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JPRS-NEA-84-174

3 December 1984

Near East/South Asia Report

19980319 105

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3 December 1984

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BAHRAINI INDUSTRY MINISTER ON GULF INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Oct 84 p 4

[Article: "Fifth Gulf Summit to Discuss First Strategy for Development; Ambitious Projects, Deliberate Steps Toward Economic Unity"]

[Text] Yusuf al-Shirawi, the Bahraini minister of development and industry told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the leaders of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations will discuss a document containing a mutual development strategy to the year 2000, during the meetings of the Fifth Gulf Summit Conference which will begin in Kuwait on 23 November.

He said that among the goals of this document were strengthening the role of the private sector, working toward unification of the prices of services, ensuring industrial coordination and preventing duplication in projects. He stressed that the GCC nations would be following deliberate steps, striving toward economic unity.

Al-Shirawi mentioned that this document is the first of its kind within the GCC framework. It represents an objective theory for the future, stemming from the goals of the council states, which form a general framework to which all adhere. Each state has the freedom to define its working plan and implementation measures, in accordance with its own circumstances and resources, in light of that strategy and general goals. He added that the extent of implementing the strategy's projects will vary in accordance with the nature of the project. There are some projects whose implementation may take 5 years, with others taking 10. Some may take 20 years. Clearly, the document concentrates basically on the period from 1990 to 2000.

The Bahraini minister said that in order to prepare the document in its final form, to be reviewed in the ministerial council meetings that will precede the summit, the GCC ministers of planning will meet in Riyadh during October to consider the observations expressed by two of the council states about certain of the document's provisions, prepared by the technical committee. This will be preparatory to its adoption and submission to the GCC ministerial council.

As an example, he said that one of the GCC goals was to strengthen the role of the private sector, which requires as a strategy directing the majority of

projects toward supporting this goal, while leaving each state, working in the framework of this strategy, to accomplish projects in the fields such as tourism hotels and contractors. However, the strategy also makes clear the major projects that must be left to the state or government, such as electricity and water, for examples.

He added: "Another example is that the GCC nations might see as a goal to strive for the unification of prices of basic services among the GCC nations, without considering the disparity in individual incomes in the GCC nations. This is the goal, and the strategy comes through determining the areas of application of the goal on a specific number of these services, while giving each state freedom of action.

The Bahraini minister of development and industry cited a third example, in order to clarify the strategy, stating that if the goal was industrial coordination among the GCC nations, in order to eliminate duplication in the implementation of projects, then the strategy comes to the fore through determining these industries, while the implementation plan for them is the responsibility of each individual state.

He made it clear that all the projects and ideas that the GCC ministers of industry have raised and adopted are included in the strategy. There are five projects for industrializing iron and steel, aluminum, petrochemicals, cement and fertilizers.

In response to a question about the role of the development strategy to 2000 in achieving unity among the GCC nations, al-Shirawi said that unity is a high goal for the council nations, "but we are in no hurry to achieve it. We are on a well-thought-out course, which we prefer after the experience of the transitory unity in the Arab World. One strongly established law is better than 100 draft laws that cannot be implemented."

He stated that there are 26 articles in the economic agreement among the GCC nations. "If all of them were implemented, unity would be achieved. Today, we have implemented only four or five of these articles, and that was done deliberately and wisely."

Joint Gas Network

Regarding GCC natural gas projects, he said that gas had no value in the past, as a result of the low oil prices. The costs of separating, liquifying and transporting it were more than the prices in the consuming countries. However, now, with the rise in the price and volume of extracted oil, the amounts of accompanying gas have risen as well and, consequently, there is the possibility of its being used in several industrial, water and electricity projects. However, the decline in the volume of our oil production has caused a reduction in the amounts of accompanying gas, at a time when our projects have increased requirements for gas.

He added that, apart from that, some nations continue to burn off 95 percent of their accompanying gas production. "We are currently studying steps to

implement a gas network to achieve consumer security among the GCC nations, for the purpose of the council nations avoiding any shortfall of gas which would disrupt their vital projects.

Projects Under Study

He said that a project to build the gas network among the GCC nations, a pipeline to export a part of GCC oil from the Arab Gulf and the construction of a refinery to refine and export oil were all still in the study and discussion stage and would not be submitted to the next summit conference. He announced the postponement of the GCC industrial ministers' meetings until after the summit. He stressed that the meetings that would be held during October to prepare for the summit were meetings of the ministers of planning, oil and communications.

Yusuf al-Shirawi, in his capacity of chairman of the Gulf Air Company, denied that contracts were currently underway among the three airline companies in the GCC (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Gulf) for the purpose of establishing a unified airlines for the GCC nations. He said that there was coordination in the fields of ground services, engineering, and common lines and prices for domestic lines, among the GCC nations, and to benefit from airline and airport agreements which the nations of the region contract with other companies.

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CSO: 4404/18

INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ON POSSIBLE MEDIATION

Manama AL-MAWAQIF in Arabic No 536, 3 Sep 84 pp 5-7

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, by Mansur Rida: "We Shall Never Renounce Egypt's Membership in the Arab Nation, and We Shall Follow the Correct Road To Strengthening and Achieving It"]

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the engineer of Egyptian foreign policy, is extremely knowledgeable when it comes to diplomacy, having been Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations and one of the most brilliant Arab diplomats, known in United Nations corridors as an outstanding, first-class debater who would never give up hope or become tired, no matter how long the debate, until he succeeded in stating his case convincingly and communicating his opinions clearly. Some political observers have commented on his appointment to head Egyptian diplomacy as clearly indicating that Egypt's foreign policy is coming closer to that of its sister Arab states, because Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid is known among his Arab diplomatic colleagues for his devotion to and love for his Arab and Islamic nation, and for his desire to achieve Arab solidarity. He has been a proponent of Arab unity and the unification of Arab ranks ever since he was a university student in the Forties, and he firmly believes that Arab strength lies in unity, and its weakness in disunity. In those days such opinions were merely dreams, but the dreams became reality in the Fifties.

We had the honor of meeting him in his office at the Foreign Ministry, and asking him several questions pertaining to Egyptian-Arab rapprochement; how this new course in Egyptian Arab policy will reflect on Egypt's relations with Israel; what bearing the American and Israeli elections will have on the possibility of peace in the Middle East; the possible reverberations in Washington and Tel Aviv from the resumption of Egyptian-Soviet relations; whether this Egyptian-Soviet rapprochement will have any effect on Egyptian-Israeli negotiations on pending issues such as the Taba problem and other border issues; and Egypt's possible role as mediator in stopping the Iraqi-Iranian war and the squandering of blood and money between Muslim peoples. Following are the details which the Arabs want to hear from the man responsible for Egyptian foreign policy, as revealed in this informative interview.

President Mubarak's Policy of Rapprochement Towards the Arab States

[Question] Could you tell us about the policy of rapprochement which President Husni Mubarak is following towards the Arab states? Could it negatively affect Egyptian-Israeli relations?

[Answer] As President Husni Mubarak made clear in his recent speech on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the Glorious July Revolution, the policy now being followed by Egypt vis-a-vis its sister Arab states "is no secret, and is nothing new," but is, rather, a reappraisal and examination of something that actually exists. There are organic ties linking and binding Egypt with the Arab world and the Arab world with Egypt, and this bond is deeply rooted in the souls of all Arabs, be they Egyptians, natives of the Gulf, or any other Arabs. I have been aware of this organic link ever since I reached the age of understanding, and this feeling became clearer while I was a university student in the Forties. We founded an Arab league, and we had an Arab point of view, but in those days no one had any idea how this concept was developing in other Arab countries. This clear Arab vision grew when we were in Paris, where we founded a North African union with our brother Arabs from North Africa. The philosophical basis of our foreign policy derives from this starting point and this clear vision, and we shall never renounce it. We shall follow the road to the achievement of the national demand of the Egyptian people--Arab belonging. Egypt, with its civilizational and cultural weight and its geographic range, is the best supporter of Arab brotherhood, as best indicated and proven by the events which have occurred in the region over the last 30 years and Egypt's effective role in them. The fraternal relations between us and our Arab brothers are essentially different from Egypt's diplomatic relations with the rest of the world, including Israel. Such official relations may slacken as circumstances require, but our relations with our Arab brothers will never be affected by such lassitude, because these relations are not governed by official considerations alone, but are supported and made more effective by the future aspirations of the Arab nation, which are becoming firmer and more solid regardless of the protraction, ebbing, pulling back or withdrawal to which official relations are subject.

Egypt Desires Stability and Security in the Gulf

[Question] Egypt is at present engaged in considerable diplomatic activity, through the non-aligned nations, to bring peace to the Gulf and to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war. What have Egypt's efforts achieved so far?

[Answer] Egypt's stand on the Gulf war derives from its concern for peace and its membership in the Arab nation. Egypt fully desires stability in the Gulf, because Gulf stability means Egyptian stability. We don't want matters to get so out of our hands that we cannot control them any more. This patriotic factor and bond of destiny has impelled Egypt to take action on various levels to end this destructive war between Iraq and Iran, which has expanded in scope to the point of endangering all facets of human life.

First, from the humane standpoint, we cannot let two neighboring Muslim peoples fight each other without stepping in to stop this fighting, to spare the blood

which is flowing so copiously, inexcusably and purposelessly. Therefore, Egypt and other countries must stop this loss of blood for purely humane reasons and save the lives of tens of thousands of people who are being crushed by this mad war.

Secondly, from the economic standpoint, this destructive war between two developing nations must be stopped, and their resources must be directed towards development and construction, not destruction.

Third, in the international context, this war might have extremely serious ramifications, since its continuation gives room for foreign intervention, which will end no one knows where. This is why Egypt desires the security of the Gulf and its countries--they are part of us, and we must try to get the two warring sides to stop. When Iraq responded to the calls for peace, we stood by her and helped her, a stand which derives from the fact that Iraq is an Arab state and we cannot accept the occupation of her territory and the violation of her sovereignty. Furthermore, we are not against Iran, and we hope that we can halt the continuing decline of this region. We also desire the best interests of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and the other peoples of the Gulf, who urged us to work with the non-aligned nations to try to find an internationally-sponsored way out of this war and to stop the sound of its artillery. We have welcomed every sincere call for stopping this war. The continued efforts of the al-Humaydah committee and its Riyadh meeting was welcomed in Egypt, and the former Malaysian foreign minister came to Egypt and informed us of the progress made by this committee. We also supported Gambian President Dawda Kairaba Jawara's election as president of the al-Humaydah committee, for he is a Muslim leader of an Islamic state. We wish him success in his efforts and bless his steps to end the Iraqi-Iranian war.

International Issues Which Concern America and Israel

[Question] Do you think that the defeat of President Reagan in America and Yitzhaq Shamir in Isreal would lead to a tendency towards peace in the Middle East?

[Answer] The American and Israeli elections are internal matters which concern America nad Israel, because they are domestic issues with domestic repercussions. The elections are held according to a certain strategy, which makes it hard to answer such a question, because we have to know all the factors. We must look at ourselves: What do we need? What do I want to achieve, and what can I do? The American and Israeli elections will have their repercussions on peace, because they are directly related to the Middle East. But what will tip the scale of war and peace in the Middle East is the unity of the Arab voice, which is the strongest weapon in creating regional equilibrium. Therefore, why don't we try to speak with one voice and look to the future instead of the past, and get together and speak with open hearts? My remark might be though unduly optimistic and merely a dream, but many dreams have been achieved. It is essential that we unify our voice and then proceed to build a strong Arab base embodying the economic and demographic might of the Arabs. True, there are differences, but there are also basic given factors and common goals which no Arab from Egypt or any other place in the Arab world can deny.

Peace, as long as it is linked with us and our ability to react to events from a single starting point and with a strong, unified voice, can achieve balance and peace in the region.

Egyptian Policy Is Clear, and Egypt's Link With the Arabs Is One of Destiny

[Question] In light of Arab events, do you think there is anything which gives the impression that Egyptian-Soviet relations will return to normal?

[Answer] Egyptian policy is clear. There is no dichotomy between revealed and hidden--what is open is no different from what is secret. I am revealing no secret by telling you that Egypt's link with the Arabs and the Arabs' link with Egypt is an organic link, representing a single body, and any rupture will hinder its natural functioning. Egypt cannot make any deals by itself, just as a single hand cannot clap. There must be contacts and action between both sides, and we must be completely and mutually convinced about fateful issues and common interests. We in Egypt welcome any rapprochement between brothers, because that is only natural. What is unnatural is disunity, disagreement, estrangement, and severance of the bonds between Arabs. I am completely prepared to restore matters to normal, and in the highest national interests of the Arab nation we will not impose any conditions. At the same time, we will not accept any conditions. Difference of opinion is a natural human phenomenon, but among civilized peoples such difference must be subject to debate, discussion, give and take. Our disagreements must be internal ones within the bounds of Arab society, so that we can solve them as a single family. That is to say, we are a strong, cohesive society which will not allow anyone else to interfere in our affairs. We can solve our differences and overcome any obstacle to the resumption of normal relations. We can put any difference to discussion, even the Camp David agreements, the essence of which no Arab officials have ever tried to investigate so as to be able to discuss them and reject or accept them on logical grounds. But let us not open the door to the past, for the only thing that will accomplish is to give some people the chance to say unpleasant things to other people. I don't want to be a dreamer--I want to be realistic. We are on the way to achieving the impossible. We do not want to float around amid dreams and slogans, for we have suffered greatly from slogans which have prevented us from achieving our goals, corrupted our thinking, and deprived us of the fruits of our long struggle. Slogans and exaggerations have prevented the elimination of Arab differences and the return of Egypt to the Arab ranks. The most painful obstacle hindering Egypt's return to its brothers is inflexibility and fanaticism. If only this could be removed from Arab life, everything could return to normal, and it would be easy for Egypt to automatically return to the Arab ranks.

We Have Come Up With a Sound Solution to the Taba Problem

[Question] Could the failure of Egyptian-Israeli negotiations over Taba lead to the outbreak of another war in the Middle East?

[Answer] The Taba problem is a first-class border problem, and we have come up with a good solution for it--either a bilateral settlement by means of an Egyptian-Israeli commission, or arbitration, i.e. submitting this dispute to an

international court. In either case, the right is on Egypt's side, since we have proof and historical data confirming Egyptian sovereignty over Taba long before the existence of Israel as a Jewish state in the region. Furthermore, we have removed all factors which might lead to a state of tension, and we have not included military methods among our options. We hope that the Israeli side will prefer peaceful methods over any others.

[Question] Would the resumption of Egyptian-Soviet relations negatively affect Egyptian-American relations?

[Answer] Egypt's foreign policy is based on neutrality and non-alignment, especially in our dealings with the superpowers: the United States and the Soviet Union. It is true that in the past, Egyptian-Soviet relations were somewhat stagnant and lethargic, with representation being on the level of charge d'affaires. But Egyptian-Soviet relations have now returned to normal, and diplomatic representation has been raised to the level of ambassador. Egyptian-Soviet relations will not adversely affect our relations with the United States of America. After all, there is an American ambassador in Moscow and a Russian ambassador in Washington. It is essential to create a balance in our foreign relations with the superpowers. Our foreign policy cannot ignore the role of the Soviet Union, since it is a major power and a permanent member of the Security Council.

We Have a Parliamentary Democracy, an Opposition, and a Free Press

[Question] It is said that there are two conflicting currents within the recently-formed government. What is your comment?

[Answer] I do not believe that there are two conflicting currents within the Egyptian government; what there is, in fact, is freedom of opinion. We are proud of having a parliamentary democracy, a free press, and an opposition within the People's Assembly. This is a major gain for Egypt, and is the fruit of the Egyptian people's struggle and a buttress for Egyptian legitimacy. We cannot say that the opposition and its leaders are in opposition to the government. In fact, they are legitimate leaders who follow the government's steps and evaluate its actions. As an official, I have a great deal of respect for the opposition and for the way democracy respects the opinions of others, especially when the stands and criticisms of these other opinions come within the scope of the constitution, which is the ultimate decision-maker.

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CSO: 4505/33

MEDIA MUST HELP EGYPT BECOME PART OF ARAB WORLD

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 243, 12 Oct 84 pp 22-23

[Interview with Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, by Jamal 'Inayat: "The Tribulations of 100 Years of Democracy Are Better Than One Day of Dictatorship"]

[Text] Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has made very few press statements, especially to the Arab press, but he granted AL-MAJALLAH an exclusive, long interview dealing with Egyptian media's role in reinforcing Egypt's Arab orientation on the popular and official levels, and with Egyptian media's possible future role in this respect.

Safwat al-Sharif also discussed the Red Sea mining incidents and how the Egyptian information media covered them, and partisanship in the media. The Egyptian minister also welcomed the experiment in democracy, with all its negative and positive aspects.

We began the interview with a question about Egyptian-Arab relations.

[Question] The topic of Egyptian-Arab relations brings itself to mind. There is an obvious official and popular Arab orientation among Egyptians. How has Egyptian media reinforced this tendency and furthered rapprochement between Egypt and the Arab states?

[Answer] The role of Egyptian information began with the creation of a new Arab atmosphere, when Preisent Mubarak announced a halt to all media campaigns directed against any fraternal Arab state. Therefore, Egyptian information has seized an initiative declared by the Egyptian president, and has adhered to it. This commitment has not been merely passive, but has been supported by all the information media--television, radio and the press. All of these media have clear guidelines: to bring about rapprochement, to bring everyone closer together instead of dividing them, to avoid wrangling or saying anything detrimental about anyone, and to prepare an Arab atmosphere conducive to rapprochement.

I say that information has a role, and a very large one at that, in paving the way for this rapprochement. In addition, the "Arab Arab" (let us not say "Egyptian Arab") has his part to play on the general popular level. This is

an established fact, because at any given stage relations are not influenced only at the popular level, but on the official level as well, and on the level of arbiters of opinion as well.

Wherever you go, it is Arab media that shapes public opinion. Egyptian and Arab media efforts have begun to follow the same course. Therefore, rapprochement has begun and a suitable atmosphere has begun to exist.

I would like to say here that the Egyptian media has played a fundamental part in creating this atmosphere, by means of its various influential media in the region.

[Question] What role might Egyptian information play in the future to bring about more effective measures in this field?

[Answer] We are in fact pursuing a policy of mutual understanding and persuasion. While information could play a very important role in forming public opinion and addressing the emotions of the Arab citizen, be he Egyptian or from another fraternal state, some excesses might occur. As information minister, I say that we will accept them with an open mind, because we are a democratic Egypt.

Democracy does not just mean domestic freedom of discussion, but inter-Arab freedom of discussion as well. Let's not be jumpy or nervous, but accept all opinions objectively and calmly, regardless of excesses. We have Arab and national goals in view, and we know that these goals are unity of Arab purpose, Arab thought and Arab security. We are striving for all these goals, and as long as they are our guiding star, we shall not lose our way.

I feel that the journalistic atmosphere which now exists in the Arab press is completely different from that of 3 years ago. Unity of purpose has begun bringing the information media together. Quite often, a sense of danger will rally information media around national goals.

The Arab citizen is extremely intelligent, and will reject any information which tries to divert him from his goals or alter reality. Therefore, our information must be true and realistic.

Our Task Is Easy

[Question] As a topic, the mining of the Red Sea has received the most coverage by all the media of the world recently. How did the Egyptian media cover this topic, and what do you think of the coverage? Was it appropriate?

[Answer] Egyptian information's task has become very easy, because we are living in the age of democracy and freedom of information. As long as we are living in such an era, news coverage can never be difficult, because it reflects reality.

Our media reflects clear-cut policies, and our foreign policy is clear. When our media speak, they do not conceal some things and reveal other things. When we found out about the mines in the Red Sea, we published the news about those mines. When several mines were found in the Gulf of Suez, we reported what happened there.

We report the truth and the facts about what actually happens. When we learned that Egypt had requested that its territorial waters be swept and the Suez Gulf waters be proven clear of mines, we reported this request, and the president made the announcement the same day. Not one radio station or news agency beat Egypt to broadcasting news about the Egyptian movements.

Why? Because we report the facts. For this reason we reported news about all the countries which were helping us. We reported the facts about international cooperation and assistance in sweeping the Suez Canal and our territorial waters. Some people have said that there was an American imperialist presence, and so forth, but our policy is clear--no foreign bases on Egyptian soil.

This proves that the only goals of Egyptian policy are Arab and national goals. There is not a single foreign soldier on Egyptian soil, and any allegations to the contrary are false. The information reported about the Red Sea matter was true and factual, and what had to be reported was reported at the proper time.

We Welcome Party Activities

[Question] During the election campaign and up to the elections, the Egyptian opposition asked to be given an opportunity to go before the Egyptian media, such as television, radio and the national press, and this actually took place. The head of every party was given media time, but the opposition feels that they should have gotten more time.

[Answer] The radio and television law clearly specifies the amount of time to be given to each party at election time, and we actually tried to follow this guideline.

The courts had determined the appropriate length of time, but we increased it, due to our feeling that we had nothing to fear from this, and also do our desire for a democratic dialog and for the presentation of all party platforms to the Egyptian citizen, so that he could freely make up his mind to vote for whatever party he wanted according to its platform, and so that his choice would not be emotional but based on reason and knowledge.

This is according to the law. In addition, as I have said, these national agencies--I mean radio and television--discuss all the issues which affect society, and in discussing them do not discriminate among or categorize Egyptians. Likewise, every opinion should have an opportunity to be aired, and we therefore find many programs which discuss social issues and invite all popular groups as well as opposition parties to participate. We are continuing along this course, and we shall continue to follow it.

There are weekly radio seminars in which all parties participate. Radio covers quite a broad spectrum, with seven channels and 200 broadcasting hours each day. Therefore, ample opportunity is provided. As for television, there is the People's Assembly program, which discusses all matters of interest to society, all questions about the Red Sea matter, everything which takes place in society, and various legislation. All of this coverage is well-balanced, with both the opposition and the majority participating.

We also have television seminars to which we impartially invite all sorts of experts from whatever party. We are keeping this up, and we will continue to support it in the future.

[Question] If the expression can be permitted, we are in the era of national interest. President Mubarak has received the heads of all the opposition parties, and the national media have also begun inviting opposition figures to appear. Is any other initiative being taken to give them more opportunity to express their views?

[Answer] While there are other suitable national issues, there is one major issue about which everyone must have an opinion--the subsidy issue. Since the parties have all reached different conclusions, and the matter has been thrown open to the entire society, there must be a big conference in which all the parties will participate and have the chance to present their ideas and political studies. I would like to say here that the proposition must conform to the issue. Whenever there is an important national issue, the national media must act to give all opinions the chance to be aired, so that the programs can interact. No distinction should be made between parties, as long as each one as an expert who has an economic opinion.

[Question] This brings us to the next point: what is your opinion of the practice of party-oriented information, be it the National Party's newspaper or the papers of the opposition parties?

[Answer] Once democracy begins, criticism must begin. Presumably, whenever there is a newspaper which comes out each day, it will sometimes agree and sometimes disagree. We must get used to democracy and accept it as an important part of our lives, and not get upset about it. We can say that this subject or that one needs clarification. Here in Egypt the channels of communication between officials and party newspapers are open for such clarification, and therefore, as I have said, democratic relationships are developing. The creation of a method of self-control over this democratic practice is the task of the information minister, for there is no press censorship.

But what is the information minister's role in this particular matter? He must create the appropriate atmosphere for citizens and officials, so that we can accept democracy. Otherwise, it will become an irritant.

The pursuit of democracy in all the information media has been very positive. There is no problem which has not been presented on Egyptian television and radio, the national press, and the partisan press. This is the most outstanding achievement of Mubarak's presidency--these free democratic relationships,

the freedom of expression and the freedom of opinion. As we say, "Let us have 100 years of democracy, with all its tribulations, and not a single day of dictatorship." It is impossible for the president to make a statement and for information to disregard it.

Information is the interpreter for the government and its policy, and it cannot do this interpretation unless it is likewise completely convinced.

[Question] Can we therefore say that we are in the era of national interest, if the expression can be allowed, an era where all opinions come together?

[Answer] I object to this term, because there is no national conflict. I mean, neither I nor anyone else in the National Democratic Party feels for one moment that there has ever been a conflict or a difference of opinion. We are all Egyptians.

[Question] How do the media cover national issues like the subsidy issue? What are the guidelines for covering such issues?

[Answer] First of all, there are two guidelines: a scientific and an economic one, both addressed to specialized leaders of opinion, proposing a dialog among all parties about the size of these subsidies, whether the citizens need them, and their connection with existing economic problems. This dialog would bring about a single economic point of view vis-a-vis the subsidy problem and its connection with development in Egypt.

Subsidies are related to several other issues, such as prices, inflations, and the sufferings of the Egyptian citizenry. Therefore, the media have to go out into the streets and touch base with the citizens and ask them what they think--do they need subsidies? What do they really need? Extremely rapid socio-economic changes have taken place in Egyptian society, and the information media must follow them, cover them in depth, isolate the crux of the problem, and submit all these findings to public opinion. Thus, through the information media, public participation will be achieved.

The Arab Satellite

[Question] What do you think about the Arab satellite and Egypt's part in it?

[Answer] I supported the Arab satellite idea when it went before the permanent committee for Arab information in the early Seventies. The Arab satellite project has been delayed so long that the technology has completely changed. The Arab satellite idea began when there was a single Arab goal, and it has not entered an era where there are many disagreements over this goal. The project is still being held up over the issue of building ground stations. We had a share in it which was frozen when Arab disagreements appeared.

At one stage, Egypt needed it so that the entire country could be covered by one of its channels. However, as an information official, I personally could not keep on waiting for the Arab satellite in a state of suspended animation.

Therefore, I covered the country by means of microwave stations and networks for Channels One and Two. I did the same thing for the national and local programs of Radio Egypt, because the Egyptian citizens deserve it. They are naturally entitled to receive information about their country, to learn and talk about things. Egyptian information no longer needs to cover its territory by means of an Arab satellite. But as a larger goal, serving information in all Arab states and the exchange of information among them, the satellite will doubtless play an important part. We welcome the project, and we are ready to offer all of Egypt's advanced resources in this field, such as experts and all manners of programs, in order to share in its creation to serve the entire Arab world.

8559

CSO: 4504/33

EGYPT

BRIEFS

CHANGES IN OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP--Egyptian opposition circles are once again talking about change. This talk has reached the pages of the opposition press, and the Wafd Party organ AL-WAFD and the NPUG organ AL-AHALI have said that this change might occur in the next few weeks, and named People's Assembly President Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub and Planning Minister Dr Kamal al-Janzuri as persons who might be expected to shine out in the near future. Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali went abroad for treatment after suffering from overwork recently, and returned to Egypt 2 days before the government program and the new budget were presented to the People's Assembly. The same predictions indicate that Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi might get the position of president of the Egyptian Consultative Assembly. Candidates for the political bureau of the National Democratic Party in the coming changeover include Former Information Minister Dr Ahmad Kamal Abu-al-Majd, who recently returned to Egypt from Kuwait where he was working for some time. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 396, 22 Sep 84 p 12] 8559

CSO: 4504/33

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES PROBLEMS OF ISLAMIZATION IN SUDAN

Paris LE MONDE in French 5 Oct 84 p 5

[Report on interview with President Ja'far Numayri in Khartoum, by Eric Rouleau: "I Am Determined To Continue the War Against the Southern Rebels as Long as Necessary"; date not given]

[Text] Khartoum -- Marshal Ja'far Numayri, who instituted the Shari'ah (Islamic law) barely a year ago, engages in a kind of ecumenical proselytism. To a delegation from the World Council of Churches which came to Khartoum this week to inquire about the fate of the Christians, the head of the Sudanese state proposed joint action to convert the millions of animists, living in the southern part of the country, to monotheism. On the other hand, in colorful and often candied language he tried to convince his foreign visitors to permanently renounce alcoholic beverages which, according to him, lead to the worst turpitude.

During a 3 hour interview which he granted us, he made an impassioned speech in defense of the penalties provided by the Shari'ah: the flagellation of alcohol consumers; the amputation of the right hand -- and also of the left foot for second offenders -- of thieves; the death sentence for people guilty of adultery.

The president of Sudan denies being a neophyte Islamic militant. Accused of being a "crypto-communist," he became alternately an ardent defender of "scientific socialism," "Arab socialism," and "Sudanese style socialism," prior to presenting himself as the champion of Islamization. "In reality," he asserted, "I have never changed: my ultimate objective, from the first day, has been to implement the law of Allah, socialism being nothing but its social justice corollary, a label which I keep because it works." It took him nearly 15 years to open the path to Islam again, he explained, because "colonialism had corrupted the Sudanese to such an extent that numerous tribes had substituted alcohol for food and no longer observed the fast of Ramadan."

He freely admitted that the implementation of the Shari'ah shocked public opinion in the West and has aroused strong criticism, not only among his Christian fellow citizens but also in Muslim circles in Sudan as well as abroad. "It is normal for all innovations to provoke resistance," he stated at first. "But not all of them are innocent. The Muslims who have taken a stand, under various pretexts, against the Shari'ah, specifically in the

Kuwaiti and Egyptian press, dread the day when they will have to account for their misdeeds."

"As for the Westerners, they are only pursuing their crusade against Islam under another form. They pretend to defend human rights, whereas our laws are more humane. In France, for example, life sentences have replaced capital punishment, but doesn't it show more clemency to execute an assassin than to lock him up for life?"

Alcoholism Treatment for... Strangers

Clemency but also effectiveness: according to Marshal Numayri, crimes have dropped substantially since the introduction of the Shari'ah. The amputation of a hand for some 70 lawbreakers in 1 year "had a powerful dissuasive effect for the greater good of society."

In response to the question of whether Islamization had not, on the other hand, deepened the gap between the Muslim North and the Christian and animist South and irreparably compromised national unity, Marshal Numayri said: "The constitution of Sudan, which the Southerners approved in 1973, stipulates that our legislation should draw its inspiration from the Shari'ah and from customary law. Consequently, we have modified the penal code, and we intend to implement it in the Republic as a whole, no matter what. Nevertheless, we respect the personal status of the various confessions concerning marriage, divorce, and inheritance."

"But you prohibit the consumption of alcohol to non-Muslims under penalty of flagellation..."

"It is indeed prohibited to import, manufacture and market those drinks. And we are not going to make exceptions for non-Muslims, even if they are of foreign nationality. The ambassador of Great Britain complained about it, arguing that his 2,000 fellow citizens living in Sudan have a hard time tolerating this constraint. I answered him that they have a choice between an alcoholism treatment at our expense or immediate departure from Sudan."

Mr Joseph Lagu, the vice president of the Republic, a Southerner of the Christian faith, has let it be known that his fellow believers would prefer "to live under a communist regime rather than under that of the Shari'ah." But Marshal Numayri does not allow himself to be swayed by all that. He is determined, he repeated, to pursue the war against the rebels from the South "as long as necessary." "Those people," he added, "intend to liberate all of Sudan, to overthrow my regime on behalf of Libya, of the Soviet Union and of Ethiopia, which provide them with funds, arms and logistic support."

If it is true that Sudan does not have the means to put an end to the rebellion, how does it intend to solve the problem then? Marshal Numayri answered without batting an eye: "I will not hesitate to become reconciled with Libya, the Soviet Union and Ethiopia. Mr Mengistu has requested that I put an end to the aid which he claims I give to the Eritrean revolution. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi would like me to give him a free hand in Chad and to stop showing solidarity

with the policy of Egypt. As for the Soviets, they hold a grudge against me for having expelled them from Sudan in 1971, for having been the first person in Africa to have thwarted their expansionist strategy. But they are currently facing serious problems, specifically in Afghanistan, and it is not out of the question for them to resign themselves to come to terms with us. Nothing is final in politics."

France Made Major Strategic Mistake

In this regard the future appears promising to Marshal Numayri, given the division among his adversaries. The alliance concluded in 1981 among Libya, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of (South) Yemen has disintegrated, he noted with satisfaction. Last week, Tripoli closed its embassy in Aden, while its relations with Addis Ababa have cooled off since the signing last August of a treaty of "union" between Libya and Morocco. As a matter of fact, Ethiopia is said to have taken offence at an alliance directed against Algeria and the POLISARIO [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro].

"Nevertheless, this treaty is dangerous to the extent that it could serve as an instrument for Colonel Qadhdhafi to annex Chad," continued Marshal Numayri, before adding: "France, in turn, has committed a major strategic mistake by withdrawing from Chad to abandon the country to Colonel Qadhdhafi's soldiers, who will remain there in the uniform of the Chadian adversaries of the legitimate government in N'Djamena. I don't understand how France could have come to an agreement with the aggressors (the Libyans) without even having consulted with Mr Hissein Habre, who had called it to the rescue."

In spite of everything, Marshal Numayri does not fear subversion by Colonel Qadhdhafi in Sudan. The Front for National Safety -- which has recently brought together the main opposition groups in Sudan -- does not worry him either. "Set up in London by immigrants, that Front does not arouse a single echo on the national territory," he stated. Mr al-Sadig al-Mahdi, one of the main heads of the coalition, has been a prisoner in Khartoum for a year for having denounced the way the Shari'ah was being implemented. "I will not bring him before the courts because he would be sentenced to death for heresy," asserted Mr Numayri, "and I would not release him either because he would be lynched by the people. And to those who argue that al-Mahdi is the leader of the powerful Ansar sect and that, as such, he deserves consideration, I respond: It is I, and I alone, who, as president of Sudan, am head of the Ansar."

"Diabolical Brothers"

Marshal Numayri intends to rule without sharing. Last Sunday, during a speech made to the Central Committee of the Sudanese Socialist Union [SSU] (the single party), he issued an energetic warning "to hypocrits, traitors and agents" who are plotting within the regime itself to "strike the sincere leaders of the revolution and to seize the levers of power." The president of Sudan did not designate those "schemers" by name. Pushed further, he told us: "Well, let it be known: I am aiming at the Muslim Brotherhood, whom I have nicknamed the 'diabolical brothers.' They have infiltrated themselves into the cogs of state

and the economic institutions they claim to control." Since their "reconciliation" with Marshal Numayri in 1977, the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood have indeed occupied top level positions in the party, the government, the courts, and the banks. Their secretary general, Mr Hassan al-Turabi, is adviser to the head of state on foreign affairs.

"I have integrated them on an individual basis," added Mr Numayri, "because I don't recognize their right to organize themselves into a political party. I would ask them for an explanation if they were to set up factions within the Socialist Union."

Is it true, as the rumor goes in Khartoum, that arms are flooding into the arsenals of the Muslim Brotherhood? "Yes," answered the president, "I have heard talk about it, but I don't have a single irrefutable proof. I am somewhat in the situation of Caliph Ali Ibn-Abi-Talib who, endowed with clairvoyance, knew the person who would assassinate him but refrained from arresting him out of respect for Islamic law. As for me, I see in my entourage those who desire my death, who spread rumors about the impending fall of the regime. I have heard and have taken the necessary precautions. But I know that al-Sadat had done the same thing, and he was killed anyhow. Generally speaking, a person's determination is enough for success in an assassination. I'll leave it up to the protection of God and of my people."

Marshal Numayri exhibited the same apparent fatalism when we brought up the possibility of a military coup. He has confidence in the "patriotism" of his army, he said, but he added with a smile: "If, in spite of everything, a putsch were to take place, well then I would have failed in the fulfilment of my task."

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CSO: 4519/11

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER MOHAMED MZALI INTERVIEWED

Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 383, 3-9 Sep 84 pp 35,36

[Interview with Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Mohamed Mzali by 'Ali Hamadah: "Lebanon Should Have a Rest, and the Palestinians Should Have Their Say!"; Tunis, date unspecified]

[Text] The interview with Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali was calm and frank as usual.

Discussion revolved around internal political concerns in Tunisia in particular and in the Arab Maghreb in general. The East also came in for its share of review, analysis, evaluation and views expressed.

He said that even though the "bread revolution" in early 1984 was profound, Tunisians were in the process of forgetting it.

He said that the subject of succession is outside the context of struggles. It is in the jurisdiction of the constitution. The struggles are nothing but ambitions, some of which are legitimate and others illegitimate and selfish.

He expressed pessimism regarding the future of a Middle East settlement as long as the Arabs were not united.

He asked the Arabs to hold back on Lebanon and called for their help in getting out of their ordeal and confronting the Israeli occupation which benefits from Arab fragmentation and divisiveness.

The dialogue was as follows:

[Question] With regard to the events of 3 January 1984, or what was called the "bread revolution," what was the cause and who was behind it?

[Answer] I would like to answer with the same reasoning as for Lebanon. We must forget. There is no use in digging up the past. We are now in August. The events occurred 7 months ago. One is trying to blot out this black spot from Tunisian memory. My personal opinion is that we are confining our thoughts to the many complicated problems of today, such as the problem of youth, unemployment, the university, progress and development.

I think that the matter is closed today and justice has had its say.

[Question] There are people in prison because of these events. It has been noted that the subject of their imprisonment has begun to play a role in political life.

[Answer] Who do you mean by "people in prison?"

[Question] There are the people in prison who were arrested during these events, on the one hand. On the other hand, there are demands from the opposition concerning the subject of a general amnesty through legislation.

[Answer] It is best to define who the people in prison are. There are those who came to trial before the events of 3 January. They were released on 3 August through a presidential amnesty. The president has issued an amnesty for the group known to be the leaders of the Islamic Tendency. This matter is closed.

Then there is the group which was brought to trial after committing acts of sabotage such as arson, murder, and destruction of both public and private property. This is a case of public law, and one must not confuse the former with the latter.

Islamic Movements

[Question] How do you assess the future of the Islamic movements in Tunisia, especially in view of the fact that they have a political and social presence which cannot be denied and which is obvious to the observer coming from abroad?

[Answer] There is one group of mostly young people either in the university or in other circles. They confirm the Islamic dimension in the Tunisian, Arab, Islamic civilization. They believe that this Islamic dimension is being effaced. We believe that we are still guardians of the components of this dimension and that this land of Tunisia will remain an open Arab, Islamic land embracing modernism.

Those brothers have been influenced by forms of Westernization and various excesses. They have talked about this influence and organized themselves. I think that these past years have been a time for them and others to think and meditate about agreement on ways to treat certain negative aspects in Tunisian society. These might be through politics, dealing with religious problems through persuasion, not violence or alienation. This exists in all Arab countries and even in Western nations. People are reconfirming both the spiritual and religious aspect of life.

[Question] Do you support their participation in political activity, or their being restricted to religious activities?

[Answer] That is another question. There is the amnesty which President Bourguiba granted. There are the principles the president has set down which make it incumbent on every group wanting to create something with a structure on the political scene to respect certain rules. The president stated these rules on 10 April 1981 when the Destourian [Socialist] Party congress was convened. He said, "I see no objection to the existence of many political and social organizations, on condition that they pledge to respect the legitimacy of the progressive gains achieved by the Bourguiba regime by condemning violence and having no ideological or material allegiance abroad." In order to set this principle down in a legal formula, with permission from the president which he gave on 19 November 1983, we are currently preparing a law on the regulation of political life. This law is being prepared, and we will finish with it in due time. One day this law will be approved by parliament and public opinion. Then when anyone submits a request for political organization, we will look in his file to see if he fulfills the requirements of the law which we will have issued. This is similar to what happens in advanced nations where freedom, law and order are respected.

Ahmed Ben Salah

[Question] Will the release of the Islamic Tendency group be followed by a step toward the return of political exiles outside Tunisia, like Ahmed Ben Salah?

[Answer] Every exile can either enter the country and settle his case with justice or ask for a special legislative amnesty which we issued by decree from the president in 1981. Approximately 1,200 people have taken advantage of this, both in Tunisia and abroad. All you have to do is travel around Tunisia in order to notice the dozens of people who were exiled from Tunisia who are now living in total, absolute freedom.

[Question] Nothing prevents Ben Salah's return?

[Answer] If he requested a special legislative amnesty or if he returned and asked the judiciary to settle his case, he could return. He is sentenced to 10 years.

[Question] President Bourguiba has decided to introduce the country to a stage of political freedom--total freedom or conditional or limited freedom. What does "total freedom" mean?

[Answer] Political freedom like that which exists in advanced countries such as France, Italy or Britain.

[Question] What is the difference between democracy in Tunisia and Western democracy?

[Answer] There is a vast difference. We cannot deny the progress in these countries with respect to both personal and general freedom.

We have enormous freedom. We have four parties. However, perhaps we do not have the freedom to insult the head of state. The real difference between us and the West is the disparity in development and the economy. In my opinion Tunisia should be compared to the Arab nations to which it belongs and not to a world with its own history and social development which has no connection with Arab and Islamic development. Do you want Tunisia in a period of Arab darkness to be more democratic than Switzerland? This is noteworthy here with respect to the Arab nations.

[Question] By virtue of the constitution, the prime minister in Tunisia is the successor in case the top position is vacated.

[Answer] Yes. Article 57 of the Tunisian constitution states, "In case of vacancy, the prime minister shall fill the highest responsibility, until the term of parliament comes to an end, a period which may vary between 1 month and 5 years maximum, and until new elections are held which shall be free." Political forces may present candidates, and independents can be candidates also. The people shall choose. The term shall be 5 years. Thus the life-long mandate will come to an end with Bourguiba.

[Question] What is your answer to what has been said about fierce struggles for succession currently underway in Tunisia?

[Answer] In my opinion there are no struggles. However, I believe that if you read the ancient and contemporary history of Tunisia, you see that aspirations are divided into two parts: legitimate aspirations which respect order and aspirations which say that the end justifies the means.

[Question] Does that answer lead us to ask about the president's health? How is his health today?

[Answer] I say that his health is much better this year than it was last year.

[Question] Moving from the internal Tunisian situation to certain problems concerning general Arab issues, let us ask about the mutually-competing unity plans in the Arab Maghreb. To what extent have they been applied?

[Answer] So far the plans are still in the design stage. In an initial phase we aim at building the Arab Maghreb by establishing functional unity, through bilateral cooperation between individual nations. This is what we have begun with Algeria, Morocco and Libya. We are waiting for ideas to be clarified and conditions to be prepared in order to undertake the unification of customs, money and educational programs. You begin [the journey of] 1,000 miles with a step.

[Question] How do you assess your relations with Algeria and Libya?

[Answer] Good and excellent relations.

[Question] It is said that Tunisia is currently acting as mediator to deal with the problem of the Western Sahara. Is this true?

[Answer] We are making every effort to bring the points of views closer together. We support a solution to the Sahara problem within the framework of a general Greater Maghreb solution, not within the framework of a bilateral solution.

[Question] Our question concerns the Arab East. What is your opinion about the rumored settlements by way of purification in the Middle East crisis?

[Answer] First, how can we accept settlements which are based on either Soviet or American plans or something similar, if we aren't united among ourselves? The basic problem now lies in the lack of Arab unity. Settlements take place only between parties which are harmonious and united on the one hand and other parties which are harmonious and united. The problem is Arab-Arab.

Pessimism

[Question] On the basis of the information you have on both the international and Arab scene, do you think progress is likely in peace efforts in the area this year?

[Answer] I am pessimistic, and my pessimism will grow as long as the Arab position remains base and disunited. Arab regimes are engaging in internecine warfare. Each regime is trying to let the other be swept away. I say this sincerely.

[Question] No doubt you have followed the situation in Lebanon recently and the causes of the regional and international circumstances which have imposed a kind of truce. Do you think that the truce which exists today in Lebanon has a chance of success? Can it subsequently turn into a lasting peace?

[Answer] This is a question I would like the Lebanese themselves to answer, because if they were united, they could work miracles. In my opinion the problem is that there is Arab intervention in Lebanon. This factor is in addition to the constant Zionist destruction of both the unity of Lebanon and the formula for tolerance and peaceful coexistence there. Peaceful coexistence and tolerance were struck a blow in the Middle East after Lebanon was struck. Lebanon's success and prosperity under its formula were a basic argument in the hands of intelligent Arabs in their concept of a solution to the Palestinian crisis. Lebanon was struck and the solution disappeared.

[Question] A final question, Mr Prime Minister. How do you assess the Palestinian position after the exodus from Lebanon and in the present atmosphere of conflict?

[Answer] The Palestinian revolution suffers from the crisis of certain Arab leaderships. Certain Arab leaderships are attempting to intervene in the affairs of the Palestinian revolution. We support the revolution unconditionally and totally, as was the case 30 years ago when Tunisia supported the Algerian revolution. The greatest service which can be done for the Palestinian revolution today is to let it decide freely and by itself its policy, destiny and modes of action.

The schisms which have occurred, real or artificial, have made Israel and the world laugh at us and have made our cause lose its credibility. Therefore certain Arab regimes must stop trying to be the tutor of the revolution. The Palestinian revolution must be free and bear its responsibilities alone. We in Tunisia respect the Palestinian revolution and offer it assistance and political support.

7811
CSO: 4504/14

COMPETITION TO SUCCEED BOURGUIBA ANALYZED

Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 384, 9-15 Sep 84 pp 25, 26

[Article by 'Ali Hamadah: "Mzali, Wassila and the Religionists; How Similar Tunisia Is to Lebanon!"]

[Text] Numerous problems viewed by the visitor to Tunisia these days have had repercussions on Tunisia. They have been altered in the normal course of events and have prompted familiar internal and external political forces and parties to review the attitudes, positions and political tactics they have followed to date.

Events having to do with politics, security and the aging of President Bourguiba have brought out new political axes in the orbit of succession and struggle for power. Nevertheless, President Bourguiba is still the sole effective guaranty of the country's unity and insulation from bloody struggles. However, no observer can ignore a new state of affairs which has come into existence since the beginning of this year. This is the feeling of insecurity which most people have. According to an opposition journalist, this is attributable to the approach of the hour of reckoning, with the struggles which may ensue, the consequences of which are very difficult to predict as of now.

The events of 3 January, or what is called "the bread revolution," are a political watershed in the history of internal political struggles and in the history of relations between the regime and the opposition and between the regime and the people. The reason is that at this decisive point the situation in Tunisia has emerged as if it were enveloped in a state of severe tension. An economic and social problems, like the problem of the rise in bread prices, was not expected to explode in a country like Tunisia, where, except on occasion throughout modern history, struggles have not taken the form of bloody clashes. Consequently, the crisis of 3 January revealed that disputes in society can reach dangerous and bloody extremes. However, these events exploded spontaneously and were not planned. Nor were they carried out in premeditated fashion by a specific faction. Observers are unanimous in agreeing that "manipulating hands" intervened only in the later stages and took the form of organized political activity. The government, according to all sides, was not directly responsible for what happened in this matter. Its decision to raise the prices of primary products was in response to economic necessities imposed by international conditions and world prices. This was true in particular

because the state, in supporting the price of flour by covering deficits and losses, had fallen under a great burden. Whatever the case, the sudden shift of general, popular opposition to the increase, with its accompanying acts of violence and strikes, did not subside (and this was a new state of affairs), until after President Bourguiba announced that he would revoke the decision. All this undoubtedly affected the popularity of Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali who took on defense of the government's policy in a purely economic context.

After the events of the bread crisis, features of the political movements began to take on greater clarity, so that the Tunisian political map might be defined in the following manner:

At the outset one notes that Western diplomatic sources think the country is living in a state of expectation and anticipation of what will happen in the post-Bourguiba round. What is certain in the opinion of these circles is that the battle of succession is wide open. Nevertheless, the president's health is a cause for optimism based on health bulletins which state that he is capable of living another 10 years.

However, in accordance with this, even the fact that Bourguiba continues to remain alive will not nullify the struggle for his legacy. This is true in particular because his condition is such that he is no longer capable of grasping all the details and particulars of the Tunisian situation, as he was years ago.

Three Groups

Western embassies in Tunis think that the centers of struggle for power are concentrated in three main groups in the country.

The first is in the context of the various currents within the ruling Destourian [Socialist] Party:

1. The axis of Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali who, by virtue of the constitution, is Bourguiba's successor, until the term of the parliament comes to an end in 5 years at the maximum. During this time Mzali is seeking to consolidate his initiatives and set up a network of alliances to keep him in power, if his candidacy is approved by the party and in case this party is successful in the elections. Mzali now is undertaking to strengthen his position by appointing his allies and supporters to sensitive positions in the apparatus of both the party and state. The most recent of these appointments was his selection of relatives to head two government banks last August. Mzali's power now derives from the legitimacy of Bourguiba who supports and helps him. This support was demonstrated when Mzali submitted his resignation in the aftermath of the events of 1984. Bourguiba refused to accept it and supported him in face of his enemies. One of the main factors in Bourguiba's continued support of Mzali is that the latter does not overstep his bounds. He is from the same town as the president and was born there. In addition, Bourguiba is no longer in a state which permits him to change prime ministers, as was the case previously.

Observers say that Mzali, despite what is said about his literal execution of the president's directives, is the actual ruler of Tunisia today. Bourguiba is forced to follow a strict schedule of rest which curbs both his activity and his pursuit of politics and the destiny of the country. He cannot carry on concentrated work for more than a few hours each day.

2. The axis of Wassila, the president's wife who has been the companion of his struggle for 40 years. She enjoys great influence in moderate political circles within the Destourian [Socialist] Party. Many politicians, ministers and deputies revolve in her orbit. Before the events of January 1984, through her men she dominated the most important ministries of state such as the Foreign Ministry (Beji Caid Essebsi), Interior Ministry (Driss Guiga), Ministry of Information (Tahar Belkhodja who was Minister of Interior in 1978. He refused to confront the unions in their fight with the party and refused to clash with them and use the police. This cost him his position. Seven ministers were ousted with him. This was during the government of Hedi Nouira.), plus the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Finance. Today Wassila has only two ministers left in the cabinet out of the original five. Her stocks have reverted to Prime Minister Mzali. The prominent feature in Wassila's line is the open-door policy of the main elements of her axis with regard to the opposition and their opposition to the principle of clashes between the authorities and the other sides. Even though the power of her axis has shrunk with the emergence of conflicts and cool relations in the palace, Wassila is a permanent candidate, because she plays a prominent, fundamental role in the president's life. However, in a subsequent stage, observers do not believe it is possible for Wassila to have a role in running the country and determining its fate. Then the game will be in the hands of her men who are already uniting in a bloc to confront the prime minister in the battle of succession.

3. The axis of Mohamed Sayah, former director of the party, who stands at the head of the hard, rigid line in the party. He supported the principle of clashing with the unions in 1978. Sayah, who months ago was exiled from Tunisia and appointed ambassador to Rome, returned 2 months ago to take over two ministries, the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Equipment. He enjoys the affection of the president. Tunisian bourgeois circles support him in general and see in him the image of a strong man of authority capable of ruling Tunisia with an iron hand. He is now active and is gathering his supporters once again, both inside and outside the party, with the knowledge that he has little popularity outside the party. Sayah now finds himself in great contradiction with Mzali, according to his circles. It is rumored that soon a tactical alliance will be made between him and Wassila's group, for the purpose of eliminating Mzali. These circles are hostile to Mzali because he has undertaken to strengthen his position in both the party and state at the expense of the other axes, taking advantage of the president's satisfaction with him.

The only fundamental obstacle in Sayah's way to power is his lack of popularity and the fanaticism of his enemies in opposing him. This weakens his hopes of forming an axis in which parties would come together in the sensitive interval of succession.

The Second and Third Groups

The second group is the urban political parties, the most prominent of which are the Movement of Socialist Democrats (MDS) headed by Ahmed Mestiri, former member of the ruling Destourian [Socialist] Party which he left during the 1971 congress, the Communist Party and others. These parties are still in the founding stage. They polarize youth and the middle income class in the country. However, they need more time and adequate financing in order to grow in the necessary manner.

The third group is religious. It revolves around the factor of religion in politics. Its single prominent grouping so far is the Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI), the leadership of which was arrested in the summer of 1981, 3 months before the parliamentary elections. The growth of the religious current in Tunisia dates from the end of the 1960's. The 1960's were characterized by the "extension of forces of the left," especially in educated circles and the university. It is also well known that the left was penetrated legally through the political trials which Tunisia witnessed in the state security court with the examination of the cases of groups of Afaq [probably Perspectives Tunisiennes], the hope of the Communist Party, and the Ba'th. Here the extension of the left began to be reversed in Tunisia. This was true especially after schisms led to the disappearance of certain organizations and the appearance of others, thereby dispersing power and wasting energy.

Accordingly, mounting religious activity began to appear in the early 1970's. In the beginning it took the form of sermons which gained a great echo in the ranks of youth and in popular circles.

In the beginning, this activity was not impeded by the state. This has prompted some researchers to confirm that the authorities supported this religious group. What is certain is that the Islamic group took advantage of silence on the part of the state with regard to it and was active in disseminating information through the publication of weekly and monthly magazines. It circulated contemporary Islamic literature and intensified its activity in mosques, as if it were in a race with time. Its supporters grew in number, and it came to have solid bases among youth and in popular circles. This helped ripen the idea of creating an organizational bloc in the form of a movement possessing both leaders and cadres.

Today the Islamic movements have begun to constitute a political force in the opposition. Youth rally around them. The issuing of the amnesty for their leadership was simply a de facto recognition of their real strength. The MTI is a phenomenon on which one must focus in Tunisian society. This is also applicable to the nations of the Arab Maghreb, with one fundamental difference, and that is the ethnic homogeneity of Tunisian society. Everyone is Arab. There is no Berber problem or anything like it, as there is in Algeria and Morocco. So far the movement is illegal. However, it will probably be recognized soon under the new law regulating political life to be issued in the near future.

Perhaps talk about "the battle for succession" is exaggerated. Certain circles close to the prime minister say it is. However, what is agreed on so far is the unanimous decision of all political tendencies and currents, both regime and opposition, to regard the president as the common denominator where fierce struggles come to a halt. He is a safety valve capable of transforming the stifling struggles and crises into a means of solution.

Arab diplomatic circles say that this Tunisian situation could continue to be tense if the nature of the roles played by certain embassies and neighboring states come to light.

It is also said that the position of Tunisia resembles that of Lebanon to a great extent. Its borders are shared with two powerful nations, Libya and Algeria, just as Lebanon's borders are shared with Israel and Syria. Each country has axes within the apparatus of both the regime and opposition alike. According to regional sources in Tunisia, Algeria is betting on Wassila's axis, and the Libyans are "courting" Mzali, but this does not mean that the Libyans are not involved in supporting and financing the opposition hostile to him.

7811

CSO: 4504/14

IRAQ ATTEMPTS TO RESCHEDULE DEBTS

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1451, 24 Aug 84 p 53

[Article: "Iraq Postpones Repaying Debts"]

[Text] It has become certain that Iraq will ask its creditors to reschedule its debts, which some sources indicate are about \$7 billion in non-military fields.

Since Iraq will remain a principle exporter of oil for several decades, and since the end of the Gulf war will be a signal that will transform Iraq once again into a major Arab market, it is expected that most governments and finance companies will agree to Iraq's expected request.

Also, the next 18 months seem to promise alleviation of Iraq's financial problems, since it is expected that during that time it will be able to secure new ways of exporting its crude oil.

Iraq's difficult financial situation began last year, and since that time, Baghdad has tried to get outside financing for its on-going development projects and its basic imports from abroad. In this area French and Japanese companies have had a favoured position, because their governments guarantee loans given to carry out on-going projects and for principle commodities exported to Iraq, in order to protect their investments and their share of the Iraqi market in the future.

In 1983 France postponed the repayment of debts amounting to 1.66 billion dollars, and of other debts in 1984 amounting to \$500 million, on the condition that they be repaid during 1985 and 1986. The French company insuring foreign trade intends to postpone the repayment of the two loans for one installment period, with the guarantee that the repayment period be extended for 3 years, with a grace period of one entire year for loans for projects which were being repaid in cash.

This arrangement allowed banks to finance French exports to Iraq, in view of the fact that the French government had taken on the responsibility of covering the risks of their loans.

With respect to military loans, Iraq is indebted to France for an additional loan of about a billion dollars, and that just for its purchases in 1984.

Iraq is working with the Japanese government to get the release of a loan for \$1.5 billion which was previously agreed upon in the mid-seventies but was not used because its oil revenues at the time were enough to cover the costs of its development projects. But now, Iraq is requesting that it be given this loan to pay overdue installments to Japanese companies working in Iraq.

Iraq is an important market for Korean products, especially in the field of construction, and since 1979 the total value of contracts which South Korea has gotten has reached \$4.7 billion. Out of an original \$3.8 billion on the value of the contracts not completed yet, \$1.5 billion are due. So far, the two sides have not reached an agreement on the matter, except that the Korean companies have begun since the beginning of the year to accept partial payment in the form of crude oil in exchange. For example, the two Korean companies Hundi and Hanyang are receiving a thousand barrels of oil a month from Saudi Arabia on Iraq's account.

With regard to West Germany, it has been noticed that the Bonn government did not get involved in the discussions taking place over the rescheduling of debts owed to West German companies.

In 1983 it was agreed that the repayment of two sums that were due, one valued at \$372 million and the other at \$745 million, would be postponed until April 1985. During 1983, 45 West German companies were forced to negotiate with the Iraqi government over rescheduling its debts.

Circles within the German government expect that it will help a group of German banks in negotiations over the rescheduling of debts owed to German companies and which will take place at some future time this year. About 160 German companies are still operating in Iraq, including 60 that were subcontracted by Yugoslavian and Japanese companies.

12547

CSO: 4404/638

VARIOUS AMBITIOUS LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANS, PROJECTS REVIEWED

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Aug 84 p 5

[Article by Sana' Khalil al-Naqqash: "A Conversation with the Minister of Local Government: A Broad System of Service Projects"]

[Text] The Ministry of Local Government's activities and projects extend to all governorates of the country, where it is working with an extensive network of ministry agencies to provide the best in the area of services to Iraqi citizens.

So that we could learn about the projects which the Ministry of Local Government is endeavoring to carry out, AL-JUMHURIYAH had this conversation with Mr 'Adnan Da'ud Salman, the minister of local government.

Man Is the Highest Value

AL-JUMHURIYAH: The Ministry of Local Government is the ministry concerned with providing basic services for citizens in the governorates. What is the ministry's view on expanding these services to include broader segments of the people?

The minister:

Since the national socialist 17-30 July revolution burst forth, our country has been progressing along the road of socialist construction and the service of man with broad, brisk strides. The revolution inherited a deteriorated, backward situation in various areas and activities. The political report issued by the party's Eighth Regional Conference referred to this situation and the new tasks which the leadership and the revolution were undertaking in order to realize a quantum leap in the lives of Iraqi citizens and to set all the facilities of life on the road to resurgence and development.

During the stage which followed the regional conference, as the central report of the party's Ninth Regional Conference pointed out, our country experienced a quantum transformation and great leap in regard to the provision of the best services to the Iraqi citizen.

Therefore, the role of the Ministry of Local Government, which was anxious to offer all necessary services to the citizen, became apparent. It carried out a number of service projects within the national development plan embracing all sectors, such as the construction of schools, kindergartens, houses for teachers, potable and untreated water projects, the laying of water and sewage systems for the governorates of the country in general except for the city of Baghdad, the operation and management of them, the building and paving of streets, the construction of parks, concern for the sanitation of the cities and coordination with many ministries to carry out their projects for the sake of serving the citizens. The ministry is continuing with this program in service of the Iraqi citizen; man is the highest value in the society, the government must realize all the people's legitimate aspirations and provide all the citizens' requirements, and our commander and teacher, the president and commander, Saddam Husayn, has taught us that work is life and that the good, the whole good, is for the people first and last.

With the Conference of Governors

AL-JUMHURIYAH: The governors' conferences constitute an annual pause to evaluate the governorates' performance of their work and ways of upgrading it. What was achieved at the latest conference, which was held this year? How did the ministry carry out the directives of the president and commander, Saddam Husayn, at the conference?

The minister:

The third annual governors' conference held in the early part of last May realized important results in the direction of seeking to carry out the development plan projects in the services sector which our ministry is working on. These results are embodied in the resolutions and recommendations taken by the conference, which laid emphasis on continuous work to carry out these projects in spite of the circumstances of the war which the vindictive Iranian enemy has imposed upon us.

As a new incentive for us, the directives by the president and commander, Saddam Husayn, have stressed our leadership's insistence in principle on continuing to carry out the development projects and realize the best of services for the citizens, and they were approved by the conference as a clear plan of action and program for carrying out the projects which are under construction and future projects which are listed in the development plan and carrying them out with the desired specifications and quality. Proceeding from the directives of the president and commander, may God preserve him, we have set out an annual evaluation, on the basis of which the most active governorate and the most active governor in the country are chosen, in terms of the achievements and activities they and the agencies of their governorate have carried out. In the light of the results, as we have declared, the most active governor will be designated the "first governor" and the most active governorate the "first governorate." The celebration will take place at a special party held on this occasion. We will start with this evaluation starting the beginning of the coming year, 1985.

In addition, we will annually hold a sanitation week through the country's municipalities. This will be a civilized display to make the Iraqi city appear in its proper way, in a manner which is in keeping with the development which has occurred in the country in the era of the glorious 17-30 July revolution. Central committees will meet in the governorates to prepare for this week, along with other branch committees in the districts and subdistricts.

There is no doubt that the purpose of this week is not limited to the days in it, but that rather it must continue throughout the days of the year, in cooperation with the citizens, in order to bring about the cleanest of cities.

Extensive Service Projects

AL-JUMHURIYAH: Could we learn about the most prominent projects whose construction is taking place in the area of water and sewers, buildings, schools and service projects in the governorates?

The minister of local government:

The ministry's services are numerous and diverse. In the realm of General Water and Sewer Organization activity, 18 central water projects have been carried out in 1983 with a total capacity of 354,171 cubic meters per day; these will meet the needs of about 1 million people in a number of the country's governorates. The organization has constructed 34 new water systems and has laid new pipes to modern residential sections with a total length of 2,200 kilometers of water pipe. It has constructed 104 combined water units and prefabricated water projects with a total capacity of 137,280 cubic meters per day, serving 550,000 citizens.

The organization is currently carrying out 39 central water projects and 36 clean water systems and it is hoped that they will be finished in the course of the next year. It is constructing 28 combined water units and prefabricated water projects in various governorates with a total capacity of 36,960 cubic meters per day, to meet the needs of 140,000 people.

The General Water and Sewer Organization is now operating and maintaining 6,269 artesian wells serving 1.5 million citizens.

In the same year, the organization also carried out the al-Nasiriyah sewer project and the system belonging to it, with a capacity of 17,000 cubic meters per day, through a network 70 kilometers in length. The project serves about half a million people at present, and this can be increased. There is the al-'Amarah sewer project, with a system that has a capacity of 14,000 cubic meters a day, and the sewer project for the city of al-Diwaniyah was inaugurated at the beginning of 1984. It also started in the same year with the al-Hindiyah District sewer project and the al-Dujayl Subdistrict and Balad District sewer project; these projects will serve 49,370 people.

The designs have been completed for 14 sewer projects serving 2,265,000 persons in various governorates, al-Ta'mim, Irbil, Diyala, al-Anbar, Wasit, al-Muthanna, Dahuk, Nineveh, Salah-al-Din and Basrah.

There is the intention to recommend new projects in accordance with the requisite need and priorities.

In the Service of the Other Ministries

Regarding the other projects, these for the most part belong to various ministries, for instance the health, youth, cultural and media projects and building projects for the Ministry of Justice, the People's Army headquarters, organization headquarters, and the provision of internal transportation for citizens inside the governorates through the passenger transportation departments. The latest governors' conference read the ministries' observations concerning the projects which the Ministry of Local Government is carrying out on their behalf, or the ones whose management it will supervise. Of these, I can mention the ones that concern the Ministry of Industry, for instance. We are guaranteeing that land is provided for public and private industrial projects and industrial and craft areas are being determined in the governorates as part of the basic design for each city.

Coordination is also taking pace with the General Tourist Organization by providing antiquity and tourist sites in addition to forming cooperative societies for administering housing complexes and guaranteeing that services reach them. Our ministry is helping to set out the annual general framework for the governorates' cultural and artistic program, in addition to programs on national and domestic occasions, through the central media advisory board in the governorate, which is headed by the governor, while providing buildings for the media in the governorate, such as cultural centers and halls.

The ministry is also constructing buildings for the Ministry of the Interior and other ministries such as the customs centers, the police centers, houses for government officials and also buildings for civil status departments, and the construction of centers for young people, clubs, halls and playgrounds. In addition, the governors devote attention to seeking to develop the state of youth activity in their governorates as well as attention to various youth activities.

An Upsurge in the Educational Field

AL-JUMHURIYAH: What arrangements have you made to provide educational personnel for the primary level and kindergartens and fill gaps in the schools? What bases have been authorized for distributing new teachers who have graduated from male and female teachers' institutes and organizations?

The minister:

In the light of the quantitative development of education, in terms of the numbers of students admitted to the elementary level, and the need to provide them with the necessary number of male and female teachers, the ministry has devoted the necessary attention to preparing these staffs. This

will of necessity be followed by the development of work in the department of local education in a form which will embody a view of the future of primary education, especially since the revolution has authorized the principle of accommodating all children who are 6 years of age in the primary level. This is what we are working with great effort to apply, in cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Education, since the numbers of pupils who have reached age six or will reach it by December of each year are being tabulated with the goal of accommodating them and providing them with study requirements.

Therefore the ministry, through these departments, has devoted attention to opening up educational symposia in the governorates in coordination with the Ministry of Education to fill gaps in primary education personnel, in addition to the graduates of the male and female teachers' and fine arts institutes and organizations.

School buildings will be provided in a manner which will guarantee an academic atmosphere and developed educational methods. In addition the existing buildings of schools are being maintained, labor personnel are provided for schools and kindergartens in keeping with their numbers of students, and school furniture will be provided, especially for the new schools which are being opened, in light of the expansion which is taking place in primary education, in accordance with the specifications of the law making education compulsory.

We have not stopped at this point. Rather, our ministry has sought to organize and grant sabbaticals for male and female teachers so that they can obtain bachelors' and masters' degrees and doctorates from the country's universities. We recently announced 250 sabbaticals in the education faculties in the country's university for the coming academic year.

Land for Everyone

AL-JUMHURIYAH: The president and commander, Saddam Husayn, has asserted that suitable housing should be provided for every Iraqi citizen. How are you carrying out this directive by distributing land for housing to the citizens in all areas of the country, and what rules do you rely on in governing the distribution activities?

The minister:

This is one of the most important issues for the citizen, since it is the aspiration of every citizen to obtain a suitable house for himself. The fighting president and commander, Saddam Husayn, has asserted this on more than one occasion. Therefore, we have worked with great effort to provide land for housing for everyone who needs it and meets the real conditions of need. We have been given the task of distributing land for housing among citizens and constructing buildings for commercial and housing purposes out of concern for the construction development of the cities.

We might point out that the number of housing plots which the municipalities have distributed to citizens in the various governorates came to more than

51,000, most of which were distributed between 1981 and 1983. The distribution is continuing up to now in accordance with the honored commands and directives of the president and commander Saddam Husayn.

Out of commitment to the ministry's plan and the directives of the office of the president, 323,744 plots of land have been set aside for distribution to citizens, and the governorates have prepared and completed the arrangements for sorting out and distributing 114,532 plots of land for dwellings. In addition, 92,670 plots which were sorted and ready for distribution throughout the governorates have been made ready.

Rules on Land Distribution

Here it is necessary to point out that the ministry is distributing these plots in accordance with the central conditions and rules that have been set out, primarily the commitment to the condition of place of birth. This condition will guarantee equity in distribution and equality among citizens, where each will receive his due. In addition, one of the advantages of this condition is that the ministry will be enabled to set out sound planning for the basic designs of cities and specify the number and type of service projects they require in the light of their actual population density and the plan set out for their development. In addition, this condition is of importance relative to the form and manner of land use in the coming period, that is, as regards the ambitious view of the future the leadership of the party and the revolution has taken regarding the form our cities must assume.

Here I would like to point out that no excesses are permitted to occur on the part of citizens against the lands belonging to the government, and that the effort will be made to alleviate and eliminate these excesses in legal manner, without any leniency, because the excesses now constitute an obstacle to the execution of the projects within the development plan, as well as creating a state of chaos and deficiency in planning, and as a result amount to a distortion of the features of the cities themselves.

Therefore we have indicated to the municipal departments in all the governorates that they should eliminate all existing excesses and deprive the people committing them of any type of service. Through the development planning department belonging to the ministry, we will be working to prepare designs for the cities in accordance with their present and future requirements and those of their inhabitants, in order to bring about the modern Iraqi city which the leadership of the party and the revolution are seeking to realize. We have adopted an important principle as far as the preparation of these designs goes, which is founded on getting all the citizens, represented by the people's assemblies, the people's and mass organizations and the official departments, to participate in stating their views and recommendations through symposia held for this purpose to bring about the design they wish for their cities.

They are the people with the primary interests in this area, since the basic design of their city must respond to their requirements and absorb the development of the city now and in the future.

AL-JUMHURIYAH: How much of this year's plan has the ministry carried out?

[Answer] The ministry has carried out many projects. Among our projects which were inaugurated on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution were the project for water in the al-Qadisiyah section of Takrit and Dahuk and a number of government buildings, a tourist hotel, 22 houses for government employees and a number of secondary schools in al-Sulaymaniyah. In Baghdad, a center for young people has been opened in al-Yusufiyah and one in al-Latifiyah, along with three kindergartens in al-Sayyidiyah and Saba' Abkar, six schools in the districts of al-Taji, al-Jadiriya, Saddam City and the al-Mahmudiyah District, and the Arab children's library in al-Rusafah.

In Nineveh, an intermediate school has been opened in al-Hamdaniyah District along with a public library in 'Aqrah District, a youth center in Hamam al-'Alil Subdistrict, a municipality office in 'Aqrah, three homes for doctors in the Districts of al-Ba'aj and al-Sharqat, and a garage for trucks in al-Khidr District. The main road to the entrance of New al-Hadr, leading to al-Hadr, and two new roads in al-Sharqat District have been inaugurated.

In al-Anbar, an intermediate [school] for boys, a primary school, a kindergarten and the New al-Rumadi water project have been opened. With respect to the Governorate of Diyala, the Baladruz housing project, an intermediate and primary school, houses for government employees, a youth center in al-Khalis al-Miqdadiyah, markets for craftsmen in al-Khalis, the paving of streets in the city of al-Mansuriyah, a modern shop, a building for the municipality, a tourist recreation center, a water project in Kan'an and two intermediate and elementary schools, a tourist hotel, and a public health laboratory in al-Muthanna have been inaugurated.

In Karbala' Governorate, the first stage of the project of President and Commander Saddam Husayn Street, two primary schools and an intermediate school have been inaugurated. In Irbil, 42 homes for people belonging to the government and the New Makhmur water project have been inaugurated.

On the same occasion, as part of the celebrations of the July revolution holidays in the Governorate of Babil, a vehicular traffic tunnel was opened in al-Hillah, a recreation center in the al-Imam Subdistrict, and a primary school and kindergarten in al-Musayyib and al-Mahawil, and the foundation stone was laid for the asphalt plant in the municipality of al-Hillah and two youth centers in al-Mahawil and al-Qasim.

In the governorate of steadfastness, the heroic Basrah, four primary schools, in the areas of al-Ma'qal and al-Harithah, and a kindergarten in Basrah are being inaugurated. During this period, the Governorate of al-Qadisiyah witnessed the inauguration of a number of projects which our ministry created as part of its current plan, including a modern market in al-Hamzah, a primary school in 'Afak, an eight-story health center in al-Siniyah and al-Mahnawiyah and one with three stories for officials in Sumar, three centers for young people in 'Afak, al-Dugharah, and Ghimas, a model sporting club in al-Diwaniyah, a multi-purpose hall in al-Dagharah, and the paving and surfacing of diverse streets in the city of al-Diwaniyah.

The governorate of al-Ta'mim has its accomplishments. A number of streets in various sections there have been paved, and a hotel is being inaugurated in al-Huwayjah and a kindergarten in the village of al-Riyadh along with 22 homes for people working in the government.

The project of the building for the Governorate of al-Najaf, with a primary school, has been inaugurated, and the cornerstone has been laid for another, intermediate school with 20 classrooms, and the Saddam hospital in al-Najaf with a capacity of 400 beds.

In Wasit, great efforts are evident in labors forming part of the current plan and in our future projects. On the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the 17-30 July revolution, a boarding area has been built for students along with a firefighting center in Badrah, an intermediate school with 24 classrooms in the countryside of al-Suwayrah, with a primary school in the town, a 12-classroom school in al-'Aziziyah, a primary school with 12 classrooms in al-Hayy, a 24-classroom school in al-Fallahiyah, a primary school with 18 classrooms in al-Fallahiyah also, an integrated garage for local administration in al-Kut, an intermediary school with auditorium in al-Kuwayt, a tourist recreation center and restaurant in al-Kut, five homes for employees in al-'Aziziyah, a water system for the al-'Aziziyah section, a guest house and a municipality warehouse in Badrah, and the opening of new streets in the District of al-Nu'maniyah.

Special Projects

These projects have been carried out in accordance with suggestions by the president and commander, may God protect him, during his visits to the governorates. These have been called the special projects, to distinguish them from the other projects which they are carrying out in accordance with their general development plan. The number of these projects came to 939, mostly service projects; so far 738 of these have been carried out in various governorates of the country. Work started on these projects in 1981 and it is hoped that the remaining projects will be completed in final form at the end of this year or the beginning of 1985.

Special Attention to the Autonomy Area

AL-JUMHURIYAH: The autonomy area has its importance in your ministry's plan, as we know; what projects have been carried out there?

The minister:

With support from the command of the party and the revolution and the directives of the president and commander Saddam Husayn, the ministry, since it was created in 1979, has been offering services to the general masses of the people and has been upgrading the level of the governorates, including the autonomy region, which has received particular attention from the leadership of the party and the revolution and the president and commander in person. The number of projects carried out in the region from 1 January 1983 to 31 December 1983 has been as follows:

In Dahuk, five kindergartens, eight schools, 17 houses, two government departments and two boarding areas; in Irbil, 9 kindergartens, 22 schools, 23 houses, one government office, two boarding areas and a youth center; and in al-Sulaymaniyah, three kindergartens, 22 schools, nine buildings, five boarding areas and three youth centers. With respect to the service projects whose construction the president and commander (may God preserve him) has suggested in the autonomy region, these came to 165, most of which are on the verge of completion, and it is hoped that they will be finally completed at the end of this year. At the same time, the number of contracting assignments on service projects whose construction the ministry is undertaking in the region as a whole which will be completed at the end of this year, in addition to water and sewer projects, schools, youth centers, homes for government employees, and boarding areas, comes to 227. In each governorate, a number of these will be carried out in accordance with an extensive schedule, and we will exert our utmost effort to carry them out.

In the area of education in the governorates of the autonomy region, large numbers of male and female teachers have been appointed and transfers have been made among them for the 1983-84 academic year with the goal of creating a form of stability in educational personnel in accordance with each governorate's need. The number of appointed teachers who were graduates of the male and female teachers' institutions and institutes came to 1,450 -- 344 for the Governorate of Irbil, 876 for the Governorate of al-Sulaymaniyah and 240 for the Governorate of Dahuk.

These have been our ministry's achievements in all areas of the country as we continue unremitting work and great effort for the sake of raising the level of the Iraqis and providing the best of services.

11887

CSO: 4404/25

CONSTRUCTION OF MASSIVE SOUTHERN-CENTRAL DRAINAGE CANAL REVIEWED

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Aug 84 p 4

[Article by Maryam al-Sinati: "Giant Projects Constructed in the Context of the Revolution: The General Drainage Canal: A Third Iraqi River"]

[Excerpts] The record of giant achievements and projects which the glorious 17-30 July revolution has carried out since it burst forth reflects the massive historic role which the revolution has undertaken to build a new prosperous Iraq, develop the condition of Iraqi man and move him to an advanced level of civilization.

The giant projects which came into being in the era of the revolution were an inevitable result of the role to which the revolution aspired, and agriculture and irrigation and water use projects have assumed a large share of the attention of the leadership of the party and the revolution.

Although drainage projects in Iraq are not new, since they were begun in the fifties of this century, as a result of the spread of salinity in the soil caused by the disorganized expansion in farming and the establishment of projects which were not carefully studied, especially in the central and southern area of the country, in addition to the drainoff into the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, the marshes, or the natural reservoirs close to these projects of drainage water belonging to small projects which were established at that time, they underwent great expansion after the revolution. At that time it was observed that the drainoff of large amounts of salt water would affect irrigation water and important water sources in the country, as well as affecting environmental life, and therefore the notion of draining the drainage water off into the Arab Gulf by linking the project drains in central and southern Iraq up with a single drain, called the general drainage channel, gained prominence.

The general drainage channel is one of the giant projects of the revolution. Our wise leadership has devoted great attention to it, and the results of this project have started to appear in practice, as a result of the execution of the extensive development plans and the great expansion in the land reclamation process. To confirm the inaccuracy of the previous studies by some foreign consulting firms, the first of which was in 1956, the Ministry

of Irrigation approved the restudy of the general drainage canal project to keep up with the new circumstances, with the goal of discharging the drainage water into the Arab Gulf directly, without affecting the waters of the Hawr al-Hammar.

Therefore this drainage channel was constructed between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, to collect the drainage water and discharge it into the Hawr al-Hammar and from there into the Arab Gulf.

As we pointed out, the land through which the general drainage channel passes extends to include most lands of the central and southern area of Iraq. In order to ascertain the nature of this important, vital project and the efforts which have been exerted to realize it, we started a field trip to the three work sites on it, since the project is divided up into three main sections: the northern, central and southern sections.

A field visit to the worksites on this massive project requires that you cover extensive areas of desert land and regions of sand dunes. Most of the roads which lead to the sites are still paved in primitive form, and a large portion of them are not paved.

Between talking about the difficulty of the road with Eng 'Abbas Jawad Farhan, the director general of the General General Drainage Channel Agency, whose headquarters are in the Governorate of Dhi Qar, and talking about the project, its importances and its details, people settled on the view that we should start the tour the morning of the second day at the starting point, that is, the Governorate of Basrah.

Although we began the trip in the early hours of the morning, the temperature was very high and the sand dunes gave me the opportunity to take nice pictures from the desert road along which the general drainage channel passes.

After more than 2 hours of travel, we approached the starting point of the project. During that entire time Eng Ibrahim Salim Husayn, the technical aide to the General General Drainage Channel Agency, explained to me some preliminary points concerning the project and the nature of work on it. Also, by virtue of his knowledge of the region, as a result of constant followup on the job, he occasionally took note of the gusts of wind that brought sand and dirt to some areas.

Eng Ibrahim Salim said "These sand dunes often result in obstructing the work, because on some occasions, because of gusts of wind like these, visibility is lacking, and as a result work is suspended for a while.

"Difficult climatic and geographic circumstances.

"However, it is an enjoyable experience. Working in the desert in this difficult climate causes us to gain experience and teaches us to bear difficulties."

Here is the al-Shu'aybah intersection. We are now in the Governorate of Basrah, and via branch roads reach the southern point of the general drainage channel, a starting point or point where the general channel meets up with the Basrah Estuary. Work in this stage is passing through the Hawr al-Hammar. The gist of the work at this site, as Eng Ibrahim Salim Husayn said, is the construction of the northern embankment of the general drainage channel in the Hawr al-Hammar, totalling 53 kilometers in length, where the construction of the embankment, "uncompressed fill," has been completed at a height of 70 centimeters above the water from Kilometer 0 to Kilometer 17. Work is continuing on the fill from Kilometer 18 to Kilometer 20.

Regarding the lining of the compressed layers, work is continuing on those from Kilometer 0 to Kilometer 17 and in various areas of the embankment. In parts it has reached the ninth layer, and in another part the first layer. Dirt is being transported from quarries by dump trucks.

Some installations will be erected at this site, including the construction of 14 bridges, eight for cars on the general drainage channel, one on the Euphrates, two for the railway which intersects the general drainage canal, three navigation locks, the first on the Basra Estuary and the other two close to the city of al-Nasiriyah, and the construction of a pump station and discharge pipe under the Euphrates, another under the general drainage channel, and an automatic discharge wier in the direction of Hawr al-Hammar, as well as the construction of 14 drainage pumps.

The excavation in the general drainage channel has been transferred as contracting work to two international companies, and they have started on the work.

During the stretch between Kilometer 7 and Kilometer 60, the general drainage channel will pass through the Hawr al-Hammar. This will be constructed out of the filled embankment, as in other areas. The distance between these embankments will range from 800 meters to 5 kilometers; over this distance the water level will rise from 20 to 30 meters above the normal level. This quantity of water will be distributed over an estimated area of about 100 square kilometers. Regarding the stretch from Kilometer 60 to Kilometer 104, that will pass through desert areas and the depth of the excavation there will be around 5 meters. The stretch between Kilometer 104 and Kilometer 115 will pass through the Hawr al-Hammar. One should bear in mind that all the intersections in the general drainage canal for this section have been designed for the passage of parallel vessels with a draught of 1.5 meters per vessel. Because of the difference between the highest water level, which is 5.25 meters, and the natural land level, which is 7.25 meters, and because there are waves as a result of the passage of the vessels and the gusts of wind, the general drainage channel, in the second stage, will be lined for purposes of shipping or to reduce the speed of the vessels and increased discharges.

Massive Dredges Excavate the Land

Let us leave the southern site and head toward the central one.

This site, in which the bulk of the work is concentrated, extends from Kilometer 60 to Kilometer 130, where two massive dredges are operating, each working about 11 kilometers from the other. Although the scope of these dredges is to be considered immense, they have come up against various hard "rocky" areas which they have penetrated with difficulty. The work of the dredges is carried out in wet and humid areas. As regards dry excavation, work there is done by hydraulic excavators and dump trucks.

This part of the project includes the channel from Hawr al-Damlaj to the main pump station near the Euphrates River. This part constitutes a main channel which goes through the region of sand dunes and the desert areas between the Tigris and Euphrates. This section intersects with the East al-Gharraf drainage channel at Kilometer 185 and the East and West al-Gharraf drainage canal at Kilometer 172.

Two Lakes and Protective Barriers

Eng Ibrahim Salim, who accompanied us on the tour, said that the two evaporation lakes in al-Damlaj and al-Nasr, whose purpose is to regulate and operate the general navigation drainage channel, are part of this section. All the protective barriers for these two lakes and the embankments connected to the general drainage channel have been completed.

In the central site, in an area called Laqit, the project has taken up a large zone for the work office and a place of residence for some workers and engineers. When we reached this site, it was noon and everyone was in the cafeteria.

A large number of engineers had gathered together to drink tea, having finished eating lunch.

As I said, the number was large. The project requires a large engineering staff. However, the talk was restricted to Engs Kamal Fa'iq 'Ali, the resident engineer at the site, and Eng Malik Hashim Muhammad, the supervisor of soil work. Eng Diya' was the common denominator in all the conversations; he was an old engineer, since he had been staying abreast of the work since its beginning. The resident engineer Kamal Fayiq said:

"The soil work is continuing, also, a few kilometers from this site. The dredge which is carrying out the excavation in the water is working and in spite of the harsh working conditions it is progressing soundly and normally."

Eng Diya' said,

"When the moving sand blows, and there is much of it, it makes us stop work. It also greatly affects the workers. When we say that the weather is harsh, we do not mean just the summer, but even the winter as well."

The resident engineer Kamal continued his conversation, saying:

"This group of engineers has been assembled from all the governorates of the country. Among them are people who have come from Baghdad or from Basra, Dhi

Qar and Nineveh. The project management has provided us with many necessary services, such as three meals free of charge, in addition to lodging and means of transportation."

Eng Malik Hashim, the supervisor of the soil work, said, "The nature of our job is to supervise the work and guarantee that it is carried out in a proper manner within the technical specifications. It also includes survey work and investigation of levels in a proper manner in the case of the excavations and fill. There also are laboratories for examining materials, data and the integrity of the embankments and to investigate the proper materials and examine the quantities of chemicals."

I asked them, "Are there specific hours in your work? How do you spend free time, if it is available to you in this remote site?"

Eng Diya' anticipated them in answering, stating:

"There is work, and then there is work. What can we do in this site? We have tried to grow some plants and vegetables, but they refused to survive in this hot sandy climate. We tried different kinds of plants, but we have reaped only heat, dirt and sand. However, what we pridefully feel and what causes us to continue with the work is the importance of this great project, which will transform this area and make it important; when we think of the job and its importance, the other things seem secondary."

The Third and Final Site

After we left the second worksite at Laqit, the car proceeded once again to cover the Basrah-Nasiriyah road. Eng Ibrahim Salim was there.

Where is the third site?

He said, "It is remote from the Governorate of Basrah and close to al-Nasiriyah. The third site is the northern site and is part of the Suq al-Shuyukh area. At this site, the work focusses on dredges. Also there is the construction of the compressed embankments from Kilometer 144 to Kilometer 135. As regards the dry excavations, the excavation is being done by means of hydraulic excavators."

In the northern section, or the third site, there was a group of female engineers working at the field sites.

Eng Salimah 'Ali and Eng Fada' Tariq talked to us about the nature of the work and the role of female engineers in the work on this project.

Eng Salimah said, "Work on a project like this provides us with a high level of experience which work in administrative offices might not make available to us."

Fada' Tariq said, "Women must work in sites under the heat of the sun and in various climatic circumstances so that they can have a sense of the importance of their work and the importance of their presence, and so that they can establish their ability to bear difficulties."

We made a tour of this area, which will include the northern Hawr al-Dalmaj. In this area, the general drainage channel consists of hundreds of kilometers of main drainage and gathering canals for projects in the area of the northern Hawr al-Dalmaj; most important of these are the al-Ishaqi, al-Saqlawiyah, Abu Ghurayb, al-Yusufiyah, Hawr Rajab, al-Latifiyah, al-Iskandariyah and al-Musayyib projects. The drainage channels in this area are relatively small, and they come together in a large gathering canal.

After this tour, in the course of which we learned about the massive work which is going on in this giant project, we returned to Eng 'Abbas Jawad Farhan, to hear some additional information. He talked to us about the technical aspects of the project, saying:

"The land area which will be drained by means of the general drainage channel is estimated at about 1.5 million hectares of irrigated land. This includes most of the land in the central and southern area of Iraq.

"The general drainage channel brings together the drainage channels in the region west of Baghdad, most important of which are the al-Ishaqi, al-Saqlawiyah, Abu Ghurayb, al-Radwanayah, al-Yusufiyah, Hawr Rajab, al-Latifiyah, al-Iskandariyah, al-Musayyib, 'Usaybah, al-Shuhaymiyah, al-Mahawil, al-Shatrah and al-Damlaj drainage channels.

"In addition, the drainage channels of al-Hillah, al-Diwaniyah and al-Samawah (the East Euphrates drainage channel), and the system of drains west and east of the Euphrates, in addition to a group of small drains in the area through which the general drainage channel passes."

He pointed out that the maximum drainage of the channels which will be built up to 2000, whose water will be discharged by the general drainage channel, will be about 312 cubic meters per second, and the minimum drainage in the same year will be about 90 cubic meters per second.

For the purpose of reducing the degree of fluctuations in the discharge, an evaporation basin has been built in the al-Damlaj and al-Nasr depressions, which will be used as supplements for the drainage water; these will lead to a reduction in the fluctuations in the drainage to 200 cubic meters per second at the maximum and 137 cubic meters as the minimum.

Eng 'Abbas Jawad Farhan, the general manager of the General General Drainage Channel Agency, said that the project was crisscrossed by a large group of installations, discharge pipes, vehicular and train bridges, navigation locks, pump stations, wiers and roads throughout its length.

Finally, the general manager of the project said that the general drainage channel passed through desert areas which were permeated by soft soil that was carried easily by winds, which move it from place to place. This soil, which increases in certain seasons, causes a problem for the general drainage channel.

Therefore, the project designs have included the construction of sand barriers, embodied in the construction of high barriers 8 meters in height to

block the encroaching sand and allow it to collect in front of these barriers in order to prevent it from encroaching into the site of the course of the general drainage channel. The volume of this sand is estimated at 10 cubic meters, and it permeates the channel of the general canal in the course of its journey.

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JORDAN VALLEY AGRICULTURAL ISSUES DISCUSSED

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Sep 84 p 7

[Interview with 'Adil al-Shamayilah, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Farmers' Federation, by Marwan al-Sharidah: "Farmers' Problems in the Jordan Valley"; date and place not specified]

[Text] The Jordan Valley is considered the lifeline that provides local and neighboring markets with 70 percent of the Jordanian citizen's vegetable needs, since the people who occupy this place enjoy the fruits of this valley. Since the valley with its numerous advantages occupies this special standing, it must be provided with everything it requires to continue to be this lifeline, to provide the local and neighboring markets with vegetable products. Officials have shown their concern with this valley, through providing incentives to the Jordanian farmer. The Jordan Valley Authority was a leader in bringing prosperity to the valley, its residents and its farmers. It has taken on the responsibility for developing the valley, by offering the necessary and required services, such as housing, schools, hospitals, roads and other services.

Other agencies concerned also worked with valley producers, giving what was needed to establish centers for sorting and marketing. The Farmers' Federation was founded to forge a new link in the circle of official concern for the farmers. It was based on the responsibility for providing services to the farmers.

The current government has emphasized the importance of directing more concern and interest in the Jordan Valley. Despite this amount of resources, the farmers still face certain difficulties and cannot solve all of their problems pertaining to their agricultural products.

Farmers' Concerns

We have conveyed some of these farmers' concerns and their problems to the Farmers' Federation, in an attempt to study and discuss them, and to suggest a formula to resolve them. We did this through the following interview with 'Adil al-Shamayilah, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Farmers' Federation:

[Question] Despite the effective and important role that the farmer plays in the Jordan Valley, in service to the cause of agricultural development, he

suffers from considerable difficulties, some pertaining to marketing products, some others concerning debts incurred, etc. What is the role of the Farmers' Federation concerning all this?

[Answer] It enters into the realm of duties that have devolved onto the federation, the issue of marketing agricultural crops whether in local or neighboring markets. However, this responsibility cannot be undertaken by the federation at the present time, in view of the paucity of its fiscal resources. This is a very important factor, or rather, it is the essential factor in the marketing process. Accordingly, the farmers themselves are the ones who market their products. The federation will continue to be incapable of doing this job, until it becomes financially able to implement it. The authority responsible for that is the state, which promulgated the federation's law in 1974.

Federation Assets

At the present time, the federation only has funds that are paid to it by the members through affiliation and membership fees, from federation sales to farmers, and from gifts that the federation receives. The federation's funds do not exceed 14,000 dinars, which is the sum of membership fees paid by its 4,760 members.

Therefore, we find that the farmer does suffer from a marketing problem, which is still subject to the law of supply and demand. When we realize that the supply exceeds demand, prices will continue at their low levels and, therefore, the farmer will continue to be the loser in all cases. The agricultural marketing problem will only be solved by creating the agricultural model that will constitute the framework to define agricultural processes in Jordan. There is a study prepared by the Arab Agricultural Development Organization, which includes proposals and options to make an agricultural model. What is needed now is to translate this study into practical reality. Until that time, the farmer will continue to struggle in the "ebb and flow" of the prices he faces. One of the missions stipulated by the Farmers' Federation law, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, pertains to the application of a cycle and an agricultural model in the valley, and the federation is serious about carrying out this article, because it will put an end to the randomness of the agricultural process. In this regard, we appreciate the government's step of establishing the Agricultural Company, with a capitalization of \$10 million. The government owns 51 percent of its stock. As a first step, the company aims at handling agricultural production and marketing it.

In any event, that does not do away with the need to create an agricultural model, which will be the radical and positive solution for production and marketing issues since, through it, there can be a balance between supply and demand. It is the economic theory in which the economic feasibility of any type of production is placed.

At this point, I would like to call attention to the excellent and serious efforts put forth by the minister of agriculture, Muhammad al-Bashir, to carry out the agricultural growth plan just as soon as possible.

The Agricultural Model

[Question] The issue of the agricultural model for the Jordan Valley has been around a long time, but so far nothing has been crystallized concerning it. What does the Farmers' Federation think?

[Answer] The fact is that there has been a considerable delay in implementing the agricultural model right up to the present day, despite the numerous studies and the many committees that have been formed to study this objective. However, as I said before, there is serious interest by the minister of agriculture concerning this matter. There have been meetings between us, during which serious discussions took place on this subject. Moreover, the steps for carrying it out and bringing it to fruition have also been discussed, even if through stages. As you know, the agricultural model is based on a group of fundamental factors, which must be crystallized in advance. They are:

1. A study of the amount of production required to cover the needs of the domestic market.
2. A study of the amounts required for exporting abroad to regional markets.
3. A study of what is required for industrialization, and to ascertain the amounts required for storage for limited periods.

When the agricultural model can be based on these fundamental matters, and the ratio of supply and demand balanced, then the farmer will not hesitate for a second to go to the market to sell his produce, because the profit that he gains from the market will be considerably higher than the return that he would get from the government's obligation.

Tomato Juice Factory

[Question] What are the reasons behind shutting down the tomato juice plant for all this time?

[Answer] This matter is tied in with what I have said before. Due to the sparse rainfall this year, and the warning to the farmers by the head of the Jordan Valley Authority not to expand their vegetable crops, the farmers took heed, and as a result, tomato farmers did not bring their production to the factory in accordance with the government's commitment to buy their produce, but rather, they went to the markets where their produce was sold at generous prices. This compensated them for some of their losses which they suffered the past 2 years. This confirms my statement that the government's commitment to farmers will only be nominal, on condition that the agricultural model is carefully studied in accordance with those factors that I mentioned earlier.

Federation's Support

[Question] Does the government share in giving any type of support to the federation?

[Answer] The government has thankfully participated more than once in support for the federation. It has made loans and given it financial assistance, enabling the federation to carry out a part of its duties within a limited framework. What I would like now is for the government to reevaluate the federation's tasks, through a high-level committee that could submit a report concerning the federation's needs and requirements to enable it to take its place and bear its considerable responsibilities with respect to the farmers.

In its present situation, the federation operates within a constrained circle which does not satisfy its goals nor enables it to carry out its activities as prescribed by law. It will continue to operate in a vicious circle, unless it can obtain the necessary funds that it needs to achieve its objectives and goals. I am sure that the prime minister, who said in his ministerial statement that he was especially interested in the agricultural sector, will not hesitate to offer full support to the federation, which constitutes a unique experiment in Jordan. This is because the federation will carry a large part of the government's difficulties with respect to resolving the farmers' problems, if the reasons for concern and interest are provided to it.

Absorbing the Valley's Produce

[Question] Will the Agricultural Marketing Company be able to absorb the valley's production at generous prices for the farmers?

[Answer] The company will purchase the available production at the markets and at the farms, at current prices. It will not be able to subsidize the farmer and give him prices that are higher than the current prices at the time of purchase, because it is a company that is subject to factors of profit and loss, like any company that is aimed at profit first and foremost. Therefore, I must repeat that there has to be an agricultural model to determine the amount of production and, at that time, this company will be very effective in buying production at reasonable prices.

Savings Fund

[Question], Where has the idea of establishing a savings fund to subsidize the farmers got to?

[Answer] The importance of this fund lies in the fact that it will provide the farmers with a fine opportunity to become prosperous and to assist them in circumstances of stress. The minister of agriculture has shown me a draft law in this regard, which has been sent to the Ministry of Finance in order to make it possible. In the event it becomes a reality, this matter will satisfy long-range objectives and will be an alternative to the government in helping the farmers.

West Bank Production

[Question] To what extent are Jordan Valley products affected by agricultural products sent to our markets from the West Bank?

[Answer] Agricultural conditions that the farmers have gone through have shown that the entry of West Bank products into East Bank markets in a season

coinciding with Jordan Valley production causes a glut on the market of agricultural products. This reflects negatively on prices and results in their decline, affecting the farmers' income. Since the bottom lands have a unique climate in terms of early production, since it happens a month before West Bank production, an agricultural policy must be followed of marketing the valley production first and to allow the West Bank produce to enter East Bank markets at specific times, so that the entry of West Bank products will have no effect until the valley products are disposed of, which will cause no damage to West Bank production. On the contrary, it will give higher profits to the farmers of both banks.

[Question] What are the other roles by which the federation serves the farmers?

[Answer] The federation buys seed and fertilizer at prices that are considerably lower than the prevailing prices in the market. It also offers loans to farmers at low interest rates, lower than the rates that the federation pays when obtaining loans from other institutions.

The federation plays the role of mediator, in order to resolve any problems that may arise between the Jordan Valley Authority and the farmers, since the Authority is represented by a member on the federation's board of directors.

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SA'IB SALAM COMMENTS ON PROGRESS OF SECURITY ACCORD

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1451, 24 Aug 84 p 12

[Article by 'Izzat Safi]

[Text] The "process of salvation" in Lebanon had not been going on for long when it ran up against the main obstacle which everybody clearly sees, that being obstacle of political reform, which cannot be skipped over on the way to other matters.

It is equally clear to those within and outside of Lebanon that the periods of calm that have prevailed in Beirut and some of the suburbs are only a truce subject to a minimum amount of communication and meetings between the ministers, for if the communications and meetings cease, there will be activity along the battle lines and fingers will be on the triggers, and after that an outbreak of violence will be the natural outcome, one that constantly overtakes the Lebanese in their troubled lives.

In fact, something of the sort occurred recently, and things were on the verge of getting worse, had not Damascus intervened again to give the Lebanese patient a sedative does in order to enable him to think realistically on how to improve his condition.

A senior minister in the government has said frankly, "From time to time we need the Syrian medicine, which we seek whenever we as a government are unable to get through one of the narrow necks in the crisis bottle, and oh how many are those necks and how long is that narrow bottle!"

The senior minister added, "That has been the situation from the time the Geneva conference was held until now, for all the progress that has been made has come as a result of Syrian pressure, whether in security or political matters."

Then he said, "It seems we have reached a stage where we need a strong push to get past the wall of plan for the mountains and the north, and to begin after that, or try to begin, the process of political reform...and then we will need constant pushing!"

The senior minister's words are nothing more than a description of the medicine which the ministers take continuously; as for the disease, it is very pernicious. One only has to present the government with an issue that has political or reformist aspects to split the cabinet into two factions, described by prime minister Salim al-Huss as being the faction of those who cannot give and the faction of those who cannot take. As long as there is a faction that does not give and one that makes demands but does not take, the crisis will remain; in fact, it will grow.

Prime minister Sa'ib Salam finally broke his silence on the government, and he called for the removal of the "contact lines" between the ministers before they are removed from neighborhoods and regions, for if the ministers do not meet along secure political lines, how will the people and the fighters be able to do so?

Prime Minister Salam did not play down the seriousness of those lines, for according to a responsible political authority, they represent the contact lines between the East and West fronts, that is, between the front lines of the United States of America and those of the Soviet Union. It would be a miracle if the ministers were to find a common denominator that would bring them closer to a mutual understanding on a formula for the future of Lebanon that would reconcile its Arab membership and national obligation, along with confirming the principle of equal rights for all on the one hand, with the inclination towards federal formulae with respect to security, economics and education on the other.

The negative signs which appeared recently with respect to the security plan for the mountains and which caused the cancellation of the Cabinet meeting last week were the driving force behind putting all the problems which had begun to crop up before the government of Prime Minister Karami.

In a meeting characterized by "frank discussion in depth" and which included a number of active ministers, one of those ministers asked his companions, "Are we really a government of national unity? And is this government of ours ready to translate its name into reality? And after the stage it has gone through, is this government today stronger than it was during the stage when it was formed?"

The minister did not wait for an answer, but began to set forth the government's situation, the stages it had passed through, and the results it had achieved up to now, and he pointed out that everything that had been achieved in the security field was and still is nothing but unstable measures because they are not based upon an integrated foundation to the concept of unified and comprehensive security in the country.

In his frank discussion of affairs, the minister got to the essential point of the Lausanne agreement, which is that the relaxations in the security situation are nothing more than a breather and an opportunity to have objective discussions aimed at bringing about political reform, which is considered to be at the heart of an internal solution to the crisis which has been going on for 10 years.

The minister expressed his concern over marginal disagreements that have begun to appear within the preparations to open a political portfolio. And he wondered, "If one legislative act can threaten the harmony of the Cabinet, then what guarantee is there for an agreement to remove or alter that 'burdensome legacy' of decrees and laws that have been issued, and after that how can the system be reformed amid conflicting points of view and stiff-necked positions?"

Then the minister himself brought up the economic and social problem in the country, pointing out briefly that the disintegrating situation was getting worse and threatening to have serious consequences, such that the success of the security and political plans would be of no use after that, in light of the collapse that would have occurred.

In light of that possibility, there will be more destruction than building, and the Arab nations and friendly foreign nations will find more than one excuse to refrain from offering aid or investing capital in Lebanon, and consequently extremist currents will overcome currents of moderation, and the chance for salvation will be lost to all.

These frank words had barely gotten to the suggestion that the split in the Cabinet be quickly ended before it got worse, when several other ministers broke in and presented the positive achievements of the government, most important of which was that the city of Beirut had become safe and calm, a fact that could not be underestimated, and that the experience of the capital could be applied with greater success and could be transferred to other regions through a complete and balanced rectification of the army situation.

On the subject of positive aspects, it was said in the closed-door ministerial meeting that when the present government was formed it was a feasible arrangement, if not the best. And it was said that it would be easy to resolve positions and end the Cabinet split if each faction would return to its position, but the results of that step would be worse than the current situation, and after that it would be difficult to restart a successful attempt.

Some of the ministers gathered there considered that the opportunity for political accord was still open, and even if it had been there a while without getting results worth mentioning, it was better than some other opportunity that might come late or not at all. On this basis it was agreed to postpone any negative step while waiting to begin the phase of political reform.

However, these positive views which the ministers presented expressing the view of Prime Minister Rashid Karami were not based only on local events, rather these ministers had information which indicated that the open opportunity for salvation would not escape, either from the Lebanese scene, or the Arab or international scenes, especially since Syria was now dealing with the Lebanese crisis with determination, and it is openly seen that Syria might use force to impose the peace which will be necessary before the political matter can be approached.

The ministers' information took on greater importance when they confirmed that Israeli talk about withdrawing soon from the South was not a maneuver but a serious course imposed by the national resistance, which had forced the occupation authorities to admit that its dispersal in the South, in Rashaya and in the western Biqa' had put a crack in Israeli security and in the defense lines for the Upper Galilee region.

In addition to that, these ministers informed their colleagues that the United States of America gave assurances through its diplomatic channels that the new Israeli government would pass a resolution on withdrawing from South Lebanon no later than the beginning of next year.

All that will strengthen the belief that a solution to the Lebanese crisis has become easier.

But the important thing is--is that information correct?

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BRIEFS

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE--One of the results of the advisory group formed by the Minister of Economy, Trade, Industry and Petroleum from the heads of economic bodies themselves. After two meetings of the advisory work group, Minister Qasir brought up the subject of increasing the fees which the chambers of commerce receive, according to a proposal they had put forward over 2 years ago to raise the fees. Since 1982, the plenary sessions of the chambers of commerce have confirmed the need to raise the fees which have not changed for some time, because of the increased burdens of these chambers. This proposal kept on waiting for cabinet approval in vain, even though two ministers, Khalid Junblatt and Ibrahim Halawi, followed one another in the Ministry of Economy and Trade. But it seems that Minister Victor Qasir agrees that these fees have to be raised to be in line with all fees which have increased more than once during the past years. In addition to that, Minister Qasir proposed before the Cabinet that the Zahlah chamber be granted a loan of 1.5 million pounds for constructing its building which will be the "home of the Biqa' economy", and Qasir proposed that the loan have easy terms with respect to interest rate and duration. [Text] [London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1451, 24 Aug 84 p 50] 12547

CSO: 4404/638

IRAQI PAPER SHARPLY CRITICIZES NATIONAL BUDGET

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Aug 84 p 3

[Article by 'Aziz al-Difa'i: "The Syrian Budget for 1984-85: Indices of Decline and the Cost of Treason!"]

[Text] Serious events always call for a moment in which to take stock, in which one will try to understand the real dimensions of any phenomenon, whatever it might be, and realize the consequences that have arisen from it (personal convictions and conduct) and the positions relied on by the groups which constitute the authorities, or have usurped power, if we seek to express ourselves accurately in talking about the Syrian regime, all of whose political steps are subject to calculations of profit and loss in terms of interests which will bring the regime a greater degree of confrontation with clashes and double dealing -- double dealing which is perhaps most enticing, although it extends over a blazing fire, in spite of all the pragmatic and opportunistic reasons which are concealed behind the mask of revolutionarism, behind which the faces of the rulers of Damascus, which are devoid of any Arab, revolutionary and nationalistic affiliation, seek refuge. It is well known to everyone that Hafiz al-Asad's policy has led Syria into swamps and shifting sands in an effort on his part to exploit Syria's geopolitical importance in a manner which will help him hold onto all the cards of Middle East policy in a manner conforming to the interests of the major countries, whose goods represent the main source of survival for the factional authorities in Syria, and not the interests of the Syrian people and the Arab nation as the official media in Damascus try to suggest on the national level and among the people. The massacres in Lebanon, the liquidation of the Palestinian resistance (by embracing some of the forces in it sometimes, then having them strike out at one another at other times), the alliance with the Iranian regime against Iraq and other maneuvers which have been used are all entries in the "dictionary of revolutionarism." They have led Syria far away from the real meaning of the identity of Arab affiliation; indeed, it has been turned into a tool and a "pawn" which is indispensable in the advancement of any plan to strike out at the forces of national rejection in the Arab nation. In addition to the wounds which this policy has left in the conscience of the Iraqi and Palestinian people, and all the honorable movements and parties in the area, this program has had serious effects on the economic situation in Syria, in spite of the "doses of stimulants" which

have been offered to the ruling regime in Damascus as a reward for its treachery and numerous opportunistic positions.

This year, people who observe financial affairs in Syria have noted that the government held back a number of months before announcing the budget for the current year (1984-85). The only explanation offered by the official bodies was a lack of confidence in the financial situation, which was the reason for the delay in the declaration of the details and the definition of the final figures in the chapters on current and development spending.

The sources of revenues for the tax budget are embodied in the taxes imposed on incomes, profits, property and wealth and taxes on production, consumption and internal transportation, as well as taxes on foreign trade and the like. Non-tax revenues are essentially made up of transfers of surpluses from public agencies.

This year's budget, which came to 41.3 billion Syrian pounds, was submitted to the government at the beginning of May and was not ratified until the latter part of June, as a result of major differences among the minister of finance, officials of the Central Bank of Syria, and the other ministers in the agencies of the Ministries of Defense, Trade and Agriculture.

In the face of increasing demand for increased investment allocations to the agriculture sector, criticism by the mining and import organizations and their demand that the volume of government investment be increased in order to deal with the severe bottlenecks in these two vital activities, which arise from the shortage of foreign currency and the great difficulties in opening new credits -- in the face of these demands, the government responded by raising allocations to security, which have been incorporated into the allocations to defense, by 20.5 percent over last year's budget, which came to \$2.7 billion, so that they have risen to \$3.21 billion, or the equivalent of 32.5 percent of total government expenses. One should bear in mind that the expenditures by the regime's intelligence agencies and the Syrian "deterrent forces" absorbed more than 70 percent of these allocations in 1982, when the budget deficit came to about 13.1 billion Syrian pounds, an increase of 25 percent over the budget deficit in the previous year. In the face of this, agricultural investment recorded only a very minor increase while agricultural investment rose by 20 percent, in hopes that the increase in agricultural production would help meet the increasing needs for necessary foodstuffs and create a surplus in cotton production for export purposes to make up in part for declining oil revenues, which dropped by the rate of the drop in prices, and the closure of the Iraqi oil pipeline, which, among its numerous negative results, led to the infliction of exorbitant costs, such as the change of certain refining vessels to conform to heavy Syrian oil and Iranian oil, in addition to the dismissal of 9,000 workers who had been working on the Iraqi-Syrian line, not to mention the blow directed against Arab economic cooperation.

What is certain is that the Syrian budget has benefited from a 65 percent increase in the volume of oil imports from Iran. This was given to it free of charge, since Iran is offering Syria 1 million tons a year as "a gift" in addition to 5 million tons of crude oil at special prices! This means that

al-Asad's regime is getting about \$200 million in oil at no charge in addition to other deductions.

However, the decline in the level of Iranian oil exports due to the Iraqi embargo and the declaration of the state of financial alert on Tehran's part have led to the emergence of a large deficit in oil supplies coming to the Mediterranean ports in Syria from abroad. This was one of the reasons for the meetings between officials from both regimes.

It is to be noted here that Iran's share of imports in 1982 came to 19.6 percent, while the share of Syria's imports from Iraq in 1981 was 18.8 percent.

The Syrian government justified the declines and the pressures on the financial situation to citizens in Syria by the pursuit of a hard-line policy (through economic pressures) imposed on Syria and the problems the Syrian economy is facing in the current stage, which the finance minister of the regime defined in one of his statements as a \$90 million decline in oil revenues as a result of the drop in the prices of Syrian heavy oil relative to 1983. One should bear in mind that 1983 revenues did not exceed \$1 billion.

The Syrian minister acknowledged that the deficit in government spending to cover government investment activities in the current year's budget came to about 25.5 billion Syrian pounds. The essential problem here is that the increase in security and defense expenditures and the drop in oil revenues was reflected negatively on the national development plan (1981-85) to which plan investments of 101,493,000,000 Syrian pounds had been allocated, with 92,156,000,000 pounds to be provided from local revenues, 6,554,000,000 pounds from loans and 2,809,000,000 pounds from credit facilities, while foreign sources pledged to provide 74 million pounds in grants and aid.

This plan created an increase in the trade deficit of about \$3 billion in the past 3 years, and it faced numerous bottlenecks because of the scarcity of technically and managerially skilled people as a result of the great emigration among higher personnel and technocrats, deficiencies in transportation equipment and machinery, the low level of mechanization and poor planning in the agricultural sector, in addition to poor storage procedures, large bottlenecks in the ports and a scarcity of construction materials, primary materials and other spare parts.

In spite of these circumstances, which have been reflected negatively on the execution of the plan, with large deductions made from its various sections, government spending did not exceed 7 percent in the first year, 5.9 percent in the second year, 9 percent in the third year and 6 percent in the current budget, at a time when the plan had defined the level of government spending at no less than 11.8 percent.

The increase in the new Syrian budget was 10.8 percent over the figures of the 1983 budget, which were in the range of 37.3 billion Syrian pounds.

This increase will probably counteract the actual rate of inflation in Syria, although it is lower than the actual inflation rate, which the International Monetary Fund has estimated at about 18 to 20 percent.

The grave problem which the Syrian economy will be facing this year and in the coming period is the great shortage of foreign currency, which has started to threaten the activity of the main sectors in Syria, especially those that rely on the foreign market to obtain basic requirements for factors of production, such as primary materials, semi-manufactured goods, machines, spare parts and experts.

It has become apparent to many experts in the International Monetary Fund working in Syria that the government is earnestly trying to conceal the real figure on the status of its hard currency reserves.

For example, in 1981 Syria's reserves did not exceed \$600 million; they dropped the following year to \$137 million, then to less than that, which was not enough to cover Syria's imports for more than 2 weeks; these were covered by foreign debts and aid, which we will deal with in another article at a later time, God willing.

In any event, a study prepared by the Syrian Ministry of Industry has shown that the main reasons for the drop in productivity in public sector industrial projects in the past 2 years can be attributed to the shortage of the necessary primary materials and spare parts, requests for which the financial agencies subject to rejection or postponement for a number of months because of the inability to cover accounts for opening credits with the suppliers.

According to International Monetary Fund statistics, Syrian imports in the first half of 1983 were around \$7.2 billion, compared with \$8.4 billion in the same period of last year, and were accompanied by a drop in exports from \$3.8 billion in the first half of 1982 to \$2.9 billion in the second half of 1983.

The basic reason for the drop in exports can be attributed to the drop in oil revenues and agricultural exports, especially cotton. Although the agricultural sector employs 35 percent of the workforce and about 45 percent of the population, its contribution to gross domestic product in the past 2 years has not exceeded 20 percent, while it had been around 30 percent in the early sixties.

The deterioration in the conditions of agricultural and industrial production because of the failure of the economic policy authorized by the regime, the dominance of the administrative, planning and executive agencies by incompetent and parasitic personnel, who swamp them with every form of bribery and corruption, the mobilization of the country's resources to serve the regime's intelligence agencies and internal and foreign repression units, and the schemes of conspiracy against Iraq and the Palestinian cause have left negative effects in their impact on the Syrian citizen's real income and his living and health conditions.

In an article in which he talked about his field observations in the Syrian markets, the correspondent with the magazine ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT wrote, "The black market has become a source of everything. There you can get a dollar for 6.8 Syrian pounds -- bearing in mind that the official rate is 3.9 pounds to the dollar. The military forces play a basic role in the revival of the black market which was apparent from the sale of stolen goods from Lebanon, since most senior officers have shops in which they sell goods smuggled and stolen from Lebanon in the center of the capital, Damascus, and the other main Syrian cities such as Latakia, Hamah and Tartus."

All people visiting Syria in recent years assert that there are warehouses and storehouses in the border village of Madaya for various machines, goods and items of equipment, whose value might be greater than everything the Syrian public sector warehouses contain. Rif'at al-Asad directly supervises the smuggling trade there.

At a time when Syrian opposition sources are talking about the revival of a parasitic class of Lebanese war merchants who are auxiliary figures in the Syrian regime and beneficiaries of suspicious transactions with aides in the Iranian regime, millions of Syrian citizens are suffering from the bitter deterioration in the standard of living, ignominy and contempt at the hands of the al-Asad agencies of repression, which will never prevent the free spirits of our perseverant Syrian Arab people from continuing their course. Indeed, that will increase their insistence and determination to bring down Asad's regime.

Sources

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CSO: 4404/25

MOHAMMAD ES-HAQ IN SWEDEN TALKS OF FAMINE THREAT

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 8 Nov 84 p 16

[Article by Stefan Lisinski]

[Text] The civilian population of Afghanistan is threatened with disaster after the most recent Soviet attacks. People have been forced to surrender their homes and farms. Many are faced with a severe winter without food and a roof over their heads.

"A total of half a million people have been forced to flee from their homes," says Mohammad es-Haq, who is in Sweden at the moment. He is the unofficial foreign minister of the resistance movement of Ahmed Massoud, the legendary guerrilla leader. It is Massoud in the Panjshir Valley which has been the target of a number of Soviet attacks.

"The ninth offensive was started about 10 days ago," Mohammad es-Haq says.

He says that the Soviet Union has changed its tactics in the war. They have realized that it is not possible to isolate the resistance movement from the civilian population.

"That is why they have begun waging war against the civilian population. They get the choice between giving up or dying."

He estimates the Soviet troops in Afghanistan at well over 200,000.

In the Panjshir Valley, nearly 150,000 people have been forced to leave their homes, according to Mohammad es-Haq. Their homes have been destroyed, their farms and food supplies burned.

"The people have been forced to live in caves in the mountains to avoid being assaulted by the Soviet troops. During the winter, they are forced to come down from the mountains and will have to stay with others who have not been assaulted."

No Help

Mohammad es-Haq says that the international aid organizations so far have done nothing to help the civilian population. He urges the Swedish government to start sending humanitarian aid.

The refugee problem is, of course, also a major problem for the resistance movement which cannot fight in a country without people. Today, in addition to the half million homeless in Afghanistan, there are about four million refugees in Pakistan.

Despite the refugee problem, Mohammad es-Haq says that the struggle has become expanded and that the resistance movement has begun to set up a well-functioning civilian administration at the local level. However, he does not believe that the guerrillas have any possibility of defeating the Soviet Union militarily.

Creating Problems

"We look at the resistance struggle as the key to a political solution. It is a question of creating problems for the Soviet Union so that they are prepared to give in. However, we cannot on our own cause the Soviet Union to give in. Without strong international pressures, they will not yield."

He does not believe that the action against the French TV journalist Jacques Abouchard will deter journalists from traveling in Afghanistan in the future.

"For nobody lost anything. He was sent home as a hero."

7262

CSO: 3650/49

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

PRODUCTION GROWTH--Kabul, 19 Nov (BAKHTAR)--The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) believes that a faster growth of the productive forces can be ensured only through the abolition of the feudal system. This is stated in an article carried by daily ANIS today. The newspaper notes that the democratic water and land reforms are continuing at a fast pace throughout the country with the cooperation of peasants and all the working people. Extensive steps are taken for rooting out feudalism in the country through the distribution of land to the landless peasants and petty holders. The article recalls the all-sided assistance provided by the state of the DRA to the peasants such as agricultural credits and technical assistance, distribution of chemical fertilizers, improved wheat, and useful guidance. As a result of the sound agricultural policies of the state, the author points out, the peasants have ensured sufficient harvests from their lands. Over 2,900,000 hectares of land were cultivated during the current Afghan year (begun 20 March 1984). [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 20 Nov 84]

CSO: 4600/89

CONCERN OVER POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES IN KASHMIR NOTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 9. The Centre is concerned that, inspite of its all-out support, the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Mr. G. M. Shah, has not been able to consolidate his position and start tackling the complex problems facing the sensitive border State with all its communal overtones.

In his negative role, the former Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, is able to wield greater influence by posing as a victim of the Centre's wrath rather than of his over-reaching ambitions.

The more immediate cause of his downfall was, no doubt, his ill-advised bid to project himself as a national figure, which inevitably brought him into a head-on collision with the Centre. But his real troubles began when he refused to enter into an electoral alliance with the Congress (I) in the last elections.

Puppet Govt. What is now worrying the Centre is that in his present role as a prime beneficiary of his brother-in-law's rift with the Congress (I), Mr. Shah is finding it extremely difficult to live down the stigma of creating a bitter family feud by attempting to usurp the late Sheikh Abdullah's mantle.

He has not so far succeeded in rallying enough support for himself in the hazardous gamble, since rightly or wrongly he has come to be regarded as no more than a puppet in the hands of those who master-minded the downfall of Dr. Abdullah's Government.

Pak's role: The pro-Pakistan elements in the Kashmir valley have been exploiting the situation to stir up anti-Indian feeling and give a communal colour to local politics, while Pakistan itself has been trying to inflame passions with false propaganda, portraying Dr. Abdullah as a victim of Hindu chauvinism.

The military regime in Pakistan knows quite well that any attempt to repeat the events of 1965 when it tried to send in thousands of well-trained infiltrators to seize points before the regular troops moved in to capture the valley, would be met with swift retribution.

So, what is being aimed at is not a repetition of that disastrous mistake, but generation of enough discontent with communal propaganda for creating a deeply unsettling impact on the minds of the Kashmir people.

The Centre is not worried about the security aspects, since the Army is well prepared to deal effectively with any armed incursion from Pakistan. But the present political uncertainties provide a fresh opportunity to the pro-Pakistan elements in Kashmir to indulge in subversive activities and create an atmosphere of tension.

The economy of Kashmir has suffered considerably this year through a precipitous decline in tourist trade in the wake of the Punjab crisis and the disturbed conditions in the valley following the dismissal of Dr. Abdullah's Government. The new Government is being blamed for the plight of those who have traditionally depended for their livelihood on tourism.

Shah meets PM: The Chief Minister, who is now in Delhi, met the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, today to inform her of the steps being taken by his Government to curb the anti-national elements responsible for the current troubles in the State. But he also pleaded for extra funds to finance developmental schemes for creating more employment to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

The critical power shortage in Kashmir, she was told, was affecting what little industry there was in the valley, leading in turn to increased unemployment. The winter this year was expected to be a particular bleak period for the hard-pressed people in this politically volatile and economically distressing atmosphere.

The Centre as well the State Governments continue to keep a close watch on Dr. Abdullah's activities and would not hesitate to take action if he crossed the limits of their tolerance. But if he plunges himself actively into the Opposition campaign during the Lok Sabha elections to keep himself in the political limelight, foreswearing his loyalty to India and commitment to the finality of Kashmir's accession, there is nothing that they can do to restrain him.

CSO: 4600/1058

PRESS REPORTS PROBLEMS WITH ASSAM POLL PLANS

Officials, Chief Minister Interviewed

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Oct 84, pp 1, 9

[Article by Manash Ghosh]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 14.--Senior officials of the Election Commission and key Congress (I) leaders, including Mr Hiteswar Saikia, Chief Minister of Assam, feel that elections to the 14 Lok Sabha seats in the State cannot be held before November next year. They said in separate interviews here that seven to eight months would be needed for a thorough and intensive revision of the electoral rolls in Assam.

The Election Commission officials and the Assma Chief Minister said that polling could not be held in the State between April and September because of the monsoon and floods. The Election Commission is against polls being held during this period because telecommunication links in the Brahmaputra and Baraak Valleys remain almost totally disrupted for weeks, as it happened in last month.

Although the Chief Minister has informed the Prime Minister and the Election Commission of his Government's view in favour of holding the election in March, the Election Commission is doubtful whether it can be held so early.

According to the commission's own calculations, the process of intensively revising the electoral rolls will not be completed by March.

The commission plans to send enumerators to every house in the State for preparing a draft electoral roll. Subsequently, "good and reasonable time" will be given for filling objections. "The objective is to exclude all those from the voters list who are not eligible voters. Those against whom objections will be filed will be asked to prove their bona fides as voters. They will be asked whether they had voted in the earlier elections and had the necessary papers to prove their citizenship", said a senior Election Commission official.

The previous rolls, even those of years earlier than 1971, would be consulted for this purpose. The electoral officer will have to be satisfied about the genuine claims of a voter before his or her name is included in the new electoral roll. Furnishing wrong facts is a punishable offence and "we are going to ensure that the law is strictly enforced in Assam and other States. We propose to take enough

precautions so that the new rolls to be prepared are devoid of controversy. It is to discuss the modalities of revising the rolls in Assam that the Chief Electoral Officer of the State is coming here for a meeting tomorrow", added the commission official.

Mr Saikia, while welcoming the intensive revision of electoral rolls, says that there will be little scope for arbitrary deletion of names during revision this time, as had happened in Mongoldoi five years ago. "The mood and atmosphere in Assam now is different. Government officers and Gaon Buras will not behave the way some of them did during the Mongoldoi by-election.

"Moreover, the Election Commission has minimized the potential for mischief with regard to filing of objections. Bona fides of a voter can only be challenged by a voter of the same constituency and not by anyone outside the constituency, as was the case in the past. The commission's decision for intensive revision only vindicates my stand against arbitrary exclusion of 2.3 million voters from the list, as was demanded by the All Assam Students Union and Opposition parties. I am quite happy with the arrangement", the Chief Minister remarked.

Mr Saikia said that the Congress (I) would field new candidates for four Lok Sabha seats--Gauhati, Barpeta, Tezpur and Lakhimpur. The party's central leaders had conveyed this decision, as the sitting MPs from these seats either did not have a good image, or were ill, or had proved ineffective.

Mr Saikia believes that a section of the AASU leadership, with the help of the Assam Jatiyatabadi Dal, will launch a new regional party soon. It is with this end in view that a convention will soon be held in Assam, which AASU leaders and constituents of the Gana Sangram Parishad will attend.

Mr Saikia discounted the possibility of the Purbanchaliya Lok Parishad joining the new regional party, as its views were at variance with those of AASU and some components of the Gana Sangram Parishad.

According to the Chief Minister, some progress had already been made regarding the formation of the new party. The AASU and some Parishad leaders, most of whom were high-caste Hindus, were trying to rope in a well-known and popular Assamese singer, who belongs to the Scheduled Caste, and project him as leader of the proposed party.

Making Inroads

Mr Saikia said that the recent floods in the State, the worst in the past 50 years, had helped his party make inroads into areas which were considered bastions of AASU and the Parishad. Congress (I) workers and volunteers had done intensive relief work in those areas and had already earned the goodwill of the people, who "had been against us...most of the flood-affected areas are under two feet of silt and our volunteers and Government agencies are trying to desilt the areas", Mr Saikia remarked.

The Chief Minister sees little possibility of the emergence of a fundamental Islamic party in Assam. He said that the Muslims in Assam knew well that such a

party would not be able to protect their interests. "Of course, many Muslims feel the need for such a party, but they know it would only harm their interests", he added.

AASU Accusations

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Oct 84 p 9

[Text] Gauhati, Oct. 14.--The All Assam Students Union has charged the Election Commission with meddling in politics on the issue of revising the voters' list in the State, reports PTI.

In a joint statement issued here last night, the AASU president, Mr Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, and its general secretary, Mr Bhrigu Kumar Phukan, alleged that there was a striking similarity between the casual approach of the Election Commission on the question of revising the voters' list and the political attempt by the ruling party to browbeat the Assam movement.

Mr Mahanta and Mr Phukan warned that the proposed revision of the voters' list would not only invite non-cooperation but also opposition and peaceful resistance from the people if the procedure to be adopted by the Election machinery to delete the names of non-Indians left even an iota of scope for manipulation.

"The people of Assam will assert their right and will not live at the mercy of either the ruling party or the Election Commission", they said.

The AASU leaders said the procedure for revising the voters' list was reportedly based on voluntary declaration of the people about their status regarding citizenship.

"If the officials of the Election Commission really believe that the non-Indians in Assam will declare their status on their own, they are totally mistaken". It only showed their ignorance about the magnitude of the problem, they said.

Charging that the move was a deliberate attempt by the Election Commission to underline the gravity of the situation created by non-Indians in Assam, the statement said the "political right of the Assamese is being systematically eroded and the Election Commission once again appears to be set on granting political rights to the non-Indians".

CSO: 4600/1061

CONGRESS-I LEADERS' PLANS FOR POLL STUDY TOLD

Madras THE HINDU in English 8 Oct 84 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 7.

The Congress (I) Chief Ministers, ex-Chief Ministers, PCC (I) presidents and other prominent leaders of various States have been called to Delhi to review the party's prospects and chalk out the broad strategy for the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

The Congress (I) general secretary, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, who has already sent out important party functionaries to assess the situation in various States, will be meeting each State group separately on October 11 and 12 to discuss their specific problems, before conferring with the more important leaders collectively to determine the campaign tactics and the criteria to be followed in selecting the party's candidates.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, will be meeting a few select groups to urge them personally to sink their differences and put up a strong fight without depending entirely on her to campaign for the party in each and every State. But the main exercise will be conducted by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and his advisers who are virtually in charge of all the arrangements at the central level for the conduct of the campaign.

Two-fold task: Both Congress (I) and non-Congress (I) ruled States have been grouped together in different regions for discussing the party's electoral strategy at the local levels by paying special attention to public grievances. The Congress (I) is faced with the two-fold task of offering alibis for its poor performance and explaining away the misdeeds of many of its leaders who have been guilty of gross abuses of power in many States.

The northern States of Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi have been grouped together for assessing the inter-action of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh influences. Those in the Hindi-belt like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan fall in a different category because of the role of caste-based politics in these States.

Though Gujarat and Maharashtra, like West Bengal and Orissa, are quite different in their political attitudes, they have to be tackled in different ways to contain the prevailing discontent there. The Congress (I) leadership is quite worried about Maharashtra, although it hopes to do reasonably well in Gujarat and Orissa, while making some marginal headway in West Bengal by taking advantage of the growing disenchantment with marxist rule there.

Serious challenge: The real focal point of Congress (I)'s concern is the south where Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka pose the most serious challenge. It is for this reason that

special attention is being given to the party's strategy in these two States, where an all-out effort will be made to shore up the Congress (I)'s position.

The talks with the leaders from Tamil Nadu and Kerala will be a routine affair, since the Congress (I) is not going to put up any big fight in these two States. Its fortunes in Tamil Nadu will depend entirely on AIADMK's performance, while in Kerala the Congress (I) is not expected to do anything more than what it had done in the past to put up a tough fight.

A lot of importance is being attached to the discussions with Andhra leaders on what should be done to retrieve at least some of the lost ground in this pivotal State. The invitees included all the five former Congress (I) Chief Ministers, present and past PCC (I) presidents, Central Ministers, leaders of the two Legislative parties and other prominent persons.

The invitees from Karnataka are not that many since the ex-Chief Ministers and former PCC presidents, as well as present Central Ministers are relatively fewer, but equal importance is being given to the restoration of the Congress (I)'s image to the extent possible in the present circumstances. The main effort in Karnataka, as in Andhra Pradesh, will be directed at avoiding a repetition of what happened in last year's Assembly elections.

According to current indications, Mrs. Gan-

dhi intends to contest from both the North and the South again, but no final decision will be taken by her until the last moment. She is being urged to take the Telugu Desam bull by the horns and put up a fight from Medak itself to infuse some new life into the deflated Congress (I) in Andhra Pradesh, which would be totally demoralised if she decided to contest from another southern State.

The Andhra Pradesh Congress (I) leaders have been telling Mrs. Gandhi that whatever happens elsewhere she is bound to win in Medak which she has been nursing carefully since the last Parliamentary elections. It is not going to be easy for her to decide in the fluid atmosphere now prevailing in this volatile State whether it would be worth taking the risk unless there was some perceptible change in the political climate on the eve of the elections.

At the moment the whole effort of the Congress (I) is aimed at keeping down the anticipated losses in States where it did very well in the last Lok Sabha elections, not on making any dramatic gains elsewhere to offset the impact of such reverses on the party's overall performance. The air of confidence that is being exuded to sustain the party's fighting spirit does not conceal the underlying anxiety about the hazardous and unpredictable nature of the forthcoming elections.

CSO: 4600/1054

PRESS COUNCIL SCORES JAMMU, KASHMIR POLL COVERAGE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Oct 84 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 14.--The coverage of last year's Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir by the national Press was devoid of "clarity and accuracy" and that was why it was subjected to criticism and its credibility came under question, the Press Council said today, reports UNI.

The council felt that the discrepancies in reporting certain events stemmed from "a near total dependence on the part of journalists on certain sources of information which were not always reliable".

Admittedly, the many differences in the accounts by various news agencies and newspaper correspondents of the happenings in Zadibal and Brijbehara were such as to cause immense confusion not only among the general public, but within the media itself, the council said in a Press release.

The release carried reports considered by the council, which met last weekend at Pune, under the chairmanship of Mr Justice A. N. Grover.

Examination of the entire material before the council revealed that a section of the national Press, including the local Press in Jammu and Kashmir and the two news agencies--UNI and PTI--published accounts of rowdiness and arson at Brijbehara and Zadibal according to their own assessment.

Brijbehara is in Anantnag district and Zadibal on the outskirts of Srinagar and they witnessed rowdiness and violence on May 29 and June 13, respectively.

The Press Council said it decided to hold a suo motu inquiry into the coverage of the elections, following a special report in "India Today" (July 31, 1983), which said that the reports by news agencies and in newspapers "were wilfully distorted and politically motivated".

However, not much evidence was tendered before the council. It, therefore, opined that in view of the insufficient response from those who were materially concerned and who had been addressed in the matter, the inquiry in this behalf deserved to be limited only to the examination of the veracity of the reportage, in regard to the fire in the attic of the Congress (I) headquarters at Srinagar on May 19 and arson at Brijbehara and Zadibal.

Since the incident regarding the fire in the attic of the Congress (I) headquarters became sub judice, the inquiry by the council was restricted to the two other incidents only.

CSO: 4600/1061

MARXIST-LENINISTS QUESTION PRC GUIDANCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Oct 84 p 5

[Text] Anantapur, Oct 10 (UNI)—Naxalites no longer look to China for ideological guidance or revolutionary inspiration.

The central committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) led by Mr Chandra Pulla Reddi and the central committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) known as People's War Group and led by Mr Kondapalli Seetharamaiah have lately been attacking China for what they regard as the "right deviationist line in its external and internal policies".

Mr Krishna Dev Sethi of Kashmir—one of the leading members of the CPI(M-L) led by Mr Chandra Pulla Reddi, in an article titled 'Right deviation in the CPC leadership', published in the latest issue of "March to Liberation", the official organ of the party, says while the Communist Party of China and the People's Republic of China under the leadership of Mao-Zedong were "the axis of world revolution and international revolutionary movement, now the wrong tendencies of the Chinese Communist Party leadership has made it clear that one should not follow the Communist Party of any other country without question.

The correct attitude was to make a critical assessment of ideologies of all parties and adopt their positive features, he said.

Mr Sethi accuses the present CPC leadership of reducing Mao's thought to a mere "Chinese concept" applicable only to that country.

Mr Sethi says that some people who had tried to devalue Marxism as merely a German ideology and Leninism as an epitome of Russian politics had miserably failed to distort facts.

"The dubious manoeuvre of the present Chinese party leadership to tinge Mao's thought with the colour will also meet the ignominy of German and Russian predecessors".

INDIA

ENVOY TELLS INDIAN STAND ON SRI LANKA SITUATION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Oct 84 p 5

[Text] Colombo, Oct. 14.--India's High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr S. J. S. Chhatwal, has assured the Foreign Minister, Mr Shaul Hameed, that India is not interested in any particular political party of the island.

The assurance was given following a report quoting the leader of the Opposition, Mr Anura Bandaranaike, as saying that if his Sri Lanka Freedom Party was elected to power it would have no difficulty in getting India to hand over the militant Tamil youths operating from Tamil Nadu.

Mr Hammed had sought a clarification from the Indian Envoy in view of Mr Bandaranaike's reported statement that the former SLFP Government headed by his mother, Ms Sirimavo Bandaranaike successfully negotiated the deportation in 1974 of Kuttamani, alias Yogachandra.

The ruling United National Party of the President, Mr Jayawardene, has always been irked by what it considers "a special relationship" between Ms Bandaranaike and Mrs Gandhi.

This suspicion has been strengthened in recent months by public statements of SLFP leaders which Government sources branded as pro-Indian and, therefore, anti-Sri Lankan.

Even in the recent Press interview, Mr Anura Bandaranaike again contended that Sri Lanka's deteriorating relations with India was due largely to the irresponsible statements by responsible people in the country.

Today's report in The Island quotes a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that several requests for deportation after 1974 were not granted by the Indian Government.

CSO: 4600/1061

INDIA

DELHI DENIES EXISTENCE OF THIRD INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 9 Oct 84 p 4

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 8 (UNI): The government today denied that a "third agency" besides the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) had been set up which had masterminded the deliberate creation of a situation leading to the Army action in Amritsar and was also making preparations for action in Sri Lanka.

An official spokesman, commenting on an article in this regard in a fortnightly English magazine, said the story was "baseless and devoid of truth." He said the story was "baseless and devoid of truth." He said the story was intended to lower the reputation of the government and its officers.

The official said it is totally false that any government agency had masterminded the violent events in Punjab or is engaged in preparations for action in Sri Lanka.

The allegations that officers of this agency or RAW were involved in the change of government in Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh or in a plan to bring about a change in the government in Karnataka are totally unfounded, he said.

In the absence of any "third" or "new" agency, the question of divesting the existing intelligence agencies of their responsibilities does not arise. As for the Army action in Amritsar, the government has already placed all relevant facts before the country.

The allegations in the article that the RAW connived in the smuggling of arms across the border for the terrorists in Amritsar is absolutely untrue. The government has repeatedly made it clear that it is opposed to all acts of international terrorism. It is also against any interference in Sri Lanka's affairs.

The article is full of unfounded allegations and has linked the name of various officers of the government with activities in which they were never engaged.

CSO: 4600/1057

INDIA'S FIRST MIG-27 DUE OFF ASSEMBLY LINES SOON

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] India's first MiG-27 tactical strike fighter aircraft has rolled out of the assembly lines and will take to the skies "very shortly", reports UNI.

The Soviet designed MiG-27, which is now under licensed production, was assembled at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Indian Air Force pilots will test fly the aircraft after which it would enter squadron service soon.

The MiG-27, which was assembled at the HAL's unit in Nashik is powered by Tumansky R-29-30 uprated engine.

This tactical strike and close support fighter aircraft will have mach 1.6 performance flying at 1700 kilometres per hour with a service ceiling of 52,500 feet. Its combat radius in a hi-lo-hi mission profile on internal fuel with 4400 pounds of external ordnance will be 500 kilometres.

The MiG-27 will have one 23 mm six barrel rotary cannon and up to 7716 pounds of external ordnance on five stores stations.

The MiG-27's typical external load comprises centreline drop tank and four 500 pound bombs plus air-to-air AA 2-2 Atoll infrared homing missiles for self-defence. It will also carry a mix of air-to-surface AS-7 Kerry, AS-9, AS-11 and AS-12 missiles.

As the production of the MiG-27 proceeds, a complete indigenisation of the aircraft is expected to be achieved.

According to the present schedule about 200 MiG-27s are likely to be produced by the HAL.

The MiG-27 is a dedicated derivative of the MiG-23 on ground attack aircraft which have already become operational with the IAF.

The forward fuselage of the MiG-27 (NATO code-named flogger) will essentially be similar to the MiG-23 apart from some augmentation of side armour. A modified undercarriage for enhanced rough field operations would necessitate bulging the fuselage adjacent to the main wheel bay.

The Indian MiG-27 is optimised for the low level role with some sacrifice in speed and high altitude capability.

A modified turbofan engine will be installed later having a larger compression, shorter and simplified two position exhaust nozzle as opposed to variable intakes of the MiG-23.

CSO: 4600/1059

DELIVERY OF MIRAGE 2000'S RESCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 15 Oct 84 p 4

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 14 (UNI): The handing over of the French Mirage 2000 aircraft to India has been rescheduled. The first of the aircraft scheduled to arrive last month has been delayed by slippages in the supply of equipment for the plane.

The manufacturers, Marcel Dassault, have informed the defence ministry that they would hand over the first of the 40 Mirage 2000 either by the end of this month or in December. Six fighter pilots of the Indian Air Force, scheduled to go to France for conversion training on the Mirage 2000, have been asked to stay back till a definite delivery date is given.

The slippage, according to reports has occurred as some equipment, like Avionics to suit the requirements of IAF, could not be integrated with the Mirage 2000 in time. It is learnt that the

clearance for the Matra Super 530-D long range interception air-to-air missile to go with the Indian Mirages was not given in time.

The IAF pilots would be trained for three months at the Mont de Marsan flight-test centre in southern France and form the first squadron of Mirage 2000. The pilots are expected to fly back the first four Mirage 2000 aircraft by March, 1985.

All the 40 Mirage 2000 aircraft would be delivered in small batches after assembly at Bordeaux-Mérignac and flight-test at Mont de Marsan by Indian pilots. A batch of Indian Air Force engineers and technicians are working at various plants in France to get acquainted with this sophisticated plane.

France will supply the new Magic-2 missile with this aircraft which according to experts is

better than the Sidewinder missiles being given by the United States to Pakistan to fit the F-16 fighting Falcon aircraft.

Experts said the Mirage 2000 would be unbeatable at high altitudes and the F-16 would not be able to intercept it. The Magic-2 is an infra-red seeker-missile having larger scanning capability and can perform sharper turns. It also has an "all sector firing capability", and can be launched from ground level up to an altitude of 80,000ft, and can intercept "any known type of hostile aircraft."

France is also likely to give for the air-to-ground roles, the Armat anti-radar missiles and the 2,200lb laser-guided bombs and Durandal runway cratering weapons. For tactical support, Retarder bombs and the Belouga dispenser will be used in the Mirage 2000.

CSO: 4600/1062

ANALYST TELLS IMPORTANCES OF ARMY COMMANDERS' MEET

Madras THE HINDU in English 8 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 7.

The bi-yearly conference of Army Commanders which opens on Thursday, October 11, will be of special importance because the worsening security environment has been imposing additional defence burdens on the country.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and the Defence Minister, Mr. S. B. Chavan, who will be addressing the conference, are expected to stress the need for greater preparedness on the part of the Army to cope with any unexpected threats with complete confidence.

The Army's modernisation programme, for replacing the old equipment with new weapons systems, is now half way through and will take another four or five years to complete in the normal course. But the mobility and firepower of the combat units have been improved considerably to give the Army the extra punch required both for defensive and offensive operations.

Infantry's inadequacy

The Army's main Infantry Divisions are now reasonably well equipped with armoured personnel carriers, amphibian vehicles, rocket launchers, medium artillery anti-tank weapons and anti-aircraft guns, but they are still critically short of heavy calibre machine guns, ground-to-ground guided missiles and sophisticated communications equipment.

The Armoured Divisions have not been modernised to same extent in the sense that the new T-72 tanks have not yet been acquired in adequate numbers to replace the aged T-52s or the aging Vijayantas for the main strike formations. The Artillery Regiments do not have any heavy 155 mm field guns to match those Pakistan has obtained from the United States.

The Indian Army needs at least 400 of these 155 mm field guns, about 200 self-propelled and other 200 towed by motorised vehicles, to provide the necessary artillery cover for the Infantry Divisions. The delay in acquiring these guns is partly attributable to the indecision on the part of the Defence Ministry and partly to

the competitive political pressures exerted by the powers concerned to bag this contract.

Apart from discussing service problems, it is customary for the Army Commanders to review operational strategies at these bi-yearly conferences. The top brass in command of the country's one-million strong Army has also the opportunity to meet the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister, officially and socially, at these conferences and bring pressing service problems to their personal notice.

Modernisation needs

The Navy holds such conferences once a year while the Air Force like the Army, has them twice a year. The Air Force and the Navy have gone through a greater degree of modernisation in recent years even with their limited financial allocations because these two services are very much smaller than the Army which is the main arm of the country's defence forces. It is for this reason that the main attention is devoted to the modernisation of the Army with all its multifarious requirements.

But the Army is also relatively self-sufficient in the sense that the bulk of its equipment is manufactured indigenously, thereby limiting import of sophisticated weaponry to the very minimum. But in the case of the Air Force and the Navy the bulk of the equipment has to be acquired from abroad and manufactured only partly under licence.

The Army is also going through a reorganisation programme for gradually dispensing with the caste-based and region-oriented composition of its infantry regiments. The recruitment to some of the old regiments is being diversified by throwing them to all communities and castes, while the Officer Corps in any case has had no such narrow composition.

An army like everything else has to go through a process of continual change to keep abreast of its new responsibilities and requirements. But after the recent experience in Punjab, the Army had to take a critical look at itself to see whether it is adequately qualified to meet the external and internal security requirements in crisis situations.

PORTER DESCRIBES AIR FORCE ESTABLISHMENTS IN BANGALORE

Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Oct 84 p 5

Ext] Bangalore, Oct 7 (UNI)—As the Indian Air Force celebrates its 52nd anniversary tomorrow, it has one worry at hand — shortage of graduate engineers and technologists willing to join it.

The Air Force Technical College here, which trains direct entry officers as well as those promoted from the ranks in various branches of aeronautical engineering has not been able in recent years to attract an adequate number of direct entrants.

Air Cdr S Roy Commandant of the college, told a group of visiting newmen recently that although the emoluments offered to the new entrants were satisfactory. They might be finding it more attractive to join other organisations in the private and public sector out of "visions of lots of money".

"Young people need to be made aware of the excellent job prospects in the Air Force and other defence establishments", he felt.

Air Cdr Roy said efforts made in this direction had paid off this year, with the number of eligible direct entry aspirants exceeding the vacancies.

Established in July 1949 to train technical personnel of the Air Force, the college in 1971 integrated four technical branches — engineering, signals, electrical and armament — into two — aeronautical engineering (electronics).

The ambitious training course in these two branches started in 1971. Since then 23 batches have passed out.

The college, which also trains Air Force technical personnel from various friendly countries, has several makes of aircraft, including MiG-21s, in a disassembled state for training purposes.

Another important Air Force institution located here is the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE).

It not only produces test pilots but also undertakes testing of all new aircraft, engine, avionics and weapon systems acquired from abroad or developed indigenously.

India is among the five countries in the world to have test pilot training facilities. The others are the United States, the Soviet Union, France and the United Kingdom.

ASTE is also actively involved in the country's space programme, having conducted trials on behalf of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to check the telemetry systems of the "Aryabhata" and "Bhaskara" satellites before they were launched.

According to Group Captain C K K Menon, Chief Project Manager of ASTE, the modernisation programme of the Air Force had resulted in the induction of advanced aircraft into service.

ASTE, he said, had been deeply involved in the programme to ensure that the systems meet operational requirements and "can be used for the intended purposes".

Group Captain Menon said all aircraft from the MiG variants to Jaguar, were assessed by the establishment's test pilots and engineers before being inducted into service.

"Important systems like the mega navigation system, reconnaissance systems and indigenous development of inertial navigation and attack system for Jaguar aircraft, code named "Darin", have been or will be assessed by ASTE before their acceptance for use", he said.

India's first cosmonaut Sqn Ldr Rakesh Sharma, and his standby Wg Cdr Ravish Malhotra have been intimately associated with ASTE for many years.

While Wg Cdr Malhotra was the officer commanding of the Test Pilots School before being sent to the Soviet Union, Sqn Ldr Sharma was a test pilot.

ASTE has its origin in the aircraft and armament testing unit set up at Kanpur in 1957 primarily to carry out tropical trials of "Gnat" and guidance tests of the "Gnat handling flight" prior to the aircraft's induction into service.

With the expansion of the country's needs, the unit was shifted to Bangalore in 1973 and rechristened. Added to its responsibilities was the task of training test pilots in order to overcome difficulties in training them abroad.

Group Captain Menon said the establishment's test pilot school had so far conducted six Experimental Test Pilot (ETP) courses, turning out 26 test pilots.

An ETP can undertake all types of test flying including prototype testing and research and development flying.

ASTE also "coordinates and monitors" all aircraft projects of the Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL).

CSO: 4600/1055

AKALI DAL LEADERS MEET 7 OCT, RESOLUTIONS REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 8 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Amritsar, Oct. 7.--The Akali Dal today demanded the immediate implementation of the agreement arrived at between the Sikh high priests and the Government on September 29 and said it would be "compelled to take strong steps" if this was not done, report UNI and PTI.

The Akali demand was made at a five-hour meeting here of party legislators, members of Parliament and district presidents.

The meeting alleged that the Government had backed out on its agreement by not handing over the entire Golden Temple complex to the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee.

In the resolutions passed at the meeting the party also expressed confidence in the leadership of Mr Prakash Singh Majitha, its ad hoc committee convenor.

Party sources, however, said the resolution was passed without majority support---a claim that found reflection earlier in strong criticisms levelled against Mr Majitha by a sizable section of the participants. They charged him of having used the high priests "for political purposes" and said he, and others in the leadership, had given the Government "some undertakings" in the September-agreement that had not been made public.

Criticizing the Government for the delay in the transfer of the Guru Nanak Niwas, Teja Singh Samundari Hall and Guru Ram Dass Sarai to the SGPC, the meeting demanded that the buildings be immediately vacated by the security forces and handed over to the SGPC.

The meeting, however, did not specify when and what steps the party would take in case the security forces were not withdrawn from the three buildings.

In a resolution, the meeting condemned the "mischievous elements" that indulged in hooliganism on October 1. It said youths should observe "discipline" at this juncture when the community was going through a "critical period", and should have faith in the high priests who were giving the "right direction to the Panth".

The meeting "strongly condemned" the re-entry of the CRPF into the Golden Temple to arrest "Khalistan" protagonists on October 1 and warned that any repetition of such an Act would not be tolerated in future.

The party, in a resolution also expressed full faith in the leadership of the five head priests, who had successfully negotiated with the Government for withdrawal of the Army from the Golden Temple and handing over its control to the SGPC.

The meeting felt that the Panth was passing through a very delicate and sensitive stage and hoped that the head priests would continue to lead the community with the same wisdom and foresight as before.

The meeting expressed its deep concern over what it called "killing of youths in fake encounters" and dubbing of Sikh youths as "extremists and secessionists".

It said that for the restoration of peace and goodwill, the Government should give up its "inhuman attitude", towards the Sikhs and release all the Akali workers after withdrawing cases instituted against them.

The meeting decided to raise a memorial for those killed during the Army action. Asked where the memorial would be constructed, Mr Majitha said that the location would be decided later.

In all, eight resolutions were passed and the last one related to inadequate arrangements for the procurement of paddy by Government agencies.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Mr Majitha said that all the resolutions were passed unanimously. The meeting, he said, was of the view that the entire Panth was one and there was no question of making any distinction between extremists or moderates.

CSO: 4600/1052

CENSORSHIP, POLICE RESTRAINTS IN PUNJAB NOTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 8 Oct 84 p 7

[Article by Neerja Chowdhury]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 7.--Censorship in Punjab has been extended for another two months under the Punjab Special Powers (Press) Act and journalists continue to work under constraints.

Pre-censorship, applicable to newspapers in Jalandhar and Patiala, has, however, been relaxed, though theoretically it is in operation. In practice, the papers are publishing virtually anything they want to and most of the reports are not even submitted to the clerks-turned-censors for scrutiny.

This was evident from the reproduction of the photograph of Bhindranwale's body from Surya in the Hindi daily, Veer Pratap, on September 13 and in the Punjabi paper, Ajit, a day earlier. Both the papers have been accused of being rabid.

The publication of the photograph has revived the old rumour that Bhindranwale is still alive. Not just villagers but senior advocates, academicians and retired Army officers believe this.

Threats

In Jalandhar, the family owning the Hind Samachar group of newspapers, which lost two of its members--Lala Jagat Narain and Romesh Chander--to the bullets of terrorists, continue to face threats. The scene is no different from what it was two months ago--sandbags outside the office, a metal detector at the gate for every entrant and a revolver on the desk of Mr Ashwini Minna, who is the resident editor of the Hind Samachar in Delhi but has not returned to the capital since the murder of his father in May, are all reminders of a situation which is far from normal.

Since his father's death, Mr Ashwini Minna and his uncle, Mr Vijay Kumar, who is now the chief editor of the three dailies in Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu published by the group, have received 55 letters of threat saying that the whole family would be eliminated for their writings. These are forwarded to police in a manner which has become routine now.

Today almost every Sikh in the State has become suspect and journalists are no exception. In Ludhiana, things came to a head last month when the Indian Express staff reporter, Mr Chanchal Singh, was prevented from attending the Independence Day function at the Guru Nanak Dev stadium where the Governor had come. Mr Singh had an invitation card with the "Press" stamp on it.

Memorandum

Subsequently, the Ludhiana Press Reporters' Union submitted a memorandum to the Governor and many reporters in the city boycotted the functions of the Governor in Ludhiana in protest.

The situation in Punjab is such that the police have increased powers and the small town journalist has become more vulnerable. He is at the mercy of the police.

Mr Abdul Wahid, a reporter in Malerkotla for the Hind Samachar group of papers, was arrested at dawn on June 7 under Section 188 Cr.PC for violating Section 144. Mr Wahid was not very popular with the local police as he was writing against them. He told this correspondent that during the beatings and torture he had undergone at the police station, policemen repeatedly asked him: "Will you write against us in future?"

In one of his reports two months ago, Mr Wahid had alleged that policemen watched impassively while a Nihang attacked a local shopkeeper. Earlier, whenever he wrote about police inaction or excesses, he was often threatened by them.

Mr Wahid has complained to the Journalists' Union of Punjab and a deputation met the SSP, who has marked the case "for inquiry."

Journalists are not the only ones under threat. Lawyers defending the accused in Punjab today also live in constant fear of being arrested any time on some charge or the other.

Jalandhar lawyers are agitated over the NSA warrants issued against one of the leading city lawyers, Mr Surjit Singh Minhas, a moderate Akali, who has been organizing the defence of those arrested and charged since the Army action in the State.

Last month he had complained to the Bar Association that he was threatened by a junior commissioned officer in court that he would be taken in military custody as he "talked too much." The threat followed an altercation between the two when Mr Minhas was arguing against further police remand of one of his clients and for his bail which was subsequently granted by the court.

The District Bar Association condemned the officer's action, Mr Minhas has been forced to go underground and orders have been issued to attach his property.

The restrictions on freedom of expression are not confined to the Press. The academic community also feels suffocated. Elections to the teachers' and students' organizations have been cancelled this year.

The teachers feel that the Government has no right to interfere in their elections unless the syndicate amends the university constitution. Both the students and teachers are restive. There is increasing polarization among the teachers on communal lines. The Army presence in the university continues even though life is normal. Examinations are conducted under Army supervision.

Lecturer Held

A lecturer, who is in the words of the Vice-Chancellor, an "excellent scholar," was arrested on the charge of setting fire to post office. Thirty students are still in jail.

Explanations have been sought from some teachers for criticizing the Army action. Dr Amarjit Kaur, who is the head of the Education Department in the Punjabi University, told this correspondent that four teachers had complained to the Vice-Chancellor against her because she had criticized the Government. The V. C. had sought her explanation.

"You raise your voice and a case is registered against you," Mr. G. M. Sekhon, convenor of the ad hoc teachers' group, says "All forms of democratic protest are being crushed in the State."

Several thousand people assembled on the banks of the Saryu in Ayodha on Sunday and took a pledge to "liberate" the "Ram janmabhumi", PTI.

CSO: 4600/1052

JANATA APPOINTS COMMITTEE TO STUDY MERGER

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 14.--The prospects of a Janata-Lok Dal merger have receded into the background for the moment with the national executive of the Janata Party today deciding to set up an eight-man committee to assist Mr Chandra Shekhar to work out details of a possible getting together of the two major Opposition parties.

Eight Hours

That opinion was divided in the executive on the question of outright merger was evident from the duration of the meeting which lasted nearly eight hours. Many views were expressed, some opposing the merger as a matter of principle, a few others seeing in it one way of consolidating the Opposition vote. Questions related to the policies and objectives of the two parties kept members busy for a good deal of time.

Mr Chandra Shekhar, according to Mr Fernandes, reported to the executive that the United Front parties with whom he had a meeting three days ago had agreed to contest on the Janata Party symbol. They had also agreed to a common manifesto. Also, if the Janata Party approved of it, the United Front would like to have a common parliamentary board to select the candidates and to conduct the poll campaign.

On the contrary, in the discussions held with the Lok Dal so far, policies and programmes to be followed by a united party, in the event of the two meeting, had not been taken up.

Committee

The hard core of the men keen on the merger with the Lok Dal represented by Mr Devi Lal, Mr Biju Patnaik, and Mr Kumbha Ram Arya wished the issue to be gone into at length and after further consultations. It was their insistence that eventually persuaded the executive to adopt the via media of appointing an eight-member committee comprising Mr Biju Patnaik, Mr Karpoori Thakur, Mr Devi Lal, Mr Indubhai Patel, Mr Ravindra Varma, Mr P. K. Patil, Mr Madhu Dandavate and Mr George Fernandes. The committee was asked to assist the present, who had been authorized by the party plenary at Patna to take such steps as were necessary to achieve the party objectives regarding cooperation with other like-minded parties.

In a prepared statement issued by Mr Fernandes at the end of today's meeting, it was noted that the Patna plenary had resolved that all those committed to social and economic amelioration of the people and the implementation of the party's Socialist ideal should unite under one banner and provide to the people the instrument of a national alternative and the radical change so urgently needed.

The party had urged all those believing in democracy and socialism to respond to the need for immediate unity. The plenary session had also delegated its authority and power to the president to take such steps as may be necessary to achieve this objective.

The national executive today having considered the progress of the efforts towards achieving the objective on unity outlined in the Patna resolution had appointed an eight-member committee to assist the president. Mr Fernandes, replying to a question, said the decision by the national executive today did not amount to its having revoked the mandate given to the president by the Patna session. The idea was to hasten the process and the committee would hold its first meeting tomorrow. The committee would also draft its policies and programmes.

CSO: 4600/1061

PAPER COMMENTS ON U.S. 'NEUTRALITY' IN WAR

GF141402 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Oct 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Neutrality or Blind Support?"]

[Text] Recently the United States in a calculated move charged a Swiss merchant with an attempt to sell Iran some 400,000-anti-chemical weapon uniforms, and he was released on bail.

What is important here is the real motive of U.S. Government for this decision. United States claims that the arrest of a Swiss man was due to the violation of U.S. internal regulations. But on the other side United States equips Iraq with chemical weapons. This is contradictory of U.S. claim of being neutral in the Iran-Iraq war.

A genuine document, as was announced worldwide some time ago, clearly proved that some chemical bombs were delivered to Iraq from a U.S. Army base in Spain. This is only part of the whole truth, of the U.S. tactics.

At the same time U.S. Government attempts to create obstacles for Iran in obtaining anti-chemical weapons' uniforms. This is enough reason to prove that Reagan's government has raised this issue and makes scandals over this in order to cover his support to Iraq and the encouragement of Ba'thists to use chemical weapons against Iran again.

The U.S. Government imagines that if Iran does not receive anti-chemical weapons equipments, the Ba'thists will have superiority in the battlefields. This shows the real nature of U.S. policy on neutrality.

The U.S. claims that it has remained neutral in the Iran-Iraq war and superficially has shown this, when unexpectedly, it quickly reported to condemn Iraq for the deployment of chemical weapons and this was to deny U.S. participation in this criminal and inhuman act.

United States that time, in order to divert the public opinion, had to announce that Iraq was the sole country responsible for deploying chemical weapons but at the same time continued equipping Iraq with destructive chemical weapons. Its calculated moves tried to prevent Iran from purchasing anti-chemical weapon equipment.

However on the basis of information received the story of Iran buying these uniforms is false. The public knows that Iran is capable of obtaining such equipments from other sources. And these moves only show that U.S. supports Iraq for the deployment of chemical weapons against Iran again. Therefore, the word "neutrality" may have some other meaning at the White House.

People of Iran so far have stood firmly against all these plots and are determined to carry on. People of Iran know that the only purpose of U.S. Government is to destroy the Islamic Revolution, and these scandals will not have any effect in the determination of our brave Muslim people for punishing the criminal Saddam Husayn, and his supporters. Our combatants so far have proved that the deployment of chemical weapons has not adversely affected their struggle against Saddam Husayn's regime and the world arrogance. We rely on God and have faith in our just beliefs. These might be just some strange words to the Pentagon decision-makers who have not fed this factor to their computers. Our combatants will prove that the aid of the West and the East will not change Saddam Husayn's fate and finally Saddam Husayn will be punished for the crimes he has committed, like all other criminals in history.

CSO: 4600/85

TEHRAN COMMENTS ON STATUS OF U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS

GF111734 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Nov 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] O brothers, in the wake of recent developments in the region, the stepping up of the U.S. onslaught against the Muslim peoples, particularly the Lebanese people, the statements by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn regarding the restoration of relations between his regime and U.S. imperialism, and the eagerness of the reactionary regimes to restore their relations with the Egyptian regime, the deadline for the announcement of the diplomatic marriage between the United States and the Saddam regime has begun to draw near to the date which has been set for it for several years.

Following the statements by Saddam al-Tikriti to the U.S. press and also to some Kuwaiti papers regarding the existence of a favorable climate to resume relations between his regime and Washington, indications of the restoration of these relations--which have existed in secret--began to loom ahead. The issue of establishing relations between the Iraqi regime and U.S. imperialism is no longer a big scandal, worthy of denunciation or liable to cause astonishment, particularly since the U.S. and Iraqi regimes have to take only one step to resume these relations officially and publicly, since these relations have been secretly maintained throughout the years of the feigned break.

Indeed, Saddam has hinted to his American masters of the possibility of announcing the restoration of these relations, and has given the rulers of Washington the green light to reveal what they want regarding their relations with the Iraqi regime.

Consequently, the WALL STREET JOURNAL published a long article on relations between the Saddam regime and U.S. imperialism, in which it brought glad tidings to the reactionary regimes in the region, which oppress the Muslim peoples, announcing that the Iraqi regime will soon join the U.S. bandwagon which is laden with those regimes, through the announcement of the restoration of relations between Baghdad and Washington.

The U.S. newspaper revealed that the Iraqi regime had in December 1983 initialled an agreement with the rulers of Washington in which it announced its readiness to resume full relations with U.S. imperialism within a few weeks.

The WALL STREET JOURNAL added: With the beginning of President Reagan's second term, relations between Iraq and the United States have undergone a noticeable development. This development is considered one of the most important victories of U.S. policy in the Middle East. The newspaper said that the acceptance of the Iraqi regime to resume relations publicly with Washington has led U.S. leaders to believe that the Iraqi regime has announced, through such an acceptance, a severance of ties with the steadfastness and confrontation front and has joined the caravan of reactionary Arab regimes.

The U.S. newspaper said: U.S. officials are convinced that an alliance between Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan will pave the way for the establishment of peace in the Middle East in the long run.

It is useful here to point out the latest U.S. escalation which is represented by the resumption of talks between the Phalangist Lebanese regime and the Zionists under the U.S. umbrella. The U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, who is in charge of U.S. foreign security, visited Baghdad within the framework of his current shuttle tour in the region and met with numerous pawns of the Iraqi regime. Richard Murphy's visit to Baghdad came 1 day after the announcement of Reagan's victory in the U.S. presidential elections and the start of his second term. The French press commented on this by saying that the visit dealt with, among other issues, the announcement of an official restoration of relations between Washington and Baghdad.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz had stated in October the readiness of the Iraqi regime to announce the resumption of relations with Washington after the results of the U.S. presidential elections were announced.

In fact, the announcement of the restoration of full political relations between Washington and Baghdad, and without resorting to the roundabout methods which these relations went through in the past few years, is part of a well-planned and thorough design, and after releasing scores of test balloons and the use of various demagogic and misleading propaganda methods by the Iraqi regime, in order to distract the Iraqi Muslim people and insinuate that the restoration of relations with Washington does not mean giving up the fight against imperialism, as the Iraqi rulers claim.

Indeed, the Iraqi regime has begun to make preparations to publicly resume its relations with Washington as the burden of its secret relations with Uncle Sam has become too great and at the issue of establishing relations with U.S. imperialism no longer merits denunciation or causes astonishment. The issue is no more serious than making peace with the Zionist enemy and joining the Camp David bandwagon, or restoring relations with the Egyptian regime, on which the Baghdad summit had declared a total boycott. The reactionary regimes, however, became eager to restore relations with the Egyptian regime, despite the boycott resolutions, within less than 2 years.

If the boycott resolutions were not capable of preventing the reactionary regimes from restoring relations with the Egyptian regime, which completely violated the sanctities of the Islamic and Arab nations, then there are no resolutions to boycott Washington. From this premise, the Iraqi regime hints to the Iraqi people and the Arab peoples that it has done nothing to contravene an Arab resolution to boycott Washington.

Will the conspiracy pass without a response from the Muslim revolutionary peoples? The answer to this question will come in the next few days.

CSO: 4604/18

OPPOSITION PAPER COMMENTS ON U.S. ROLE IN IRAN

GF111642 London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Nov 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Iran, Reagan, and Others"---London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] The so-called "Iran issue," contrary to expectations, did not assume an important place in the discussions during the election season in the United States. Both President Reagan and his Democratic challenger Mondale avoided the resurrection of memories of the hostages' era in Tehran. However, it is not possible to talk about the whole world and not say anything about Iran. The issue of Iran was finally raised in the Reagan-Mondale debate on foreign affairs. It was clear that Reagan was more interested in discussing the issue than his opponent. In a few sentences Reagan officially confirmed what we have all known for several years. He criticized the government of Jimmy Carter for what occurred in Iran and implicitly accepted that the United States played a role in the fall of the Shah and Khomeyni's rise to power. His description of Khomeyni as a "crazy fanatic" has been unanswered by Tehran so far since the clergy ruling Iran still do not know whether this is a battle cry or a restatement of the clear attitude of Reagan. Reagan has praised the Shah before his fall. At the height of the Islamic Revolution, Reagan came to Iran accompanied by his wife and was received by the Shah. At the time--when he was not even a candidate for the Presidency--he criticized Carter's policy of encouraging those who are opposing the Shah in the hope of a moderate pro-American government coming to power and called them incorrect. Of course Reagan did not know that at the time the only possible alternative to the regime of the Shah was Khomeyni. Maybe even Khomeyni did not know this.

What is important is that Reagan who is now the President is defending the former Shah with the same warmth that he used before the revolution. This is precisely the opposite of the method of the former leaders who praised the Shah at the time he was alive and in power and now are using "if's" and "maybe's" in order to distance themselves as much as possible from their position of yesterday in the false hope of finding themselves a place in the ayatollah's heart. In any case, the confession by Reagan concerning the mistake of the United States, even though limited to the last years of the Shah, on its own is worthy of thought. The supporters of the "plot" thesis, with a mixture of anger and satire, will say: Did we not say that it was all their doing?

Some may say that it is necessary to confess to past mistakes but it is not sufficient. The important thing is what is done to correct the error. All these points will be clear in a not too distant future, because the domestic affairs in Iran and international and regional conditions are reshaping. Even Mondale, who is the champion of the American liberals at the moment, was unable to defend the policies of his former government--the government of Jimmy Carter--on Iran and claim that the coming of Ayatollah Khomeyni to power has brought the implementation of human rights in Iran. This same Mr Mondale had once said that Ayatollah Khomeyni is a "spiritual leader." Carter's black representative to the United Nations, Andrew Young, had gone even further calling the Ayatollah a "holy man" and a "face like Gandhi."

Those days are gone however, and even the American liberals who consider international relations a form of game with fundamental sentiments have accepted that the regime of the ayatollah is not really comparable with the regime of the Shah. There is no doubt that the Americans have been shaken and have come to realize that the real world has nothing in common with Alice's wonderland. However, falling in the trap of a simple monoism not only does not solve anything but can be very dangerous. The truth is that historical events such as the Islamic revolution in Iran are not the result of one agent. There is no doubt that the government of Carter played an effective role in accelerating the fall of the former regime in Iran. We can see this in the remarks and writings of some of the leaders of the Islamic Republic. The new books by Mehdi Bazargan and Ebrahim Yazdi are only two examples in this respect.

At present we are only looking at a corner of the hidden facts as far as they relate to U.S.-Iranian relations. There is no doubt that other large powers have also played a role in Iranian affairs, and that they also had and still have their own agents and information collectors or "friendly sources" in our country. The publication of secret British documents, even though the latest of them deals with events of 25 years ago, is sufficient proof of this. However, is it sufficient for us to say that foreigners have interfered and continue to interfere in our affairs and have thus caused for us this miserable state?

This is not a reaction limited to us Iranians. It is one that can be observed in many colonized countries. The transfer of guilt has always been one of the most effective ways of hiding one's head in the sand. However, the problems of the nation and the country will not be solved until we pull our heads out of this sand of deception. There is no benefit for the large powers in denying their past, present, and future interference. It is even possible to say that they consider propaganda in this respect somewhat of an advantage since colonialist-stricken societies should continuously be kept bowing and scraping toward the metropolitan magnets.

We have not forgotten that about 4 years ago Carter was about to confess to "American errors in Iran since 28 August [1952]" while negotiating with Ayatollah Beheshti through Hamilton Jordan and Hasan Ebrahim Habibi, the present minister of justice. Now, at the last minute, Carter's replacement

only considers the support for the opposition to the Shah as a mistake. In any event, it is now clear to everyone that foreigners interfered in our affairs and no doubt this interference goes on now and will continue in future. However, is this interference possible without the cooperation of the "natives"?

Did the ladies and gentlemen who formed a line to become sources of information take this course under torture? Were those so-called nationalist leaders, some of whose deeds have been revealed in the "documents of the den of spies," given a mission by the nation to play "Carter's reserve team" at the same time attacking the Shah for cooperation with Washington?

When the former British ambassador writes that a group used to go to him to become ministers, can we attribute this solely to colonialist attitudes in our society? Are individuals not responsible for their own actions? If history teaches no lessons then it would be even more worthless than utterances of a drunk. The revelations by Reagan will only be of benefit to us if we consider it a warning and at least accept the reality that dependence on others will allow them to choose our destiny.

CSO: 4640/116

TABRIZ RADIO CRITICIZES U.S.-EGYPT EXERCISES

GF111602 Tabriz International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT 8 Nov 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, the joint naval exercises between the United States and Egypt, the first of their kind which began on 5 November, have ended. Codenamed "Sea Breeze" the three-stage exercises took place in the Mediterranean and Egypt's territorial waters. Participating in them were a number of U.S. and Egyptian air and naval units.

One of the military officials of the Egyptian regime has said that the exercises were organized for training Egypt's air and naval forces--with the participation of units from the U.S. 6th Fleet--in countering air and naval attacks. A total of 18 Egyptian naval craft--including submarines and missile launching vessels--took part in the exercises together with a number of U.S. F-14 and F-15 aircraft.

Political circles have noted that the joint U.S.-Egyptian naval exercises, which were the first of their kind, indicate close relations between the Husni Mubarak regime and the United States. This joint effort by the two countries is aimed at returning Egypt to the Arab world. By internationalizing the Camp David accords and reassessing the position of the regime in power in Egypt, the United States expects to force most of the Arab countries through Husni Mubarak's help to accept the accords. As for the regime in power in Egypt, although it lacks even the slightest influence over the Muslim people of Egypt, it still moves to prevent the disbanding of its antipeople administration through holding military exercises together with the United States.

Through naval exercises similar to "Sea Breeze," the United States seeks to consolidate its political and military position in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez. According to political circles, the United States will gain important strategic information about North Africa and the Red Sea region through naval exercises. Undoubtedly, taking into consideration the strategic cooperation between the United States and the regime which occupies Jerusalem, whatever information is gathered will be conveyed to that regime. That is to say, the information acquired will be utilized for supporting the policy which that regime pursues over Africa and the Middle East--a policy based on the use of force.

The Muslim people of the region--particularly the Muslims living in the northern sector of Africa--must not remain silent in the face of exercises which help realize the ugly intentions of the regime occupying Jerusalem. The Muslims must not consciously allow deviated rulers like Husni Mubarak to carry out this kind of activity. By executing Al-Sadat and by waging a struggle against the Mubarak regime, the Muslims of Egypt, who have been the initiators of most of the Islamic movements during the past century, have proved that they are opposed to rulers who move to safeguard the interests of global imperialism and international Zionism.

The spreading of the Islamic movement, the increasing number of political prisoners, the torturing of Muslims, and the increasing number of crises in Egypt's economy, which is affiliated with imperialism, are weakening the Husni Mubarak regime. At present, even the most open-minded political circles believe that the continuation of the Mubarak regime's rule in Egypt is impossible.

CSO: 1831/403

TEHRAN WEEKLY COMMENTS ON DETENTIONS IN BAHRAIN

GF101730 Tehran AL-SHAHID in Arabic 17 Oct 84 pp 26, 27

[Memorandum on the recent detentions in Bahrain titled: "Al Khalifah and the Human Rights Code"]

[Text] A new chapter in the arbitrary detention campaign has been executed by the Bahraini Government during the past 3 weeks. During this period security authorities threw scores of innocent citizens in jail without offering any justification for this abnormal measure.

The new detentions complement the detention campaigns launched by the ruling authorities at the beginning of the year when on 15 January these authorities arrested citizen Muhammad 'Abdallah Husayn on the charge of possessing arms, and on 29 January they arrested Shaykh Ibrahim Mansur al-Jufayri. On 2 February the authorities closed the Islamic Awareness Society in Al-Darraz village and attacked, on the evening of the same day, a mosque in Al-Darraz too, thus violating all international norms and laws which call for the freedom of religion and faith, and for the freedom of worship premises of all nations. This was also contrary to the Bahraini Government's constitution which states in Article 22, Chapter 3 the following: "The freedom of conscience is absolute, and the state guarantees the sanctity of worship places and the freedom to carry out religious practices and religious processions and meetings according to the country's traditions."

These continuous detention campaigns are considered an extension of the extensive detention campaign witnessed by Bahrain since 14 December 1981 when the Bahraini Government alleged the discovery of coup d'etat (conspiracy) to overthrow the government in the country and detained more than 2,000 citizens in less than 2 months from 14 December 1981 to 1 February 1982. Only 73 of the detained were tried before a (court) whom it claimed were leading those involved in the alleged "conspiracy." They were tried in obscure and extraordinary circumstances and were given jail sentences ranging from 7 to 25 years.

What is astonishing is that these chapters of oppression and all the political detention campaigns in Bahrain are carried out in abnormal circumstances that are always invented by the ruling regime and in accordance with laws that are contradictory to international norms and human rights resolutions that are issued by the United Nations and its related organizations.

Foremost of these unjust laws is the "state security law" which states in its first article that "if new evidences prove that a person has committed acts or said something, or performed activities or made contacts inside or outside the country which undermine the country's internal or external security, the interior minister has the right to order his arrest and detention in one of Bahrain's prisons, has the right to search him and search his home and work place, and has the right to adopt any measure he deems necessary to collect evidence and complete investigations. The detention period should not exceed 3 years, and whoever is arrested according to Clause One has the right to complain against his detention 3 months following the date on which the decision to turn down the complaint is made."

This law of the Bahraini Government contradicts its constitution which states in Clause b of Article 19 of Chapter 3 that "no one should be suspended or imprisoned or searched or put under house arrest or should have his freedom to reside or move around restricted except in accordance with the law and under judicial supervision."

The Bahraini Government did not stop here but exceeded its own arbitrary law, the so-called "state security law," because although this law states that the detention period should not exceed 3 years, we find that many detainees who were suspended according to this law spent 3 years in detention (without trial), and then their detention period was renewed for another 3-year period as happened to Shaykh Muhammad 'ali al-'Akri and 'Abd al-Karim al-'Aradi and others.

A quick review of the facts of the political detainees in Bahrain will show us the clear inhuman treatment to those detainees:

1. The accused person has no right to choose a lawyer to defend him. Last December the system of emergency trials was introduced in the country. This system provides for the trial of the detainee within 24 hours from the date of his arrest. The system openly deprives the accused person of defending himself. We saw during the trial of the 73 persons in 1982 how the Bahraini Government refused to appoint lawyers to defend these persons and how it insisted on bearing the responsibility alone. The Justice Ministry announced on 10 March 1983 that the court will appoint lawyers to defend the accused and this contradicts the constitution of the Bahraini Government which states in the fifth paragraph of Article 20 that any person accused in an offense has the right to choose a lawyer to defend him.

2. The sessions of the court are held secretly and the verdicts are issued in mysterious circumstances to prevent public opinion from knowing anything about them. An example of that is the trial of the 73 persons which was held in secret sessions according to a declaration issued by the Justice Ministry on 29 March 1982. The Bahraini Government did not allow the judicial organizations and individuals to attend the court's sessions. Amnesty International and the International Red Cross were among the judicial organizations which asked the Bahraini Government to allow them to attend the sessions and to inspect the conditions of the detainees.

3. The families of the majority of the political detainees are not allowed to visit their sons. Foremost of those are the 73 detainees who have been held for almost 3 years. During this period the Bahraini Government did not allow their families to visit them or to know anything about their conditions.

4. Psychological and physical torture is practiced daily against the detainees. In a message issued by them on May 1983 the 73 detainees in Jaww Prison said: Last year we were brutally tortured. They suspended us from our feet for 3 days. Hungry dogs mangled our bodies. They tore out our fingernails, put our heads in hot water and poured boiling oil in our ears.

As a result of this torture many detainees are suffering from severe and chronic diseases. Many of them also lost their vital organs completely.

While the committee defending the rights of the political detainees in Bahrain brings the clear facts to the attention of international public opinion, it calls on the judicial organizations and human rights committees and the free peoples in this world to interfere to stop the campaigns of barbaric arrests and to save the lives of thousands of innocent people who are exposed to death in the Bahraini prisons.

[Signed] The committee defending the rights of political detainees in Bahrain; Paris 10 September 1984.

CSO: 4604/14

IRAN

KUWAIT SEEN BRACING FOR SURGE OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM

LD172023 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Tehran, 17 Nov (IRNA)--Muslim fundamentalists have recently launched out an ideological struggle against the ruling government in Kuwait and the prevailing social values in that country. The campaign, now only at its outset, sounds like a first but perhaps firm step to nationwide move for instituting an Islamic revolution and establishing an Islamic government in that country. The following are reflections on recent developments in that country and outlooks on the situation there.

Religious sentiments are becoming fervent in Kuwait with apparent indications of hectic months ahead. As more and more youngsters and college students in Kuwait demand a closer observance of Islamic ethics in social life the Kuwaiti government is vividly feeling uneasy about the graver implications of a rapidly expanding religious fervor among the masses.

Dim Prospects

Reports from Kuwait indicate that the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and its Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah are alarmed by the rising Islamic sentiments in that country. Already they are thinking of how to cope with religious fervor which is vividly shaping the general drift of the society. They are thinking of the ways and means to forestall the Muslim fundamentalists by exploiting all opposition thoughts and using other lay ideologies as a leverage against Islam.

Protest

Recently an association of Sunni students in Kuwait protested to the Kuwaiti Government against coeducational systems there and the mixing of girl and boy students in classes where they could be segregated. The association said the close association of students of the opposite sexes increase the chances for sex-oriented relations between the two groups.

The protest met with harsh diatribe by the press and Western-oriented intellectuals in Kuwait. The print media immediately published banner headlines in condemnation of the religious outlooks of the association and described them as ruinous ideas and also called on the Kuwaiti Government to do something about it.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti media, the country's Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ahmad Sa'd al-Jasir said some days ago that the Kuwait Government has been taking some necessary measures for restricting the activities of Islamic associations and religious groups. He said also that the Kuwaiti Government has also expropriated printing houses which have printed the communique of the Muslim groups. He also called on leaders of Friday mass prayers to focus principally on religious subjects rather than bring up the controversial topics of the day.

Counter-attacks by Muslim Fundamentalists

On 26 October, an association of Muslim fundamentalists calling itself 'The Society for Social Reformation' distributed leaflets among worshippers in a mosque and its nearby streets in Kuwait calling on the public for a determined struggle against what it called 'corrupt attacks' by the Kuwaiti Government against the Islamic movement in that country, even though such struggle should lead to an armed fighting with the ruling government in Kuwait.

The communique met with bitter response in the Kuwaiti print media. Later on a deputy minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs warned that leaders of Friday mass prayers would be defrocked and arrested if they should venture to bring up in their sermons any issue of public controversy beyond the purely religious topics. The fundamentalist groups, however, did not back down, but instead braced for more head-on challenge to the government.

Al-Mojtama', organ of the 'Society for Social Reformation' called on believers and youths throughout the country to equip themselves with every intellectual weapon and fire arms in a struggle for implementing the decrees of the holy Quran. In its paper the society also called on the Kuwaiti Government to order a stoppage of belligerent attacks against Fiqh and the canonical laws of Islam, and against upholders of the justice of an Islamic social and political system in Kuwait.

Whether the request of the society will be heeded by the Kuwaiti Government is still an open question, but all told, the move towards a revival of Islam is likely to gain momentum if and when the exponents of a new religious state in Kuwait should learn how to appeal to a wider public and how to benefit from their support in a social upheaval which has already panicked the ruling government in that country.

CSO: 4600/86

IRAN

PAPER CALLS FOR PALESTINIAN ARMED STRUGGLE

GF191014 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Nov 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The Tehran Arabic-language newspaper KEYHAN AL-'ARABI carries an editorial entitled: "The Return to the Gun of the Islamic Revolution." The editorial says that the PNC is regarded as the most supreme legislative authority for the Palestinian people in exile. Foremost of its articles is one which brings the executive leadership to account for the acts it did in the previous stage. But Yasir 'Arafat tries to bypass these articles fearing the punishment which will befall him as a result of his capitulatory policy which made him reach agreement with the sides with Camp David agreement, committed him to their announced policy, and resulted in his shifting the basic battle with the Zionists in the direction of fighting most of the Palestinian factions.

Palestinian revolutionary sources believe that the rearrangement of the Palestinian structure has become more imperious than at any time in the past and that it is also imperious to punish any person—irrespective of his post in the leadership—as a result of the mistakes he committed against his people who live homeless in the world or under the guns of the occupation forces in the Palestinian territories where it is essential to be fully committed to reactivate the armed struggle. This very armed struggle got lost among the dark backstages and got dispersed among the capitals which have direct association with the network of U.S. interests so that the Palestinian gun now kisses Husni Mubarak and embraces Shah Husayn, the hero of black September. Therefore, it is impossible under the current leadership to liberate an inch of territory. We believe that the only solution to the Palestinian issue lies in armed struggle.

CSO: 4604/17

IRAN

BRIEFS

SADDAM-TALEBANI AGREEMENT--Algiers, 17 Nov (IRNA)--Last year's agreement between Iraqi ruler, Saddam Husayn and Jalal Talebani, leader of the National League of Iraq's Kurdish populated region has reached a dead end following the dispatch of Kurds to northern Iraq to expand the self-ruled area and to establish a Kurdish army there. The London-based AL-TALIA' AL-ISLAMIYA weekly, announcing this, wrote in its latest issue that the ceasefire established between the Iraqi Ba'th government and Talebani's forces, was still being observed. But, the weekly added, such a ceasefire did not embody Muslim Kurdish militia groups. In a meeting between Saddam and Talebani last year, an agreement was signed in which a ceasefire was established in the northern part of the country and domestic self-rule was given to Kurds living in northern Iraq. Jalal Talebani was due to be selected as the head of the self-ruled area but the assassination of an official of the National League of Iraq's Kurdish populated region by government forces fanned the flames of disputes between the two parties. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 17 Nov 84]

CSO: 4600/87

DEFENSE ASSISTANCE FROM U.S., OTHER FRIENDS DEEMED UNLIKELY

Karachi AMN in Urdu 3 Oct 84 p 2

[Article by Jumma Khan: "Afghan Air Raids Cause Heavy Damage in Pakistan"]

[Excerpt] Pakistan's government, because of its nature, understands military problems better than a civilian government could. It knows well that small border incidents are being used to drag it into a full-scale war. Afghan rulers and their Russian advisers want to force Pakistan into war to suppress the mujahidin. The Pakistani Government cannot comply with this. It is possible, however, that if matters come to a head, Pakistan may have to send Afghan refugees back to Afghanistan. Then it will have to protect its borders so that the Afghans cannot attack it. But Pakistan cannot jump into such a war with the Soviet Union.

The other reason why Pakistan does not want to fight Afghanistan is that it is fully aware of the latter's friends. Afghanistan has treaties with India and the Soviet Union. These treaties call for mutual support if any of these countries is attacked.

Pakistan does not have a pact with any country and no country has pledged to help Pakistan if it is attacked. We fought two wars in the past, one in 1965 and the other in 1971. At that time, the United States, Great Britain, France, Turkey, Iran, the Philippines and Thailand were our military allies, but none of them came to our help. Our people had this illusion that our military allies would help us in time of need, but we learned that those military pacts were designed only to check communist expansion.

Pakistan has an old pact with the United States. This pact calls for mutual cooperation. We have the impression that the United States is pledged to help Pakistan if its security is endangered. We wonder, however, if this pact is also made to protect Pakistan from a communist aggression. If there is a war with India, this pact will not help us. If this pact calls for protecting us from all countries, then why did the U.S. not send troops to help us when India attacked us in 1965 and 1971?

To be sure, Pakistan has good relations with China, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and many other Western countries. These countries have openly declared that they will help Pakistan at all costs. We can trust these friends and depend on

their promises. Still, our past tells us that written pacts are not worth the paper they are written on when it comes to actual help. Thus, we should not depend on these promises at all.

There is no country in our neighborhood that would send us military aid in an emergency. Our friends can send us modern weapons on short notice but they cannot send armed forces that fast. India and the Soviet Union have huge military forces. We cannot fight them without the help and cooperation of foreign troops.

Keeping all this in mind, we must think about our next step in this regard and make sure this step does not lead us to national suicide.

7997

CSO: 4656/14

GOVERNMENT URGED TO END UNCERTAINTY CONCERNING ELECTIONS

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 14 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "An Atmosphere of Uncertainty"]

[Text] Mian Tufail Mohammad, leader of the Tahrik-e Islami Party, has expressed concern over the present state of uncertainty and made two suggestions: one, that to put an end to the present uncertain situation, President Zia take political leaders into his confidence and put an end to the tension and alienation between these leaders and the government; and two, that political leaders reach an understanding among themselves. Mian Tufail Mohammad said that it was regrettable to see political and religious parties flinging mud at each other, dissension everywhere, and every party split into several groups. Mian Tufail Mohammad expressed the view of the Tahrik-e Islami Party: "We consider all political leaders our brothers; we should all work together."

The spirit of understanding and cooperation between the government and political leaders, among political parties and political personalities that Mian Tufail Mohammad called for is a basic necessity for the country and the people, especially in the present situation when we are faced with challenges from outside and political crises at home. What is needed is for all of the people to adopt a reasonable and positive attitude; what one does see on all sides, however, is an attitude of belligerence and confrontation. All should work together to end this situation, and the government as well should follow a positive and constructive course. Unfortunately, the government has not announced a clear program in regard to the elections, as a result of which a cloud of ambiguity and misunderstanding hangs over everything. Sometimes one hears that nonparty elections have been decided on; next, it is reported that elections may be held on a party basis. A certain circle maintains with great emphasis and an air of truthfulness that elections will not be held. In short, rumors abound while the truth remains shrouded in secrecy. All eyes await the raising of this curtain, but the curtain does not rise. This situation is trying everyone's patience and spreading the poison of uncertainty. To put an end to this state of affairs, a clear announcement is needed regarding all matters pertaining to the elections. It is said that the government is deliberately promoting an air of mystery; most people believe

it is the army's customary procedure to keep its plans a secret from everyone and to launch a surprise attack at night. But these war tactics are not suited to the field of politics, and we do not think that the government is acting this way deliberately. We incline to the view that the ruling authorities are on the horns of a dilemma. Their thinking goes sometimes one way and sometimes another. They either do not know their goal or if they are pursuing an objective, their course is beset with mental distractions, dissension and vacillation. Perhaps that is why there has been no clear statement made about the elections. It is possible that before making any definite announcement, the authorities want to come to an understanding or make a deal with the politicians. If this is so, there is no need for them to be shy or hesitant; instead, they should make haste and clearly state their wishes to the politicians. Our politicians will undoubtedly show flexibility and compromise in order to end the present state of affairs. There is no such thing as politics without flexibility and compromise. The basic fact is that there should be relations between the government and the politicians and negotiations should be started with the aim of installing a civilian government. Still, if the government does not feel the need to establish relations and talks, it should announce its program and act upon it. It is not desirable to perpetuate a state of indecision.

9863

CSO: 4656/16

JUP NOT TO TAKE PART IN NON-PARTY ELECTIONS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Oct 84 p 8

[Text] Lahore, Oct 16--The defunct Jamiat-u-Ulema-e Pakistan today resolved to dissociate itself from the forthcoming elections if they are held on non-party basis.

A resolution to this effect was unanimously adopted today at a joint meeting of the Central Working Committee and the General Council after nine hours of deliberation. Maulana Noorani was in the chair.

The resolution said the survival and solidarity of Pakistan was possible only with the united struggle and will of its people as had been manifested during the great struggle of the Muslims of this Sub-Continent for the achievement of Pakistan. It was unfortunate, the resolution went on, that constant efforts had been made to suppress the voice and will of the people and added that the rulers had forced their own will on the people which had its dreadful result in 1971 with the fall of Dhaka. The process was still continuing, the resolution asserted. In spite of the announcement regarding holding of election it was not yet clear whether they would be held in a democratic fashion and under the unanimously agreed 1973 Constitution.

JUP, therefore, declared "in unequivocal terms that the forthcoming election if held in an undemocratic and unconstitutional manner would be tantamount to a negation of democracy and any participation in such elections would not only mean giving a new lease of life to the present regime but would also be a sheer waste of time and detrimental to the national interest and integrity of the country." The resolution called upon all patriotic parties and individuals to lend full support to the stand evolved by JUP on the subject.

A 9-member committee constituted at the meeting with a mandate to decide the future course of the party on the issue of the forthcoming election has the following as its members: Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi, Shah Faridul Haq, Retd Lt Gen K.M. Azhar, Kh. Muhammad Sarfraz Taunsvi, Malik Mohammad Akbar Saqi, Malik Fateh Muhammad Barozai, and Maulana Latif Ahmed Chishti.

CSO: 4600/57

ZIA TALKS ABOUT ELECTIONEERING

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Oct 84 p 10

[Text]

QUETTA, Oct. 29: President Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq has said Islam provides definite directions on system of government and method for its elections.

Addressing a meeting of councilors of Zhob Agency soon after his arrival at Zhob on Monday, 200 miles north of Quetta, he said election was part of an Islamic system, but in an Islamic State no one could demand or seek an office. Similarly, there was no room for Opposition once a head of an institution had been elected.

The President said system of election in an Islamic State was different from that in Western countries. In the Islamic system, nobody could secure votes on the basis of his wealth or influence. He deplored that during the last election to the local bodies some candidates had spent as much as Rs. 5 lakh to secure votes.

He declared that all the old notions regarding electioneering during the coming poll would not be allowed to be practised. The Government would not allow any public meetings or processions, nor would it allow anyone to break law.

The President also emphasised that if an elected body deviated from the Islamic path, then its efficacy vis-a-vis people would end.

He said an elected person in an Islamic State could be removed only when he was guilty of acting against the Islamic principles. He said the Islamic system had a basic advantage over other systems, because a person, guilty of violating Islamic injunctions, could be removed straightaway and people did not have to wait till the next election for that purpose.

He said the coming election would be free and fair.

The President congratulated the people of Zhob for having a new airport. He said the new airport, with twice-a-week flights, would greatly help in the development of the area by establishing better communication with other parts of the country. He promised that with the increase in the number of passengers the number of flights would be increased and a direct route would be opened from here to Multan.

He said Zhob had been linked with a 66 kv transmission line as was promised by him during his last visit here in 1981. Now the Government was looking into the possibility of making it a 120 kv line so that agriculturists could also benefit from this facility and could increase their production by installing tubewells.

The President complimented the people of Zhob Agency for looking after the Afghan refugees as well.

He said the Government was looking into the possibility of dismantling the petroleum gas plant and supplying it to Zhob because Quetta was now being fed by gas from Sui. He said construction of Zhob-Dera Ismail Khan Road could not be taken up during the current year but would definitely be constructed in the coming years.

He said the Government was planning to cover the entire country with television coverage by installing boosters to relay programme to far-flung places. He promised that the next booster would be installed at Zhob.—APP

ZIA SAYS ATTEMPTS TO SABOTAGE ELECTIONS TO BE FOILED

Karachi DAWN in English 31 Oct 84 pp 1, 10

[Text]

QUETTA, Oct 30: President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq on Tuesday expressed hope that conditions in Sind would normalise soon, adding that the provincial government was taking steps to bring the law and order situation, which was disturbed at some places recently, under its full control.

He was addressing a news conference at the Governor's House here at the conclusion of his four-day visit to Baluchistan.

He said that the situation at one or two places in that province might not be comparatively better, and therefore worrisome, but the overall situation was firmly under control of the Government.

He said some elements were spreading unfounded rumours and hoped no one would believe them.

To a question, the President said that he did not agree with the contention of some political leaders that the situation in Sind was similar to what prevailed in the then East Pakistan in 1971.

He attributed the disturbances taking place here and there in Sind to political as well as economic factors. But there was no cause of any anxiety, he added.—APP/PPI

Ansari Commission

Our staff correspondent adds:

The President reiterated his resolve

to shape the country's future set-up in accordance with the spirit of Islam and said that the Government was largely in agreement with the recommendations of the Ansari Commission for necessary amendments in the 1973 Constitution to achieve the objective.

The President, in reply to a question, said that although the Government agreed with the spirit of the suggestion, made in the Commission's report, for setting up of a national security council, there existed some difference of opinion on its composition. Decision about the composition of the national security council, he added, would be taken by the Government at an appropriate time.

In reply to another question, he said it was premature to say as to whether the Government would allow registered political parties to participate in the elections if they were held on party basis, or whether a framework order would be issued for holding elections. All such questions would be answered at an appropriate time, he said.

President Zia-ul-Haq told a questioner that he did not intend to hold election of "Amir" first and assemblies afterwards. He said that he had already stated that elections to national and provincial assemblies would be held first.

He said that the elections, to be held in accordance with August 12

plan announced by him, would be completely free and fair.

Asked if he would take political parties into confidence before the country went to polls, he said that it was not his intention. Political parties, he pointed out, had in past been unable to play the role required of them for serving the country and the national cause. He said that he had no intention of taking any step which could help political parties improve their image or work, as it was for the politicians themselves to do so.

Babrak Karmal

The President, in reply to another question, ruled out the possibility of a meeting with President Babrak Karmal of Afghanistan. There was absolutely no question of such a meeting, he stated. Pakistan, he added, did not recognise Karmal Government and as such he would not have official or informal meeting with Babrak Karmal.

He referred to his meetings with previous heads of Kabul Government, Sardar Mohammad Daud and Noor Mohammad Tarahki, and said that he also had a programme to meet Hafeezullah Amin. He said that so far as Babrak Karmal was concerned his government was not representative.

He said although the present government in Pakistan was also not an elected or representative government but it was "our own government", whereas, the position in Afghanistan was quite different.

President Zia-ul-Haq said that there were at present one and a

half lakh Soviet troops in Afghanistan and people in that country were engaged in fighting for their independence.

He said that Pakistan wanted a political settlement of Afghanistan issue, and added that the people and the Government of Pakistan would continue looking after Afghan refugees on humanitarian grounds till they returned to their country with dignity and honour.

The President said that the present situation on country's borders did not warrant any change in his elections programme.

Agencies add:

The President said as and when required politicians had been meeting him to exchange views on national and international affairs.

He said from the Islamic point of view a representative government was necessary to run the affairs of the State. "We will achieve this objective," he added.

Asked about his role in the set-up after general polls, President Zia-ul-Haq said, "Only God knows of the future".

Replying to a question on Ansari Commissions views on proposed National Security Council, the President said: "We disagree with certain aspects of the recommendations on the subject. But by and large, there is agreement on other aspects of the National Security Council."

When a correspondent drew his attention to the fact that political situation in Pakistan deteriorated after two general polls — in 1970 and 1977 — he said if the electorate were satisfied with the general polls, then there was no fear of post-election turmoil.

Replying to a question about the attempts of Al-Zulfiqar, organisation to create law and order situation and to sabotage the forthcoming general elections, the President assured that the Government was fully prepared to cope with the activities of any kind of terrorists.

He strongly condemned the tendency of rumour-mongering among some people and stressed the need for checking it.

He said he was happy to know that Baluchistan was free from any kind of rumours.

Unfortunately, he said, in one or two provinces some elements are resorting to rumour-mongering.

The best way to check the rumours, he said, is neither to propagate nor to be instrumental in passing on to others the rumour one hears.

Dacoits, arms, drugs

President Zia-ul-Haq said the Government was taking appropriate steps to check the activities of dacoits coming across our border with Iran but the situation was not serious to warrant any special measures in this regard.

Reply to a question he said the Iranian authorities had also been apprised of the situation through diplomatic channels.

He said here the Government was also taking steps to effectively check the smuggling of arms in the country from whatever source.

In this respect, he referred to the timely seizure of the cache of arms being smuggled from the east some four months back.

The President said that illegal arms were being brought from the western side of the country as well.

He said that the nuisance of narcotics was eating into the vitality and vigour of our younger generation against which a crusade must be launched by all sections of the society.

He said the Government was doing its best to nip the nuisance in the bud. But it is incumbent on all of us to work individually and collectively to fight out and weed out this menace from the people particularly from the younger generation, he said.

He said in this context the media could play a positive role and hoped that it would come up to expectation in this regard.

President Zia-ul-Haq said that it was the earnest desire of Pakistan to develop friendly relations with all her neighbours, particularly India.

He said that despite best efforts towards fostering better relations based on mutual respect and honour, response from India was not encouraging.

He, however, expressed the hope that things would improve soon or after general elections in India.

Gulf war

To a question on Iran-Iraq war, the President said that Umma Peace Committee, of which he was a member, was in touch with the situation and making efforts to put an end to this fratricidal.

He said all Islamic States earnestly desired that the war between Iran and Iraq should be brought to an end as quickly as possible.

Reagan's letter

The President told newsmen that he had received a "good letter" from US President Ronald Reagan.

He said that reports about its contents had come out in the national newspapers based on matters emanating from the United States.

He, however, said that he did not deem it proper to divulge the contents of the letters exchanged between the heads of the States, which are considered secret and confidential.

Baluchistan

The President said that Baluchistan was geopolitically a strategic province of Pakistan which is destined to play a vital role in the region.

He said that the Government had paid special attention to its overall progress in every sphere of activity to enable the province to play its destined role.

He said that a healthy trend which he noticed during his current visit was that wherever he went he was confronted with the question of defence of our geographical and ideological frontiers.

The President said a cross section of the people which met him during the tour said that the de-

fence of the country was of paramount importance in view of the situation developing around us.

He said people told him that they would prefer to place defence above development and as such every step should be taken by the Government to develop the country's defensive capability.

Civil service

He assured that the Federal Government would try to accommodate as many as possible of those who have qualified in the Superior Services Examination from Baluchistan.

Like last year, the President said, "We will try to accommodate as many as possible in the Foreign Service, in WAPDA and in other departments".

He also assured that the Mastung Cadet College would be completed as soon as possible in the meantime the government had doubled the seats for students from Baluchistan province in similar institutions.

Nizam-i-Salat

The President expressed satisfaction over the response to the Nizam-i-Salat in Baluchistan.

He said after visiting some parts of the province during the last few days, he could say with confidence that the people here had gone far ahead in adopting Nizam-i-Salat than some other provinces.

For example, he said the people of Zohb, which he visited on Monday, had been quite regular in their prayers.

Similarly, he said, unlike other provinces, the status of mosque schools in Baluchistan was a unique one and these schools — numbering 900 odd — were serving very effectively the dual purpose of imparting religious and general education to the children.

MINISTER SAYS 'WEALTH NOT TO BE A FACTOR' IN ELECTIONS

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Nov 84 p 2

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct 31: Mr. Mahmoud A. Haroon, Minister for Interior and Chairman of the Election Coordination Committee said here on Wednesday that the government will ensure that mere wealth and false demeanour were not sole factors for the success of candidates in the next elections.

He was talking a cross section of public representatives from Attock District who met him in his office. Those who called on the Minister included members of Majlis-i-Shoora and members of District Council, Attock.

He said the candidates who will use money in their election campaigns will render themselves liable for disqualification. The Government will not let anybody use underhand tactics and gain favour of voters by offering money, he added.

The Minister said President Gen. Zia-ul-Haq sincerely wished that the reign of the Government should be handed over to those who were capable of pursuing further the process of Islamisation.

He expressed his firm belief that there will be no scope in the elections for those who preach communism and secularism or other alien ideologies.

Mr. Mahmoud Haroon said the Government was fully aware of the fact that some people were out to obstruct the movement for Islamisation in the country. Such people who are working for their foreign masters will also try to create conditions for postponement of elections, he added.

He reiterated the Government's firm policy for holding free and fair elections in a peaceful atmosphere. He was sure that God will help them in fulfilling this cherished goal.

He declared that any conspiracy

for halting the process of elections will be smashed. He said the Government will adopt all possible measures to ensure transfer of power to real representatives of the people.

The Minister replied to various searching questions about the elections and explained policies in this connection.

He brushed aside the impression that the Government will give any support to the members of local bodies or the Federal Council. He asserted that it was the sole right of the people to elect their representatives, exercising their own choice freely.

The Chairman of the Coordination Committee said the Government could not ignore its responsibility towards fulfilling the objectives behind creation of a State for Muslims. He said that the struggle for Pakistan was launched to build an Islamic society and revive the glory of Islam.

He said the Election Commission was engaged in preparing a code which will make it incumbent on future rulers to strictly abide by the principles of Quran and Sunnah. He said it will lay down necessary grounds under which no one could drift from the idea of a separate homeland as conceived by Quaid-i-Azam.

The procedure to be laid down by the Election Commission for rendering someone disqualified for contesting the elections will not be controversial and vague, he added.

A member suggested that as the nation was having a peaceful time and the process of Islamisation was going ahead satisfactorily, there was no need for holding elections. The Minister replied that the Government wanted to fully involve public's representatives in all Government's efforts.—APP.

MINISTER TALKS ABOUT CANDIDATES' QUALIFICATIONS

Karachi DAWN in English 31 Oct 84 p 12

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Oct 30: Mr. Mahmoud A. Haroon, Minister for Interior and Chairman of the Election Coordination Committee, expressed the determination of the Government to hold the forthcoming general elections with complete impartiality and without discrimination to anybody.

He was talking to a group of public representatives from Gujrat district who met him in his office here on Tuesday. Those who called on him included members of the Majlis-i-Shoora, Chairman and members of District Council, Gujrat.

The Minister affirmed that the Government will not prevent any one from participating in the proposed elections. All the powers regarding determining the eligibility of any candidate will vest in the Election Commission, he added.

He said affiliation of the intending candidates to the defunct political parties will not be taken into account while judging their eligibility as candidates. He, however, added that those who do not believe in the ideology of Pakistan and integrity and solidarity of the country, will not be allowed to participate in the polls.

He said, the Election Commission would disqualify anybody on the basis of concrete evidence against him. There will be no vague criteria in this connection, he added.

Mr. Mahmoud Haroon said, only those deserved to be at the helm of affairs of the government who had good conduct and could serve the people according to their aspirations.

The Minister answered various questions relating to the proposed election. He explained the viewpoint of the Government on various aspects of the elections. He said the Government felt it necessary to remove all deficiencies and irregularities which were experienced during the last elections.

He said, there was nothing to warrant postponement of the elections.

He said, the section of the society which believed they would not benefit from the elections would like and might try to postpone elections. But, he said, the Government machinery was strong enough to nip those designs in the bud with the help of the people.

He further said that the Government would continue to fulfil the objectives of the creation of Pakistan and try to ensure that only pious, noble and the right type of members were elected to the assemblies. He said it was very difficult to determine whether or not a person was Muslim but the Election Commission would certainly identify the anti-Islam elements.

To a question Mr. Haroon denied that the Government would help members of the Majlis-i-Shoora to get them elected. He said the Government was determined to hold fair and free elections under all circumstances, and in that connection referred to the local bodies elections in which members of the Majlis or even the ministers in some cases could not get through the election.

He said it has not been decided so far whether the candidates would be allowed time on Radio and Television for the election campaign but, he said, the Election Commission

was considering plans under which the whole campaign could be held without creating any law and order problem.

It would be ensured that no candidate had any complaint of partiality regarding the election campaign.

He said, the polling stations would be manned by adequate staff and would be helped by the law-enforcing agencies besides the judiciary to see that these were held peacefully. He said all through the elections mobile teams would be present to deal with any situation.

The Minister said, in keeping with the past experience the number of polling stations would be increased. It would be ensured that these centres were within reasonable distance of their residence. He said any complaint about the polling station would be heard by the Election Commission.

The Chairman, Coordination Committee, replying to another question said that the delimitation of constituencies which was done in 1977, would remain intact. He, however, said complaints to this effect should be referred to the Election Commission after the announcement of the delimitation of the constituencies.

In reply to a question, he said, the elections will be held on the basis of old voting lists. Those who wanted to get their names registered in the lists should approach the Election Commission for this purpose, he added.

The participants of the meeting suggested various proposals relating to holding of free and fair elections to which the Minister assured full consideration. —APN

PPP, AL-ZULFIQAR TERRORISTS PURSUE IDENTICAL GOALS

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 24 Sep 84 p 2

[Editorial: "In Reality, Both Are One and the Same"]

[Text] According to informed sources, al-Zulfiqar terrorist organization is responsible for sabotage and terrorist activities started during the early days of the MRD [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy] campaign, which began in August 1983, and which are now visible in some criminal activities. But the leaders and spokesmen of the People's Party [PPP] and many other parties constituting the MRD, and even the intellectual observers who defend them, have been insisting that these events are really the result of dejection, the delay in the elections and an alleged sense of deprivation. But after the way in which Murtaza Bhutto, founder and leader of the terrorist organization, openly admitted responsibility for the incidents during the course of an interview with BBC representative David Lee somewhere in Europe, this matter needs no further clarification.

Murtaza Bhutto in this interview claimed that it was al-Zulfiqar organization that shot down the plane of Gen S F Lodhi, the governor of Baluchistan. In February 1982 the plane carrying President Ziaul Haq was attacked by a SAM-7 antiaircraft missile, but the missile missed the plane. He also claimed that it was al-Zulfiqar organization that attacked the inspector general of police in Sind. Lee also asked him about the statement of his elder sister and defacto chairman of the PPP Miss Benazir Bhutto in which she denied any involvement of her brother with the terrorist activities. She said that al-Zulfiqar has no connection with the aims and objective of the PPP. Murtaza Bhutto's reply was that there is no contradiction between the objectives of the two organizations, the difference being mainly in thinking. The political and intellectual circles who have made the principle "everything is possible in politics" their everyday practice, will not refrain from elucidating Murtaza Bhutto's claim. But this is such an open confession of guilt that no elucidation can hide the fact that the PPP and Al-Zulfiqar are one and the same.

9315

CSO: 4656/3

JATOI'S RELEASE SEEN AS POSITIVE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Karachi JANG in Urdu 22 Oct 84 p 3

[Article by Abdul Qadir Hasan: "Welcome, Mr Jatoi!"]

[Text] Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has also been released. He tried to downplay his release by saying that he has been transferred from a smaller jail to a larger one. He is in a province where his movement is restricted. We, however, do not feel that he is in a larger jail. He is the most influential politician in Sind. He has so much to do in Sind that even when he is given permission to travel to another province he will not find time to do so. He himself has admitted that he will accept more responsibilities in Sind.

Mr Jatoi is a very steadfast politician. Some reporters who interviewed him after his release noted that he appeared unfriendly. Perhaps the hardships suffered in the jail are showing. Perhaps he is feeling the burden of all the political responsibilities that he has to shoulder as a prominent state politician. Mr Jatoi's politics have always incorporated cooperation and understanding. He has sacrificed personal gain for the sake of the country. During the martial law regime he almost became prime minister, even without benefit of an election. He had prepared lists of ministers for both central and state governments and submitted it to the government. According to some reliable sources, Begum Nasrat Bhutto was also favoring him. However, before any decision was made, he went to Mecca on a pilgrimage. When he returned, he found the world changed. It is useless to go into the details of what happened. Anyhow, the government retracted its offer and changed its position regarding a cabinet headed by Mr Jatoi. This left a bitter taste all around. We recount this incident to show how cool and brave Mr Jatoi is. He had agreed to accept the huge responsibility of the prime ministership. His only demand was that he also be responsible for holding elections.

Mr Jatoi has been released during a very difficult time, and this has put him on the spot. He has to run the People's Party [PPP] single-handedly. The people who were responsible for the party earlier are abroad. Their return will be possible only after a major revolution. No one capable of bringing about such a revolution is in sight at present. Mr Jatoi has to shoulder all responsibilities, including putting an end to confusion, gathering all the party sheep in one place and achieving harmony. This is a huge task. He also

has to straighten out the problems in his province. He believes that as long as Sind does not get basic provincial rights, things will not improve. At the same time, he has to improve Sind's internal affairs so that he can ask for those basic rights. If Mr Jatoi remains patient and steadfast he will emerge as the most powerful politician in the country. The government cannot have anyone more acceptable than he as the leader of the opposition parties. I have repeatedly said that the elections will be held on a party basis. Mr Jatoi can play an important role in such elections. According to one source, the PPP has been advised to take part in the elections. At such a time the party should conduct the election of its own officers. This party never had any elections to pick its officers. They were always appointed. Even Nawabzada Nasrulla Khan's PDP [Pakistan Democratic Party] is holding elections now. All other political parties that want to take part in the upcoming elections are holding elections of officers. It is becoming more and more apparent that the elections will be held on a party basis. Even our government is occupied with the party system. It is expected that Mr Jatoi will declare the elections as the basis of his policy.

Mr Jatoi's release should make every patriot happy. Finally, someone is there to take care of Sind, and Mr Jatoi will prove to be a capable leader for this sad part of our country. The big landlords of Sind have played an important role in causing problems there. Mr Jatoi has referred to the television drama "Jungle," which portrayed the characters of these landlords. Mr Jatoi is a politician and not a rogue. He will try his best to pave the way for elections, which are a prerequisite for obtaining basic rights for Sind. The present unrest in the province is not conducive to elections. Mr Jan Mohammad Abbasi recently said that in some areas of Sind even the lives of candidates will not be safe. They could be killed or abducted. Mr Abbasi is one of the Sindhi leaders who is rowing against his popular current and lives in Larkana, the heart of Sind. He is not hiding in Karachi or other large cities. His observations about Sind demand attention as they are not based on guesswork but on hard facts. Recently, he told me that the arrest of 10 or 12 landlords could bring about great improvement in Sind's affairs. He added sadly that those landlords were being wrongly led by undesirable elements.

The political climate of our country is clearing up. A number of political leaders have been released. Prominent among them are Mr Asghar Khan, Mr Jatoi and Mr Wali Khan. God willing, Baluchi leaders will also be freed. We hope the leaders who have forsaken Pakistan are not released. People seem to be relaxed now as the atmosphere is freer than before. With these leaders free, people will have increased faith in the government as per the Punjabi saying, "the Jat knows his business and the badger knows his; we can just relax." We will find ways to give India a taste of its own medicine if it bothers us. People are feeling light-hearted now. Having minor political problems is acceptable. These small demonstrations and rallies are healthy for a country. The problems begin when a part of the country begins to feel alienated because of injustice. Anyhow, the whole country is overjoyed at Mr Jatoi's release. Mr Jatoi will be beneficial to all Pakistanis. He has said that himself. We will pray for his success, and every patriot should do the same.

ZIA SAYS ARMED FORCES TO SHARE POWER

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Nov 84 pp 1, 4

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Oct 31: President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq said here on Wednesday that the real point at issue was not transfer of power but sharing of power by the elected representatives of the people. He declared the impression that armed forces would give up and return to their barracks was wrong and misguided.

He said: "We are proud of the manner in which we have served the country in the last more than seven years and now want people's representatives to come and work in partnership with us in the best interest of the national cause. We think we should not be expected to bear the burden of responsibility for all times to come."

Addressing the provincial councillors, members of the Federal Shoorā and representatives from the adjoining tribal areas at Darbar Hall President Zia-ul-Haq in his one hour 25 minutes speech discussed a number of issues including elections, important current national issues, matters relating to the security of Pakistan, future system of government and generalities concerning the system of Local-Self Government in the country.

Referring to general elections in the country he rebuked those crying hoarse of democracy only because that was the system in vogue in Great Britain. Re-affirming that elections would be held on time he said, "We are going to have an all-elected Majlis-i-Shoorā, an all-nominated Senate while least overlooking the utility of local-self government system which has proved its usefulness.

People, he continued, were talking of elections, selections and nominations in the same breath but when talking so forgot that all those were very much in practice during the times of Muslim caliphs 1400 years back.

"There is nothing bad about it and there is little harm in practising the system now," he remarked. What was important and played basic role was national character because there was no place in Islam of rulers without character and none if the system of Government and politics was based on commercial type election as had been in vogue so far, he observed.

Reiterating that elections in the country would be free and just the President said: "Our attention will concentrate on one point that future system of government in Pakistan should, in any case, be Islamic. "We will not quit until given guarantee that system of government in Pakistan will be Islam and strictly based on our basic ideology. Only then we will think of lifting Martial Law," President Zia declared.

Stressing that his Government was constitutional and legal, the President said: "We are not worried about any future government making us accountable because our accounts are very clear and we have done nothing which could be a burden on our conscience.

Earlier, the Provincial Governor, Lt Gen Fazle Haq, welcomed the President and assured him that the people of NWFP were with him in the enforcement of Islam in Pakistan and would continue to support his policies.

APP adds: President Zia-ul-Haq said that the forthcoming general elections would be a process for "Ishtiraq-i-Iqtidar" and not mere "Intiqal-i-Iqtidar.

President Zia-ul-Haq said that the present Government would seek two guarantees before handing over rein of power to the elected representatives of the people. Firstly, he said they would not disturb the course set by the present Government for the country and secondly they would do their utmost to ensure that the country ushered in a complete Islamic system.

He said that he had talked of "Ishtiraq-i-Iqtidar" only because he did not want to see the country under martial law for the fourth time.

Discussing the governmental system in the historical perspective, the President said that the country had remained under parliamentary system from 1947 to 1958 adding that its failure had prompted the armed forces to enforce martial law in the country. Then, he said, it had seen a presidential form of government from 1962 to 1973 which was again replaced by the parliamentary system of government.

The party, he said, which remained in power from 1972 to 1977 had brought the country on verge of destruction and forced the armed forces to intervene. However, he added, the martial law was not a remedy for all times to come and that was why his government was taking necessary steps to bring about Islamic "Shoorai" system in the

country which was the only answer to all questions.

The President said that in the Islamic system all power rested in Almighty Allah and an "Ameer-i-Mumlikat" used to be the servant and was accountable to the masses for his deeds. He added that the Islamic way of electing a person as a member of the parliament or head of the government was that the people for themselves should search for such a person rather than voting someone into power asking for vote.

He said that some people had been referring time and again to the event when Muslim League had come into the forefront under the dynamic leadership of the Quaid-i-Azam and carved out a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent. But, he asked, what the political parties had done later. The political leaders gave up national interests to serve their personal ends and even brought the country on the verge of bloodshed. Rejecting the western parliamentary system for Pakistan, he said that it was not befitting that a party getting only 21 or 25 per cent votes was saddled into power by ignoring the wishes of the vast majority of the people.

Even, the President said, the Great Britain from where the concept of western democracy originated was giving serious thinking to its system after the emergence of a third political party there. A number of European countries had corrected this system suiting their own circumstances and had laid down the rules that the party securing 51 per cent of votes would be considered as winner.

President Zia-ul-Haq said that Islam was a religion for all ages and the Holy Quran had ordained basic principles for the Islamic system of government. The crying need of the hour was only to follow those principles, he advised.

He said that by adopting Islamic way of life the people of Pakistan could demonstrate to the world in practical that Islamic system of government could make a Muslim country an impregnable fort of Islam. "I am waiting for that miracle

to happen", he said.

Making a comparison of parliamentary and presidential forms of government, he said that if a party failed to get absolute majority in the elections the country always remained exposed to instability. On the other hand, he added, a party winning elections with vast majority forced the legislature, administration and even the judiciary through some law to act according to its wishes.

The same was the case with the presidential form of government, he said and referred to a biggest country where its president could even forego the decisions of the legislatures.

He said that in the Islamic Shoorai system the head of state or government was accountable to the people and he could be removed any time if he did not act according to the dictates of Quran and Sunnah.

The President said that the Government had made some amendments in the 1973 Constitution to bring it in line with the Islamic Shoorai system under which the President or the Prime Minister could not work at their own will. They would have to respect each and every law of the land.

He made it clear that the coming elections would not allow any candidate to win election in his constituency by the dint of money on transporting voters to the polling stations. The holding of public meeting, bringing out processions or resorting to firing on the winner candidate and his supporters were not the Islamic way of life, he emphasised.

Parliament

Giving a brief outline of the future parliament, the President said that while Majlis-i-Shoorai (National Assembly) would be an elected body, the Senate would comprise members both elected and nominated. He said in Britain House of Lords was totally a selected body. Therefore, he added, the nomination of certain persons on a body was not an abuse.

FOREIGN LOANS NO INDICATION OF IMPROVED ECONOMY

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 24 Sep 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Sense of Prosperity Based on Foreign Loans Is Bound To Prove Harmful"]

[Text] According to a report appearing in a Karachi newspaper, Roger Persel, a representative of the World Bank, is assessing on site the traffic problems of Pakistan's largest city and number one industrial and commercial center. He will complete his recommendations for rectifying the situation within 3 months, and the World Bank will announce its decision on the request submitted to it by the Karachi Development Authority in the light of this report. In the meantime, the boarding and lodging expenses of the World Bank representative will be borne by the Authority.

Now let us look at the Washington report according to which A W Claussen, president of the World Bank, characterized the economic development of Pakistan during the past 7 years as a wonderful performance and reassured Finance Minister Ishaq Khan that the World Bank will not only continue its economic aid to Pakistan but will also increase its aid to \$510,500,000 dollars this year, a 40 percent increase compared with last year, and that 40 percent of this loan will be interest free.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan, during his meeting with the president of the World Bank, told him that the rate of Pakistan's economic development over the past 7 years has been 7 percent annually. In the current year, when the cement factories in the private sector start production and other industrial projects are completed, the annual development rate will reach 9 percent. The finance minister also stated that Pakistan's exports continue to increase, the balance of payments is satisfactory and the fall in remittances of foreign exchanges during 1983-84 has been effectively checked because the amounts of foreign remittances have increased since July 4 this year.

Looking at Pakistan's economic and industrial development, it would not be out of line to talk about the international industrial trade fair held in Seoul, capital of South Korea, glimpses of which were shown on Pakistani TV in its news program last night. South Korean and Japanese stalls shown at this fair had modern machinery and equipment, including robots, on display. But the exhibits in the Pakistani stall consisted of carved and painted utensils such as usually found in Pakistan in official cottage industry centers.

These news reports apparently have no connection with one another. But if we were to look at them in the light of Pakistan's economic performance, the picture gives the feeling and impression that despite all the claims about industrial development, Pakistan is still a very backward and a developing country. Its economy for the most part depends on agriculture, which in turn is at the mercy of climatic conditions. This was in fact discussed by Ghulam Ishaq Khan during his meeting with the president of the World Bank. He said that the khareef harvest of wheat, rice, sugar-cane and so forth this year was very good and that if climatic conditions continue to be favorable then the damage from poor wheat and cotton crops in 1983-84 could be expected to be more than made up.

The application to the World Bank for a loan to improve the traffic system in Karachi shows to what extent we are dependent on foreign aid for solving even a very simple problem. Traffic conditions in Karachi are said to be better than those in all other cities of Pakistan. But the question appears to involve the practice of obtaining foreign loans, which has become an everyday affair. We expect outsiders to come and solve our problems for us. Previously, large loans have been obtained from the World Bank and other financial institutions for water storage and drainage projects for Lahore and some other cities. The payments for these loans will perhaps continue for many generations to come. But despite the spending of hundreds of millions of rupees, no signs of improvement are visible in the water storage and drainage systems.

The president of the World Bank, describing the economic performance of Pakistan as quite extraordinary, told Pakistan's finance minister that the international community is satisfied and impressed by it and that the aid consortium, at its meeting in Paris, offered a loan much more than the amount requested by Pakistan.

Dr Mahbubul Haq, the federal minister for planning, returned home greatly pleased and satisfied with the consortium meeting. But keeping in mind the fact that these loans will have to be paid back, along with interest, that the rate of growth of our economic development has been 7 percent annually and the burden of foreign loans on our country and people has at least doubled and that the installments and the amount of interest is also increasing yearly, then the remarks of the president of the World Bank describing our performance as extraordinary are not comforting.

The fundamental changes brought about in the situation not only in the region but the world as a whole due to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has undoubtedly increased to some extent the interest and sympathy of adversaries and countries hostile to the Soviet Union for the integrity and consolidation of Pakistan. The Western countries, including the United States, are now advancing loans to Pakistan more open heartedly than before. Now the fundamental issue facing Pakistan is to determine which way the expansionist policy of Soviet Union will turn after it has consolidated its domination of Afghanistan. But our government experts and financial wizards consider

foreign loans obtained from the World Bank and other Western countries a result of their extraordinary performance. The perception of independence and integrity demand that we enhance our ability to stand on our own and keep our expenses within our income in order to strengthen the determination of the people of Pakistan to rely on their own resources and follow the policy of helping themselves. But under present special circumstances, with the flow of foreign loans, we have begun to neglect and disregard these very fundamental requirements more than ever and have started to see the foreign loans loaded with interest that are given to Pakistan, which remains surrounded on all sides with countless dangers, as the achievement of a better economic performance. Our economic experts and financial wizards do not want to recognize that the burden of foreign loans is continuing to increase. So instead of being contented and frugal, we have made extravagance a daily routine and are wasting our resources on profligacy and are going back and forth between Paris and Washington like beggars in new clothes to obtain foreign loans for every real or imaginary need. We are constructing magnificent buildings, virtual palaces, for ourselves, but to solve water storage, drainage, public health, cleanliness and traffic problems, even to repair canals carrying water to the farms, we continue to obtain loans from world financial organizations. And instead of understanding that a sense of prosperity based on foreign loans will one day bring us face to face with catastrophe, we remain determined in our relentless efforts to obtain more and more foreign loans. This can in no way be said to confirm our excellent economic performance, on the contrary, it constitutes a grievous blindness to our own destruction.

9315
CSO: 4656/3

PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN DEBT ANALYZED, HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES NOTED

Rawalpindi HURMAT in Urdu 27 Sep 84 pp 7, 14

[Article by M. I. Lashkar: "Who Will Pay Back Foreign Debt of 12,399,600,000? Have We Politically Become Slaves of Superpowers Due to Foreign Debts?"]

[Excerpts] Various economic theories are offered about Pakistan's foreign debts. But it was generally believed that the country's resources and savings were insufficient to meet the development targets set in the 5-year plans. It was essential, therefore, to obtain foreign loans to fill this gap.

Second, foreign loans were acquired when the country's exports did not earn enough foreign exchange to cover imports of foreign machinery and various other items. Nonessential restrictions could also have been imposed on the imports, especially the consumer goods, since Pakistan's economic structure was founded on the basis of free enterprise. [Sentence as printed] [The sentence, it seems, implies the following:] Restrictions could have been imposed on imports, especially on the import of certain consumer goods, even though some of those restrictions would have seemed unwanted and unnecessary considering the fact that Pakistan's economic structure was founded on the basis of free enterprise.

On one hand, we do not have the required foreign exchange to import essential goods, but on the other hand we depend on foreign loans to buy luxury items. Certain sectors, however, have also argued in this regard that something that may generally be said to be a luxury item can in another sense be an essential.

With the passage of time, however, the force of this argument has disappeared, because the things that we consider luxury items have in fact become essential. For example, along with the increase in the population of cities, their boundaries expanded. The distance between the residence and the factory or office increased, in certain cities up to 20 miles, and cars are needed to cover these distances. But the question remains with the elapse of time that if cars have really become a necessity is it essential to import new and bigger models every year?

Again, such questions were also raised about the import of decorative and beauty items. Especially when things for the ladies' use such as cosmetics

were mentioned, our cultural heritage was brought to the forefront. It was said that we cannot prohibit ladies from wearing gold jewelry. Similarly, we cannot impose restrictions on the use of cosmetics. What remains to be asked is that if henna and body lotions are found at home, what is the sense of importing products of foreign companies like Elizabeth Arden and Revlon? The answer given to this question is that the foreign products are of a high standard and are not harmful to the skin. Once, one foreign company went so far as to claim that the lipstick it manufactured contained vitamins.

In short, the controversy continued and foreign debts went on increasing. Like the Punjabi films that are full of violence and sex and graduated from black-and-white to color and continue to be promoted despite being declared killers of the Punjabi culture. In fact, we did hear about the harmful effects of foreign debts on the country's economy. The nation's foreign debt, which in 1951 was only \$43 million went on increasing, and by June 1983 it had reached \$12,399,600,000.

The question now is what is the use of obtaining new loans? However, if debt is not acquired, how will the machinery and products for development programs be imported, and how will the debts be paid? If maximum possible foreign exchange is earned to relieve this shortage of foreign exchange we could get rid of this debt. We have two ways to obtain foreign exchange. One is to increase exports and the other is to bring into the country to the maximum extent possible the income of the skilled and other Pakistani workers working in foreign countries. To increase exports, productivity, especially agricultural productivity, must be increased, since we cannot acquire an instant capability to compete with the countries exporting industrial products. Agricultural products alone can increase our exports. Nevertheless, for various reasons, from the very beginning agricultural development has been ignored in our planning, while more emphasis has been laid on industrial development. On the other hand, the income of the Pakistanis working in foreign countries is declining. During the first year of the plan alone, the income received from overseas was much less than the yearly limit set in the 6th 5-year plan. Consequently, the 5-year plan itself had to be altered.

In all of the planning, however, nobody ever thought of reducing imports, which could curtail the use of foreign exchange. There are also some consumer goods in these imports, and there are some items, too, that can be included among luxury goods. If such items are not imported for another 2 to 4 years, our national life will not deteriorate. For example, in recent years, for 2 to 3 months, there was a scarcity of lentils and onions. First of all, if the agricultural planning had been done correctly, the shortage of these products would not have occurred, and if this did happen, our officers had no need to run to India for their import, whence they brought back sacks full of these products. After 2 to 3 months, a new crop of these products appeared in the markets. Couldn't the people wait for these 3 months? Clearly, there was criticism by the public about the scarcity of these items, and the administration did not have the courage to bear this, since the shortage was a result of its erroneous agricultural policy. We could also stop using Toyota cars for a few years. Similarly, the import of cosmetic

goods of British, French and American companies could be halted. Canned milk and the import of milk for children could also be stopped. It is also said that the ability to freely import some goods was improperly utilized to such an extent that after importing those goods into Pakistan, they were smuggled into other countries. For example, during the past years, so much artificial silk thread was imported that it was smuggled into India.

Many "interesting" stories are heard about Pakistan's department of importation. For example, the Toyota has become an issue of dignity for Pakistani bureaucrats. So much so that the company manufacturing this car calls it by the name of the Pakistani bureaucrat. It is also said that some of the country's big commercial importing firms control the corridors of power. Every year, before announcement of the import policy is made, these firms exert their influence on the officials concerned. On the other hand, the international commercial firms manufacturing the foreign goods that are sold in Pakistan directly or indirectly influence the countries and international institutions that provide loans to Pakistan. At the suggestion of these very firms, the international institutions providing the loans impose all sorts of conditions on Pakistan that such-and-such an item must be imported from such-and-such a country. For example, the result of obtaining a loan from the EEC is that besides various other things, we have to import canned milk from the European countries. The dairy farms within the country can be organized on an extensive scale to meet Pakistan's need. Nevertheless, the international institutions providing the loan pay no attention to such plans. In any case, the problem of the foreign debt has become complicated, and it is not easy, under ordinary circumstances, to get rid of it. This is possible only under extraordinary conditions, just as Bolivia, a Latin American country, has expressed a total inability to pay back its loans. The second alternative is to bid farewell to the perception of a free economy and live with restrictions on foreign trade.

Pakistan, while obtaining foreign loans, was always proud that the countries or institutions providing the loans did so without any hesitation, which serves as a proof of the fact that Pakistan's economy has attained stability. This is the viewpoint of the Government of Pakistan, but we cannot know what the countries or institutions providing the loan really think about giving loans to Pakistan. However, a similarity can be seen between those providing the loans and the legendary Hindu banker who continues to give loans to a poor farmer as long as the value of the mortgaged land is not fully paid up.

In any case, the nation's anxiety is increasing due to the rising debt. Right now, if foreign debts were divided equally among each individual of Pakistan, every person owes \$150. The thing that is most worrisome is that we do not have any solid plan for creating the resources to pay back these debts; instead, we are obtaining new loans to pay old debts, and the burden of the new debt is increasing while the old ones are being repaid.

The real problem, however, is that due to these debts, we cannot freely plan the development of the country. The common perception is that Pakistan's planning is done according to directions given by the foreign loan-giving

institutions and countries. In an interview with foreign newspapers, Pakistan's minister of planning, Dr Mahbubul Haq, refuted this view and said that we do our planning according to our resources and needs. It has to be accepted, however, that even though these loans do not directly influence our planning, our planning is indirectly effected by them. Our political thinking is influenced, too. It is agreed that Pakistan's policy with regard to Afghanistan is based on national interest and Islamic passion. But the Paris Club, while giving us more loans than we asked for, says that Pakistan deserves this since it has incurred great danger regarding Afghanistan. It put a strain on us when the Western countries complimented us for our policy concerning Afghanistan. On the other hand, according to Western newspapers, last year the Afghanistan issue was almost settled in the Geneva talks. Afterwards, however, due to pressure from the influential country providing loans to Pakistan, the Geneva talks fell victim to failure. The question now is, aren't Afghan refugees a burden on Pakistan's economy, and to relieve this burden, cannot Pakistan, in accord with its policy and maintaining its national dignity, demand a settlement? Here, the Afghan planes continue to bomb Pakistani territory killing unarmed and innocent citizens, while we are helpless.

Besides politics, in the field of economics, too, these foreign debts display their color. In the country's import and export trade, we have always been at a loss due to the conditions set by the countries and institutions providing the loans. Since 1947, our foreign trade has continuously been in the red--that is, our imports have been many times more than our exports. As a result, foreign exchange obtained from the exports has been much less than the amount required for imports. Only in 1947, 1950-51 and 1972-73 were our exports slightly more than our imports. For the other years, exports have brought in much less than the prices paid for imports. Therefore, to make up for the deficiency of foreign exchange, while obtaining foreign loans, we suffered abuse, especially from the international financial institution. When we reduced the value of our currency, that is the rupee, in 1972 due to the pressure of this very foreign exchange institution, the result was that the amount of the loans acquired by the private sector for its industries and the foreign loans obtained by our national institutions became so huge that many industries were shut down and the rest were declared unhealthy. If we examine our foreign debts, we will see that 7 percent of our total debt was obtained just to make up for the deficiency in foreign exchange. The remaining 93 percent is conditional loans, that is, for some particular purpose and for importing some specific items. The condition set for the loans obtained for imports was that these items must be imported from the countries providing the loan. It is clear that these countries set their own conditions for selling such items to Pakistan.

9779

CSO: 4656/11

FINANCE MINISTER LAUDS DUTCH ASSISTANCE

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Oct 84 p 2

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Oct 29: Pakistan has greatly benefited from the valuable financial assistance provided by the Netherlands and the quality of assistance and the flexibility of approach have produced effective results.

This was stated here on Sunday night by the Federal Minister for Finance, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at a dinner hosted by him in honour of the visiting Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation, Dr(Mrs) E.M. Schoo.

The Finance Minister said that institutional progress and training of workers with the supply of modern equipment had imparted a distinct character to the economic assistance from the Netherlands. It has been a member of the Pakistan Consortium since its inception and has always evinced keen interest in Pakistan's socio-economic development. The Minister added that he looked forward to further strengthening of mutual cooperation in the development effort of Pakistan.

The development assistance programme of the Netherlands is a genuine effort arising from a conviction that rich industrial nations have a responsibility to assist the low-income developing countries. "You have," the Finance Minister continued, "consistently maintained official aid at an average level of 1 per cent of your GNP,

against the international target of 0.7 per cent, even during the difficult economic period of 1980's. This positive support is greatly appreciated in a period characterised by what I call 'aid-fatigue' on the part of the larger and more powerful developed nations."

Speaking about economic development in Pakistan, the Minister said that the real indicator is the visible improvement in the standard of living of the people, which has allowed our people to rise above the crushing level of poverty which is pervasive in the region and which is now increasingly reflected in improved nutrition and health standards. He said economic progress, for us, is, however, only a means and not an end in itself. Our real objective is to create a healthy society, based on moral foundations.

He said our efforts to Islamise the economy are not directed towards mere formal observance of theological dogmas but to create a dynamic modern society with social justice, human dignity and mobilization of the people towards improvement in the quality of life of the nation at large on the basis of shared ethical values and beliefs.

"We are," the Finance Minister continued, "seeking to blend material progress with spiritual values as Pakistan is an ideological State which owes its birth to the spiritual message and values of Islam. We are convinced that it is only by re-

viving these values and adopting them as part of our daily lives that we can create a society capable of withstanding the onslaught of pure materialism and other social evils which accompany the worship of wealth as an idol. No amount of economic development can create a healthy progressive society without such a social metamorphosis."

"This search for the real substance of life is a common bond between us," the Minister observed: "Your country has been in the vanguard of progressive ideas for creating a multi-polar world based on a spirit of accommodation between the North and the South and I know of your personal sympathetic interest in the struggle of the developing countries in modernizing their cultural and social identity and preserving their own heritage of basic values."

"We in Pakistan," the Minister added, "hope that our bonds of friendship and understanding will continue to grow in the years to come and that your visit will contribute further to the spirit of goodwill, cooperation and understanding that exists between our two countries."

Replying to the Finance Minister's speech, the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation Dr (Mrs) E.M. Schoo, reciprocated the gesture and hoped that mutual cooperation between the two countries in various fields would continue to grow. —APP

ROLE OF WEST GERMAN HELP IN DEVELOPMENT OF BALUCHISTAN DISCUSSED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Oct 84 p 7

[Article by Saeed Qureshi]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 15--In the remote areas of Baluchistan a handful of West German technical experts are now engaged in improving the quality of life of our people.

The German Government through various agreements has made available grants worth Rs 110 million to cover the cost of projects being carried out in the districts of Quetta, Loralai, Sibi, Kachlai and Kalat. The money has come from two German donor agencies GTZ and Hanns Seidel Foundation of Munich. The projects mainly encompassing implementation of income generating schemes on self-help basis and training in basic technical skills are being looked after by three German experts Dr Fischer, Mr Wischmeyer and Mr Mueller.

Mr Wischmeyer, who has done commendable service at the Mughalpura workshop in Lahore some years ago as an instructor seems fascinated by our social and cultural values and habits. During his stay in Lahore, his eldest daughter who imbibed a love for Islam and is now a student of Islam in West Germany.

Mr Wischmeyer as Project Manager of Technical Training and Service Centre told a group of journalists invited to visit the German-aided project that the programme, aimed at training the skilled workers in two trades--Automotives and Farm implements mechanics. School leavers and unemployed youth with a school leaving certificate are eligible for admission. According to Mr Wischmeyer they could later work anywhere or open their own shops. The multiple objectives of the programme costing Rs 2 million will include generation of more income and equipment of the local population with the rudimentary know-how to handle their farms implements. Dr Mueller, another electrical engineer from Germany has to run a technical training centre in Quetta to impart training in different vocations to the Afghan youth as well as Baluchis. The training is still in its infancy but given the resources the German Government has placed at Mr Mueller's disposal, the project will soon be working at full capacity. An ambitious expansion programme with installation of new machines and tools is under way.

By far Dr Fischer's programme is more interesting, and is scattered in remote villages of Quetta. Dr Fischer has to accomplish his task with the help of local councillors whom he has to convince that the underlying theme of the whole plan is "self-help." He is finding it hard to put the message across. His counterparts expect the money first and execution of the projects later. Dr Fischer wants to start a project first and if he is convinced that they needed additional help, he will come out with that only then. That has given rise to a climate of mutual suspicion between the two sides.

Thus far, Dr Fischer has extended Rs 50000/- for an overhead water tank near Mohammad Khel, a village having largest concentration of Afghan refugees, crossing over the border near Chaman. All the German aided projects were primarily meant for the Afghan refugees children who needed some vocation or skill to earn their own living. That means a permanent integration of the upcoming Afghan generation in Pakistani society. Later on it was decided to include the local jobless youth in the training programme.

The development programmes launched by the Germans are mostly located near the border areas ostensibly because the bulk of the Afghan refugees are living close to the borders. The local government officials and councillors of the respective areas are in close liaison with the German experts in realising the plans which have five years of completion schedule. The dedication and zeal of German experts is easy to discern. In the narrow and dust emitting paths in the desert, these impassioned souls travel long distances to select sites for their projects and enter into lengthy discussions with the local notables with a view to convincing them of the benefits of their projects. Dr Fischer has some Rs 30 million to spend on the projects. In Peshawar three German experts Mr Gimple, Mr Guglhoer and Mr Marienfeld are engaged in three different schemes. Mr Gimple is in charge of Orthopedic Section of the Khyber Teaching Hospital. This section is a great boon for those who have lost their limbs either due to some disease like Polio or in an accident. The centre which is being expanded with a generous 1.1 million rupees from the NWFP Government was set up in Feb 1981 with German grant of 400,000 marks.

It is receiving Rs 200,000 per annum from the NWFP grant to meet its yearly budget. The centre has so far provided artificial limbs to 1800 persons. Its monthly production according to Dr Gimple was 25 limbs.

Dr Gimple told the Press party that due to high rate of illiteracy and rampant ignorance people, of rural NWFP usually avoid proper medical attention. As a result the incidence of polio among the children was quite high there.

Dr Guglhoer, who is an expert in forestry is working with the Pakistan Forest Institute, teaching the trainees as to how wood from the mountains of NWFP can be transported to the plains at the minimum cost. Dr Guglhoer also imparts latest knowledge on preservation of forests and modern techniques of felling the trees.

Mr Marienfeld, Project Manager of the Pak-German Technical Training Centre is running the programme similar to that of Mr Mueller and Mr Wischmeyer in Quetta. The difference between Mr Fischer and Marienfeld is that while the former is receiving its funds from Hanns Seidel Foundation of Munich, the latter receives money from GTZ, a Frankfurt-based donor agency. Mr Marienfeld who has some 5.5 million marks at his disposal has so far trained 352 persons both Afghans and locals, in basic skills like welding, tailoring, carpentry, masonry and drawing. He is training 183 youth at present at his TTC Centre. More training facilities for electricians, plumbing and motor-service training are also under way.

The Pak-German wood working centre is a monument of friendly cooperation between the two countries. Founded 14 years ago, this centre located in the Small Industries Estate of Peshawar has been constantly earning profits besides training hundreds of persons in the latest techniques of furniture making. Mr Schmidhammer who is with the Centre since its start told newsmen that from this year the centre will be handed over to Pakistani Staff who he said were quite capable of running it in line with its high standards. The Centre mostly using the locally produced chipboard earns a record profit of 15 million rupees over a yearly turnover of 150 million rupees.

CSO: 4600/ 57

BALUCHISTAN TO GET SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Karachi DAWN in English 31 Oct 84 p 1

[Text]

QUETTA, Oct 30: President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq on Tuesday announced that a special Federal grant would be given to Baluchistan to expedite work on the provision of drinking water, electricity and for establishing more schools.

Addressing a Press conference at the Governor's House here on Tuesday morning, the President said that a review of the development work had identified these three sectors where more effort and finances were needed.

The President called the development work in Baluchistan as exemplary and expressed confidence that this province, known for its backwardness over the years, would catchup with the other provinces, and might even move ahead of them.

He said that development work had been undertaken simultaneously under the Annual Development Programme, a special development programme sponsored by friendly Muslim countries and through various Federal agencies. Altogether nearly Rs 3000 million were being spent on different schemes, he added.

The President said the basic strategy of the development programme in Baluchistan was to concentrate on the provision of basic amenities like drinking water, primary education and electricity. He said programme made in the education sector was phenomenal because now nearly every village in the province had its own primary schools which were besides the 900 mosque schools scattered all over the province.

He said progress of the work for providing drinking water to the people was equally impressive and with the completion of 154 schemes during the past seven years, more than 17.5 lakh population was now getting the facility of clean drinking water. This, he added, was 39 per cent of the total population, which was really creditable since

the national average on this count was 21 per cent.

The President said completion of development schemes relating to basic infra-structure had brought a new prosperity to the people, which in turn had contributed a great deal in creating very good law and order conditions.

Self-confidence

The development had also generated a great deal of self-confidence among the people who were now showing greater enthusiasm in welfare activities. He was sure that completion of ongoing big projects like Meerani and Akra Kaur dams and extension of Sui gas network would improve the situation still further.

The President said the present Government could take a genuine pride in achieving development objectives which had remained elusive in the past 30 years, and the best part of this was that all this development had been achieved with the active co-operation and participation of the people.

He said he had directed that Mastung Cadet College should be completed at the earliest to ensure further expansion of educational facilities.

The President said that funds allocated for development in Baluchistan were being utilised very efficiently. There had been a few deliberate or inadvertent lapses, but generally Baluchistan had set a very fine example in effective utilisation of the resources made available by various agencies.

He said that development work undertaken in Baluchistan would also create fresh resources for initiating new projects.

The President said the province had made progress in every field including irrigation, agriculture and industry. He said the industries functioning at Hub Chowki were an asset for the nation.—APP

EVIDENCE LAW OPPOSED

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Oct 84 p 10

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct 29: Representatives of seven women's organisations met in Islamabad on Monday and in a resolution expressed their strong dismay over the newly-promulgated Qanun-e-Shahadat.

In its resolution the women's organisation said that it wanted to place on record its despondency and dissatisfaction over the recently-promulgated law of evidence and the ambiguities contained in it.

The resolution further said that in view of the fact that the Pakistan Commission on the Status of Women was still in the process of identifying the status of Pakistani women and their problems and had not completed its report it was premature to promulgate laws pertaining to the status of women.

The signatories to the resolution are: The All-Pakistan Women's Association, the Pakistan Federation of University Women, the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club of Pakistan, the Women's Action Forum, Islamabad, the Family Planning Association of Pakistan, the Maternal and Child Welfare Association of Pakistan and the Behbud Association.

Mr Iqbal Haider, Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan, has said that the Presidential Order, amending the Law of Evidence, is "nothing but an attempt to suppress and degrade the status of women".

Even otherwise, this document

which claims itself to be a legal document is "completely vague", he added.

In a statement on Monday he said it is regrettable that despite Fatwas (edicts) and declarations of many enlightened scholars of Islam and disapproval by a cross-section of public opinion, the Government has chosen to implement, through the said Presidential Order, "a highly disputed and controversial interpretation of Islamic injunctions relating to the competence and validity of the evidence of women".

Meanwhile APP adds: some Ulema, jurists and women social organisations have deplored a campaign launched by motivated quarters among Westernised women against the Evidence Act 1984 promulgated on Saturday.

In their comments from various centres these circles pointed out that the criticism by a particular lobby against the Act was aimed at obfuscation of issues and misrepresentation of facts.

They said there was nothing in the Act which by any stretch of mind amounted to diminishing the status of women or their legal rights.

Strongly defending the Act, they emphasised that it was based on Islamic tenets and the clear injunctions of the Holy Quran on the subject. The nation has to decide if it wanted the command of Allah to prevail in this country or take half measures which would lead it nowhere.

LANDLESS PEASANTS REPORTEDLY GIVEN LAND

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Oct 84 p 2

[Text]

KARACHI, Oct 29: A total of 888,685 acres of agricultural land was granted to 123,672 landless but genuine Haris or small Khatedars having less than 16 acres of land from 1972 to date in the barrage areas where only 130,000 acres of land remains to be disposed of among the Haris.

Mr Altaf Hussain Qadri, Member (Land Utilisation) Sind Board of Revenue, disclosing this to a Press conference on Monday, gave the following break-up barrage-wise:

Sukkur Barrage — 22,288 Haris were granted over 185,399 acres of land; followed by 56,978 Haris who got over 446,805 acres of land in Kotri Barrage while 44,406 Haris were accommodated on over 456,580 acres of land in the Guddu Barrage areas.

Mr Qadri pointed out that the Land Grant Policy formulated on March 12, 1958, was based on offer system, irrespective of the place of residence. Under it, an individual got 24 acres in perennial areas and 32 acres in the non-perennial areas. This policy was scrapped in 1972.

He said in 1973, the Land Disposal Policy of un-commanded / desert / barani and kutch lands on lease for various purposes was announced. Since 1973, the land leased out (category-wise) was about 23,26,900 acres — 176,523 acres barani land; 14,49,236 desert / un-released land and 701,140 acres kutch land among 356,375 deserving persons.

The Member of the Revenue Board pointed out that the review of the Land Grant Policy aimed at streamlining the policy apparently to ensure the genuineness of the Haris under the orders of Lt.Gen. Jahandad Khan, Governor of Sind.

Mr Qadri said through the disposal of State land, the government had earned Rs 31,92,10,060 as lease money and ownership (Malkana)

cost, adding, under fresh orders of the Governor each Hari applicant was being granted 32 acres of land on lease instead of 16 acres per head.

He further disclosed that the Land Grant Committees were being set up all over the province from next month apparently to genuine landless Haris in the barrage areas.

In keeping with the spirit of the directive of the Sind Governor, such committees had already been constituted in Hyderabad Division headed by the Commissioner at the Divisional level; Deputy Commissioner and Revenue Officer/Colonization Officer at District level and Assistant Commissioner and Assistant Revenue Officer at Taluka level with two notables of the areas.

These Committees functioning satisfactorily in Hyderabad Division, have disposed of 13,632.25 acres of land to 1,783 Haris in Districts Dadu, Thatta and Badin — 2,436.21 acres of land in Dadu district among 363 Haris; 7,431.28 acres to 988 Haris in Thatta and 3,864.16 acres to 432 Haris in Badin district so far, Mr Qadri said, adding that the association of public representatives and notables had inspired the confidence of the public at large.

In reply to a question, he said that nearly 78,969 acres of land had been earmarked for graveyards in Sind including 5,753 acres in Karachi districts alone — 2,451 acres in District East; 1,871 acres in District West and 1,431 acres in District South of Karachi Division. Besides, 1,815 acres of land had also been given to KMC through District Administration for the development of new graveyards (935 acres in District East and 880 acres in District West).

CRACKDOWN ON REFUGEES IN PESHAWAR REPORTED

Karachi DAWN in English 31 Oct 84 p 1

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Oct 30: The Peshawar district administration has come down heavily upon the Afghan refugees roaming in the city. While the refugees have been banned from entering the main city shopping centre bazar, Qissa Khawani, a strict check has been imposed on their movement in the city and cantonment which were restriction-free areas so far.

Armed police has been posted at important crossings and entry points to check the movement of refugees particularly after the bomb blast incident in Novelty Cinema on Wednesday last. The refugees found roaming about in the city in groups are directed to go to their tentage villages around Peshawar and, in case of resistance, are being locked up in the nearest police station wherefrom they are despatched to their respective camps.

Meanwhile, the district administration, after a brief interval, has again launched a drive to remove the refugee bachelors living in hired houses in the city and canton-

ment areas in groups. Such bachelors are being shifted to tentage villages where arrangements for accommodation have been made. Though a large number of them have been shifted, many still remain in the city and are being searched out by the authorities.

Reports received from Kurram Agency say 360 members of 60 refugee families are being shifted from Parachinar surroundings to Mianwali. These families, it is learnt were living in Teri Mangal area alongside the border which had been the main target of Afghan bombing and shelling during recent months.

According to reports from across the border, 27 Russian soldiers and Karmal troops were killed and 30 captured by Mujahideen in an encounter in Khost area recently. The fighting lasted seven days. 28 light weapons were also seized by the Mujahideen. Similarly, in Kapisa district of Parwan, the Mujahideen sources have claimed destroying eight armoured carriers and three trucks loaded with ammunition. One Russian soldier is claimed to have been killed.

CSO: 4600/65

WOMEN: INCREASING DEMANDS, HANDICAPS ANALYZED

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Nov 84 p 7

Commentary by Sultan Ahmed]

Text] **WHO** can disagree with Dr. Mahbubul Haq when he says that in our approach to the handicapped half of Pakistan the focus should be on women's development rather than merely on women's welfare.

"In all societies, women's development is a pre-requisite for overall national development; indeed, no society can develop half liberated and half shackled," says the opening paragraph of the chapter on "Women's development: equality of opportunity" in the Sixth Five-Year Plan. When the liberated half or parts of it tries to make progress the shackled half retards that in many visible and invisible ways.

But what Dr. Haq wants is easier said than done in a country like Pakistan where traditional, social, cultural and economic forces often combine to hold down the women, and Islam is being interpreted by some of the Ulema in a manner which would make their subordination perpetual.

National progress

The question of merely a charitable approach to women or promoting primarily their welfare, as if they are elements outside the mainstream of society, does not arise. Nor can that be acceptable to the emancipated women or fruitful for national progress when women constitute half the population and they have a large role to play as mothers, sisters and daughters in society. And they are certainly not ready to put up with the kind of

profile of Pakistani women which the Sixth Plan finds "simply shocking." And they refuse to accept a secondary status in the name of religion as Islam accorded to them equality of status with men 14 centuries ago and came up with a historic breakthrough by conceding the right of women to inherit and hold property, and the right to divorce and 'kula' in a remote age when such rights were unthinkable.

But a great deal has to be done for the development of women now in a country in which much is not being done for the red development of the male of the species either. So converting the slogans and symbols supportive of women into real substance and achieving the alluring goals set from time to time is a tough task, and demands not only real political will on the part of the Government but also concerted efforts all round.

The women are being now exhorted and expected to play multiple roles in Pakistan, particularly in the economic development. In each area their role is crucial to the future of the country socially, economically and politically.

1. Women are asked to keep down the alarming population growth of 3.1 per cent annually to prevent the feared doubling of the population by 2,000. Success in this endeavour is very vital for the future; setbacks would undermine the economic development sought by the Sixth Plan and others to come.

2. Women are exhorted to raise healthy, educated and socially well adjusted generations so that society can rid of not only the common ills of backward countries but also the new afflictions of younger genera-

tions in the West.

3. Women are asked to play a major role in the economic development of the country, beginning with making larger savings and then participating directly in productive activities.

To perform all the tasks well they have to be educated, at least literate. But female literacy in the country is only 14 per cent compared to 24 for men, and is barely six per cent in rural areas. And at the secondary school level girls' enrolment is only 12 per cent of the age group, with only 3 per cent in the rural areas. That kind of abysmally low literacy rate does not enable them to play a decisive role in any of the three areas.

The Sixth Plan intends to raise the literacy rate of women to 48 per cent from 14. We hope, much against the common skepticism, that it succeeds. It is truly an uphill task in the light of experience.

If women have to hold down population growth they have not only to be educated but also have freedom of choice in our male-dominated society in which macho men regard large families as a symbol of their masculinity. Family planning supplies and advice have to be available more readily than they are now. Then there are other deterrents like a high rate of infant mortality — 90 per 1000 — a premium on sons, consideration of children, particularly sons, as social security etc.

The women cannot raise healthier and better educated generations if the nutritional levels are not higher than they are and opportunities for education are not adequate. The educated have to be able to get suitable jobs and be properly paid. If instead educated

unemployment lasts, and the illiterate with little of skill are able to make far more money than graduates many parents may prefer to send their children for employment directly instead of through secondary schools and colleges.

Freedom of choice

"Recognising the "invisible" woman in development," a World Bank booklet speaks of how in various developing countries the daughters give up their education and take to work so that they save enough money to educate their brothers who are regarded the real wage earners. But if such boys do not later get suitable jobs the whole exercise can be self-defeating.

And when it comes to direct economic contribution by women, they have always played a part in agriculture. In fact, it has been observed by the World Bank that as economic development gains momentum the men move to the cities in search of jobs or obtain industrial employment while the women are expected to take care of the less rewarding agriculture.

And yet the latest labour survey shows that participation of women in the labour force is only 2.1 per cent in the age group of 10 and above, and it holds the earlier survey which said the women's participation rate was 3.79 per cent wrong. Because of such low female participation only 27.6 per cent of the total population is in the labour force compared to 36.6 per cent in Malaysia 37.7 per cent in Indonesia and 48.8 per cent in Thailand to talk of only countries in the region.

If the women are often undernourished and sick, frequently expecting and compelled to take care

of large families with their ailing children, and the better ones are held back by feudal considerations or the burqua and purdah factors, the number of women working has to be small — 2.1 per cent vis-a-vis around one-third in the industrial States.

If women in rural or mofussil areas are held back from employment because of such factors, the educated in the cities are not very lucky either. The serious problem of the educated unemployment stands in the way. The Economic Survey says that the unemployed in Pakistan are predominantly teenagers, and bulk of them are matriculates and above.

Even when employment is available for women, transport is a major bottleneck. Public transport is scanty while they cannot afford their own transport, and few companies offer such facilities. Their earnings can also be low compared to the sacrifices they have to make on the home front, and they are often misemployed and not in jobs for which they were trained. The whole infrastructure of employment is often against the employment of women.

Employment

If the economy expands fast and more jobs are created for the educated, women can find increasing employment; but this process is too slow. Hence an increasing number of women, though their total is small, are taking to self-employment by running boutiques, entering the export trade and setting up industries. This is an unfamiliar or uphill task for many, but they are persevering. But now

comes the new Law of Evidence which demands the evidence of two Women in financial disputes instead of one man. And this has infuriated women who have entered trade and industry and are highly educated. They resent the idea that in spite of their higher education and economic experience they can be equal to only half a semi-literate man when a financial dispute arises.

Such women are being labelled as Westernised women protesting against Islamisation of laws. Is not education being imparted according to the Western methods? So to dub these women as Westernised or anti-Islamic is wrong particularly their modest demands are not fuelled by such radical books like "Feminine Mystique" of Betty Friedan, "Female Eunuch" of Germain Greer or "Sexual Politics" of Kate Millett.

When we are expecting a great deal from women, when we want them to make their maximum contribution in a variety of vital areas, ranging from containing the population explosion to accelerating the economic growth, we have to treat them as equals, and accept their superiority in some areas when proven. When we are talking of developing not merely as an over-ridingly moral society but of making rapid economic development to wipe out endemic poverty, and other miseries and varied handicaps, we need their whole-hearted cooperation, and not merely what we choose to direct them to contribute. We are now expecting too much from them in return for too little, besides slogans and sermons, and want of them to negate the very education we have given them. This dual process will not do, will not work.

DISSIDENCE IN SIND CAN BE SPIKED BY GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

Karachi JANG in Urdu 22 Oct 84 pp 1, 10

[Article: "Student Involvement in Arms Dealings Should Be Investigated--Hamida Khuhro; Sind Government Asked To Stop Illegal Movement of Arms"]

[Text] Hamida Khuhro, daughter of Khan Bahadur Mohammad Ayub Khuhro, former chief minister and minister of defence in Sind, has demanded an inquiry into the 17 October confrontation with students in Khanot. She warned that if an official inquiry is not conducted, foreign agents will recruit these young people, who are disappointed with the lack of justice. She was being interviewed for JANG at her residence. She explained that some students of Sind University, Mehran Engineering University and Liaquat Medical College were going to Chandika Medical College in two buses. Some of these students were wanted by the police but the method used to arrest them was inappropriate. Responding to a question, she said that young Sindhis were excited about the Shindhudesh concept. She confirmed that foreign weapons were being smuggled into Sind. According to her, it was the government's responsibility to stop this smuggling. She added that the government should monitor the activities of Afghan refugees closely as they are the major "brokers" in the weapon trade. Referring to students accused of possessing these weapons, she said if these accusations are correct, then these students should be tried in court. She added that the incident at Khanot, in which students were fired on by police, must have shocked the governor and the district marshal law administrator. President Zia has repeatedly advised the police to deal with students leniently. Justice demands that police officers, who despite all warnings ordered that the students be fired on, should be tried in open court. She added that high officials will have to prove their innocence about this incident if they want to remove the feeling of injustice felt by the people. She believes that Sindhis do not want to divide the country. They are the same people who were the first to support the Pakistan Resolution in 1943. She mentioned that her father was very active in the movement to create Pakistan. She thinks that if our country is divided again, people who were responsible for the 1971 crisis will be responsible for this division. She added that only traitors would want a guerrilla war to weaken the country. We want a country where people have equal rights and everyone gets the respect due him. She said that students are worried about unemployment. This leads to recklessness and such deeds as the hijacking of buses. Given employment, Sindhis can be faithful bureaucrats. If they are ignored, they will be forced to look for shelter elsewhere. She added that India's border is far from Sind and there is a large desert in between; so why should we look toward India, it is not our savior.

GOVERNMENT URGED TO CONTROL TURMOIL IN SIND UNIVERSITY

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 14 Oct 84 p 3

[Editorial: "The Situation in Sind University"]

[Text] According to reports, the majority of the faculty at Sind University is seriously considering a proposal to move Sind University from its present location to the city of Hyderabad or some other place. A meeting of the Sind Teachers' Association will be called in this connection.

Sind University is in a deplorable state: It has become the center for extremism and anarchy, anti-Pakistani and anti-Islamic elements roam openly, weapons are freely used and the national flag cannot be flown because of the insults hurled at it. Incidents of disrespect toward teachers are common; a recent one involved the head of the commerce department, Mohammad Yaqub Ansari, who was seized by the neck, shaken roughly and threatened by youths. Earlier, he had received menacing letters, and certain masked individuals had threatened him. The objective of all this activity was to force him to give good grades to certain students. This state of affairs has rendered the university useless; and the surprising fact is that all this is occurring under martial law. The government has become an spectator of the show. It seems as though Jiye Sind members enjoy the protection of a certain strong element in the government, which is why members of the movement are given prominence in the media and entertained lavishly on the official level. Behind all this may be the idea that the poison of Jiye Sind should be used to counteract the venom of the People's Party in Sind. If the Jiye Sind elements have been given full rein and protection on the basis of such a plan, then the whole idea is a foolish one that will have destructive consequences. In order to sabotage the movement for democracy, our rulers in the past gave Maulana Bhashani a mandate to burn and destroy and gave Mujibur Rahman the six-point proposal. Perhaps now, by encouraging Sind's extremist elements, they want to create conditions under which dissension among the people will reach a critical point and provide an excuse for postponing the elections. But all these maneuvers are a source of misfortune for the country; thus, the elements in the government who are the patrons of Jiye Sind or who judiciously close their eyes to its activities should open their eyes. The government should deal harshly with these elements and act with courage and strength to improve the situation at Sind University.

OIL REFINERY FOR MULTAN PLANNED

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Nov 84 p 3

[Text]

MULTAN, Oct 31: The Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Dr Asad Mohammad Khan, said that establishment of an oil refinery near Multan was under consideration.

Talking to newsmen here, he said that Romania offered to set up an oil refinery in Pakistan, which will have the capacity of refining 3.5 million tons of oil every year.

He said that Romania will cooperate with Pakistan to discover oil in the Pakistan.

Moreover, he said that Romania will give training to Pakistani engineers in digging of oil wells and underground technical experiments.

He disclosed that he will soon visit Gulf States to acquaint himself with oil refining business.

He said that, a sum of Rs 4 billion is being saved annually through oil

production in the country.

He disclosed that during the current Five-Year-Plan period 250 oil wells will be dug.

Out of these, he said, 26 oil wells will be dug by the Oil and Gas Corporation, while the work of remaining oil wells will be entrusted to private companies.

He added that 55 oil wells will be dug during the current financial year. He said that half of the work of digging of second oil well of Nadarpur, near Multan, has already been completed.

He hoped that the entire work of digging of this well will be completed within three weeks period.

The Minister arrived here to attend ceremonies of the annual Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Bahauddin Zikarya Multani which commenced of Tuesday.

CSO: 4600/66

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN, CANADA TO SIGN AGREEMENTS ON OIL EXPLORATION

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Oct 84 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 18--Canada would provide financial and technical assistance to Pakistan for various ongoing and new development projects this year and five agreements between the two governments are expected to be signed next week.

According to details, the total financial assistance of Canada would be over 100 Canadian dollars, which would be utilised in the oil and gas, energy, health and communication sectors.

In the oil and gas sector, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) would provide Canadian dollars 16 million to stimulate oil exploration in the country while under another agreement, the CIDA would provide 24 million Canadian dollars as contribution for the expansion of Oil and Gas Development Corporation (OGDC) training institute, so that latest and modern expertise could be made available for the Pakistani engineers.

In the energy sector, Canada would provide 10 million Canadian dollars for the expansion and upgrading of WAPDA training school at Tarbela to enable the WAPDA men to look after the 500 kv Tarbela-Faisalabad transmission line.

In the same sector, Canada would make available 50 million Canadian dollars for the construction of another 500 kv transmission line from Tarbela to Faisalabad. This amount would be provided as soft loan and the agreement in this regard has already been signed. The work on this project is expected to be commenced in August 1985.

This transmission line would enhance the strength of power supply from the Tarbela Power House.

In the health sector, the Canadian government will provide five million Canadian dollars as grant for setting up a vaccine laboratory in Pakistan. The agreement regarding the provision of this grant is also expected to be signed next week.

ANOTHER OIL DISCOVERY IN SIND REPORTED

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Oct 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Oct 29: The Minister Incharge for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Dr M. Asad Khan, today announced a promising oil strike by Union Texas at Dabhi in Badin.

Addressing a Press conference here, Dr Khan said preliminary tests had shown that the new well, spudded on Sept. 22 this year, could produce about 2,500 barrels a day at 32/64 inches choke and between 4,522 and 4,262 barrels a day at 48/64 inches choke.

He, however, said the actual estimates of rate of production and reserves would be known after an extended flow test and appraisal tests which he thought would take some months to be completed.

The oil discovered, he said, was light in quality and had a gravity of 42 degree API.

The Union Texas has so far discovered three oilfields, namely Khaskheli, Leghari and Tajedi. Dabhi is the fourth oil discovery by the company in its Badin block. In addition, the company has also discovered Gularchi gasfield.

Dabhi field is located about 50 kilometres south-southeast of Hyderabad.

The new field is situated within the jurisdiction of Fulkara Union Council, Badin District.

Dr Khan said the new well was drilled to a depth of 6,200 feet on Oct. 15, 1984, and was completed on Oct. 23, 1984. Oil was struck at a

depth of 5,547 feet and gas was detected at 5,254 feet. The net gas sand was 800 feet while the net oil sand was 72 feet and average porosity 18 per cent.

In reply to a question, he said that as of now about 20,000 barrels a day of domestic oil was reaching the country's refineries.

Giving the details of domestic oil production since January this year, he said that in the first month of current year oil production was 12,112 barrels a day; next month it was 12,340 barrels a day; in March this went up to 13,315 barrels a day; in April 14,940 barrels a day; in May 15,750 barrels a day; in June 16,260 bpd, July 18,470 bpd, August 17,877 bpd, September 19,206 bpd, October 19,506 bpd (first week) and in the second week of October it was 20,480 barrels per day.

He insisted that claims of domestic oil production made by his ministry in recent months were scientifically correct and expressed the hope that the press would also take them so and not indulge in speculative doubts.

Dr Asad talked at length about the strictest scientific criteria which is used by the ministry since his joining it for announcing oil strikes and their estimates and thought that to doubt these announcements and to treat them as non-starters was tantamount to serving the vested interest."

OFFICIAL SAYS NO WHEAT EXPORT THIS YEAR

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Oct 84 Business Supplement p 1

[Text] LAHORE, Oct 29: Pakistan will have no surplus wheat to export this year and, will have to import about 400,000 tonnes mainly from socialist countries, under barter agreements.

The imported wheat will be used to meet the requirements of Afghan refugees in the country.

This was disclosed here on Monday, by the Federal Secretary Commerce, Mr Izharul Haq, while addressing a meeting arranged by the Management Association of Pakistan. The Secretary elaborated export-import policies, their implications and future prospects.

He enumerated various incentives given by the Government to boost exports and measures being taken to explore new markets for Pakistani products.

South American and African countries were particularly attracting the Government's attention for the purpose of export. He indicated that the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), had been asked to introduce new routes to these areas alongwith the other non-traditional markets.

The Secretary said, export rebate, refund of duty and taxes on raw material to be used for exportable items, concessionary financing, compensatory rebate, concession duty-free import machinery for balancing, modernisation and replacement (BMR) of industries, were special measures taken by the Government to encourage exports.

Besides, he said a standardised rebate system had been introduced for certain sectors, and, effort was being made to extend this sim-

plified system to as many sectors as possible.

Quality control

Elaborating on measures to improve the quality of export goods, he said, the Pakistan Standard Institute had been set up, which had jurisdiction to examine the quality of about 50 items before shipment.

In agriculture, compulsory gradation of fruits and vegetables had been introduced and effort was being made to shift the gradation duty from the public sector to the private one. Formation of a Fruit and Vegetable Exporters Association was also planned.

Mr. Izhar said the Government was considering to make it obligatory for an exporter to be member of a Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as also of an association dealing with the product he intended to export. In the case of an exporter exporting more than one item, he would be required to seek the membership of the remaining associations also, he added.

He was of the view that associations were the best instruments to pressurise their members to maintain the quality of their products.

He said, utmost attention was being paid to encourage the engineering and textiles sectors, which had tremendous potential for growth. For the promotion of the textile sector, he said, efforts were being made to attain a consensus among developing countries in order to collectively face protectionist policies of the developed countries.

Liberal policy

About the Import Policy, the

Commerce Secretary said it was liberal as far as the import of raw material for the export oriented industries was concerned, but it was not liberal for consumer goods. In the light of statistics, he said, consumer goods formed about 15 per cent, raw material 54 per cent and capital goods, about 30 per cent of the total imports.

Mr Izhar clarified that petroleum goods, tea, milk powder, medicines and books were also included in consumer goods and, if they were excluded from this category, the remaining consumer goods formed only 3 per cent of the total imports.

The Government policy at present was to protect the local industry through tariffs, and not through bans, as in the latter case. The industries paid no regard to the quality or price of their goods.

Defending further the present Import Policy, the Commerce Secretary said it was aimed at generating a sense of competition between the local and foreign manufacturers.

He hoped, "in due course of time we would be able to develop self-sufficiency".

The Commerce Secretary said, the Government had decided not to allow the manufacture of any other make of tractors except the five already sanctioned. The tractor units would have to follow their announced deletion programmes, strictly and defaulters would be penalised.

He pointed out that the Government wanted every tractor unit to locally manufacture 70-75 per cent of the components during the next five years.

BRIEFS

NEWSPRINT PLANT PLANNED--Muzaffargarh, Oct 24--Some headway appeared to have been made for setting up newsprint plant in sugarcane growing areas to meet Pakistan's newsprint demand despite some obstacles. Official sources told DAWN that the first plant of newsprint based on bagasse, was being set up in Kamalia by the Punjab Industrial Development Board (PIDB), as it was best located for this purpose. Three sugar mills' bagasse, which was so far going waste, could be utilised for newsprint production. Before the approval of the project some high-ups were reported to be against this technology which was comparatively new, but successfully tried in Mexico and Brazil and also in Tamilnadu (India). [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 25 Oct 84 Business Supplement p 1]

MINISTER ON RAILWAY FARES--Sukkur, Oct 31--The Federal Railways Minister Mr Abdul Ghafoor Khan Hoti told a Press conference this evening that the World Bank was pressing Pakistan to increase the railway fares otherwise the Bank would not give any loans to Pakistan. The Pakistan Government, however, had not raised the railway fares so far but if they had to be increased that would be done from the next financial year, he added. He disclosed that Rs 23 crores of the firm which was given the contract for installing microwave signalling system had been forfeited by the Pakistan Railways, and three tenders were under consideration. The Railways Minister said that the railways would have a double track between Khanewal to Multan and Lalamusa to Rawalpindi. About Rs 100 million would be spent on this programme. About the overall working of the railways in the country, Mr Hoti said the working of Pakistan Railways is satisfactory in as much as we are taking work out of 85-year-old railway engines. When questioned about more concession to journalists by the Pakistan Railways, Mr Hoti said he could not accede to their demand. He was, however, prepared to grant Rs 10,000 to Sukkur Press Club from his own pocket. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 1 Nov 84 p 2]

EVIDENCE LAW CRITICIZED--Karachi, Oct 31--A joint meeting of various women's organisations was held on Wednesday to protest against the promulgation of the new Law of Evidence. The meeting which was attended by the Women's Acting Forum, Anjuman Jamhooriat Pasand Khwateen, Shirkat Gah, Sindhi Women's Organisation, Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club and individuals criticised the Law of Evidence and termed it as 'discriminatory' and said that the will of a small minority has been imposed on the people. The meeting called upon the people to resist the implementation of this law and

fight for the fundamental human rights of people. It was also decided to approach a wide cross section of people to launch a campaign of protest and resistance against such discriminatory laws. The meeting also observed a one-minute silence to mourn the death of the Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi. It was emphasised at the meeting that Indira Gandhi was a champion of women's rights and was an elected leader of one of the biggest democracies of this region. It condemned the politics of violence which led to the assassination of Indira Gandhi. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 1 Nov 84 p 8]

LEADERS OUSTED FROM NWFP--Peshawar, Oct 31--The NWFP govt on Tuesday night externed Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Khawaja Khairuddin and Rao Abdul Rashid from the province. These leaders had reached Peshawar earlier to attend a meeting at the residence of Mr Aftab Sherpao. The venue of the meeting was later shifted to some unknown place. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 1 Nov 84 p 10]

PNP TO BOYCOTT NONPARTY ELECTIONS--Multan, Oct 18--Syed Mohammad Qaswar Gardezi, Secretary General of the defunct National Party (PNP) has said that his party was not bound to comply with the decisions of such sessions of MRD which were held without inviting PNP. He said that PNP in its meeting chaired by Mir Ghaus Bakhsh had decided to boycott the non-party polls, and to hold elections within party at all level before the end of December. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Oct 84 p 8]

NASRULLAH TO TOUR PROVINCES--Lahore, Oct 18--Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan will start a 10-day tour of Punjab and Sind. He will leave for Bahawalnagar tomorrow and will also tour Bahawalpur and Rahimyar Khan districts. He will reach Sukkur on Oct 22 and on the second leg of his tour he will meet the local leaders to discuss the current political situation. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Oct 84 p 8]

CSO: 4600/57

SRI LANKA

FRG ASSISTANCE FOCUSED ON AGRICULTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ZEITUNG/BLICK DURCH DIE WIRTSCHAFT in German
18 Sep 84 p 2

[Text] Hamburg--German economic relations with Sri Lanka are aimed at the country's long term development and have already shown some noteworthy successes in this area. This is especially true with regard to support for the Mahaweli Project (an infrastructure and agricultural development plan) which is crucial to the country's future. The East Asia Association announced this in Hamburg. In mid-July an economic assistance agreement was reached between the FRG and Sri Lanka which provides the necessary means for the continuation of technical cooperation with Sri Lanka. Agricultural development continues to be the focus of cooperation. Emphasis is also placed on the improvement of energy supplies and environmental protection. The exchange of goods between the FRG and Sri Lanka has also developed favorably. In 1983 German imports from Sri Lanka amounted to DM 178.9 million (1982: 160.3). German exports reached DM 185.8 million (153.4). In the first half of 1984 the FRG received goods with a value of DM 112.5 million (January-June 1983: DM 83.3 million) and delivered DM 124.1 million (January-June 1983: DM 88.0 million).

On the import side, citrus and tropical fruits dominate among food items and tea among luxury items. Rubber is the most important raw material. In manufactured goods textiles quite clearly head the list. Among German exports, products from the entire range of mechanical engineering along with products from the chemical industry are the leaders. Within the German program for stimulation of exports, which is carried out under the overall control of the East Asia Association by the technical-economic service of the international association, a packaging seminar was held this year in Colombo with German experts participating. The presentation of samples demonstrating the broad spectrum of types of materials and shapes currently used in packaging in Europe was of great interest there.

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CSO: 4620/7

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