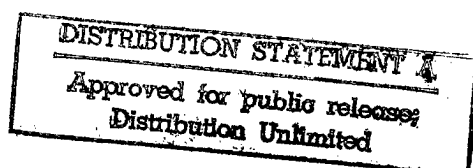


JPRS Report

Near East & South Asia

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Libya Welcomes 400 Palestinians From Tunis

93P40090A London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
18 Dec 92 p 12

[Text] AL-HAWADITH has learned that 400 Palestinians have asked to leave Tunis for Libya. President al-Qadhafi is inviting them because resources passing through the PLO have dwindled.

PRC Improves Trade Ties To Gulf

93AE0174B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
23 Nov 92 p 10

[Report from Dubayy: "Capital Flees Colony to Singapore and Dubai; China Seeks To Improve Trade Relations With Gulf"]

[Text] As Chinese officials speak of a jump in PRC [People's Republic of China] exports to the Gulf, Hong Kong seeks to reassure its trading partners in the region about its post-1997 future.

(Yang Hang Xin), commercial attache at the PRC consulate, said that his country's exports to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] could climb in 1992 by no less than 3 percent over 1991. He added that his country's trade relations are expanding considerably with the Gulf states in general.

Yang mentioned that PRC exports to the UAE rose by 40 percent in the first three quarters of 1992, compared with the same period a year earlier. Aggregate Chinese exports to the UAE amounted to \$270 million in 1991. Yang did not give a precise figure on the value of UAE exports to China, but he estimated them at between \$50 and \$70 million.

He added that PRC was one of the UAE's top three providers of textiles and ready-made clothes and that "we now rank ahead of Japan," whose products are persistently lower in quality and higher in price.

Yang said that Dubai was the Middle East's largest consumer of Chinese products and noted that it is differentiated by its free and developed trading system, its shipping complex at the Dubai Airport, and its Jabal 'Ali Free Zone, which could be used to store and re-export Chinese goods.

He added the Peking's keen commercial interest in the Gulf region is manifested by its large presence at the upcoming International Fall Exhibition in Dubai, where 117 Chinese companies and manufacturers will occupy about 33 percent of exhibit floor space.

The Chinese pavilion at the exhibition occupies 1179 square meters, which will be utilized primarily by six

major companies—Sinbad for Commerce, Chinese Foreign Trade, (Guangzhou), China (Xin Shidai), the Chinese Council for International Trade Promotion, and the Electronic and Mechanical Industries Council.

In another development, 22 delegates representing 15 Hong Kong firms arrived in Dubai to open a mini-exposition of Hong Kong products and to reassure businessmen over future dealing with the Colony when it reverts back to China after the British mandate ends in 1997.

A member of the delegation said that current tensions between Peking and Hong Kong over the latter's future and over China's internal conditions reputation on human rights are no reason to be worried over the special position enjoyed by Hong Kong.

He pointed out that Peking currently seeks to improve its political image in the world and that "it also has to let Hong Kong be in order to benefit by its capabilities and international contacts."

Raj Sital, president of the Hong Kong-India Chamber of Commerce and a member of the delegation, said that all the minor obstacles currently noted by those interested in Hong Kong's situation will soon disappear and that 90 percent of all firms and manufacturers operating in Hong Kong have extended their facilities beyond PRC borders.

He mentioned that 3 million Chinese workers are currently employed by Hong Kong business projects in the south of China and added: "Those workers support families, which means that 15 million Chinese who are dependent for their livelihood on Hong Kong projects in the south of China" would be hurt, and the Chinese economy would suffer, if current conditions in Hong Kong are not left alone.

He explained that Hong Kong "is not only an outlet for Chinese exports but also a back door through which foreign investments and goods, as well as technical and technological expertise flows into China."

Sital added that Hong Kong taxes and customs duties are low, allowing principals of projects in the south of China to realize wider profit margins and to deposit funds and purchase property in Hong Kong. "That is why real estate prices in Hong Kong are highest in the world, sometimes even higher than in Japan."

He admitted, however, that business circles still entertain strong lingering fears about the future of Hong Kong and that some businessmen have left, or are preparing to leave, while others have opened representative offices in Singapore and Dubai as reserve channels for their businesses. He added that those who moved to Canada and Australia and invested there, after selling their properties and businesses in Hong Kong, fell victim to economic stagnation in the industrialized nations. He said that real

estate, for instance, doubled in Hong Kong in the past three years but declined by 50 percent in Canada and Australia.

Egyptian General on Regional Military Issues

93AF0222A Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
8 Oct 92 p 2

[Interview with Egyptian Chief of Staff Salah Halabi; place and date not given: "The Iraqi Invasion Apart From Security and Threat]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted]

Invasion of Kuwait

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Does that mean that the situation in the region after the October War has proceeded in the same manner, without any sharp turns or incidents?

[Halabi] Of course not. The region has gone through and been affected by many events that have left their mark, but the most prominent was Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Unfortunately, this event has brought a new view and a new concept that is different from our past view of the subject of security threats, in terms of neighborly principles.

The invasion was a bad example of neighborly relations among countries, and what made it worse was that it happened between two brotherly Arab countries.

If the primary basis for solving issues and problems among countries is founded on a basis whose meaning is that resorting to armed force to solve problems is the last resort one may turn to, then the exact opposite was the case with the invasion of Kuwait. Iraq gave priority to arms, before political and diplomatic action could be used, and began to use force. Here I repeat that this changed our concept of threat and hostility, because there is no lasting friendship one can believe in. Iraq and Kuwait are two friendly Arab countries that have cooperated in times of crisis. Kuwait gave Iraq assistance all during the war with Iran.

With the changed concept of security after the Iraqi invasion, the countries of the region had to think things through differently, especially their assessments regarding national security—both at the level of individual countries and at the collective level.

Also, a review of the security of the whole Arab nation began, because the aggression had come from a large Arab country against a neighbor that is small in area and population.

Spread of Hostility

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] What are the repercussions of this changed concept of security on non-Arab nations?

[Halabi] With the end of the Gulf crisis and Desert Storm and the liberation of Kuwait, we now see new

changes in the theater of operations and of crisis in the region. We see on the horizon signs of the spread of hostility to neighboring regional countries and powers that are trying to assume the same role played by Iraq against a friendly neighboring country and that are making the same threats Iraq started out with. Instead, all of the countries of the region outside the Arab family should be aware and study Iraq and Kuwait, because a lesson lives and never dies.

Rejection of Status Quo

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] What is the lesson of Iraq and Kuwait you are referring to? What is its nature?

[Halabi] The lesson, in plain and simple terms, is that attempts to impose the status quo by force are not accepted by the international community. This is the lesson for a country trying to use threats, aggression, occupation, and the usurpation of the land of others, with no right to do so. As we said, it is absolutely natural for there to be problems, but the important thing is to have recourse to correct and peaceful means to solve the problems; war should be the last action.

In Peace and War

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] If we leave the theater of operations and go back to Egypt, has there been a change in the sources of danger threatening Egyptian national security since 1973?

[Halabi] If we wish to speak about direct and indirect threats, of course there have been many changes since the 1973 war, in terms of the type of threat and its sources.

For example, terrorism and its exportation have become one source of danger, and the worst threat to Egypt—and not only to Egypt.

Terrorism and violence, which are on the move and spreading everywhere, are a matter of unease and danger for countries large and small, and for this reason have become one of the most crucial issues facing the world today.

Dealing With Terrorism and Extremism

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Are you speaking of terrorism in general, or of the armed forces and the identity of the foreign powers behind them?

[Halabi] Terrorism and extremism, of course—although from the security point of view they do not operate in an area of worry—do to some extent or another represent a threat to security and stability, and that is why these are issues of concern at the pan-Arab level.

These problems do not come out of a vacuum; they grew as the result of the political void people felt after the setback of 1967, the reduced role of Egyptian experience in the 1960's, and the imported ideas and conflicts that crept into Egyptian society through a perverse minority

with the aim of violating security, breaking the law, trying to upset the stability that this country enjoys, and toying with the democratic system its people have chosen as their way of life and the means to build the country's future.

That is why as soon as Egypt moved into the earliest phases of peace, it was ambushed by foreign powers acting to develop these phenomena, particularly with the existence of antipeace elements in the region.

In addition, of course, the extremist current, which surrounds Egypt, has affected the terror phenomenon to a certain extent.

The issue is concealed in the small minority of youths who have been blinded by the effect of Egypt's experience during the peace phase, the economic reform phase, and the democratic transformation. The result was that they fell prey to malicious foreign and domestic forces that at times hid behind religion, and behind Islamic economic projects at other times. But when they failed, all that was left was violence as a means to achieve their aims.

It is the right of the state, indeed its duty, to confront these attempts to damage its security, impair its national unity, or threaten the social peace that was and still is one of Egypt's special characteristics and one of the features of its civilization throughout history. I say this in spite of the limited nature of these acts and their results.

Terrorism, the Law, and the Army

Thus the government was quick to make certain amendments to the security laws, among them the rules for confronting these strange threats to our society. We hope it will be part of the course of economic reform Egypt is conducting to create a better climate for total control of these phenomena, especially because there is no going back on Egypt's policy in the field of democracy and human rights.

We in the armed forces are proud of holding fast to the social structure. We follow all these phenomena and their growth from up close. We are cautious and prudent in maintaining the security and safety of its men, and fortify them against these misguided ideas to protect them and the nation and to help them resist these tendencies even after their period of service in the armed forces is completed.

There is no doubt that all Egypt is resisting extremism and violence, based on the concept that security is the right of all and thus the responsibility of all.

Imbalance

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] While the region is moving in the direction of peace, we are following the development of the arms industry and the accumulation of modern conventional, nonconventional, and nuclear weaponry by neighbors, which has led to a state of imbalance and

which does not always prevent war and deter aggression. What is your assessment of this situation and its results?

[Halabi] Principle tells us that any disruption in the balance of powers leads to an arms race and moves some countries to seek to possess advanced and unconventional weapons. To prevent this tendency and its repercussions, President Mubarak has declared the Middle East region a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. The U.S. president himself supported Mubarak's call, and we hope all countries will respond to the president's initiative, because it is dangerous to leave this matter as is.

My personal belief is that if Iraq had not acquired unconventional weapons that made it imagine it was stronger than everyone and able to impose its will by force, the Kuwaiti crisis would not have happened. Iraq would not have occupied it or been so intransigent in its stand on the invasion and on its rejection of all efforts calling on them to withdraw. This bluster resulted in the destruction of Iraqi power.

Power Is the Arabs' Deterrent

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Does the broadening of the missions of the Egyptian armed forces, to defend Egypt's security and Arab security in light of the changes you referred to, represent a new burden on Egypt? How do you deal with this added burden?

[Halabi] Egypt's strategy is based on acquiring the ability to deter any aggression on its territories—from any direction.

Egypt's deterrent capability is the foundation for protecting pan-Arab security. Without acquiring this capability and strengthening it nationwide, first of all, we would be open to threat, and we would be unable to assist and neighbor or brother. Here I would like to clarify that strengthening Egypt's deterrent capability and acquiring the means necessary to achieve it does not mean that we want the power to invade, or for aggression, but to safeguard the power we have to defend against threats, for the preservation of national and pan-Arab security.

The Damascus Declaration

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] To what extent are the concepts of pan-Arab and national security, and their agencies and set-ups, linked and combined?

[Halabi] Of course, the link between national and pan-Arab security is total. A threat to any part of the Arab world is a threat to the whole Arab world, and a threat to Arab security is a threat to Egyptian security. Thus Egyptian political and military strategy is based on Egypt's total commitment to lending aid and assistance to our Arab brothers if any country is exposed to threat, danger, or hostility.

History testifies that in any crisis that has befallen any Arab country, Egypt has been the first to give aid,

support, and help. This, as I said, is not something new, but something proven throughout history. This is Egypt's destiny and its responsibility.

Solidarity Without Institutions

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] General, it has been remarked that despite Egypt's commitment to the exigencies of Arab security and its participation in resisting any threat or hostility against any Arab country, we act, in the Arab world, in the framework of "Egyptian gallantry," not in an organized and legal framework, contrary to the way it is done in the rest of the world. Is the achievement of the Damascus Declaration an indication of that?

[Halabi] We, too, act in the framework of a joint defense accord. Even in the absence of an organized, official link, Egypt acts in accordance with the moral commitment imposed by its pan-Arab conscience, its destiny, and its Arab responsibility. There is no conflict in pan-Arab security being a linked and combined unit and in the collective security of the Arab countries being linked to the security of every member state of the League of Arab States. But, at the same time, if we want to talk about the Damascus Declaration, we must understand that Iraq's incursion into Kuwait caused a dangerous split in the Arab position. The negative effects of this split have been prominently reflected in the reality of pan-Arab security in its comprehensive concept and embodiment to confront this dangerous event. Herein lies this importance of the Damascus Declaration to deal with issues like this within the Arab world, to achieve some kind of regional security in a way that does not go against the resolutions and charter of the Arab League in this respect.

The importance of the Damascus Declaration lies also in its link to several factors, most prominently the difficulties that still beset the application of the 1950 Treaty for Joint Arab Defense and Economic Cooperation among the states of the Arab League. The lack of commitment to the provisions of this accord is a notable sign of dealing and the lack of commitment to the principle of the solving of disputes by peaceful means, as we saw in the invasion of Kuwait.

In addition, cooperation among the Arab countries to support their military elements is not at the hoped-for level, quite apart from the absence of the role of a joint defense commission, whose formation would be decided in accordance with the Article 6 of the treaty among the foreign ministers and defense ministers of the obligated countries to study issues related to the implementation of this treaty.

In light of all this, we see the importance of breathing new spirit into the Joint Defense Treaty of the member states of the Arab League, especially given the mounting volume of threats to pan-Arab security. The best evidence of that is the imposition of one's state's policy on part of another state in the region, on one hand. This is

a sign of the need for resistance to these threats in the form of coordination and cooperation among the Arab countries.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Do you think that continued action on the joint defense accord and Arab solidarity, as it now stands, breaks down in times of peace or in the absence of crises, then returns and reappears on [other] occasions?

[Halabi] In my view, the joint defense accord exists and is in force. The proof of its implementation is the operation to liberate Kuwait, which of course was not idle. Its reappearance in crises or other occasions is natural.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] But it has been noted that clauses of the accord are absent, nullified, and not in force, except in joint exercises or coordination between armies or joint arming.

[Halabi] It can be said that the Arab League has begun marked activity in the area of unifying terms and holding military symposia. This is the beginning of action we hope will expand, particularly now that Egypt has returned to the Arab League. We hope that the rest of the provisions of the accord begin to be implemented one by one.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Permit us, General, to go back once more to the Damascus Declaration and ask where exactly it stands. The Doha meeting halted the collective work of the Damascus countries and opened the field to bilateral military cooperation, according to the will and the desire of each individual country.

[Halabi] To implement the provisions of the declaration, as I stated to you, and in accordance with what the Doha meeting decided, the declaration opened the field in the framework of bilateral cooperation, leaving it to each individual country to determine a form of bilateral cooperation according to its own national security requirements. This by its very nature is a matter related to the sovereignty of each state, but in general, for Egypt, we are ready to cooperate with any country in the framework of what is needed or in the framework of what the foreign ministers decided in Doha, whether bilaterally or multilaterally, according to the wish and the needs of each Arab country's security.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] How do you see the ideal implementation of the Damascus Declaration for a military and technical point of view?

[Halabi] The method of implementation, in my view, is linked with security needs, and the security of each state must begin, ultimately, in the country itself, in the sense that there must be an intrinsic power in each of the Gulf states. After that, each state must complete the demands of its power, force, and security with the cooperation of brotherly states in the context of the Gulf Cooperation Council or the Damascus Declaration.

Coordination 50 Percent of Success

In this context, there must be prior coordination among these countries, because prior coordination is worth exactly 50 percent of victory and success when it comes to implementing missions.

The prior coordination I mean goes on in a set framework:

- Regular, organized joint training;
- Unified doctrine and combat method;
- Unified armament;
- Unified communication;
- Shared understanding and a shared basis for the method of running operations;
- Prior planning and equipping of likely theaters of operation; and
- A shared idea, on the part of all cooperating sides, of what constitutes likely threats to each country, individually and collectively.

This kind of preparation and prior coordination then aids the execution of the operation, and positively defines the volume of support needed and the means of moving it to the country that is threatened and exposed to danger.

These things must be taken care of and completed before the crisis occurs.

These matters must have specific scenarios for the likely danger, whether that is done bilaterally or multilaterally, to achieve practical and sound treatment of any crisis. And of course, this does not require the presence of the forces of one country on the territory of another.

Group integration means security for countries, certainly not a threat to them.

President Mubarak provided a great model for supporting a brother country threatened with aggression from a larger country when he issued his political decision to send troops to take part in an important, clear, and defined operation: the liberation of Kuwait. As soon as the objective was accomplished and the task was complete, the president made his prompt decision to return the Egyptian forces to their homeland.

The participation of other forces in repelling aggression against a brotherly country is a temporary use, generally speaking, when that country's security is exposed to a threat of danger.

Border Disputes

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] General, what is your assessment of the return of superficial border disputes to the course of events, particularly those between friends and brothers?

[Halabi] Border disputes are, in truth, the legacy of colonialism. No colonizing country ever left without leaving behind a border problem among neighbors, as a

pretext for this country to return to the region when a conflict breaks out between the neighbors because of the border confusion.

For this reason, our countries, which were victims of colonialism, must understand this fact and not resort to the use of force to solve border disputes. Countries in general must have the courage to acknowledge that the unjust partition left behind by colonialism must be corrected by agreement and mutual consent, because peace is more precious than the inadmissible usurpation or annexation of parts of other people's land. History has taught us that no one will ever give up his national soil if he has an indisputable right to that soil, no matter how much time goes by.

Border disputes have caused the outbreak of many wars. We hope that the disputes that have recently come up will not grow.

Borders and the United Nations

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] In these times, we see a larger role for the United Nations and adherence to international law and its principles. Do you expect that this tendency will play a part in resolving border disputes?

[Halabi] In my view, the new world order and the growing role of the United Nations have not reached the point of taking on the resolution of border disputes, because it is by its very nature minor and limited, even if at times these disputes explode to the point of an armed clash, unless the disputing countries have recourse to international institutions.

I do not think the new world order will make itself the world's policeman for all disputes. I think that had Iraq confined itself, in its dispute with Kuwait, to occupying the disputed border region between the two countries, things would not have escalated this way and become a global conflict.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait and occupied a sovereign country, in violation of its legitimacy, it thereby violated the global order and its legitimacy, and so the reaction was global.

In any case, whatever our view of the new world order, in the end it is not possible for any one order to control everything.

The World Map

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] General, let us leave our region and its concerns for a moment to consider the map of the world and movements of its new alliances and security arrangements to look at it from a specific standpoint: military bases. In one era, competition and conflict over the establishing of military bases outside the superpowers' borders, throughout the world, and in another era, this concern wanes; today, in a new development, it is both waning and advancing:

The withdrawal from the Philippines—one of America's biggest bases in Asia.

Attention, at the same time, to expanding bases and presence in the Gulf region and the Middle East.

[Halabi] Basically, it can be said that the importance of fixed military bases has decreased to a large extent from what it was in the World War II and its aftermath and the emergence of the two competing alliances, the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

This reduction in the importance of bases goes back to the enormous development in armament and the huge strides that have been made in the field of nuclear energy for naval units and long-range strategic missiles.

Secondly, this enormous development in the world of ground-to-ground missiles has made the world small—missiles can hit within moments, no matter how far the distances. This development, as I have mentioned, has reduced the significance of bases in general, but at the same time, bases have retained their importance in a number of places—the centers of crisis, struggle, tension, and interests.

Here it might be said that with the change in interests and concerns, and with the development of weaponry, the importance of bases has fluctuated from the struggle to keep and abandon them to a drop in interest in them here and there. As I have indicated, the conflict of areas of influence and rivalry between the Warsaw Pact and NATO was one factor in the attention to increasing bases on land and sea and of the superpowers' attempt to encircle the other.

Facilities Not Bases

Of course, with current international developments, the first signs we have seen of a new world order, and the changes in the balance of power, the world has become monopolar after a half-century of a bilateral order—bipolar in its confrontations and conflicts.

This new development, of course, has greatly reduced the significance of bases, and the global threats that had menaced the sole superpower have now waned.

This fact has not only illustrated in the closing of some bases, it has also decreased budgets for weapons and armed forces in the superpowers. In light of this decrease, the decision has been made to close many land, sea, and air bases.

But we must understand the difference between nullifying the idea of bases and developing it. The fact is that what has happened, despite some base closings, is that a new course has come up in the security order and arrangements of the reigning superpower: exchanging the idea of fixed, permanent bases for what are called sea, air, and land facilities.

We support this and are now pursuing the same kind of thing through accords signed by the United States in the

aftermath of the recent crisis. The facilities, as I say, are not in the image of the old bases, but a new course laid out in the framework of a new order of security arrangements.

Conventional Wars

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Do you think that, given current international developments in the direction of getting rid of weapons of mass destruction and going back to traditional weapons, wars may restore importance to the establishment of permanent bases?

[Halabi] First of all, we do not rule out conventional wars. No nuclear wars have broken out; the balance of power and the balance of nuclear terror made nuclear war less likely. Today, the situation rules out nuclear war more than previously, because there is only one superpower. I might say here that what is left of the dissolved Soviet Union still possesses a nuclear arsenal, and we cannot say that the threat of its use has completely disappeared. We will not rest on this score until there is a comprehensive for total nuclear and unconventional disarmament.

Let me say that the countries that gained their independence after the colonial era rejected military bases to reaffirm their independence and sovereignty over their territory. I think that this feeling still exists.

Egypt and America

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] General, you were recently on a visit to the United States. Is there anything new in military cooperation between Cairo and Washington?

[Halabi] My visit to America was a continuation of the visits Egyptian military officials have made. I had the opportunity to continue the study of aspects of cooperation between Egypt and America in my ministry, Defense, and in Foreign Affairs. I have found a total appreciation of this cooperation and its significance on the part of politicians and military men, most especially Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell. I found an understanding of the requirements of Egypt and its armed forces and the need for continued military support and annual military aid estimated at \$1.3 billion. I also found an appreciation of Egypt's request for a reasonable share of America's surplus arms coming back from Europe, coming out of service as a result of the decreased volume of American forces. For us this represents an important supplement for us because of the volume and diversity of this need. A joint committee was formed and is now studying our needs, preparatory to a decision.

I also discussed the subject of joint training and methods of developing it for maximum benefit to our forces.

Training Center for Egypt

In the field of training, too, we have decided to establish a high-standard training center in Egypt, and it is the image of a huge American center, giving a practical

picture of combat based on the alertness of the personnel. It is necessary for weaponry to cancel the opponent's weapons and damage their equipment and personnel, while giving destructive and wounding power during combat. This is what you might call realistic and international training, enhancing capability while reducing costs and the consumption of equipment and, at the same time, raising fighting standards and developing our armed forces.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] General, there are fears that going in the direction of spending reductions might weaken the armed forces.

[Halabi] There is a difference between guiding spending and reducing it.

Guiding it means no extravagance in the use of ammunition, equipment, and personnel. This guidance means enhancing capability to concentrate efforts on through electronic training simulations in the field of missiles, aircraft, tanks, and even light arms.

At the same time, guidance for us means special attention to maintenance, for it to become an important element because it extends the life of equipment and ensures its continued adequacy.

Guidance means preserving human resources and the ideal exploitation of these human resources. There is no one in the armed forces today who does not have a primary job to do. Even for those of our men who work in the civilian sectors, the sectors pay their salaries.

Guidance in the armed forces also means the reliance on our own resources to provide food for our personnel and the execution of construction projects by men from the armed forces.

It also means producing most of what we need and require, and performing the jobs we need to be done.

This expansion of our self-sufficiency means reduced expenditures and has no negative effect on the forces or their standard of performance.

In short, this policy states that the armed forces budget should be used in a guided fashion, eschewing all extravagance.

To translate this into numbers, particularly as regards the field of training, let me say that the training plan this year has exceeded last year's by 40 to 50 percent, and last year's exceeded the one the year before that at a rate between 25 to 30 percent—in other words, the armed forces' performance is developing and improving.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] General, what about Egyptian-Western military relations?

[Halabi] Egyptian-Western military relations took on a new dimension and distinctive form after the October war, with the enacting of a policy of diversity in weapons sources. It became clear to the countries of the West that

Egypt was a country credible in war and in peace and that Egypt's role could not be ignored, due to its location, history, culture, leadership, and the nobility of its people.

These relations began to grow and flourish without interruption, fundamentally built on strong and close principles of understanding and a total conviction on the part of both sides, and various considerations, principles, and visions, and points of view in all things and matters that concern countries and relate to their mutual interests.

The importance of the Egyptian-Western relations is brought into focus by the extent they are reflected in influences and mutual interests, considered the major axes of countries' policies and strategies. There is no doubt that the military aid the Western states give Egypt is a fundamental element and a strong bulwark for their strategic goals in the field of developing and arming our armed forces. That aid is manifested in all fields, beginning with the offering of facilities, loans, and grants, and extending to joint training, the exchange of scientific expertise, ongoing coordination, and the exchange of viewpoints on matters of concern to all sides, up to support for Egypt's efforts to develop defense industrialization in several fields, which we consider the pinnacle of mutual trust in the context of military relations between the two sides.

These relations will, of course, by their very nature, bear results stemming from mutual benefit for both sides. The Western countries seek, based on Egypt's credibility and political skill and its attentive leadership, to solve and deal with regional and global problems and to achieve commitment and stability in a region that is very important to the whole world, and to the Western countries in particular. We, and the entire region, understand and support this idea and its significance.

For its part, Egypt aims in these relations for renewed expertise and advanced technology to develop its armed forces and achieve the dream of building an advanced military-industrial base. This would certainly have many positive effects, which could extend also to many other sectors in the country.

Perhaps it is necessary to reaffirm the fact that Egyptian-Western military relations have achieved great successes over the years, since the time their characteristics became clear.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] General, preparing fighting men is a basic thing in a force's combat capability, in general, but we do not understand the significance of using psychology in the armed forces.

[Halabi] The objective of any conflict is to achieve victory over the opponent by imposing one's will upon him, and victory has major factors that must be present: total combat preparedness with a strong combat ideology, and high morale. In order for us to be able to affect the opponent's will, we must be able to influence his

mental state. An individual's mental state is what governs his behavior, and it is what brings out the concepts of victory or defeat within him.

Psychological operations have an important role in deciding armed combat in favor of one of the sides, and it rests on the principles of psychology and behavioral science, centering on the ideological and personal factors at work in the individual and his tendencies and stimulations. They can determine the features of psychological campaigns and the objective planning of them to achieve their goals: control over the individual's will and changing his beliefs and behavior according to the aims of campaign, realizing its objective.

The area of psychological work is not limited to individual relations. It goes beyond them, to international relations, and is even one of the primary foundations for realizing countries' national goals.

Psychological operations are characterized by advanced science and effectiveness during the management of military operations. Perhaps contemporary wars are the best example of the effect on the individual's will in battle, and his psychological state being a decisive in achieving victory.

Nor is the role of psychological operations limited only to times of armed conflict. They apply to peacetime, too. Psychological studies and acts in times of peace help to prepare fighters superbly. In addition, guiding the human resources of the armed forces by way of scientific and practical experiments and surveys of individual capabilities and special qualities helps to speed up assimilation into military society, making it possible to achieve the best management averages in the shortest time possible.

Psychological operations are done through the relevant agencies of the armed forces by studying the main negative phenomena of society as a whole and the extent of their influence on military society and by finding solutions and recommendations to resist these phenomena. This has led to the need for a center for psychological and behavioral studies to develop methods for psychological military action, and extending it to the best, most capable and qualified elements to manage psychological work, within the framework of developing the agencies of the armed forces.

Banks Report Opposition to Arms Controls

93AE0174C London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
27 Nov 92 p 11

[Report from Abu Dhabi by Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq: "Foreign Arms Suppliers Express Dismay Over Offset Program in UAE"]

[Text] The United Arab Emirates [UAE] Industrial Bank said that foreign corporations do not particularly welcome the offset program of reciprocal transactions that the UAE has recently adopted with respect to arms deals.

The bank said in its annual report that foreign corporations have expressed dismay over the offset program and that those who agreed to it resented having to do so.

According to the report, the companies contend that the offset program, which mandates that arms suppliers reinvest 60 percent of [original] contract value, would contribute to more unemployment in industrial nations and would cause the transfer of sensitive technology to offset countries.

The report said that the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] countries have shown great flexibility in applying that program and have established controls to guarantee its success.

The program requires, among other things, that all offset projects be governed by commercial considerations and by market mechanisms in order to ensure profitability and to avoid industrial project duplication in the GCC states.

The offset program mandates that feasibility studies for proposed projects in GCC states be undertaken jointly by foreign and local firms.

The program goes beyond direct investment in ventures. Its operations and activities take several forms such as:

- Contributing to the development of local human resources in order to develop a resident work force capable of managing and operating the various economic sectors. For instance, MBRC [expansion not given] and Saudi Arabia's SMARC [Saudi Marketing and Refining Company] are currently engaged in a joint technical training project under the economic offset program.
- Transferring modern technology to the GCC states through technical cooperation agreements between foreign corporations and local enterprises.
- Boosting GCC exports through joint projects under the trade offset program, because foreign corporations possess great expertise and knowledge of international marketing.

The bank's report added that the program does not involve any funding operations such as those provided by commercial and specialized banks. It restricts itself to contributions to the capital of the joint projects between foreign and local partners. The program prefers investments in new projects to those that would expand existing enterprises. Furthermore, it does not impose lower or upper limits to program venture capital contributions. A single firm may invest in several projects, as long as studies prove the projects are feasible.

The bank believes that the private sectors in the GCC states, including the UAE, have ample opportunity to benefit from the commercial offset program, especially by gaining experience in various fields through partnerships with foreign capital.

But the private sector is not the only beneficiary of the program. There is also a real opportunity for domestic

economic institutions, especially banks and funding agencies, to develop their roles and diversify their financial services in step with the general economic objectives of the GCC states.

This invitation to domestic banks and institutions and to the Gulf private sectors, including industrial private sectors, coincides with U.S.-published reports that the Gulf countries plan to expend \$90 billion on capital goods imports over the next decade, including \$50 billion for telecommunications equipment and \$30 billion for oil production tools and equipment.

Information available to the Industrial Bank indicates that GCC states with offset programs will have between \$5 and \$6 billion for reinvestment annually under the offset program. Both public and private sectors must therefore take steps to benefit from that program and to absorb those large investments and recycle them in the domestic economies of the Gulf.

This, if successful, could mean a qualitative shift in the 1990's for the gross domestic product components of GCC member-states.

Gulf Budget Deficits To Continue Through 1996

93AE0174A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
11 Nov 92 pp 74, 75

[Interview with Dr. Jasim al-Muna'i, executive vice president of Gulf Investment Corporation, by Ghunaym Muhammad al-Mutayri in Kuwait; date not given]

[Text] The Gulf Investment Corporation [GIC] is the only organization created after the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] was established. It contributes to investment projects in GCC member-states.

In order to shine the spotlight on GIC activities, AL-MAJALLAH interviewed Dr. Jasim al-Muna'i, the GIC's executive vice president, at GIC headquarters in Kuwait. Dr. al-Muna'i emphasized that the Gulf states will continue to accrue budgetary deficits through 1996, when, with sound economic management, conditions will improve.

[Al-Mutayri] What sort of work has the GIC undertaken since its inception?

[Al-Muna'i] Since it was established, the GIC has undertaken numerous and various activities, including direct investment in productive projects in the various GCC states. The corporation also helped finance other Gulf projects and enterprises, either directly or through Gulf Investment Bank [GIB], which it owns. The GIC has played an important role in conducting and funding many feasibility studies and has organized and participated in a number of Gulf economic investment meetings and seminars. It also played an important role in cooperating with the GCC secretariat to promote the economic development of GCC member-states and speed up their economic integration.

GIC's role as financial consultant to several Gulf governments and organizations should also be highlighted. It has been a bulwark, offering advice and counsel on borrowing from financial markets and submitting proposals on needed fiscal and economic policies.

GIC's main field of activity is to develop investment in productive projects. The corporation has so far taken part in founding about 15 projects in all of the Gulf states. Those projects involved investments that benefited the region's economy to the extent of \$2,413 billion, of which GIC contributed more than \$510 million.

[Al-Mutayri] What are GIC's objectives, and do they serve the process of economic integration in the GCC states?

[Al-Muna'i] The GIC's objectives, to put it succinctly, are to help the GCC states develop and achieve economic integration, develop fiscal resources, diversify sources of income, develop natural resources, and support private sector investment initiatives in the Gulf states by creating worthwhile investment opportunities in the various economic sectors and by energizing capital markets and stock trading.

[Al-Mutayri] Joint Arab economic activity has sometimes been said to lack seriousness and productivity. Would Gulf joint economic activity be an exception?

[Al-Muna'i] Gulf joint activity differs from Arab joint activity in that Gulf objectives are more modest and luckier in application. Gulf political systems are also compatible, rendering the realization of economic targets within the Gulf combination easier than in the Arab world. We must admit that this is no simple task, even in the Gulf, but is how it is in all economic blocs of the world. Problems exist, in general, but political compatibility, social harmony, and geographic proximity improve the chances for the success of Gulf joint action.

[Al-Mutayri] Arab economies, as a whole, are inclined towards privatization. Will there be continued support for joint action as the states lose control of the means of production over the next decade?

[Al-Muna'i] The basis for joint economic action, both in the Gulf or in the Arab world, is not merely the political wishes of governments represented by the public sectors. Joint action is also rooted in important economic considerations, such as the size of available markets and the consistency of economic legislation in the largest possible number of nations, which helps promote higher rates of development and economic growth. European countries have a strong desire to advance and to maintain joint economic action despite the modest economic role of their public sectors. This proves that joint action is beneficial and serves the interests of all despite differences in economic functions between private and the public sectors.

[Al-Mutayri] Gulf economies have been encountering repeated pressures as a result of oil price declines and the Kuwait crisis. How do you envision the future of the region's economies?

[Al-Muna'i] The test of Gulf economic performance is the manner in which Gulf economies are managed. This is true in times of economic prosperity, as well as in times of depression or economic crises. The region's available economic resources are more than adequate, considering the needs of the Gulf states and the size of their populations. Economic upheavals affect Gulf states as they do all other countries of the world and require economic management capable of reacting competently and efficiently in order to deal properly with any crisis or upset. The countries of the region are fortunate to have plentiful natural resources and to enjoy a high standard of living, thanks to the volume and increasing importance of their oil reserves, compared with remaining world reserves. As for the economic future of the region, the future economic positions of countries in region will depend, as we said, on the efficient management of their economies and economic resources. It is normal for countries in the region to suffer deficits and some fiscal difficulties as a result of the Gulf War. The Gulf states are expected to accrue budgetary deficits for a short period of time, possibly through 1995-96, but we do not think that they will encounter long-range difficulties, especially if their economies are efficiently and properly managed. We believe that the economies of the whole world, including the Gulf region, will not have an easy time of it, and this may further complicate the economic policies that may be adopted in the Gulf states in order to deal with future challenges. In other words, the availability of resources will not in itself be sufficient to ensure economic growth and development.

[Al-Mutayri] Some experts believe that the Kuwaiti economy will change over the next 10 years as a result of the invasion and the consequent rise of a situation similar to the Bahraini economy, which depends more on services than on oil. What do you think?

[Al-Muna'i] The Kuwaiti economy is quite different from the Bahraini economy, as far as oil production and general economic role of oil are concerned. Bahrain produces no more than 41,000 bpd [barrels per day], whereas Kuwait has a capacity of 1.5 to 2 million bpd. This alone is a major difference and a factor in the current and future economic positions of both countries. We believe that the large volume of Kuwaiti oil reserves means that oil will continue to be of significance to the Kuwaiti economy. This does not negate the fact that the services sector in Kuwait is constantly growing, as manifested in the increasing importance of banks and investment companies, in addition to the government sector. Oil, however, will continue to be of prime significance for the economy of Kuwait.

[Al-Mutayri] Kuwaiti foreign investments are being viciously attacked by certain Western host-countries. They are also falling prey to frauds and swindles. What alternatives are there?

[Al-Muna'i] Arab investments abroad are governed by the laws of host-countries, but the problem with Arab foreign investments is really a problem of proper choice and sound management.

The GIC, as far as we are concerned, invests mainly within the GCC states, especially where direct investment is concerned.

[Al-Mutayri] The repatriation of Arab investments was a cry heard at the beginning of the boom period of Arab oil surpluses. Is that cry still meaningful?

[Al-Muna'i] The countries of the region, despite current deficits, still enjoy considerable liquidity, but adequate investment opportunities are lacking. Investments abroad could therefore complement local investments, allowing countries of the region to achieve desirable portfolio diversification. It will not be long before the GCC-member states resume generating surpluses that need to be invested abroad in quest of geographic diversity and higher returns.

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

Talks With EC Officials To Seek More Aid

93P40088A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
5 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] Cairo—A Palestinian working group has begun discussions with responsible officials in European Community [EC] governments to increase financial aid to Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Palestinian sources in Cairo said that last year the EC awarded \$75 million in aid to compensate the Palestinians for economic losses caused by the Gulf crisis. Of this, only \$35 million was presented, in addition to an estimated \$8 million to build a hospital in the occupied Gaza Strip.

These sources explained that it was decided to direct \$20 million of the European aid toward building housing. Loans worth \$15 million will go to local Palestinian businessmen to implement Palestinian projects in the fields of agriculture, industry, and commerce.

EGYPT

Shaykh Claims Poor Treatment of U.S. Muslims

93AF0208D Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 30 Sep 92 p 8

[Interview with Shaykh Yusuf al-Badri by Fathi al-Sarawi: "Shaykh Yusuf al-Badri Talks with AL-NUR

After His Return From the United States: 'Conditions Not Good for Muslims in America'; place and date not given]

[Text] Shaykh Yusuf al-Badri, the well-known Islamic missionary, founder of al-Sahwah [Awakening] Party, and former member of the People's Assembly, affirmed that American Muslims were moving toward the establishment of a major Islamic league that will be headed by Siraj Wahaj, the black Islamic missionary who has more than 4 million Muslim followers.

In an exclusive interview with AL-NUR, following his recent return from the United States, Shaykh Yusuf said that Muslims in America could have significant influence on the elections there if they united their ranks, because most Americans do not pay attention to the election process even though the political freedom that is available there is extensive. Shaykh Yusuf added: "American Muslims, and there are 10 million of them, are being discriminated against and ignored. That enabled the Jews to monopolize votes and gave them free rein on the political scene."

Shaykh Yusuf al-Badri dealt with another subject and talked about the differences that were being stirred up among senior religious scholars who had received invitations to visit the United States. He talked about Dr 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's declaration that he, that is, Shaykh Yusuf, was a nonbeliever. Shaykh Yusuf also talked about how Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Islamic National Front in Sudan, was attacked.

It is worth noting that Shaykh Yusuf al-Badri is one of the few multilingual Islamic missionaries. He speaks Farsi, English, and French fluently, and this skill has served him well in spreading the message of Islam over a period of 40 years in this field of service. He also has traveled in a number of Islamic countries, including Turkey, Iraq, Algeria, Libya, Sudan, and Morocco. Recently, he traveled on an Islamic mission to the United States, where he delivered several lectures on Islamic principles and on the future of Islam in the world.

[Al-Sarawi] Why did you go to the United States, and what were the results of your visit?

[Al-Badri] I was invited to the United States by the Society of the Almighty's Worshipers [Ibad al-Rahman] to establish a new Islamic center, the 'Umar ibn al-Khattab Center, in Patterson. I also delivered several lectures at many other Islamic centers in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Atlantic City, and other places.

'They Left the Scene'

[Al-Sarawi] What effect do Muslims have on the American elections?

[Al-Badri] There are 10 million Muslims in America who can apply considerable pressure on the presidential elections there because the American people pay no attention at all to the elections, despite the extensive freedom they have there. That game has been left completely to the Jews. Although the Islamic community in America is a large one, it is as disorganized as a torrential stream. It has no influence, no concerted action, and no organization with the proficiency to enable it to exercise its influence on the political and economic scenes, even though Muslims there are more wealthy than the Jews. Anyone who claims otherwise is mistaken. Homosexuals in America organize demonstrations to demand their rights, and the presidential candidate adopts a conciliatory approach toward them, but he ignores Muslims because they are totally oblivious to such matters. I told them, "The divisiveness you learned from your countries is making my head spin." I told them, "God says that your nation is one nation."

The divisions among the Muslims in America are so grave that Muslims preferred to vote for a non-Muslim American who was running for a city government position in Patterson County. They preferred the Christian candidate over a Muslim one because the Muslim candidate was of Turkish origin. This happened despite the fact that 80 percent of the residents of that county are Muslims. Even public schools there observe Muslim holidays. We found that Muslims do not stand up for their country, and they vote for a non-Muslim American in a county where the vast majority of residents are Muslims. This disunity is also found on holidays and during the month of Ramadan. Can you imagine that Bairam services for Muslims are held three days in a row? Each one attends those services that coincide with the date that those services are being held in his country. In fact, the Arabs themselves held Bairam services on two consecutive days.

[Al-Sawrawi] And what is the solution?

"An Islamic Party"

[Al-Badri] The solution lies in bringing all Islamic centers and organizations in the United States under one spiritual leader who would not be associated with the political and economic disputes that exist between the various Islamic countries. Siraj Wahaj, the black Islamic missionary, could head a religious league for all Muslims there. There is, in fact, movement in that direction, but nothing yet has materialized. Siraj Wahaj is a missionary who has a good understanding of the principles of Islam, and he now has 4 million Muslim followers. All Muslims there can join his league so that they can have one movement and one purpose. It is only then that any American running for office will take them into account, and Jews will no longer be the only players on the field. It is only then that Jews will not be able to carry out their schemes and expansionist settlements at the expense of Arabs and Muslims.

[Al-Sarawi] Can American Muslims establish an Islamic party?

[Al-Badri] Yes, they can, provided the party does not have a religious basis. There is no doubt that the impact of 10 million Muslims could be significant if they had the same goals and objectives.

'The Future of Islam'

[Al-Sarawi] What effect does this fragmentation and disunity have on spreading the message of Islam in America?

[Al-Badri] I watched a two-hour videotape of all of the brutal massacres that Muslims have been exposed to around the world. At the end of the tape, the American narrator noted that Islam was spreading and growing despite such brutality and all of these massacres. Why is Islam spreading and growing, [the narrator asked]. It is a question for which there is no answer.

This is the condition of Islam and Muslims in America and in Europe, too. One survey institute recently conducted a study that established that by the year 2000, Muslims will constitute 40 percent of the population. By the year 2010 they will constitute 45 percent of the world's population. This means that Islam will become the most popular religion.

'Discord Among Religious Scholars'

[Al-Sarawi] Do you think that another political objective was being sought when Muslim religious scholars were invited to visit the United States at the same time? Quite frankly, aren't there certain figures who are taking advantage of some differences of opinion among the most prominent Muslim religious scholars and are striving to sow the seeds of discord in their midst?

[Al-Badri] How is that?

[Al-Sarawi] What is the significance of having al-Turabi, Shaykh al-Badri, and Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in America at the same time, despite some of the differences that they have with each other? And what is going on between you and Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman?

[Al-Badri] People can have different opinions and stay friends. I did, in fact, differ with al-Turabi on some points, but Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman claimed I was a nonbeliever. Can you believe this? Can you believe that he declared me a nonbeliever?

[Al-Sarawi] Why did he do that?

[Al-Badri] I invited 'Abd-al-Rahman many times to debate me. What is between him and me started in the office of an important attorney. Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman called that attorney's office to chide me for acknowledging the leadership of President Mubarak and agreeing to serve as a member of the People's Assembly. That was in October 1988. I proposed that each one of us set forth his wishes regarding the debate, provided that

no one else attend the debate so that neither one of us would be intimidated by the other's followers. I also proposed that he set up any recording equipment he wanted to set up. Still, he did not set a date for the debate. He and I then met recently in the United States. I was teaching a daily class after the evening prayer in al-Salam [Peace] Mosque in Garden City. Dr 'Umar was in the same mosque for the dawn prayer service. I was asked in class about the matter of acknowledging Mubarak's leadership, and the answer I gave was persuasive. But during the prayer service at dawn, 'Abd-al-Rahman declared me a nonbeliever, and when I was informed of what he said, I invited him once again for a debate. I had a session with his students, and they were satisfied that what I had said was quite convincing. Still, 'Abd-al-Rahman set no date for the debate, and I am still waiting for him to do so, even though my acknowledgement of Mubarak's leadership was a qualified acknowledgement, and everyone knows that.

[Al-Sarawi] What are the differences you have with al-Turabi?

[Al-Badri] I do not agree with some of the independent religious opinions that he expressed there. He said it was permissible for a Christian woman who became a Muslim to stay with her Christian husband.

[Al-Sarawi] But these differences support our argument that there are those who want to sow the seeds of discord among the religious scholars of Islam and present an unflattering picture of them. Isn't that right?

[Al-Badri] I could not have predicted something like this, despite all these differences. I spent five months in the United States, and the election campaign that is going on now was on when I was there. I did not notice that anyone was trying to stir up the differences between me and the others while I was there. I got no wind of anything like that going on. In fact, we were making plans to bring all Muslim leaders together and contain the difference, and we did actually manage to do that when we brought together two Muslim leaders, who shall remain nameless, and an agreement was reached to forswear disputes and aim no blows at Islamic countries from there. Also, I could have written in AL-SAHWAH newspaper, which I published there, anything I wanted to write, but I turned down many offers to make funds available for this newspaper because I did not want to glorify any particular way of thinking. We are willing to listen and accommodate all debates, and ultimately, neither I nor anyone else will be the victor. The victor will be Islam.

Naval Exercise Incorporates Desert Storm Lessons

92AF0213A Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
23 Oct 92 p 5

[Article by Jamal Kamal: "Biggest Naval Exercise, With 42 Units, 25 Years After the Sinking of the Eilat"]

[Text] For two hours and 20 minutes, General Husayn Tantawi, the minister of defense, monitored a practical naval exercise with live ammunition near the port of Abu-Qir in Alexandria. Forty-two naval units participated in the exercise on the occasion of the 25 anniversary of the sinking of the Israeli destroyer Eilat. The practical exercise included the seizure of a naval target in the vicinity of the seacoast. The exercise was called "Victory 25."

The naval exercise, also viewed by Naval Commander Lieutenant General Ahmad Fadil, Air Defense Commander Zahir 'Abd-al-Rahman, and Air Force Commander Ahmad Nasr, was considered to be one of the most important military events this year for a number of reasons related to its timing, the volume of the forces that took part, the location, and its particular scenario.

From Eilat to October

The naval exercise came days after the earthquake and the armed forces' participation, with many of its commanders, officers, and soldiers, in confronting and eliminating its effects, which proved that our armed forces are capable of carrying out their role in development and their primary role in training, upgrading, and military preparedness and that life and circumstances have returned to normal in Egypt after the earthquake.

The naval forces' exercise, also attended by Alexandria Governor Isma'il Jusqi, was conducted on the 25th anniversary of the sinking of the Israeli destroyer Eilat by Egyptian missile boats 134 days after the 1967 defeat. The destroyer was the pride of the Israeli Navy and one of its pillars. The exercises were designed to reaffirm our naval forces' achievements in terms of weaponry, fighting capability, mission training and theater, and the role of our naval forces, despite the passing of 25 years since that famous battle, which upset the naval military balance in the world.

This unprecedented exercise came at a time when economics, Navy personnel, water, and naval lines of communication have become the engine of current and future conflicts. Naval powers in all the countries of the world now have an intimate relationship with economic development and political goals, including foreign policy.

42 Naval Units

The Navy's exercise is the first of its size since the naval lessons learned in the Desert Storm war, particularly the decline of the role of naval surveillance and missile boats, landing operations, and the role of the Navy's special forces.

The exercise's importance also stems from the number of naval units that took part with live ammunition. There were 42 units: missile boats; destroyers; frigates; corvettes; submarines; subhunters; minesweepers; high-speed launches; helicopters; and Eastern [as published],

British, French, and American naval surveillance aircraft, a number somewhat less than that of Egyptian naval units that took part in the war of October, 1973, to secure lines of naval communication or impose an Egyptian sea blockade of Israel in the Mediterranean and Red Seas.

The site of the exercise has importance and significance, considering that the Egyptian theater of naval operations is an open theater, both in the Red and the Mediterranean Seas, allowing the use of all naval units in maneuvering, availability, and domination. But the Navy's exercise was carried out in three phases in a marine area measuring 100 square km, of which only 30 square km was suitable for naval missions. This area was several kilometers from the seaport of Abu-Qir, where the water is just a few meters deep and there are scattered rock and volcanic deposits, in addition to scattered economic facilities, such as water and petroleum pipelines. It is a known fact that naval combat in this type of area relies to a large extent on individual ability and the experience of the naval crews. Their navigational equipment is considered the basis for naval units and naval combat.

Lessons of Desert Storm

The scenario of the naval exercise has special importance, because, while it included the elimination of a naval target some kilometers off the coast, it also included a number of sea combat scenarios for submarines, missile boats, and a naval landing, naval special forces operations, naval surveillance behind the enemy's sea lines, naval rescue operations during combat operations, operations for compensating technological supremacy in naval equipment, and an assessment of the combat personnel resources needed.

The Egyptian naval exercise Victory 25 displayed our forces' understanding of the lessons of the naval battles in Desert Storm: that it is necessary for the naval forces' battles to be within the framework of a battle of arms joined by all branches of the armed forces, or a battle of arms joined for the naval units themselves, and the need for prior sea surveillance before missions are executed. This became apparent with the use of Beechcraft naval surveillance aircraft, which our Air Force recently obtained and which entered the service of naval formations, representing a technological leap. It also became apparent through the surveillance of some Navy personnel dropped by parachute in the vicinity of a target surrounded by seawater or dropped by helicopters with light rubber boats far from the target.

The exercise also made clear the continued importance of small missile boats in sea combat, in light of the many methods of sea and air surveillance, of arming the boats with antiaircraft weapons, and of protecting their fighting with destroyers, which allows them to achieve surprise and maneuverability.

The exercise also made clear the need to take a number of steps before undertaking a seaborne landing operation, primarily gunfire preparation for the various naval

weapons, particularly cannons and missiles, as well as arming troop carriers with missile launchers and using frogmen and military marine engineers to clear mines and obstacles for landing operations while submarines and destroyers secure landing operations by controlling the sea lanes leading to the target to prevent the arrival of any supplies to it and allow fighter aircraft and helicopters to achieve air supremacy over the target.

Certainly, the Egyptian Navy's exercise sends many-faceted messages to many quarters, meaning in the end that the forces of peace are continuing to upgrade their capabilities, determined to carry out their goals from their territorial waters as an outlet for the demands and requirements of foreign policy.

Commander of the Navy: New Naval Units

Lieutenant General Ahmad Fadil, commander of the Navy, said that the Navy was greatly affected by what Egypt went through after the earthquake and that he could not say enough about the cooperation of the Egyptian people and the self-sacrifices that have kept our forces strong and capable.

He added that the naval exercise were part of their capability, which it was always striving to upgrade to the standards of navies around the world through constant development, human resources, and excellent organization in close cooperation with all branches of the armed forces.

He said that our naval forces had contracted for new units and that their units' crews had succeeded in absorbing modern technology in terms of operation, maintenance, and assimilating them with older and less technically sophisticated systems and equipment, and preserving units that had passed their mandatory ages—the naval forces had been able to raise their fighting capabilities.

The Navy commander said: "Peace is the world's demand, and it will be won only by the strong. Our Navy is always ready to defend our long coastlines and territorial waters, and our lines of naval communication may be assured that our desired power and superiority always spring from the desire to maintain peace."

Units Taking Part in the Naval Exercise

A collection of armament took part in the Victory 25 exercise, most importantly the Ramadan and October missile boats, Chinese minesweepers, Spanish Descubierta destroyers, Chinese missile boats armed with B-15 Styx missiles and 76 mm naval cannons, troop carriers armed with depth charges, Chinook helicopters, and M-8's armed with shoulder-launched missiles.

Minister Gives Oil Production, Consumption Figures

93AF0208C Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Oct 92 p 8

[Article by Halah al-Shuqayri: "Egypt's Gas Reserves Are 13 Trillion Cubic Feet; Production To Be Increased to 1.2 Billion Cubic Feet a Day"]

[Text] Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, minister of oil and mineral resources, opened the symposium of the Egyptian Society for Gas yesterday. The symposium was chaired by engineer 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu-Bakr. Natural gas production from Badr-al-Din fields and the importance of applying the most modern methods of gas exploration operations were discussed at the symposium.

The future of natural gas in Egypt was also discussed. Experts affirmed that production of natural gas would continue in the future on a larger scale, and they made it clear that increased demand for energy was an essential factor for the development plans that are required. The experts affirmed that natural gas was Egypt's most suitable energy alternative because it preserved the country's status as an exporter of crude oil and its by-products. Natural gas also minimizes adverse effects on the environment. Engineer Raja' Farahat, president of the company, indicated that gas reserves had to be discovered and developed and then delivered to energy markets by means of a distribution system that would be flexible and expandable. He called for the introduction of a new clause in concession agreements for gas exploration to develop such exploratory activities. He also called for the establishment of a full-fledged pipeline to carry gas across the country.

Farahat affirmed that gas reserves rose to more than 12 trillion cubic feet, compared with 6 trillion. Present gas production from the Abu-Madi, Abu-Qir, Abu-al-Gharadiq, and Ra's Shuqayr fields amounted to 1.2 billion cubic feet a day. Also, 1 billion cubic feet of non-liquid gases, 2,800 barrels of condensates, and 1,900 tons of butane gas are produced daily as by-products of gas processing operations. Farahat affirmed that gas consumption rose from 207,000 cubic feet a day to 1 million cubic feet a day. More than 60 percent of that amount is used to generate energy and increase the carrying-capacity of the national gas delivery system to 1.4 billion cubic feet a day. Farahat indicated that by the year 2010, demand for gas will amount to 4.1 billion cubic feet a day; 3.1 billion cubic feet of that amount will be used to generate energy.

Minister Reports Drop in Birthrate

93AF0208B Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
9 Oct 92 p 6

[Article by Nisrin 'Azab: ".008 Percent Drop in Birthrate Over 6-Year Period; Family Planning Services in Rural Areas Expanded"]

[Text] Dr. Raghib Duwaydar, minister of health, announced a drop in Egypt's birthrate from 38.7 per 1,000 in 1986 to 30.8 per 1,000 last year. This is an annual rate of more than one per 1,000.

In a speech delivered yesterday at the opening of the symposium "Lessons Learned and New Approaches to Family Planning," Dr. Duwaydar said, "The ministry is expanding its family planning services. It is establishing new units to provide primary health care in rural and urban areas, and it is implementing home visit programs." The minister's remarks were delivered on his behalf by Dr. Nabil Nassar, undersecretary of the ministry.

The ministry is joining local governments in the medical caravan program. It is also joining them in training midwives, developing basic care units, and setting up clinics that specialize in offering family planning services.

The minister affirmed that the ministry was intent on making available a variety of family planning methods whose effectiveness and suitability for Egyptian families have been established. The ministry is also intent on having these methods manufactured locally. He indicated that an agreement had been reached with the UN Population Fund to manufacture copper coils (1380) [as published] in Egypt.

Dr. Duwaydar affirmed: "It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, as well as volunteer and national organizations working in this field, to offer family planning services. These services constitute the very first step in remedying the population problem in Egypt."

Overview of Food Security Issues

93AF0208A Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Sep 92 p 3

[Article by Hanan 'Uthman: "22.5 Billion Pounds Spent Annually on Food; 429 Percent Rise in Cost of One Meal in 10 Years; Meat, Dairy Products, and Fruits Banned From Dining Tables of Most Citizens"]

[Text] One of the most important and troubling issues for the international community is that of food. It is a problem that weighs heavily on the various governments that are engaged in continuous attempts to find solutions to the problem of food availability. In Egypt, in the wake of a dreadful rise in food prices, every family is becoming preoccupied with the acquisition of food. Buying food has now become a psychological, moral, and material ordeal for heads of households, who wonder how they can provide their families with balanced meals on their fixed incomes.

Studies affirm that Egyptian citizens spend half their income on food. And yet, field studies affirm that the rate of malnutrition is rising and that cases of iron deficiency, protein deficiency, and anemia among citizens are also rising. The reason, quite simply, is that the purchasing power of the vast majority has declined

because of high prices and because people are not able to provide for themselves healthy, balanced, and nutritious meals. What are citizens doing about continuous price increases? In their efforts to provide food for their families, how are they solving the difficult equation of reconciling a fixed income with rising prices?

Studies and Figures

Studies conducted by the Ministry of Planning confirmed that Egyptian consumers spend half their income on foods and beverages, 20 percent on services, and the rest on clothing and housing. The studies revealed that of the total amount of money families spent on consumer goods this year, our families spent 22.5 billion pounds on food and beverages. Estimates indicate that we consume 4.3 billion pounds' worth of carbohydrates in the form of wheat, flour, rice, and macaroni. These expectations also indicate that we consume 38 million pounds' worth of legumes, such as fava beans and lentils; 2.7 billion pounds' worth of milk and dairy products; and approximately 5 billion pounds' worth of animal protein.

The latest survey about Egyptians' bread consumption indicates that annual per capita flour consumption is 200 kg. This figure was obtained by dividing the amount of flour consumed by the number of people. Of course, that figure does not represent actual per capita consumption of flour, which is less than half that amount. This discrepancy is attributable to the fact that bread, unfortunately, is discarded and thrown in the garbage because its quality is poor and because the bread is not fit for consumption. Also, the discrepancy [between consumption figures and actual consumption] is sometimes attributable to the mode of consumption. Many other foods are also discarded despite the funds that are spent for their purchase.

Among the studies that explain the relationship between an Egyptian family's income and what that family spends on food is one by the Institute of Nutrition. That study, which looked into the effect that high food prices have on how families go about providing food for themselves, affirms that the rise in food prices between 1975 and 1985 has been alarming. Families were, therefore, compelled to spend a larger percentage of their income on food. A study on the family budget conducted by the Central Agency for Statistics showed that individuals in urban areas spend 53 percent of their income on food, whereas in rural areas they spend 51 percent. According to studies conducted by the Institute of Nutrition, the minimum amount of money spent by Egyptian families to provide one balanced meal rose an average of 429 percent in urban areas and 391 percent in rural areas. Compared with wage increases, which did not exceed 70 percent during the same period, this increase is significantly large. Consequently, families had to shift a larger portion of their nonfood spending to buy food. This shift was made at the expense of many other items of spending. The study indicated that the families of many different professions found that they had to

reduce their food consumption and that meat and vegetables were the foods that were affected most by the austerity policy. Many families stopped consuming some foods, primarily milk, altogether. Next on the list of foods that families cut out are meat, fish, and eggs. Spending on clothes was affected most by this policy. Also, 74.1 percent of all families saved no money at all. The study warned that if food prices continue to rise and if incomes do not rise commensurately, the population's health and the status of their nutrition will deteriorate further. Production will be affected by that and, in the long term, so will the national economy as the number of people suffering from malnutrition ailments rises.

The Impossibility of Saving

Dr. Fikri Ibrahim al-Nahri, chairman of the Nutrition Department at the Institute of Nutrition, thinks that the question of getting food has become so important that coming up with radical solutions to this problem, given the continuing rise in prices across the board, has become essential. People are being asked to save and to economize. But because they cannot economize on rent, on the school tuition they have to pay for their children, and on the gas and electricity they consume, since prices for these services rose, the need to economize becomes reflected directly on food prices. Thus, food becomes the only family budget item that can be reduced.

And here we find ourselves facing a difficult equation and an illogical request. We find ourselves saying that food is the only item we can control and reduce our spending on. At the same time, it is not easy to reduce our spending on food. Each family understands that concept differently and goes about it differently according to its understanding of that concept and its circumstances. Some families that have an erroneous approach to reducing their food budget will cut certain foods completely out of their diet, or they will reduce their intake of those foods without basing their decisions on any scientific grounds or on studies that show whether this food is important or not. Other families follow [another] erroneous approach to reducing their food budget: They reduce the quantities they consume, or they consume foods that are lower in quality and grade. Fruits are an example of this approach. They have become a luxury that only the well-to-do can afford. That is why a substantial number of people have cut fruits out of their diets. Meat is also considered an unaffordable luxury by a large number of citizens, so they cut it out of their diets. They also cut out milk, eggs, and different kinds of cheese, because cheese prices rose recently and became even higher than meat prices. Heads of households might also buy certain foods in smaller quantities, without taking into consideration how much of those foods members of their families need. If they buy an item that is lower in quality and cheaper in price, such as frozen meat or fish, they might be buying an item that does not have the nutritional value they hoped it had.

The question then becomes what is the right thing to do? How would a citizen confront this contradiction between

doing the right thing for his family and not cutting down on food? The answer to the question, as Dr. Fikri al-Nahri said, is to follow the approach set forth by the adage that suggests that we get what we want in the quantities we need and that we do so without shame or bashfulness. This means: Why shouldn't I buy one fourth of a kilogram of meat if that amount is all I need? And why shouldn't I buy the fruits I want to buy according to the number of people in the family? If there are four people in the family, why not buy four or eight pieces of any fruit so that each person will get two servings of that fruit?

Dr. Fikri al-Nahri proposed that we go back to doing what we did previously when we used pounds and ounces to weigh goods. That system provided more control on setting the proper course for consumption. He also proposed that the food packaging system be reconsidered. Why not package eggs in small cartons that hold only 10 eggs per carton? Why not package them that way instead of the way that is being used now? Vegetables can also be packaged in packages that need not weigh more than a kilogram, which is a reasonable amount for a large family. Dr. Fikri added: "I am asking the state to issue an order changing the system of weights and measures so that we can cut down on consumption and growing waste. I am also proposing that the state ban the sale of more than 1 kg of meat a week [per person]. That would bring about a relative reduction in meat prices. The less demand there is for a commodity, the lower its price will be. The greater the demand for that commodity, the higher its price will go."

Consumer Awareness

Let us go back once again to talking about proper, scientific ways for reducing food intake. Dr. Fikri said: "The point must be made that no food is to be altogether cut out of our diet. Each food serves a function, and that function is determined by the age of the family members. It would be a grave mistake, for example, to do away with milk when there are growing children in the family. There are no alternatives to the nutrients, the vitamins, and the proteins that are found in milk."

Possible Alternatives

Dr. Sawsan Ahmad 'Abd-al-Ghani, a nutritionist at the Institute of Nutrition, said: "Egypt is not the only country where food prices are rising. They are rising everywhere in the world. Food is one thing that no one can do without. It is one of life's essentials. To enjoy good health, a person must get all the nutrition he needs. He must eat foods that give him energy and materials that rebuild his body and give it vitality and immunity from disease and infection. A person's nutritional needs vary according to his age and sex, the kind of work he does, the effort he makes, and his daily activity. A person's nutritional needs also depend upon that person's physiological condition, such as the condition of being a nursing mother or being pregnant."

There are four food groups, including animal proteins, vegetable proteins, and alternatives to animal proteins. Because prices for animal proteins continue to rise, they may be replaced by other alternatives, such as legumes of all kinds, including fava beans, lentils, black-eyed peas, beans, and chick-peas. Although vegetable proteins or legumes lack one or more of the basic amino acids that a body needs and cannot manufacture on its own, their protein content equals or exceeds that of animal proteins. This deficiency can be compensated by supplementing or adding animal protein to the vegetable protein, thereby making the latter nutritionally equal to the former. Eggs, for example, can be added to a dish of fava beans, and a glass of milk can be added to a bowl of lentil soup. Although some people may find such fare unappetizing, experience has shown that such dishes are among the most popular dishes, and they are also the most beneficial.

Social Fund To Finance Nile Protection Project

93AF0208E Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
5 Oct 92 p 6

[Article by 'Isam al-Shaykh]

[Text] The Governorates of Aswan, Qina, Sawhaj, Asyut, al-Minya, and Bani Suwayf have completed the list that names the 30 villages that were chosen as sites for implementing projects to protect the banks of the Nile from erosion and projects for community development.

Engineer Muhammad Qutb Nasr, director of the project, said: "The Red Crescent Society started working with project management to secure confirmation for the work that has been slated to begin in each village. It is doing this by getting people involved in the projects, which includes surveying the residents of these villages about project priorities to determine which projects they need. This is how the Red Crescent Society can get the people involved in implementing the projects and in their future maintenance as well."

He added: "The project, which provides 75,000 jobs a month for residents of these villages which are located on the banks of the Nile, will cost up to 70 million pounds. The money, which will be provided over a period of three years, will come from the Social Fund. Each one of the 30 villages is expected to receive its share of 600,000 pounds for the implementation of necessary projects to renovate worn out water systems, set up illiteracy classes, establish the necessary health care units for these villages, refurbish schools, and protect 250 km along the banks of the Nile from erosion. Measures to protect an area that is 100 km long will be implemented during the term of the project. In addition, irrigation canals and streams in these villages will be cleaned up, and the Nile will be protected from pollution."

He said, "A committee chaired by Dr. Mahmud Abu-Zayd, president of the Water Research Center, will do the follow up on these projects, and experts from the Institute of Research on the Nile will do the follow up on

the implementation of the technical policy. These experts will work under the direction of Dr. Muhammad al-Mu'tasim, president of the institute, who prepared the necessary technical studies to curb erosion on the banks of the Nile and protect the land owned by small farmers from erosion."

IRAQ

Inflation Blamed on Economic Embargo

93AE0185A Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
19 Nov 92 p 3

[Article by Mustafa Mahdi Husayn of al-Basrah University: "Inflation in Iraq and the Need for Social Solidarity"]

[Text] It must be mentioned, for the purpose of emphasis, that inflation is an economic phenomenon to which no economy is immune. The main factors that cause inflation are manifested in an imbalance between supply and demand. Theories which talk about inflation causing factors attribute inflation essentially to the failure of supply to meet demand. At any rate, inflation that arises from demand, that is, demand-driven inflation, impacts goods and services. In demand-driven inflation the goods and services that make up the basis of supply are unable to cope with the forces which are generated by this demand. In cost-driven inflation demand for some factors of production is greater than the supply of these factors. Furthermore, an increase in the prices of these factors is balanced by the effort to increase their return to protect the real return from these factors, even in relative terms. As a concept, inflation is defined as a continuing increase in the general level of prices of all goods or all factors of production across the board.

At the present time inflation rates in the Iraqi economy are rising rapidly because of historic circumstances that are well-known and others which are unfolding. Such inflation rates, unprecedented in Iraq's contemporary history, were triggered by the unjust economic embargo that closed import and export outlets and had a clear and definite impact on the law of supply of locally manufactured and imported goods. This article will not address those factors, which joined forces with this situation to exacerbate inflation. And yet, a passing reference to them here would be useful.

One of the factors that we will allude to is this: The embargo is being imposed on Iraq at a time when the Iraqi economy was emerging from an eight-year war and fending off another one imposed on it by the coalition forces. In that war, virtually all of the forces of production were destroyed. This undoubtedly had a far-reaching effect on the production of commodities and contributed further to shrinking the supply of goods. On the other hand, the exceptional circumstances of the war, the Iraq-Iran war in particular, made it incumbent upon the country to mobilize a significant portion of its

resources for the military effort because the war posed a threat to the safety and unity of Iraq and the Iraqi people. Therefore, a large percentage of general spending was earmarked for defense purposes at the expense of producing goods for civilian purposes. Even the volume of imported consumer goods for civilian purposes was affected. These two factors joined forces with other factors, including the aforementioned historic factors of the Iraq-Iran war and the aggression that was carried out by 30 countries, to shrink the supply of goods further. This contrasted with the large flow of money from the government and from the various economic units throughout the economy as a whole. Together, all of these factors strengthened and increased demand for the supply of goods, which fell far short of demand especially because import activity, the traditional tool by means of which balance is achieved between supply and demand, was at a standstill.

The decisive role that expectations played as a factor in increasing consumer demand must not be overlooked. Consumer demand for goods grew. Consumers were hoarding goods for their own consumption, and speculators hoarded goods for resale purposes. Therefore, as the forces of demand gathered strength, that growth in demand fueled inflation. If we know that inflation affects everything in every market without exception and if we also know that under inflation prices rise everywhere, then we can understand that prices rise as a result of what may be described as one market reaction to another action. Given this inflation spiral, everybody wants to improve his condition at the expense of everybody else. People's profits will vary according to their income brackets and the source of their income: earned income or investment income. That is why the people who benefit the most are the speculators and property owners, while those who are hurt the most are people living on fixed incomes, who make up the vast majority of the population.

It may be said without any hesitation that the lack of social solidarity and the absence of a sense of community, which would make people willing to share the good and the bad to bring about this solidarity, fuels inflation further. And that entails more social consequences such as poverty, indigence, crime, and corruption, and it has an effect on security and on social relationships in the community. New ways of coping with all this emerge, as hatred and envy replace harmony and solidarity and people's desire to pay back those who were instrumental in their deprivation takes hold. Similar cases did occur, and history provides us with examples and incidents which are associated with such cases.

Because social solidarity is based on sharing, not monopolizing, individual conduct based on notions such as those of solidarity, temperance, satisfaction, and a willingness to accept reasonable profits reinforces the role of an economic policy and increases its effectiveness on economic activity. If we take into consideration the fact that resources are limited but people's needs are many, we realize that a monopoly held by one group and

discrepancies in people's incomes affect the extent to which other groups can satisfy their own needs. Members of society, therefore, can themselves contribute to the effort to make the economic policy more effective (the fiscal policy and the monetary policy in particular). This would weaken the expected negative consequences of inflation without disregarding the objectivity of economic laws.

Dr. Ibrahim Shihatah, an Arab economist, points out on page 114 of his book, *Al-Bank al-Duwali wa al-'Alam al-'Arabi* [The World Bank and the Arab World] (1990) that "Economic facts are ultimately stronger than administrative decisions." It should be known that every price increase is magnified in terms of the course of inflation because such price increases are thought to incur additional economic and social costs. Such price increases will undoubtedly affect other markets for goods and services, if only because of the fact that providers of these goods and services would not want to lose any advantage they had to start with or any advantage they had gained or strengthened as a result of inflation.

Monopoly, which is an obstinate foe for social solidarity, plays a decisive role in such circumstances. Goods become more scarce, and prices for these goods rise. We make no claim about saying anything that has not been said before in this regard when we say that monopoly is objectionable. It is criticized and prohibited by the prophetic tradition and by the provisions of Islamic law. The prophet made many decisive statements in that regard. In fighting this phenomenon, therefore, one must start with one self since a wave of price decreases would move quietly from one market to others. If that does not turn out to be the case, the state would have to take measures that would be expected to ensure a fair distribution of income and general justice for all since such measures are among its functions. In its confrontation with monopoly, the state uses its own means, which are first and foremost legal. After all, the state finds itself compelled to uphold the law to protect its citizens from any infringement on their rights. This is what citizens are always demanding. Also, all countries provide legal protection for consumers, and Iraq will not be the only exception to that among those countries.

General Husayn Kamil, Oil Minister Interviewed

93AE0184A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 18 Nov 92
p 6

[Interview with presidential adviser General Husayn Kamil Hasan and Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti by Bayan al-'Arid on occasion of first Iraqi Energy Conference; place and date not given]

[Text] Under the sponsorship of President and Leader Saddam Husayn, the first Iraqi Energy Conference has ended its two days of proceedings under the slogan: "Reducing energy and rationalizing its consumption

support the national economy." More than 300 scientific personalities and specialists in various energy fields participated.

At the conference, ALIF BA' had a chance to meet presidential adviser General Husayn Kamil Hasan, who opened the conference as the president's representative, and Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti to become acquainted with the most prominent problems engaging officials in the fields of energy exploitation and rationalization and with the imperialist conspiracy to prevent Iraq from continuing its pioneer role in maintaining an equitable oil market in the world.

General Husayn Kamil Hasan spoke about reasonable energy use: Is it rationalization? Or is it curbing the use of one energy source on the basis of expanding the use of other sources?

[Hasan] Reasonable use does not mean dispensing with the oil resource as a major energy source, but rationalizing it. Iraq is an energy-rich country. We have our ideas about optimal exploitation. The reality of current energy consumption, whether oil, gas, or electricity, requires rationalization. It has nothing to do with scarcity of oil or gas reserves, nor is it a call for austerity in consumption. Rather, it is a call for ending waste and misuse in the consumption of energy resources that depend mainly on crude oil and gas, which are a dwindling reserve.

Stopping waste and misuse in the consumption of energy resources is considered a civilized question that expresses advanced thinking and foresight. It is the realization of the words of President and Leader Saddam Husayn (may God preserve him), who said, "One of the last two barrels of oil produced in the world will be Iraqi." This statement means a great deal for oil policy in Iraq. It means making strenuous efforts to discover all the hydrocarbon resources in the country. It means following an optimal, reasonable policy in production, and it means serious effort to develop alternative energies. Electrical energy, for example: The 1990 contribution [of alternative energy] was about 19 percent of the country's total electrical energy, and it is expected to increase to 25 percent in the future. Water power must also be exploited; we must not let it go to waste without exploitation.

[Al-'Arid] In light of the continued imperialist conspiracy to curb Iraq's role in the oil field, how will Iraq continue its effective pioneer role in maintaining an equitable oil market not subject to American ambitions?

[Hasan] Since the beginning of the 1970's, the United States has endeavored to control energy affairs. The beginning of its effort was the war against OPEC [Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries]. To do this, the United States, with its Western allies, created the International Energy Agency in March 1974. By founding it, the United States entrenched the important fact that energy is the basis of the new international relations. America assumed the leadership of this trend to combat the OPEC countries. It executed the first link

of this conspiracy by having the International Energy Agency publish reports about a world energy crisis. These reports influenced the OPEC countries and other oil-producing countries and forced them to increase their production greatly. The United States and the other countries in the agency benefited from this game and stockpiled large quantities of oil. Then they started flooding the international oil market. They attained their goals of destabilizing the price structure and caused the revenues of oil-producing countries to drop to very low figures.

Afterward, the schemes of the American conspiracy took another dangerous line, when American officials with various responsibilities began talking about making resolute decisions to control the sources of Arab oil, especially in the Arabian Gulf region. Armed forces called "rapid intervention forces" were formed for this purpose. As part of the plot, they concocted the events of Kuwait and the dirty plot that followed, in which their henchmen in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait played a squalid role that led to the coming of fleets carrying American forces to take up a position and occupy the world's richest oil reserve area.

The attack did not develop overnight, but it will not curb Iraq's pioneering role. Iraq has an effective presence in the region, and it has a large and influential reserve. More importantly, Iraq has its clear national pan-Arab orientation and its freedom of decisionmaking.

Alternatives to Oil

[Al-'Arid] Mr. Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti, the minister of oil, answered the following question of ours: Was Iraq late in exploiting energy sources other than oil?

[Al-Hiti] Yes, we were late in using other energy sources than oil. This resulted from our reliance on oil because of its presence in large quantities and relatively low prices. This caused reliance on it for energy generation, in general, and caused us not to turn to other sources, such as the sun, electricity, and water. The latter kinds of energy must be developed in order to rely on them in the total energy use equation in Iraq.

There are strenuous efforts to use alternatives to oil for energy—ones that can be utilized intensively. Projects are now being implemented in this direction. God willing, their results will bear positive fruit.

[Al-'Arid] How long will the next stage of exploiting wasted energy last?

[Al-Hiti] We must plan for a relatively long period set at 25 years. With energy, we cannot plan for a period of five or 10 years. The best method of exploiting energy is long-term planning.

Changes in energy use in the world do not happen suddenly, but over many years. We in this country must prepare in advance for any changes in the world market.

The exploitation of energy resources is an important element in the future and in international politics.

Minister on Oil, Gas Production, Consumption

*93AE0181A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
22 Nov 92 p 8*

[Article by Salah al-'Abd: "Citizens To Get Fuel That Prevents Residue on Heater Wicks; Minister of Oil: No Winter Shortage of Either Oil or Liquefied Gas"]

[Text] Minister of Petroleum 'Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq reassured all citizens in Baghdad and the governorates that there will be no shortage of white petroleum [kerosene] or liquefied gas this current winter. He asserted in an exclusive interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH that the completion of most [government] drives to rehabilitate oil installations that were damaged as a result of the American-Atlantic aggression against Iraq, especially liquefied gas and kerosene producing facilities, and the return of such facilities to full productive capacity, has greatly contributed to considerable surpluses of the above two substances, as well as surpluses of all other petroleum products such as gasoline, gas, and diesel fuels.

He added that supplies of those substances greatly exceed consumer needs and that the Ministry of Petroleum, through its General Company for Petroleum Products Distribution, has taken the necessary measures to meet anticipated winter demand for both kerosene and liquefied gas and has stockpiled supplies that exceed demand, especially of kerosene. It has also provided the automotive means for the shipment and distribution of the two substances to citizens, not to mention the availability of a large number of fuel-packaging and gas-selling facilities.

He noted that the ministry has taken steps to increase the productive capacity of liquefied gas bottling facilities through comprehensive maintenance in preparation for the new season.

He explained that the General Company for Petroleum Products Distribution has established three main liquefied gas producing facilities in Baghdad's al-Taji, al-Dawrah, and al-Rasafah boroughs. It also maintains 14 others facilities throughout the country's governorates, each with a bottling capacity of 40,000 bottles per day.

The unfair siege has created a relative shortage of imported gas bottles, and the distribution company has therefore set about constructing and establishing manual facilities in regions of high population densities, each with a daily gas bottling capacity of between 6,000 and 20,000 bottles daily. Such facilities have been opened in al-Mashtal, with a capacity of 700 bottles a day, and in al-Hubaybah and in Saddam City, each with a capacity of 30,000 bottles per day. Bottling facilities were also established in al-Najaf, al-Muthanna, al-Basrah, and Maysan Governorates, as well as in the Hadithah region of al-Anbar Governorate.

Plans call for the construction of more such facilities throughout the country in order to utilize the existing supply of bottles to meet citizen demand for liquefied gas and therefore break the hold of the oppressive economic siege.

On the subject of kerosene, the minister underscored the ministry's drive to repair and rehabilitate all oil refineries damaged by the aggression and to operate smaller refineries at maximum capacity and relocate them closer to larger cities with high consumption patterns or with available pumping facilities. The productive capacities of such refineries currently exceed year-round consumption demand for all petroleum products, and especially for kerosene.

He added that the ministry is operating the hydrogenating units of larger rehabilitated refineries in order to treat the kerosene they produce and purify it of sulphur and other contaminants that cause solid deposits on kerosene heater wicks and cause harmful gases to be released, as was the case last year.

Minister Speaks About Transportation Crisis

*93AE0186A Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 19 Nov 92
p 2*

[Article by AL-'IRAQ correspondent: "Transport and Communications Minister at Press Conference; Causes and Treatments of Transportation Crisis, Telephone Distribution and Installation Process Discussed"]

[Text] President and Leader Saddam Husayn (God preserve him) has ordered that 59.5 million dinars be allocated to develop Iraq's railway sector. The president has granted the Ministry of Transport and Communications broad financial and administrative powers to develop the passenger transportation sector.

Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini announced this yesterday at a press conference. Giving details and figures, he reviewed the state of the ministry's activities and operations in the railway sector, the public passenger-carrying system, private and mixed transport, and telephone communications in Baghdad and the provinces. The directors general of these systems and sectors were present, along with representatives of mixed and private transportation and of the transportation union.

During the press conference, which was devoted to discussing the state of transportation and to practical ideas and proposals for solving the transportation crisis in Baghdad and between the capital and the provinces, the minister explained the nature of the efforts that workers in various transportation sectors have made and are making in cooperation with the Military Manufacturing Agency to repair and maintain various means of transportation despite the unjust blockade that the aggressor states have imposed on the country. In their dedication, they have found guidance in the fertile directives of the people's leader and teacher, heroic

President Saddam Husayn (God preserve him), during his meeting with Transport and Communications Ministry officials in the middle of last August.

The minister indicated that as part of a rebuilding campaign, units of the Transport Ministry and the Military Manufacturing Agency had successfully repaired 246 passenger cars, including 25 powered cars and 43 locomotives, and 3,160 baggage cars. This raised the transport capacity of the railways from 6,262 passengers a day to 14,488 passengers a day, with 18 daily train trips between Baghdad and the country's various provinces.

The minister of transport and communications discussed the ministry's successful efforts to repair various telephone exchanges damaged by NATO's brutal aggression. Twenty-one exchanges in Baghdad, with a capacity of 253,000 telephones, have been repaired. The aggression and damage to a large number of exchanges caused the loss of 46,000 telephone lines in Baghdad and 45,000 telephones in the country's other provinces. Nevertheless, the telephone company now has before it 280,000 applications from citizens to install new telephones [in Baghdad] and a similar number in the country's other provinces.

Regarding the state of the public passenger transportation system, Mr. 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini indicated that before the president's meeting, the system's capacity was 166,000 passengers a day. In light of the leader's directives and continued field work to repair damaged buses, the daily transport capacity has risen to 360,000 citizens a day by the public transportation fleet. He indicated that a field study by the Planning Ministry has shown that solving the transportation crisis with the public transportation system's bus fleet will require transporting 240 million citizens a year by means of 1,500 buses. Currently, the system owns only 500 buses. This requires that sympathetic citizens understand the causes of the crisis in light of the unjust blockade.

AL-'IRAQ had a thorough, objective discussion with the transport and transportation minister and the directors general about aspects of the transportation crisis and citizens' daily hardships in dealing with the public passenger bus system or with mixed and private buses. It suggested solutions through a number of proposals.

AL-'IRAQ called for a serious effort to discuss the reasons why drivers avoid working in the public passenger transportation system and why the system's drivers complain about work, especially about low wages, lack of health and medical care, unfair treatment, long work hours, and various other hardships. AL-'IRAQ stressed the importance of remedying the situation so as to guarantee that bus drivers abide by various rules and regulations aimed at providing the best service to citizens.

AL-'IRAQ also stressed that the passenger transportation system should respect the citizen's time. It should

set official bus departure and return times and abide by them, for most citizen complaints agree on the hardship of long waits.

AL-'IRAQ called for reviewing the deplorable conditions in private transportation garages. Citizens face hardship because bus owners do not adhere to the official price or the established route. They deal with citizens arbitrarily and impolitely in the absence of any effective role for representatives of the public passenger transportation system and the transportation union. This has led to charges by citizens that these two agencies are in complicity with bus drivers to exploit and mistreat citizens.

AL-'IRAQ exposed the ways of cheating and of shirking responsibility practiced by some telephone employees who are charged with repairing citizens' telephones and lines. Corruption and bribery have spread. These employees notify the various maintenance departments that they are repairing failures in citizens' lines without actually doing so. AL-'IRAQ indicated that maintenance stations and departments must take the initiative by telephoning the owners of failed telephones to confirm that their telephones have been repaired.

AL-'IRAQ suggested that the transport and communications minister take practical steps to facilitate the work of journalists by allocating a number of telephones to be distributed to journalists whom their departments need, regardless of their job titles, in direct coordination with the journalists' union. It also suggested reintroducing free transportation identification for journalists on public passenger transportation system buses. The transport and communications minister promised to study the two subjects and respond to them in order to serve the national information process in our heroic country.

During the conference, emphasis was placed on the importance of daily indoctrinating citizens to preserve the public passenger transportation system's buses and the stock of railway cars. Passengers should cooperate with the system's bus drivers by offering the smallest adequate coin. They should report bus drivers who have a bad attitude. Emphasis should be placed on offering the best service to citizens. Also, there should be emphasis on education to limit international telephone calls that cost the country hard currency.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini praised the responsible role of our national press in exposing errors and in boldly indicating breakdowns and everyday obstacles so as to correct them.

Babylonian, Chaldean Finds Reported

*93AE0183A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 18 Nov 92
pp 20-21*

["Rare Archaeological Finds; Building Along Saddam River": Director of the Bureau of Antiquities Dr. Qasim Radi Hanin interviewed by Fa'idah Kamil]

[Text] A brief was item printed in one of our local papers, containing a reference to the discovery of buildings and archaeological finds at a site along the third river, the Commander Saddam Husayn River, 565 meters long. These buildings and finds, which consist of statues, pottery, graves, and other things, go back to the Akkadian and Babylonian eras—ancient and modern—in addition to the Islamic period.

At the Bureau of Antiquities and Culture, we pursued the details of the item, and learned that the new archaeological sites did not turn up by chance during the third river excavations. Archaeologists have been engaged in work at these sites since late 1989, because this area is one of those covered by the archaeological survey process. Exploration work there since that time, and until the commencement of work on the third river in May 1992, included excavation at seven out of 14 sites and a number of sites in the river's path.

A New Addition

Dr. Mu'ayyad Sa'id, director general of the Bureau of Antiquities and Culture and scientific supervisor of the Archaeological Commission, which oversees the exploration work, described the discoveries so far as representing a significant new addition to the history of the ancient Iraqi humankind that had inhabited the region. Excavations had provided new aspects of the details of daily life at the time.

Dr. Sa'id did not neglect to point out the nature of the exceptional work done by the 150-person working team. Due to the working conditions at the Third River excavations, extended work hours were needed—12 hours a day—to make the most of the time discrepancy between the modern equipment used in implementing the river's course and [that of] the archaeological excavation work to ensure that there would be no conflict between the work of the project implementation commissions and the carrying out of the excavations at the team's work-sites remaining in the path of the canal digging in the Dalmaj area (the middle sector of the river).

Hard, Fruitful Work

Hard, tireless, daily work in difficult climatic conditions like no other ever experienced by excavation trips required the delay of the canal excavation. In the face of this situation, the working team had to complete the exploration of every site before the excavating work came along.

Commission President Qasim Radi Hanin, speaking of the difficulty of the work, said that it did not hinder the digging of the canal, adding with a smile: "I may say that when our work came at the same time as the digging of the canal, we challenged ourselves to work just as hard as the workers who began the digging of the third river—and I think we succeeded."

[Kamil] May we know the details of what was discovered in your explorations?

[Hanin] To begin with, I must explain that the archaeological survey and exploration works in the general area had shown, tangibly, that there was an ancient, obliterated riverbed located on the banks of the elevations and archaeological settlements. The fact is that the Euphrates River, in its first phase, entered the land of Sumer after passing through the land of Babylon, passing through Nippur, or "Nifir," west of 'Ifik, and ended in the cities of Ur and Eridu, the famous religious city.

What is of interest to us here is the I-Thur-Ariku River, which branches out from the right of the Euphrates River about 25 km north of Nifir, sloping east into the land known today as the land of al-Jazirah, where all the archaeological sites slated for elimination by the course of the river canal are located. Then the river flows south to water the lands of Amarah—"Uma"—and its famous capital, whose ruins are known by the name Tal Jukhah, and from Amarah—"Lagash" or "Kirsu," whose ruins are known today by the name of the site, "Tallu." After that, it flows again into the Euphrates, covering 130 km, to water the lands it flows through, especially the fertile Kudinak region.

[Kamil] Doesn't it seem that the growth of the cities and villages you discovered occurred because of the riverbed?

[Hanin] That is true. On the other hand, the riverbed was the cause or one of the causes of its obliteration, after its people emigrated as a result of the flooding of most of it—as the explorations showed.

Village Houses

Exploration of the first stratum of archaeological sites revealed buildings dating from the Islamic era, at kilometers 310, 318, and 306 of the river.

Here, Hanin told us: "The explorations included roomy houses that were precise in their construction and their method of distribution. The explorations also turned up earthenware jars inside the rooms of the houses."

He added: "It appears that the wooden materials used for the roofs and doors disintegrated and were consumed gradually by the passage of time."

As for the strata of about 247 BC, confined to the kilometers 292 and 310 sites, the explorations revealed portions of fully realized houses, which are without doubt a continuation of the simplest type of village houses. It is believed, with studies of the explorations, that their roofs were covered and supported by palm tree trunks and bands of palm fronds covered with mud. In this, their appearance resembles the peasant houses of today!

The work of the commission's working team also brought to light the two-handled jars discovered at these two sites, short and handsomely shaped jars with two conic parts and glazed white drinking bowls, in addition to ceramic seals used to seal pottery. Splendid chests

were also discovered, smooth with straight side walls. The commission president described them as having the same distinguishing features: a rounded narrow end, a wide end, and a shoe-shaped base.

The chests contained a human form whose head and shoulders fit the shape of the chest, with or without a lid, made of exquisite, fragile green ceramic, with a blue or green irregular glaze, and decorated on the outside with bas relief drawings of a woman holding up her hair or perhaps a bundle of ears of grain, with the same picture repeated in miniature. The sides of the chest are worked with drawings of men wearing trousers and holding swords.

Other Sites

The explorations of the working team from the Scientific Commission is continuing to explore deeply into other strata of virgin land, specifically the ancient Babylonian layers at sites at kilometers 310, 294, 292, and 276. The commission made it clear that the settlement period of the first stratum, Isan Larsa, 1993-1773 BC, was followed by a second stratum whose people then were ruled by Babylon, known as the Kassite stratum (1600-1100 BC). The stratum that followed the destruction of Senacherib of the city of Babylon may be called the Babylonian-Assyrian stratum because of the Assyrian influence on the arts, which is reflected in the archaeological finds—statues and pottery of the first third of the first millennium BC. There is no clear demarcation between the characteristics of the Babylonian and Assyrian strata, which was authoritatively and powerfully differentiated from the stratum after it.

[Kamil] What was discovered in the ancient Babylonian strata?

[Hanin] Many features of daily life in that period were discovered. Baked brick fragments and light-colored pieces of brick from houses whose brick walls were constructed upon foundations made of baked brick. We find this method of architecture only rarely in subsequent strata.

Large jars, 40 cm high, were also found in these strata. The jars have slender oval shapes, short cylindrical necks, and no bases. It is believed that these jars were used as gourds for chilling drinking water in those days, as is the case in the present day. We note that they are supported on wooden or iron bases, with dishes underneath to gather overflowing water.

Other finds include a collection, recently discovered, of tools made from stone, such as hammering and chafing stones, and thick stone rings, 15 cm in diameter, possibly used as weights—to make weaving threads taut or for fishing nets.

Some remarkable grave trinkets were necklaces of blue beads and others of the famous Sulaymaniyah stone. Trinkets in the form of copper pins were found, as well as ivory spirals and rings without any engraving. There

were statues of familiar shapes in the Babylonian excavation sites in Iraq, in addition to the discovery of part of a pottery chariot (a model of a battle chariot), resembling an Assyrian chariot, though closely linked in time to Babylonian chariots, considered one of the unique finds of the sites with Babylonian strata.

Mud Tablets With Cuneiform Script

Once again the ruins at the new site along the Commander Saddam Husayn River direct us to buildings representing models of residential homes. This time they were of type somewhat different from what came before. The Akkadian strata (2350-2180 BC), which followed the Babylonian, made that clear. We know the extent of the ruins of the strata at kilometers 311 and 276: houses built of unbaked brick on baked brick foundations and containing a collection of rooms around an open court. Many clay tablets, covered with cuneiform script, were also discovered at these two sites. The commission considered them rare finds because of the information about various aspects of ancient Iraqi civilization (economic, administrative, technical, and artistic), as well as information about daily life that they will reveal after laboratory treatment.

Cylinder seals of black stone and two kinds of graves were discovered: one type of grave consisted of brick and mud, and the other type in the form of two jars, each sealing the opening of the other after the corpse was put in. The shape of the jars varied. Skeletons were discovered inside them, along with beads that had been necklaces. There were also duck-shaped units of weight made of hematite and two daily implements—the first, a “timer” for drawing off water or a drain made of pottery and placed in the form of cylindrical ceramic rings one over the other, covered on top by a half jar with a round opening with relatively wide holes for the purpose of draining water into the deep soil.

The second type of implement, it appears, was for daily use—a baking pit for preparing bread. A number of them were discovered. They are shaped like cylinders with openings a meter in diameter and were implanted at floor level in the rooms after the floors were slightly dug out.

[Kamil] What is after the Akkadian layer?

[Hanin] We reached the task of exploration and completed it by reaching the sand and mud layers, which brought up riverwater. Exploration at these levels showed that the region was uninhabited and that periods of settlement in it were sporadic.

Merchants Called Ungrateful, Greedy

93AE0180A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
22 Nov 92 p 8

[Commentary by Ghazi al-'Ayyash: “Rabbits in Our Markets?”]

[Text] We still remember what our families did to us when we were young, when we strayed from the right path that had been set out for us or repeated our error. They used to grip our ears tightly and tell us the story of how they put the dog's tail between two wooden boards for 40 days, and when they freed it, it was still crooked! We recalled this story as we watched the markets over the last two days, after merchants were granted the favor of the 20-day extension for selling banned goods—some merchants and warehouse owners are going back to their greed and exploitation! Without their consciences awakening to acknowledge the right of the nation and the people to prove their good intentions! "Halimah and her old habits," as they say when goods for sale saw a huge price rise in the last two days, reaching more than 60 percent for some goods and 100 percent for others, at a time when the people were waiting for the merchants to show a sympathetic attitude because they had been covered by an extension for offering banned goods. But lo and behold, they get into a race of revenge against the people, exploiting circumstances in the most obscene way. Even worse, their lying banners still said, "Monopoly Broken," and "Real Reductions." Compassion and sincerity are no longer found among these rabbits, now that they have made their fate incompatible with the rights of citizenship and the interests of the people. They coordinate, one way or another, with the enemy to tighten its blockade in the past two years, while they raise prices on their goods inside the country every time the American and NATO ships intensify their blockade on the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah, the only point of access we have for goods! They raise their prices or hide their goods when the Security Council decides to extend its oppressive sanctions against us! Or when they are told to by the Voice of America, and London, and [Radio] Monte Carlo! They tighten the noose around the neck of the people with an American cowboy's lasso—the rise of the dollar! Before the time extension, they cried and spoke the language of valid citizenship and shed crocodile tears over the losses they would suffer. The state should remember them, as Iraqi citizens—an attribute they disowned over the last two years, when they practiced exploitation and greed against their people—"breaking bones," as they say. To fill their pockets with millions after grinding poverty, to stuff their bellies after famine—all this without their hearing the voices of the people who were crying for help and who were suffering from the unjust sanctions, just as they did not hear the demands that the right of citizenship claims upon them! The monitoring of the markets by the Ministry of Commerce and concerned agencies, and the taking of deterrent measures against those who exploit the favor and raise the prices of their goods higher than they were, even before the decision banning the goods was issued, happened in the last two days. The merchants will raise them higher if there is no strong deterrent to stop them where they are. Otherwise, a decision must be enacted to dispossess errant merchants, who exploit the people in this extension period!

Believe us—they are rabbits and will never be anything but rabbits.

JORDAN

Political Parties Unveil Platforms

Islamic Action Front

93AE0170A Amman AL-RIBAT in Arabic 11 Nov 92
p 6

[Excerpts] [passage omitted]

Party principles:

Proceeding from the lawful duty of upholding the word of God and carrying out the task of promoting good and shunning evil, and supporting Islam;

In view of the current developments in the Arab and Islamic arena, in general, and of what political action in Jordan is experiencing, in particular;

In recognition of the need to stand in the face of the cultural challenge our nation is encountering, which represents a serious stage of colonialism that aims at preventing Islam from realizing its lofty culture and preserving its identity and which is putting obstacles in the path of Islam so as to prevent it from leading the nation in accordance with God's laws and liberating the entire of humanity;

Realizing the gravity the Jewish presence represents, its occupation of Palestine, and its desecration of our land and holy places, and out of loyalty to our martyrs' blood that has drenched the Jordanian land in defense of Palestine and Jordan, and in order to inculcate in the nation the spirit of comprehensive jihad;

Believing in the role of Islam in fulfilling devotion to God the almighty and genuine affiliation to the nation and Islam's distinctive method of molding the good citizen;

Proceeding from the need to devote the energies of those advocating Islam in this good country, including bodies, groups, organizations, institutions, and individuals;

In order to clarify the entire political situation on the international, Arab, and Islamic levels;

In order to achieve Islamic reality in all the educational, political, economic, and social aspects;

In confirmation of political activity that is committed to Islamic morals and values, and in order to activate political efforts in building and in moving toward the implementation of the Islamic laws on the common objectives;

In view of all that, it has become necessary to establish the Islamic Front Action Party consisting of persons

committed to the party objectives as individuals and who meet the membership qualifications as stipulated in this statute.

Article 1: Party objectives and purposes

The party's general objectives:

From a strategic standpoint, the party is striving to achieve the following major goals and general objectives:

- Resuming Islamic life in society and applying Islamic laws in the various fields of life.
- Contributing to building the nation morally and materially, implementing the Arab and Islamic renaissance plan, preparing the nation for the jihad against the Zionist and colonialist enemies, serving the Palestine problem within its Arab and Islamic context, and seeking to liberate it from its Zionist usurpers.
- Striving for the unity and freedom of the nation and resisting colonialist and foreign influence.
- Consolidating national unity and reinforcing the consultative and democratic system and defending man's dignity, rights, and freedoms in general.
- Caring for the people's daily life and concerns and developing the society from an Islamic precept.

The party's principles:

In light of the aforementioned objectives, the party is particularly striving to build and develop Jordanian society and achieve the following goals:

- Realizing the principle of responsible freedom for all, consolidating the mainstays of consultation and democratic practices, ensuring political pluralism, protecting human rights as defined by Islam, and drawing the necessary legislation to ensure such freedom on the basis of respecting the Constitution and the rule of law.
- Encouraging dialogue with all of the political factions in order to ensure protection of democracy, cooperation in serving the citizens, and defending the homeland's security, stability, and prosperity.
- Guaranteeing the freedom of thought and expression for all citizens and equality in the use of the media, laying down independent media policies that stem from our the nation's heritage and characteristic, and guiding the media in serving the nation's basic issues.
- Strengthening the people's unity in order to protect the homeland and ensure its stability, and combating racist, regionalist, tribal, and sectarian tendencies that threaten unity.
- Seeking to establish the Jordanian economy on the basis of Islamic principles of social justice, respect for private property, and equal work opportunities; and working to develop resources, exploit potential assets, raise the value of honest work, and combat corruption, extravagance, and unemployment.
- Preparing the nation to face the dangers threatening it, and defending the creed and the homeland by imbuing the spirit of jihad in the nation.

- Supporting the armed forces and providing them with modern equipment and hardware so they are able to fulfill their role in protecting the homeland and defending its territories and sanctities, and supporting the security organs so that they will be able to ensure the freedom of the citizens and maintain the country's security and stability.
- Combating political, administrative, and financial corruption in the state and purging the state's organs; carrying out the necessary reforms in order to establish these organs on a sound and strong basis capable of facing contemporary challenges; and strengthening the state's civil service in order to boost the efficiency of state employees so that they will serve the citizens with honesty, efficiency, and impartiality.
- Respecting the woman's status, her legitimate rights, and her role in developing the society, within the framework of Islamic virtues; giving her the opportunity to participate in public life; and creating opportunities for the emergence of female political leadership.
- Stressing the importance of the family and its structure on a sound basis so that it will fulfill its role in a strong society dominated by affection, love, caring for motherhood, and caring for children in order to ensure that society is provided with children that are physically, mentally, and spiritually sound.
- Providing special care for the youth of both sexes by surrounding them with the appropriate environment within a framework of Islamic morals; enhancing the role of national institutions that care for the youth, such as schools, universities, and sports, cultural, and social clubs; and directing the youths' efforts toward playing a role in construction, charity, and social projects; and training them to exercise consultation and democracy in those institutions.
- Persistently striving to achieve comprehensive Arab unity, taking into consideration the principle of enlightenment, gradation, and consolidation of the basis of Islamic solidarity, which in the long term will lead to the unity of the Islamic nation.
- Preparing the nation for the continuing resistance to world Zionism and those who support it on the grounds that Palestine is the heart of the Islamic and Arab nation. The Palestine problem is the responsibility of the Arabs and Muslims, with the Palestinian people being in the forefront of struggle for the liberation of the entire Palestinian soil. The usurping Jewish entity may not be recognized.
- Supporting fair Arab, Islamic, and humanitarian issues.
- Propagating the Islamic culture and deepening Islamic consciousness in the nation with all the legitimate means in order to consolidate the unified intellectual and ideological base.
- Supporting the religious institutions and propagating the message of the mosque as an active and effective institution; promoting the standard of religious call and guidance; and taking interest in the role of the advocate of Islam in dealing with the other cultures and civilizations.

- Providing freedom of religion for everybody; realizing cooperation and harmony among members of the society in serving the homeland and the nation; and protecting the religious and moral values.

Article 2: Means and methods:

In order to achieve its general and specific objectives, the Islamic Action Front shall, within the context of commitment to Islamic religious and moral values, pursue the following means and methods:

- Organizing public action in the various issues concerning the nation within an Islamic framework with the aim of increasing conscious popular participation in building the homeland and defending it against dangers.
- Delivering lectures and holding seminars, conferences, public meetings, and rallies.
- Publishing books, bulletins, newspapers, and magazines and establishing the institutions and cadres necessary for this purpose.
- Establishing scientific and specialized centers in order to prepare researches and studies necessary for the implementation of the front's objectives.
- Taking interest in youth clubs, cultural centers, and sports and scout activities that care for the well-being of the youth.
- Taking interest in trade unions and cooperating with them in serving the nation, raising the unions' standard, and serving those who belong to them in all the fields.
- Preparing draft laws in order to amend existing legislation through democratic channels in a manner consistent with the front's objectives.
- Dealing with the governments in light of the party's objectives and adopting stands that will achieve these objectives, whether from an opposition stance or through participation, in a manner that will serve the homeland's interest and stability.
- Involving the party in all the fields of public action, both on the local and national level; seeking to imbue the public action institutions with the enlightened spirit of Islam so that they will be capable of carrying out their mission in the best manner through taking part in municipal, parliamentary, trade union and other elections; and seeking to participate in the establishment of executive bodies.

Awakening Party

93AE0179B Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Nov 92
p 4, 11

[Excerpts] Political parties that are deeply rooted in ancient democracies are nationalist reform parties. These parties adopt public ideas that represent the essence of human thought through the ages. They aim at laying down reform programs in the political, social, and economic fields that are suitable for the needs of the nation and develop as the nation and its interests develop. These parties do not espouse totalitarian ideas according which they try literally to mold the nation and

the country. Rather, they are sensitive to the countries' needs and aspirations, which they spell out in programs that are suitable for the existing conditions and situations and in which all the party members participate. Also, those programs benefit from every ingenious nationalist thought, regardless of the political affiliation of the source of the thought. These realistic programs represent the party's commitment to the citizens when it assumes power or participates in it. They avoid rhetorical, general, and vague slogans.

We believe that the future of party activity within the framework of democracy, freedom, and the rule of the law is for nationalist reform parties. But this question needs more time and effort so that we can get rid of the stereotyping that has afflicted the thinking of most of us to the extent that our debate centers on abstract theorizing, parochial views, casting doubts on practical views, and detracting from their importance or levelling charges against their originators.

The ideal nationalist reform party is the one that can cope with the requirements of this stage and look ahead to the future. It should have several characteristics and qualities, most important of which are:

First, it should be a people's party. In other words, it should emerge from the people who really suffered, whose first interest lies in democracy. The party should represent the people's will and be consistent with its objectives and aspirations. The parties that rule from above and that are established or nurtured by ruling authorities or by the elite are bound to fail and will vanish after they serve the purpose for which they have been created. They represent only the interests of those who think themselves to be the elite or the chosen ones or the guardians of the people because of their official positions, wealth, or social status.

Second: A party should be democratic:

A party should believe in democracy and in ideological and political plurality. It should believe in the rule of the law and struggle for the sake of creating every opportunity possible for the emergence of diverse views in an atmosphere free of conflict, friction, or exchange of accusations.

A party should be committed to democracy in its organizational structure. It should be founded on a system of gradual advancement to the top and direct election. It should be devoid of hegemony, attempts at containment, and domination. That a party believes in democracy is not determined simply by citing the provisions of its statutes. Rather, this should be judged by its actions within its own organizations and within the society. A handful of select people came up with plans to create parties before the law on parties was approved. They selected all those who came forward for the leadership posts, promulgated ideas and programs, and then went down to the popular base, seeking to win followers, not partners, and sometimes seeking adherents and supporters in return for self-serving promises.

Third: A party should be nationalist:

In other words, a party should emanate from Jordanian territory and should enhance the Jordanian identity with the aim of building and protecting this homeland, preserving its security, safeguarding its stability, and consolidating its national unity. On one hand, it should shun regional insularity, but it should avoid going beyond the reality of the homeland and its interest, on the other hand. The national identity, which we call for strengthening, is an absolute right for every Jordanian, wherever he was born or wherever his fathers were born and whatever his religion or race is, without discrimination between men and women. We believe that this homeland is part of the Arab nation. The citizen embodies its aspirations for unity. Denying the citizen the right to his identity and individuality is unjust at a time when totalitarian parties are theorizing about national identity and characteristics in the other Arab countries. Our call for consolidating national identity represents a categorical rejection of all regionalist advocacy that has begun to find favorable reaction and receptive ears under the pretext of self-defense or defending the gains. We believe that regionalism, regardless of the guise it is wearing, represents a candid call for the destruction of this beloved country and for implementing the designs of the enemies of the Arab countries, conspiring against their destiny, and hindering their unity. We believe that any call for regionalism will inevitably lead to a counterregionalist call. This will not only result in the country becoming divided into two parts, it will also aggravate the situation in every direction. The country will become divided into different sectarian, regional, racial, and communal parts.

Fourth: A party should support unity:

A party should employ every means possible to reinforce the trend toward Arab unity. We believe that Arab nationalism is a deep-rooted reality that guarantees the protection, the existence, and the development of the nation. The struggle for unity is the cornerstone of the path to unity, and no activity or action at the state level should stand in the way of achieving it. At the same time, we believe that democracy is the ideal way for unified action through cooperation between parties in the various countries on the basis of equality and justice, and not by the ruling parties infiltrating the Arab countries. We believe that the unification of culture and interests in a gradual manner that takes into consideration the interests of the countries and the nation is the ideal way to reunite the nation so that work for the establishment of unity becomes easier and smoother.

Fifth: A party should be credible:

A party should deal with the people with total commitment and absolute credibility. It should propagate its ideas and programs openly and clearly. It should be committed to those ideas and programs in all circumstances, whether while in power or outside it. It should not appeal to the masses by raising grandiose slogans

with no substance or tailor its stands according to situations, because such stands may be contradictory or difficult to fulfill. We believe that a party that is true to itself does not know absolute loyalty or absolute opposition. Rather, it evaluates every situation according to its views and programs and declares its support or opposition unequivocally and without fear.

Six: A party should be self-financing:

A party should be financed by its members in order to ensure the party's freedom in forming its own views and determine its stands, free of any foreign influence or blackmail. There are countries, parties, and foreign organizations that have been and are still trying to infiltrate this country by forming parties that are outwardly Jordanian but actually are subject to their guidance by providing them with material and media support. National capitalism, which fears a democratic atmosphere, is trying to distort the views of the masses by buying votes or by using the means of propaganda available to them to influence voters or by creating organizations behind which they hide to protect their interests, which mostly clash with the interest of the masses.

We believe that all these qualities and characteristics are found in our organization that aims at stimulating a comprehensive awakening movement based on conscious ideological principles of social, economic, and political reform. We believe in laying down comprehensive reform programs that will meet society's needs and develop with them, that will express the people's views, interact with their aspirations, and consider every active citizen in this field a major partner with us, although he might not yet have filed an application form.

Phosphate Exports Last Year Up 5 Percent Over 1991

93P40089A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
5 Jan 93 p 10

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian Phosphate Company has announced that its exports last year were 5 percent higher than they were in 1991. The company's exports totaled 4.3 million tons in 1992, an increase of approximately 20,000 tons over 1991's exports.

The company also announced that production in 1992 totaled 5.2 million tons, approximately 400,000 tons more than the previous year.

Company manager Thabit Tahir said that the value of phosphate and fertilizer sales in 1992 was 3.5 million Jordanian dinars.

KUWAIT

Voting, Political Rights for Women Discussed

93AE0201A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
2 Dec 92 p 53

[Article by Jasim al-Shimari: "A New Political Debate: Do Kuwaiti Women Have the Right To Vote?"]

[Text] Although Hamad al-Ju'an, a member of Kuwait's National Assembly, submitted a bill that would have made the participation of Kuwaiti women in the elections permissible, it is not likely that support for this bill will be gained, given current conditions. After all, Islamic blocs have a majority in parliament. Ahmad Baqir, secretary of the National Assembly, told AL-MAJALLAH that he thought it would be better not to drag women into politics because dragging them into politics would give them the right to vote and to serve in the cabinet, and voting and serving in the cabinet are general functions of government that are prohibited to women by the canonical laws of Islam. Baqir added that denying women the right to vote was constitutional.

On the other hand, observers expect members of the Constitutional Movement to support giving women the right to vote but not the right to run for office. They attribute that to the past experiences of different countries, including Algeria. Observers even go so far as to affirm that a large number of people who are independent of the tribal tendency will ultimately support giving women the right to vote. By comparison, a number of liberals and few independents support giving women that right with no restrictions. Assembly member 'Abd-al-Muhsin Jamal expressed that point of view when he said, "I have been a supporter of this bill since 1981 when it was presented by Ahmad al-Tukhaym, a former member of the Assembly." Speaking about what he envisioned for the bill, Jamal said he expected the bill giving women the right to vote to be approved by only a slim majority because Assembly members could be subjected to strong pressure from mainstream reactions to such a measure.

This question was stirred up once again when a group of female students in the College of Islamic Law at Kuwait University filed a petition that was signed by more than 200 female students. The women denounced actions that called for giving women the right to vote. They called for denying women the right to vote because giving women that right would contradict Islamic law and expose Kuwait to evil and corruption. The Society of Islamic Law and Islamic Studies appealed to the National Assembly to avoid haste in deciding this matter, which it characterized as being contradictory to Islamic law. All this happened after a petition was presented to the speaker of the National Assembly by a group of Kuwaiti women whose demand for political fairness provoked the denunciation that was issued by the female students of Islamic law.

Dr. 'Ujayl al-Nashami, dean of the College of Islamic Law at Kuwait University thinks that parliamentary work is not suitable for women. He goes on to say that women should not be permitted to run for office but that they may be permitted to vote, if their vote is seen as a recommendation for someone they think will represent them well. Women may be permitted to vote after controls are put in place. They can then exercise that right without violating the provisions and ethics of the law.

In this regard, the delegation of women that called for political rights for women during a meeting with the speaker of the National Assembly was attacked by a journalist who described the delegation as half a delegation. The journalist pointed out that half of the women in that delegation were not Kuwaiti. On the other side, Muhammad Musa'id al-Salih wrote an article that argued that giving women the right to vote was necessary. He said that adopting the women's petition would be meaningless because the women who opposed giving women the right to vote could refrain from exercising that right. Al-Salih also said: "I will wager that those who are objecting to giving women the right to vote will be among the first to exercise that right when it is approved."

The story of Kuwaiti women demanding political rights is an old one. The issue was discussed in Kuwait for the first time in the National Assembly in 1973 at the request of Nuriyah al-Sadani, chairwoman of the Supreme Committee for the Arab Woman's Day in Kuwait. The demand for political rights was made repeatedly after that date, and in 1977 the first written document in that regard was presented by 395 Kuwaiti women to the present amir of Kuwait, who was crown prince and prime minister at that time. One of the most prominent women calling for women's political rights is Dr. Rasha al-Sabah, director of the political department in the amir's office. She was the one who pointed out at a press conference last April that it was the National Assembly that has opposed the women's demands, while the political leadership has been supporting them all along. She emphasized that there was no constitutional barrier to the participation of Kuwaiti women in the voting process, and she indicated that the only thing that is keeping women from exercising the right to vote is one article in the Voting Act, which can easily be changed by parliament. That view was shared by Dr. 'Adil al-Tabataba'i, former dean of the College of Law, who said: "There is no need to amend the Constitution. The Assembly's consent to amending the voting act is all that would be required for women to vote."

Dr. Rasha al-Sabah talked about the establishment of a parliamentary committee that would be set aside for women. The committee would be affiliated with the National Assembly, and its members would be elected in a free and open election. The committee would be chaired by one of its members, and its meetings would be held separately from those of the Assembly. The minutes of the committee's meetings would be discussed in the

National Assembly. Rasha al-Sabah talked about this in a lecture she gave last April at one of the weekly gatherings she hosts.

Political rights for women will be debated extensively in Kuwait during the coming period. As we said earlier, it is not likely that the decision to give women their political rights will be approved. If it is, those political rights will be limited to voting and will not include the right to run for office.

MOROCCO

Economic Activity Distribution Nationwide

93AF0273B Rabat ALMAGHRIB in French 9 Dec 92
p 3

[Article by A.B.: "Unequal Distribution Throughout Country"]

[Text] Licensed businesses are distributed unequally throughout Morocco. The greatest concentration is found in the Central economic region, which has a third of the total number. These businesses employ 46 percent of all workers required to have licenses. As one moves away from this region, the number of establishments decreases until one finally reaches the Center-South, where they make up only 7.43 percent of the total.

Casablanca: Center of Country's Economic Activity

The Central economic region has 126,992 licensed businesses, with 89,901 in the wilaya of Casablanca alone. This means that over one-fifth of the country's businesses are found in Casablanca, with the exception of the chemical and parachechemical branch, only 3.57 percent of which are in Casablanca.

This city has 36 percent of the country's banking institutions and insurance companies. It also has 30 percent of all textile and leather enterprises, 27 percent of the building and public works (BTP) establishments, and 22 percent of all trade.

However, it should be noted that only 1 percent of the businesses in the country's economic capital have over 50 employees. The rest are small enterprises, 95 percent having fewer than 10 employees. It should also be pointed out that 22.68 percent of all businesses in Casablanca employ no one (the owner runs his company by himself). Outside of the Greater Wilaya but still in the same economic region, the number of licensed businesses comprises one-third of the region's total.

These establishments are unevenly distributed over the provinces. For example, Settat has 9,438 enterprises, Khouribga 9,060, El Jadida 9,032, Beni-Mellal 8,099, Azilal 4,448, and finally, Benslimane, with only 1,590 units. Regardless of the fact that commercial activity remains predominant, followed by transportation and repairs, agricultural activity appears to be the region's

leading activity. Furthermore, in Khouribga and El Jadida, mineral and chemical and parachechemical activities are profitable. By way of example, records of businesses subject to the tax on licenses show that any enterprise operating in the metallic minerals branch employs 1,606 persons by itself.

Far From 'Center,' Economic Activity Drops

As one moves away from the so-called Central economic region, economic activity drops. For example, the Northwestern economic region has 21.45 percent of the country's licensed establishments, which employ 18.64 percent of all labor subject to licensing.

They are distributed as follows: 14,307 in Rabat; 13,767 in Tangiers; 11,445 in Tetouan; 11,247 in Kenitra; 9,451 in Sale; 7,142 in Khemisset; 6,751 in Sidi Kacem; 6,421 in Larache; 2,051 in Chaouen; and finally, 1,545 in Temara-Skhirat Province.

In the economic region of Tensift, the number of businesses drops to 48,195, representing 12.29 percent of the country's total and employing 106,612 persons, or 11.56 percent of all licensed workers in Morocco, predominantly in the agrofood and mining and energies branches.

For its part, the Center-North has 39,019 or 9.95 percent of all licensed establishments, employing 7.83 percent of all licensed labor in the country. Some 24,185 enterprises, 62 percent of all businesses in this region, are in Fes. They employ 55,599 workers, meaning that 77 percent of the total number of licensed employees in the Center-North region work in Fes.

If one moves South, the number of businesses drops to 35,218 and they employ only 6.38 percent of the country's licensed workers.

Lodging and restaurants total 2,434 establishments, while textiles and leather has 1,595 and chemistry and parachechemistry 1,579.

Agadir alone has 15,453 businesses, comprising 44 percent of all licensed establishments in the southern region and 65 percent of all labor. Taroudant has 6,798 businesses, Tiznit 5,281, Ouarzazate 4,882, Guelmim-Tantan Province 2,594, and finally, Tata, with only 613.

Oriental has 29,551 establishments, 7.53 percent of all licensed businesses in Morocco, employing 44,815 or 4.86 percent of all licensed workers, including 6,203 in mining and energy.

Oujda has 17,943 businesses and Nador 10,054.

Finally, in Center-South, the Tax Directorate has recorded 29,161 businesses, 7.43 percent of Morocco's total, employing only 43,536 individuals, 5,345 of them in textile-leather and 2,666 in mining and energy.

SUDAN

Reports Discuss Today's Sudanese Army

Reorganization Planned

93AF0203A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
24 Nov 92 pp 36-39

[Article by Muhammad Ahmad al-Hasan: "What Future for the Sudanese Army? Secret Plan To Break It Up, Replace It With Republican Guard and People's Army"]

[Excerpts] The Army is the nerve of political and military life in Sudan. From it emerged all the changes that took place in the ruling authority from the 'Abbud era to the present, and all eyes now turn to it after the many changes that have befallen it.

AL-MAJALLAH has received information from inside the Sudanese military establishment that a plan to liquidate the Sudanese Army is entering its final phases now and will be fully implemented by the end of this year, when two-thirds of the current officer corps will be retired for reasons involving lack of loyalty to the government, unwillingness to prosecute the war, and lack of enthusiasm for fighting.

Two armored brigades will be eliminated, and most troops in the signal, engineering, and supply corps and in the medical corps will be discharged. As a first installment, 3,400 soldiers have already been removed, and dismissals are to take place in successive installments without announcement.

On the other hand, the 7th Armored Division, under the command of Revolutionary Command Council member Major Ibrahim Shams-al-Din, is the nucleus of the new army. The entire division will be composed of [National Islamic] Front (NIF) cadres. In addition, an Iraqi-style Republican Guard will be formed. The capital then will be emptied of all weapons, thus securing the regime's back from any military coup.

It has been reported in Khartoum that Dr. 'Isa Bashari, who received military training in Iran, was appointed general commander of the armed forces in the south of Sudan in preparation for the expected summer offensive.

But how was the Sudanese Army formed, and how did it reach its present state?

Colonial Period

[Passage omitted] After Sudanese independence and the great development that the armed forces witnessed because of their control of power for more than two-thirds of the post-independence years, there occurred what can be termed a development or disturbance of the principles by which these forces were constituted. The proviso that officers be sons of tribal leaders disappeared, and free competition became the basis for entering the Military War College. The composition of the lower ranks no longer adhered to the rules of tribal

balance or appointment on a geographic basis. Consequently, the majority of soldiers (85 percent) were westerners or southerners, and more than half of them were non-Muslims. A majority of them certainly were not from Arab tribes. By the same token, the ratio could be reversed: 85 percent of the officers were from Arab tribes, though of course they were not sons of leaders of tribes and large clans.

Nevertheless, the Sudanese Army, whose war college was founded in 1948, modeled itself after the British college Sandhurst and conformed to its programs and traditions. Discipline, blind obedience, and absolute loyalty to the high command at all levels were among the most important traits on which the Sudanese Army, and, before it, the Sudan Defense Force, grew: what was called "order and control." The standing orders were, "Do and die, and do not ask why!"

The Sudanese Army has indeed preserved many of these traits. Despite many blemishes that have affected it under certain circumstances, the military establishment has preserved a great deal of its nationalism. Twice it sided with the people and did not stand beside those who claimed that they were ruling in its name. The first time was in October 1964, when the Sudanese people rose against the 'Abbud regime and proclaimed civil disobedience. The junior officers at the time refused to put down the people's revolution, forcing the generals' government to relinquish power. The second time was in April 1985, when modern sectors such as doctors, engineers, bank employees, and trade unions revolted as a whole. The officers sided with the people: They refused to have the vice president, Major General 'Umar Muhammad al-Tayyib, proclaim a state of emergency and have the Army take charge of confronting the situation. Indeed, they forced Lieutenant General Siwar-al-Dhahab and the chiefs of staff to side with the wishes of the people and announce Numayri's removal. A Transitional Military Council was formed under the chairmanship of the defense minister, General Commander Siwar-al-Dhahab, along with his deputy, the general operations staff, and the commanders of military units stationed in the capital, while a cabinet was formed from the National Grouping. The third democracy had a life span of no more than four years and a few weeks before al-Bashir's coup took place. The coup was unexpected; even al-Turabi's words affirmed that it was: "The Armed Forces were so designed that there is no opening in them for any move by the Islamists." Suddenly, all the forces that had designed the Armed Forces were surprised when the Islamic movement came at them from a direction they had not expected.

NIF Penetration

How and when, one asks, did the Islamic movement penetrate the military establishment? After Numayri promulgated the so-called Islamic September Laws and al-Turabi's front, which was his only ally in 1983, swore allegiance to him, President Numayri was sold the idea of enrolling officers in religious training courses at

Khartoum's African Islamic Center. The center's professors were affiliated with Dr. al-Turabi. The officers who enrolled in these courses were subjected to intensive observation by the professors and all the branches of the NIF. The observation and surveillance organs then began to nominate those whom they found disposed to join al-Turabi's front, and cells began to form. [passage omitted]

The front seized power for a number of reasons. The most important of them were:

In February 1989, the Armed Forces' command presented a well-known memorandum to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, stressing that the problem of the south could not be solved militarily, but only politically. It called for unity of approach and concern for the requirements of the armed forces. This memorandum created an atmosphere suggesting that the armed forces, as an institution, were getting ready to play a role in politics, if only in a guardianship capacity.

Although all the political forces respected the commanders' memorandum and the government restructuring to include figures belonging to the extreme left and the modern forces (professional and trade union) and decided to go forward with the peace agreement that Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani had concluded with John Garang, the NIF suddenly abstained from signing the treaty and refused to take part in the government. It then conspired against democracy and against the armed forces, as an institution, themselves to seize power in the name of the armed forces. However, it calculated with its political sense that such a power grab would be unacceptable popularly, militarily, regionally, and internationally; so it preferred to work under cover and mislead as necessity demanded (that is how al-Turabi always justifies positions).

When it became clear to the NIF that it was capable or that the chances for remaining hidden had evaporated, it bared its teeth and organized terrible massacres in the Armed Forces. Now it is trying to alter their fundamental makeup and perhaps do away with them completely, as shown by the following evidence.

Discharge Lists

To date, discharge lists for the armed forces and other regular forces have included more than 4,000 officers, from the rank of lieutenant general to the rank of second lieutenant, and even officers still studying at the War College. This is a ratio in excess of half the men working in the Sudanese Armed Forces. Because the NIF wants an ideological army, it sees the elimination of any uncommitted person as a security requirement. Otherwise, how can one explain the discharge of war college students who have not completed their training or taken their examinations or of junior officers who graduated a few months ago with the rank of second lieutenant?

What reason is there to consider creating people's defense forces, if the existing military regime is proud of

the Armed Forces and considers itself part of them? How can this military regime rely so much on the people's forces that it spends lavishly and excessively on them, tries to provide them with training opportunities, and publicizes their sacrifices to the exclusion of those of others?

The regime ignores the fact that most of the soldiers and some of the top commanders of the Sudanese Army, which has been fighting in the south on the basis of its being a national institution, are of non-Muslim or even non-Arab origins. It thereby is threatening the national character of the institution, opening the possibility that the Army's unity will disintegrate and that one part will mutiny against the other because of race or religion.

The recent attempts by al-Turabi's regime to restructure Army units will lead to mutiny and divisions and will disturb the processes of discipline and control at all army bases. The attempts are based on the principle of excluding all soldiers who are southerners or Nubah from their units and removing them from areas of military operations. This indicates doubt about their loyalty to the Armed Forces and to carrying out orders. It will raise suspicions in their minds that the regime belongs to a particular orientation and wants to eliminate them and that it is distancing them from battles because it wants to maltreat their innocent compatriots, not just fight the rebels.

Everything is possible with the Sudanese Armed Forces, beginning with the possibility that the Army will pounce on the NIF regime, which has wrapped itself in the name of salvation and hidden behind the Armed Forces. Finally, there is the possibility that parts of the Army will fight each other on a racial and religious basis, loosing the spark of civil war in the Sudan, even though the Army, with its diverse tribal, geographic, racial, and religious makeup, once was the safety valve of unity.

[Box, p 37]

Facts and Figures

The size of the Sudanese armed forces ranges between 150,000 and 200,000 soldiers, while the size of the rebel forces (John Garang), with their various groups, is between 40,000 and 60,000 soldiers. The tank and parachute corps are considered the most important armed forces corps.

The Sudanese Army is considered one of the largest and most powerful armies on the African continent, following the disbanding of the Ethiopian Army. However, Ethiopia's air strength is greater than Sudan's.

Since al-Bashir's 1989 coup, military supplies for the armed forces have come exclusively from the following countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, and China (with Iranian financial guarantees).

The NIF military regime has taken great interest in naval forces. It has entered into strategic links in the Red Sea

with Iran, granting it a foothold on the shores of the Red Sea, eavesdropping stations, and military usage rights in ports for a quarter of a century. This has been deemed a threat to the national security of some countries bordering Sudan.

The Medical Corps had no role in all of the uprisings and attempted coups that Sudan has witnessed, except in al-Bashir's 1989 coup, when medics who were NIF officers participated actively in the coup, especially in the campaign of arrests and the storming of certain military positions. This participation became manifest in two incidents. The only officer killed during the coup operation was a medic. Another medic, Medical Lieutenant Colonel al-Tayyib Muhammad Khayr, took part in the first NIF ministry after the coup as minister of presidential affairs.

Former Commander Interviewed

93AF0203B London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
24 Nov 92 pp 39-40

[AL-MAJALLAH interview with former Sudanese Army commander Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali in Cairo; date not given: "Army Military Chain of Command Disturbed, Major Gives Orders to Chief of Staff"]

[Text] Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, the former commander of the Sudanese Army, is a distinguished voice among the Sudanese opposition, a voice that is marked by calm and that defends what he considers to be the Army's legitimate command. AL-MAJALLAH met him in Cairo. This is the text of the interview:

[AL-MAJALLAH] Don't you feel negligence or responsibility because you did not detect the moves of the coup participants while they were officers under your command?

['Ali] Preparation for the coup began in 1978, when the front, led by al-Turabi, began plotting to take power and turned to penetrating economic institutions. It began establishing banks and penetrated education and educational institutions. It is well known that al-Turabi was the first to profit from national reconciliation in the Numayri era. He became an adviser to the president at the time and induced him to apply the September Laws. When the 1985 uprising broke out—al-Turabi was in prison—a special airplane took off for the headquarters of Air Force General 'Abd-al-Rahman Siwar-al-Dhahab, which raises questions about the role of Siwar-al-Dhahab and the Military Council during that transitional period. One notes that neither the council nor the transitional government carried out the slogans that the Sudanese people had proclaimed. As for the events of the coup, al-Bashir and his comrades told all military units that it was the General Command that had ordered the seizure of power, and this trick fooled them. I remember that on the day of the coup, a large force came to my home at 0200. For three hours, there was machine-gun fighting with my personal guard; afterward, I was arrested. Some have understood the armed forces' memorandum as an

attempt to seize power. That is simply incorrect. In fact, we adhered to the Constitution in the memorandum and refused to intervene against the government. Also, the NIF succeeded in penetrating our security groups. I have absolutely no feeling of negligence.

[AL-MAJALLAH] The Sudanese opposition is being charged with holding the NIF responsible for the actions of the military government.

['Ali] The NIF planned and led the coup that took place, regardless of its facade. I think that al-Bashir's group and the NIF are one system. It was the NIF that recruited these military men. Events proved it after Interior Minister Faysal Abu-Salih resigned from the ruling Military Council and exposed the NIF's influence and its control of the regime.

[AL-MAJALLAH] It is said that what unites the Sudanese opposition is a temporary goal.

['Ali] That is correct and is a fact of which we are fully aware. All of the programs and plans have been targeted at remedying this dangerous gap. We think that returning to the old game would be a kind of political stupidity. Safeguards must be established, and the armed forces must be reshaped so that there are no groups that can be lined up by political quarters.

[AL-MAJALLAH] You have sent tapes of your voice to Sudan to incite the Army. Do you think that this method is adequate to realize your goals?

['Ali] The purpose of sending the tapes is only to alert military and popular elements inside the Sudan. The country is experiencing nearly complete isolation. All the information media are in the hands of the state and the regime, which is making use of them in all these circumstances.

Condition of Army

[AL-MAJALLAH] What do you think about the condition of the Sudanese Army in terms of readiness, organization, and performance of missions?

['Ali] I think a plot is being carried out to drain the armed forces of all talents and qualified commanders and replace the armed forces with NIF militias. Retirement and discharge lists are being issued constantly. The number of retirees since the current regime came to power has reached 15,000 officers and soldiers, apart from those who have been imprisoned or outrageously executed without regard for military laws and the values of our noble religion.

They have begun to build up the People's Defense Forces, whose cadres have been trained in Iran, as an auxiliary army. Just look at the draft law that forces young men between 18 and 33 to join the service without preparation or training. Among the strangest confirmed information that has reached us is that the regime is drafting prisoners sentenced to terms of more than 10 years in return for remitting the remainder of their

sentence. Is there an army in the world that uses prisoners? Will such prisoners fight to protect their country? Regrettably, the Sudanese Army's military chain of command has been completely disturbed. A major loyal to the NIF gives orders to a major general who commands a region and who is superior in rank. For example, Major Ibrahim Shams-al-Din gives orders to the chief of staff, whose rank is lieutenant general. Colonel al-Hadi 'Abdallah, a leading member in al-Turabi's front, is the one who prepares the lists of transfers to half-pay retirement. His only military position is commander of the General Administration Battalion! The NIF has succeeded in introducing civilians into military work, and they are issuing orders to military commanders in the theater of operations. We can imagine the negative effects of civilians interfering in the conduct of military operations and the effect on the minds of officers and soldiers.

Iran's Support

[AL-MAJALLAH] What do you think is the truth about Iran's support of the regime? Have some Sudanese opposition groups overestimated this role?

[Ali] What the opposition is saying about the Iranian role does not go beyond the facts. We estimate the Iranian presence in Sudan, in terms of military experts, as no fewer than 2,000. There are indications that some commanders of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard are present. The recent capture of some Iranian experts is the strongest proof. There has been an agreement between Iran and the regime to give Iran naval facilities in Port Sudan. An Iranian radio station has in fact been built in the city. It will be broadcasting soon to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and other Gulf and African countries.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What is the nature of your relation to former president Ja'far Numayri?

[Ali] We have no relation to Numayri. We are amazed by his positions now, after all of the ruin and destruction that has taken place in Sudan. He is responsible for the NIF's penetration of constitutional institutions. He brought Sudan to this pass. I will not extend my hand to this man.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What about your reaction to al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's recently announced initiative to bring peace to Sudan?

[Ali] Al-Mahdi's initiative is a proposal that holds the attention of a large sector of Sudanese and suggests that there is a possibility for reconciliation with the regime. Such moves paralyze serious action, but I do not wish to anticipate events.

[AL-MAJALLAH] There are reports about Sudanese moves to create an axis in the African region. What is your assessment of the regime's relation to what is happening in that region?

[Ali] The regime has opened the western and eastern borders to African immigration from a number of countries, especially Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. African immigrants are entering Sudan by the thousands every day. The authorities have begun to establish centers for them near Kassala, in South Kordofan, and at Kusti on the White Nile. Whenever there are signs of life, these immigrants are settling. They have been given farmland under pretext of being seasonal workers. The plan has to do with the fact that the areas in which they have settled have belonged to Sudanese tribes for thousands of years. These people are being given Sudanese citizenship at the suggestion of the NIF, which wants to create a new demographic reality in the region in order to create a political base loyal to it. The Sudanese regime is helping Iran penetrate the African region. Al-Turabi wants to be leader of a regional bloc. Look at how the ruling regime's positions coincide with Iran's, even on pan-Arab issues, such as Iran's occupation of the UAE's Abu Musa Island!

Summer Offensive Goals Outlined

93AF0203C London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
24 Nov 92 p 40

[Article: "Summer Offensive Did Not Achieve Its Goals"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has obtained an important report by high-level experts on Sudanese military affairs about last summer's military offensive. The content of the report [on the goals of the offensive] can be summarized as follows:

- Creating a political position that helps put pressure on Garang's movement at the Abuja talks;
- Obtaining popular support inside Sudan by regaining some cities from rebel control;
- The regime's role in overthrowing Mengistu and creating splits within the movement;
- The delusion that the offensive's success has created suitable conditions for resuming oil prospecting operations in the south;
- Obtaining foreign support by exploiting the religious factor.

The report makes three points about military aspects of the offensive:

- First, beginning a phase of effective marginalization of the Armed Forces in combat operations in the south;
- Second, substituting the People's Defense Forces for the Armed Forces, so as to give the Defense Forces a decisive role in religious and political work in the south;
- Third, forming an Islamic Republican Guard modeled on the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. The Republican Guard, along with the People's Defense Forces, will be a complete alternative to the Sudanese Armed Forces. The People's Defense Forces will be for the war in the south, and the Republican Guard will be to protect the regime from any quarters that want to resist it.

The regime has committed all of Sudan's resources, withholding nothing as a reserve for unexpected contingencies, and has spent 80 percent of national revenue on the military offensive. The daily costs of the war are estimated at \$1 million (150 million Sudanese pounds).

Command of the forces in the south has been assumed by elements who are junior officers in the NIF, led by Major Ibrahim Shams-al-Din. This has led to the breakup of the armed forces in many positions, has cost them great losses in equipment and lives, and has isolated parts of the armed forces from each other, especially during the fall season. The inexperienced and untrained People's Defense Forces have suffered enormous losses. Total losses suffered by the Army and the People's Defense Forces are estimated as larger than all losses by the armed forces throughout the years of the civil war.

Garang's army has not entered into major confrontations, especially in the cities. Instead, it has evacuated them completely without suffering any appreciable losses and has returned to the tactic of guerrilla warfare and siege. As a result, the armed forces have fallen into the trap prepared for them and have become completely besieged.

The report reaches the following conclusions:

- Giving the offensive a clear religious character made an impression on every southern citizen, whether Muslim or Christian.
- This had a negative effect in one way or another on neighboring countries and the international community, particularly the United Nations and humanitarian organizations.
- The offensive strengthened the secessionist current and its chances for success based on current trends in the world.

In short, many material resources have been squandered; national unity has been undermined; Islam's image in Sudan, the region, and the world has been marred; and there has been a clear marginalization of the role of the armed forces with their national character and their history of preserving the unity of Sudanese soil.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Nonoil Foreign Trade Rises During 1991

93AE0175A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Nov 92
p 13

[Report from Abu Dhabi by Shafiq al-Asadi: "UAE Non-Oil Foreign Trade Rises Last Year by 83.4 Percent"]

[Text] The value of the UAE's [United Arab Emirates] non-oil foreign trade rose last year (1991) to 69.028 billion dirhams (\$18.8 billion) for an increase of 11,397 billion dirhams, or 83.4 percent, from 57.631 billion dirhams (\$15.7 billion) in 1990.

The UAE's foreign trade volume also rose last year by 9.2 percent to 13.826 million kg from 12.855 million kg in 1990.

The Ministry of Planning, in a report it issued yesterday on UAE foreign trade for the years 1990-91 years, said that UAE imports rose in the period by 83.3 percent, from 42.510 billion dirhams to 51.104 billion dirhams. Non-oil exports rose by 78.2 percent, from 3.470 billion to 4.434 billion dirhams. Re-exports also increased by 85.1 percent, from 11.651 billion to 13.690 billion dirhams.

AL-HAYAH obtained a copy of the report, which said that the volume of UAE imports rose during the two-year period from 8.631 billion kg in 1990 to 9.079 billion kg in 1991. The volume of exports likewise rose from 2.601 billion kg to 3.131 billion kg but re-exports declined from 1.623 billion kg to 1.616 billion kg.

The report said the Emirate of Dubai outpaced the other emirates in foreign trade, followed by Abu Dhabi, the political capital of the UAE.

It showed that UAE imports in 1990 went to five emirates. Imports by Abu Dhabi amounted to 8,747 billion dirhams, or 20.6 of all imports; 31,041 billion dirhams, or 73 percent, of imports were to Dubai; 2,325 billion dirhams, or 5.4 percent, to al-Shariqah; 115 million dirhams, or 0.3 percent, to Ras al-Khaymah; and, 282 million dirhams, accounting for 0.7 percent of total UAE imports, to al-Fujayrah.

The five emirates maintained their relative import rankings in 1991, but the values and ratios changed. Abu Dhabi imports amounted last year to 9.407 billion dirhams, or 18.4 percent, of all UAE imports; Dubai imports were valued at 38.111 billion dirhams, or 74.6 percent; al-Shariqah imports at 2.943 billion dirhams, or 5.8 percent; and Ras al-Khaymah imports at 107 million dirhams, or 0.2 percent. Imports by al-Fujayrah accounted for a mere 0.1 percent of UAE imports in 1991.

The volume of Abu Dhabi imports in 1990 amounted to 1.763 million kg and accounted for 30.4 percent of the aggregate UAE import volume, dropping in 1991 to 1.760 kg, or 19.4 percent of aggregate UAE import volume that year. Dubai imported 5,728 million kg in 1990, or 66.4 percent, rising last year to 6.113 million kg, or 67.3 percent. Al-Shariqah's 1990 imports were 740 million kg (8.6 percent), rising 1991 to 762 million kg, or 8.4 percent. The volume of imports to Ras-al-Khaymah was 303 million kg in 1990 (3.5 percent), declining the following year to 287 million kg (3.2 percent). Imports to al-Fujayrah were 94 million kg (1.1 percent), rising in 1991 to 157 million kg, or 1.7 percent of the total volume of UAE imports last year.

Foods, valued at 2.410 billion dirhams accounted for 27.9 percent of all UAE imports in 1990. Other major imports included manufactured goods, valued at 1.822 billion dirhams; fossil fuels, valued at 1.808 billion dirhams; raw materials, amounting to 989 million dirhams; and transportation machinery and equipment, worth 454 million dirhams.

Noting changes in the volume and value of UAE exports for 1990-91, the report showed that Abu Dhabi's non-oil exports were valued in 1990 at 762 million dirhams (21.9 percent), climbing in 1991 to 1,039 million dirhams (23.4 percent). The volume of such non-oil exports from Abu Dhabi amounted to 337 million kg in 1990 (13 percent), rising last year to 660 million kg, or 21.1 percent of the aggregate volume of non-oil UAE exports in 1991.

In Dubai, 1990 exports, which were valued at 2.296 million dirhams, or 66.2 percent, rose in 1991 to 2.785 million dirhams, or 62.8 percent. The volume of those exports likewise rose from 726 million kg (24.1 percent) to 660 million kg in 1991, or 21.1 percent.

Al-Shariqah exports also rose in value from 96 million dirhams (2.8 percent) to 219 million dirhams (5 percent) in 1991. The volume of exports rose from 71 million kg (2.7 percent) to 106 million kg (3.4 percent) last year.

Ras-al-Khaymah exports also increased in value from 116 million dirhams (3.2 percent) in 1990 to 236 million dirhams (5.3 percent). Volume likewise rose from 1.154 million kg (44.4 percent) to 1.620 million kg (51.7 percent) in 1991.

Al-Fujayrah had exports valued at 200 million dirhams in 1990 declining in 1991 to 155 million dirhams (3.5 percent). Its volume of exports also declined from 412 million kg (15.8 percent) to 389 million kg (12.4) last year.

UAE non-oil exports in 1990 were mainly in classified finished goods, valued at 1.609 billion dirhams (46.6 percent); assorted processed materials, worth 727 million dirhams (20.9 percent); raw materials, valued at 265 million dirhams (7.6 percent); chemicals, valued at 237 million dirhams (6.8 percent); and foods and livestock, valued at 184 million dirhams (5.3 percent).

The report also recorded changes in re-exports from the five UAE emirates in the same statistical period. Re-exports from Abu Dhabi rose from 2.103 billion dirhams (18 percent) to 4.0216 billion dirhams (29.3). The volume of its re-exports likewise rose from 401 million kg (24.7 percent) to 542 million kg (33.5 percent).

The value of re-exports from Dubai slipped from 7.603 billion dirhams (65.2 percent) to 7.526 billion dirhams in 1991 (55 percent). The volume of Dubai re-exports also declined from 950 million kg (58.5 percent) to 852 million kg (52.7 percent) last year.

Re-exports from al-Shariqah increased from 527 million kg [as published] (4.5 percent) to 931 million kg (6.8

percent), but the volume declined from 109 million kg (6.7 percent) to 101 million kg (6.3 percent).

In Ras-al-Khaymah, re-exports climbed from 399 million dirhams (3.5 percent) to 441 million dirhams (3.2 percent), as volume rose from 58 million kg (3.6 percent) to 67 million kg (4.2 percent).

Re-exports from al-Fujayrah, on the other hand, slid from 1.019 billion dirhams (8.8 percent) to 776 million dirhams (5.7 percent), as volume declined from 105 million kg (6.5 percent) to 54 million kg (3.4 percent) in 1991.

UAR re-exports to other countries in 1990 were mainly in transportation, tools, and equipment. Re-exports in this category were valued at 3.117 billion dirhams (26.8 percent of aggregate UAE re-exports), and most goods went to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Re-exports in this category were followed by 2,778 billion dinars' worth of manufactured items, classified as to materials of origin (23.8 percent); foods, valued at 1,856 billion dinars (15.9 percent); assorted manufactured materials, worth 1,721 billion dinars (14.8 percent); and other items.

Small Banks Face Tough Regulation

93AE0175B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
28 Nov 92 p 11

[Report from Abu Dhabi by Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq: "Small UAE Banks Face Hard Choices If Held by Central Bank to Basle Standards"]

[Text] UAE banking sources said that certain small local banks will have three options should the Central Bank mandate compliance with capitalization standards as of next April.

The sources said that the Central Bank will not take direct measures to force mergers of small national banks despite the wide-scale speculations that accompanied the signing 10 days ago of the settlement agreement between the four al-Shariqah banks and al-Shariqah Government under the aegis of the Central Bank.

The sources explained that "it is not a policy of the Central Bank to adopt direct merger-mandating measures, but it could employ certain tools and policies that would render such mergers the optimum, or only, option.

Such tools and policies include enforcing the capitalization standards adopted by the Basle Committee. The standards mandate an 8 percent ratio of capital to performing assets.

The banking sources added that even though the local banks that signed the recent settlement agreement have resolved their nonperforming debt problem, they still have a long way to go to achieve adequate fiscal prowess to satisfy what the Central Bank may mandate next year.

The sources pointed out that even though mergers will eventually be the ultimate objective, the merger process itself requires needs groundwork that may force the banks concerned to make one of three available choices.

The first option is to sell some of the loans now that the settlement agreement has rendered them better-performing and more pragmatic.

That would increase bank liquidity and consequently the ratio of guaranteed assets, thereby improving bank fiscal positions and making it possible for them to provide a solid basis suitable for any merger with other banking units.

UAE banking sources said that discounting some of the loans now seems to be a possibility after the settlement agreement, especially because some large, overstuffed UAE banks may look upon them as a new investment opportunity, in view of the limited availability of such opportunities to [institutions with] large financial liquidity.

The sources pointed out in that respect that low inter-bank interest rates could be another incentive for large banks to purchase small bank loans at this time, in view of their improved [risk] after recent settlement agreements.

The second choice would be to create banking units in partnership with foreign capital or foreign banks that would enter into alliances with local banks that signed recent settlement agreements.

Banking sources indicated that numerous foreign banks are seeking opportunities to operate in the UAE, which has for several years declined to issue new banking licenses. Such alliances would give a foreign bank such an opportunity, albeit as a joint operation.

The third and final option is to urge large local UAE banks to acquire small institutions in the same manner that the UAE International Bank and Middle East Bank merged together into a subsidiary of the former which now holds the majority of Middle East Bank shares.

The problem with this last option is that the acquisition decision is essentially a political rather than a technical decision. Local governments are major shareholders of large banks in the UAE. Governments, and not bank managers, therefore have the final say on the purchase of new banking units.

Banks emerging from the bottleneck of nonperforming loans, therefore, have several options, but each of those options requires thorough technical scrutiny, which may not be possible until after the precise sizes and limitations of settlement agreements are revealed when those banks finally ratify and release their delayed financial statements.

WESTERN SAHARA

Report Reveals MINURSO Expenditures

93AF0272A Rabat L'OPINION in French 17 Dec 92 p 9

[Article: "UN-Sahara: Publication of Secretary General's Report on MINURSO Financing: \$72.2 Million Spent"]

[Text] Of the gross total of \$143 million allocated by the UN General Assembly to finance the UN Mission for Organization of a Referendum in the Sahara (MINURSO) for the period beginning on 17 May 1991 and estimated expenses until 30 November 1992, \$72.2 million have been spent, according to the secretary general's report to the General Assembly on the mission's financing.

According to the report published Tuesday, this leaves a gross balance of \$70.8 million left from the initial credit, which the General Assembly approved in its Resolution 45/266.

The first part of the two-part report is comprised of an introduction that reviews the various phases of the budget, quotas, voluntary contributions, implementation of the budget until 30 November 1992, anticipated expenses for the period from 1 December 1992 to 30 November 1993, the secretary general's observations, and measures that the General Assembly will have to take at its current session.

The appendix to this report contains additional information, specifically, recapitulative statements for every budget heading, MINURSO expenses from 17 May 1991 to 30 November 1992, the estimated cost of maintaining MINURSO at its current level until 30 November, and estimated expenditures for the Mission's civilian and military personnel based on their geographic distribution.

Concerning quotas, the report indicates that a total of \$140,911,923 was to be collected from member nations to finance MINURSO operations and that contributions received by 31 October 1992 amounted to \$119.9 million, leaving a sum of \$21 million outstanding.

As for voluntary contributions, the report emphasizes that their amount will be calculated and included in the budget once the pertinent information has been examined.

Among the contributors, Switzerland is supplying an aircraft, a medical unit, and 30 support personnel. Australia has provided the services of 43 military troops and its contribution for the period from 17 May 1991 to 31 May 1992 is \$413,000.

The secretary general estimates that expenditures from 1 December 1992 to 30 November 1993 will total \$28.6 million. If the Security Council should make any decision entailing additional expenses, the secretary general would present revised estimates to the General Assembly when the session reconvenes, the report states.

Concerning measures that the General Assembly will have to make at the current 47th session, the secretary general suggests that while awaiting a decision from the

Security Council, the Assembly will have to authorize the use of the credit initially granted, amounting to \$2.4 million a month in gross figures. (MAP)

IRAN

Islamic Center Director Calls For Unity in U.S.

93AS0353C Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
21 Dec 92 pp 1, 15

[Text] Tehran—An Iranian Alim said yesterday that the Muslims living in the United States should unite and cooperate with each other so that they can play an important role in the over-all activities in that country.

Islamic Center Director Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Ali Elahi said that there are 6 million Jews in the United States while there are around seven million Muslims.

The Muslims are scattered and suffer from a lack of coordination and this is the reason why there are 40 members of the Jewish community in the U.S. Congress while there is no one from the Muslim community.

The constitution of the United States allows us to unite and start a campaign for coordinating activities in the political affairs, Elahi said, adding "that was what the Islamic Center based in Detroit is trying to do."

"Our objective is to create awareness among the Muslim youth in terms of politics, social and cultural activities which are healthy," Hojjatoleslam Elahi underlined.

"You know that it's not an easy job, but we are trying to make headway and have been successful up to certain extent," Elahi said.

"The Jewish community is not more than 3 percent of the total population of the United States and they play a vital role in American society," he said and pointed out that the Muslims are more and if coordination is there they also can play a more important role in that country.

What I'm trying to say is that we are not anti-Jewish or want to act against that community, he said and pointed out that "we are definitely against Zionism and we will remain so in future too."

"The center," he said, "rather tries to create understanding among other religious communities including Christians, Muslims and Jews and we have succeeded in this direction so far."

"We are against racism and in some cases we find a very strict anti-Islamic atmosphere in the West because of a wrong picture painted by the enemies of Islam," he said and vowed that we will continue our Islamic duty to present the message of Islam before the world," he said.

"I'm happy to convey this information that there is a big change in American society and now you can find more veiled women, Halal Islamic ally permissible food shops which are increasing every day," Elahi said.

Elahi was here for a short visit to his country, the Islamic Republic of Iran. He met with Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and

other Ulama and presented a report of the conditions of Muslims in the United States.

Tehran To Host International Science-Tech Congress

93AS0352C Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
19 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Tehran (IRNA)—A three-day International Congress on Promotion of Science and Technology in the Islamic World is due to start at Tehran University on May 17, 1993.

Tehran University Chancellor, Mohammad Rahimian, who will serve as the secretary of the congress told a press conference here Wednesday that ways of finding an access to modern technology and science in order to lessen dependence on developed countries was the objective of the congress.

He said the congress would study reasons behind the flowering of science and technology in the Islamic world in the first century of Hejira and also reasons for the present at present.

Noting that prominent researchers from Islamic countries are currently working at academic centers of the developed countries, Rahimian said the congress will provide opportunity for Muslim scientists to exchange views.

The meeting will also make efforts to foster solidarity between the academic and research institutions of Islamic countries, he said.

The secretariat of the congress has to date received about 90 papers of which 41 are from foreign countries.

The chancellor called the congress a "turning point" in the academic activities of Islamic countries and said that a permanent secretariat and archives have [been] set up in Tehran to follow up the results of the congress and to build a systematic relationship between the academic centers of the Islamic states.

An exhibition of books and pictures on science and technology in the Islamic world would be held on the sidelines of the congress, he announced.

German Banks Provide Conditional Loans

93AS0351P London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] Last week Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, chief of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic, went to Germany and spoke with the managers of several large banks in that country about obtaining loans and assistance. After these meetings it was announced that the officials of the prominent German banks: Deutsche Bank, [Darzedner] Bank, Commerce Bank, Berliner [Handles] Bank and the Frankfurter Bank are willing to grant loans to the Government of Iran. Concerning items published in the world press about the Iranian regime's arms purchases, 'Adeli said: These things are one-sided propaganda

against the government of the Islamic Republic. He added: Iran spends only 3.5 percent of its budget on the purchase of war materiel, while the other countries in the area spend much more money than that to buy arms.

After the meeting between 'Adeli and his delegation and Jurgen Mollemann, the German minister of economics, told news reporters: We must work to reduce the differences between the two nations soon.

The German minister of economics noted that the Bonn government understands the difference between reality and propaganda. This will be the second loan from German banks to Iran. No information has yet been published about how, under what conditions and with how much interest it will be granted, but the German government has told the Islamic Republic that this loan must be spent on development, not arms purchases.

Information Minister on Cultural Attacks

93AS0352D Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
19 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Province (IRNA)—Disrupting the social structure of the religious societies is a major pivot of the activities of intelligence services operated by arrogant powers, Information Minister Hojatoleslam Ali Fallahian said here Wednesday.

He told reporters that the cultural invasion in its intellectual dimension aims at propagation of the laic and anti-religious culture by those who are unhappy with the establishment of a government on the basis of Islamic rulings.

Another aspect of the foreign cultural invasion which has an ethical dimension, lies in dissemination of social corruptions such as drug addiction among the youth, on which he said the U.S. has made the largest investment.

The minister said the arrogance spares no efforts to destroy potentials of the revolutionary societies as one of its major targets.

The arrogance has increased its cultural attacks by introducing Western patterns by means of satellites and international drug gangs, Fallahian said noting "We should use cultural weapons to fight this cultural invasion. [quotation marks as published]

Country Called True Advocate of Human Rights

93AS0353B Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
12 Dec 92 p 12

[Text] Tehran (IRNA)—The Islamic Republic of Iran not only advocates human rights, but also exercises it in accord with the supreme teachings of Islam, according to a Seminar on Human Rights from the Islamic Point of View, held in Cape Town, South Africa.

A statement issued by the seminar Thursday said that Iran administers Islamic justice and called on the world people to condemn the arrogant powers' conspiracies to isolate Iran.

The objective behind the hue and cry made by the so-called advocates of human rights on alleged violation of human rights in Iran was to create obstacles in the way of the Islamic Republic's development and progress, the statement said.

The participants also approved formation of an organization for human rights in Africa.

The seminar attended by a large number of Cape Town people, expressed support for the liberation struggles in Palestine, Iraq, Kashmir and called for observation of human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Essays on human rights according to the Muslims' holy book, the Quran and the status of human rights in Iran and other Islamic countries, the women's rights in Islam and violation of human rights by the world arrogance and lack of care for human rights by the organizations claiming to advocate human rights were discussed at the seminar.

Majles Deputy Discusses Good Treatment of Kurds

93AS0353A Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
15 Dec 92 pp 1, 15

[Text] Tehran—A senior Majlis deputy from West Azerbaijan believes that 'besides unemployment there is no major problem that exists in the border province where the Kurdish population is in majority. [quotation mark as published]

Majlis Deputy Ahmad Taha in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES said, "True in the early days after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, there were activities of the grouplets such as Komeleh and Democrats."

"But," he said, "now the situation is different, the Islamic system has been established in the country firmly and there is no room of activities of the grouplets in the border areas such as West Azerbaijan."

Taha, 50, agreed that these grouplets used to be fed by foreign countries and forces but declined to specify.

He said, "Well, I really don't know who were behind these grouplets, but it was obvious that they were fed from abroad."

Commenting on the province from where he was elected to the Third and Fourth Majlis Taha said, "West Azerbaijan is full of natural resources, it has manpower and what we need is correct planning which can eliminate unemployment from that province."

The best resistance against any activity of the grouplets is the elimination of unemployment and exploration of the natural resources in the province which is full of minerals such as bauxite.

Taha, a Muslim from the Sunni sect, believes that locals are better employed in the provincial administration and can be more useful, or at least officials should be sent by Tehran who have a comprehensive knowledge about the province.

"You know it will help in the planning for productive activities in the province which in return will eliminate unemployment," Taha who sports a beard—but not too long a one—said.

"As a whole," he said, "much has been done in the province for the welfare of the people such as the opening of an university, schools both for girls and boys and still there is much room for attention of officials at the provincial and central level in Tehran.

Taha suggested that for a better administration and better exploitation of the natural resources of the province a new province comprising Banch, Saqqez, Piran-shahr, Naqdeh, Mahabad, and Bukan should be created with Bukan as capital.

He hailed the recent developments in Bukan and said that it is one of the biggest cities of the province and its geographical situation is much, much better.

"After seeing the latest developments and response of the people in general, I can say that the future of Bukan is bright," Taha who has been elected to the Majlis from Bukan said.

He said that there are no differences among Sunni or Shiite sects of Islam in Iran. He recalled that the Founder of the Islamic Republic late Imam Khomeini always advocated unity among Muslims and we still celebrate Unity Week which has as its sole objective the unity of all the Muslims under one umbrella—Islam.

About the Kurds, he said they were both Shias and Sunnis. "One factor is common in all Kurds which is that they are originally from Iran and they are proud of this fact," Taha said.

Commenting on the Iraqi Kurds who fled their country during the Persian Gulf war he said that some of them are still in Iran as they consider things in this country to be better.

Taha said that the Iraqi Kurd refugees are living in camps and are being looked after well.

'Adeli Denies Resignation Report

93AS0359A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 21 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 20 (IRNA)—Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli on Sunday denied a report in an Iranian weekly that he had resigned from his post.

In its latest issue OMID quoted unnamed sources for its claim on 'Adeli's resignation.

The central bank governor has also lodged a complaint against the publisher of the weekly with officials in charge of the press and publication department at the Ministry of culture and Islamic Guidance.

'Adeli's complaint was confirmed by press officials of the Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry who said that the case will be dealt with immediately.

'Adeli has been serving as central bank governor since 1989.

Dr Zare on Open Universities, Scholars

93AS0352B Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
17 Dec 92 pp 1, 15

[Article by Mehrdad Balali]

[Text] Tehran—Technological progress to keep in step with modern advances can come to Iran only if the talents of specialists both within the country and abroad are utilized said Dr. Karim Zare a professor and vice-chancellor at the Open University and a Majlisman serving as a deputy from the Fars Province.

Zare speaking to the TEHRAN TIMES in an interview said that there are "many committed Muslim scholars whom Iran is well able to absorb" into universities here. He added that "we should look more towards attending to and improving the material and spiritual health of our universities."

"Open Universities respond more than 50 percent of the needs for higher education; they train specialist in 67 different fields at Ph.D. level," he said.

"Open Universities do not rival government universities; on the contrary, they complement each other. These two institutions can be considered as the scientific arms of the country, instruments which contribute to the strength of the Islamic system," Dr. Zade [as published] said.

"Presently, there are about 500,000 scientists in Japan and 50,000 in Korea, while in Iran we have fewer than 100 scientists per million people," the Majlis deputy and university don said.

Referring to the problem of accreditation in the way of Open Universities, Zare said that a single Article was

recently passed in the High Council for Cultural Revolution, which would ask for the formation of a committee to review the problem. The committee, consisted of representatives from the Council, Open University, as well as Ministries of Health and Higher Education, has already met and approved 550 majors. This would entitle the graduates from Open Universities to the same advantages as their counterparts in the public universities. Zare lauds this decision and rejects accusations that the Open University system favors quantity over quality.

"That's totally wrong. Look at the medical students in Open Universities. They have been able to compete and even outdo the students from government universities. But still we believe that more has to be done to expand our libraries, laboratories, etc. And for that we have asked the public for help," Zare says.

He also rejects the notion that Open Universities are privately owned. "These universities are non-governmental, non-profit institutions. All their holdings belong to the public."

Progress in Status of Women Noted

93AS0352E Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
15 Dec 92 p 12

[Text] Many Muslim women in Iran celebrate the sharp rise in the number of female deputies in the Majlis, among them the three-term parliamentarian, Maryam Behroozi.

"The fact that the number of women representatives has more than doubled is indicative of our society's cultural growth," Behroozi, general secretary of the Zaynab Society, said in an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES.

With branches in and out of the country, the socio-political Zaynab Society issues manifestos, takes political stands, and has an active presence in election campaigns. Staunchly supporting the Women's Bureau and its director, Ms. Shahla Habibi, Behroozi distinguishes the activities of the two women organizations.

"The bureau's task is administrative, while ours is policy-making and cultural," she said adding, "Our society ought to be convinced that our women can be trusted with high, sensitive positions. But the Iranian woman needs to acquire a sense of self-assurance."

Behroozi rejected the notion that the male-dominated national parliament might not be sufficiently sensitive to matters concerning women. "Majlis is a law-making body and its members are chosen by the people. What they are after is justice and equal rights for everybody, irrespective of sex."

She, nevertheless, welcomed more women in the Majlis and anticipated an increase in their number of women prove to be competent and effective in helping the cause of the Muslim women.

More Funds Needed To Boost Applied Research

93AS0352A Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
20 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Tehran—"If the issue of shortage of research budget is solved, the universities will have no problem in carrying out applied research," an official recently [re]marked.

Addressing a press conference, Dr. S.J. Azhari, vice minister for research at the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, pointed to the importance attached by the Holy Quran and Islam to reflection and research.

He said that in their statements, the leadership and president of the Islamic Republic of Iran have always stressed the significance of research, adding that research gives way to developments in the world.

Comparing Iran's research budget to that of other countries, Azhari noted that in the budget for next year, only 0.6 percent has been allocated to research. This, he said, is very slight as compared to other countries.

Enumerating S. Korean policies, he maintained that over the past twelve years, the share of research has increased from 0.8 percent to 3.8 percent. He stressed that research budget is a principal and long-term investment and precludes reliance on a policy based on a single product.

Azhari cited Hong Kong as an example, marking that in 1991, it exported some \$10 billion worth of computer software while the investment made on this industry has been very low.

In this way, he made it clear, Hong Kong does not sell its oil and other mineral resources at a very cheap price, adding that it rather reserves them so as to later, use them optimally with the promotion of the petrochemical technology.

"Hong Kong has thus also prevented the brain drain," he said noting that it has sufficiently provided the researches from the financial point of view.

On the significance of investment for research, Azhari referred to a statement by renowned Muslim scholar Professor Abdulsalam who said: "The development of science and technology is in the hands of the economists, and I recommend that you give orientation to your economists."

Pointing to a recent gathering of research deputies of the universities in Tehran, he said that fortunately our professors have the capability to carry out research projects and if their financial problems are removed, they can gain global fame.

In 1991, 43 percent of the university professors were engaged in research activities in 140 centers affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the universities.

Expressing gratitude to all professors and researchers who have conducted research investigations in the course of the war years and in the reconstruction era, he noted that in the year prior to the victory of the Islamic Revolution only 93 research projects were presented in the country, but in the year 1991, some 2,600 projects were implemented, showing a considerable rise in the number of the projects in the post-revolution age.

Finally, Azhari compared research to a gem and the researcher to one who discovers and recognizes that gem, noting that if due attention is not given over to it because of some difficulties, the researcher should not be disappointed.

Production Capacity of Oil Industry Detailed

93AS0353D Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
21 Dec 92 p 5

[Article by Adabi]

[Text] Tehran—Presently, oil is a most vital and significant material worldwide due to its unique features as compared to other sources of energy. For this reason, the international oil market always faces many ups and downs globally because oil—or black gold as it is called—provides energy and meantime overshadows all economic policies of the producing and consuming countries. Consequently, the price of oil always serves as an important factor. It is difficult to make oil prices economically balanced so that both producers and consumers would benefit. This is because, in many cases the price of oil is determined by means other than economic considerations and surveys. When oil prices slump, the oil-producing countries boost production to bridge this gap caused by decline in prices. This price instability and insecurity—as done by the international cartels—has even overshadowed the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Instability and fluctuations in the oil markets have made some oil-rich countries think of boosting their potential production capacity. This prepares them to increase their production and at the same time allows them to make more extensive utilization of oil. One such country is the Islamic Republic of Iran, which with regard to its specific place in the world and possession of potential facilities has embarked on boosting its production. With regard to the problems arising from the imposed war, performance of this task is one of the glories of Iran's oil industry which has had considerable growth by utilization of domestic facilities and purchase of technical knowhow.

This growth indicates that Iran's oil industry can in future years be one of the major exporters, while having an extensive and determining role in global markets through oil sales. In view of the Oil Ministry's projects underway and huge investments in this regard, this will soon be fulfilled. In order to show its potential production capacity and to display oil drilling activities in Iran's oil-rich areas, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Oil

Ministry recently invited reporters to spend several days among the oil industrialists and to closely get acquainted with their activities. What follows is a report of activities for oil production in Iran's oil-rich areas.

In Iran, the oil industry is the oldest and biggest industrial section. It possesses one of the earlier and most consolidated organizations in the entire administrative system of the country. Its organizations have developed in the course of the years. Now that initially small industry, which consisted of a drilling site, some simple regional workers under the supervision of foreign technicians headed by an international merchant called Willian Nox Darci, has turned into a great organization under the name of the Oil Ministry which is in charge of leading all oil-related operations in the country in the oil, gas, and petrochemical sectors.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the provisional government proposed the establishment of the Oil Ministry to the Revolution Council. This was approved after the necessary surveys and was communicated to the government for implementation. According to this law, the national oil, gas, and petrochemical industries, firms and affiliated firms fall under the umbrella of the Oil Ministry. They should carry out all their affairs under the supervision of the oil minister. The most important duties, trends, and strategic policies of the Oil Ministry indicated and stressed in the "Oil Law" ratified by the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) are as follows:

- 1) Providing a major part of the country's required currency through export of crude oil and its products.
- 2) Preparing and meeting people's needs for different forms of energy.
- 3) Protecting the oil, gas, and hydrocarbon reserves of the country and planning to soundly utilize them in the long term.
- 4) Developing the petrochemical industries as a fundamental one having a very high value added.
- 5) Substituting natural gas for fossil fuels and intensification of programs to have piped gas all over the country.
- 6) Developing and strengthening research and scientific centers actively working on oil, gas, and petrochemical industries in order to gain access to the most modern forms of applied and practical technologies and industrial self-sufficiency and independence.

Management of the Oil-Rich Areas in the South

This management which is one of the biggest of the National Iranian Petroleum Company covers some 200,000 square kilometers which includes a large part of the oil and gas fields and installations.

Statistics indicate that more than 340 billion barrels of oil and 475 trillion cubic feet of gas have been discovered. So far, about 30 billion barrels of oil and 25 trillion

cubic feet of gas have been drilled from this area. Still this area has about 40 billion barrels of oil and 299 trillion cubic feet of gas.

Installations in the oil-rich areas at present include a large number of different forms of wells and more than 9,000 kilometers of oil and gas pipes which are being widely used.

Following the cessation of the imposed war and the start of the first five-year program of the country (in the second half of the year 1368), this management coordinated all its activities and programs in such a way that in the year 1372 (the end of the first five-year program), these oil-rich areas that produced a daily 2,400,000 barrels of oil in 1368 would increase production to an average ceiling of 3,110,000 barrels per day. Later on, this was changed to have the production ceiling reach 4 million barrels per day.

To reach the aforecited goal, several pivotal works were simultaneously carried out in different parts of the oil-rich areas. These include the following:

- a) Extensive expansion of drilling activities.
- b) Increase in the capacity of the utilization units.
- c) Pipeline network which is about 12,000 kilometers in the oil-rich areas was to undergo increase and this has been done in the past 7 months with the efforts of the workers and the officials in charge.
- d) Gas-injection projects: These are the axes of the programs to make optimal use of oil resources. At present, a considerable number of the reserves in the oil-rich regions of the south are being conducted for optimization of production on the basis of gas injection. Reference can be made to the Maroon, Gachsaran, Parsi, Bibi Hakimeh, Ramshir, Lab Sefid...fields.
- e) Projects to produce liquid gas and gas liquids: In line with the production of crude oil, a program has also been devised to increase the capacity of utilization and production of gas liquids and liquid gas since the two are interrelated and since proportionate with increase in gas production, exploitation of liquid gas and gas liquids will also increase.
- f) Reconstruction projects: A part of these started at the time of the war and are now at the level of production. Another part is now underway. The most important of these include the reconstruction of the Kharg jetties, large reserves' projects, petrochemical projects at the Imam Khomeini (R.A.) Port, reconstruction and renovation of the oil pipes and of the oil and gas utilization units.

Twenty-five thousand people work in the oil-rich areas and there are no foreign personnel in the operations' and implementation parts. At present, this region produces 1 billion and 80 million cubic feet of gas.

The Iranian Continental Shelf Oil Company

This oil company was established by amalgamating installations of the firms that were dissolved following the victory of the Islamic Revolution when all contracts contradictory to the nationalization of the oil industry were cancelled by the Revolution Council in Dey 1358. It started official activity from Mordad 1359 [23 Jul-22 Aug 1981].

Its duties include extensive survey for conducting drilling operations, utilization of crude oil and natural gas resources and all hydrocarbons (except coal), and constant supervision over the trend of drilling.

Geographically, this company works in the north and south of the Persian Gulf. The northern part includes Behregan and Kharg oil regions and the southern part includes the Lavan and Siri oil regions. The Behregan oil region includes three large naval fields called Nowrooz, Benregansar, and Hendijan with about 29 wells, 14 excavation platforms, and 2 utilization platforms.

The Kharg oil region has 4 naval fields called Foroozan, Dorood, Abuzar and Soroosh. Lavan has three naval fields called Rishadat, Risalat, and Salman while Siri has two naval fields, with the necessary facilities.

On the whole, the Persian Gulf fields have about 1,000 kilometers of underwater pipes which link the platforms with one another. One of the features of the Continental Shelf is the existence of joint fields. In the Foroozan area, there is a joint field with Saudi Arabia, in Salman with Abu Dhabi, and in Siri with Dubai.

At present, about 10 percent of the country's entire oil production comes from naval sources. This includes 16 percent of the country's entire exports as well. At [present] Iran's production capacity on sea and land is currently one million barrels of crude oil per day. Iran now has the ability to produce 500,000 barrels per day.

The Persian Gulf region has a high production capacity because presently there are fields in this region which have not developed as yet. As a result, three activities should be conducted to increase the potential for production of the Continental Shelf oil. These include the following:

- 1) Expansion of fields that have not been developed;
- 2) Expansion of layers;
- 3) New discoveries.

The entire reserves of Continental Shelf oil is about 6 billion barrels. Of course, this includes only the fields that have been explored. If the new fields are added to this, the figure will be higher.

In the Persian Gulf region, there are also three gas fields: 1) northern Parsi, 2) southern Parsi, 3) Khuf field in the Salman region. The southern Parsi field has about 100

trillion cubic feet of gas as a reserve and 300 billion gas liquid reserves. It serves as one of the biggest gas fields of the world.

Oil is derived from the sea through different platforms such as Salman and Nasr. The Salman platform is located in the Salman field. The oil taken from it will be sent to Lavan Island. In the course of the war, this platform was attacked twice. In the first attack, which was by Iraq, it sustained some damage, but in the second one which was by the U.S. warships, it was completely demolished.

Presently, this platform is ready for use. This platform has been designed in London and built in Dubai's Jibil Ali Port. It has been designed for production of 220,000 barrels of oil. This project has had an expense of \$280 million.

Salmon field is one of the joint fields of Iran. In other words, Iran shares this field with Abu Dhabi. About two thirds of the field belongs to Iran, and one third to Abu Dhabi. In this platform, the latest technology has been used.

From the Nasr Platform drilling, production, and dispatching of oil to the Siri Port takes place. Its installations have been reconstructed in the year 1370 [21 Mar - 20 Mar 1992]. The U.S. attacked this platform on Farvardin 29, 1367 [18 Apr 1989], but the platform started its operations once again in the year 1370.

According to the program, it intends to produce a daily 150,000 barrels while presently it is producing 30,000 barrels. This platform is located in the Nosrat field, one third of which belongs to Iran, and two-thirds to the United Arab Emirates.

The platform has been designed by the French ETPM Company and has been manufactured in the Jibil Ali Port over a period of about 16 months. This platform has 48 oil wells, 6 minor platforms, and a utilization platform. The oil is transferred from the minor platforms to the major one and is sent to the Siri Island. The pipe which bears the oil to the Siri Island is 40 kilometers long.

Rise Noted in Power Generation

93AS0353E Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
21 Dec 92 p 12

[Text] Tehran (IRNA)—Power generation in Iran reached 32,956,000 megawatts during the first half of the current calendar year (March 21-Sept. 22), up by 4.1 percent as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year.

According to the Power Generation and Distribution Company here Saturday, of the above figure, 27,574,000 megawatts was the output of steam generators while hydroelectric turbines accounted for the rest.

During the said period fuel consumption at the power plants was 2,468 million liters of black oil, 573 million liters of gas oil and 5,031 million cubic meters of gas.

Gas, oil and natural gas consumption at the plants rose by 16.5 percent and 6.1 percent respectively, compared with the first six months of the previous year, while that of black oil was down by 14 percent.

Arak Aluminum Factory Inaugurated

93AS0359B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 14 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Arak, Central Province, Dec. 13 (IRNA)—The fourth phase of Arak aluminum factory was put into operation here Saturday, increasing domestic aluminum production capacity by 22,000 tons per year.

Mines and metals minister, Mohammad Hosein Mahluhi, who inaugurated the project said that Iran joined the world aluminum market two years ago, hoping that the country would export 10,000 tons of aluminum by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 1993).

Production of each ton of aluminum would cost \$.800, said the minister, while the metal would be sold at \$.1,100 [as published] ton, showing a satisfactory added value.

However, he added, Iran was not willing to export raw minerals but rather preferred to export them as manufactured goods.

As for decoration slab stones, he said that Iran would join the world decoration slab stones market next year.

The fourth phase of the factory was put into operation at a cost of Rials 22 billion and an additional \$.31 million.

Power Generation Up by 4 Percent

93AS0359C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 21 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 20 (IRNA)—Power generation in Iran reached 32,956,000 megawatts during the first half of the current calendar year (March 21-Sept. 22), up by 4.1 percent as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year.

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Sarakhs Becoming Free Commercial Region

93AS0351Q London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] On 17 Azar [8 Dec] the general manager of Khorasan Customs announced that to expand commercial relations between Iran and Turkmenistan, the municipality of Sarakhs will be converted to a free-trade zone. He added that with the opening of the Sarakhs border and the construction of the Tajan-Sarakhs-Mashhad railroad, Sarakhs will become a major trade center for the Central Asian republics. The deputy governor general of Khorasan for planning also announced on the same day that Sarakhs will play an important role in expanding commercial and industrial cooperation between Khorasan and Turkmenistan. During the two-day exposition held exclusively for Iran recently in 'Eshqabad, 45 protocols and contracts valued at \$30 million were signed between Khorasan's industrialists and producers and the Republic of Turkmenistan.

Iranian Smugglers Arrested on Border

93AS0351T London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Baku television reports that six smugglers who were planning to take a quantity of goods into Iran to sell were arrested by the Republic of Azarbaijan's border guards in the Babak area of Nakhichevan. Three of those arrested were Iranian.

Imported Blood Cause of AIDS in Iran

93AS0359D Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 12 Dec 92 p 8

[Text] Yazd, Dec. 11 (IRNA)—Some 78 percent of AIDS victims in Iran have developed the deadly disease

through transfusion of imported blood products, head of the medical center of Yazd Dr. 'Ali Najafi said here Thursday.

Among other people with AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) virus, 17 percent were infected through sexual contact, 2 percent got the virus from their mothers at or before birth, 1 percent are drug addicts sharing infected syringes and 2 percent through other ways, he said.

Dr. Najafi added that most AIDS carriers infected either through blood transfusion or sexual contacts are from northern and southern provinces.

He said with regard to frequent travel of Iranian nationals abroad, they must be educated on ways of protecting themselves from the killer disease.

AIDS virus destroys the immune systems of the infected people, leaving them susceptible to a wide range of diseases.

He said the most important problem existing in this regard in Iran is that the Iranian physicians are not much familiar with the clinical symptoms of AIDS and people know little about how the virus is transmitted and spread.

"The best way to fight the disease is to provide people with necessary education in this respect," he said.

Najafi put the number of people diagnosed as carrying HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) or having AIDS until Oct. 22 this year at 211. He said the first AIDS victims in Iran was identified in 1987.

The ratio of AIDS victims to population in Iran is 3.6 in every one million while the figure is 810 in the United Arab Emirates, 310 in Bahrain, 172 in Qatar and 88 in Kuwait.