserve duties among all field units.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently approved additional dispensations for new immigrants. These dispensations were set up in coordination with the absorption minister in order to facilitate the process of absorption of new immigrants.

The changes that were approved pertain to immigrants who arrived in Israel at the age of 24-28 and who have served, according to current directives, for 12 months. These immigrants will be sent directly to the reserves from now on and will be trained for a period of up to 120 days. It was also agreed that new immigrants over the age of 48 will not be drafted at all, except when they volunteer. According to current regulations these immigrants were drafted for civil defense. All dispensations are to become effective on 1 April.

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ISRAEL

POLICE INTELLIGENCE FAILING IN ARAB SECTOR

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Mar 86 p 9

[Text] Crime in the Arab sector has been rising in recent years. The police do not have a complete picture of the extent of the problem in Arab towns, especially because of the tendency of many Arabs not to report cases of delinquency and crime. The presence of the police in the Arab sector is lacking and needs improvement and reassessment. The subject was discussed recently at the police high command. Action plans were prepared and it was determined how to improve the situation and increase both presence and control of the police in Arab towns. But budgetary and manpower problems are preventing implementation of the plan.

The greatest difficulty, which has been bothering those responsible for reducing crime for a long time now, is in employing intelligence and surveillance sources for the purpose of uncovering crimes in Arab centers in the country. This problem is not likely to be resolved even if the police presence in the Arab sector is increased. Chiefs of investigation and intelligence and police officers on the scene do not hide their concern. They feel that they have no intelligence control over large segments of the Arab underworld in Arab towns. Because of the special nature of the Arab sector it is difficult to plant agents and informers in Arab towns, even the large ones. People know each other very well and the chance of agents being uncovered is very high and puts them in great danger. As a result, criminal intelligence received by the police is only partial.

In addition, the budgetary problems, the shortage of undercover vehicles, and the difficulty in enlisting good agents, again because of budgetary constraints, prevents contacts with good intelligence sources within the Arab sector. Opportunities to enlist informers and maintain close contact with them is impossible because those responsible cannot ensure that meetings with the informers will be secret. There are no budgets for apartments to serve as meeting places and for undercover vehicles which can ensure the safety of the informers whose exposure may cost them their lives.

In secret discussions held recently, police intelligence voiced their concern that intelligence is now at a very low ebb from the point of view of being able to cover anything in the Arab sector. They said something had to be done soon to improve the situation. They also pointed out that intelligence

liaisons in many Arab towns are really not qualified for the job. They have not been properly trained, they are not experts in the Arab way of life and in Arab mentality, and some do not even speak Arabic. Crime in the Arab sector has been on the rise. There is widespread illegal possession of guns and other explosives; there are break-ins, thefts, arson, and assaults, criminal and nationalistic in nature. In view of all this, police intelligence is now trying to find a solution, partial as it may be, so as to widen and deepen their "feelers" in the Arab sector.

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ISRAEL

POLICE RELATIONS WITH ARAB SECTOR IMPROVING

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Mar 86 p 9

[Text] It is a known fact that the police have problems in dealing with the Arab sector, both in enforcing the law and in cooperation with the Arab population. There are communication problems between the Arab citizens and the police. These problems not only impair the police's ability to function in the Arab sectors, but also cause complaints of Arab citizens against the police. These complaints often result from misunderstanding and lack of recognition by the police of its rights and responsibilities toward the citizens on the one hand, and lack of knowledge by the citizens of their rights and obligations toward the police, on the other hand.

The manager of the Arab language broadcasts, Edmund Shaykh, together with the director general of the Police Ministry, Gad Aviner, thought of initiating a regular radio broadcast, designed to improve communications between the police and Arab citizens. The initiative received police blessing. According to the plan, there will be a bi-weekly half hour broadcast. The program will consist of questions by Arab listeners on issues related to the police, and responses by the police to these questions. Questions will generally be taped so that the police representative has an opportunity to verify the subject and prepare an authoritative response. It is possible that some of the broadcast will be live. Listeners will contact the police representative by phone in the studio.

Those in charge are now finalizing the plans for the broadcast and the selection of the staff. It is to be headed by a senior police officer who knows the problems of the Arab sector. The initiators of the broadcast hope that in addition to resolving specific problems, the broadcast will also help in relieving the feeling of discrimination that many Arab citizens feel and will also contribute to better cooperation with the police.

8646
CSO: 4423/99

ISRAEL

FOREIGN MINISTRY'S COMPUTER CODE COMPROMISED

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Mar 86 pp 1, 11

[Text] The secret code of the Foreign Ministry's computer has been broken and an unauthorized person has been able to access material stored therein. Security officers of the ministry have a suspect, a female employee. The question whether any of the material has been passed on to other unauthorized persons is now being investigated.

The news of the breach of security, or at least the fact that an unauthorized person was able to break the code, was found out when the secretary of Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir noticed that substantial changes had been made to a speech that Mr Shamir was to give at the opening of the Herut conference in Binyaney Ha'uma. The minister's speech, classified documents, and other memos of the minister and Director General David Kimche are all stored in the ministry's computer.

About 2 hours before Shamir was scheduled to give his speech, his secretary tried to get printouts of the most current version of the speech, so they could be distributed to reporters. When she tried to display the text on her screen she was unable to do so. At first she thought that something had happened. She therefore tried a previous version, which had since been updated.

When she finished printing that version out, she checked it out again. She was now able to display the later version, which earlier she had not been able to access. When she read the text she panicked, as she realized that someone had completely changed the speech.

She called the security officers, who, in turn, alerted the minister's aide, Yosef Ahime'ir, who was within Binyaney Ha'uma, to make sure that Mr Shamir had the correct text. Ahime'ir reached the podium 5 minutes before Shamir started his speech. It turned out that Mr Shamir had the correct copy. Had he read the wrong speech, it would have been quite a fiasco.

The manipulated copy had some glaring errors. For example, the sentence, "This is the first conference without the participation of the father of the

movement, its founder, leader, and guide, Menahem Begin." The word "guide" was replaced by "misguide" and a new sentence was added: "Anyone taking his place is but nothing compared with him."

In the sentence, "We will work sometimes with our partners and sometimes against them in order to overcome all the difficulties and traps," some words were changed. The first "sometimes" was replaced with "always" and the second "sometimes" was replaced with "never." Instead of saying, "We have to strengthen and enlarge the national camp," the altered speech read, "We have to weaken and diminish the nationalistic camp."

"Love of Israel draws us closer to the observant segment of the population" was replaced by "Israel's seat of power is what brings Israel closer to religious enforcement." The last sentence: "Yes to a large, popular, successful and victorious Herut" was mutilated to "Yes to a minuscule, worrisome, and misleading Herut."

As soon as the compromise of the computer, in which most sensitive state secrets are stored, was discovered, an intensive investigation was launched in order to uncover who the culprit was and what other material had undergone such "cosmetic" treatment. The investigators are also trying to determine whether any information leaked outside the ministry. The investigators were able to determine immediately from which terminal the changes had been made.

Following that, a suspect was also discovered--one of the Foreign Ministry's employees. Her motives for this unusual act are not clear. Previous suspicions that those opposing Shamir within the party or even interested persons from other parties were involved were quickly dispelled.

Management is now debating how to deal with the suspected employee, but first of all the investigators want to determine whether or not any other sensitive material was compromised.

The minister's aide, Yosef Ahime'ir, said that usually Shamir does not read his speeches. But because this speech was so important, and because he wanted to be very accurate with his information and nuances, Shamir chose to read this particular speech. Otherwise, the fact that an unauthorized person found a way to access the most secret documents of the Foreign Ministry may not even have been discovered.

8646
CSO: 4423/99

LEBANON

AMAL LEADER BARRIE VISITS HOMETOWN OF BO

Freetown WE YONE in English 13 Feb 86 p 7

[Text] The recent inauguration ceremonies of the president gave members of the Lebanese community in Bo an opportunity to rub shoulders with an old colleague who grew up with them there twenty-eight years ago, and is now Lebanon's Minister of Justice.

The visiting minister 45-year-old Mr Nabih Barrie, who is leader of the Amal group, was accompanied to Bo by the minister of education, Dr A.F. Joe Jackson, who is MP for Bo Town and business tycoon Mr Jamil Sahid Mohamed.

The party which traveled by helicopter was met on arrival at the Bo Presidential Lodge by Chiefdom Speaker Pa Sellu Momoh who deputised for Paramount Chief J. K. Boima III the Chairman of the Lebanese community Mr Mohamed Fawaz and senior government officials.

Then the visitor was taken in a long motorcade through the streets of Bo to the house of Pa W.B. Coker at Damballa Road where he grew up with his dad, Mustapha Barrie (now dead) and his mother, Fatmatta Barrie.

Later at a reception held at the Bo International Club, Mr Barrie said he was happy to be Bo again and told his Lebanese compatriots that they should never neglect the place where they earn their livelihood.

He urged them to work, amicably with Sierra Leonean counterparts social and economic development of this nation.

As a token of appreciation for the benefits he had personally received from Bo, Mr Barrie disclosed that he has planned to build an ultra-modern clinic this year for the people of the area.

The construction is to be supervised by Mr Jamil Sahid Mohamed, he said.

/9365
CSO: 3400/1480

KHALIL AL-WAZIR ON RELATIONS WITH JORDAN, SYRIA

Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Feb 86 pp 14-17

[Interview with Khalil al-Wazir [Abu Jihad], deputy commander of the Palestinian forces and Fatah Central Committee member, by Yusuf Hasan: "Abu Jihad: 'Military Dispersal Has Not Weakened Our Military Activity, We Do Not Differ With Jordon as Mush as With America, Halt in Amman Discussions Is Temporary'"; in Amman, date not given]

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad (Khalil al-Wazir), deputy commander in chief and Fatah Central Committee member, is one of those who participated in the Palestinian-Jordonian dialogue from its beginnings and who had a share in formulating the agreement of 11 February 1985.

Abu Jihad actively participated in the Palestinian-Jordonian discussions that took place this February in Amman, with Commander in Chief Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] heading the Palestinian side. Their purpose was to strengthen joint movement with Jordan to reach a formula agreeable to us for holding an international conference.

Brother Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), deputy commander in chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution and Fatah Central Committee member, is one of the leaders of the revolution who participated from the beginning in the stages of the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue and who had a share in formulating the joint Palestinian-Jordanian communique. He was an active participant in the discussions that the delegation of Palestinian leaders headed by Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] held with Jordanian officials about strengthening joint movement to reach a formula correct and agreeable to us for the holding of an international conference.

Our delegate to Amman visited Abu Jihad and held the following important political conversation with him:

[Question] Brother Abu Jihad, how do you evaluate the recent discussions in Amman with our brothers, the officials of the fraternal Arab country of Jordan?

[Answer] First, as for the Palestinian-Jordanian discussions, they were intensive in nature and aimed at strengthening Palestinian-Jordanian political movement based on the well-known Palestinian-Jordanian agreement, at reaching

a shared conception of the principles of the American administration, as well as at carrying on a dialogue about the formula for an international conference.

As usual, an atmosphere of brotherhood dominated the talks, in spite of the warmth of the discussion and the failure to reach a single shared vision of how to proceed. This was so because the Palestinian side has a set of inviolable nationalistic premises which serve it as a point of departure in all its dialogues and discussions. These premises were announced directly when the Palestinian-Jordanian accord was announced, and they have been repeated publicly on numerous occasions. They include adherence to the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination, which is a sacred right accorded to all peoples of the world by international covenants. As for Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967, the PLO position on it is clear: The PLO rejects the resolution insofar as it treats only a part of the Palestinian issue, namely the issue of the refugees. If there is to be talk about this resolution and about Resolution 338 issued by the Security Council in 1973, it must come through affirmation of all United Nations and Security Council resolutions relating to the Palestinian issue. Resolutions 242 and 338 represent only one side of them. Furthermore, the PLO must be represented at the international parties.

Relations with Jordan

[Question] Is there progress or change in the American position on our national problem, especially following the recent statement issued by the U.S. State Department?

[Answer] When Washington proposed certain ideas that the Jordanians transmitted to us, we were unable to find certain basic primary principles in these ideas and formulas--especially as regards recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and our right to self-determination. In addition, they want us to agree to Resolution 242 by itself, without a commitment to the other international resolutions relating to the Palestinian issue. Thus the PLO position was to reject the proposed American formulas. We offered three suggestions for proposals and formulas that might form the basis for political movement toward the international conference. These suggestions were based on the fundamental Palestinian principles to which our people aspire and that emanate from decisions of the Palestinian National Council.

When we were confronted with the American rejection of our suggestions and by Washington's refusal to recognize our national rights as a people, our right to self-determination, and our right to propose a method of handling the Palestinian issue based on all UN resolutions, not just on 242, the discussions came to a halt, especially since the Palestinian and Jordanian sides saw that these talks had encountered an obstacle in the American refusal. The talks were halted for a time in the hope of continuing them at another opportunity--it being desirable for the Palestinian and Jordanian sides to move, each in its own way, in the Arab, international, and even the American arena, in order to move matters forward and use all possible means of pressure to develop the American stand on the Palestinian right to self-determination. This is not an easy matter, nor are these simple tasks. We have no illusions. None of us are unaware of American-Israeli strategic cooperation.

There are two issues that must be clarified: First, concerning the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship, the question is whether the halting of these discussions means the outbreak of a difference with Jordan, and hence a break and a mutual distancing. Our answer is that the PLO insists that a difference of opinion need not mean a break or a negative impact on bilateral relations, nor need it mean involvement in propaganda battles. We state here, as was stated in the discussions by brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and all the members of the Palestinian delegation, that the PLO desires a bilateral Palestinian-Jordanian relationship and desires to preserve the Palestinian-Jordanian accord as a basis for these relations. If we differ with the American administration on its refusal to recognize our rights fully, that does not mean that a Palestinian-Jordanian disagreement has taken place because of the American position. Over the past, we have achieved and built up a formula for a relationship, one that must not be thrown to the winds because of Washington's negative stand on our right to self-determination.

As for the American position recently announced by a spokesman for the American State Department: that negotiations on the ultimate disposition of the West Bank and Gaza, not to mention settlement of boundary lines and the nature of security arrangements, must also recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people; that the manner in which these rights are exercised will become clear as the negotiation process proceeds; that Palestinian participation is necessary at every stage of the negotiation process; that the Palestinian problem is more than a refugee problem; and that there must be no confusion between UN Resolution 242 and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, since the two things address different issues and are, as the American expression put is, mutually complementary. To this we say: The position contains nothing new, because it does not reach the heart of the basic problem and the fact of the matter, which is recognition of our right to self-determination.

The American position continues to dodge, evade, and maneuver around this reality. The struggle of our people will therefore continue until the American administration realizes that there can be no peace in this region without granting our right to self-determination. The explosive tension will continue as long as the American administration and the Israeli enemy deny us a right accorded to the rest of the peoples of the world: our right to self-determination, freedom, independence, and the building of our Palestinian state.

Relations with Syria

[Question] What about a possible improvement of relations with Syria, especially since certain groups and the press are saying that some members of the Central Committee may visit Damascus?

[Answer] First, we did not begin the hostility. We were victims of Syrian hostility against us and against our independent Palestinian national base, which they tried and are still trying to seize. There position in the 1982 war was part of this. Then came their position during the crime of our besiegement in Tripoli and their political position towards us, which included continual propaganda attacks on the PLO, an attempt to prevent the National Council from

meeting, continual hostility toward the Palestinian leadership, and encouragement of the assassination of the martyr Fahd al-Qawasimah.

We were always on the defensive. We always said that this is a side battle, one that we do not want to continue, since it is an Arab-Arab fight. We are the people who lose most by it. We must all direct our efforts against our enemy, whose hostility toward our nation is becoming more vicious. Its continual attacks on the headquarters of the PLO leadership in Tunis or on the camps in southern Lebanon, as well as the interception of the aircraft carrying the assistant general secretary of the Syrian Ba'th Party, 'Abdallah al-Ahmar--these things give a picture of the haughtiness of Israeli power. They should shake our entire nation into waking up and stopping this Arab-Arab fight, so that we can stand together to confront this Israeli danger that threatens our entire nation.

We have therefore favored every step toward a meeting with Syria. We have supported everyone who could act a on intermediary to put a stop to this side conflict and restore Palestinian-Syrian relations to their natural course. We have said this to many of our Arab brothers and repeated it at Arab summit conferences and meetings. It was restated at international meetings in Moscow and in all the socialist countries, and affirmed at a meeting of some of our brother leaders with a number of Syrian officials. This is proof of our desire that the area of conflict between us and our brothers not widen and that this Arab bloodshed cease, so that the Palestinian-Syrian relationship can return to its natural course. We emphasize a number of realities:

First, we want relations to be normal and to return to their course in a brotherly fashion, one based on a situation of equals and partners, not of subjects and subordinates.

Second, our point of departure for restoring the relationship is a foundation of correct national understanding of the dimensions of our battle and struggle with our enemy. We are the people who understand that enemy best. Hence, our desire for a relationship with Damascus does not come out of pleading or begging; it comes our of the logic of national commitment on which our Palestinian struggle is based in our battle against the Zionist enemy.

Third, we announced from Baghdad the PLO Central Committee's decision to stop replying to the attacks that Syria is continually aiming against the PLO in the media and elsewhere. This was done as an initiative and as a basis for restoring the relationship.

Fourth, we do not interfere in Syrian internal affairs. This is a truth that the Syrians knew when we were in Damascus and Lebanon. It is the same position that we affirmed after our forced departure from Syria and Lebanon after our conflict with them, and it is what we again affirm for the future. In return, the Syrian brothers ought to stop all interference in our Palestinian domain.

Fifth, we fully desire the unity, sovereignty, and independence of Lebanon. We want Lebanon to be within the Arab framework and within the circle of Arab national obligation. We do not interfere in the way the Syrian regime carries

on its relations with Lebanon; we do, however, reject Syria's method of acting against our Palestinian camps in Lebanon and on using certain tools to strike at our people in those camps, as happened in Sabra and Shatila. What we call for is a halt to attacks on our camps and on our people there, reinforcement of the security, safety, and freedom of action of our people, and their continued residence in the camps in which they have lived since 1948.

Relations With the Soviets

[Question] How do you view relations with the socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union?

[Answer] We in the PLO and Fatah have always been eager for our relationship with our Soviet comrades to continue, develop, and be strengthened.

It would be appropriate for us to recall the history of this relationship since its beginning. When the revolution was launched, there was uncertainty in the Soviet position on the Palestinian struggle, an uncertainty accompanied initially by doubts based on false information. A series of contacts subsequently corrected this information, and there began between us a relationship founded on understanding of the nature of our struggle and of our movement and revolution as a national liberation movement. We did not misrepresent our true nature by claims to this or that political direction. We affirmed that we were a progressive vanguard movement for national liberation struggling against the Zionist enemy and American imperialism. On this basis, relations began to develop and meetings increased. Cooperation acquired the solidity it had when we were in Lebanon during the years 1973-82. Occasionally, there were periods of slackening, but we overcame them by mutual dialogue and resumed normal, strong relations. In the recent period, we should not lose sight of the fact that the Syrian regime and some Arab communist parties have been giving false information about PLO positions, information full of distortion, and that the result has been misunderstanding on the party of the Soviets. This was especially true after the Palestinian-Jordanian accord. The Syrian attack on it caused the Soviet Union to raise many questions about the nature of the agreement, with the implicit fear that we were supporting a separate solution without Soviet participation. However, we persisted patiently and resolutely in carrying on dialogue with the Soviet comrades through their delegates and representatives in the region and through continued visits to Moscow. We were able to clarify the nature of our political moves and the problems confronting the Palestinian struggle. We made it clear who was working to split the Palestinian ranks and who wanted the fragmentation of its unity to continue. We showed what great efforts the PLO and Fatah leadership had exerted for national unity and for a halt to Syrian hostility toward the PLO, and how we were striving ceaselessly on the Arab front to firmly establish a Soviet role in the international conference, working through Arab conferences, especially the recent summit conference in Casablanca, and through the PLO's continued political moves everywhere. These and other efforts began to thaw the chill in our relations. The recent visit by a delegation of PLO leaders to Moscow was a practical and positive step on this path. Our delegation affirmed all these points, as well as our eagerness to continue the Palestinian-Soviet relationship unaffected by attacks launched against it from--as the Soviets put it --a personal, rather than an ideological or national point of departure. The

Soviet comrades affirmed their desire for a continued relationship with the PLO, as well as the PLO's role in the struggle against imperialistic plans aimed at the Arab region and its peoples and at the right of the Palestinians.

We can now say that warmth has begun to return once more to this relationship based on a realistic understanding of our position. For our part, we continue to affirm the soundness of our position and our continued care for firm premises. [The relationship] is also based on independent Palestinian decision, neither dependent nor subservient. We are eager for friendly relations because of our belief in the progressive vanguard role the Soviet Union can play in supporting our struggle and the struggle of peoples that are fighting against subjection, agression, and imperialistic domination.

Logistical Dispersal and Operations

[Question] Following the Palestinian military dispersal as a result of the 1982 war in Lebanon, we have noticed--especially this year and last--that operations have increased in the occupied territories. The PLO and Fatah have repeatedly announced that operations will increase, and the newspapers of the Israeli enemy continue to talk about uncovering cells and the existence of other cells. From another point of view, the newspapers of the Israeli enemy have a lot to say about the return of the commandos to southern Lebanon. Recently, the newspaper HADASHOT for 18 December 1985 claimed that 8,000 Palestinian fighters had returned to Lebanon. Doubtless, the figure is exaggerated, but it means that the division of our fources has not deprived us of a presence in southern Lebanon. Also, our operations in the occupied territories have increased. Although a subject such as this touches the security of forces and of the revolution, could we learn something about the general features of Palestinian logistics?

[Answer] When the PLO was forced to spread its forces to nine separate bases in the Arab region, it was a matter of necessity imposed upon us by the circumstances and by the results of the battle of Beirut. We wanted to leave Beirut for the Biqa', but they refused. Then we asked that we might all leave for Syria, but the brothers in Syria unfortunately turned down our request. They responded by approving the reception of only 2,100 fighters, on condition that there be among them 1,000 men from al-Sa'iqah and the Syrian Ba'th--meaning that the remaining fighters would not al allowed to go to Syria. According to the figures broadcast by the Multinational Forces command on the eve of our departure, there were no fewer than 14,000 fighters and freedom-fighters who had to leave Beirut. These forces were divided among nine regions. Many people believed that this great dispersal meant the end of the activity of Palestinian guns--that we would be absorbed into those societies, just as they thought that our people, after their great dispersal to many Arab countries far from their homeland in the wake of the great national catastrophe of 1948, would be absorbed into the Arab environment and forget their cause. They believed that "General Fatigue-and-Weariness" would defeat us where their own generals had failed and that we would be swallowed up by the problems we faced. However, by the will of our revolutionary fighters, we have been able to make these bases into factories to rebuild the military structure and to strengthen and recharge our freedom-fighters' strength and spirit. In spite of all the wounds, we have

rebuilt our organizational and military structure. We have retrained, re-equipped, and rearmed, so that these bases can carry out their role at the required moment. Indeed, when the battle of Tripoli broke out, hundreds of fighters from dispersed bases in Arab countries moved to take part in defending the revolution in the Biqa' and in Tripoli. When we expected battles at the camps, hundreds of our fighters, residents whose families were in those camps, came back to stand beside their families again to defend and protect those camps. When the camps were exposed to danger, they played a role in defending them. Furthermore, these fighters in all their bases were not too far away to carry out the duty demanded of them in the primary theatre of confrontation within our occupied territories. Those who carried banners casting doubts and accusing us of having marooned our fighters thousands of miles from the scene of the fight against our enemy discovered the truth afterwards when they saw those fighters return at every critical moment to carry out their role in Lebanon or in the occupied territories.

Our slogan is well known: The Palestinian commando in the dispersed Arab bases thousands of miles from the borders of the homeland is closer to his homeland than the one who is only yards from the borders in the Golan Heights or the Biqa', but is prevented from exercising his right to take action against the Zionist enemy.

The embodiment of this idea is found in the martyrs of 'Ayn al-Hulwah, who set out from Algeria, from a distance of about 3,000 miles, toward the shores of Tel Aviv. While in their boat, they encountered the Zionist enemy. Most were killed as martyrs; others were taken prisoner.

Another proof of the importance of these fighters in their remote dispersed bases is the Israeli attack on the PLO leadership in Tunis and the continual threats to these bases by the Israeli enemy, who realizes the importance of the bases and the role they perform in the national struggle generally, and at its critical moments in particular.

The Figures Speak for Themselves

[Question] Hasn't the dispersal had an effect on the kind and density of combat operations in the occupied territories?

[Answer] The truth that must be clear is that the PLO and Fatah consider the occupied territories to be the scene of the principal conflict between us and the enemy. After we lost our positions in Lebanon and Syria, our slogan was: Work to escalate the armed and political struggle intensively and effectively within our occupied lands in the past-Beirut and Tripoli period. This has been especially true after the holding of the 17th session of the Palestinian National Council and finding of a permanent location for the legitimate Palestinian government, which had been targeted first by the Israeli conspiracy and then by Syrian attempts to strike at it. Whoever follows events and figures sees how much these operations have developed, how they have increased in kind, and how outstanding the nature of our military operations has become. Let us read the figures emanating from the Israeli enemy: In 1983, 351 military operations were admitted. In 1984, there were 466 military operations, according

to the admission of the Israeli newspaper DAVAR. In 1985, according to the admission of the enemy police minister, General Ha'im Bar-Lev, the occupied territories witnessed more operations in the first 6 months of the year than in all of 1984. Military operations in 1985 exceeded 700.

I believe that the current year, 1986, will see a quantitative increase and a qualitative advance in the number of operations in our territories and in our occupied homeland.

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CSO: 4404/262

SAUDI ARABIA

POPULATION INCREASE IN RIYADH REPORTED

Jeddah ARAB NEWS in English 5 Apr 86 p 3

[Text] RIYADH, April 4 — Riyadh, which occupied an area of only 8.5 square kilometers in 1902, covered over 1,500 square kilometers in 1985. Its population during the same period shot up from 8,000 to around 200,000.

This was disclosed in a lecture on the growth of Riyadh organized by the King Saud University's geography department recently in connection with the golden jubilee colebrations of the Riyadh Municipality. Dr. Muhammad S. Makki, chairman of the Riyadh Research Committee in the department of geography, College of Arts, presided.

Delivering his lecture, Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Sharief of the geography department, said the evolution of Riyadh, previously known as Hajr, can be divided into four stages. The first stage started from its foundation until 1902, when the urban area and population experienced fluctuations. The major aspect of this period was the rebuilding of walls that gave a circular shape to the city. There were four main roads leading to the major four gates of the city.

The period from 1902 to 1950 marked the foundation of the third Saudi state after the conquest of Riyadh by King Abdul Aziz. During this period the old walls were replaced by new ones, while the city itself began to expand in all directions. The number of gates increased to seven. Many old buildings were pulled down and new structures went up.

From 1951 through 1974, said Dr. Al-Sharief, the capital went through its third stage of evolution. Its area increased to 170 square kilometers and the city became the nerve center for the opening of schools, hospitals, roads, railroads and airport. As a result, its tropography changed from circular to radial, with highways leading out in all directions.

The current stage of the development of Riyadh, according to Dr. Al-Sharief, dates back to 1975 until 1984, when the capital accounted for an outlay of SR30.2 billion from the projects budget in the Kingdom.

Similarly, out of a total of 538,780 loans sanctioned by the Real Estate Development Fund, 140,000 loans were approved for the Riyadh region alone. This spurred on the growth of housing projects in the capital undertaken separately by the National Guard, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense and Aviation, universities and others. These factors rocketed the expansion of urban areas in Riyadh.

Referring to population density from the early 20th century till 1970, Dr. Al-Sharief said it changed dramatically from 53 per hectare in the early 20th century to 350 per hectare in 1970. "The room density stood at 1.5 people which is reasonable compared to the developed cities in the world. The household size is still large and was estimated at 6.3 in 1978." Following the rapid expansion, land use for housing projects topped the list with 53.1 percent of the total followed by transport (18.9 percent).

All these factors, said Dr. Al-Sharief, exerted great pressure on the Riyadh Municipality and other government departments to develop and expand the infrastructural facilities to their optimum level, making Riyadh one of the fastest growing cities of the world.

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CSO: 4400/151

SAUDI ARABIA

REPORT ON MUNICIPAL SERVICES ISSUED

Jeddah ARAB NEWS in English 18 Mar 86 p 2

[Article by Javid Hassan]

[Text] RIYADH, March 17 (SPA) — Municipal and Rural Affairs Minister Ibrahim Al-Anqari has lauded King Fahd's big support which gave momentum to the upgrading of the extensive and multifarious municipal services, now noticeable in the Kingdom's rural and urban areas.

"By the grace of God and support, care and encouragement of King Fahd, the achievements of the Municipal and Rural Affairs Ministry have considerably surpassed the objectives set forth in the Third Five-Year Development Plan, to help every citizen get the benefits of the planned targets", Anqari said.

The preface of the ministry's report for 1980-1985, illustrating its five years' achievements, expressed hope that every employee of the ministry will help in implementing the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan, which has already been launched. The report, released here today, said the number of cities and towns, where municipalities have been established rose from 85, at the commencement of the third plan, to four metropolitan municipalities, 98 municipalities, 43 village cluster centers and six water and sewage departments at the end of the plan. The total investment on projects during the third plan exceeded SR174 billion. The report said the ministry was allocated SR48.5 billion for its projects all over the Kingdom during the third plan period which began in 1980. "Under a royal decree the ministry's allocation was raised to SR106 billion, a rise of more than 118 percent of the original allocation. This was due to King Fahd's concern for the implementation of all development projects securing all requisites of modern life for citizens and providing wide municipal services", the report added.

The total number of projects approved during the third plan came to 1,128 at a total cost of SR102.4 billion, it said. Referring to the distribution of the projects, the report said the Western Province accounted for 28.3 percent (nearly SR31.1 billion), Central Province 28.3 percent (SR29.5 billion), the Eastern Province 12 percent (nearly SR12 billion), the Northern Province 3.8 percent (SR4 billion), the Southern Province 2.9 percent (SR3 billion) and the ministry's staff and general directorate 22.6 percent (nearly SR23.2 billion).

Water and sewage projects have been given prime priority in terms of costs. More than SR38.7 billion was spent on 206 projects or 37.8 percent of the total cost of all projects. This was followed by 140 expropriation projects worth SR26.6 billion (26 percent) and 324 roads improvement and beautification projects worth SR24 billion (23.5 percent). The remaining projects accounted for 12.7 percent of all projects, which include 81 building projects worth SR900 million, 75 market projects worth SR1 billion, 145 public utilities projects worth SR1.36 billion, 71 garden projects worth SR2.27 billion and 58 other projects worth SR5.85 billion.

Referring to the achievements of the Central Province, the report said roads improvement and beautification projects accounted for 29.6 percent followed by water and sewage (26.5 percent) and expropriation (24.8 percent). Other projects represented 19.1 percent of total costs.

In the Western Province, water and sewage projects have formed the highest percentage of the project costs, which amounted to nearly 33 percent followed by expropriation projects with 26 percent. Other projects

represented nearly 12 percent of the total costs.

In the Eastern Province, water and sewage projects which amounted to 53.1 percent of the total costs, have been given prime priority compared to other projects carried out during the plan period. These projects included roads improvement and beautification (21.1 percent), expropriation (17.8 percent) and other projects (8 percent).

In the Southern Province, roads improvement and beautification projects accounted for 44.8 percent followed by expropriation projects (43.7 percent). Water and sewage projects represented only 2 percent of the total costs because most of these projects have been approved in the budgets of the ministry and directorates general.

In the Northern Province the roads improvement and beautification projects have amounted to 68.1 percent followed by expropriation projects (23.6 percent), and water and sewage (2.4 percent.) Most of the province's water and sewage projects have been approved in the same way as those of the Southern Province.

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YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

REORGANIZATION SET FOR AGRICULTURE, FISH RESOURCES MINISTRY

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Feb 86 p 1

[Article: "Constituent People's Assembly Approves Bill To Reorganize Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources"]

[Text] The Constituent People's Assembly held its ordinary session yesterday morning under the chairmanship of brother Judge 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Arshi, vice president of the republic, assembly speaker, and member of the Permanent Committee.

The assembly heard the complementary report submitted by the assembly's Permanent Committee on reorganizing the Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources. The bill seeks to develop both the livestock and the plant branches of agriculture, fish resources, and irrigation water resources, to study the soil, to exert efforts for the utilization of these resources, to encourage the founding of agricultural cooperatives, and to train agricultural cadres through the various agencies concerned in order to insure the attainment of the development plan and to enhance the agricultural sector's contribution to the country's national income.

After a detailed discussion of all articles of the bill, numerous amendments deemed necessary by the assembly were introduced to make it compatible with the policy followed by the state in light of the laws concerning the Ministry of Agriculture and its establishments and the provisions of the national charter concerning the development of agriculture and completion of the state's administrative structure, and also in light of our country's tendency to develop the agricultural sector so as to reduce the importation of foodstuffs and to rely on local agricultural production. This is in addition to our country's policy of developing industry, especially industry relying on local raw materials originating from agricultural production.

Because the agricultural sector has been and continues to be tantamount to the cornerstone of the national economy, considering that this sector contributes more than 25 percent of the gross domestic product and absorbs more than 70 percent of the total manpower, the national charter has underlined this importance, stating that agriculture has been and continues to be until now the main source of our country's income. Moreover, agriculture is the activity in which the overwhelming majority of the Yemeni people work. This is why our agricultural plan must focus on applying the latest agricultural means and must offer services and guidance, including guidance in pest control, supply the best seed strains, diversify the crops, devote attention to land

reclamation and to the cultivation of fallow lands, exploit rainwater by building dams and canals, utilize underground water, encourage agricultural cooperatives, and stabilize fair relations between farmers and arable-land owners. All this is considered one of the means that leads to doubling agricultural production and improving the fish resources and, consequently, to strengthening the national economy. We must seek to achieve the maximum degree of self-sufficiency in meeting the citizens' food and industry's needs for agricultural raw materials so as to achieve a surplus for export in order to strengthen the trade balance.

Because of this and the importance of the bill, it was approved after the introduction of a number of amendments. The session was attended on the part of the government by the assistant deputy minister of agriculture and fish resources and a number of officials from the agencies concerned.

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YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

IMPROVEMENT OF COTTON PRODUCTION DISCUSSED

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Feb 86 p 10

[Article by Dr Muhammad Yahya al-Ghashm: "Glimpse of Cotton Cultivation in Yemen Arab Republic"]

[Excerpts] Public Cotton Company

The company was founded in 1967 with capital of 2 million Yemeni riyals divided among the government, the Yemen Bank, and the citizens by 51 percent, 30 percent, and 19 percent, respectively. The company is under the control of the Ministry of Economy and Industry.

Current Cotton Cultivation Position

As a result of the fact that no decision had been made on an alternative to carry out the tasks of the Public Cotton Company which was still being liquidated, and for fear that cotton cultivation would come to a halt, the cabinet session meeting on 8 May 1985 issued a decree assigning the Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources to undertake the following:

- Determine the acreage required for cultivation for the 1985-1986 season.

- Determine the volume of seed needed for the season and offer to purchase seed from the company.

- Treat the seed required for the season with pesticides.

- Analyze the costs of the process of producing seed.

- Carry out the cotton pest control operations and supply all the requirements needed for the purpose.

- Supply seed to the farmers, each area according to its needs.

As for the Cooperative Agricultural Loan Bank, it was to carry out the following:

- Determine the loans annually, depending on each season's cultivation plan.

- Determine the method of calculation of the interest for the agricultural loans.

In light of this, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources issued ministerial decree No 154 of 1985 forming a committee to supervise cotton cultivation for the 1985-1986 season. The committee carried out all the tasks entrusted to it by the cabinet to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources. The committee set the acreage to be cultivated at 5,000 hectares (13,000 ((mu'ad)).

The committee also set the cost of crop service at 16 percent and of crop harvesting and shipping at 24 percent, with these costs amounting to nearly 545 [as published] percent of the total cost (while its share is one-third of the return in the valley and one-quarter for pump irrigation land).

6. Production estimates: the acreage cultivated is calculated on the basis of the seed supplied to the farmers at certain times and on the basis of production estimates at others.

Because many farmers get more seed than they cultivate with the aim of taking advantage of the financing, the actual estimates of the acreage become subject to guessing.

7. Cotton pests had played a major role in the process of deterioration. However, the regular control activities in the past 2 years have stemmed this decline.

Proposals

1. Annex the cotton company to the Yarn and Textile Establishment and bring it under the control of the establishment's management, provided that the establishment set up a department concerned with cotton affairs (supplying treated seed to the farmers and following up on the production of, purchasing, ginning, processing, and marketing cotton).

2. Form a seasonal committee from the agencies concerned (Ministry of Agriculture, Loan Bank, Ministry of Economy, and Ministry of Finance) to give technical assistance to the management.

3. Have the Cooperative Agricultural Loan Bank continue advancing the "white loan" in coordination with the department concerned.

4. Raise the purchase price for the 1986-1987 season, after conducting a study on production cost, post this purchase price prior to the start of cultivation, and establish rewarding price differences for the various cotton grades in order to encourage the farmers to harvest early.

5. Considering that the role of agricultural research in producing improved seed is to produce the nucleus from which the basic seeds are produced, the department should undertake to multiply the basic seeds and treat them with pesticides and fungicides in coordination with the seasonal technical committee.

6. Require the farmer to abide by the planting schedules and establish annual incentives to be given to the farmer who best implements the recommendations and advice of the agricultural guidance agency in the season.

7. Form committees to estimate the cultivated acreage and have the agricultural guidance, the management, the loan bank, and the farmers in every valley represented in these committees.

8. Exert efforts to use improved cotton seeds with as little fuzz as possible so as to facilitate the process of mechanized cultivation which has begun to spread among the farmers.

9. Develop production relations to encourage the farmer to use the agricultural requirements.

10. Focus on cultivating cotton on large tracts of land because it is easy for farmers to employ mechanized agriculture in such lands.

11. Have the Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources organize and implement the cotton pest control campaigns and include the costs of these campaigns in its annual budgets.

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YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSES COUNTRY'S UNDERGROUND WATER BASINS

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Jan 86 p 3

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wali al-Shami: "Water Study on Sa'dah Basin and Wadi Sardud; Scientific Symposium To Discuss Outcome of First Phase; Evaluation of Water Balance of Basins, Linking It to Development Projects and Making Future Forecasts"]

[Text] Within a program organized by the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources on 26-27 January, research results and studies were presented and scientific discussions took place.

The program was organized for a scientific symposium which began with one ceremony and ended with another. During that time, the outcome of the water study on the Sa'dah area and the Wadi Sardud basin--a study conducted by the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Oil's Geological Survey Authority in cooperation with the Dutch government and within a phased annual program which started in 1982 and ended in 1985--was presented.

A select group from the authorities concerned, namely the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, the Ministry of Water and Electricity, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Rural Water Projects Directorate of the Ministry of Public Works, and a number of experts from these authorities, took part in this study.

Beginning

At the beginning of the symposium, brother Ahmad Wahib, the head of the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Oil, presented a comprehensive evaluation on the progress of the study and its outcome, saying:

We all know that there is no life without water and that God, may He be praised, has said "We have created every living thing from water." Therefore, water is considered the most precious mineral [sic] resource in every country of the world, regardless of whether its richness is found in the rivers or by relying on seasonal rainfall. This is why all countries devote special attention to studying water resources so that these resources may be utilized ideally and directed properly.

Under the canopy of the law, order, stability, and peace which our people enjoy, thanks to brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the leader of the development procession, the president of the republic, the general commander of the armed forces, and the People's Congress general secretary, our wise government here in the YAR has been devoting most of its attention and all available resources to strengthening and encouraging the studies to evaluate the water resources because of the importance of this evaluation to formulating our country's development plans.

The project to evaluate the water resources, of which the first phase has been carried out in the Sa'dah and Wadi Sardud areas, is a great and magnificent step indicating our young government's tendency to support the studies to evaluate the republic's water resources.

We hope that the Higher Water Council will draft laws and regulations capable of preserving the water wealth and protecting it from abuse and haphazard use. We also hope that it will formulate plans to develop and rationalize this wealth in light of the changing studies concerning every water basin in the republic.

Project Objectives

It must be noted here that one of the objectives of the water resources evaluation project is to establish an efficient directorate at the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources with ability to study the republic's water resources. To achieve this objective, the tasks of the first phase of the project included the following:

1. Supply the Water Directorate with the necessary equipment and instruments.

2. Train skilled Yemeni cadres inside and outside the country.

3. Provide the skilled Yemeni cadres with practical experience through studying and evaluating the water resources in the Sa'dah and Wadi Sardud areas.

4. Establish a water resources data bank.

First Phase of Activities

As for the activities of the first phase of the water resources evaluation project, they were as follows:

First, a general report was prepared on the hydraulics and hydrogeology of the YAR. Numerous copies of this report were distributed to the government agencies concerned.

Second, a study was conducted to evaluate the Sa'dah area water resources and covered 1,200 square km. The study included the following activities:

A. The geophysical survey.

B. The hydrological survey.

C. The hydrogeological survey.

D. Exploratory drilling.

E. Experimental pumping.

The study area in the Sa'dah basin is covered by a hydrological observation network. A number of the Water Directorate specialists supervise this network, gather data from it, and analyze this data.

Third, since the water resources data bank was founded with the start of the first phase of the project, the bank has been supplied with equipment for archiving, aerial photographs, various maps, and a HP-85-type microcomputer.

The information and data on water are gathered from the project work areas and from the other government and private water projects. These data and information are then analyzed and stored in a computer. Because of the special importance of the data bank in gathering and analyzing our country's water information, this center has gained a great reputation among the offices of the international organizations operating in our country, the government agencies, foreign researchers, students at the Science College of Sanaa University, and the citizens. Constant visits are made by the above-mentioned circles to the data bank center to take advantage of its information and to request copies of the data it possesses. New IBM computers have actually been introduced into the center as part of the project's second phase which extends from August 1985-August 1986.

Fourth, the final reports on the Sa'dah and Wadi Sardud areas have been prepared, along with the hydraulic maps and detailed data.

Fifth, a study to evaluate water resources in Wadi Sardud in Tihamah has been completed, covering 3,600 square km. The activities include the following:

1. The geophysical survey.

2. The hydrogeological survey.

3. The hydrological survey.

4. Exploratory drilling.

5. Experimental pumping.

The study area in the Wadi Sardud basin has been covered by a hydrological observation network supervised by specialists of the Water Directorate who gather data from this network and analyze it.

Results in Sa'dah

Speaking about the outcome of the study on Sa'dah area, Wahib said:

The underground water store in the Sa'dah basin has been estimated at 10 billion cubic meters and the basin is replenished by rainwater at a rate of 26 million cubic meters a year. The volume of underground water pumped out each year amounts to 75.8 million cubic meters and the drop in the level of underground water amounts to 1.5 meters a year. Upon comparing the volume of underground water pumped out each year with the volume of rainwater replenishing the basin each year, we find that the water pumped out is nearly three times the water replenished.

If laws and regulations are not issued as soon as possible to regulate the pumping of underground water according to sound and proper methods, there is a danger that the basin's underground water store will be depleted in the next few years. Numerous problems will surface in the near future, embodied in the depletion of some wells, a drop in the productivity of others, and the increased costs of drilling deeper wells and, consequently, higher costs for pumping out underground water. The arable area will diminish gradually and the underground water store will be finally depleted.

In Sardud

As for Wadi Sardud, Wahib said: The volume of fresh underground water stored in the Wadi Sardud basin is estimated at 1 million cubic meters, the volume of underground water pumped out of wells at 91 million cubic meters a year, the replenishment volume at 60 million cubic meters a year, and the drop in the underground water level at 0.5 meters a year. Upon comparing the volume of water pumped out each year with the replenishment volume, we find that the water pumped out is nearly two times the replenished water.

Should underground water consumption continue at the current rate, then the underground water store will lose its importance in supplying irrigation water. The consequence will be even more serious along the eastern coastline (al-Kawn area) where the underground water store is likely to lose its economic value in 25 years. This is why the study recommends strongly a ban on increased underground water consumption, a gradual reduction in pumping, and improvement in the area's irrigation systems.

Financing Circles

At the end of his evaluation, brother Ahmad Wahib, the Water Directorate chairman, pointed out that the circles financing the project are the Yemeni government, represented in the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, and the Dutch government, represented in the Dutch Ministry of Development Cooperation. The Dutch side has contributed 6 million gilders in the form of aid embodied in work instruments and equipment, training courses, experts, vehicles, and financing for drilling exploratory wells in the Sa'dah and Wadi Sardud areas. For the first phase, the Yemeni government contributed 4,783,000 riyals to cover the project's local expenses. The executive agencies are the Water Directorate and the Dutch Applied Sciences Institute. The implementation period lasted 40 months, beginning in April 1982 and ending in July 1985.

Other Research and Studies

(Ghier Ruud Yorin), the supervisor in charge of the committee to evaluate the water resources, presented a study on water policy and its relationship with development and management.

He then presented forecasts for the situation of the water resources generally and touched on the idea of the project to evaluate the water resources--a project seeking to formulate a complete scientific plan to rationalize water consumption in Yemen. This plan is to be drawn up on the basis of the study evaluating the balance of the water basins and to be linked with the development projects concerning water and with the long-range forecasts on what may happen to the underground water.

(Ronnie van Over), a geophysicist, spoke on the water evaluation study for the Sa'dah and Wadi Sardud areas and on the scientific methods to study, explore, and discover underground water in the two basins, considering that the Sa'dah basin represents a primary example of the mountain basin and the Wadi Sardud basin a primary example of a valley basin to which water flows from mountain tops. He also outlined the hydrological and technical differences between the Sa'dah and Sardud basins.

Nuri Jamal presented a study of finding underground water in the sand rocks of the Sa'dah basin.

Observations were made, analyzing the strategies of underground water management. Observations were also made on the development of the data center of the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources and general discussions were held on the geophysical surveys conducted on the water basins to draw up a plan for the underground water store and its potentials and to understand the obstacles facing development of the underground water basins in the Sa'dah and Wadi Sardud areas as primary examples of mountain and valley basins in the various parts of our republic.

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YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

SWEDISH TRADE DELEGATION--A delegation of Swedish businessmen headed by Mats Hellstrom, the minister of foreign trade, arrived in Sanaa yesterday for a 5-day visit to our country. In a statement to SABA NEWS AGENCY, the Swedish official said that during the visit, the delegation will hold formal talks with the officials of the Ministry of Supply and Trade on the economic issues and on the possibility of participation by Swedish businessmen in the economic and construction projects. Concluding his statement, the minister noted that he will meet with a number of officials with the aim of bolstering bilateral cooperation and developing relations between the two countries. The delegation was met at the airport by brother Fu'ad Qa'id Muhammad, the minister of supply and trade, and a number of the ministry officials and a representative of the protocol office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [Text] [Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Feb 86 p 2] 8494/9869

FRG PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION--An FRG parliamentary delegation headed by Mr Carstens left Sanaa yesterday after a 3-day visit to our country during which it held talks with a number of the brother officials in the Constituent People's Assembly and the government to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries. In a statement to SABA NEWS AGENCY, the head of the FRG parliamentary delegation said that he and his delegation have familiarized themselves with the development projects in which the FRG takes part. He expressed his admiration for the good level achieved by the local cadres in the various modern technological spheres. He said that the major activity and development he has witnessed in our country confirm that developmental work at the various levels has achieved good things for the Yemeni people. The delegation chairman also expressed his admiration for the national heritage and for the deep-rooted Yemeni customs and traditions and lauded our people's preservation of their distinctive cultural heritage. The delegation was seen off at the airport by brother 'Abd-al-Hamid al-'Adi, member of Constituent People's Assembly and the Permanent Committee's assistant secretary, and a number of officials, his excellency the FRG ambassador in Sanaa and a representative of the protocol office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [Text] [Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Feb 86 p 2] 8494/9869

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INDIA

PAPERS REPORT PROCEEDINGS OF CPI 13TH CONGRESS

Report on Opening Address

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Mar 86 p 8

[Article by Mohan Sahay]

[Text] PATNA, March 12--The General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, Mr C. Rajeshwar Rao, today came down heavily on the Government of Mr Rajiv Gandhi and criticized Indira Gandhi's earlier regime in his inaugural speech at the 13th Congress of the CPI which began at Sohan Singh Josh Nagar here today.

Although Rajiv Gandhi figured only three times in his long speech, the attack was vehement and caustic, signifying the party's hostile approach to the ruling Congress (I).

Mr Rao said "pro-monopoly and anti-people economic policies of the Rajiv Gandhi Government" were responsible for fanning what he termed "fratricidal conflicts among the people."

Describing the Government's economic policies as "disastrous" as they denigrated the public sector while allowing monpolists to enter core sectors like defence, oil, power, and steel, Mr Rao said "privatization of public sector concerns" would impose heavy burdens on the people.

The attempt to open the door to transnationals in the name of getting new technology, indiscriminate computerization in the name of taking the country to the 21st century, and big tax concessions to monpolists would further intensify the problems of unemployment, inflation, and poverty, he said.

The CPI General Secretary criticized Mr Rajiv Gandhi for "compromising" with the fundamentalists and communal forces. The menace of religious fundamentalists resultin in communal movements, as the Ram Janma Bhoomi and Shah Bano cases showed, were a warning to all secular and democratic forces in the country.

Mr Rajeshwar Rao praised Mr Rajiv Gandhi solely for his "progressive foreign policy." Mrs Indira Gandhi's foreign policy also received appreciation in Mr Rao's speech.

Mr Rao's criticism of the leadership of Communist Party of India (Marxist) was forthright but at the same time he also appealed for the unification of the two Communist parties. Mr Rao said that though the two parties were nearer today "the narrow and partisan attitude of the CPI(M) leadership stands in the way of further progress."

Interestingly, half of Mr Rao's inaugural speech contained praise for the Soviet Union and the relevance of the recently concluded session of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union held in Moscow. Though the praise for the Soviets was expectedly along party policy Rao did not hesitate to project the Soviet Union as the real saviour of India." Again it was the USA and the American President who emerged as the villain of the piece. Mr Rao while denouncing the American President touched on subjects like "Star Wars" and threat to India's internal security from the USA.

Earlier, the session of the congress began with the hoisting of the flag by Mr Sunil Mukherjee, a National Council member.

Before Mr Rao's inaugural address, Mr N. K. Krishnan, Secretary of the National Council of the CPI, greeted delegates which included foreign delegates from 30 communist countries. The largest contingent is from the Soviet Union led by Mr Peter N. Damichev, an alternate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee.

The 13th Congress of the Communist Party of India faces an uphill task of "refurbishing" its image in the changing political scene of the country.

The party is fast losing its "relevance" as a Left political force and is worried over the decline in its popularity and mass base in the last few years. The CPI in its draft political review of the national scene admits that "a basic weakness of us is that a large part of the party is disoriented from mass work and mass political struggles."

Briefing on 13 March Session

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Mar 86 p 9

[Text] PATNA, March 13--Mr Indrajit Gupta, M.P., and member of the Central Secretariat of the CPI, today ruled out the possibility of unification of the two Communist parties. Briefing reporters on the deliberations of the 13th Congress of the CPI being held here, Mr Gupta said "There is no possibility of the CPI and the CPI(M) merging into one political party due to several reasons."

Reacting to a newspaper report that the CPI, in its anxiety to reach a merger, had even offered to give the coveted post of the General Secretary of the united party to the CPI(M), Mr Gupta said: "We have not taken leave of our senses now".

However, Mr Gupta said the congress now in progress here would certainly strive to check the division in the Communist movement in India. At least the two Communist parties were agreed on the need to get rid of the Congress (I) rule at the Centre. While defending the CPI's criticism of the CPI(M) Mr Gupta said there were a number of factors holding up the unification move. The CPI(M) had a tendency to "flirt with Rightist forces whenever it suits their interest", he remarked.

The congress formally took up two important documents, a draft political resolution and a draft review of national and international developments, for discussion in the delegates session today, and devoted major time to the national political scene. As Mr Gupta put it, "The congress was seized with problems facing the country under the leadership of Mr Rajiv Gandhi."

The 13th Congress of the CPI favoured an all-out action against the price rise. The National Council of the party, which met before the delegates session, discussed how the current public discontent over the price rise and the agitations taking place in various parts of the country could be carried forward by the CPI. The party favoured joint action with all other Opposition parties, including the BJP. But the CPI was not in favour of sharing a platform with other Opposition parties if the movement is turned into a multifaceted political agitation. The party would join hands with other Opposition as long as no extramenous clements creep into the current movement against the price rise.

The congress has taken serious note of the fact that the country was being torn into pieces under the present Congress (I) rule, Mr Gupta said. The CPI visualizes a dangerous situation if the growing public discontent against the Rajiv Gandhi Government is taken over by the Rightist forces. There is danger of communal and separatist forces using the weak leadership of the Congress (I), the CPI feels. The party feels the Congress (I) is not capable of fighting divisive forces in the country which could be contained alone by the Leftist forces.

14 March Session Reported

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Mar 86 p 9

[Text]

PATNA, March 14.—The Communist Party of India has blamed the Akali leadership in Punjab for following a "policy of appeasement towards the extremists" resulting in the volatile situation in the troubled State. The 13th Congress of the CPI, holding its session here today, adopted a resolution on Punjab urging the Prime Minister to take initiatives to implement the Punjab Accord and enlist the cooperation of both Punjab and Haryana.

Briefing reporters Mr Indrajit Gupta, the party spokesman, said today that the CPI Congress viewed with grave concern the "recapturing" of the Golden Temple by All-India Sikh Students Federation and Damdami Taksal activists. According to the party, arms were being piled up inside Golden Temple again. Mr Gupta said the situation inside the Golden Temple was not less dangerous than what it was before Operation Blus Star.

The CPI has called for the immediate transfer of Chandigarh

to Punjab and the Hindi-speaking areas to Haryana to stop the situation from deteriorating further. The party congres blamed the Lok Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party in Haryana for whipping up chauvinistic passions. The Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Bhajanlal was also accused of joining with such elements.

The CPI also accused the Punjab Chief Minister, Mr Barnala, of playing into the hands of the extremists on the plea that "Punjab has no water to spare to Haryana". This policy of appeasement of the extremists has only encouraged them, the resolution says.

The congress in another resolution has demanded the right to gainful employment to be included as one of the Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution. The party charged the Government with ignoring the Directive Principles of State policy which provides for employment to all.

On the contrary, the resolution says, the Government has been adding to unemployment.

A separate resolution on the demand of newspaper and news agency employees was also adopted asking the Government to take immediate steps to grant interim relief to these employees pending the final recommendations of the Wage Board.

Another resolution adopted today relating to peace and a world without nuclear weapons says that "The Communist Party draws urgent attention of the Indian people to the serious threat to our country's sovereignty and integrity due to military build-up around India by the USA."

The unprecedented supplies of sophisticated arms by the USA to the military dictatorship in Pakistan and Sri Lanka and the military base facilities for the USA in Sri Lanka were a direct threat to India's sovereignty. The CPI also views the creation of the U.S. General Command and presence of a nuclear base in Diego Garcia as a threat to the Indian people.

In an unsigned statement circulated by the Iranian delegates attending the CPI Congress here, it has been alleged that "All political parties and syndicate activities are under harshest persecution in Iran". The Cummunist leaders from Iran say the achievement of the great Iranian Revolution has now become the target of "plunderous and treacherous leaders of the Islamic Republic". The Iran-Iraq war which the Islamic Republic is insisting on continuing has inflicted "our motherland" with irreparable losses leaving hundreds of thousands of Iranians dead, wounded, or disabled. The statement says the People's Fedayeen would play an ever increasing role in mobilizing and guiding the struggle against the despotic rule of the Islamic Republic.

Divisions in 15 March Debate

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 16 Mar 86 p 9

[Text]

PATNA, March 15.—Divisions showed in the CPI over the political resolutions which came for debate at the party congress today. The political line of the party and its leardership reportedly came under heavy fire.

The controversy was over a number of issues, including the party's line of action and its approach towards the present Central Government and Mr Rajiv Gandhi in particular. The second most important factor at the congress is the question of Communist unity.

A party spokesman told reporters here today that a large number of amendments to the draft political resolutions were moved today by the delegates. Considering the serious nature of the amendments there could be voting on the inclusion of new clauses and the rejection of some of the clauses already in the draft. However, there would be no change in the tenor of the political resolution, the spokesman added.

Despite the CPI's critical reference to the CPI(M), the Communist fraternity assembled here will continue to strive for the unification of the two Communist parties. At today's session, some members even spoke of the need for inviting the All-India Communist Party headed by Mr Dange, to return to the mainstream of the Communist movement and that this alone could provide an alternative to the Congress (I).

A new resolution introduced by Ms Bidya Munshi on the Bill on Protection of Muslim Women's Rights was unanimously adopted at the congress. The CPI registered its total opposition to "the so-called Protection of Muslim Women's Rights Bill" that is now before the Parliament. The CPI feels the Bill not only represents an abject surrender to Muslim fundamentalists but also negates rationalist and secular traditions of social reform. The Bill aims at nullifying the Supreme Court judgment in the Shah Bano case, the resolution says.

The resolution, while criticizing the Prime Minister for steamrolling the Bill despite stiff opposition, including members of his own party, has demanded that the Government should withdraw the Bill lest it takes the country back to the medieval era.

A separate resolution adopted on the struggle for women's rights condemns the atrocities on women, including dowry deaths, immoral traffic in women, and rising incidents of "eye-teasing". The resolution expressed concern over the 75% illiteracy rate among women and their higher infant mortality rate.

The resolution on a nation-wide campaign against divisive forces and for national unity calls upon the people to separate religion from politics and fight against religious fundamentalism. The CPI criticized the Congres (I) rule at the Centre for "concentrating financial powers leading to erosion of the power of the States." This helps growth of regionalism, the resolution said.

Resolutions Passed 16 March

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Mar 86 p 9

[Article by Sumanta Sen]

[Text]

PATNA, March 16: The 13th congress of the Communist Party of India today called upon all those who "value the independence and sovereignty of India" to build up a campaign of protest against the "U.S. arms build up in Pakistan." They should also condemn the current visit to Karachi by half a dozen American warships, headed by the largest U.S. aircraft carrier 'enterprise.' "

The congress said this along with reports that 4,500 American marines were having "rest and recreational" facilities in Karachi were indications that the U.S. was about to set up a full-scale military base in Pakistan. It said: "It is clear that the U.S. is seeking to tighten military encirclement of India with bases in Pakistan, in Trincomalee in Sri Lanka, in Diego Garcia and elsewhere."

By another resolution, the congress condemned the Sri Lankan authorities for committing "genocide" of the Tamil population.

The congress reiterated by an overwhelming majority its intention to remain in the mainstream of the country's opposition politics.

Sharp Differences Reported

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Mar 86 pp 1, 9

[Text]

PATNA, March 16.—The pro-Rajeshwar Rao elements in the CPI today succeeded in defeating a move to censure the party's Central leadership for its participation in the Opposition parties' "conclaves" held in Vijayawada, Delhi, Srinagar and Calcutta during 1983-84.

The sharp differences among some senior party leaders surfaced in the "commission" even before the amendment to the draft review of national and international development was placed before the plenary session today. The supporters of the amendment, who were being persuaded to drop the idea of going ahead with it, in fact pressed a division in the "commission" itself, where it was rejected by a majority vote. The party spokesman, Mr Indrajit Gupta, M.P., said here today that while 30 voted for the amendment, 640 rejected the move.

The vocal group were not reconciled and carried the amendment which censured the party's Central leadership for participating in the Opposition conclaves along with some Right reactionary forces in the plenary session today. However, the move was defeated when the amendment was pressed for voting by its mover, Mr C. K. Chandrapan of Kerala by 593 votes to 93. There were 40 members who abstained from voting in the plenary session.

The vocal critics of the party leadership felt that by joining common platforms with Opposition parties like the BJP, Janata, Lok Dal and the Telugu Desam, whom the party calls "bourgeois", the CPI had done incalculable harm to itself. The CPI's image as a Leftist force was greatly impaired, the critics pointed out.

However, the majority view supporting Mr Rajeshwar Rao and his group maintained that the party had not committed any mistake by attending the "conclaves". On the contrary, it thwarted attempts by Right reactionary forces like the BJP from taking over the Opposition movement. As a result, the BJP dropped out of the successive conclaves, the supporters said.

It is reliably learnt that though the majority view prevailed in the debate and the voting on the amendment moved, the general consensus was that the CPI in future should be more careful in joining hands with the Opposition parties and would, in any case, not participate in future conclaves, if any. The party leadership, in fact, admitted its lapses on certain counts.

The draft review which was latter adopted with some other minor amendments, which the party spokesman termed as not very significant, made it clear that the CPI would be selective henceforth in extending its support to other Opposition parties for the struggle against the ruling party. One such common point where the CPI would join hands with rest of the Opposition was the current agitation against the price rise and the economic policies of the Congress(I) Government at the Centre.

In the meantime, the CPI congress, on the penultimate day of the six-day session here, passed a resolution "against the recent price rise" and asked the Government to scrap the long-term fiscal policy which freezes direct taxes for the Seventh Plan period.

In order to curb inflationary trends in the economy, the resolution demanded "taxing the rural rich". It also demanded that the Government nationalize industries producing essential commodities like sugar, medicines, fertilizers, textiles, cement, oil and vanaspati. The CPI congress also demanded withdrawal of tax concessions to monopoly houses..

Final Session Reported

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 18 Mar 86 p 9

[Text] PATNA, March 17--The Communist Party of India has given a call to replace the Congress (I) Government at the Centre by a Left and Democratic Government, which alone could bring about "democratic transformation with Socialist orientation". The CPI also rejected other non-Communist Opposition parties as an alternative to the Congress (I).

After six hectic days of deliberations at the party's 13th congress which concluded today, the CPI decided to go ahead with its programme of mass movements and agitation against the Congress (I) Government alone without waiting for other Opposition parties to form a Government at the Centre.

With as many as 40 amendments to the draft political resolution and with some new chapters in addition, the party survived the threat of its central leadership by a minority group by rejecting all non-official amendments moved today. Party spokesman, Mr Indrajit Gupta, told reporters that all the resolutions were adopted without even a single note of dissent.

Viewing with concern the growing communal and fissiparous tendencies in the country threatening the country's unity, the party criticized the Congress (I) Government for "appeasing the fundamentalist and divisive forces that sparked riots in various parts of the country".

While maintaining its right to friendly criticism of the CPI(M) for its "mistakes" and "deficiencies", the CPI committed itself to defend and strengthen the Left Front Governments in West Bengal and Tripura which it thought was "an obligatory political task of our party."

While asking the Centre to restructure Centre-State relations by giving more power and resources to States, the political resolutions adopted today demanded "separation of religion from State, politics and education". The party also demanded immediate introduction of electoral reforms by eliminating use of money and muscle power, proportional representation and lowering of the voting age from 21 to 18.

The chapter in the political resolutions relating to civil liberties and democratic rights of citizens, asks for immediate repeal of the National Security Act and the Essential Services Maintenance Act.

The party is against eviction of slum-dwellers in cities and supported the demand for separate Statehood for tribal areas if the majority population of tribals wanted so.

On the economic front and India's collaborations in the field of modern technology with multi-nationals, the CPI called for "heightened vigilance and mass action" to uphold the country's independent economic development.

The party believes that as much as Rs 37,000 crores are circulating as black money in the country and accused the Government of not making sincere efforts to unearth black money despite its much publicized raids on big business houses.

With the election of the new National Council members of the CPI, the stage is set for a unanimous election of Mr C. Rajeshwara Rao as the party's next general secretary for the seventh term tomorrow. Despite pressures from a small group wanting anti-Rao elements to be removed from the council, all the dissidents, notable Mr Mohit Sen, Mr C. K. Chandrapan and Mr Bhogendra Jha, were retained as members. Only one member from West Bengal to be dropped was Mr Bhabani Roy Choudhary. Two new members elected to the council from West Bengal are Mr Nanda Gopal Bhattacharya and Mr Gurudas Dasgupta.

In all, there are 20 new faces in the National Council, due to meet here tomorrow to elect the general secretary and a new party Secretariat at the Centre.

More on Final Session

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Mar 86 p 1

[Article by Arindam Sen Gupta]

[Text]

Patna, March 17—The 13th CPI congress came to a close today with the constitution of a new National Council which includes both the members of the dominant group as well as the dissidents, indicating that the party has rejected the idea of a confrontation at this stage.

The political resolution was adopted unanimously after 44 amendments had been carried out. Most of the amendments were minor in character, altering the language or style, while some were aimed at increasing the emphasis on struggles, specially those waged for the urban and rural poor. None of the amendments rejected by the screening committee, was pressed for vote.

Summing up the achievements of the congress, Mr Indrajit Gupta said: "It showed that our party is today united as never before and can take up militant struggles on behalf of the toiling masses". He emphasised that a few number of votes received by the movers of yesterday's resolution vindicated party leadership's claim that the dissidents were a "minuscule minority".

A notable omission in the list of the new National Council members is the name of Mr S G Sardesai, a veteran Communist leader and a known critic of the Rajeswara Rao line. Mr Gupta claimed that Mr Sardesai himself had wished to be relieved of party posts in view of his failing health. The other critics — Mr Mohit Sen, Mr H K Vyas, Mr C K Chandrappan, Mr Bhogendra Jha and Mr Gopal Banerji — are however included in the council. Also included are all members of the previous Central Secretariat and the CEC.

In all 20 members have been replaced in the 125-member National Council, which is less than the 20 per cent prescribed in the party constitution. The Central Secretariat, the party's apex body, and the Central Executive Committee will be elected tomorrow.

Significantly, the congress has directed the new National Council to set up a commission to draft a new party programme. Mr Gupta explained that since 1964, when the present programme was drafted, there have been "deep-going changes" in the national and international spheres which are not reflected in it.

Asked what these deep changes were on the national plane, he said that in the present programme the party characterises the ruling class as representing the national bourgeoisie which may no longer be the case. They may have come under the influence of the monopoly class, he added.

Asked whether the party considered the landlords as also being a part of the ruling class and in which case the programmatic differences with the CPI-M is removed, Mr Gupta said: "Landlords are also there and are a powerful faction in India. But to say that they wield power is wrong and we will stick to that position". The draft programme will be ready in a year after which it will be circulated for discussion. It will be adopted either at the next congress or at a congress specially convened for the purpose.

Of the amendments accepted one deals with China and recognises that some of the changes in its attitude are positive, which is for the first time the CPI is officially saying so. However, the party criticises China for its policy on Vietnam, Kampuchea, Afghanistan and the Indo-Chinese border. Another amendment deals with the rise of Naxalite groups in tribal areas and calls on the party to bring these tribals under its influence.

Later in the evening party general secretary C Rajeswara Rao addressed a mammoth rally at Patna's Gandhi Maidan.

The leader of the Soviet delegation, who is also an alternate member of the CPSU Politburo, also addressed the rally.

Central Executive Committee Meets

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Mar 86 p 1

[Article by Arindam Sen Gupta]

[Text]

Patna, March 18 — Three "rebel" leaders of the CPI have been dropped from the party Central Executive Committee.

In the new list of 11 CEC members, issued today after a 240-minute meeting of the newly-formed National Council, the names of Mr Mohit Sen, Mr H K Vyas and Mr Kali Shankar Shukla do not figure.

Mr Rajeswara Rao was re-elected to the post of party general secretary. There has been one change in the nine-member party central secretariat — Mr N K Krishnan has been replaced by veteran trade unionist and Madhya Pradesh party leader Homi Daji. Mr Krishnan is said to have opted out of the secretariat due to his "failing health".

With the removal of three "rebels", known critics of the Rajeswara Rao line and advocate of a closer cooperation with the ruling Congress, the CPI hopes to have a "more cohesive leadership". In their place have come in, Mr Chaturanan Mishra of Bihar, Mrs Geeta Mukherjee of West Bengal and Mr M Ibohal of Manipur.

Today's National Council meeting was carried on much longer than expected. It was a stormy one too, said sources, with Mr Bhogendra Jha, also a known dissident, raising his voice against the "purge".

As the meeting carried on, the scheduled press briefing was cancelled. Later only a sheet of paper was given to the waiting newsmen which contained the names of the secretariat and CEC members.

Mr Mohit Sen and Mr Vyas have been in the CEC for more than a decade. While Mr Sen was once regarded a leading party theoretician, Mr Vyas was the editor of the party Hindi daily, *Janyug*.

Mr Shukla, who is the editor of the party Hindi organ, *Jan Shakti*, may still be inducted into the CEC as he has been elected member of the central control committee. If he becomes its chairman in the coming election he will automatically get a berth in the CEC.

The removal of the dissidents from the CEC, however, cannot be termed a "purge". They are members of the National Council and as such will now remain on the base of the pyramid-like leadership structure rather than at its middle. "Their role as mischief makers," said a party member," has now been minimised".

Differences between a section of the CPI, represented by Mr Sen, Mr S G Sardesai, Mr Vyas and a few others, and the party leadership cropped up soon after the 1978 Bhatinda Congress where Mr S A Dange was removed from the post of general secretary and his policy of cooperation with the Congress came under severe criticism. Though this section agreed with the views of Mr Dange, it chose to remain within the party instead of walking out with their leader.

Apparently, a hardening of stance on both sides together with a clear exhibition of Mr Rajeswara Rao's majority support during Sunday's vote on a resolution, prompted the leadership to replace the "rebels" from the CEC and usher in a "more cohesive leadership".

National Council Members

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 19 Mar 86 p 1

[Text]

Patna, March 18 (UNI): The national council of the Communist Party of India re-elected Mr C. Rajeswara Rao as general secretary for the sixth consecutive term and dropped Mr Mohit Sen and Mr H.K. Vyas from the 31-member central executive committee today.

The only member of the central secretariat dropped in today's election was Mr N.K. Krishnan. Mr Homi Daji was elected as a new member.

The new elected members of the 31-member central executive committee are Mrs Gita Mukherjee, Mr M. Ibohan and Mr Chaturanan Mishra.

The members of the central secretariat are Mr Indrajit Gupta, Mr Indira Deep Sinha, Mr Jagannath Sarkar, Mr Rajshekhar Reddy, Mr N.E. Balram, Mr M. Farooqui, Mr A.B. Vardhan and Mr Homi Daji.

/9274
CSO: 4600/1576

RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM SAID TO RESULT IN REGIONAL EXPLOSION

London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Mar 86 p 5

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian: founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]
[Interview with Jean De Lipkowski: date not specified]

[Text] Jean De Lipkowski is one of the close associates of Jacques Chirac, leader of the Rally for the Republic Party (Gaullists) and his foreign policy advisor.

The following interview was conducted by KEYHAN correspondent in Paris, before the general elections. Therefore, any time he criticizes the "French government," it is directed at the socialist government of Laurent Fabius.

[Questioon] Mr Lipkowski, why have hostage takings in Beirut escalated at the same time as French general elections and have caused havoc in France's Middle Eastern policies?

[Answer] A great problem has risen as a result of a mistake by the government: namely, the expulsion of two Iraqi opponents of Saddam Hoseyn's regime and returning them to Iraq. Anyway, France is faced with a group of illogical people who are supported by Iran's ayatollahs. These people will continue with their hostage takings and threats. On the other hand, if the government has been aware of arms sales to Iran, it could be another mistake. This would mean that the French government has sold arms to an irresponsible government. I believe the only way to stop the war is to cut off arms shipments to Iran.

[Question] While arms shipments to Iraq continue?

[Answer] Iraqis have said time and again that they are willing to make peace. It is obvious that Saddam Hoseyn is guilty of starting the war, but today he is willing to make peace. When I visited him he said he's willing to accept any reasonable condition. But Khomeyni says he will not make peace unless Saddam is toppled. Therefore, there is no way for peace because, thank God, Saddam is standing firm.

I say thank God because if he does not stand firm and is toppled, the Islamic revolution will set the whole region afire. We back Iraq because first, the Islamic Republic's victory is very dangerous and second, Iraq is willing to accept peace whereas the Islamic Republic is not.

The only way to convince Khomeyni to accept peace is to set up a conference of all western countries who sell weapons to Iran. Everyone knows who the sellers are: Austria, Spain and lately, France. Some of the weapons also pass through Switzerland. These countries must be told that the only way to end the war is to halt arms shipments.

[Question] In your meeting with Saddam Hoseyn, did he agree to accept the responsibility for the start of the war?

[Answer] I asked the same question of him. Of course his answer was a little vague but he did indicate that he'll accept any condition. In general, the peace process must continue through close cooperation between Europe and the United States.

[Question] You are personally very active in the Middle East peace process and last autumn travelled to most of the countries of the region and met with the leaders of those countries. Could you tell us within what framework are your activities?

[Answer] I am a member of the IDU (International Union of Democrats), established in 1978. This organization is composed of all non-socialist heads of states and political parties: The United States, England, Canada, Austria, New Zealand, Japan, Denmark, W Germany, Holland and Jacques Chirac of France. This is a powerful organization. Last July 25, our conference met under the chairmanship of George Bush. I presented a report about peace in the Middle East which was accepted by the 31-member countries of the organization. Perhaps peace is possible. Especially since Mr de Cuellar is a peace-loving man.

Our first plan of action for foreign policy after gaining power will be the reevaluation of conditions in the Middle East, because the situation in this region is rapidly deteriorating. You see, the Palestinian problem today has been coupled with deteriorating economic conditions of the Persian Gulf states due to falling oil prices. If countries of the Persian gulf region fail to continue with their financial aid programs to Arab countries, there will be tremendous economic problems in those countries. This could cause radical elements to take advantage of such conditions. We saw an example of this in Egypt.

This wave of backward tendency which started with the Islamic revolution and has spread rapidly. I witnessed it in Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria. We cannot allow such backwardness and religious radicalism to spread in the east because it will result in explosive conditions. If the present trend continues, in a few years the radicals will set the Persian Gulf region afire.

[Question] Fine, let us assume that the Iran-Iraq war ends but, the ultimate goal of Ayatollah Khomeyni is to spread the Islamic revolution. What are you going to do about this goal?

[Answer] You see, actually, the Middle East situation must be reevaluated. Khomeyni takes advantage of poverty and dissatisfaction of people everywhere to instigate them. We must reassess the rapid development projects in those countries. For instance, mistakes in development programs in Iran resulted in the fall of the shah and the victory of Khomeyni.

Wide-ranging industrialization programs for a country lacking the capability for extensive industrial expansion resulted in adverse conditions. We must be very careful to make sure third-world countries lay the ground work of their economic programs correctly. It is not enough to topple the Khomeyni regime. We must know that we are dealing with fascism and fascism has always been the result of deprivation. We must give democracy an identity and stop supporting corrupt regimes. What we have supported to this day has been considered corrupt in the eyes of the third world. Fortunately, the recent collapse of the regimes of Duvallier and Marcos are good indications of western resolve in this direction.

[Question] In a recent editorial in the AL-AHD newspaper, which belongs to the Hizballah, it was written that the only way to protect and preserve the security of France and its citizens is to overthrow the Mitterrand government.

[Answer] Strange! Then it seems like the Islamic Republic prefers Chirac over Mitterrand!!

[Question] What is your view, in general, about confronting terrorism?

[Answer] Absolute steadfastness.

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25 April 1986

COMMENTARY VIEWS ZIA'S 'POLITICAL EDGE' IN PRESENT SETUP

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Mar 86 p 4

[Text] MARCH 23, 1986, was significant this time for an additional reason. It marked the completion of one year of the new democratic order in the country. It will be a worthwhile exercise to analyse what President Ziaul Haq, Premier Junejo, the leader of the non-party House, and the MRD, representing the bulk of the political forces, have gained or lost during this period.

There have been periods when President Zia appeared to be losing grip over the situation. The Referendum innovation very nearly caught him on the wrong foot and had it not been for the disorganisation of the political parties, things could have taken any turn. But since then President Zia has come back strongly and today he has reasons to be satisfied with the developments of the last one year.

REAL POWER

The civilianisation process has not witnessed any surrender of authority by President Ziaul Haq. He remains the source of all power. As a matter of fact he is enjoying almost the same quantum of power as a constitutional head as he did as CMLA. He can dissolve the Parliament, the Prime Minister remains his nominee, and he can halt the political process any time he likes. And above all he continues to be the C-in-C besides being the President—an anomaly in any democratic polity—but in our case a logical outcome of the newly conceived concept of 'sharing of power.' The same remains the case in day-to-day working. As a matter of fact no gains could have been greater for President Zia than the fact that without being the head of administration (that role having been assigned to Premier Junejo) he continues to call all the shots in all the vital spheres both at home and matters concerning foreign affairs. When he will doff his uniform, whether there is to be any reshuffling in the military hierarchy, or how the normalisation process with Delhi or Kabul is to proceed, are all issues which appear to fall exclusively in President Zia's domain.

Compared to this, the gains of the non-party House and its leader, Mr. Junejo, have been few. Their contribution in the lifting of Martial Law and the restoration of fundamental rights has been lauded and appreciated by the people at large. But this has not shifted in any substantial measure, popular support towards Mr. Junejo or the non-party House. Mr. Junejo has been instrumental in paving the way for the 'sharing of power' and for many this has been quite a breakthrough in the existing circumstances. But as the predominant portion of political opinion will settle for nothing less than complete transfer of power Mr. Junejo's exploits have not attracted much attention.

It is significant that President Zia has allowed almost a free hand to the non-party House within its specific limits. But whenever he has found things going against his wish or his scheme of things he has reacted sharply. His occasional outbursts against the party system or Western democracy are reminders to the assertive elements in the House that he remains the ultimate authority. There is widespread speculation regarding the extent of Premier Junejo's effectiveness. But what is being overlooked is the fact that Premier Junejo's powers can be no less and

no more than the powers enjoyed by the House. And this in turn is related to the political backing that Mr. Junejo or the House enjoys. There cannot be two opinions that the induction of the Muslim League as the majority party in the House has not so far enlarged or strengthened Mr. Junejo's political base in any way. This is an unusual position to be in for a leader of the official parliamentary party in the House. The events of the last one year have only substantiated the view that to play an effective political role one must have an effective political base. How far Mr. Junejo's five-point development programme will help him to broaden his base remains to be seen. But it is clear he is fighting his political battles on the economic front, an unusual way of dealing with the political issues.

POLITICAL PARTIES

As for the political parties, they could claim credit for correctly anticipating the results of the non-party polls. They could also project the regime's failure to win wider acceptability for the new order as their success. But these are hardly achievements that would have any impact on the ongoing political struggle. It will be seen that they remain divided and confused. Almost all of them have depended heavily on the assumption that one day the masses will come out in the streets. Significantly, people have turned out in large numbers to attend political meetings organised by the opposition but they have not allowed themselves to be swayed by emotions. Strangely, the political parties have not picked up the hint that it is time to abandon their traditional methods of protest and come out with new ideas to deal with the abnormal situation. Somehow they have not grasped the basic reality that if they want complete transfer of power they have to match the armed forces in strength, organisation and discipline.

All eyes are now set on Benazir Bhutto. How she conducts political proceedings here will set the pattern for future events. Her visit to the United States has been rather mistimed. It could be misunderstood here and exploited by her opponents. This again shows how indifferent our political leaders remain to the mood of the masses.

All this makes it abundantly clear that if anyone has gained in the complex situation in the last year it has been President Ziaul Haq. While retaining the office of Chief of Army Staff, he has been able to create a political system which has not only given him constitutional cover but also remains an additional line of defence for him. Besides the weaknesses of the political parties, Zia's personal style has contributed to giving him an edge. He has been able to keep his cool under the worst circumstances. Equally noticeable has been his willingness to recede into the background if his presence is not required on the scene, and allow Mr. Junejo to remain in the limelight. This has given the otherwise highly centralised system a rather flattering democratic outlook. But the acute imbalance in the distribution of powers between the President and the Prime Minister has created a near crisis-like situation more than once. Significantly this is imbalance, and not the MRD, at the moment poses the biggest threat to the present political system.

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PAKISTAN

REASONS FOR ECONOMIC BACKWARDNESS DISCUSSED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 1 & 2 Apr 86

[1 Apr 86 p 2]

[Text]

1. The Republic and its territories: (1) Pakistan shall be a Federal Republic to be known as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, hereinafter referred to as Pakistan.

(2) The territories of Pakistan shall comprise –

(a) the Provinces of Baluchistan, the North-West Frontier, the Punjab and Sind;

(b) the Islamabad Capital Territory, hereinafter referred to as the Federal Capital;

(c) the Federally Administered Tribal Areas;

(d) such States and territories as are or may be included in Pakistan, whether by accession or otherwise.

(3) Parliament may by law admit into the Federation new States or areas on such terms and conditions as it think fit.

"WHEREIN the territories now included in or in accession with Pakistan and such other territories as may hereafter be included in or acceded to Pakistan shall form a Federation wherein the units will be AUTONOMOUS with such boundaries and limitations on their powers and authority as may be prescribed."

Printed above are two quotations from the Constitution, the first being the opening clause of Chapter One of the Constitution and the second a paragraph from the Objectives Resolution which in the 1973 scheme did not form part of the Constitution. The purpose of giving the above quotations is to show how our deviation from these clearly enunciated principles has dragged us into economic difficulties and political instability. Today it is a fact of our national life that we are neither running a federal state nor an entirely unitary one. We claim that Pakistan is a Federal Republic. Now, federation in its true sense is an association of states or provinces, call

them what you may, wherein the state governments are autonomous within their boundaries and the federal government administers only such subjects as are essential to maintain the totality and individuality of the sovereign federal state in the comity of nations. We seem to have lost sight of the federal concept.

Let us, therefore, examine how autonomous our provinces are in the economic and administrative spheres within their boundaries. Politically speaking, we have the provincial legislatures, Chief Ministers and their Cabinets who are responsible for running the affairs of the provinces as provided in the Constitution. The Constitution provides the list of subjects over which the federation exercises authority. The subjects over which the federation has concurrent jurisdiction, though they are essentially the affairs over which the provinces have autonomy, have also been listed. Now, what is the purpose and scheme of the concurrent list and why do constitutions generally provide such lists? A concurrent jurisdiction of the federation is provided so that the persons entrusted with managing the affairs of the provinces and administering them act in a principled and disciplined manner, which alone can lead to shaping of an orderly behaviourial structure of the whole nation, and so that a stable and progressive democracy may flourish. When our last constitution i.e. the 1973 document was drawn, the nation was only 26 years old and had centuries of colonial past. Even though there had been the 1935 federal constitution the ulitmate authority in it vested with the colonial power which could interfere at will in the affairs of the provinces. But it rarely did and that only when its commercial or imperial interests demanded. That spirit and desire for power of interference seem to have inspired the drafting of the concurrent list in the 1973 constitution wherein nothing has been left outside the purview of the federal authority.

Politics in our country has been such open game wherein our politicians so tailored their professed democratic principles to their ambitions that even when we did not have the Martial Law, which we have had for the longest period of our history, the country has been administered in a sort of political dictatorship and all energies were employed to develop a personality cult and concentration of power, ultimately resulting in political instability, national indebtedness and consequent loss of economic sovereignty. Today about 80 per cent of the powers of our state—federal constitution or not—are exercised by the centre directly and the remaining 20 per cent are exercised under its direction. The spirit of the federal constitution commands no respect.

[2 Apr 86 p 2]

[Text]

The very foundations of the concept of autonomy rest on economic and financial resources. In our present day system of governance there is hardly any avenue, except the Abiana, from where a province can raise money for its own requirements of development and welfare of the people dwelling within its boundaries. Today when the provinces have the largest ever number of ministers for every subject in the concurrent list, there exist for the same subjects ministers, ministries and departments at the centre where the number of employees and the money spent on the running of these ministries and

departments exceed those in the provinces while it is the provinces which are primarily concerned with those subjects. Agriculture, Education and Health are the three subjects about which there can be no controversy that they are provincial subjects and would seldom require any federal interference. As an example, we give below the expenses that are being incurred on the ministries and the departments on these subjects at the centre. This would give some idea of the financial burden due to deviation from the spirit of the federal system which is borne by the nation, besides its political consequences:

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Food & Agricultural Divn:	
Salaries & other expenses	26,37,50,000
Agricultural Research Divn.	94,42,90,000
Forests	9,49,60,000
Plant Protection	47,74,30,000
Other Agricultural Services	19,09,50,000
Subsidy on Wheat	9,80,89,60,000
Zoological Survey	1,71,90,000
Livestock	2,97,60,000
Fisheries	4,47,50,000
Other Expenditure on Food & Agriculture	7,65,00,000
Total:	1,94,85,40,000

EDUCATION

Education Ministry:	
Salaries & Other Expenses	50,60,00,000
Education	8,88,58,50,000
Federal Govt. Educational Institutions	91,37,00,000
Federal Govt. Educational Institutions Cantt. & Garrison areas	1,24,12,90,000
Total:	11,54,68,40,000

HEALTH

Health Division:	
Salaries & Other Expenditure	18,84,90,000
Medical Services	2,62,92,60,000
Public Health	32,43,40,000
Total:	3,14,20,90,000

It makes a massive total of about 26.637 billion rupees that the Centre spends on running ministries and departments concerned with Education, Health and Agriculture.

Our point is that when we have a federal constitution, it should be worked in its true spirit, if we have to save the country from the ever-increasing indebtedness and political chaos. No amount of political engineering can safeguard this nation's sovereignty and economic progress unless we act upon a constitution that we have drawn in its true spirit. The 1973 Constitution gives us the arena within which the centre and the provinces are supposed to exercise their authority and the concurrent list is there only to ensure provincial coordination. It is not there to do away with the autonomy of the provinces. Today almost all the revenue resources have been appropriated by the Centre which distributes the money to the provinces, whereas it should be the other way round.

/13104
CSO: 4600/267

PAKISTAN

REPORT ON INCOME PRODUCING PROJECTS FOR REFUGEES

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Mar 86 p 3

[Text] ISLAMABAD, March 28: The United Nations High Commission for Refugees is financing more than 40 income-generating projects for the Afghan refugees in seven main sectors aimed at enabling them to earn their livelihood and help develop the local economy.

A UNHCR spokesman giving details of the sectorial programme told PPI that UNHCR has so far spent 1.5 million dollars in financing these programmes, while 4 million dollars have been allocated for this year. In addition, UNHCR in collaboration with the World Bank co-sponsored a 20 million dollars project over a 3 year period starting from 1984.

This project is aimed at providing employment and income opportunities to Afghan refugees and the locals, restoring the damage done to the ecology of Pakistan as a result of refugees' presence and generating durable assets in refugee areas. The project components include reforestation and watershed management in NWFP and Baluchistan, canal and road rehabilitation and flood protection in NWFP, and road construction in Baluchistan. Apart from its involvement in raising funds out of the project, UNHCR is responsible for monitoring refugees participation which is fixed at 70 per cent of the total labour employed.

Some of the salient features of the sectoral programme are: relief substitution in the sector which covers the production of relief and other items needed for distribution among the Afghan refugees. In this year, alone 19000 quilts were made, employing 350 refugees. In addition to this 50,000 school uniforms and bags were made. This project is mainly administered by a British-funded agency.

In the second sector, i.e., improvement of rural infrastructure, service and environment, six construction teams have been formed which will construct and maintain the building of an administration and educational institution for the refugees. An allied programme, a "domestic energy saving project", which aims at reducing the negative impact of their domestic fuel consumption on the sorrounding environment, was looked after by German Technical Training Agency (GTZ).

Under this project, the refugees are sold and make themselves ovens which save a lot of fuel by using less amount of energy for cooking.

Under this sector another project of village tree plantation is being carried out with a view to restoring trees in the areas where they had been cut down by people. The project is being looked after by the provincial commissioners for refugees.

The third sector, vocational training with production, is being administered by international rescue committee. It started in October 1985 and has trained a number of Afghan refugees. Training includes carpentry, printing, shawl making and embroidery.

The United States under an agreement has established a marketing network and buys certain Afghan products having a good market in Pakistan and abroad.

Small enterprise and business development are the most promising projects from the viewpoint of income generation for Afghan refugees. However, due to some administrative drawbacks and legal bottlenecks, the project is still in

its foetus form. This project envisages providing loans to Afghans so that they can set up independent business.

The sixth major sector, "agriculture and related projects" are aimed at exploiting the limited scope for agriculture and related activities. The impediment in the project is availability of cultivable land for the refugees. However, in the camps, vegetable growing and bee keeping is being encouraged. A refugee livestock project is envisaged to commence in Baluchistan by the middle of this year.

The seventh and last main sector "assistance to individual refugee" provides monetary and technical assistance to refugees to set up their own business. PPI

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END