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ALGERIA

BRIEFS

USSR, ALGERIAN YOUTH DISCUSS COOPERATION--Algiers, 7 Apr (APS)--The Soviet delegation, headed by V. M. Mishin, prime secretary of Komsomols started on Saturday talks with the head of Algerian youth. In this regard, the secretary general of the National Union of Algerian Youth praised the good relations between the Algerian and the Soviet youth which reflect, he said, friendship ties which link the two countries. The secretary general of the National Union of the Algerian Youth recalled the participation of the Algerian youth in the international youth festival and announced the convening of a national festival of youth which will gather 6,00 youngsters. For this part, the prime secretary of USSR Komsomols underlined readiness of both sides to expand a fruitful cooperation. [Text] [Algiers APS in English 1030 GMT 7 Apr 85 LD]

CSO: 4500/74

EGYPT

AL-AHRAM VIEWS OUTCOME OF MUBARAK'S U.K. VISIT

PM181421 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 15 Mar 85 pp 1, 3

[Chief editor Ibrahim Nafi' article from Washington: "Comprehensive Report from Washington on Results of President's Visit: What We Want from the Americans and What They want from Us"]

[Text] I imagine that the real results of President Mubarak's talks with President Reagan and the U.S. administration will not become entirely clear either now or in the immediate future.

This is not surprising. When the matter concerns major historical issues involving people's destinies and the future of peace developments affecting them cannot be perceived by the eye as one would follow events in an illustrated news bulletin. Rather their causes interact deeply and slowly with numerous other factors after which the slow results of interaction begin to emerge on the scene of events until such time as the picture is completed and its features become clear after a long and strenuous efforts.

In my view President Mubarak is aware of this fundamental fact of international politics. He also believes that the battles of peace are longer and fiercer than the battles of war which, however long they may last, are measured in days and weeks while the battles of peace are measured in months and years. For this reason President Mubarak was realistic--realism being generally one of his character's important features--when he said, following his arrival in Washington:

"We do not expect from the United States immediate responses to the steps of movement toward a just peace...but we hold talks and discussions and do our best to persuade and then wait for the results later...."

It was with this realization of international political facts that President Mubarak exerted efforts during all his meetings and intensive dialogues with President Reagan, the U.S. administration, the congressmen, and the U.S. mind in general which we must address with understanding so that we may win it over the side of supporting peace.

I can say that all these efforts to address the American mind and the political quarters influencing the U.S. decisionmaking have been held in the midst of the most difficult and critical conditions.

The pro-Israeli tide inside the U.S. Congress in both its houses is now in its rosiest era following the recent elections in the United States which brought to Congress members from among the strongest supporters of Israel in the United States. The Zionist pressure groups, since the Jordanian-Palestinian accord was announced, are up in arms fiercely fighting to abort any potential results from this agreement that could be in the interest of the Palestinian problem and of restoring Arab rights.

Despite the present reality in the U.S. Congress, this is not an entirely new element in the situation. Egypt and President Mubarak are well aware that work for peace is not a trip on a calm sea, but rather it is a bitter struggle on an ocean of difficulties and contradictions. The SUNDAY TIMES described it best when it recently said that "it was a brave attempt on the part of President Mubarak and King Husayn to overcome differences and proceed toward peace."

What Egypt is now doing in Washington, according to Kuwaiti paper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM is "in harmony with the visualizations of a comprehensive and just peace which all the Arab leaders are calling for...what President Mubarak is doing is a step in the right direction and a practical expression of the desires of many Arab capitals whose leaders, probably for internal, regional and probably international considerations, kept them to themselves."

And because this is the case, Egypt's and President Mubarak's dialogue with President Reagan, the U.S. administration, and the U.S. Congress was frank and direct to the maximum degree possible.

We had our demands which we believe are just and necessary. We also believe that the United States, as a superpower and partner in peace, is called upon to shoulder its responsibility and play its influential role.

The Americans too had their demands, views, and questions which they believe are in need of frank and direct answers.

I can say here that the U.S. administration listened with great attention to what President Mubarak had to say and that the results of this important dialogue might not appear soon but most certainly it was an important, serious and effective step on a long road.

But, on the other hand, I can say that a political trip for the achievement of objectives is a difficult and long trip that needs patience and perseverance. Egypt's role in giving momentum to peace, which President Reagan rightly described as "pioneering," requires constant and untiring efforts in order to restore peace and establish a just peace.

We now want the Americans to play their role which, for various reasons--some of which we blame on them and some others which they blame on us--they have recently neglected to play.

The reasons we blame on the Americans are that the U.S. administration, during the presidential election year, did not deal with major problems such as the Middle East problem. The reasons they blame on us are their oft-repeated

assertions about the lack of a clear Arab visualization of a solution that enjoys the support of those directly concerned with the problem and the majority of the Arab countries.

We want the Americans to continue their efforts to give impetus to the peace process and to listen directly to the Palestinian voice, to which they have never listened before except through other parties and through their wrong perceptions of it.

We want them to move toward peace and we want their first step toward it to be a dialogue with the Jordanians and the Palestinian preparatory to the resumption of peace efforts.

The PLO, through its agreement with Jordan, has confirmed its belief in the political option of solving the problem. The great majority of the whole world, East and West, believes in the Palestinian right and the Arab right. It believes that the Palestinians are seeking right, justice and a just peace. It is unacceptable that the U.S. stand should continue to believe the Israeli allegation that the Palestinians are seeking destruction and ruination.

The Israeli intransigence vis-a-vis the PLO and the Palestinians stems only from a basic desire to maintain Israeli's occupation of the land and to swallow the West Bank and Gaza and change their identity. Israel is thereby merely serving its own strategy; it is not serving its own strategy; it is not serving the U.S. strategic political objectives in the area nor is it serving peace or looking forward to it.

The shrilly Israeli statements that accompanied Mubarak's visit to Europe and the United States confirm this hostile attitude toward peace. What the Israeli journalist Amos Elon once said truly expresses Israel's real attitude toward peace efforts. He said: "Israel will declare mourning the day the PLO accepts to negotiate with it."

This is a truth which Shamir never tires of repeating it in his statements and stands, the latest of which was his statement that Israel will not talk to the PLO even if it recognizes Resolution 242.

Therefore, the U.S. responsibility to exert pressure on Israel and to drive it toward peace and the restoration of rights is a historical responsibility which it bears as a partner in peace efforts since 1974 and as a superpower which declares that its most important objective in the Middle East is to achieve stability and security for its peoples.

And, because, as I said, the road is long the task needs intensive and exhaustive efforts in order to reach understanding on a clearer "scenario" for future steps toward peace. The most important questions that will be asked in the coming period are specifically:

Will the United States meet with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation or not?

Who will represent the Palestinians in such a delegation?

On the opposite side they are trying to render the Jordan-Palestinian accord meaningless and are planting mines on the road to peace by raising objections regarding who will represent the Palestinians in the delegation, whether it is Palestinians from inside the PLO or from outside it. This is in addition to all sorts of deliberate obstacles they raise.

What matters to us is that the momentum the Jordanian-Palestinian accord has achieved for the cause of peace should continue. What generally matters to us in the problem is the representation of the Palestinians who are directly concerned with the case and the ones who have a right to representation. Egypt is prepared at all times to make any move that would serve the objectives of peace and achieve the restoration of land as long as the Palestinians and Jordanians bless and support such steps.

Whatever happens and whatever obstacles they may place on the road to peace we should not despair, stop, or tire.

This was as far as the fundamental problem is concerned. On the level of bilateral relations we had important demands to make of the U.S. side. We have asked it to increase U.S. aid in proportion to Egypt's development needs and commensurate with its status as a state which, as one senior State Department official described it on the eve of Mubarak-Reagan talks, is a state of stable institutions that should be an example to be followed by the Third World and Middle East countries.

We wanted the Americans to differentiate in their aid between a friendly state that is serving peace, endeavoring to establish justice, and believes in the importance of resolving disputes in the area peacefully, and a state that is undermining peace in the area, clinging to the occupation of other people's land by force, and inciting long-term conflicts in the area.

We believe that the friend who is serving peace and stability should get a fair proportion of aid; even if it does not receive a greater proportion than that obtained by the other friend who is inciting conflicts, then at least it should get an equal amount of aid.

For this reason Egypt submitted a request for an additional amount in order to settle military debts because it is illogical that Egypt should obtain \$800 million in economic aid from the United States and use \$400 million of this in paying installments on military debts to the United States itself.

But the U.S. Congressmen and members of the powerful Zionist lobby imagine that the countries that obtain U.S. aid should offer something in return for this aid. They imagine that this element offered in return should be Egypt's response to three U.S. demands which are: The return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, allowing nuclear ships to pass through the Suez Canal, and allowing the building of a U.S. military base in Ra's Banas on the Red Sea.

In so doing they believe in straightforward American logic which trusts in the policy of give and take. On its part Egypt believes that aid given by any state to another state is not actually a one-sided giving but mutual giving. But giving what and in return for what?

Egypt believes that what it is offering is its belief in peace, the establishment of peace and stability in the area, and serving the strategic aims of peace. It believes that the U.S. role following the October war makes it incumbent upon it to help the countries that are seeking peace and development and in the light of this understanding it expects the United States to fulfill its commitments as a superpower.

As for the other U.S. demands, Egypt has long ago made clear its stand on these:

The return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel depends on the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, getting the talks on Tabah moving, and improving the conditions of living for the Arabs in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel.

Allowing nuclear ships to pass through the Suez Canal first and foremost depends on safety considerations in which Egypt believes. When Egypt believes that these have been satisfied it will then allow the passage of these ships in the coming years not only for the United States but also for other countries that own such ships.

As for the question of military bases, Egypt's attitude is clear and specific. Egypt does not accept military bases on its territory but it is prepared to give limited facilities to the Americans in Ra's Banas but only if an Arab country becomes the target of an external aggression.

All these stands are principled stands that are not subject to compromise or other calculations. If the congressmen are wondering what Egypt is offering in return for its demands, then one of the political facts that they should understand is that Egypt is an influential Arab power that throws its weight and capabilities behind peace and stability in the Middle East. In so doing it is acting in accordance with its long-term strategic objectives which agree with the declared U.S. objectives of achieving peace and stability in the area. It is the duty of the United States as a partner in peace to support the forces desiring peace and working for its sake and not the opposite.

In my view the economic talks with the United States have achieved important positive progress, which is the approval by the Americans for the first time to allocate additional funds to improve Egypt's balance of payments which Egypt can use for any purposes it may deem necessary.

President Mubarak had often complained of the size of military debts repayment installments and in particular the interest on these debts. The United States did not wish to change its attitude toward debts on the grounds that this would constitute a precedent that would prompt countries that are indebted to it to ask for the same.

Therefore, the U.S. approval to grant Egypt additional sums up to \$300 million means that there is a new inclination in the U.S. administration to increase the flexibility of aid given to Egypt and to boost its economic and financial capabilities.

But the most significant positive progress in the talks is that the U.S. administration can adopt a similar stand in the coming years and could even go farther than that.

The United States confirmed in the talks with President Mubarak and his aides that in the 1985-1986 budget it will give Egypt economic and military aid totalling about \$2.4 billion of which only \$200 million are in the form of low-interest loans to be repaid over 40 years while the rest will be an outright grant. Out of this amount \$1.3 million is military aid and \$1.1 economic aid.

What is important in this is that the United States is fully convinced of the priorities and the types of arms to be delivered to Egypt.

Generally it can be said that there are no problems concerning arms deliveries or types of arms. Also I can say that generally the Egyptian-U.S. talks on the level of bilateral relations were more than good and more than direct and positive.

On the level of the peace problem the talks were important and useful but the road is a long one. We must arm ourselves with patience and perseverance until we achieve the desired aim of restoring Arab rights and establishing peace.

CSO: 4504/81

EGYPT

AL-AHRAM ON U.S., ARAB POSITIONS

PM181913 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 16 Mar 85 p 7

[Azkariya Nil article: "Observations on the Margin of Arab Moves; Something Puzzling in the Arab Arena"]

[Excerpts] It seems that the U.S. administration was determined to put the cart before the horse where the Middle East crisis was concerned. Even before a number of Arab leaders arrived in Washington to submit a new concept for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict the United States requested prior Arab approval of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. Yes, it asked the Arabs to achieve something they could not achieve among themselves, as if it did not know that "it is difficult to get a consensus when it comes to taking a major stand, even among the NATO allies." This, however, is the game of musical chairs which is not governed by logic or reason. That was the story from the moment the U.S. president left his guest King Fahd in Washington and sent on a vacation. That also was the writing on the wall when the United States resolutely cast its veto against an international resolution condemning the Israeli massacres in southern Lebanon, and at that particular time. That move, which could have been deferred, was a manifestation of "helplessness" in making decisions.

The U.S. administration is excusable. A study of the changes in its position on the Middle East question over the past 5 years would seem to suggest that there is a greater power, a power with which it cannot clash, a power more capable of imposing counter decisions which would paralyze any attitude not in harmony with its own. The U.S. administration does not deny this fact. It acknowledges the power of the Zionist pressure groups in Congress. It also admits that any decision taken in isolation from these groups would also be a decision of deprivation from other things. In fact when it fails to fulfill the wishes of its friends it advises them to open direct contact channels with these groups which undeniably constitute the mightiest pressure institution which interferes in the making of any political decision affecting the Middle East. Some might imagine that this power, known as the Zionist lobby, is merely an opposition bloc in Congress, but the truth is that it is one of the biggest American institutions.

So, in the face of an embarrassing Arab posture, the U.S. administration is excused for escaping under a smoke screen. Sometimes it calls for unanimous

Arab approval of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, forgetting that although there was such an Arab consensus regarding the Arab peace plan declared by the Fes summit conference not a single step forward was taken. At other times it calls for direct negotiations with Israel around the same table but it refrains from defining the framework which should govern these negotiations and from stating the targets.

Perhaps all of us Arabs are responsible for the U.S. attitude. There are ambiguities in the Arab position which [are] not analyzed.

What is happening now in the Arab arena in relation to the most difficult and delicate move affecting the cause is puzzling. The question is: Why this introversion, silence, and unwillingness to declare an opinion? Are the Arabs against an agreement willingly signed for the first time by the Palestinian legitimate representative? That is unlikely. We have all raised the same slogan in dealing with the cause: That we support the Palestinian decision regarding the plans and moves to fulfill Palestinian legitimate rights.

If the Arabs support the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement then why has such support not been made public and official locally, internationally, and through the media?

It is true that the U.S. decision is governed by those people in the strongholds of Zionist pressure in the U.S. Congress, but we Arabs, through the conduct of some of our leaders, have given them the opportunity to exert their pressures whether for the rejection of direct negotiations between the Americans and the Palestinians or for the refusal to condemn Israel's bestial massacres in southern Lebanon.

CSO: 4504/81

EGYPT

EGYPTIAN WEEKLY APPRAISES MUBARAK'S U.S. VISIT

PM181925 Cairo AL-YAWM in Arabic 16 Mar 85 p 8

[Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah article from Washington: "Money is No Problem"]

[Text] It was alleged that Egypt submitted new ideas to reactivate the peace progress for no other reason than its desire to obtain more U.S. economic aid since it knew in advance that the United States will not show great enthusiasm for such ideas and will not agree to negotiate with the PLO. It is said that Egypt will abandon its proposals as soon as it obtains the required financial aid from the United States. It is also said that Egypt would be content with hearing pleasant and encouraging words in response to its new peace initiative as long as this move yields the desired economic fruit.

This and many other things was said in some of the American papers and in most of the Arab papers. But this was not the truth. The first to answer these allegations was President Mubarak in his answers to the U.S. journalists whom he met the day before yesterday in their club in Washington. President Mubarak said: "It is not a question of only obtaining money. If this was the objective it would have been very easy to obtain in another way."

Those who make such claims know more than anybody else that Egypt can obtain several times the amount of money it needs if it pursued a path different from the path of peace it has been pursuing. Most of our economic difficulties have been the result of the stands we have adopted and the objectives we are seeking. Most of the American voices that rejected aid to Egypt spoke of their rejection only in response to Egypt's adherence to the Palestinian cause and its recent move to convince the United States to initiate dialogue with the PLO.

It could not have been easier for Egypt, had money been its only objective, to remain silent, not to make a move, to accept rather than to object, and to raise slogans that it does not really intend to achieve. Had Egypt done this it would have pleased all the parties ranging from the Arab rejection countries to Israel and the powerful Zionist lobby in the United States. But it is Egypt's destiny to speak, to move, to put forward proposals, and to adhere to its stand.

Egypt submitted a request to the United States for additional and necessary economic aid. Not all that it requested was granted; in fact it obtained much less than it expected. This however did not lessen its enthusiasm for the peace proposals it put forward. During the days he spent in intensive talks in the U.S. capital President Husni Mubarak let no opportunity pass without explaining his ideas, putting forward his proposals, and answering all the points raised by the objectors and pessimists regarding the usefulness of these proposals. There is no connection between the economic aid and the peace proposals. The first falls within bilateral U.S.-Egyptian relations and do not concern anybody else; the second concentrates on the attempt to give momentum to the comprehensive peace process in the Middle East as the most important problem concerning the whole world.

The fact that Egypt did not obtain all the U.S. economic aid it asked for did not influence Cairo's conviction of the need for U.S. action and of elevating the secondary role the United States is now playing to that of the principal role which it can play to end tension and conflict in the Middle East. This was what President Mubarak referred to when he asked President Reagan to invite Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to explore the possibilities of peace with a view to strengthening the movement toward peace and creating more confidence. President Mubarak was clear when he said: "Vital U.S. interests will be affected to a large extent if the problem is not solved at the earliest opportunity. The United States will suffer from the continuously escalating tension more than anybody else."

The weakest point in the U.S. rejection of the new move is its refusal to conduct a dialogue with Palestinians belonging to the PLO. Just as it is impossible to conduct a dialogue with the Palestinians without the PLO, which alone has the illegitimate right to speak on their behalf, it is also impossible for the United States to find among the Palestinians anyone less extremist and more flexible than the present PLO leadership. It was interesting when President Mubarak said in his address to the journalists: "If we were to bring 20 Palestinians into this hall I challenge you to know who belongs to the PLO and who does not." President Mubarak then reiterated what he has often said before about the moderation of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, his realism, and the encouraging step he has taken when he opted for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem.

Most of the views expressed there were unanimous that Egypt will not find the expected response from the U.S. administration given the official statements that the United States must refrain at present from making any new and influential move on the Middle East problem. But this unanimity might be proven wrong in the near future, particularly after Egypt has succeeded in its current effort to hold a joint preliminary meeting between Egypt, Jordan and the United States in which the three parties would agree on the framework within which the circle of dialogue can be expanded to include the Palestinians at a future stage. This is considered to be a positive step in the midst of so many objections, rejections and pessimism both written and oral.

Egypt has chosen the path to peace and made wide strides on it. It is inconceivable that it should not stop or retreat because of some pessimistic views or rejection by those who cannot but reject.

EGYPT

PRESS ON EUROPEAN, U.S. VIEW OF MUBARAK PROPOSAL

NC170746 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA)--In their Sunday editions, the Cairo newspapers were unanimous in their appraisal of President Husni Mubarak's tour to the United States and several European countries. The tour, which ended today, had an effect and reached its objective; namely, persuading influential international parties to carry out a more active and more positive role in providing momentum to the peace process.

AL-AHRAM says that anyone who reads the statements by officials and opposition leaders in Britain, West Germany, Italy and France realizes the degree of response these states have made to the ideas and proposals declared by President Mubarak for providing momentum to the peace process to reach its desired goal and to attain the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The paper adds: While the U.S. administration has decided to take time to consider the Egyptian ideas and proposals before giving its final view, U.S. President Reagan will send a high-level envoy, Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and some other states in the region on a factfinding mission. Murphy then will submit an urgent report to Reagan with his appraisal of the proposal to invite a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to visit the United States for dialogue with officials. In light of this appraisal, the U.S. administration will adopt a stance regarding the peace issue the importance of which is not limited to the Middle East. The issue affects the whole world and U.S. interests in particular.

AL-AKHBAR comments on a European role in the peace process. In this regard the paper says that President Mubarak achieved one of the most important objectives of his tour; namely, to involve the European states in the Middle East problem after reviewing with them the details of the latest efforts exerted in the region.

The paper notes that Europe has important interests in the region which require constant European efforts to restore stability and peace there.

AL-AKHBAR says that Western Europe, which before had adopted honest positions regarding the Middle East problem, can become a source of pressure on the United States to push it into the Middle East peace process. Europe also can provide pressure on Israel to make it abandon its hostile and expansionist policy and to accept the principle of peace with its Arab neighbors.

EGYPT

COMMENTARY NOTES OUTCOME OF MUBARAK U.S. VISIT

NC171626 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Commentary by Ibrahim Wahbi]

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's trip to Europe and the United States can be described as the beginning of moves and activities. It could generate serious thinking in Europe and the United States about the fate of this region, where the peace attempts have been left frozen, or hampered by obstacles placed by those who benefit from obstructing a settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Despite the fact that Europe has shown great understanding of President Mubarak's proposals, no one has thought that the situation could change dramatically overnight. We did not at all expect a U.S. statement declaring agreement to sit with the PLO or setting the date and venue for a meeting. We did not think of this at all. What we want is to brief the Americans on the facts and explain ways and means of implementing the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as Egypt views it, the alternatives, the role the United States must play, and the future of the talks. Afterward, the United States would have all the details, expected results, and the various positions to study and consult with all parties before making its decision and assume the responsibilities that should be assumed.

True, the United States has not defined a position. As Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's office for political affairs, has put it, the United States is seriously thinking of President Mubarak's proposal for dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Perhaps the U.S. role has begun with the statement of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that President Reagan has decided to send Richard Murphy, Shultz' assistant on Middle East Affairs, to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and other countries in the area to assess the situation and immediately brief the U.S. president.

In the meantime, Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir Masri is arriving in Washington for talks with Shultz and Richard Murphy. Perhaps these efforts in making them realize the consequences of any hesitation to solve the Palestinian problem, will greatly help make President Mubarak's visit a success. At the same time it will help the United States to make a decision. Thus, President Mubarak did not hesitate to tell the United States that the

U.S. interests in the region will be endangered if the problem is not solved immediately, and that the wait-and-see attitude toward developments in the area is a step backward and a defeatist handling of the affairs. We cite as an example the Lebanese issue; when the occupation and problems remained unresolved, suicidal attacks and fedayeen operations emerged. The occupation motivated the formation of new Lebanese fedayeen organizations, which saw their homeland taken and their sons displaced. Such operations and counteroperations will create gaps through which foreign forces, lying in wait for the Arab world and the Western world, could enter.

Perhaps the Israeli decision to withdraw from Lebanon means that solutions to problems cannot be brought about by repression, violence and occupation, but through peaceful means, which the PLO has advocated and to which it has responded. It remains for the United States to persuade Israel that it must realize the consequences of stagnation, deadlock, resort to invasion, and considering occupation as an alternative to a solution and a settlement.

CSO: 4504/81

EGYPT

COMMENTARY VIEWS FOLLOWUP TO MUBARAK'S TOUR

NC181555 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Commentary by 'Abd al-'Azim Hammad: "Egypt Continues Its Endeavors"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak is meeting with King Husayn of Jordan to examine the outcome of the Egyptian president's talks in the United States and Europe. Meanwhile, People's Assembly Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub is heading a parliamentary delegation on lengthy working visits to the United Kingdom and the United States.

Naturally, the fact that President Mubarak and King Husayn are discussing the outcome of Mubarak's talks in Washington, Paris, London, Frankfurt and Venice means that Egypt and Jordan agree on the next step, or alternative steps, the goals of which are to liberate the West Bank and Gaza and to restore the rights of the Palestinian people. Egyptian-Jordanian coordination, together with the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, has become the cornerstone in the Arab bid to restore rights and land.

This Egyptian drive on the Arab front is accompanied by a new Egyptian drive on the European and U.S. front, which is being conducted by the People's Assembly speaker. This second drive is meant to follow up and make full use of President Mubarak's talks with U.S. and European officials for the restoration of rights and land.

Mubarak's efforts, which began before his European-U.S. tour, have gained a lot of official support in some circles and official interest in other circles. The goal of Mubarak's efforts is to begin a preliminary dialogue between the United States and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

It is a matter of course, to cite President Mubarak, that some parties, particularly the United States, would need to consult with other parties in addition to Egypt. It is also natural that the United States has more than one course of action available to it to achieve this important goal.

This is why it has become important for Egypt and Jordan to coordinate their future moves to deal with alternative U.S. plans of action. This is particularly true because U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy will focus on this issue during his upcoming visit to the area. Of course, Egyptian-

Jordanian coordination will be complemented by similar coordination with the PLO. Jordan, with Egyptian support, has pledged to act jointly with the PLO for the liberation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Mubarak's talks with European and U.S. officials and journalists, plus the fact that the United States needs to examine alternatives and make decisions on them, necessitates that Mubarak's tour should be followed up. Both officials and public opinion affect decisionmaking in the United States and Europe. It is exactly for this reason that an Egyptian parliamentary delegation is today beginning a tour of the United Kingdom and the United States. This confirms that Egypt is mobilizing all its political resources, in a coordinated and integrated way, in order to restore the rights of the Palestinian people.

CSO: 4504/81

EGYPT

AL-AHRAM, AL-AKHBAR CITED ON MUBARAK'S TOUR

NC180757 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 18 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial on President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's visit to four European nations and the United States, AL-AHRAM sheds light on the statement which President Mubarak made upon returning to the homeland. He said the priority assigned to U.S. policy in the Middle East has not changed, and that the issue still receives the same care and attention that other leading questions do. President Mubarak said: We didn't go to the United States to get a positive or negative answer to Egypt's proposals. Rather, our objective was to discuss the issue and determine what the Americans can do to give momentum to the peace process. This stems from the fact that Egypt's ideas and proposals concern the nations of the region, the United States, and the European Community.

Continuing, AL-AHRAM emphasizes that the road to a just, honorable, and comprehensive peace is a long and thorny one calling for painstaking efforts. It adds: If a number of our Arab brothers have failed to adopt clear-cut, positive positions on Egypt's proposals and on the Palestinian national accord [as heard], why should we be angry if Washington has asked us for more time to consider and study these questions? It has asked for this time before expressing its opinion and taking practical steps to facilitate efforts for peace.

AL-AHRAM concludes by declaring: President Mubarak's tour of Europe and the United States has laid the necessary foundation for the establishment of a comprehensive peace. What remains to be seen is how much each country will contribute toward achieving a just and honorable peace.

Commenting on President Mubarak's meeting with King Husayn, AL-AKHBAR writes: Today's meeting is a continuation of Egyptian-Jordanian coordination. President Mubarak will brief King Husayn on the outcome of his 9-day tour, which took him to Paris, Washington, London, Bonn and Rome. The paper describes these Egyptian-Jordanian consultations as extremely important and dictated by current developments in the Middle East. The exchange of views between Egypt and Jordan is the way to reach a joint position on a future solution to the Middle East crisis.

AL-AKHBAR notes that President Mubarak's tour of the United States and Western Europe made a new U.S. move possible. That step will be opened by sending Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, to the region next week. The paper expresses its conviction that the impact of President Mubarak's tour will be clearly demonstrated at the European summit in Brussels. According to the paper, Europe can play a more positive role in solving the Middle East crisis. President Mubarak confirmed to the European public the sincere desire for peace of the parties concerned with the Middle East crisis--Egypt, Jordan and the PLO.

AL-AKHBAR also expresses hope that the Arabs will show a greater commitment to the path of peace, as this alone will expose Israel's false claims. The paper refers to Israel's constant excuse that the Arabs have no desire for peace. However, the paper writes, as the Arabs' desire for peace grows stronger, Israel's fears become greater. Perhaps the Arab leaders will now resort to reason to reach a unified position.

CSO: 4504/81

EGYPT

BRIEFS

SINAI PROJECTS ANNOUNCED--The process of linking the Sinai to the mainland is going in full swing with efforts now under way to forge integration between the two governorates of Port Said and North Sinai. A meeting recently held in Arish between North Sinai Governor Munir Shash and Port Said Governor Abdel Rahman el-Faramawi has produced agreement on appointing joint committees to undertake the planning and supervising the implementation of fishing, tourists and other ventures that would markedly boost the cause of integration between the two governorates. Governor Shash said in a statement to the press that he and Port Said Governor approved a project to build a coastal highway linking Port Fuad to Rummana. At a later stage, the connection could be extended eastward to reach Arish, capital of North Sinai. It will then take motorists not more than one hour to drive from Port Said to Arish. The two governorates have also finalised agreement to set up a chain of touristic villages at an estimated cost of LE 10 million and a relevant plan to build flyovers at harbour intersections so that motorists may not have to drive a long way around. [Text] [Cairo EGYPTIAN MAIL in English 23 Mar 85 p 2]

CSO: 4500/75

ISRAEL

FATAH TRAINING MATERIAL FOUND IN NABULUS JAIL

TA021131 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Apr 85 p 1

[Report by Re'uven Shapira]

[Text] Propaganda and training material from terrorist organizations has been distributed in prisons where security prisoners are kept; this is in a bid to train them to attack Israel. An Arabic language document published by Fatah, which includes detailed training and instructions on how to operate in the "conquered territories" in the unsophisticated (cold) terrorist methods [not involving the use of firearms] has recently been discovered in the central Judea and Samaria prison in Nabulus, where approximately 800 security prisoners are being jailed.

The document, which concludes with the words "from revolution to victory," carries an unusual Fatah admission of its realization that it is outside the power of "the people in the conquered territories" to use the armed struggle method, which is why it is encouraging them to engage in alternative methods.

According to the Prison Service, the fact that the document has reached the Nabulus jail with its stiff security measures confirms the long-held assessment of security elements: The jails in which security inmates are incarcerated serve as a hotbed for training men for hostile activity against Israel. The sources maintain that the leniency shown in the imprisonment conditions of the security prisoners, and the reliefs they have recently enjoyed, signified to them surrender to their demands and a sign of the weakness of the authorities. This in turn led to increased subversive and terrorist activity on their part.

Authoritative sources in the Prison Service yesterday argued, on the other hand, that quiet and order are being scrupulously observed. Each case of order violation or disciplinary action is being handled firmly, and it is crystal clear to the inmates that it is not worth their while to make trouble, since they stand to lose a lot.

CSO: 4400/113

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

DECISION ON PILGRIMAGE --The Interior Ministry has reversed its decision permitting Israeli Muslims to make the pilgrimage to Mecca only once in their lives. The Interior Ministry has changed the decision following requests of the Muslim community and meetings with a public committee on this issue. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Mar 85]

JUDGES RESIGN--Two Arab judges in the West Bank Supreme Court have resigned over bribery and corruption charges. Judges Abu Sawi and Ralab Haj Mahmud are now meeting with the acting head of the Civil Administration, Colonel Freddy Zakh. A third judge is still under interrogation. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Mar 85]

MORAL CODE, JUSTICE OBSERVED--The head of the Judea and Samaria Civilian Administration, Colonel Freddy Zakh, today told the heads of the local judicial system that the Civilian Administration will do everything in its power to observe the proper moral conduct and full justice. He summoned judges and prosecutors from Judea and Samaria following the detention of five judges suspected of having taken bribes. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that approximately 2 weeks ago, three of the four judges in the supreme appeals court were detained, and yesterday two Nabulus district judges were detained. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Mar 85]

ZAIRE, KENYAN OFFICIALS TO VISIT--Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko will visit Israel in May. The visit had been scheduled for two previous dates but was postponed. The beginning of May has now been found to be the most convenient date for both sides. President Mobutu will arrive in Israel at the head of a large delegation of ministers and aides, and will ask Israel for extensive aid in the spheres of agriculture, weapons, and army matters, as well as for financial assistance. The Kenyan agriculture minister is also scheduled to arrive next month within the framework of Israel's efforts to improve relations with the African countries. Although there are no diplomatic relations between Israel and Kenya, Israeli companies -- particularly those specializing in agriculture -- have been operating in Kenya. [Report by the political correspondent] [Text] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Mar 85]

YOUTHS SENTENCED--The district court in Nazareth has imposed a 6-month prison sentence on a youth from the Druze village of Majdal Shams in the Golan Heights. He was convicted of waving a Syrian flag at a gathering on the Syrian border two and one-half months ago. Earlier, three other youths were sentenced to terms of two to four months for the same offense. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Apr 85]

NEW GAZA DISTRICT COMMANDER--Aluf-Mishne (Colonel) Yehoshu'a Erez is to be appointed commander of the Gaza district today and be promoted to the rank of tat-aluf (brigadier general) the IDF spokesman said. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Mar 85 p 2]

VOICE OF ISRAEL DIRECTOR--Gos Yisra'el [voice of Israel] director Gid'on Lev-Ari is to stay on in his post, it was decided yesterday by the management committee of the Israel Broadcasting Authority [IBA], after IBA Director-General Uri Porat informed the committee that he was prepared to serve a third three-year term. [Excerpt] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Apr 85 p 2]

POLICE CONFISCATE HEROIN--Detectives of the drug division of the Tel Aviv Police Central Unit yesterday detained nine people suspected of trading with and buying drugs from a station thought to have been set up in a residential apartment in Padres Kaz. Police also confiscated 11 doses of heroin, each one valued at approximately 16,000 shekels. [Excerpt] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Apr 85 p 5]

EGYPTIAN SHIPPING LINE OPENS--The first Egyptian shipping line to Israel has been opened by a new company, the Egyptian Reefers and General Cargo Shipping Co of Alexandria. The firm's first ship arrived here yesterday. It is represented in Israel by the Israel-Scandinavia Maritime Agencies Ltd. [Summary] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Apr 85]

UNEMPLOYMENT DROPS IN MARCH--Some 41,700 people applied for jobs at employment offices in March, approximately 1,000 fewer than in February. The number of persons who were unemployed for six days or more decreased slightly and numbered 19,600. The number of job vacancies increased by some 20 percent and some 3,300 jobs remained vacant. The Employment Service believes the drop was caused by a seasonal rise in demand for workers due to the upcoming Passover holiday. [Summary] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Apr 85]

ROMANIA TRAVEL TAX EXEMPTION--Israelis travelling to Romania will henceforth be exempted for paying the 20-percent tax on flight tickets. This was decided today by the Knesset Finance Committee at the government's request. [Excerpt] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Apr 85]

CSO: 4400/112

KUWAIT

AL-ANBA' VIEWS U.S.-ARAB FINANCIAL RELATIONS

GF191300 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 17 Mar 85 p 28

["Notes" column by Lutfi al-Khuli: "The Tragedy of the Arabs in This Age"]

[Text] A chance meeting brought me together with three men of various European nationalities. Each occupies positions in world finance that enable them to know the secrets of what is being cooked up in this strange and very complex world by terrible dinosaurs behind closed doors.

I did not know them before. When they knew I was Arab each of them began, in a melodramatic way, to extend to me his condolences for the present and future of the Arabs. At first I thought they were being racist and sarcastic and a heated discussion erupted among us. However, soon I realized that ideologically--their nationalities notwithstanding--they belong to the Third World. Some of them had published works openly attacking the bases of the present world economic order which sucks the strength and wealth of the Third World and channels it to the world monopolies and the giant multi-national companies.

Naturally I asked them: If these are truly your views why and how have you been appointed to these important positions? They looked at each other and smiled and then one of them gave me an answer as sharp as a knife: They wanted to buy, tame, and silence us. We agreed because this would enable us to know more precisely the secrets of the diabolical machine that rules and runs the world. Frankly, the secrets we knew before we assumed our posts are nothing compared with the information we obtained after we infiltrated the corridors of the invisible empire.

Another said more specifically: "The Arabs are wasting--that is if they have not already wasted--their historic golden opportunity to take their rightful place in the world and be strong in the face of the horrible monster of the legends. The monster has broken loose and entered the Arab village creating havoc."

A lengthy discussion followed between me and the three men. In order to convince me of their views they put forward some confounding facts that break one's back and crush one's heart. I will cite three of these facts as an example:

The first fact: Arab investments in the United States alone amount to \$70-80 billion. These investments have enabled Washington to employ 1.5 million workers, thus greatly contributing toward the alleviation of the acute unemployment crisis in the United States.

The question posed by the three men was: What political and economic gains have the Arabs reaped from this great service they are rendering to the United States? What if these investments are gradually withdrawn? One of them replied: I cannot say that the United States will die of hunger, but at least it will give consideration to what the Arabs say and want.

The second fact: The dinosaurs of the invisible empire have, through well-studied planning and by maneuvering and exercising various pressures, been able to reduce the proportion of Arab oil in the world market from 70 percent to only 25 percent.

The question, also posed by one of the three men, is: Why have the Arabs remained silent until they reached such a state? And how much longer? One of them said words to the effect: OPEC will take care of it.

The third fact: The U.S. plan in dealing with Arab oil is based on the following priorities: Give preference to nonpetroleum sources of energy over oil; import oil from non-Arab sources and do not turn to Arab sources for oil except in great emergencies; import from outside OPEC member countries until OPEC is dismembered and destroyed; when importing from OPEC preference will be given to importing from non-Arab countries; in great emergencies when it is necessary to import from OPEC's Arab member states--and here lies both the surprise and the irony--to import as much as possible from Arab countries other than Saudi Arabia.

The question posed by the three men was: Are OPEC, the Arabs and Saudi Arabia aware of this plan and have they sensed it? What have they done to confront it? What is the reason for such a U.S. stand toward Saudi Arabia in the present stage? One of the three men commented: This in short is the tragedy of the Arabs in the present age.

CSO: 4400/116

KUWAIT

KUWAITI DAILY INTERVIEWS PRC STATE COUNCILLOR

GF161934 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 15 Mar 85 p 7

[Report on interview with Zhang Jingfu, PRC state councillor in charge of financial and economic affairs, by correspondent Fadiyah al-Zu'bi--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Zhang Jingfu, PRC state councillor in charge of financial and economic affairs, said that Kuwait and the GCC states in general which have oil resources and large capital and are planning for further development and construction lack labor power and light industry. The PRC possesses these factors; the PRC and the GCC are working as partners in the economic and trade field.

In a statement to AL-WATAN, he added that the economic cooperation between the PRC and the GCC states has witnessed considerable activity during the last few years. He said that there are PRC engineers and workers in Kuwait and that big PRC contracting companies are implementing vital projects. Concerning trade exchange, he said that Kuwait, as well as the PRC, has oil resources and that the PRC can meet Kuwait's demands in the industrial, agricultural, and textile fields. Kuwait can provide the PRC with chemical fertilizers.

The state councillor talked about the PRC-Tunis-Kuwait joint project. He said that the successful implementation of the project will contribute to the prosperity and the stability of the Arab world and the Gulf region. It also will consolidate the stand of the Third World and its negotiating position with advanced countries. It will help in reforming the unjust international economic system.

He affirmed that, while cooperating with the developing countries, the PRC adheres to four principles: mutual exchange of benefits; concentration on practical feasibility; cooperation in various fields; and striving for joint development.

State councillor Zhang assured that the PRC will not change its present open-door policy, because this policy agrees with the interests of the PRC people.

Concerning the recent PRC economic measures aimed at encouraging foreign investments, he said: "We are trying to create a good investment base. We provide easy tax services for investors. For example, the income tax for establishments of the PRC public sector is 55 percent; for joint PRC-foreign ventures, 33 percent; and for joint establishments and companies in the private economic sector, 15 percent. The joint ventures are exempted from taxes for the first 2 years. The income tax decreases during the 3d, 4th, and 5th years. All imported equipment for investment, all raw materials, and spare parts imported for producing goods for export and which have been stated in the contracts are exempted from customs tariff."

CSO: 4400/116

KUWAIT

GCC COMMUNIQUE SAID 'CLEAR MESSAGE' TO IRAN

GF211224 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 20 Mar 85 p 6

[Editorial by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "You Cannot Preach Wisdom to Fools"]

[Text] The GCC foreign ministers communique announced by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad yesterday was a clear message to Iran that the GCC states would not allow any Iranian violation of Iraqi sovereignty because such a violation would result in the entire Gulf falling into the Iranian trap.

Iraq has defended its sovereignty in a way that has restored morale, not only to the region's people but to all Arabs.

The communique expressed an appreciation of what the Iraqi leadership and forces had achieved inasmuch as their defence of their country was also a defence of the whole region.

This reflects the feelings of the public here. The people understand that Iraq has never been the aggressor, and though achieving victories during the past five years, it has been constantly calling for peace and appealing to Iran to spare the blood of its youth and to preserve its wealth.

But Iran stubbornly continued its aggressions as if there was only one system appropriate for this world and that Iran was the only country which could provide it.

All Iraq's polite dealings failed to persuade Iran to end its aggression, and Iran's foolishness increased until the patience of the Gulf people was exhausted.

We therefore call upon Iraq not to halt its attacks inside Iran until these fools abandon their ill-conceived plans.

We also call upon all countries in the region to play their part because they are open war areas in the eyes of Iran, and the attacks on and destruction of Gulf shipping is evidence of this.

Iraq has carried out its role fully, and wisdom has ceased to be the proper way of dealing with fools.

CSO: 4400/116

KUWAIT

AL-WATAN REPORTS ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE

GF211830 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 20 Mar 85 pp 6-9

['Abd al-Karim Abu Khadra dispatch on the second session of the Kuwaiti National Assembly on 19 March]

[Excerpts] His highness the heir apparent said: The government listened to the desire made by your esteemed assembly with regard to having the government hastily set the government platform, including its internal and foreign policies. I hope that the esteemed brother members of the esteemed council do not construe this delay as being a deliberate process undertaken by the government which is a violation of the constitution. Nevertheless, I would like to tell this esteemed assembly that the government will present this platform in 1 month.

Dr al-Khatib: I believe that the dialogue held today is good, intriguing, interesting and pleasant. He then said: The constitutional clause is clear. It requires no explanation. The stumbling block in Kuwait is that the political status clashes with the ambitions expressed in the Kuwaiti Constitution where those who drew it up had in mind the developments of the political life. We are confronting a genuine problem. Unfortunately, there is a demand to have the government formed within 2 weeks, to have persons encounter various intellectual trends, and to come up with a detailed platform. This debate explained the problem. Consequently, we hope that there will be cooperation between the government and the assembly in order to promote political life in Kuwait and to build the desirable ambitions of our constitution.

He continued saying: If this were possible, then it would be possible to form a government within 1 week and map out its policy. Moreover, when we, the deputies, become candidates we have to represent certain platforms that solve the problems of Kuwait. We, as legislators, have to support laws that lead to this end, such as the formation of political parties so that the platforms can be demonstrated in advance and can be known. May the ministers allow me to say and to accept it.

Dr al-Khatib added: I demand two things. First: I demand the government and the assembly cooperate in order to provide momentum to the political life in Kuwait and not to maintain the current situation. Second: I demand

the prime minister to take this point into consideration which would encompass a visualization of the government's composition and platform 6 months prior to the election in such a way that this will not be linked with the results of the election. I believe that this could be the right solution.

Dr Nasir Sarkhuh: In the beginning, I would like to convey my profound heartfelt greeting to those who restored to us the hope of liberating the occupied territories--foremost of which all the territories of dear Palestine--amidst an atmosphere charged with capitulatory solutions. The Lebanese resistance has proven that it is possible to repulse the Zionist enemy without going to the White House for further humiliation and shame but by confronting the unjust and the usurpers and by adopting the same style they adopt. These faithful tell us to resort to God and to the unlimited human capabilities instead of resorting to the enemies of God and humanity. So we resort to God instead of resorting to the United States which is regarded as our major enemy in this era.

We do respond to the unceasing U.S. harm on various levels by presenting to it prizes and rewards. Is the United States not involved in a strategic alliance with the entity that is usurping Palestine? Is the United States not the country that vetoes all our just issues? How long will we beg our enemies to solve our problems?

'Abdallah al-Nufaysi: Political issues and organizations are not judged solely by their aims. Even if we read the constitution of the Zionist state which was established with the expulsion of peoples, we will find noble aims in it, since words are one thing and political causes and systems are another. We must read the details of subjects. I read the seven parts of the security agreement and found that it is a plot against the peoples of the region.

There is a difference between fruitful cooperation and Kuwait's efforts during the reigns of the late 'Abdallah al-Salim and Sabah al-Salim, may God rest their souls, and the GCC. There is now an obstacle to the way of the procession. Brzezinski's report--he was national security adviser in Carter's administration--says: We used to rely on Nixon's theory in defending our interests and in that regard we used to lean on two pillars. However, one pillar, the shah, has now fallen. Then came the idea of the AWACS planes, which are dispersed over no fewer than 10 or 11 points on the [Arabian] peninsula coasts. It has cost the GCC countries \$86 billion--according to the Library of Congress--to establish bases controlled by the Americans, and an agreement was made with the United States which does not permit the GCC countries to have direct access to the AWACS planes except after 10 years. Such information goes around in the U.S. Congress and Americans have access to it. As for us, we do not have the right even to talk about it, although we are the sons of the region.

I believe that Abu 'Abd al-'Aziz [minister of state for cabinet affairs] has implicitly answered my question when he said that the Arab League was established by the British and in time it adopted anti-British stands, and in time we may take up stands against the Americans.

The minister: I have said that the doctor is a good debater. However, he has the ability to alter ideas, and I am sorry for this. Now he is comparing the Arab League to the GCC, as if the Americans have established it, and we will change it after a while.

Then the minister said: I know Brzezinski personally. We want to make our own decisions, not Brzezinski or Congress. The decision, however, will be the same. We have a national assembly and it is impossible for one fil to pass through the budget without the assembly's knowledge. If we divide \$86 billion among the GCC countries, this means that Kuwait's share is \$16 billion. It is possible to spend surreptitiously a quarter of a billion! However, how can the government spend such a sum without the knowledge of the National Assembly? I ask that what the doctor has said be struck out.

CSO: 4400/116

KUWAIT

VARIOUS MOVES ON GULF WAR DISCUSSED

GF201510 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 19 Mar 85 p 15

[Sattar Jabbar dispatch]

[Text] Gulf sources told AL-WATAN that Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, will leave next month for Baghdad and Tehran with a Gulf plan to end the Iraqi-Iranian war. These sources said that Tehran requested, during the past 2 days, UAE mediation to end the war of cities. It also requested the restoration of the Gulf efforts with regard to halting this war and requested shrouding of this issue with complete secrecy. These sources also emphasized that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is currently visiting Algeria, carries an Iranian response from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to the message sent earlier by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to Iranian officials in which he called for a halt to the military operations against the cities. These sources said that the Iranian response is positive. They expound on this by saying that after Iran realized the difficulty of attaining a military victory on the war fronts against the Iraqi forces, it wants now to end the military operations.

An Arab diplomat told AL-WATAN that the Iranian officials asked Algeria to make a move in the direction of ending this war but they--the Iranian officials--set conditions which the Arab ambassador termed as completely different from the previous conditions. The Arab ambassador did not rule out the possibility of having an Algerian delegation visit Baghdad and Tehran.

In the meantime, the Arab sources stressed that King Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who arrived in Baghdad yesterday, carry a plan that includes a number of points among which are:

1. The possibility of dispatching Arab forces in case Iraq requests that from the Arab countries.
2. Discussing the possibility of holding a mini-summit that includes a number of Arab countries which support Iraq.
3. Proclamation of recruitment of the citizens of the Arab countries in order to leave for the war front.

An ambassador of one of the socialist countries answered a question by AL-WATAN saying that Moscow informed Tehran--through diplomatic channels-- that it will adopt an adamant stance in case Iranian forces enter Iraqi territories and that it may reconsider the issue of the border between the two countries--as Tehran withdrew a number of military divisions that had been stationed along the border with the USSR.

CSO: 4400/116

KUWAIT

COMPANY OFFICIAL ON EXPLORATION, PURCHASE PLANS

GFO21441 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 31 Mar 85 p 13

[Text] An official of the Santa Fe Company has said that since the company was purchased by Kuwait 4 years ago, it has expanded its oil and gas exploration works. However, he did not mention any profits that have been achieved by his company in these 4 years.

This official, who asked not to be named, also said that the company's position is healthy compared to the recession the oil industry is going through. He pointed out that Santa Fe has bought the Andover and Windsor Petroleum and Occidental Geothermal Companies, which are worth approximately \$500 million. However, he could not say how much Kuwait has paid for them.

This official said that he expects Santa Fe to purchase more companies if the price is right. He attributed this plan as a long-term investment, as it is expected that these companies might pump profits into the general budget in the near future.

Kuwait purchased this U.S. company for \$2.5 billion in 1981, causing a Jewish outcry against Arab investment in the United States. Santa Fe is currently exploring for oil in the North Sea, Venezuela, the Gulf of Mexico, and Malaysia. It is also involved in joint projects with companies in Libya, Kuwait, and Egypt.

CSO: 4400/116

KUWAIT

BRIEFS

POPULATION FIGURES--Kuwait, March 29 (KUNA)--The total population in Kuwait today is estimated at 1,673,697, registering an increase of 23.3 percent over the 1980 figures of 1,357,952, census director Mussad al-Amem [KUNA spelling] said Friday. These figures do not include those living in hotels, the nomads or Kuwaitis living permanently abroad, he said, pointing out that next month's population census will cover them in the final count. [Text] [Kuwait KUNA in English 1646 GMT 29 Mar 85 LD]

CSO: 4400/116

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-NUFAL ANALYZES ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT

LD181501 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Mar 85

["Analysis" by Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim al-Nufal]

[Text] The Iraq-Iran war witnessed in the past 2 weeks a dangerous course represented by the sudden adoption by both sides of a bloody attrition course based on shelling the heavily populated cities and hitting the economic institutions. Since 2 March, when the Iranian forces shelled Basra and caused damages to the civilian institutions, and Iraq replied to this shelling by hitting vital targets inside 13 Iranian cities, and what followed this in the way of land battles between the two sides in Hawr al-Huwayzah and East Tigris; since then the dangerous escalation in the course of the conflict between the two Muslim neighbors, Iraq and Iran, stresses to everybody the imperative urgency of reaching a quick solution to stop the bloodshed and to cure this deep wound in the body of the Islamic nation which has wasted its energies and brought more death and destruction.

Those who follow up and observe events, especially during recent developments, will understand the concentration and sincerity of the efforts, pursuits, and moves in the recent period made in more than one direction to stop this bloody war and sit around the negotiation table to solve the conflict peacefully, in a way satisfactory to both sides, and according to the UN resolutions which called for and is calling for an end to this war; and for the two sides to restrict themselves to their recognized international borders as a preliminary basis for ending this conflict. The meeting of the GCC Council of Ministers, which is currently held in Riyadh, and the stances of the Gulf countries who call for ending this war are some of these sincere efforts which are made to curb the escalation of this war. Also, the GCC countries, which are bound with the two fraternal Muslim countries, Iraq and Iran, by the ties of religion and neighborhood will do their best to contribute to ending the conflict in a just way. They are quite hopeful that fraternal Iran will respond, along with fraternal Iraq, with all the efforts and mediations which are made in this concern.

Also the seven-man Arab committee, which is commissioned to investigate the conflict and which visited many European countries and capitals, called also for an immediate stop to the war between the two countries. This move by the

Arab committee, which was presided over by the Arab League secretary general, occurred simultaneously with a similar activity carried out by India, who decided to send envoys to both Baghdad and Tehran within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement, which tried in its turn to put an end to this bloody tragedy. The last of these efforts was two messages from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to each of the two countries' officials including an explicit call in the name of the nonaligned countries to stop the military operations and shelling of cities and to resort to peaceful negotiations.

On the other hand the ICO continues, through the Islamic good offices committee, its efforts to stop the war between the two countries and to resort to reason and to peaceful solutions which are satisfactory to both parties.

Here we say that the two Muslim countries, Iraq and Iran, must translate words into actions and listen to the voice of reason and end the military operations immediately; they must immediately stop shelling the cities and vital institutions as a preparation for ending the conflict on just and acceptable bases which preserves the legitimate rights of the two Muslim countries.

CSO: 4400/115

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-NUFAL COMMENTS ON CRISIS IN LEBANESE FORCES

LD181508 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Mar 85

["Analysis" by Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim al-Nufal]

[Text] Beirut witnessed yesterday and today moves in more than one front, in which senior Lebanese people participated, and which are aimed at containing the disputes which led to the split within the ranks of the Phalangist militia forces, and what followed this development.

The Lebanese officials, through reaching a formula for ending the new disputes which the observers said were arranged by the Israeli enemy who attempted and always attempts to incite conflicts and create events which serve its aggressive expansionist purposes, proves their ability to put the interest of Lebanon first and to overcome the difficulties whatever their volume might be.

The organs of the Lebanese Government moved to kill this insurgence in its cradle and deprived the Zionist enemy of its dreams and hopes for what it might have gained from this.

Trusted sources and political observers in Beirut pointed out that a plan for solving the crisis between the Lebanese forces--which occurred after the splitting of the Samir Ja'ja' movement and the capture of some of the positions in east Beirut--and Lebanese President Amin Jumayyil, has been prepared and is very close. What remains is only the means for its application so that quietness is restored. This solution comes after the contacts which took place with the concerned parties and the positive responses from these parties to the presented plan for solution.

In spite of the events on the Lebanese arena, it becomes clear again that the Lebanese Government and officials are trying first of all to establish a united Lebanon which is able to end its disputes and liberate its land and soil from the games of the Zionist enemy.

These disputes, which are represented by the split are not the first crisis to put Lebanon and its government in a difficult test. Lebanon along its bloody and long crisis was exposed to more than one insurgence and more than one test for its integrity and legitimacy. But in spite of its pains,

Lebanon was able to emerge from these crises more solid and more insistent on its unity and territorial integrity.

The Lebanese legitimacy knows more than anybody else that every crisis which it faces, Zionism must have a finger in it, because Israel, which lost the military option in Lebanon and received many defeats, is trying to get over all moral crisis and defeats especially in the Lebanese south. Therefore, Israel decided to go back to the political game, which it perfectly masters and which is represented by dividing the Lebanese people and its legitimate institutions, in addition to exploding the situation through blowing up the buildings and mosques and occupying the Lebanese Government with marginal matters which will delay it from completing its policies which are aimed at uniting Lebanon and establishing its security.

Here comes the role of the Lebanese people as a whole: The people must be very alert and cautious for what is schemed against them secretly and to deprive Israel the chance of benefiting from such conspiracies which are aimed firstly and lastly against Lebanon and the Lebanese people.

CSO: 4400/115

SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI STATEMENT ON FEATURES OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN

GF211720 Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The Ministry of Planning has issued a statement on the principal features of the fourth development plan in the kingdom. The statement has affirmed that the kingdom--in adopting an economic and social development plan at the beginning of the year 1390 of the Hegira [1970-1971] when it prepared and issued the first development plan--has focused most of its programs on establishing basic systems and developing manpower. This was followed by the second development plan which is rightfully considered the basic and severe test of the strength of this country and its ability to confront the challenges of development and its difficult problems.

This plan concentrated on getting rid of the physical impediments by expanding basic constructional systems which are integrated with the expansion of the industries which are based on hydrocarbons, and developing manpower and diversifying the nonoil economy.

The third development plan focused on directing the greater part of capital and manpower to the production sectors, like agriculture, industry, and mining in order to achieve diversification in the economic base and on completing the basic systems connected with the production sectors.

The aims of the fourth development plan are an extension of the principles and policies of the third development plan. These were defined in detail in the strategy of the fourth development plan. There are some major ideas which make the fourth development plan different and distinctive with regard to the previous plans. These are as follows:

1. Focusing on quality, competence of operations, improving the exploitation of resources and facilities, and discovering and developing new alternative resources.
2. Greater concentration on the diversification of the production base, particularly the sectors of industry, agriculture, and financial services.
3. A commitment to reduce the number of non-Saudi workers in the kingdom by more than 500,000 persons.

4. Consolidating the role of the private sector, in carrying out numerous economic functions in the country.

In its Resolution No 26 on 24/2/1404 of the Hegira, the cabinet defined 11 aims for the fourth development plan as follows:

1. Preserving Islamic values and the application of God's law and consolidating and spreading it.
2. Defending religion and the homeland, and preserving the security and social stability of the country.
3. Creating working and productive citizens, by supplying salaries which can make them reach such a stage, and providing them with a livelihood, and determining their rewards on the basis of their performance.
4. Developing manpower and constantly ascertaining its increased availability and raising the level of its competence so that it will serve all sectors.
5. Raising the cultural movement to the level where it will keep up with the development that the kingdom is witnessing.
6. Reducing dependence on the production and refining of crude oil as a principal source of national revenue.
7. Continuing to make a real change in the economic structure of the country by continuously turning to the diversification of the productive base by focusing on industry and agriculture.
8. Developing mineral resources and encouraging their discovery and exploitation.
9. Focusing on qualitative development by improving and developing the functions of the facilities and systems which have been established during the country's three development plans.
10. Completing the basic systems which are required to achieve comprehensive development.
11. Achieving economic and social integration among the GCC countries.

CSO: 4400/115

SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI AGENCY ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT ON ECONOMY

LD312317 Riyadh SPA in English 1912 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Text] Riyadh, March 31, SPA--The Saudi Arabian economy moved forward on its long-run growth path during 1983/84, though at a slower but sustainable rate, an annual report of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) said here tonight.

The slowdown in the growth rate essentially represented a continuation of the consolidation and normalisation process which had started in the preceding year partly because of the completion of most of the infrastructure and other major projects and partly because of the fiscal adjustments necessitated by the fall in oil revenues, the report said.

The Kingdom's oil revenues, which declined by 43.4 percent in 1982/83, fell further by 31.1 percent in 1983/84 due to continued weakness in the internal demand for oil.

As a result of this, government oil revenues slumped by 61 percent over a period of just two years from SR328.6 billion in 1981/82 to SR128.1 billion in 1983/84.

As such, the report said the government budget was adjusted to keep the budget deficit within the projected limit without adversely affecting the growth of real sectors of the economy.

Actual government budgetary spending declined during the year by 8.9 percent to SR223.2 billion.

On the other hand, gross domestic product (GDP) registered a real rate of growth of five percent during 1983/84, though lower than the previous year's seven percent.

Construction sector faced recession due to completion of major construction projects, affecting both trade and transport sectors which registered slower growth rates of 5.6 percent and 5.4 percent compared with 12.7 percent and 8.9 percent respectively in the preceding year.

The utilities sector showed a higher growth rate of 21.6 percent as compared with 20.8 percent last year.

There was also a rise in the growth rate of agricultural sector to 12 percent as compared to 10 percent in the preceding year while the manufacturing sector showed a sustained high growth of 16 percent.

Referring to the good economic performance of the economy, the report said it was possibly due to two factors.

Firstly the government's decision to allow its productive spending to go on course while [word indistinct] or eliminating wasteful and unproductive expenditures, resulting only in a small decline of 1.4 percent of government's contribution to non-oil GDP.

Secondly, the private sector was fairly active, registering a real rate of growth of 7.7 percent, and this helped dampen substantially the contradictory effect of reduced government spending.

Repatriation of funds invested abroad by Saudis during the boom period and enlarged expansion in bank credit were important factors in the good performance of the private sector, the report said.

The report said a better balance was achieved between the demand for and supply of goods and services, resulting in further decline in inflation, in fact becoming negative during the year under review.

According to the non-oil GDP deflator, the fall in the overall price level amounted to 0.8 percent.

The cost of living index was also down by 0.6 percent during the year as a result of not only rise in real supplies and a slower rate of monetary expansion but also of a one percent decline in riyal import prices.

On the other hand, the report said commercial banks' claims on the private sector registered an increase of SR6.6 billion (13.4 percent), which was three times larger than the preceding year.

The number of commercial bank branches rose by 88 to 524 to 1983/84 in addition to 30 seasonal branches operating mainly during the pilgrimage season.

Capital and reserves of banks rose by 17.9 percent to SR10.04 billion in 1983/84 and constituted 6.9 percent of total assets, giving the banks a comfortable and profitable leverage of assets to equity over 14 times.

The report said net credit disbursed by the government-sponsored specialised credit institutions amounted to SR18.5 billion, 16.6 percent lower than in 1982/83.

The riyal continued to maintain stability with respect to major currencies while riyal's relative stability in exchange rate was attained through making suitable adjustments in parity with the U.S. dollar whenever considered necessary. This was in the best interest of Saudi Arabia's long-run economic objectives. At the same time, it helped insulate the riyal from the adverse influence of speculative forces.

Referring to foreign trade and balance of payments, the report said the Kingdom's oil exports declined by 30.2 percent in 1983/84 to SR135.2 billion while imports also declined by 6.2 percent to SR127.7 billion.

Transfers and service payments declined by 2.2 percent and contributed to a lower deficit on the services account. The lower merchandise trade surplus, in spite of lower deficit in the services and transfer account for both the public and private sectors, boosted the current account deficit to SR64.0 billion compared with the smaller deficit of SR13.9 billion in 1982/83.

In view of the private sector's capital inflows, the overall balance of payments deficit was SR34.5 billion as fully represented in the decline in SAMA's foreign assets.

In the field of transport and communications, 26,175 kilometers of roads were constructed during the first four years of the third development plan, raising the total length of roads in the Kingdom to 71,946.

The number of telephones rose by 92,314 to 857,832 during 1983/84 benefitting 290 cities and towns. The Kingdom has been linked to 154 countries around the world through direct dialing. The number of telex lines in service has risen to 30,000, linking 89 of Saudi cities and towns to 40 foreign countries.

The number of piers at the Kingdom's seaports reached 133 in 1984 from 121 in 1983, further facilitating the Kingdom's import and export trade.

In the field of industrial development, the number of industrial licences issued to the private sector by the end of 1983 stood at 2,932 with a total authorised capital of SR121.8 billion.

Of these, 1,581 plants with an authorised capital of SR38.7 billion had started production by the end of 1983.

In addition, the number of plants established under the foreign capital investment regulations was 346 with a total capital of SR18.8 billion, of which the foreign participation was 47 percent.

The total number of loans disbursed by the Saudi Industrial Fund to industries with the exception of electricity [words indistinct] SR8.5 billion by end of the fiscal year 1983/84.

The Islamic Studies award was shared by Ahmed Hassan al-Disouki, an Egyptian scholar, Dr Mohamed Rashed Salem, a Saudi national, and Dr Mohammed Helmi Suleiman of Egypt. [spellings of personal names as received]

King Faysal award in medicine was shared by Professor Mario Rezito from Italy and Professor Robert Palmer.

Referring to Sabic plants, the report said its National Methanol Company (IBN SINA) began production of methanol in July 1984. This is the sixth Sabic plant and the second methanol plant to come on stream.

During 1984, Sabic's plants produced 600,000 tons of methanol, 825,000 tons of urea, 70,000 tons of sulfuric acid, and 940,000 tons of rods and bars. Five more Sabic plants were nearing completion.

On the other hand, the Saffaniyah Gas Compression Plant to collect gas from the offshore Saffaniyah and al-Zuluf fields for processing at al-Barri, Uthmaniyah and Shudqum gas plants was nearing completion.

Work was nearing completion on the construction of three gas-gathering marine platforms to be linked to the oil wells at the al-Zuluf field.

The Kingdom's fourth refinery at Yanbu (for export purposes), in addition to the three already existing domestic-needs-oriented refineries in Riyadh, Jeddah, and Yanbu, was completed and inaugurated in October 1984.

Two more export refineries are at an advanced stage of construction and preliminary work has been completed for setting up two other export refineries.

In the field of electricity, total electricity sold to 1.4 million subscribers in the Kingdom rose by 17 percent to 31.2 billion kwh in 1983.

On the other hand, within a few years, the Kingdom has become self-sufficient in a number of basic food commodities.

During 1983/84, wheat production rose to an estimated 1.3 million tons, enough to satisfy the country's entire needs. The production of dates, vegetables and fruits has also witnessed a sharp increase.

In the field of education, nearly 794 schools, institutes and colleges were opened during the year under review, bringing the total number of educational institutions to 10,828 with total number of male and female students at all levels of education amounting to two million.

In the field of health, the number of hospitals run by the Health Ministry increased to 74 during 1982/83 and the number of beds rose by seven percent to 15,387. The number of primary health care centers rose by 11 percent to 1,084. Fifty specialist health care centers were also opened during the year.

The report said the Kingdom has solved the problem of housing shortage faced by it during the second half of 1970.

Of the 25,202 housing units planned to be constructed by the government, 17,319 have been completed in various parts of the country.

The number of housing units constructed by the private sector with the assistance of the real estate development fund was 36,659 in 1983/84, raising the total number of housing units constructed with the fund's assistance to 355,603.

The total amount of loans granted by the fund for this purpose was SR64.9 billion implying an average loan of a little over SR182,500 per unit.

CSO: 4400/115

AFGHANISTAN

WOMEN CENTRAL CLUB OFFERS VARIOUS PROGRAMS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 3 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] The Women's Central Club started its functioning on December 8, 1981 in the framework of the Women's Democratic Organisation of Afghanistan. The main aim of these clubs is to familiarize the women with different social activities. The Women's Democratic Organisation by forming such clubs, endeavours to blossom the creative talents of working women of the country, to teach them professional education enabling them to take active part in productive and social activities.

One of the benevolent aims of women's club is to eradicate illiteracy among the women most of whom are absolutely illiterate in our society. These clubs are obliged to organise vast work among women aimed at enhancing the level of knowledge, education and political and social awareness of women and attract from among them the most conscious, revolutionary and meritorious ones to the ranks of the WDOA.

Women are assigned to different sections of such clubs taking in view their education, age and qualifications. The Club organises work among women in their residential localities and acquaint them with different social work.

Since its foundation the club has set up 19 clubs in the city and counties of Kabul province and 25 others in provinces of the country.

Different sections have been established in women's clubs taking into account the possibilities. Following main sections exist in the central women's club:

The section of production; niddle works, knitting, tailoring and cutting constitute the main activities of this section. Professional courses also exist in such sections in which the theory of afore mentioned subjects are taught. In this section attention is paid to the development of traditional handicraft of the country, particularly to the niddle works. For instance, the museum of handicrafts of the country's women including the different kinds of niddle works and clothings of different nationalities and tribes of Afghanistan has been established in the framework of the Central Women's Club.

In the Section of Cultural Affairs:

In this section in addition to the museum, a course on all also exists in which musics, paintings, sculpture and other fine arts are taught.

Another section of the Club is mass and political learning. In this section, lectures, seminars and meetings related to the women's problems are organised. This section is also entrusted to organise functions on the occasions of national and state festivals and international jubilees, to have interviews with women writers, poets and artists and to convene poetry recitals from time to time. The club also publishes pamphlets on different occasions.

Campaign against illiteracy constitutes one of the important work of this section. This section was created in accordance with the motto of the WDOA-- "Every literate person should teach two illiterate women".

The section for the child and mother care is one of the important sections of this Club where women learn issues related to themselves and their children. Courses on house management, cooking, mother and child care are organised in this section. This section also has a creche where the children of workers and employees of the club are reared and looked after from the morning till the afternoon on free of charges.

The section also has a health clinic where a nurse is permanently assigned and doctors from different hospitals under a regular programme come there and treat the children and mothers. It is worth mentioning that the medical treatment is as well free.

These are no specific conditions for the acceptance of women, but women can join the club at their own choice. The convocation of a glorious exhibition has been considered in honour of the March 8th by the Central Club of Women. The exhibition is being held with the participation and cooperation of WCC, handicrafts department, union carpets exporters, marble and alabaster department, blinds institute as well as trade unions of Afghanistan.

A joint program sponsored by the State Committee for Culture and Women's Central Club will be held where speeches would be delivered and a concert will be staged. The wall weeklies of the club will carry out the activity of the pioneer women who have played a notable role in various social fields.

CSO: 4600/362

AFGHANISTAN

VOCATIONAL SCHOOL PROVIDES PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 4 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] In order to train professional cadres in different fields technical-vocational schools have been introduced in a number of productive institutes by the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education, the number of which reaches to eight so far. The technical vocational school of the Housing Construction Complex is one among them.

In this regard the director of the school told me: "The school was created in the year 1983, where the academic duration of the first batch was one and a half years and that of the second, two years. So far some 86 persons have been graduated in fields of welding, repair of machines and plumbing. The majority of these graduates are introduced to the Housing Construction Complex, Public Works Ministry, Education Ministry, Irrigation and Water Resources Ministry and to the Defence Ministry.

These schools accept pupils graduated from sixth and eight grades who are no more than 15 to 16 years old and as well the graduates of ninth grades with no educational interval are accepted in these schools. Right now 100 pupils are studying in the school in three fields with two times.

The pupils of the schools beside, professional works as well study languages, sociology, physical education, and religious subjects. Their teaching is being conducted by the local and Soviet teachers. In order to enable the pupils in performing the practical works, it is undertaken to build various shops equipped with all the machines and necessary tools.

In the near future it is planned to teach electricity montage, motor crane and ceiling crane, where the women would as well be enrolled.

Sayed Zamarud Shah a graduate of the school said: "I have been graduated in the field of welding and right now I work in the section of wiring and there are no difficulties whatsoever in my work since I have professionally studied the subject, I would like to become an able worker in the future.

Gul Aq a pupil studying right now says: "From the time since I have joined the school I have learned many things in technical field which are beneficial to me, and it would provide me with better work opportunities, I have my holidays and I work these days as well which would be beneficial to my studies".

CSO: 4600/362

INDIA

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INDIA, SRI LANKA STANDS NOTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Mar 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, March 3--The Sri Lankan High Commissioner, Mr. Bernard Tilakratne, who returned to Delhi a couple of days back after week-long consultations in Colombo, met the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, yesterday with some new ideas which are reported to be more in the nature of clarifications of his Government's proposals for settling the Tamil problem.

Sharp Differences

The two countries are agreed that a lasting solution should be found to the Tamil problem, but they differ sharply on the concept of a political settlement that can meet the legitimate aspirations of this ethnic minority within the framework of a united Sri Lankan State. The Indian view is that the demand for regional autonomy for the northern and eastern provinces does not impinge on the political or territorial integrity of this island nation, whereas Sri Lanka continues to regard any talk of autonomy with grave suspicion as though it was a prelude to secession.

The efforts for conciliation are, therefore, aimed at evolving a broad framework in which the essence of the Tamil minority's demands for an effective voice in the administration of their region could be met in consonance with the Sinhala majority's resolve to preserve the unitary character of the island at all costs. There are reports that Mr. Athulathmudali had indicated during his last visit to Delhi the Sri Lankan President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene's readiness to expand his devolution plan upto a point to accommodate Tamil opinion, if the Tamil United Liberation Front leaders were prepared to give up the demand for separation and seek a negotiated settlement.

The talk that the Sri Lankan High Commissioner had with the Foreign Secretary yesterday has been described as the first in a series of similar discussions the two would be having to explore the possibilities of establishing a mutually acceptable basis for a resumption of the dialogue on the Tamil problem. It is also intended to prepare the ground for a meeting between the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. Jayewardene at an appropriate time after creating the right climate for it.

The new ideas that Mr. Tilakratne has brought from Colombo do not unfortunately go far enough in making it possible for the TULF leaders to give up the demand for separation and come forward to negotiate a settlement, while the Sri Lankan troops are still on the rampage committing terrible atrocities on the Tamil population.

Preposterous Theory

The new line of argument being advanced by the Sri Lankan Government seeks to propagate the preposterous theory that it is the Eelam Liberation Tigers who were compelling the poor Tamils along the coastal belt to abandon their homes and flee to India to clear the area for an intensification of the insurgency and in the process confront this country with a politically embarrassing refugee problem.

But India has rejected this contention with the counter-argument that unless the Sri Lanka Government is prepared to take steps to restrain its armed forces from killing and pillaging indiscriminately to terrorise the civil population, it would be impossible to prevent a bigger exodus of refugees. The talk of the two Governments acting in close concert to persuade or pressure the Tamil Tigers to call off their insurgency along with a simultaneous suspension of the army operations cannot make much headway when many innocent men, women and children are being killed and thousands of them compelled to seek refuge in India.

There is little hope of the current exchanges clearing the way for a resumption of the dialogue soon, unless Mr. Jayewardene and his advisers are inclined to make a fresh effort to find an equitable solution, without harping on the district and provincial councils scheme. The starting point for any fresh dialogue has to be the realisation that nothing short of a credible measure of regional autonomy would be acceptable to the Tamils, whether they are moderates or extremists, whether they are Jaffna Tamils or those of Indian origin.

And this point is going to be made abundantly clear to Sri Lanka in the course of the current exchanges.

CSO: 4200/1405

INDIA

GANDHI SCORES BJP, AKALIS IN CAMPAIGN SPEECHES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Mar 85 pp 1, 9

[Text] SIMLA, March 3--The ruling out of Himachal Pradesh's merger with any other State and a frontal attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Akalis were the main features of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's election speeches at eight places in the State today, the last day of campaigning for the Assembly poll.

Mr Gandhi covered large parts of the State, starting with Jawali in the morning and ending with Dadahu in Sirmaur district in the afternoon. The attendance at all the meetings was good but not as large as it was during his tour for the Lok Sabha poll. The people had been looking forward to his tour, particularly in view of the BJP making an issue of Mr Bhajan Lal's proposal for the merger of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana.

Mr Gandhi was categorical at most of the meetings and said he would not demolish a State that had been created by Jawahar Lal Nehru and strengthened and expanded by Indira Gandhi.

His speech here, perhaps the lengthiest of the eight as it lasted over 30 minutes, covered a number of important points on politics and development. He was forthright in his condemnation of the Opposition, particularly the BJP which happens to be the Congress-I's main rival in the State.

The Prime Minister not only questioned the Akalis' sincerity in solving the Punjab problem but also appealed to the Sikhs to raise their voices against what was being done in the name of Sikhism. They should come out against terrorists and extremists. But he was yet to receive a proper answer.

The Akalis, he said, declared they were never for terrorists and extremists but, at the same time, they decided to send a lawyer to Pakistan to defend the hijackers of an Indian Airlines plane. The country must know that Akalis and extremists were separate. He said the Akalis had ridiculed what he said as a joke and asked if the Constitution of India was a joke. He also asked whether the killings by terrorists and the assassination of Indira Gandhi were a joke. It was strange that Giani Pritam Singh, both Sikh priests, were attacked. Was it a joke?

He said the Akalis should think seriously where they were heading for. Sikhs had contributed a lot towards the achievement of freedom and development in

the country. The country should not forget it, nor should the Sikhs. They should try to strengthen the nation, not weaken it.

Talking about the BJP, he said it was that party and not Himachal Pradesh which was going to be finished. The BJP which had got only two seats in the Lok Sabha was engaged in spreading rumours. He also referred a BJP lawyer offering to defend Satwant Singh, the alleged assassin of Indira Gandhi. A person accused had to have a defence counsel, but why had it to be a BJP lawyer only?

He said India was taking steps to improve relations with its neighbours despite there being some tension. It was also working for world peace and had recently called a meeting on nuclear disarmament. There had to be peace in the country, neighbouring countries and in the world for progress and development.

He reminded the people of the promises he had made during the Lok Sabha poll and said that work on some had been initiated while work others would be started soon. Defection, a disease of 20 years, had been ended in 20 days to cleanse politics. The Janata Government also brought Bills at the Centre and in Karnataka but they had remained only Bills. They confined their efforts to talks only. Attention was being paid to administrative reforms so that development work could be expedited. Efforts were being made to improve administration. Steps would be taken to revive old values in politics. The people would see the difference soon, he said.

About education, Mr Gandhi said a new system had been prepared and it would be put to a debate and introduced next year. If need be, there would be legislation for ending social evils. An effort would be made to create a new social climate. The new educational system would help in the process. Attention was being paid to youth and women and separate Ministries had been created for them. Uplift of Harijans and more opportunities for minorities were other items of priority. Indira Gandhi's programmes would be continued and the benefits would reach everyone.

The Prime Minister appealed to the people to strengthen his hands and support the Congress-I in the Assembly poll just as they had done in the Lok Sabha election. He wanted them to compare his Government's work with that of the Janata Government and make a choice. He said the BJP should explain its relationship with extremists.

Mr Vir Bhadra Singh, Chief Minister, welcomed Mr Gandhi. The Prime Minister also addressed meetings at Jawali Hamirpur, Bilaspur, Palampur, Klu, Sunder Nagar and Dadahu.

CSO: 4600/1403

INDIA

INDIA SOUNDED OUT ON HOSTING ILO MEETING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Mar 85 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, March 4--India may host the next regional conference of the International Labour Organization in December. The ILO has sounded India on the subject and the Government is examining the proposal. The Union Labour Ministry is understood to be favourably inclined. Last year, the regional conference was held in the Philippines.

Mr B. G. Deshmukh, chairman of the governing body of the ILO, is relinquishing charge as Secretary in the Union Labour Ministry on January 6 and shifting to Maharashtra to take over as Chief Secretary to the State Government.

Mr Deshmukh will, however, continue as Chairman of the ILO governing council until the end of his term in June. On June 18, the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, will address the annual session of the ILO. The President of Argentina will address the ILO on June 12.

Mr Deshmukh, who has just returned from a meeting of the council in Geneva, told reporters here today that the major donors had been persuaded to give up their proposal for a zero growth in the ILO budget. This had been possible thanks largely to efforts by India and some other countries.

This was no mean achievement, considering that the ILO was one of the few U.N. agencies, if not the only one, to have had its share of the budget raised. The other agencies have invariably had to put up with either a zero growth rate or a cutback in their budgets.

The other area in which India had been able to contribute was in getting Israel to shift from the Asian region to the European region. The inclusion of Israel in the Asian region last year by the governing body had been a source of such irritation among other members of the region that all ILO regional activities in Asia had almost come to a standstill.

Besides emphasizing the importance of the social aspects in each of its projects, the ILO had been able to convince agencies like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund that they should bear in mind the social content of each of their projects, since it had a vital bearing on the entire scheme.

CSO: 4600/1407

INDIA

'HINDU' ANALYST DEPLORES POLICE BRUTALITY

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Mar 85 p 2

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

AVAST and turbulent society like India in a state of constant flux, burdened with a heavy backlog of baffling problems, often finds itself caught up inextricably at the crossroads of history, as it makes a faltering attempt to catch up with the lost opportunities and leap forward into the next century. It tends to relapse frequently into agonising moments of introspection in the face of a crisis or challenge that should normally strengthen the country's resolve to cope with such situations with quiet confidence.

After the brutal assassination of Indira Gandhi and the dreadful carnage that followed in Delhi, many sensitive Indians who were shaken by the tragic events started imagining that there was something poignantly wrong with the Indian democracy that made even normally law-abiding citizens succumb to animal instincts in an atmosphere of inflamed passions fomented by controversy or cross-purpose with the outraged thirsting for revenge and retribution. This soul-searching exercise has led to a lot of self-criticism, which is different from self-deprecation, to pinpoint the causes of this Indian aberration in a well-meaning endeavour to recapture the missing spirit and restore the lost values.

One of the major failures of Indian democracy, as seen by some experts, has been the brutalisation of the police, which has led to the criminalisation of party politics at the lower levels in many States, where the custodians of law and order act in collusion with the musclemen of those in power to sustain their personal and political interests in the face of increasing public criticism of their infractions. The politicians in turn are obliged to overlook the excesses of the police, condone its corrupt practices, play favourites to reward their henchmen, ease out honest ones from pivotal positions and shield the dissolute from the wrath of the people.

Constraints absent

The Indian police was much more efficient but no less dishonest or brutal on British days, except that the foreign rulers held the rank and file on a tight leash to ensure that they did

not overreact and misbehave beyond a point. Unfortunately, these constraints disappeared after Independence with the increasing identification of the politicians with the police, compelling those in power to defend the excesses quite unmindful of the consequent damage done to the credibility of the political system. It was not surprising that the initial reaction of even a decent Chief Minister like Mr. S. C. Mathur, was to defend the outrageous action of the police who killed Raja Man Singh in cold blood in broad daylight in the busy market square of Deeg town without any justification, trotting the excuse of a non-existence armed encounter with him.

The Chief Minister resigned only when he was asked to do so by the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and his successor ordered the suspension of the DSP and constables, before asking the CBI to investigate the case under orders from Delhi. The Congress (I) Ministers and others in Rajasthan did not realise the great harm done to their own cause by this pampered police officer, until the people took to the streets in protest demanding his arrest and not just suspension. The behaviour of the Rajasthan Government was typical of the highly indefensible manner in which outcries against police brutalities and tortures was met with the flimsiest of excuses.

Shameful episode

The Congress (I) leadership in Delhi and Lucknow refused to hold an inquiry after the party's return to power in 1980, when an overzealous police officer who had campaigned privately against Mr. Charan Singh in the Baghpat parliamentary constituency, opened fire and killed some innocents suspecting them to be dacoits and subjected a pregnant woman, the wife of one of those killed in this shocking incident, to the indignity of stripping her naked in the market place. There have been numerous such instances of gross excesses of one kind or the other by the police, which the Union and State Governments have been deliberately overlooking to avoid the embarrassment of having to prosecute the culprits for the misuse of their powers of arrest or resort to force to

apprehend or annihilate the suspects through preemptive action.

It is in this context that many ardent admirers of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi have been distressed by his refusal to order an inquiry into the Delhi riots, despite the fact that over 2,000 persons were killed, thousands of houses and business premises looted or burnt down and tens of thousands driven from their homes. The Delhi administration remained crippled for three days with the police doing precious little to curb this violence, the worst of its kind since partition, before the young Prime Minister called in the Army, assumed direct responsibility for the restoration of order in the capital and restrained his own rampaging partymen.

He declined to have an inquiry with the argument that a judicial probe into what happened would do irreparable harm to the Sikhs themselves by bringing out the odious fact that some of them had invited the wrath of an indignant public by gloating over Indira Gandhi's assassination. This shameful episode is well known and its exposure before a judicial commission would not do any greater harm than what had been done even to those who were not guilty of this disgraceful conduct. But it would help to expose the ugly reality that some Congress (I) politicians in the capital were equally guilty of instigating this orgy of indiscriminate violence and that the police stood by doing nothing as hoodlums went berserk killing and looting at will and even burning people alive.

There are some who are no less horrified by police brutalities or active connivance in acts of violence, but they try to take a more philosophical view by going deeper into the genesis of this malady to put forward the theory that a corrupt and callous, illiterate and ignorant, communal and parochial, poorly paid and illtrained police is only a disquieting reflection of the sad state of the nation. The IPS officers, like their IAS counterparts, are no doubt recruited from a better strata of society, but the constabulary belong to weaker sections that are inclined to act arbitrarily in the use of their police powers in the absence of proper control and direction.

Tends to excess

The British recruited fierce Baluchis to keep the politically volatile Bengalis in check, the Sikhs to discipline the Pathans, and other so-called martial races into the armed police to control Congress movements elsewhere. But in each case, the whole emphasis was on deterrence, not excessive use of force. The local authorities resorted to flag marches rather than firings to make the people feel the power of Government. After Independence, India unfortunately swung to the other extreme, using undue force at the slightest provocation, thus earning the dubious distinction of resorting to the highest number of police firings on crowds anywhere in the world.

The interrogation of suspects is only a euphemism for third degree methods, torture in custody and mysterious deaths at the hands of the police.

The Union and State Governments have done nothing in the years since Independence to prohibit such barbarities since they have allowed the police to import equipment to extract information under duress.

The origins of the present climate of violence can be traced to the absence of a proper party

system. Those who fail to find their due place in legislatures in terms of the popular votes polled by them, tend to take to the streets to confront the power that is with bands and agitations. If some of the leftist and rightist parties in opposition have taken to militancy and even violence, governments have become more and more reliant on police power to curb such threats to their continuance in office. The police itself has become highly demoralised in the process since promotions and postings are often based on the whims and fancies of those in power who are inclined to reward their henchmen, ignoring the legitimate claims of independent-minded officers of greater integrity and competence.

As a result, the Indian police today is a demoralised and disaffected force with very little professional pride. In the British days there was just one battalion of CRP—known as Crown Representative's Police in those days—used only on rare occasions since law and order was a State subject. Now the Central Reserve Police Force has over 80 battalions and the BSF an equal number, besides the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, the Central Industrial Security Force and numerous other para military outfits. This means the Centre has at its disposal nearly half a million armed men.

The strength of the civil and armed police in the States also has been increased enormously since Independence. Thus, there are several hundred thousand armed and unarmed policemen in the country, performing various duties with their outmoded methods of training, poor pay scales, miserable housing facilities and totally unsatisfactory working conditions. The armed police, with very little opportunity for making money, unlike those on civil duty, is highly disgruntled and prone to misbehave when given a free hand to restore order after political agitations or communal violence.

The Police Commission has gone into all these aspects and submitted a monumental report, but because it was appointed during the Janata rule, the Congress (I) Government at the Centre refused to accept its recommendations.

Tough job

The rash of police mutinies and agitations that erupted during Janata rule were curbed with army help, but a trail of bitterness continues to colour the attitudes of the police. The intelligence agencies, which have also been misused by the parties in power for political purposes, are in an equally run-down condition with poor morale, inter-agency bickerings and internal squabbles.

It is not going to be an easy task for Mr. Rajiv Gandhi to put this vast police machinery back into shape by improving recruitment and training methods, living and working conditions, to give the officers and constables a sense of professional pride. He will have to take parallel steps to insulate the police from political interference, lay down better procedure for postings and promotions, and restrict the use of firearms in controlling demonstrations. And he would be well advised to take a fresh look at the recommendations of the Police Commission, since a clean public life is not possible without a clean administration, nor a clean police without a leadership free of the stigma of corruption.

INDIA

NATIONAL INTEGRATION BODY SET UP WITHIN ARMY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, February 28: The army has been quick to learn the lesson of Punjab and has set up an institute of national integration for ensuring that no section of the armed forces is deflected from its duty to the nation in the name of religion.

Religious preachers working in the army cantonments will be trained at this institute in Pune, which has completed the first short-term course. The institute will conduct ten courses annually for officers and religious preachers.

The preachers belonging to different faiths play an important role in motivating the army personnel during wars. But it has been found that these preachers are exposed to only their respective religions. They will be given basic information about other religions for increasing religious tolerance and strengthening the spirit of secularism.

Those attending the courses will be given a brief introduction to the nation's cultural heritage and its history.

Meanwhile, the army recruitment branch has announced the programme for recruitment rallies in Punjab towns beginning on Monday.

The recruiting teams from the Sikh Regimental Centre will tour Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Pathankot, Patti, Ferozepur, Moga and Doraha. Recruitment will be open to all eligible Sikhs who meet the required physical standards and have necessary educational qualifications.

The Congress has condemned the launching of Khalistan radio by anti-India Sikhs settled in the U.K. and has alleged that some Indian opposition leaders are behind the move.

The Congress general secretary, Mr. Srikant Verma, said today the party had definite information that one or two opposition leaders had advised the U.K. Sikhs to start the broadcasts to facilitate continuous propaganda against the present government.

He, however, refused to identify the leaders or even the parties they belonged to, despite persistent demand by newsmen. "This is a sensitive matter and I would not like to say anything more," he said.

India has sought information from its high commission in London about the inaugural broadcast of "Khalsa Voice" from an unidentified commercial radio.

CSO: 4600/1396

INDIA

WRITER DESCRIBES DEVELOPING ETHNIC TENSIONS IN SIKKIM

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Mar 85 p 14

[Article by Sumanta Sen]

[Text] GANGTOK, March 1--NINETEEN eighty-five marks the end of the first decade of Sikkim's merger with India. Yet the merger has remained more political, in the sense that there is hardly any noticeable integration with the rest of the country. In fact, the awareness of the "separate indentity" of the once Himalayan kingdom has only grown in the decade.

The most common reference is to Assam and Tripura and "the cultural, economic and political subjugation there of the locals by outsiders".

While the historical context in which the influx to these two northeastern states has taken place has no relevance to Sikkim, politicians of various hues here have successfully planted this fear in ordinary minds.

However, there is no common objective. The original inhabitants of Sikkim are the Bhutias and Lepchas. These two ethnic minorities, constituting only 25 per cent of the tiny state's 300,000 population, continue to enjoy greater benefits of wealth and education--a legacy of the ruling class status they enjoyed during the monarchy. Currently what they are scared about is the growing power of the Nepalese origin majority. Thus when they speak of Sikkim's separate identity they are actually referring to their own Buddhist culture which they fear will eventually be swamped by the rising surge of Nepalese nationalism.

While the fears of the Bhutia-Lepcha community stem from the situation within, the Nepalese are wary of influx from outside which cannot be prevented by law. In particular are they scared of Nepalese from West Bengal's Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts settling in Sikkim. "Being far more advanced, they will start to dominate us" is a common lament. Thus a feeling of resistance is slowly growing within Nepalese minds and somehow Mr. Nar Bahadur Bhandari's Sikkim Sangram Parishad has come to be associated with this.

Non-Sikkimese residents in Gangtok maintain that during Mr. Bhandari's chief ministership "we were slowly being made to feel as foreigners and if he returns to office we may have difficult days ahead". Neither is the Congress

felt to be a safer bet as "Nepalese sentiments have been sufficiently aroused against outsiders and all politicians will have to pander to these."

But to be fair to Mr. Bhandari, he had, during his stewardship, submitted a proposal for a type of assembly that would have provided the non-Sikkimese with some safeguards.

According to his proposal, the reconstituted assembly would have had 26 seats reserved for Bhutia-Lepchas and Nepalese (13 each), two for scheduled castes, two for the Limbus and the remaining two for others, meaning the non-Sikkimese.

While that was not accepted then, there are reports that the new governor, Mr. Kona Prabhakar Rao, feels this is a sound formula and may keep the different ethnic communities at peace with each other. He has already recommended that the demand for reservation of seats for Nepalese be given a fair consideration and the whole issue is now before the political affairs committee of the Union government.

Impartial observers in Gangtok feel that sooner a decision is taken on the subject the better. There is already a growing demand for the introduction of the system of innerline permit to keep away outsiders. The governor is against this as he reportedly feels that the system negates the concept of national integration. So his stress on seat reservations for the Nepalese, which would guarantee them a specific number of seats, irrespective of the size of "the influx" from outside.

Economic Base

At present, the Bhutia-Lepchas have 13 seats reserved for them and the scheduled castes two. So the Nepalese may well have the rest 17. And if this is delayed, Sikkim also may see an agitation against foreigners.

The economic ground for such an agitation already exists. The bulk of the trade in the tiny state is in the hands of people from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Only a small percentage of the commercial activities is under the control of Bhutia-Lepchas who are more content with their landed property and senior government jobs.

With the law prohibiting alienation of tribal land, the Nepalese cannot get hold of the good agricultural land being held securely by members of the Bhutia-Lepcha community and with money in short supply business ventures are not an easy proposition.

Naturally, there is a growing restlessness among the state's majority population, Mr. Bhandari as chief minister had tried to ensure the economic welfare of the Nepalese which had caused a section of his own partymen, mostly Bhutia-Lepchas, to complain against him to New Delhi which paved the way for his ultimate dismissal.

Thus behind the apparent serenity of a mountain resort, the cross currents of tension are getting stronger. Already there are disturbing manifestations like the emergence of a party like Naya Sikkim which reportedly seeks to foster a movement for demerger with the blessings of the present Chogyal.

The bureaucratic establishment still has men whose disapproval of the merger is well known and there is no doubt that if tension on the ground that Sikkim is losing its identity is allowed to build up then various diverse elements will not hesitate to jump onto the band wagon of separatism. By all accounts an uneasy future lies ahead for this mountainous state.

CSO: 4600/1398

INDIA

BRIEFS

DEPARTURE FROM ANTARCTIC--Members of fourth Indian Antarctic expedition left for home last night on the chartered Finn Polaris after successfully completing the task assigned to them. While 12 members will remain for a year, 12 others of the previous expedition, working at the permanent station Dakshin Gangotri, are also on their way home. The expedition established a high frequency communication link between India and Dakshin Gangotri, with indigenous equipment. This has led to considerable saving as the cost of the present satellite link works out to about Rs. 120 a minute. A six-member group from the permanent station would trek down to the South Pole which is about 6,000 km away from Dakshin Gangotri during October or November this year. The expedition has installed a 60 x 10 metre garage, built by the Army engineers, to house cranes, snow cutters and other vehicles to be used on the continent. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Mar 85 p 1]

KERALA CONGRESS GROUPS--TRIVANDRUM, March 3.--The United Kerala Congress was formed today with the merger of the Kerala Congress (M) and the Kerala Congress (J), both partners of the ruling Congress (I)-led United Democratic Front in Kerala, reports PTI. The merger, ending the parties six-year-old split, was formally completed at a joint meeting of their State committees at which a merger resolution was unanimously adopted and office-bearers of the united party announced. The Kerala Revenue Minister, Mr P. J. Joseph of the erstwhile Kerala Congress (J) is the chairman of the UKC and the Finance Minister, Mr K. M. Mani of the Kerala Congress (M), its legislature party leader. With Mr P. C. Thomas of the three-member Democratic Janata Party, another ruling front partner, joining it the UKC has 15 members making it the second largest party in the ruling front. Mr Thomas attended today's meeting. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Mar 85 p 1]

NAVAL EXERCISE REPORTED--The Centre is determined to give the Navy all it requires to increase its punch and power the Defence Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, said today. He was addressing the men and officers on Board I.N.S. Vikrant somewhere in the Bay of Bengal. The Defence Minister said "we should be ready not only to discharge our legitimate responsibilities but also meet any eventuality. I am also aware that certain things had to be done on the welfare front", he said and assured the men that residential accommodation for them would increase. The Government was keen to attend to these problems at the earliest. Earlier on arrival by helicopter, the Defence Minister was received by the Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R. H. Tahilani. He was

presented a guard of honour on board. After modernisation at a cost of about Rs. 7 crores, the aircraft carrier carried out exercises for the first time off the Vizag coast. Apart from INS Vikrant, submarine I.N.S. Karanj and 10 other ships including I.N.S. Taragiri and I.N.S. Dhunagiri participated in the exercises. For the first time, four Sea Harriers, acquired from United Kingdom, took part. Vice Admiral J. G. Nadkarni, "Flag Officer, Commanding in Chief, Eastern Naval Command and Rear Admiral, L. Ramadass, Flag Officer, Commanding, Eastern Fleet, were also present. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Mar 85 p 9]

SOVIET AVIATION MINISTER--Soviet team visits HAL (UNI from Nasik)--The Soviet aviation industry minister Mr. I. S. Silaev, leading a USSR delegation visited the state-owned Nasik division of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) at Ojhar, near here on Saturday. Accompanied by Mr. B. S. Balooja, managing director of HAL MIG complex factories, Mr. H. K. L. Anand, general manager of HAL, Nasik unit, Mr. Silaev went round the Ojhar MIG plant built on this premier HAL unit. The aviation industry minister also inaugurated the "spring flower show" organised by the Nasik unit's horticultural department in the picturesque Ojhar township, evincing keen interest in the wide variety of roses and other flowers and the massive tree-plantation programme embarked upon by the unit. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Mar 85 p 16]

NEW LABOR SECRETARY--NEW DELHI, March 6 (PTI)--Mr. H. M. S. Bhatnagar today assumed charge here as the new labour secretary. He succeeds Mr. B. D. Deshmukh who has been transferred as chief secretary to the Maharashtra government. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Mar 85 p 3]

AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE--NEW DELHI, March 5 (PTI)--The Maharashtra governor, Air Chief Marshal (retd.), I. H. Latif, is being appointed as India's ambassador to France, it is learnt. The post has been vacant after the retirement of Mr. Narendra Singh. A formal announcement is expected shortly. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Mar 85 p 1]

COUNTERMANDED POLL DATES--NEW DELHI, March 3 (PTI)--Elections in 11 assembly constituencies spread over five states which have been countermanded and the deferred poll in Latehar (SC) in Bihar will be held in the third week of next month. All pending by-elections to state assemblies and the Lok Sabha will also be held at that time, the chief election commissioner, Mr. R. K. Trivedi, said in an interview here today. The constituencies where elections were countermanded were: four in Bihar (Hati, Bokoro, Masaurhi and Nalanda), three in Uttar Pradesh (Belgram, Bareilly and Phulpur), two in Orissa (Kakatpur and Keonjhar) and one each in Andhra Pradesh (Makthal) and Rajasthan (Deeg). The polling in Latehar (SC) was deferred as all nomination papers were rejected. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Mar 85 p 1]

TIBETANS RALLY--About 200 Tibetans, mostly from Delhi, held a demonstration in front of the Chinese Embassy on Shanti Path on Sunday to demand the restoration of independence for their homeland. The demonstration climaxed with the red banner of China being set aflame to the accompaniment of the Tibetan anthem. Sunday was the anniversary of the 1959 uprising of the Tibetans against nine years of Chinese overlordship. It failed, and their spiritual-cum-temporal ruler, the Dalai Lama, fled to India with thousands of his

supporters. The demonstrators, who ranged from school children to grandmas, also appealed to the Indian Government for "political support" for their cause. Saying they would never forget their debt to India for giving them asylum, a delegation which gave a memorandum to the Prime Minister's office asked Mr Rajiv Gandhi to note that India would not be secure till China was made to vacate Tibet. The rally was also addressed by politicians, Mr Raj Narain and Mr M L Sondhi. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Mar 85 p 3]

INDO-SOVIET TECHNICAL PROTOCOL--Moscow, Feb. 28 (UNI)--India and the Soviet Union have earmarked biotechnology as one of the major fields for cooperation in the coming years. This was stated in a new protocol signed here today by Prof. Yashpal, secretary of the department of science and technology and Mr L. N. Effemov, first deputy chairman of the state committee of science and technology of the Soviet Union. The protocol is the outcome of the 10-day meeting of the sub-commission under the Indo-Soviet commission on cooperation in science and technology which began on February 18. The Indian delegation, headed by Prof. Yashpal, had yesterday met the deputy-prime minister, Mr. G. Marchu. The protocol noted that the current programme covering 1984-1987 is being fulfilled satisfactorily. This programme covers solar energy, MHO generators, protection of metals from corrosion, power metallurgy, lasers, meteorology, biotechnology, physics of high temperature and pressure and oceanography. The new protocol also suggests further development of cooperation in catalysis and weather forecasting. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 1 Mar 85 p 5]

TNV POLITICAL PLANS--Agartala, March 3 (PTI)--Underground Tripura National Volunteers (TNV) hit-squads are campaigning to entrench bases in remote areas of Tripura for launching a full-fledged political wing as desired by their leader, Mr Bijoy Hrankhwal. According to intelligence sources here some TNV activists accompanying the "hit-squads" had recently addressed gatherings in the far-off hamlets. The sources said there was growing reapproachment between a section of the Tribal Students' Federation (TSF), the student wing of the Tripura Upajati Juba Samity and the extremists. The TUJS has been urged by some TSF leaders to press the demand for 50 per cent reservation of Assembly seats for the tribals and creation of an armed tribal regiment, they added. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 4 Mar 85 p 1]

KASHMIR LIBERATION FRONT--Islamabad, March 12 (PTI)--The so-called Kashmir Liberation Front is facing a serious split with rival groups locked in a struggle to gain ascendancy. Reports here suggest that personal and group rivalries came to the fore after the execution of extremist leader, Maqbool Butt. A breakaway faction, known as Bami Group, recently accused front chairman, Amanullah Khan, of engineering the murder of an Indian diplomat Ravinder Mhatre, to gain political advantage. Nazir Gilani, a spokesman for the Bani Group, described Amanullah Khan, Hashim Qureshi and some other front extremists as arch-villains who had conspired to get rid of Maqbool Butt. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Mar 85 p 1]

CSO: 5650/0093

IRAN

MAJLIS RATIFIES BUDGET BILL PROVISION FOR MAR 85-MAR 86

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Feb 85 p 18

[Text] KEYHAN political service. The Majlis held an open session yesterday, in which the Majlis continued discussion on the budget bill for the period 21 March 1985-20 March 1986. The director general of the Central Bank, the minister of heavy industries and the chairman of the plan and budget committee made statements regarding the budget bill, which were published in yesterday's issue. Now, the continuation of yesterday's report in the open session of the Majlis follows:

Nezhad-Hoseynian, the minister of roads and transport, spoke on the budget bill and said: Some of the brothers spoke in opposition and in support, defending in their speeches the reduction of the developmental budgets and mentioning the reasons as well. If the developmental budgets are to be increased, we will be forced to borrow and this will result in increased cash flow in the society and inflation. Another issue that you pointed out is that some of the developmental budgets of the organizations exceed their implementary ability and if these funds are given to organizations in excess of their implementary ability, the result would be unsound competition among the executive organizations and rising inflation in the implementation of affairs. Of course, I also believe that, given the situation in the country, responding to an executive organization which requests funds in excess of its implementary ability is neither logical nor proper. However, in regards to many of the executive organizations, especially the Ministry of Roads and Transport and our road building funds, unfortunately, the allocated funds are less than our implementary ability. With these funds and even with the help of the plan and budget committee, there are only two alternatives for next year. One is to close down about 3-4,000 km of the roads we have under construction, and the second is to slow down our work.

The representatives themselves note that everyone says agriculture is central, but without roads, we cannot really reach the economic goals in every area, even agriculture.

In any case, if the villager wants to live in the village and bring his products to the city, he must have roads. Many of our villagers produce but cannot sell their products because there are no roads.

Closure of Workshops and Its Effects

The minister of roads and transport added: We have certain centers that have become active and their workshops are operating after many years. It is said that the building of a certain road should be halted--for example, the Esfahan-Aligudarz and Azna road. But it is a main road and cannot be closed because of the economic and social consequences it would have on the people.

Another problem is the closure of these operations. In any case, we must somehow conclude the contract of the contractors who are working, which itself requires a great deal of funds. Unfortunately, no one gives us an answer as to how to tell these contractors the work has been halted and to pay for the damages or where we will get the money to pay. The fact that no one responds to this problem does not mean that the problem has been resolved. It means that next year we will face many more problems. From what source will the damages for the halting of the construction of several thousand km of roads be paid? And then again, if we want to start these operations, how much will they cost?

The minister of roads and transport said: Although 10 billion [rials] was mentioned, the road and transport committee spent 1 month closely studying the projects of the Ministry of Roads and decided that if we are only to continue our existing projects, our budget must increase by 22 billion rials. The plan and budget committee agreed to 10 billion rials. The 12 billion that I said is the amount which was proposed by the plan and budget organization, and we would have to close 5,000 km of our roads under construction. With the 10 billion rials which has been added, this would involve about 3,000 km. I said that it is possible to carry out the 3,000 km, provided you give us the money, and we will pay the damages of the contractors. The operations cannot be halted. If we want to pay from the additional 10 billion rials, the result will be that the same 5,000 km of roads will be shut down. In any case, I request that we have a current budget of about 2,600 billion rials, which you must give us in any case. In fact, a savings of about 100 billion rials in the developmental budget will have a decided effect on the country, and it must be decided whether or not it is feasible. Of course, I believe that we must not give money in

excess of the implementary ability of any organization and create improper competition among the organizations. Therefore, I request [that the budget] not be too sparing, so that the organizations can continue their normal work to the extent that they can and to increase their funding.

Views of the Minister of Energy

At 10:30, the open session recessed and was held later with the continuation of discussions on the budget bill. Dr Ghafuri, the minister of energy, spoke about the budget bill and the programs of this ministry for the next year and said: The brothers in the energy and plan and budget committees are aware of our affairs. Only, the proposal of the plan and budget committee was to reduce our funding somewhat, and then one should be able to collect it from the people. According to Note 72, which has been added, we should collect a part of our investment costs from the people.

Of course, we have continually announced this in the plan of the Ministry of Energy. But now, I will explain the circumstances which I reported to the honorable Majlis. In regards to the increasing consumption of water and electricity, including agricultural, industrial, and home use, every year we have more than a half million new customers and every year new investments must be made in order for us to be able to provide for the needs of the new electricity customers. The new customers are usually from the most underprivileged strata and from the villages. Furthermore, social justice requires us to attend to their needs, because if we do not, they will be forced to set out for cities and change from producers to consumers. We have about 70,000 villages. Thus far, we have brought electricity to 43,000 villages, of which number 11,000 were done since the revolution. In other words, 55,000 villages remain without electricity. We had promised to bring electricity to 1,500 villages every year and during the period 21 March 1983-20 March 1984, we brought electricity to 2,514 villages. Naturally, this task requires a great deal of investment for the distribution and transmission of electricity. We cannot collect all of this capital from the various strata of the people.

In the past four or five years, in addition to having provided water and power, steps have been taken towards self-sufficiency and the training of the brothers.

While all the work before the revolution was done by foreign experts, now, with the force that we have mobilized, it can be done by Iranian brothers.

Accomplishments in Power Plants

The minister of energy then enumerated the accomplishments in the power plants and said: In addition to what had been started before the revolution, such as the power plants of Ramin, Esfahan, Bandar 'Abbas and Tabriz, with the resources that we had at our disposal after the revolution, we began extensive programs, such as the large Martyr Raja'i power plant, in which case, for the first time in Iran, a steam power plant was installed by the Iranian brothers. Also, with the trust that the Majlis put in us to provide electricity, we planned the Qarb and Fars power plants. Now, if these funds are reduced during the period 21 March 1985-20 March 1986, not only will what has been spent be wasted, but a very large amount of talented manpower that we have prepared will be unemployed. Unfortunately, we have faced this problem in the past month or two. In regards to both electricity and water, sufficient experts have now been mobilized to carry out large projects.

Now, I request that the honorable Majlis not allow these operations to stop because of insufficient funds. If we could add the amount which was reduced from the oil funds and this amount would be given to us to invest in water and electricity, certainly, many of the future problems would be prevented.

The minister of energy added: Some of these power plants were started before the revolution and must certainly be completed. The more they are delayed, the more the contractors will demand their wages in foreign currency, in addition to the fact that these plants will not be installed and their life expectancy will decrease. The power plants of Ramin, Ahvaz, Bandar 'Abbas and Tabriz are now in such a situation. If we have sufficient funds, we will be able to complete all of this work during the 1985-86 period and have them join the circuit and provide electricity to the industries. Last year, due to power outages, much damage was inflicted on the industries. If the same amount had been invested in electricity, not only would the electricity have been provided but these losses would have been prevented.

Statements of the Interior Minister

Then, Nateq-Nuri, the interior minister, spoke about the budget bill and said: Since the security and political problems in the country are not tangible ones, unlike developmental issues, they are unfortunately paid less attention to. As a result of inattention, tomorrow a political problem might occur, followed by economic burdens which would force us to engage in political actions, because we have not paid attention to security and political issues. Then, as the saying goes, we will have suffered the consequences of our actions.

We would suffer both the economic burden and the political consequences, because the security issues are not tangible in the country. Unfortunately, we pay little attention to and place little value on political and security problems in our country.

In regards to the borders prior to the revolution, international policies protected our borders. The borders were open. Now, too, all the borders are open and require time and funds to close them. Before the revolution, international policies protected our borders, because the government supported the great powers in the region and protected the interests of the great powers inside the country. It was a gendarme of the region for the enemies of global oppression and they in turn, with their international policies, protected the borders.

Spy agencies worked in the country. Because it was the wish and policy of the United States, they worked to secure their wishes.

The budget for the security agency and SAVAK was a secret one, outside all these accounts. Everything was made available for the slightest intelligence and security work.

The brothers have a film of an event before the revolution that we watched one day in the Cabinet. One could see that there were so many cars and resources and so much equipment used to follow up a minor spy case, in order to achieve their goal. I do not know the precise budget of the security agency. It was not part of the regular budget.

The Issue of Social Security

The interior minister then referred to social security and said: In place of social security in the country, there was corruption, prostitution, and debauchery, according to the wishes of the regime.

There were parties, dancing, and centers for debauchery and gambling. In connection with the spread of corruption and prostitution, every establishment acted as it wished.

But, by the grace of God, the leadership of the beloved imam and the self-sacrifice of the nation, the revolution became victorious and the Islamic Republic was established despite a world full of enemies and with opponents who want to operate and do operate from the East and the West and their satellites inside and outside the region under various pretexts inside and outside this regime and the Islamic Republic. For example, in connection with the borders, international policies in the past protected the borders, but since the victory of the Islamic revolution, their policy is to invade our country.

The problem of smuggling narcotics has been mentioned frequently. Other officials and brothers have spoken on this issue. The issue of smuggling narcotics is not merely a moral problem, but a critical political issue as well. The statistics are presented-- that in one operation, 1 ton of heroin was seized or 24 camel loads in a desert in which the previous regime would not dare to go, but today, our young men sacrifice themselves and get killed and martyred to fight this problem. This is a political issue through which they want to drag this regime and revolution into corruption in order to prevent these young people from being able to go to war. In my opinion, this is a good opportunity for me to say that as much as we place importance on the war, because the survival and continuation of this regime depends on victory on the war fronts, you must know that the issue of the borders and fighting corruption, prostitution and prohibited acts must be valued as much. Otherwise, the plots and plans of the enemy are to empty this revolution of its Islamic content in various ways.

Plan to Close the Borders

Now, few nights go by during which the revolution committees do not raid five or six centers of corruption and parties with a warrant from the Tehran Prosecutor's Office. A very calculated movement is underway to corrupt the society; therefore, the borders must be closed. It can be done simply. We offered a proposal in this connection. Last year, we gave a proposal to the budget committee of the Majlis in which we provided details concerning the border lines and what must be done. This is a seven-year plan. If a budget of 12 billion rials were allocated annually for the borders, 12,000 km of borders would be closed. The total border lines consist of 8,500 km. We must spend this budget in order to be able to close the borders in seven or eight years and then claim that we have done so.

But, if this budget is reduced from 12 billion to 6 billion--it is true that there is a budget deficit, and we know that--it will take 10 years. Therefore, if we do not have border roads, in practice, it would have no effect on the borders.

The interior minister added: We have formed border forces and regiments, which require a budget. We have built guard stations, about which I do not have the time here to explain in detail.

Investments are required to fight narcotics in the country. We have employed the revolution committees to fight smuggling and narcotics and I say that we will catch the smugglers.

The committee discovered antique carpets while looking for narcotics in Iranshahr. The experts who had come to the exhibition said that they cannot be priced; they are 300-400 years old and cannot be priced.

Allocate one percent of these smuggled goods for the funding of this work they are carrying out.

Concerning the Police Department, the interior minister said: Some friends ask why the budget for the Police Department has increased and what they do. I will make a comparison between six years before and six years after the revolution in this force. During the six years from 21 March 1973-20 March 1979, the funds allocated during the 1978-79 period, compared to the base years, which is six years before the 1973-74 period [as published], the budget and expenditures increased by 284 percent. However, six years after the revolution, up to 1984, the funds allocated increased by only 36 percent compared to the base year. If you compare it to the six years before the revolution, which had an increase of 284 percent, this figure shows less than 1/8 of the previous increase.

Statements of the Minister of Agriculture

Then, Dr Zali, the minister of agriculture, said concerning the budget bill and its notes: All the discussions in connection with the budget distribution, both in the Cabinet and later in the plan and budget committee, revolve around the point that, considering the capabilities created, funds are insufficient to carry out the work. Dr Ghafuri just spoke about the necessity of creating earthen and small dams for diverting water, the capability of works which can be done in connection with the villages and agriculture and the work capacity which has been created in these few years. However, the restriction of resources and funds results in restrictions on executive operations. In connection with the issue of agriculture also, this has been the case. In other words, in regards to the funding ceiling presented for the agricultural sector, despite the special attention to the issue of setting a rather reasonable ceiling for it, the Ministry of Agriculture has spent all its efforts to allocate the budget to the priorities within this set ceiling. With the care taken in this direction and the coordination created by the experts of the agricultural sector and the Plan and Budget Organization, we put the amount which was taken into consideration for us in their proper places and they were approved. Especially considering the emphasis of our brother Engineer Musavi that nothing should be reduced from the agricultural sector, all that we had decided within the ceiling was presented to the Majlis. In the Majlis, both in the agricultural committee and the plan and budget committee, we must thank the brothers who followed up the issues for all the efforts that they made in this direction. Thank God, with the attention that was paid, the same funds were allocated or more was added to the amounts determined. But, on the whole, what has been allocated does not conform to the implementation capacity. In other words, the work done in connection with the Ministry of

Agriculture in these few years has been to increase the implementary capacity in every area. In connection with water and soil, in the past, the executive sector wanted to do everything and it had units in every province, such as water and soil units or agricultural engineering, however, today, everything is directed on a course to enable us to be responsible for planning and supervision and to leave the implementation to the people. For this reason, work capacity has increased by several times compared to the past. In connection with pastures, again, this has been the case, because we have to create capacities for the future in order to increase work several-fold. Considering the capacity building, we see that the allocated funds and the limitations do not respond to the needs.

Priorities in Agriculture

Concerning the priorities in agriculture, the minister of agriculture said: In regards to agriculture, one part concerns the funds that, as I said, have been allocated for agriculture, within the limitations. But, certainly these limitations are not appropriate to the priorities in agriculture, which, God willing, should become the central issue. However, since we see the restrictions, I am grateful for all the efforts made and the attention to agriculture that has gradually increased, particularly in the Cabinet, and the direction that has been created in this area.

Statements of the Economic and Finance Minister

Then, concerning the budget bill, Dr Namazi, the economic and finance minister said:

I do not think anyone would support a budget deficit. This issue has been discussed in numerous sessions of the Cabinet and has also been announced to the honorable heads of the three branches in written form on various occasions. Therefore, the government does not want to have a budget deficit and is aware of its negative side effects. When we have inflation in the society, the government that is also the spender of the current and developmental budget will, naturally, not be safe from the negative side effects of inflation.

Again, the argument is that if we project certain items in the budget which cannot be materialized, this also is a sort of hidden budget deficit. On paper, we may have a smaller budget deficit, but in practice and at the end of the year, we confront this problem. Therefore, neither does the government want to confront such a problem in the middle or end of the year nor do the honorable representatives want to ratify a bill with revenues which cannot be materialized.

For this reason, the beloved brothers in the plan and budget committee took the utmost care to ensure that, if possible, we would not have a budget deficit. Considering the revenues that were proposed, again, they were able to reduce the budget deficit somewhat.

Here, I officially announce that we prefer to have one rial less of a budget deficit rather than one rial more.

Dependence of the Budget on Oil

Then, referring to the dependence of the budget on oil, the economic and finance minister said: The issue is also clear that we have two major items in our revenues, one is the oil and the other is tax revenues. Both of these, naturally, have some limitations. But sometimes we pay attention to the limitations which result from the sale of oil and we know that it is for this reason that, for example, during the period 21 March 1984-20 March 1985, as was anticipated, oil revenues did not materialize, but we pay less attention to the limitation on tax revenues in the economic, social and political dimensions. Tax revenues are not something that can be suddenly doubled and then say that we now have a healthy budget. Here, I am telling you so that you will realize that we have made an effort to increase the tax revenues.

Our tax revenues during the 1980-81 period were only 340 billion rials, and this figure, which reached 790 billion rials during the 1983-84 period, is equivalent to 231 percent, which shows an increase of 131 percent [as published].

In the 11 months of this year, we collected over 800 billion rials in taxes, which is a larger percentage than was projected in the ratified budget. It has been calculated to be 256 percent of our tax revenues for the 1980-81 period, in other words, an increase of 156 percent [as published]. However, can we increase it suddenly to 300 percent?

Besides, tax revenues must be based on resources which are produced in various economic sectors and create revenues.

Without healthy production and large revenues in various economic sectors, we cannot increase tax revenues.

Concerning business taxes, the economic and finance minister said: We precisely projected the amount of manpower and resources needed to collect more business taxes. I thank the plan and budget committee again for not reducing the figures presented by the government in the budget of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and for leaving them as they were, even though the figures that we had presented had already been

reduced to levels below what we had anticipated. I informed Mr Musavi of this development and he instructed the Plan and Budget Organization to take this issue into consideration and if there are similar cases, to present them to the Majlis as amendments. Again, Dr Banki wrote a letter stating that the committee has decided, on the basis of studies carried out, to increase this budget by 1.22 billion rials. Of course, if the necessary resources are not put at our disposal, you see that we will be unable to increase this projected figure.

Expansion of Health and Treatment Networks in Villages

Following the statements of the economic and finance minister, the deputy minister of health spoke on the expansion of health and treatment networks in the villages and said: According to a pamphlet that we presented to the brothers, in our country, we have about 550,000 deaths, which, compared to the population of our country, may not be a very high figure. But, 5 percent of these deaths concern children of less than five years of age. Nearly two-thirds of these deaths can be prevented with primary health services, which include the improvement of the environment, vaccinations, health education, fighting endemic and epidemic diseases, and primary treatment, because the most important three factors in the deaths of children under five years of age are infectious diseases, diarrhea and nutrition-related diseases. Primary health services can be carried out easily by non-physicians and require no high level of specialization. By training the young people in the villages through a brief course, we can provide them with these services. We can send them to the villages and establish them in the health centers. Our proposal is to establish a model network in every province and city. Taking the necessary precautions, we can prevent the deaths of 150,000 children every year. We proposed a budget of 2,500 million rials for the development of a health and treatment network.

Statements of the Director of Atomic Energy

Then, in connection with the budget bill, Dr Amrollahi, the director of atomic energy, said: Atomic energy is a major industry, as is energy. Today, if the brothers look at the world, they will see that despite the propaganda that the Third World should not have a nuclear industry, on the whole, they themselves are moving rapidly in this direction. In connection with nuclear power plants, it must be said that a major part of the nuclear industry consists of nuclear power plants. Before the revolution, we had an ambitious policy which was full of problems.

They wanted to build 20 some power plants to produce electricity. I did not and do not accept them as experts. But, from the

viewpoint of an expert, a power plant will be one of the necessities.

He added: The Bushehr power plant has 2 1,200-megawatt units. The first unit is about 80 percent completed, at a cost of 200 billion rials. All the equipment belongs to us, and is worth about \$700 billion.

In conclusion, he said: Given the effects of the completion of this power plant on the transmission of energy, with all the studies which have been done and considering the expert reports, I recommend those interested to be kind enough to come to visit and see for themselves. We believe that this power plant must be completed. Its budget this year is 1,500 million rials, but with this amount of money, nothing can be accomplished. With this budget, it would take about 60 years to complete this power plant. Therefore, it is appropriate to deal with this issue more seriously.

Statements of the Speaker of the Majlis

In the conclusion of yesterday's session, after thanking the representatives for their patience and their good and comprehensive discussions on the budget bill, the speaker of the Majlis said: I request that in the course of these few days, the notes and what is necessary--and we have no choice about them--be completed. Discuss the notes with the concerned ministers and include them. Thank God there is a ceiling in these notes, too. We hope that a complete budget will be the subject of future discussions. Now, we are voting on the general points of the budget. The details and other issues are in the notes. At the same time, you have a free hand to offer any proposal within the limits of the budget.

Then, a vote was taken on the general points of the budget bill and ratified with a majority vote.

The open session of the Majlis was adjourned at 12:35 pm and the next session was set for 7:30 am today.

10,000

CSO: 4640/451

PAKISTAN

COOPERATION PROTOCOL WITH PORTUGAL SIGNED

Karachi DAWN in English 14 Mar 85 Business Supplement p IV

[Text]

KARACHI, March 11: A protocol of cooperation between the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry was signed by Mr Aziz Zulfikar, President, FPCCI, here today, signifying its final conclusion between the two chambers.

The protocol has already been signed by Mr Jorge de Avillez, President of the Portuguese Chamber in Lisbon.

Present at today's signing ceremony were Dr. Sydney Pereira, the Trade and Commercial Councillor and head of Commercial Mission of Portugal in Pakistan and Mr S.M. Islam, Chairman, Pakistan-Portugal Trade and Industry Committee of FPCCI.

The protocol recognises the mutuality of interest and the need for developing common bonds of interest benefiting private sectors in the two countries.

It affirmed the joint intention of the two bodies (1) to cooperate fully in assisting their respective members to promote trade bet-

ween the two countries.

(2) to exchange information and to ensure proper dissemination of such information to their members by means of colloquiums, seminars, meetings, conferences and regular newsletters.

(3) To promote trade missions and encourage in the overseas travel of individual businessmen and to provide all possible assistance to each other's members when they are abroad.

(4) To facilitate industrial joint ventures, acquiring of trade agency or dealership of each other's products:

(5) To set up within their organisations, special trade committees such as the Pakistan-Portugal Trade and Industry Committee, functioning under the aegis of FPCCI for constant review and promotion of Pakistan-Portugal trade and economic cooperation:

(6) To help each other in the holding of exhibitions of products and economic achievements of the two countries.

(7) To recommend to their respective Governments all such measures as would be beneficial and helpful in increasing trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Portugal:

(8) To hold regular mutual consultations between the two bodies in order to remove any obstacles to the development of trade.

(9) To endeavour to promote each others interests in their home countries.

The protocol is subject to ratification, if necessary, by the respective Governments of Pakistan and Portugal.

Expressing satisfaction on the signing of the protocol, both Mr Aziz Zulfikar, President, FPCCI, and Dr. Sydney Pereira, Trade Commissioner of Portugal observed that it would help forge closer economic ties between the two countries in the private sector and would supplement the efforts of the two Governments to develop mutually beneficial trade and economic relationship between Pakistan and Portugal.

CSO: 4600/364

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN-IRAN VENTURE: 'EMBARRASSING' PARTING OF WAYS VIEWED

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Mar 85 Business Supplement pp I, IV

[Article by Shaheen Sehbai]

[Text]

POLICYMAKERS in Islamabad and Tehran appear to have reached an embarrassing decision regarding their only existing industrial joint venture — the two textile mills of Baluchistan. They look certain to “dump it.”

“Iranians were keen to see the mills running, but only if Pakistan footed the bill. Now they are not keen for anything and the ball has been thrown into Islamabad’s court,” a leading banker disclosed.

“On our part, we had decided to close the mills as far back as 1983,” a senior official confirmed. “Discussion has been going only to decide who shares the losses and in what ratio.”

The latest change in Iranian thinking became known to a high level delegation which has recently returned from Tehran after a week’s detailed deliberations.

Polite but firm

“They were very polite and courteous, but they told us firmly our proposals were not acceptable to them,” an authentic source told me.

“Why at all did the government send a delegation to Iran at this time when it is known that the Gulf war has escalated beyond any comprehension,” a textile expert asked.

Officials explain that the visit was to follow up the “positive and optimistic,” hints thrown by the Iranian Finance Minister in his De-

ember sojourn in Pakistan.

“The Iranians then had indicated that they would contribute upto about 30 per cent of the capital to make the two mills at Uthal and Bela running again,” one banker said.

The Federal Finance Ministry duly picked up the hint and set-up a strong five-member delegation led by the NDFC Chairman to talk to the Iranians. Others included a director of PIDC, two joint secretaries of Production and Foreign Ministries and a senior management executive of the PITM.

The delegation returned to Karachi quietly late last month and none of the members was in a mood to discuss the outcome publicly.

Disappointed

“Why don’t you ask the delegation leader,” quipped the PIDC director. “If you want to talk to Mr Lodhi, he is not at home,” a female voice responded when the Managing Director of the Mills was approached by telephone.

“I don’t give interviews to the Press,” the NDFC Chairman Mr Zafar Iqbal replied when asked to comment on the visit.

However, by all indications available from informed sources, everybody in the delegation was thoroughly disappointed by the Iranian attitude.

“I would say that Iranians are no longer interested in the project and now Pakistan will have to find out how and who will run it,” a knowledgeable source said.

“They seem to have learnt it through experience that public sector is not capable of running such

projects. And they are adopting this policy both domestically as well as for joint ventures," an executive dealing with the Iranians observed.

What went wrong

The joint venture had started on a bright note, with Iran loaning US\$ 35 million to Pakistan besides taking a 49 per cent share in the project's equity of Rs 260 million. A 100,000 spindles factory with two separate units was set up and both the countries agreed that Baluchistan should be the site, for social, economic as well as political reasons.

But problems also began simultaneously. "Major structural defects were left in some installations," an insider said. "Enough attention was not given to design, building, airconditioning plants and other vital components."

The attitude of the Islamabad bureaucrats further complicated matters. "Funds were released for our operating capital in bits and pieces; never enough to launch a restructuring programme to salvage the project," a senior management executive complained.

"The problem has been that whenever Islamabad paid us the money, they cut their interest on previous payments in advance," an accounting executive disclosed.

Interest cuts

The Iranians kept on watching this situation for a few years until things came to a grinding halt. Losses accumulated slowly to a gigantic Rs 1 billion. In 1983 both the units were closed while the labour has ever since been kept fully paid, because of social considerations.

Banking circles feel management failure has caused this situation but the managers refute this saying it were the slow moving bureaucratic system and the red tape, that brought the project to this stage.

The Iranians were, nevertheless, prepared to inject some liquidity until recently but they wanted the Pakistan Government to match their offer. This was found difficult in Islamabad.

What the Iranians did not agree to was to share the losses. "The Iranians kept on telling us that all the losses were caused because of mismanagement by Pakistanis," a knowledgeable source told me.

Equally responsible

"Pakistan does not accept this position," the highly placed source rebutted. "The Iranians have been on the Board of Directors of the project and have been a party to all major decision which were approved by the Board. So how can they claim to be above any responsibility of sharing the losses."

Added a PITM official: "They are equity partners and if any project makes money or losses, all partners have to share." This is what the Iranians precisely refuse to do.

Islamabad thought of pumping in some money through the NDFC which, sources say, reluctantly agreed to take up the project management if it remained a joint venture between Iran and Pakistan.

"But now this possibility is over," a NDFC source said. "We are only there to help the government out at their own request."

Options

The parting of ways between Islamabad and Tehran on the subject throws open the question of what will happen to the "white elephant," in the words of a textile tycoon.

"They can only dispose it off to a private party at its market value and the government will have to write off the losses," a PIDC executive thought.

"The ball is in the court of the Finance Ministry and the Production Ministry," NDFC officials believe. "The Iranians have shown the red signal."

"It was decided to dis-invest PITM in 1983, when it was closed," an informed source recalled. "They have now to find suitable bidders and see if someone comes forward," the source said.

"The private sector will only be interested if a clear assurance is given that no liabilities are to be transferred," a textile mill owner said. "It is still a most modern mill which can produce very high quality stuff."

Workers' fate

The workers remain the problem and this is where government's social considerations come in. "The new buyer will have to ensure that local labour employed in the mill does not get upset," an official said.

But whatever fate remains in store for the mill labour, the stage was set by the PITM management for the Iranians to leave when the only representative of the Iranians stationed at the Karachi head office was fired a few weeks back.

"That probably set the ball rolling for the project to be dumped—into any suitable bidders lap, putting the final seal to the idea that public sector cannot run even its most prestigious projects," one expert remarked.

CSO: 4600/367

PAKISTAN

ELECTIONS: WOMEN'S SEATS TESTS GROUPS' STRENGTH

Karachi DAWN in English 14 Mar 85 p 6

[Text] KARACHI, March 13--The trial of strength between various groups, formed in Karachi, was first witnessed on Wednesday, with the PML (Pagara group) taking a lead in the election held for the five seats reserved for women in the Sind Assembly.

With three to two ratio, the result, according to observers here, seems to set the pattern for Senate election on Thursday.

However, the fact that Mrs. Gulzar Unar, a candidate defeated by the Pagaro group in NA and PA elections, came out successful according to first count of votes cast for women's reserved seats, points to no less insignificant position of the pro-Sindhi Independent Group formed only on Tuesday last.

The election of Dr. Amina Ashraf, niece of Qazi Abdul Majeed Abid, MNA-elect, demonstrates the strength of a four-group combine, headed by Qazi Abid, Ilahi Bakhsh Soomro, MNA-elect; Mir Ijaz Ali Talpur, MPA, and Haji Hanif Tayyab, MNA-elect (Nizam-i-Mustafa).

So much money matters seemed to be involved that Abdul Qayyum, MPA from Hyderabad, demanded at a Press conference in the Assembly cafeteria that an inquiry be held against "10 or 15 MPAs" and anyone found to have done underhand dealing should be unseated and proceeded against. He claimed he himself had been offered Rs. 200,000 as a price of vote.

"MPA Hostel (in Karachi) has turned into "bakra piri," Mr. Qayyum remarked.

Besides, manoeuvrings done by various groups has caused confusion. For instance, Haji Hanif

Tayyab, leader of the Nifazi-Mustafa group, denied categorically that the PML sources' claim that the two groups had reached an understanding on the election to the Senate. He insisted that the four-group combine, headed by himself, was intact.

Amidst "jockeying" for the coveted office of the Sind Chief Minister, it was reported that the Governor would not like to select an "outsider." More palatable, according to a reliable source, should be the selection of one who commands a majority group in the Sind Assembly because such a person will be able to manage the affairs of the province quite effectively.

Mrs. Gulzar Unar and so her husband, Advocate Rasool Bakhsh Unar from Khairpur, were highly critical of the "large-scale rigging and other malpractices" in the National and Provincial Assemblies elections.

Mrs. Gulzar said: "I am mazloor (oppressed), but I did not lose courage and here I am as 'fateh' (victor)." She would, therefore, serve the cause of the downtrodden in Sind and elsewhere as, according to her, that is the only way of strengthening national unity.

Dr. Amina Ashraf said she belonged to a family of Hyderabad with a chequered political career. "I was a nominated member of the defunct Majlis-i-Shoora, but now I am rightly the people's elected representative and so I will fight for the women's cause more effectively," she opined.

Women, in her view, were architects of family, community and the nation and, along with their male brethren, could play a constructive role for people's well-being. As for women's rights and responsibilities, she said they (women's representatives) were conscious of them and would work devotedly for the uplift of less fortunate womenfolk in the country.

Mrs. Naureen Akhtari said she was happy to be elected to the Sind Assembly for it would give her an opportunity to serve the poor and suppressed womenfolk in Sind and elsewhere.

Mr. Husain Haroon, MPA, emphasised that a Chief Minister of Sind should be one who knew problems of people. The practice in the past of the feudal lords monopolising socio-economic and political scenario should be totally discarded, he said.

According to him, the MPAs should not let themselves be duped but, instead, they should judge

matters independently and in accordance with known parliamentary conventions and practices.

The Parsi MPA, Mr. Hoshang H. Barucha, complained that the ballot papers for the election of the single seat for non-Muslim women were prepared in Sindhi and Urdu, although while taking oath of office the members were allowed to use English as well.

He, being not conversant with Urdu or Sindhi, found it impossible to read the ballot paper, Barucha said, adding that for his convenience, an interpreter was provided to help him cast his vote. "Tomorrow (Thursday) when I come to vote for the Senate's general and reserved seats, I will bring with me an interpreter," he remarked.

Paromal Kohli, a Harijan MNA-elect from Tharparkar, who is a retired teacher, complained of the discriminatory treatment at the hands of "oonchi jati" (upper class), and said that "our problems should be solved."

CSO: 4600/365

PAKISTAN

COMMENTARY ON POWERS OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 20 Mar 85 p 6

[Text]

It was only a day earlier that President Zia-ul-Haq had given an undertaking to the MNAs-elect, in the course of his recent meetings with them, to make the procedure of constitutional amendments simpler. And the very next day the second amendment to the original order was promulgated. Under this amendment, the relevant provision in the 1973 Constitution has now been restored with only two minor stipulations. The 1973 Constitution provided that any part of the Constitution could be amended through a vote of the two-thirds majority in Parliament. The first amendment issued earlier by the President gave the Provincial Assemblies the option to block the legislative right of the Federal Parliament to change or abolish any constitutional provision, if they chose to do so. The MNAs-elect argued that since they too represent their respective provincial interests and in a higher elected body, the curb on their powers by the Provincial Assemblies could not

but be considered anomalous. Conceding the point, the President, however, felt that while the MNAs did work for their respective constituencies, there happened to be at least one issue on which the MPAs should have an equal voice—the issue of the provincial boundaries. To deny them the right to debate such an issue on the Provincial Assembly floor would neither be considered democratic nor fair. The second reservation the President had was about the exercise of an arbitrary volition on the part of the Parliament to effect further changes in the Constitution. There seem to be two reasons behind this reservation. First to let the Constitution of the country have at least some period of undisturbed operation. Howsoever well-meant, any act that keeps this fundamental law of the country always in a melting pot can't be very conducive to democratic stability. Secondly, the President had for a long time celebrated on measures which were

essential to a balanced functioning of democratic institutions in the country. And as author of the amendments, he naturally knows the rationale behind each of these measures. Some of that had already been explained to the general public by him through the mass media, but it is not always possible to exhaustively analyse every aspect of a complex legal issue. When someone starts questioning its validity with arguments of his own, it is only then that a proper defence of the measures promulgated can be provided. The President therefore felt, and with enough justification, that he had a right to be heard on the merits of something that he had authored before it was changed or rejected.

That the President harbours no rigid views and holds no inflexible attitudes has clearly been demonstrated through the promulgation of the second amendment. Therefore, where he says that his order "shall not be altered, repealed or amended" without his previous sanction, he also reiterates that "for the removal of doubt, it is hereby declared that there is no limitation whatever on the power of the Majlis-i-Shoora (Parliament) to amend any of the provisions of the Constitution." Since the President has repeatedly said that he is always open to reasoning, there is really no contradiction between these two statements. Each has a perfectly valid foundation and each is meant to support the other.

CSO: 4600/369

PAKISTAN

LEGAL PROTECTION SAID NEEDED FOR REPORTING ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Karachi DAWN in English 24 Mar 85 p 7

[Article by Mohsin Ali]

[Text]

NEWLY-ELECTED members of the National and Provincial Assemblies would do well to reflect on the legal constraints the daily Press would be under to report what they may say in the legislature. Unless new laws and rules are promptly framed or the current legal conundrum resolved, newspapers may not be able to give a true and factual report of what they may say in the House.

Or if they do, the newspapers would do so at their own risk and peril. This is because of a combination of factors stemming from the continuance of Martial Law Regulations, the non-revival of certain crucial Articles of the 1973 Constitution and the existing laws on reporting and comment.

The anomaly

This uniquely anomalous situation has been spawned by the Presidential Order of last March 10, issued under Article four of the Revival of the Constitution of 1973 Order, 1985, stating that "the provisions of the Constitution, as amended by the said Order, other than those specified below, shall

come into force" on March 10, 1985. The specified articles not revived are:

"Articles six, eight to 28 (both inclusive), Clause(2) and 2(a) of Article 101, Articles 199, 213 to 216 (both inclusive) and 270A", of the 1973 Constitution.

Among the Articles not revived, we are concerned here primarily with Article 19 which states:

"Every citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, and there shall be freedom of the Press, subject to any reasonable restrictions, imposed by law, in the interest of the glory of Islam or the integrity, security or the defence of Pakistan or any part thereof, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence".

Even through the constitutional guarantee of "freedom of the Press" in Article 19 was cribbed and confined and hemmed in with too many qualifications, editors, long adept at the game, were able adroitly to drive a coach and four through this minefield.

With the protection of this Article of the Constitution, unavailable now, can members of the legislature claim, as a matter of right, that they have "freedom of speech and expression" either inside the House or outside? Presumably, when the legislature meets, the rules of procedure, including those governing the freedom of speech and expression in the House, would be enacted.

Despite Martial Law Regulations and the non-revival of Articles governing fundamental rights of citizens, members would perhaps, ensure that they have the legal right to express themselves freely on issues before the House.

But if their speeches inside the House are considered "privileged," would this privilege extend to the reports of these speeches in the columns of newspapers? At present the laws being what they are, this privilege does not embrace factual reporting of the proceedings of the House in the Press.

It is suggested that the newly-elected MNAs and MPAs, through the rules of procedure to be framed or through specific legislative enactments, extend this privilege to the newspapers and indemnify them against penalties, provided they carry a factual and entirely truthful account of the legislative proceedings.

Apart from the non-revival of Article 19, there are other pressing reasons why newspapers ought to be given legal protection for covering the legislature.

Currently, a plethora of draconian laws and regulations hangs over the heads of editors, like the proverbial Sword of Damocles. There is, first of all, a string of Martial Law Regulations and Orders issued at various times since July 5, 1977, and added to with a rapidity its intended victims can scarcely keep track of.

Chief among these is Martial Law Regulation No. 4, issued on July 5, 1977, which reads:

"No person shall publish, print, circulate or cause to be published, printed or circulated or otherwise be in possession of, any pamphlet, poster or publication or any type of literature calculated to promote or attempt to promote feeling of enmity or hatred between different provinces, classes, sects or religious order".

"Maximum punishment: 10 years rigorous imprisonment and or 30 stripes".

Likewise, Martial Law Regulation No. 13 of the same date states:

"No person shall, by words either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representation or otherwise bring or attempt to bring into hatred or contempt or excite or attempt to excite disaffection towards the armed forces or any member thereof or in any manner whatsoever spread or attempt to spread any report calculated to create alarm or despondency amongst the public.

"Maximum punishment: rigorous imprisonment for five years and or whipping up to 10 stripes".

Similarly, liable to be stretched to cover a multitude of activities is Martial Law Regulation No. 15 issued on July 20, 1977:

"Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or visible representation or otherwise incites or attempts to incite public or a section of public to seek the territorial or administrative dismemberment of Pakistan on provincial, sectarian or linguistic basis or propagates, works or makes any preparation whatsoever in this behalf, shall be punished".

"Maximum punishment: death".

MLR cases

The cases under Martial Law Regulations are invariably tried by Military Courts where the presence of defence lawyers is not necessary and against whose verdicts there is no appeal to the civil courts.

Nor can newspapers seek relief from the seats of the higher judiciary. This is because the jurisdiction of the High Court has been ousted by not reviving Article 199 of the 1973 Constitution.

Article 199(1), it may be added, gave the High Court, "if it is

satisfied that no other adequate remedy is provided by law", power to make an order on an application by any aggrieved party (1) directing the Government "to refrain from doing anything it is not permitted by law to do or to do anything it is required by law to do."

The High Court could also declare (11) "that any act done or proceedings taken by Authority has been done or taken without lawful authority and has no legal effect".

Article 199(2) also states that, "subject to the Constitution, the citizens'* right to move a High Court, for the enforcement of any of the Fundamental Rights conferred by Chapter 1 of Part 11, shall not be abridged".

Now this right stands abridged since the Fundamental Rights covered by Chapter 1, Article 8 to 28 (both inclusive), have not been revived under the Revival of the Constitution of 1973 Order, 1985.

There is then West Pakistan Press and Publications Ordinance, 1963, an omnibus, catch-all legislation which lists as many as 15 grounds (from "A" to "O") the contravention of which warrants the shut-down of the printing press, levy of a security deposit or its forfeiture, etc.

Printing press

Of some interest is Clause(G) of Section 23 of the Press and Publications Ordinance which makes a printing press liable to be prosecuted for printing anything which "amount to false rumours or to information calculated to cause public alarm, frustration or despondency, without reasonable ground to believe the information to be correct".

Ironically, truth, however, is no longer a ground for defence in certain cases against newspapers. This is because of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1979, issued on Dec 20, 1979, which, among other things, states:

"(a) In Section 499 of the Pakistan penal Code (Act XLV of 1960) for the full stop after the word "person," a colon shall be substituted and thereafter the following proviso shall be inserted, namely," Provided that the exceptions in this section, other than the

Fourth Exception, shall not apply in cases in which imputation is published in a book, news-sheet or newspaper as defined in the West Pakistan Press and Publications Ordinance, 1963 (W.P. Ordinance No XXX of 1963).

For the uninitiated, it may be explained, that the British-made Section 499 of the Penal Code (promulgated in 1860) gave a newspaper nine "exceptions" as ground to defend itself against a charge of defamation, libel, etc.

It was stated, for example, in these "exceptions" that "it is not defamation" if the matter complained against was (1) an imputation of truth which public good requires to be made or published, (2) or concerned public conduct of public servants, (3) conduct of any person touching any public question, (4) publication of reports of proceedings of courts, (5) merits of cases decided in court or conduct of witnesses, (6) merits of public performance, (7) censure passed in good faith by person having lawful authority over another, (8) accusation preferred in good faith by person for protection of his or other's interests, and finally (10) caution intended for good of person to whom conveyed or for public good.

These 10 "exceptions" which could be resorted to as grounds for defence provided by the British in 1860 are now no longer available to newspapers, having been struck down by the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1979.

Of these ten, newspapers now could invoke only one, the Fourth Exception which relates to "publication of reports of proceedings of courts".

In passing, it may be recalled here that the Federal Shariat Court's directive, last April, asking the provincial Governments to suitably amend the Press and Publications Ordinance, 1963, to bring it into conformity with Islamic injunctions by "September, 30, 1984" remains uncomplied with.

If, therefore, speeches in the legislature, not liked by the powers-that-be, are to be reported, MNAs and PMAs must move to extend legal protection to the publication of the proceedings of the Assemblies in the Press.

PAKISTAN

COMMENTARY ON 'SHOW OF STRENGTH' IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Karachi DAWN in English 24 Mar 85 p 12

[Commentary by Nisar Osmani]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, March 23: The election of Speaker on Friday provided to various groups in the National Assembly an opportunity to demonstrate their strength and convey to the authorities the matter that they should not be taken for granted in the formation of federal cabinet.

Indications are that leaders of some of these small groups apprehended that they might be denied what they thought should come to them as their due share in the federal ministry which could be formed any day now. Some of them believed that since they did not belong to the hard core of the like-minded group of Pagara Muslim League, they could be ignored.

Contest for Speakership, they assessed, could provide them with an opportunity to attract the attention of President Zia-ul-Haq and the nominated Prime Minister, Mr Mohamamd Khan Junejo. As a matter of fact, they did succeed in stealing the limelight but whether they will succeed in achieving their goal, is yet to be seen.

Two names particularly deserve to be mentioned in this regard — Mian Mohammd Yasin Khan Wattoo of Sahiwal and Mr Anwar Aziz of Shakargarh. Both of them have a good deal in common: They were members of the West Pakistan Assembly in the Ayub regime and were included in Mr Bhutto's Cabinet that was formed following the controversial elections of March 1977. Again, both of them had defied the Peoples Party's discipline by deciding to contest the recent election held on a partyless basis. They were conscious of the fact that they had burnt their boats

by participating in the poll and were naturally not satisfied with mere membership of the Assembly. Mr. Aziz particularly wanted to create a place for himself as he did not see eye-to-eye Khawaja Mohammad Safdar, who belongs to his district, Sialkot. Mr Wattoo, was, initially, interested in contesting the office of Speaker, but later withdrew and the "Non-conformists" then decided to put up Mr. Fakhr Imam.

The keen contest for the key office has left its imprint on the national politics — the Government will now have to deliberate seriously over the question of formation of a party inside the National Assembly, if not outside it; and the verdict of the MNAs has only hastened the process.

The scenario reminds one of the early days of Ayub rule when immediately after the promulgation of 1962 Constitution, the Field Marshal was also subjected to pressure particularly by the group of MNAs from the then East Pakistan and had to allow formation of political parties and organised his own party, the Convention Muslim League. The government of Zia-ul-Haq will have to follow the suit if it wants a smooth sailing in the House during the Budget session. It will certainly need a whip in the national and provincial Assemblies to ensure the passage of finance bill — a whip that an assembly party alone could provide. It may be relevant to add that during their speeches at the National Assembly, soon after the election of the Speaker, various members not only congratulated the Speaker, but also demanded immediate withdrawal of Martial law.

PAKISTAN

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS CONFER WITH PRIME MINISTER

Karachi DAWN in English 26 Mar 85 p 12

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, March 25: Several groups of members of the National Assembly met Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo at his temporary residence in the Sind House here throughout the day on Monday.

Lt-Gen Jahan Dad, Sind Governor, also called on the Prime Minister in the evening.

Prince Mohyuddin, who moved a resolution for the vote of confidence for Mr Junejo in the National Assembly on Sunday, told 'Dawn' after a group of MNAs from Baluchistan had conferred with the Prime Minister that the meeting was by way of a general exchange of views. The MNAs had felicitated Mr Junejo and extended to him cooperation on behalf of elected representatives of people.

The MNAs' meetings with the Prime Minister, although said to be not related directly to formation of new Federal Cabinet and provincial governments, are generally assumed to have some bearing on these matters.

Although three of the outgoing Federal Ministers have been officially asked to continue in office, it is essentially a stopgap arrangement and it is believed that it may still take some time before a new government is fully constituted and provincial Chief Ministers are chosen and respective provincial governments formed.

In this context, what appears to be a major consideration with the Prime Minister is how to ensure a well-coordinated and smooth relationship between the federal and the future provincial governments in the absence of political parties. Apparently, the next best course could be to find acceptable provin-

cial leaders who could deliver the goods.

Some keen political observers are of the views that the transition phase is going to be a challenge to the ingenuity of those who are to operate under the new constitutional set-up.

These issues are inevitably linked with unrecognised parties which are operative and to which groups of MNAs owe allegiance. The attitude of the leadership of these defunct political parties could not be conveniently overlooked while the political game of reintroduction of representative governments in the centre and provinces has begun with the induction of an elected President and an elected Prime Minister.

It is understood that besides meeting members of the Senate and the National Assembly, the Prime Minister will also hold talks with representatives of various sections of society in the next few days.

According to an official source, Mr Junejo is keen to meet the Press at the earliest possible opportunity, most likely early next week.

It is learnt that he will be moving to the Prime Minister House in Rawalpindi in about a week.

A group of three Senators from Baluchistan, Mr Ibrahim Baluch, Mr Umar and Mr Nabi Bakhsh Zehri, also called on the Prime Minister on Monday.

They urged Mr Junejo to select ministers from Baluchistan only after consulting them.

Meer's statement

Mr Khurshid Hassan Meer, a former Federal Minister and a

leader of the defunct Awami Jamhoori Party, issued the following statement on Monday:

"The continuance in the office of some Ministers of the former presidential Cabinet, even on the advice of the new Prime Minister, is not in accord with the amended Constitution. The moment the President took the oath of office on March 23, the old Cabinet ceased to exist. Thereafter, Ministers can only be appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister and, when so appointed, cannot start functioning until they take the oath of office under the amended Constitution. Their continuance in office shows the new constitutional set-up is not parliamentary but a continuation of the previous presidential system."

CSO: 4600/367

PAKISTAN

'BALANCE OF POWERS' CONCEPT ANALYZED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 20 Mar 85 p 6

[Article by Ashfaw Ahmed]

[Text]

Too much use of the word "Parliamentary" in respect of the 1973 Constitution has pushed the actual features of this Constitution away from the eyes of the people. Also are forgotten in this noise the atmosphere in which this Constitution was inflicted on the country what was then called "new" Pakistan, the culture of the man who evolved it, and the circumstances and threats which forced the opposition to accept it and then call it a Parliamentary Constitution.

The break-up of the country followed by a civilian martial law — the first of its kind — and the philosophy behind this Constitution, must be fully recalled to mind to understand that the Constitution as framed in 1973 was not a Parliamentary one in the real sense of the word; in spirit and intent it was Presidential aiming at concentration of powers in a single individual who manoeuvred to rise to the top after a long wrangling with the majority party to split the country apart. His entire struggle all through was to capture power, to replace the man at the top, to project himself as the sole symbol of power and the custodian of the country, and it

was in this frame of mind that the Constitution which was evolved by him concentrated all powers in him, the only difference being that he was to be called Prime Minister and not the President.

Brute force

Again it is incorrect that the leaders of 'new' Pakistan at that time had accepted the Constitution as Parliamentary in the true sense. They struggled to bring about basic changes in it but were rebuffed by the brute majority, even warned that if they refused the document as prepared by the man in power his martial law would continue. In this document was not only all powers vested in the Prime Minister but the person and office of the President was humiliated and insulted so much so that every document which under a Parliamentary form of Government is required to be signed by the President was to be countersigned by the Prime Minister. A no-confidence motion was made impossible in case of the Prime Minister, but for the President was used the word "removal" instead of "impeachment" which is a normal expression in almost every document in the world pertaining to the removal of

the President from his office. The culture of arrogance, hatred of everybody except himself, projecting all others whatsoever sacred their office or designation might be as vastly inferior to, and hence entirely dependent on him, is running through the 1973 Constitution; under it was established, in the name of Parliamentary government, a rank type of "elected" dictatorship. The result was that when the dictator went amuck, the President although sitting in the Presidency was helpless; the Constitution gave him no option or powers to set things right and prevent the country from civil war or the Armed Forces from intervening. All this made the 1973 Constitution an unworkable document, and hence needing amendment to make it a truly Parliamentary one, as was the 1956 Constitution, by redefining the functions of the Chief Executive and the Head of the State, debarring them from interfering in the functions and responsibilities of each other.

Non-party office

The office of the President or Head of the State in every Parliamentary form of Government is to be viewed as a non-party office, as belonging to

the entire nation, to both the Government and the Opposition. While, therefore, a President is to act in most of the legislative and executive spheres on the advice of the Prime Minister he has another function too, the preservation of the Constitution, appearing all the time a symbol of unity, consensus and constitutionalism of the nation, and therefore, he must possess an aura of prestige, dignity, non-partisanship and be saviour of the country's integrity and rights.

The recent amendments relating to the powers of the President are only aimed at providing in the Constitution what should have been there to make it really look like a Parliamentary system without affecting the independence of the Parliament as the supreme legislative organ and the Prime Minister as the chief repository of executive powers and functions. The President once he is elected is not to act as another organ of the Government, in the narrow sense of the word, to be subservient to the Prime Minister in all matters, sitting still while the man in power plays havoc with the country or prevents the operation of the Constitution.

The status and the unifying significance of the Head of the State or the President have been taken care of in every Parliamentary Constitution of the world. Almost in every such document a special care has been taken that the country is run in the name of the President by the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, not in the sense of permission of the President but in the sense of a symbol of a sort of godfather and non-partisan watchdog of the Constitution. The amendments issued by the President, General Zia-ul-Haq have only sought to emphasise this aspect so as to make the Constitution really Parliamentary, rehabilitating the Constitutional status and the position of the President without making him a participant in the executive authority which

remains vested in the Prime Minister as the leader of the House brought into existence by the freely expressed will of the people.

The confusion which is sought to be created in the name of Parliamentary system is either motivated by the desire of certain politicians who have been disowned by the electorate in the recent elections to remain somehow in the limelight as the champions of democracy, or by those so-called intellectuals who do not believe in the country's stability or smooth switchover from the military to civilian government. India is projected as the biggest Parliamentary democracy in the world, but those who look askance at the recent amendments in Pakistan's Constitution do not care to look at the Indian Constitution. President Zia-ul-Haq himself referred to it in a recent interview with the Editors of national dailies when he pointed out that the same terminology was employed by the framers of the Indian Constitution as was done by him. In the whole of the Indian Constitution nowhere is the expression Prime Minister used save in one case where it is stated that except where the President is empowered to act in his discretion, the President will act on the advice of the Prime Minister. In all other cases only the word President is mentioned, the Prime Minister running the affairs of the country on behalf of the President, because the indivisibility of the national polity has to be projected through a non-partisan and stable institution. In the same Indian Constitution has the President been made the Supreme Commander of Armed Forces which though to be controlled and commanded by the Chief Executive have been imparted an aura of separation from the general framework of day to day administration. Only such things have been provided in the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan through the amendments.

What we fail to understand

in the heat of noisy debate is that the 1973 Constitution was not framed to prevent unconstitutional interference of the Head of the State as was done by the late Ghulam Muhammad; it was framed to concentrate the powers of both the Chief Executive and the Head of State in a single person who decided to retain the office of the President only to pacify the opposition and to hoodwink the people that instead of the Presidential they had the much longed-for Parliamentary form of government. That was not only unheard of but it was also without any logic, and it was for this reason that the four years of constitutional operation from 1973 onward were marked by a heinous form of unconstitutionality and political dictatorship. It was this unbridled power vested in a single person which had left no option for the Head of State — each document signed by him was to be countersigned by the Prime Minister under the provisions of the Constitution to find a Constitutional remedy for the serious crisis that emerged in 1977, to dissolve the National Assembly and order fresh elections. It was this inability and utter powerlessness of the President which compelled the military to intervene, push apart the warring factions and put the country under another martial law.

Main purpose

In fact, the main purpose in essence of the amendments is to make the Constitution workable to provide solution of every political or legislative crisis in it, to prevent the intervention of Armed Forces, and to perpetuate the political and civilian nature of any future Government in the country. And if the people and politicians really want a Parliamentary form of government, then it could be done only by bringing about a balance in the powers of the Chief Executive and the Head of State. And this is what has been done.

PAKISTAN

ASGHAR SEES POLITICAL CONFUSION AHEAD

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Mar 85 p 12

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, March 22: Air Marshal (retired) Asghar Khan has opined that the frequency and speed with which election rules and constitutional amendments had recently been changed were unprecedented even in the history of authoritarian governments and in the history of the most backward societies.

In a statement issued to the Press, the Tehrik chief said it had been stated that the powers of the National Assembly would be defined well before the elections. The announcement was, however, postponed and was not made till after the elections had been held. The country was thereby entertained to the unusual spectacle of people participating in an election without knowing what the powers of the Assemblies would be. Similarly, he said, a limit on expenditure for elections was laid down but was waived after it became apparent that it had been exceeded in almost every case. And then, the dependants of government servants were debarred from taking part in elections, but this disqualification was also later removed.

Asghar Khan continued: "No one who was unsuccessful in National or provincial assembly elections could contest a Senate seat. This was, however, relaxed in the case of woman candidates." He noted that a procedure for amending the Constitution was announced, but that too was changed, making it mandatory to obtain the President's approval before making an amendment changing a Presidential order.

He said the cavalier manner in which these changes had been made suggested the nation was in for some more surprises. If seven years deliberations and research on "Islamisation" of the Constitution had so confused its authors that they had to change their steps so frequently, the pressure and the reality of the process that the regime had launched would inevitably lead it to make further and more far-reaching changes in the structure it had created.

It is inevitable that the changes would reduce the so-called democratic process to an even bigger farce, he concluded.

CSO: 4600/366

PAKISTAN

REGIME SAID TO STAGE 'COUP ATTEMPT'

Calcutta SUNDAY in English 24-30 Mar 85 pp 23-25

[Article by Tariq Ali]

[Text]

Pakistan has recently experienced a General's election. It was masterminded by a General, orchestrated by the military high command (i.e. the Generals) and the desired results were achieved with the kind collaboration of the Pakistani civil service. The opposition parties had called for a boycott. Hence the main objectives of the Zia-ul Haq dictatorship were to ensure a reasonable turn-out. The largely tame candidates, of course, made sure that their supporters rolled up, but it was the civil servants in the countryside who dragged the people out to vote.

The real question, however, is not how many people voted, but why the Pentagon's favourite Asian dictator felt it necessary to have an election in the first place. There was no real pressure from the State Department in Washington. The Pentagon actually prefers a military regime in Pakistan as it is believed, with good reason, that virtually any civilian government would reach an accommodation with the Soviet Union and settle the Afghanistan question. Zia-ul Haq's desire to achieve some legitimacy for his rule, however fraudulent and tenuous, was motivated by the situation which has been building up inside the Pakistan army itself. Given that this institution is the only solid pillar of the dictatorship, any dissensions within its ranks could prove fatal. Even here, it should be said that Zia's electoral farce could backfire badly. Winning an election by locking up the opposition is, after all, hardly a new tactic for the Pentagon-backed dictators in the Third World. The fact that Zia made the attempt at all is an indica-

tion of his weakness. The surface signs may not show this, but the military regime in Pakistan is undergoing a severe crisis of confidence.

The single most important thing which took place in Pakistan in recent weeks was not this surreal election, but the secret trial of over one hundred military officers in Attock fort. This trial, which has not received any detailed coverage in the Western press, is an event of great importance for the dictatorship. The officers under trial have been charged with the most serious offence in the book, which is, "conspiring to overthrow the government by force." The fact that this was how Zia himself came to power is only one of the many ironies of this case.

During the second half of 1983, the people of Sind sparked off a movement against the dictatorship. It was brutally crushed by the army and hundreds of Sindhis, a minority nationality in Punjabi-dominated Pakistan, were killed, several hundreds subjected to torture and thousands placed in prison without trial. At one stage it appeared as though the revolt for democracy would spread to Punjab. A number of senior army officers wrote private letters to Zia at the time and suggested politely that the time had perhaps arrived for a transfer of power to the politicians. The letters were sent on to the directorate of inter-services intelligence in Islamabad in September 1983. The dissident officers had begun to meet informally during the Sind movement. What they were planning was not a *coup d'etat*, but an organised and concerted refusal to obey orders

if they were instructed to shoot demonstrators in the event of the movement spreading to Punjab. The coterie of senior officers who run Pakistan decided that it was crucial to weed out every democratically-inclined dissident in the armed forces as soon as possible.

Inter-services intelligence (ISI) was given the go-ahead to plan a "conspiracy" to tap the dissident officers. The planning stage had begun. The entire operation was masterminded by the director general of the ISI, Lt. General Akhtar Abdul Rehman Khan. It was Akhtar Khan who had, as commander of a crack infantry division, pledged his loyalty to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the country's last elected leader, one year before the Zia coup of July 1977. It was also the same Akhtar who had led his commandos to storm the Prime Minister's house on 5 July 1977. Akhtar was assisted throughout by Brigadier Imtiaz, known within military intelligence as the "blue-eyed jackal."

The aims of the ISI were as follows: To "prove" that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of the executed Prime Minister Bhutto, were involved in planning, sabotage and arson; to implicate India in the plot and present the PPP as instruments of New Delhi; to divert attention from Indo-Soviet allegations of the Junta's arming and training of Sikh militants from neighbouring India (there were several training camps in Pakistan which had been established for this purpose); to purge the army of malcontents and democrats; to lay the basis for a Supreme Court ruling to declare PPP politics and "Bhuttoism" alien to Pakistan and ban them permanently; and to identify the dissident officers and physically eliminate them, while claiming that a coup attempt had been forestalled.

The plan was to plant agents within the ranks of the dissidents, organise them into a loose "study group" and then plant Indian ammunition on them and arrest or kill them. The ISI decided to use a well-known Pakistani smuggler-millionaire, Seth Abid, to arrange for a cache of Indian arms and explosives. Abid, a close personal friend of Zia, agreed to become the conduit and he was accordingly introduced to dissident officers as a man with influence who could be useful in the future.

Within five months after the plan was first conceived, the blue-eyed jackal had prepared a list of 1,000 army officers from whom the dissidents could be selected. The list was

culled from intelligence files and all the officers named were stated to be hostile to Zia and the continuation of martial law and the large-scale corruption (especially in relation to heroin smuggling) that had tainted the army. A hundred names were picked from the larger list. The jackal was instructed to tell agent provocateurs to "harness and identify" the dissidents and give them an organisation.

The last act was meant for Lahore, the largest city close to the Indian border. General Akhtar Khan himself visited a number of possible sites for staging the "coup attempt." The operation was code-named "The Hangman's Second Rope" (the reference was to Bhutto, who had been dealt with by the "first rope"). In Lahore, only Colonel Yamin was taken into complete confidence in early December 1983. The operation was scheduled for the night of 23 December 1983, but intelligence telephone-tappers heard two dissident officers expressing their doubts about coming to Lahore. These men told each other that something odd appeared to be taking place. Akhtar panicked. The officers were sent away on official business and the operation postponed to 3 or 4 January 1984. On 1 January 1984, the troops involved in the plan were told that they were needed to crush a "bloodthirsty gang of anti-Pakistan conspirators." Large-scale arrests were planned in cantonments and naval and air force bases throughout the country at the same time.

The last-minute change in schedule had an odd effect. The venue of the dissidents' meeting was changed from the affluent Lahore suburb of Gulberg to Nawan Kot. Seth Abid's men brought their consignment of arms and explosives to the new venue in great haste. Abid is a veteran trafficker in drugs and is said to be the Mr Big of the smuggling of hashish and heroin to Europe and America from Pakistan. His men accidentally picked up 12 boxes containing a quarter of a ton of pure Pakistani hashish and planted these with similar boxes which contained arms and ammunition. The whole operation was botched by Abid's clumsiness. Thus, there were boxes containing safety fuses, but no explosives, there were twelve sub-machine guns of 7.62 mm calibre, but the ammunition for these was of 9 mm calibre. This became obvious as the boxes were opened in the presence of police and magistrates.

Further problems arose. Only six dissidents had been informed of the

change of venue for their supposed "social evening." Only three turned up. The others were more concerned with their personal commitments. The Sind uprising had been crushed. Punjab was quiet and many officers felt that, for the time being, the storm was over. Three officers, Squadron Leader Tahir Maqsood, Major Nisar Hussain Bokhari and Major Sadiq Abdullah, were guided to the new venue by an ISI agent, Major Shahid, a man who had been cashiered from the army for corruption, but had been re-employed by the intelligence wing because of his close affinities to the Jamaat-i-Islami (a fundamentalist Muslim sect). At 7.00 pm, Major Shahid brought the three dissidents to the trap. He directed them through the gate and disappeared into a side lane. The three officers were confused and decided to stay at the gate and wait for him. Without warning they were greeted by a rain of bullets. Colonel Yamin's ten-man squad had opened fire. The dissidents fell to the ground and Major Bokhari was seriously wounded. Three passers-by were also felled by the gunfire and died instantly.

The event was then proclaimed to be a conspiracy which had been nipped in the bud and arrests were made elsewhere. Over 70 armed forces officers were arrested and 100 civilians, including women and children, were initially detained. A lawyer, Raza Kazim, who knew some of the officers, was also arrested. The imprisoned officers were kept in total isolation in tiny underground cells (four feet by six feet) and fettered and handcuffed. They were blindfolded at regular intervals. They were strapped to ice-blocks (a traditional sub-continental torture), given electric shocks, whipped, denied food, sunlight, fresh air and bathing facilities. A number suffered serious collapses after torture. Virtually all of them suffered a loss of eyesight and developed numerous diseases. Their medical reports were destroyed at the special intelligence bureau on the orders of Major Tariq Afzal and Major Masud.

As a result of the tortures, the intelligence agencies obtained their "confessions." They were recorded on video. Then a tame magistrate, Karam Elahi Beg, a creature of the military, was brought in to hear the "confessions." He was flanked by two Majors from the ISI staff, Najeeb and Javed. When some of the accused refused to make the ISI-dictated confessions they were threatened by the magistrate and the

young Majors. The main purpose of the torture was to prove "Indian involvement" and counter Indian charges of training camps for Sikhs in Pakistan. Suddenly, however, the pressure to implicate India was dropped. What had happened? The major reason is that the high command feared a violent Indian reaction and were warned by a friendly foreign power not to play the "Indian card." A minor reason may have been that some army messengers had disappeared with crucial evidence proving that the trial was a fake from the beginning to end. The evidence contained "confessions" written in the offices of the ISI and destined for interrogators at Attock fort.

The entire affair created dissension within the higher ranks of the army. Accordingly, some of the accused were forced to mention names of senior officers and others prepared by the intelligence agencies. Generals Iqbal Khan and Sawar Khan were retired. Two senior corps commanders, Generals Majid and Jamal, as well as a number of Major-Generals and Brigadiers were sacked. Zia's own military secretary, Brigadier Khawar Latif Butt, and the deputy military secretary, Colonel Zaheer Ahmed, were subjected to interrogation and transferred. Altogether 350 Majors and Captains were released from service in January-March 1984. The effect of all this on the army's morale cannot be underestimated. The news that has been smuggled out of Attock fort is also widely known within the army and it has not enhanced Zia's status.

Zia's young favourite, Lt. Colonel Badar, was in charge of Attock fort. He supervised the torture and the interrogation as well as threatening officers with capital punishment. Badar concentrated initially on attempting to torture the following officers to become approvers: Squadron Leader Tahir Maqsood, Lt. Col. Shirazi, Major Abdul Qayyum, Major Mustafa Kamal, Major Khalid Mahmood, Major Zafar Iqbal and Captain Muhammed Sibtain. The officers refused and withstood the torture. Tahir Maqsood later broke down when his wife and younger brother (also detained at Attock) were humiliated and subjected to a vileness that proved unbearable to Maqsood. Later, a mentally tortured Maqsood retracted and, together with his wife and brother, was whisked off to the ISI headquarters in Islamabad for more "coaxing." This time he succumbed.

Within the ruling army clique,

senior Generals argued for a field general court martial (FGCM) but the ISI, fearful that a FGCM might reveal too much, insisted on a military court which they could control far more directly. The trial at Attock is currently taking place behind closed doors. What has not emerged fully is which card the army chiefs have decided to play. With the General's election out of the way, Zia has started hanging people again. The framed officers are accused of high treason. Their lives are in danger. It would be ironic, though not surprising, if the so-called defenders of democracy in Washington and London allowed any of these officers (whose only crime was to demand a return to democracy) to be executed.

CSO: 4600/367

PAKISTAN

WAPDA GENERATING CAPACITY SAID TO FALL 50 PERCENT

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 20 Mar 85 p 8

[Text]

LAHORE, March 19: A number of factors have reduced the generation capability of WAPDA's power system by almost 50 per cent which is leading to load shedding for extended periods in industrial and rural sectors.

A WAPDA spokesman, commenting on the news items about the current frequent load shedding, said WAPDA had informed the public on March 6 about the increase in the quantum of load shedding which was mainly due to the fall in the water levels in Mangla and Tarbela reservoirs, reducing the capabilities of hydel power generation.

The spokesman disclosed that the Mangla lake level had gone down to its minimum of 1040 feet above sea level for the past few days. The level had been expected to go up by March 10 on the basis of last five years' pattern but it had not risen. Consequently, the Mangla power station was running today at its minimum capability of 60 megawatts against the installed capacity of 800 megawatts, whereas at this time of the year it was expected to generate 358 megawatts. This has resulted in a

shortfall of 300 megawatts from Mangla alone.

Similarly, the spokesman added, at Tarbela the water level today was at the level of 1335 feet whereas last year at this time the level was 1372 feet.

Tarbela reservoir is currently allowed to release 28,000 cusecs of water, keeping in view the reduced irrigation requirements. With the result that it can only generate about 424 megawatts, as compared to 600 megawatts at this time last year even though the installed capacity is 1575 megawatts. Warsak power station is closed for two weeks for emergency repairs but even if it were available, the inflow in Kabul river is only 2900 cusecs which is good only for 40 megawatts against an installed capacity of 240 megawatts.

The WAPDA chief has directed all Charimen of area electricity boards to announce the load shedding hours in view of shortage of power, and also strictly observe the announced timings. The Chairmen of area electricity boards are issuing the information on the radio and newspapers in their respective areas.

CSO: 4600/368

PAKISTAN

WAPDA DIRECTED TO ASSURE POWER TO WHEAT CROP AREAS

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 20 Mar 85 p 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, March 19: The Federal Minister for Planning and Development Dr. Mahbubul Haq has directed WAPDA to ensure the power supply for providing water to the wheat crop particularly in the Barani areas.

The Minister, who was presiding over the meeting of a high-level Energy Review Group, said that to make up shortfall in rains, it is necessary to keep tubewells operational for most of the time in these areas. He said there should be uninterrupted supply of power to rural areas for atleast 16 hours each day to ensure proper running of tube wells. The WAPDA will open a special cell tomorrow to receive complaints about any deviation from this programme.

The Energy Review Group scrutinised the progress of important power generation projects due to be completed in the next two years. These projects which are being completed on a crash programme basis will provide 1360 MW of additional power by the end of

next year to ease the present energy shortage

The Energy Review Group meets every month in view of the importance of keeping all the energy projects strictly on schedule and for taking timely decisions for resolving any problems.—APP.

CSO: 4600/368

PAKISTAN

WEST GERMAN INVESTMENT TEAM DUE IN NOVEMBER

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 20 Mar 85 p 3

[Text]

A delegation of German entrepreneurs will visit Pakistan this year from Nov. 11 to 14 to have first hand information and impressions and to examine the possibilities of expanding trade and promote investments in Pakistan.

This was disclosed Consul General of Federal Republic of Germany at Karachi Dieter Holscher, while speaking as chief guest at a meeting of Rotary Club of Karachi East yesterday afternoon.

He said that his government tries everything possible to promote German investments abroad and gives guarantees for investments in developing countries which accounted for 7.2 billion Deutsche mark since 1960.

The risk covered by these guarantees involves for the most part expropriation and government takeover, war, revolution as well as transfer restrictions.

He said that interest in West Germany's commercial and industrial sides for Pakistan was great and the forthcoming visit of the German delegation to Pakistan is a proof to it.

Dieter Holscher said that in Pakistan Germans have invested a total of about 72 million DM. He observed that one cannot be really content with that when compare with German investments in other parts of the world —Germans invested about 5 billion DM in the

first six months of last year.

He said that West Germany was Pakistan's most important trading partner in Europe and holds sixth position in the context of Pakistan's world-wide exports and imports. The bilateral trade volume was about 1.3 billion DM

He said, German imports came to about 360 million Deutsche mark per year and they consist mostly of wool and carpets, cotton and leather and the German exports came to about 900 million Deutsche mark per year, being mostly semi-finished and finished chemical products, machines and electrotechnical products.

The German Consul General spoke about economic relations between the two countries and said that Pakistan was the fifth largest receiver of German aid in the Third World which so far amounted to over 3 billion DM with emphasis on the development of energy, communication and agriculture sectors.

Earlier, Abdul Kader Ahmed, President of the Club welcoming Holscher said that the Club was shortly setting up an institute for training of industrial sewing machines mechanics with the cooperation of German firm Pfaff involving a capital investment of DM 65,000. The club will provide a rupee over of one lakh.—APP/PPI

PAKISTAN

OIL: INCREASING WASTE ALLEGED

Karachi DAWN in English 14 Mar 85 p 5

[Article by Sultan Ahmed]

[Text]

IN THE grey to dark grey energy scenario of Pakistan with its recurrent peak shortages in summer as well as winter, one sector stands out brightly. Not that the performance of this sector is too good, but certainly compared to its past performance, and the all too modest expectations of the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the achievement of the oil sector has been outstanding.

The Sixth Plan projected a rise in oil production from 12,000 barrels per day (BPD) to 21,000 by 1987-88 in the light of the all too bleak past performance of this sector. If during the first 36 years of Pakistan only four oil discoveries could be made, and foreign companies ranging from the British and American to the Soviet went back disheartened, the Planning Commission had good reasons to be too cautious and suggest utilisation of investment funds in areas where better returns were assured.

But through a policy of far larger investment, more vigorous efforts and an oil exploration policy which went all out to woo foreign companies, production of oil shot up from 12,000 barrels per day in January, 1984, to 28,000 barrels by December. And Dr. Mohammad Asad Khan, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Resources, expects the output to rise to 30,000 barrels by the end of this month —

meeting 25 per cent of the oil demand of the country instead of nine per cent in January, 1984.

Vigorous efforts

As a result, the oil import bill which had hit the peak of Rs 20.9 billion in 1982-83 came down to Rs 19.65 billion last year despite the increasing consumption at home. Because of the steady devaluation of the rupee and the fall in oil price from 35 dollars per barrel to 29 dollars the rupee figures do not give an accurate picture. A more reliable picture is presented by the import bill of 1,450 million dollars compared to the Sixth Plan projection of 1,799 million dollars for 1983-84.

And yet the alarming fact remains that even the reduced oil import bill is equal to half the export earnings of the country, and forms a fourth of all the imports. In a period of falling exports and a ~~crash in the home remittances~~, which were used to finance the oil bill, the oil import burden of Pakistan is becoming increasingly heavy. Hence the urgency for stepping up indigenous production.

Dr. Asad Khan, whose frequent visits to the drilling sites and better liaison with foreign oil companies have produced excellent results, says the country saved Rs 300 crore in foreign exchange last year, and would save about Rs 550 crore this year. Simultaneously it should be pointed out that the export earnings of Pakistan from oil— furnace oil and other residual products surplus to our needs — which reached

the peak of Rs two million in 1981-82 crashed to Rs 544 million last year because of increasing consumption of that oil at home — by cement factories and others whose gas supplies were reduced. And that slashed the net gain in oil imports.

The sudden increase in oil output became possible as while only four oil discoveries were made until 1983, six oil discoveries were made in 1984 alone. And the good news came both from the Potwar region in the Punjab and in Leghari, Tando Alam and Tajedi in Sind. Even the official Oil and Gas Development Corporation's output rose from 2,100 barrels to 9,000 barrels per day.

In the oil sector success has many friends and failure none. So the success achieved in finding oil in several unexpected areas, particularly in Sind, and a positive policy for encouraging foreign oil companies, and resulting in a large number of them signing up for oil exploration. While three such agreements were signed in the last few months, agreements with four or five more companies are to be signed in the next few months. And offshore oil exploration on a sizeable scale is to begin soon.

OGDC's role

The OGDC has been able to play a larger role because of the increase in its funds which this year rose from Rs 1.3 billion to Rs 2.3 billion for the drilling of 38,000 metres, including operation of 16 new wells. In 1983-84 29 new wells were spudded, and nine wells started earlier were completed, with 25 wells in the private sector and 13 in public sector. The total of 38 wells in one year stands in sharp contrast to the total of 127 exploratory wells in Pakistan until then — an average of four per year.

And Pakistan has been exceedingly lucky in its current rate of success. While the world average is one oil producing well out of 10 drilled, Pakistan has achieved success in one out of six wells drilled. And in 1983-84 amazingly six out of 10 wells where exploration was completed produced oil or gas.

Encouraged by all that a committee of experts and officials of the Ministry of Petroleum has drafted at a new national mineral policy which is said to be receiving final

shape. One of the suggestions, says Dr. Azad, is setting up a sizeable exploration fund for exploitation of mineral resources using the latest equipment.

Welcome, too, is the beginning of work on the Oil and Gas Training Institute at a cost of Rs 1.9 crore to which Canada is to provide 21.7 million dollars for a variety of equipment and teaching aids. This should increase the trained personnel for oil and gas exploration significantly.

All this should encourage the indigenous private sector to play a role in the exploration sector. But its participation has been marginal because of the high investment, and uncertainty of the kind of prompt returns to which it has been accustomed in other industrial sectors.

But in a country in which half the petroleum is consumed by the transport sector determined efforts have to be made not only to increase the output but also reduce consumption and introduce energy saving practices wherever possible.

Corruption

While the manufacture of Suzuki cars is a very welcome development, large cars continue to be imported in large numbers. And too many persons who can neither afford to buy a car nor pay the monthly petrol bills are forced to have them as public transportation in the cities is woefully inadequate. Unless the cities and towns have more and better buses which are readily available to the public the number of private cars will increase and petroleum consumption will rise along with that.

Adding to the consumption or waste are bad roads, increasing traffic jams in the cities, and poor traffic management. And as parking has become a major problem in the cities, cars have to be driven round and before a place could be found for parking.

There has been a good deal of talk about parking plazas, parking lots etc. but they have not materialised. And many of the high-rise office buildings sanctioned on the basis of adequate parking space come up without such facilities or only a fraction of them. No action has been taken

against such persistent violations, possibly because of the pervasive corruption and administrative inefficiency.

Narrow roads, too many cars, and bad traffic management are resulting in increasing wastage of petrol. And high cost of cars prevent frustrated car-owners from giving up such gas-guzzlers in favour of more energy efficient new cars

Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan warns that despite the current increase in domestic production Pakistan has to import one lakh barrels per day. That means we should have a proper petroleum policy as petroleum meets about a third of our energy demand. But we don't have one, except in terms of a few slogans. And despite the high price of petroleum, which has been rising internally despite the fall in world oil prices because of the steady devaluation of the rupee, petroleum consumption is increasing steadily following the waste indulged in by high income groups.

The Government might have come up with a pragmatic policy if the senior officials were not given 100 gallons of petrol a month free of cost, along with their official cars, and the more senior ones unlimited supply of petrol. The policy makers do not feel the pinch at a personal level. And it is not enough if a petroleum saving policy is framed but it should also be pragmatic and be implemented resolutely, beginning with our officials, some of whom still use very large automobiles as staff cars.

CSO: 4600/365

PAKISTAN

SAINDAK COPPER PROJECT SAID FEASIBLE

Karachi DAWN in English 14 Mar 85 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

PARIS, March 11: An international consortium grouping firms from France, Finland and Yugoslavia concluded a gold and copper mine project in Pakistan would be commercially feasible if suitable financial terms can be agreed with the Pakistan Government, a consortium spokesman said.

Study

Jacques Hertz, President of the French company Cofral which is coordinating the project, told Reuters the consortium completed a study on Friday showing there are at least three proven deposits and several other possible deposits around the proposed mine site in Pakistan's remote western Saindak region.

Investment needed would be 300 to 450 million dollars.—Reuter

Our correspondent adds:

It will be recalled that the Economic Coordination Commit-

tee (ECC) of the Federal Cabinet had approved the preparation of detailed report on Saindak project last year.

The project was estimated to cost around \$600 million.

Reserves

Saindak mines have reserves of about 412 million tonnes of copper ore, containing 2.24 million ounces of Gold, 2.49 million ounces of Silver, 20.374 tonnes of Molybdenum, 37.77 million tonnes of Sulphuric Acid and 2.1 million tonnes of steel can also be produced from ore obtained from these mines.

On completion the project would generate \$129.52 million per annum and would create 1250 jobs and 9,000 indirect jobs.

This copper field was discovered in 1962, but its exploitation has been delayed for one reason or another.

CSO: 4600/364

PAKISTAN

CEMENT PLANT COMMISSIONED

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Mar 85 p 6

[Text]

KARACHI, March 22: The crusher plant of a major cement project, located in the Nooriabad Industrial Estate, was commissioned today and the bagged Portland cement from the plant will be available in a couple of months' time.

The crusher plant was commissioned by NDFC Chairman, Mr Zafar Iqbal, who described the completion of the plant in time as a remarkable act of enterprise by the sponsors, the Dadabhoy Group of Companies.

Mr. Zafar Iqbal said that this is the first largely Pakistan-made cement plant and thanked the Heavy Mechanical Complex for maintaining the schedule for the supply of machinery and equipment.

Equity sharers

He also lauded the Pak-Kuwait Investment Company for sharing in

the equity and the Banking Consortium for financing the project.

Earlier in his welcome address, Mr Noor Mohammad Dadabhoy, Chairman, Dadabhoy Cement, said the plant will be capable of producing 300,000 tons of cement per annum, both of ordinary Portland as well as other types.

Cost

The project, he said, has cost Rs. 672 million. It will not only provide jobs for locals, but will also play an important role in the development of backward areas of Dadu district.

Mr Farooq Dadabhoy, Managing Director of the project, thanked the guests. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Irshad Haider, Managing Director, Pak-Kuwait Investment, senior bankers and businessmen and experts, working at the plant.

CSO: 4600/366

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN STEEL PRODUCTS SAID COSTLIER THAN WORLD PRICES

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Mar 85 p 8

[Article by H. A. Hamied]

[Text]

KARACHI, March 22: The Pakistan Steel products are costly by about 33 per cent compared to the international prices. sheets for pipe factories and carriage factories and cold roll sheets for drum-making.

In an interview to 'Dawn', the Chairman of the Pakistan Steel, Mr H.N. Akhtar said on Tuesday that the Rs 25 billion project was running at 60 per cent of the installed capacity of 1.1 million tonnes of steel at present. To reach the full target of production all the units have to go into production stage by stage, which are eight in number.

He said that by the end of this year it would achieve 80 per cent production, and 100 per cent by the end of 1986. The Metallurgical Training Centre of the Pakistan Steel will soon be conducting master of science courses in metallurgy, he said.

The Chairman of the largest industrial project in Pakistan said that by achieving 100 per cent production it would be able to match with the international prices on the C & F value, i.e. by the end of 1986. Applications for MS courses, he said, would be called for by next month.

The Pakistan Steel is producing at present foundry-grade pig iron, coke for foundries and sugar mills, billets for re-rolling mills, wire rods and wire units, coils and sheets for pipe factories and carriage factories and cold roll sheets for drum-making. At the diploma level, 800 technicians are being trained at the MTC every six months. Applications for admission were not invited last January.

Sixteen hundred students are trained annually at the MTC in 72 different skills and the successful candidates have good job opportunities in private sector and they are no longer needed by the Pakistan Steel.

CSO: 4600/366

PAKISTAN

COMPREHENSIVE SHIPPING POLICY SAID IN OFFING

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Mar 85 Business Supplement p I

[Article by Babar Ayaz]

[Text]

PAKISTAN is likely to sign an International Maritime Organisation (IMO) convention shortly to scare away non-seaworthy vessels from calling on its ports besides discouraging the importers to use reliable shipping lines.

The IMO convention SOLAS (Safety Of Life At Sea), experts here believe, would enable Pakistan's shipping authorities to inspect the ships calling at our ports and to arrest and fine them if they do not qualify in terms of the accepted rules.

Shipping experts believe that the ratification of SOLAS would also take care of the growing tendency among the shippers to use tramp ships. "Such liners are offering much lower freights besides indulging in all sort of irregularities," one expert pointed out.

The national shipping lines would not be affected by SOLAS as they are seaworthy according to accepted standards.

The slumps in shipping caused by depressed world trade and technological development of shipping internationally has unleashed shipping frauds and growth of fly-by-night liner service.

Records show that Pakistani importers are being more easily lured by such operators. Only recently many vessels carrying cargo for Karachi were either arrested or were stuck half way for some technical breakdown or for failing to pay their crew or the withdrawal of charterer from the deal.

Lured

"We have been advising our members not to accept unreliable shipping companies while importing and exporting," a spokesman of the Pakistan Shippers Council (PSC) said.

The same advice has been repeated by the concerned authorities from time to time, "but it often falls on deaf ears. Though many importers have fallen in the trap of tramp ships, they are never shy to play with them again," he said.

The importers often blame their exporters and shipping agents for getting them into a fix. But experts disagree with this. They think shipping agents and exporters book unreliable ships with the convenience of importers because these importers want under cutting and low freight facilities.

Some importers, however, maintain that the mushroom growth of shipping agents has made it difficult for them to know who is responsible enough to deal with.

As there is no government agency effectively controlling the shipping agents, all the concerned parties are worried over the unethical business practices of some firms.

At present the shipping agents are only issued a certificate from the Customs to operate in the bonded area. No other rules and regulations govern this trade, which plays an important role in the entire import and export trade.

One reason for this is said to be the bureaucratic tendency to retain as much power as possible.

Now that the actual relevant authority, the Ministry of Communications, Port and Shipping Wing, wants to streamline this trade, the CBR is said to be taking a different view.

The matter has been discussed again and again during the last many years the first time being in 1974 but with little result.

Now, reputed shipping agents have proposed that the trade should be streamlined and the Director-General, Port and Shipping should formulate a Board with private sector representation for issuing final licences to them.

This Board, they have suggested, should also have the powers to cancel or refuse to renew licence of any shipping agent found indulging in unhealthy practices.

But on this issue all the shipping agents obviously do not agree. Some of them believe that it would create monopolies and make it difficult for the small firms to operate.

Leading shipping agents have also suggested that the government should not let the foreign companies operate in this field. Companies with foreign base and share monopolise best of the shipping lines, leaving little for the local firms," a leading local shipping agent said.

In many Third World countries, with nationalistic policies, foreign companies and foreign share holding in this business are completely banned. "But some decision makers here are infatuated with whatever is foreign, irrespective of how they drain our foreign exchange," a shipping agent equipped.

However, all the parties agree on one point: that shipping agency business needs to be regulated. "When the government has made strict rules for the licensing of travel agents, why a similar policy cannot be made for shipping agents to ensure proper service to shippers," a PSC official wants to know.

Along with streamlining shipping agencies, observers feel there is need to ensure that insurance companies provided cover for cargo being boarded only on reliable ships.

The insurance companies, however, argue that they provide cover for the cargo only and not the ship. "But this is rustic logic. How can any cargo be insured when the reliability of the vessel carrying it is not known," an observer noted.

The experts are of the view that the outdated merchant shipping act needs updating. A move to regulate the entire merchant shipping according to well placed sources is already on the anvil.

Last year a draft of Merchant Shipping Bill was circulated among the concerned quarters for suggestion. This Bill is expected to go through the newly elected assembly by the end of this year. It would replace the out-dated 1923 Act, which is in force at present.

Besides this law, which is yet to be finalised in the light of various recommendations, a comprehensive shipping policy is also in offing. This policy would elaborate the rules, regulations as well as incentives to be given to the private sector for setting up their shipping lines.

PAKISTAN

BANK TO FINANCE FISH PROJECT IN SIND

Karachi DAWN in English 26 Mar 85 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

KARACHI, March 25: The Asian Development Bank has given consent to finance the Sind aquaculture development project, costing Rs 147 million.

The project is aimed at promoting fish industry in Sind-Province during the next five years.

The work on the project will be taken in hand in the near future, while fish hatchery at Chilia, near Thatta, has already been established at a cost of Rs 9.8 million, as a part of the project to achieve self-sufficiency in fish seed.

The Director, Fisheries, Sind, Mr M.A. Salam Ansari, who is supervising the project, today said the project would provide infra-structural facilities to boost fish culture, both in the public and private sectors.

Hatchery at Chilia

The newly-established fish hatchery at Chilia has already been commissioned and would provide quality fish seed in substantial quantity for fish breeding through artificial techniques. This hatchery would cater to the requirements of fish seed in the districts of lower Sind.

Another fish hatchery is nearing completion, near Sukkur, which would cater to the needs of districts in Upper Sind.

When the two fish hatcheries go into full operation, fish seed would be available in abundance and fish production will, thus, get a boost

within a period of three years, Mr Ansari said.

He said that for the first time marine shrimp would be cultured in ponds constructed near creeks in the deltaic region of river Indus.

Technology

Modern scientific technology will be employed to get at least two crops of fish shrimp each year, he added.

Mr Ansari said that vast area of land located in taluka Ghora Bari, in Keti Bandar area of district Thatta, would be utilised for shrimp culture on a large scale, which would result in the availability of quality shrimp for processing and export.

He said a new technology of fish culture in cages and pans will shortly be introduced in major fresh water areas, like Keenjhar and Manchar Lakes and maximum growth of fish would be achieved within a short period, owing to this technology.

He said the fish farmers will not have to wait for two years to get a fish crop. But fish of marketable size will be available in nine months or even in less period.

Mr Ansari further said that a training institute and a hostel have already been established at Chilia, near Thatta, where private fish and shrimp farmers would be imparted partial training in shrimp and fish farming on modern lines. —APP

PAKISTAN

BURMA SEEKS ASSISTANCE IN AGRICULTURE RESEARCH

Karachi DAWN in English 12 Mar 85 Business Supplement p IV

[Text]

FAISALABAD, March 11: Burma is in need of Pakistan's cooperation in the field of agriculture and research and a delegation of Burma's agriculture experts is on tour of Pakistan.

The delegation today visited the Faisalabad University of Agriculture and discussed with the Vice-Chancellor, Mian Mumtaz Ali, the fields in which Pakistan can assist them, including the possibilities of admission of Burma's students in the University.

The Vice-Chancellor apprised them that the Government of Pakistan provides all education facilities in the field of agriculture to developing countries for the training of their manpower it is evident from the number of students studying at the university.

The Vice-Chancellor advised the delegation of Burma's Agriculture Corporation to apply through its Government for reservation of seats.

The delegation visited various departments and research fields of the University and appreciated the agricultural development of Pakistan. The leader of the delegation said that Burma is interested in learning from Pakistan various agricultural disciplines. The delegation consisted of Dr Myint Thein, General Manager, Applied Research Division, U. Khin Maung Tint, Project Manager, Seed Division, U. Khun Maung, Project ex-Manager, U. Htun Hla, Department General Manager, U Thi Thein Han, Assistant General Manager.

CSO: 4600/364

PAKISTAN

SIND PLANS NETWORK OF ROADS

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 20 Mar 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Sabihuddin Ghausi]

[Text]

A sum of Rs. 1.29 billion is expected to be spent by Sind Government to construct a massive network of 'Pucca' roads in the province during next three years.

According to official sources the planners have given priority to construction of pucca roads in the province and a sum of Rs. 1,791 million has been provided for this purpose in the Sixth Five Year Plan.

Sources said that the Sind Government has already made allocation of — Rs. 570 million Rs. 270 million in 1983-84 and Rs. 300 million in 1984-85—during the first two years of the current Plan period.

ADP INDICATION

They said the Annual Development Programme for 1984-85 has indicated construction of 757 kilometers of new pucca roads and improvement in 1,600 kilometers of existing roads in the province.

Besides this provincial allocation sources said the Federal Government has also made a grant of Rs.

40 million for construction of 'farm to market' roads in the current fiscal year.

They said the total length of 'pucca' roads in Sind was 7,414 kilometers in June 1984 as against 5,419 kilometers in 1977.

Sources explained that one of the main factors in the backwardness in the Province has been the absence of pucca roads, which is evident from the fact that in 1947 the ratio of pucca roads was one kilometer for every 115 meters in the Province.

This ratio was however improved considerably after independence and was one kilometer of pucca road for every 24 kilometers in 1977 and has further been improved to one kilometer of pucca road in 18 kilometers of area.

Sources said the Sixth Five-Year Plan aims to further improving the ratio of pucca roads to one kilometer in 16 kilometers of the area.

MAINTENANCE

Equal emphasis is also being given to maintenance of the highways which originate or pass through some parts of the Province.

They said the Provincial Highways Department looks after maintenance of 601 kilometers long stretch of Karachi-Hyderabad-Retti road which is part of Karachi Torkhum Highway, 88.5 kilometers stretch of Sukkur-Jacobabad road which is part of Rohri-Quetta and Chamman Highway and 5.25 kilometers stretch of Karachi-Hub-Chowki road which is part of Karachi-Kalat Highway.

During 1984-85 the development schemes for highways in Sind involve investment of Rs. 113 million and Rs. 15.867 million for maintenance and repair.

PAKISTAN

FORMER JUDGES DEMAND FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Mar 85 p 8

[Text]

KARACHI, March 22: Six former Judges of the Supreme and High Courts have demanded that freedom to practice the religion of one's choice be guaranteed to all in Pakistan.

The current restrictions on forms of prayers and the right to recite the Kalima Tayyaba by members of Ahmadia community or any other community is a gross transgression of the rights guaranteed to the citizens of the State, they said.

They said: "It is a negation of the concept of basic human rights".

The signatories quoted from the speech of the Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who said in the first Constituent Assembly of Pakistan: "You are free; you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship; in the State of Pakistan you may belong to any religion or caste or creed — that has nothing to do with the business of the State."

The signatories are: Mr Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim, former Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan; Mr Mohammad Ali Sayeed and Mr Fazle Ghani Khan, former Judges of the West Pakistan High Court, and Mr Abdul Hafeez Memon, Mr A. Q. Halepota and Mr G. M. Shah, former Judges of the Sind High Court.

Five held

Meanwhile, five Ahmadis were arrested from one of their places of worship on Drigh Road in the small hours of Friday by the Shahrah-e-Faisal police.

They were identified as Abid Mansoor, Tanvir Ahmad, Arif Mahmood, Hanif Dar and Mohammad Asif.

According to the police, they were preparing to hold a Friday congregation, so they were arrested under Section 298 PPC. Authorities gave no further details.

CSO: 4600/366

PAKISTAN

NEW AIR FORCE CHIEF ADDRESSES AIRMEN

Karachi DAWN in English 14 Mar 85 p 4

[Text]

KOHAT, March 13: Air Marshal Jamal Ahmed Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, said here on Tuesday that operational readiness was the best way to secure the country against any external threat and all energies must be devoted to maximising the PAF's state of preparedness.

He was addressing officers and airmen at the PAF base, Kohat the first air base to be visited by him since he assumed command of the Pakistan Air Force. It is Kohat where the airmen start their career, as the recruits get their initial training at this base.

Air Marshal Jamal said precious resources had been placed at the disposal of the PAF to enable it to play an effective role in the defence of the country along with the Army and the Navy. Taking the very best care of the assets, including aircraft, weapons and airfields,

and developing skills to put them to optimum use was the sacred responsibility of all personnel, he pointed out.

He said it was only by achieving high availability rates that they could ensure high utilisation of the assets and their maximum contribution to operational readiness.

The Air Chief said PAF enjoyed good reputation as a professional air force. But that should not cause any complacency among the airmen. They should in fact, be ruthless in self-examination and remove the remaining weaknesses, he urged.

Earlier when Air Marshal Jamal Ahmed Khan flew into the PAF Base Kohat he was received by the Base Commander, Air Commodore Riaz Ahmed. The Air Chief returned to Rawalpindi later in the day.

CSO: 4600/365

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

SEYCHELLES SEEKS HELP--KARACHI, March 11--Pakistan can help Seychelles in its industrialisation programme with necessary expertise and technology. This view was expressed by the President of Seychelles during his meeting with Pakistani Ambassador in Mauritius, according to a message received here. Seychelles' President expressed the desire to diversify and increase employment opportunities in his country by starting agro industries. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 12 Mar 85 Business Supplement p 1]

TRADE DELEGATION TO AFRICA--KARACHI, March 11--The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry proposes to send a general trade delegation to West African countries by the first week of May. The delegation will visit Benin, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bisau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Upper Volta. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 12 Mar 85 Business Supplement p 1]

COAL DEPOSITS DISCOVERED--LAHORE, March 11--Coal deposits have been discovered near Kharli, some 65 miles north-west of Sargodha, in the Central Salt Range. Bright bitumenous in quality, this coal is suitable for use in brick kilns. The total deposits are estimated at six million tonnes. At the current price of Rs 800 per ton, the Kharli deposits are worth at least Rs 4,800 million. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 12 Mar 85 p 1]

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS-ELECT--KARACHI, March 13--Rais Abdul Hameed Khan Jatoi, and five other MNAs-elect and MPAs have joined the newly formed Independent Group raising its total strength to 25 in the National and Provincial Assembly. Rais Abdul Hameed Khan Jatoi, Sardar Khair Mohammad Khan Panwar, MNAs-elect from Dadu, Kazi Shafiq Ahmed, Syed Koral Shah and Syed Mohammad Shah, all MPAs from Dadu and Begum Gulzar Unar also participated in the meeting of the group late on Wednesday night. The formation of the group was announced on Tuesday in which 19 MNAs-elect and MPAs participated. All of them were present in the meeting on Wednesday. A spokesman announced an ad hoc Steering Committee comprising Syed Zafar Ali Shah, MNA-elect from Nawabshah, Mr. Junaid Soomro, MPA from Shikarpur, Mr. Imtiaz Hussain Phulpoto, MPA from Tharparkar, and Mr. Mumtaz Qaiser, MPA from Karachi. The meeting reviewed the overall political situation, and discussed the matters concerning the functioning of the group in the National and Sind Assembly. The spokesman claimed 'complete unanimity' on all matters discussed at the meeting. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 14 Mar 85 p 6]

'VOTES FOR SALE' MOTION--LAHORE, March 13--The interim President of the Punjab Assembly, Chaudhry Faiz Ahmad today disallowed a privilege motion by Rana Phool Mohammad Khan, a member from Kasur, who wanted to discuss a news item in the local Urdu daily alleging that the MPAs were offering their votes for sale to Senate candidates at exorbitant rates. The news items which appeared on Tuesday, alleged that members of the Punjab Assembly were demanding between Rs 200,000 and Rs 500,000 per vote and some of the candidates for the Senate were prepared to pay. Rana Phool Mohammad stated that the news item amounted to insulting and bringing into disrepute the members of the Assembly. He said that the matter was important as it involved the honour of the members and the House and as such warranted discussion. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 14 Mar 85 p 8]

MAGAZINE FORFEITED--KARACHI, March 22--The Government of Sind has issued orders to forfeit all the copies of the December 1984 issue of weekly "Akhbar-i-Watan" published from London. The issue is said to contain objectionable material, according to a notification issued by the Home Department. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 23 Mar 85 p 2]

NDP LEADER FREED--KARACHI, March 22--Mr. Yusuf Jakhrani, President of the defunct National Democratic Party (Sind), was released from Nara Jail, Hyderabad, on Friday after a detention of 20 months. Mr. Jakhrani was arrested in Sukkur on Aug 14, 1983. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 23 Mar 85 p 8]

RIVER POLICE FORCE--KARACHI, March 22--The river police force, the first of its kind in Pakistan, will go into operation in about a month to combat dacoits. The Inspector General Police, Sind, Agha Saadat Ali Shah, said in an interview that motorised boats have been built for the force. These would be fitted with wireless and light machine guns and each manned by 12 persons. The force would patrol the river and the small islands located in midstream. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 23 Mar 85 p 8]

GOVERNMENT BLAMED FOR SECTARIAN RIFT--Islamabad, March 23: The chief of defunct Tehrik-e-Istiqal, Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan has alleged that the differences between various Muslim sects have increased due to the policies of the present Government, and the nation has been split into sects and caste instead of being united. According to a press release of Defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqal, addressing a luncheon meeting at the residence of Mr. Nawazish Ali Bagash in Kohat on Saturday, the retired Air Marshal said whenever the Government takes the responsibility of interpreting religion in such a country where various sects exist, differences bound to emerge on such sectarian issues. Mr. Asghar Khan further alleged instead of creating an atmosphere conducive for the reformation of the society based on the sublime values of Islam, he said, the Government is introducing the Islamic system in such a manner which has created religious chaos in the society. That is why the Ahle-Tashih' feel the Government is giving them partial treatment, he added. Later, Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan accompanied by his wife visited Peshawar. Begun Asghar Khan met the families of Syed Munir Shah and Amanullah Mehmud, the provincial party leaders, who are under detention. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 24 Mar 85 p 8]

WORLD BANK CREDIT--Karachi, March 25: World Bank will extend 150 million dollar line of credit to three financial institutions and as many commercial banks of Pakistan for financing industrial projects. This was disclosed by the Managing Director of the Industrial Development Bank of Pakistan (IDBP), Mr. Bashir Ahmad, while talking to newsmen on Monday. He said that the three financial institutions are IDBP, PICIC and NDFC. The IDBP chief said that an appraisal mission of the World Bank is due to visit Pakistan in June in this connection. He said that preappraisal mission of the World Bank had already visited Pakistan in January last. Answering a question, Mr. Bashir said that 30 million dollar of an IDA credit had already been disbursed. Another 50 million dollar credit, which was effective from October, 1984 is under disbursement. 30% of the amount had already been sanctioned. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 26 Mar 85 Business Supplement p 1]

FEEDER SERVICE AIRPORTS--The Civil Aviation Authority will inaugurate three feeder service airports at Bhagtanwala, Mianwali and Kohat this month. Bhagtanwala Airport will be opened on Thursday (tomorrow). The CAA has earmarked a sum of Rs. 50 million for development of 29 feeder service airports in far flung under developed areas of the country by mid-1987. Each airport will have necessary facilities for 30 passengers. The Authority will spend an average one lakh rupees on maintenance of one feeder service airport against an expected earning of six to eight thousand rupees every month. Feeder service airports are proposed to be developed at the following places by June, 1987. Badin, Jacobabad, Manglad, Bahawalpur, Wana, Parachinar, Sahiwal, Taftan, Muzaffarabad, Rawalkot, Dera Ghazi Khan, Dalbandin, Aurmara, Bahawalnagar, Mirpur Khas, Mansehra, Sailkot, Rahim-yar-Khan, Naushki, Loralai, Kharan, Sibi, Khuzdar, Chha-chairo, Omar Kot and Mithi. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 20 Mar 85 p 3]

MAPS FORFEITED--Peshawar, March 19: The NWFP Government has forfeited the world globe maps made in Hong Kong and Japan, showing Jammu and Kashmir as a part of Indian territory, says an official handout. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 20 Mar 85 p 4]

Haidar Reported Arrested--Islamabad, 19 Mar--The Peshawar based correspondent of daily Haidar, Rawalpindi, was arrested today for allegedly sending news dispatches hostile to the policy of the provincial government. The local Haidar sources told THE MUSLIM on telephone that the journalist, Aurangzeb Durrani, was called by the deputy commissioner, Peshawar in his office and taken into custody. They alleged that the telephone connections at Aurangzeb's residence and office were immediately cut off. The newsman has been shifted to the Dera Ismail Khan Jail. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Mar 85 p 8]

CSO: 4600/358

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