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10 September 1985

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

EEC-GCC COOPERATION PACT--Abu Dhabi, 3 Aug (QNA)--Juergen Mollemann, FRG minister of state for foreign affairs [name and title as received], has expressed his country's readiness to consolidate and further its relations with the GCC countries. He said his country's relations with the UAE and other GCC countries are good. We desire to further consolidate them and give them a new nature, he said. In a statement to UAE newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published today, the FRG minister said his country strongly supports the idea of signing soon an agreement between the EEC and GCC, similar to the agreement between the EEC and ASEAN, noting that a Saudi official visited Bonn recently and conveyed his country's view on this issue. He said the EEC countries are awaiting the green light from the GCC countries to begin negotiations and to sign the agreement which will guarantee the two parties' rights. The FRG minister called for efforts to support the Jordanian-Egyptian move and to benefit from the current opportunity in order to give further driving force for the process of establishing peace in the Middle East. [Text] [Doha QNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 3 Aug 85 GF]

IDB LOAN TO TUNISIA--Jeddah, 9 Jul (SPA)--A \$5 million agreement was signed today at the headquarters of the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah, according to which the Islamic Development Bank will finance the import of raw sulphur from a member country to Tunisia. [Excerpt] [Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Jul 85 GF]

SAUDI AID TO PLO--Riyadh, 9 Jul (SPA)--Rafiq al-Natshah, PLO representative to Saudi Arabia, has received a check for \$28.5 million as Saudi Arabia's contribution to the PLO in aiding it and consolidating the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. [Summary] [Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jul 85 GF]

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ALGERIA

PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE STRESSES PRIORITY FOR AGRICULTURE

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 5-6 Jul 85 p 3

[Presidential Circular No 29 on the implementation and followup of agricultural development programs]

[Text] Algiers (APS)--President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, has signed Presidential Circular No 29 on the implementation and followup of agricultural development programs.

The presidential circular, which is addressed to the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, the members of the government, and the members of the coordination offices in the country's governorates, reads as follows:

The priority assigned by the fifth party congress to the development of agriculture must be reflected in the current 5-year plan by the implementation of consistent programs for modernization, the expansion of cultivated areas, and the noticeable improvement of social and economic conditions of a kind that will engender a permanent increase in production and productivity.

Rigorous and appropriate mastery of the technical conditions for organization, supervision, and support in connection with production is an urgent necessity in order to raise the low level of production and reduce dependence on other countries for food products.

It is within that context that the Political Directorate acts constantly to create the conditions for a thoroughgoing reform of agriculture. The government must, in particular, pursue to completion the following activities, which are part of its program:

1. The current restructuring of the public agricultural sector to eliminate all aberrations with regard to land and provide technical supervision that is appropriate to rational management of the means of production and the application of agronomic advances in the field.

2. Implementation of the law on accession to land ownership as well as the establishment of improvement and development zones for the purpose of expanding and preserving land suitable for cultivation, particularly in the south and in the mountainous areas.

3. An action plan relative to intensified production of the chief agricultural products.

4. A program for training and refresher training at all levels.

5. Implementation in the steppes of a major program for the organization of stockraising and the regeneration of rangeland.

6. Acceleration of the nationwide rate of investment in water resources with a view to rapidly increasing the mobilization of water resources and developing and expanding the potential of irrigated land.

None of these measures and programs can lead to the objectives in view unless permanent and rigorous followup, based on respect for the prerogatives of each structure concerned, is established at both the central and the decentralized level within a framework of close intersectoral coordination that reflects in concrete form the priority assigned to agriculture.

With that in mind, the conditions for greater mastery of production methods, particularly in the agricultural intensification zones, depend on the following at the central level:

1. The implementation of operational research and development programs that are linked to conditions in the field and adapted to national priorities, production conditions, and the development programs.

2. The development of agricultural extension systems meeting the needs of the producers so as to make possible the dissemination of techniques and provide close liaison between the research and development institutes, pilot farms, and producers.

3. The priority assignment of engineers and technicians to farms, development zones, and the structures in charge of extension services. The personnel in question must also be provided with stimulating living and working conditions.

Care must also be taken to associate the producers as closely as possible with the service structures so as to identify precisely the nature of the farms' requirements and thus respond as well as possible to their concerns.

At the governorate level, followup and regular evaluation of agricultural accomplishments must be a priority concern of the authorities involved, both in the party and in the local governments.

In this framework, the "muhafadh," assisted by the mass organizations concerned, is responsible basically for increasing the awareness of agricultural producers and mobilizing them permanently in support of actions

for development. He must also identify constraints of a bureaucratic nature that hamper the normal functioning of the farms and take steps, in coordination with the governor, to eliminate them.

Acting through all the technical-administrative structures placed under his authority, the governor must, in particular, see to it that the agricultural development programs are correctly executed and that the needs of the farms as regards the factors of production are met in terms of quantity and quality and at the proper time.

In this reminder of the priority nature of agricultural development, the members of the government and all officials at the party and state levels and in the mass organizations are asked to coordinate and combine their efforts so as to ensure achievement of the objectives included in the various programs for agricultural development.

Particular importance is assigned to scrupulous compliance with the directives included in this instruction.

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ALGERIA

PRIME MINISTER VIEWS DEVELOPMENT GOALS, ACHIEVEMENTS

Algiers EL DJEICH in French Jul 85 pp 11-15

[Interview with Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi by T. Menadi; date and place not given]

[Text] On the occasion of the 23d anniversary of our national independence, Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the FLN and prime minister, granted an interview to EL DJEICH in which he makes an overall analysis of the national development process as it affects the different socioeconomic sectors. The following is the complete text of that interview.

[Question] In addition to the importance it gives to the agricultural sector, the Second 5-Year Plan is devoted to completion of the preceding development plans. Mr Minister, can you draw up the balance sheet of that experiment?

[Answer] You are right to say that agriculture is the main concern, both of the first and second plans.

By way of example, nearly 21 billion dinars in investment credits were granted between 1980 and 1984. I say by way of example because as it was decided, agriculture and its support sectors could enjoy credits almost without limitation other than their ability to use them.

If one also considers credits granted for water projects, whose main user is also agriculture -- nearly 14 billion dinars -- a total of 35 billion dinars was devoted to develop agriculture in the broad sense, not including programs to improve housing, communications, education and health in the rural world.

To go along with important investments in the sector and, at the same time, broaden its absorption capacities, a process of reorganizing landholdings was undertaken, leading to the creation of over 3,400 socialist farms totaling an area of 2.83 million hectares and the allocation of 700,000 hectares to individuals.

Limitations affecting agriculture from an administrative standpoint were relaxed. For example, marketing offices were increased in number from 5 to 14 in order to have a better regional deployment of their activities.

Finally -- and this is not the least important aspect in this sector, in which value added by private parties is on the order of 70 percent of all added value in agriculture -- small farmers were the target of special attention, in keeping, one must hope, with the secondary position they previously occupied (the issuance of tractors, electric pumps, and so on).

During the first 5-year period, very serious efforts in the way of organization as well as investment were made to help all agriculture, in order to achieve better yield in autonomous units, now relieved of bureaucratic obstacles and irresponsible administration constraints.

Growing plans and compulsory marketing zones were the best known manifestation of these.

The effort to reorganize agriculture resolutely taken up by the first 5-year plan as part of a larger plan to restore the basic balance of the national economy obviously came up against the obstacle constituted by the burden of the "remain-to-be-completed" areas inherited from previous plans. As you will recall, out of 400 billion dinars in investments planned in constant prices, over 200 billion "remained to be completed." These leftovers were a problem, not only because of their size, but also their content, which, sometimes defined a dozen years previously, only rarely corresponded to the priorities and objectives of the first 5-year plan. As you know, the latter was a plan to correct imbalances and to improve the economic and social infrastructure.

Despite that obstacle and despite the relative constriction of our foreign revenue due to the world crisis, the overall rate of completion of investments in the first 5-year plan, while it was not 100 percent, was nevertheless a very decent 75 percent, based on credits opened by the different budgets (345 billion dinars used out of 458 billion appropriated).

[Question] The first 5-year plan was mainly based on the restoration of a balance between the requirements of the production apparatus and the growing social needs. How is that balance?

[Answer] If you will permit me, I would first of all complete your question by saying that the first 5-year plan was aimed at establishing a balance between the demands to develop the productive apparatus and support infrastructures and, second, meeting the social needs that have not been met or that have only been partially met for a long period of time.

The balance can be seen on several levels. I would mention three:

Resources devoted to investment compared with those devoted to consumption: During the past 5-year plan, they were an average of 40 percent of the GNP. Although among the highest rates of accumulation in the world, our rate is down compared with the rates found during the period previous to the 5-year plan (44.5 percent, for example, in 1979).

Resources devoted to consumption increased proportionally to the drop in the rate. From 60.6 billion dinars at the end of 1979, they totaled 121.7 billion at the end of 1984, more than doubling.

Per person, consumption went from 3,022 dinars a year in 1979 to 5,250 in 1984.

In current prices, household consumption increased at an annual rate of 19 percent, corresponding to an annual growth in real terms on the order of 7 percent or an improvement in consumption per person of about 4 percent.

There were two ways of arriving at this division between consumption and investments. The first would have been to compress investments as consumption expanded, with the result in halting future development as a result of the stagnation or even reduction in the productive base.

The second way, the one chosen, was to rationalize investments by controlling them better. In this way, we reduced both the superfluous aspects of investments and their costs in general.

Social infrastructures (meaning housing and city planning, education and training, health and social welfare, and so on), to which one adds transportation, occupied nearly 30 percent of the investment structure during the first 5-year plan (in terms of what was done). They represented 21 percent during the 1967-1979 period, when delays in meeting basic social needs had reached such an extent that development of the production apparatus itself risked being negatively affected.

Within the so-called productive investments themselves, another imbalance was corrected. In fact, the share of economic infrastructures, obviously a support of the production apparatus, was broadened by 5.4 percent (only) during the 1967-1979 period to 11.5 percent during the first 5-year plan.

When one realizes that the term "economic infrastructures" covers communications (roads, ports, airports and railroad), telecommunications, storage and distribution, development of industrial zones, one easily understands that the new sharing of investments, more favorable to social infrastructures and economic infrastructures, was able to be realized at the same time that production and overall productivity increased. The fact that investments in the social realm, in economic infrastructures and in directly productive activities supported and helped one another does not mean that just any combination of these three types of investments is feasible.

Outside of a balance that is difficult to find, excesses in any one of these investments can sooner or later cause a drag on the production apparatus or even halt it.

Regarding imports, while the concern for and need of expanding and consolidating the national production potential remained in the forefront, we also considered meeting social needs not satisfied by the local supply, within limits compatible with our foreign resources.

Food and other consumer goods remained at a high level among total imports, amounting to some 31 percent between 1979 and 1984.

Equipment, semi-finished products and raw materials to be used to supply the production apparatus were about 69 percent during that same period.

The social objectives of development were taken into consideration by the first 5-year plan as never before. In the future, meeting basic social needs, which we know are rapidly growing, will decisively depend upon progress made by the national production apparatus. During the previous 5-year plan, the production-social contradiction was reduced to a triple need of dividing resources between investments and consumption, between what is directly productive and the social in investments and between consumer imports and production. We must now take advantage of the "respite" gained to heighten the effectiveness of our production apparatus so that it may respond to the needs of its renewal and expansion, as well as meet the legitimate needs of the population.

[Question] Among the requirements of the reorganization are mastering production units, management, followup and control. Have reorganized enterprises yielded results in this direction?

[Answer] You are right to emphasize that among the most important goals of the organic and financial reorganization of enterprises are the mastery of production, management, followup and control. I would add that the "transparency" of the books is greatly facilitated for management.

The first of these two inseparable aspects: organic reorganization, has already been the object of an evaluation by the government at the beginning of the year.

Deemed to be positive on the whole, the record of the reorganization mainly shows that the slowdown phase, due to the shock of reorganization, as is normal, has now been absorbed and largely compensated for. As proof: the performance of the national economy despite the very harsh outside limitations that you know were very great in 1984, the last year for which we have definitive statistics, with a growth in volume of the GNP of 5.6 percent, except for hydrocarbons. In a more detailed fashion, industries outside of hydrocarbons achieved a growth in volume in 1984 of nearly 10 percent, followed by the hydrocarbon sector (6 percent) and building and public works (5.5 percent), and finally, services (4.8 percent). While in the area of hydrocarbons, the international situation had a totally negative effect, partially explaining the level of performance, in the fields of building and public works and services, great efforts of consolidation and stimulation remain to be made so that in these fields also, the reorganization may bring about all possible advantages.

I would say a word about the financial reorganization of the enterprises, of which I will have an opportunity to speak again when the evaluation has been made.

More than 200 enterprises have been reorganized financially, meaning audited financially, given their own fund and adequate credits for the needs of their operation.

In exchange, these enterprises are expected to improve production, productivity and their economic and financial results.

[Question] In the course of an address delivered at the Third National Conference on Development, President Chadli mentioned the danger of concentrating industrial, economic and service activities in the northern region of the country. What guidelines or projects have been set forth to expand that base to the steppe and Saharan regions?

[Answer] On the occasion of the Second National Development Conference, the president of the republic and secretary general of the party reiterated the orientation he had set forth as early as 1979 concerning the coordinated establishment of activities and the people throughout the national territory.

The danger of an excessive concentration of activities in the north has now been clearly perceived at all levels. On the whole, such a phenomenon, if such a phenomenon continued, would stifle the regions of the north and simply halt growth and development.

Development of the territory occupies a prime place in the concerns of the government and the decentralized communities. The south, the high plateaus, the border and mountain regions constitute the main priorities of our action.

Among the organizational projects, one must name the strategic railway of the high plateaus, entrusted to the National Department and whose construction has begun. One must also mention the coming establishment of light vehicle plants and of iron-and-steel rolling mills. There are other projects, too numerous to name, that would benefit the high plateaus, the approach being that we must first, for reasons of space and political decisiveness, give priority to the high plateaus.

Contrary to what one might believe, agriculture is just as much a factor with respect to the development of the territory as industry or the infrastructures. It is for that reason that mountain agriculture has, since the first 5-year plan, been the subject of particular concern (distribution of proper implements to the peasants, credit on easy terms, and so on), and steppe agriculture will soon experience substantial progress within the framework of the application of government decisions relating to development of the steppe.

Saharan agriculture contains immense prospects that modern technologies accessible to ever more skilled farmers willing to work the land will realize. As you know, a vast program of access to farmland has been launched by the government in the southern regions. This program is the subject of very close attention on the part of the authorities concerned, so vital are the stakes to a coordinated development of the territory for the different activities involved in the country's agro-food future. Moreover, an important public program is being worked out involving thousands and thousands of hectares. It will be implemented starting in 1985.

The border zones are now the subject of a systematic study aimed at making sure water is available and defining the whole complex of activities and minimum infrastructures ensuring the viability of a string of living centers along our frontiers. Without waiting for all studies to be completed, projects have already begun along the Algerian-Tunisian border.

[Question] At the time of the national production fair, one noted that many products could be made locally. What guidelines have been set forth in that direction in order to force consideration of national enterprises, particularly in the public sector, encourage national production and strengthen national industry in order to reduce imports and even move into an export phase?

[Answer] What we observed at the national production fair, to wit, the whole range and volume of local industrial production, is easily verified by two figures:

In 1979, industrial production (except for hydrocarbons) amounted to 13.57 billion dinars. In 1984, it totaled 27.69 billion, or an annual rate of growth on the order of 17 percent.

In constant dinars, the overall picture does not change much and the direction of development not at all. In 1979, from 13.57 billion dinars, industrial production went to 21.4 billion in 1984, growing in volume by a factor of 1.57.

This substantial development of production obviously resulted in expanding intersectorial exchanges that helped reduce the degree of openness of the national economy to the outside (from 48 percent in 1978 to 21.7 percent in 1984). This shows that the relative recourse to other countries has dropped considerably on the whole, thanks to a greater articulation of the sectors of the economy between themselves and their better coordination.

Despite internal efforts made during the first 5-year period to step up intra- and intersectorial relations in the national economy, one cannot say today that the situation could not improve. While the sectors are no longer isolated or compartmentalized with respect to one another, but are open to the outside, they nevertheless remain inadequately linked to one another.

Measures already implemented that must be continued, expanded and carried further have now become familiar to the public.

We must increase publicity, meaning provide more information on products and contracts, programs between operators, the development of aggressive marketing, and so on.

On the institutional level, an interministerial committee of industrial integration meets at regular intervals with the prime minister.

This committee, whose establishment was decided upon by the chief of state himself, attentively follows the progress of integration, identifies obstacles and draws up concrete measures capable of accelerating the speed of such integration.

The importance of industrial integration does not solely reside in the relative reduction in imports. Actually, due to the general decline in production costs and the expansion of the supply it brings about, integration helps significantly increase Algeria's exportable surpluses, not counting hydrocarbons, naturally.

Winning foreign markets is an essential requirement easy to understand. For that purpose, a program of emergency measures to promote exports, excluding hydrocarbons, was adopted by the government in 1984 and quantitative objectives were set and spelled out by sector. Achievements in 1984 have been encouraging, although inadequate. For 1985, higher goals were assigned to the sectors (over 2 billion dinars).

They will constitute a minimum quickly surpassed if only public operators develop the aggressive marketing I already mentioned and if operators in the private sector join in this process of expanding the markets open to Algeria.

[Question] On the subject of exports, what are the prospects of South-South commercial trade envisioned by Algeria and sanctioned by the cooperation agreements it has made with many Arab, African and Asian countries?

[Answer] As everyone knows, Algeria is among the oldest and most ardent defenders of the development of trade between Southern countries, whether it be a question of the Arab world, Africa, Asia or Latin America, given the fact that such trade can cover the flow of goods and services, equipment and, more frequently than one might believe, technology.

Algeria has increased its number of joint committees with a vast number of Southern countries in order to increase volume and broaden the range of products and services. On this level and in other international forums, it makes vast efforts to raise obstacles to the intensification of trade. One must say that the extent of the current world crisis sharpens competition from developed countries in the search for foreign markets and tends to generalize protectionist practices. When everyone wants to sell, no one can buy. It is definitely against the current of the international situation that Southern countries must organize their international trade, under penalty of becoming the prey of some Northern power that has tutelage aims.

Along with certain African countries, India, China, Mexico, Brazil, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, Algeria is involved or about to be in industrial, technological, commercial and financial cooperation actions of a pioneering nature.

Algeria's mere desire to promote South-South trade is not enough. First of all, it must be backed by the appropriate responses of our potential partners and, second, world prospects of growth must be better assured through a new international economic order, as necessary from the standpoint of reason and justice as it is remote because of the selfish, irrational and iniquitous positions of the wealthy countries of the North.

[Question] What can you tell us about the evolution of Algeria's economic and social situation since 1962?

[Answer] The different phases the national economy has gone through since independence can and must fit into this overall 23-year period, which is about the duration of a generation.

As a result, we must, not only for the purpose of measuring how far we have come, given the levels of poverty and stagnation inherited from colonial times, but in order to place in their true perspective the extent and nature of the development efforts to be made by the generations of today and tomorrow.

Without claiming to being absolutely complete, I should like to give you a few figures to illustrate my remarks.

The value of Algeria's gross national production upon the first year of its independence did not exceed 10 billion dinars for an overall population on the order of 10 million inhabitants.

Today, our population exceeds 21.5 million inhabitants and the GNP exceeds 225 billion dinars. The population has more than doubled, while the GNP has increased over 20 times. In constant dinars, an approximate and deliberately low estimate would yield a GNP at 1983 prices that would be 4.5 times higher than the 1963 GNP.

Employment, which constituted an extremely worrisome problem following independence, with at least 45 percent of the active male population unemployed, to say nothing of the female population, which was nearly totally unemployed, involves over 85 percent of the entire working population, male and female, urban and rural, in 1984. Here and there, there are even occasional shortages of labor.

On the whole, there were 5,363,000 persons in the education-training system in 1984, while in 1962-1963, the same total was only some 831,000. For example, students in the higher grades did not exceed 2,000 in 1962. In 1984, they exceeded 150,000.

The country's medical situation has considerably improved. Very poor in 1962, with nearly 8,000 persons per doctor, the rate is now only 1,700 per doctor in 1984.

Finally, in 1963, the structure of our foreign trade showed that 82 percent of our imports came from the former colonial power. In 1983, that proportion was only 23 percent.

This rapid glance shows that Algeria has come a long way with respect to its people's progress. At the same time, the permanent foundations of its independence -- now economic -- have been established, enabling our country to face the 21st century endowed with the means, competence and aptitude to make progress and face its challenges.

In other words, the dynamics of development will continue -- while expanding and growing deeper -- to bring Algeria closer to a situation in which the social and cultural needs of the people will increasingly be met by its own resources. At the risk of repeating myself, I know no other miracle than the one brought about by work that will make it possible to achieve the goal of increased well-being and the active presence of our country in history.

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CSO: 4519/173

ALGERIA

ALL ASPECTS OF PRESENT SITUATION IN COUNTRY DISCUSSED

Paris LE MONDE in French 20 Jul 85 pp 1, 4

[Article by Algiers correspondent Jean de la Gueriviere: "Algeria or the Difficult Serenity"]

[Text] Algeria, apparently wanting to put an end to the lively campaigns its press is conducting against France, has just sent its commerce minister as a delegate to Mr Mitterrand, carrying a message from President Chadli Bendjedid (LE MONDE, 17 July). Paris, for its part, has not wanted to aggravate the often passionate and difficult relations.

Domestically, the weekly ALGERIE-ACTUALITE on Thursday 18 July accused the founders of the Algerian Human Rights League, some of whom--including Mr Ali-Yahia, its president--were apprehended recently, of being "declared opponents decked out in humanitarian costumes". The Algerian press did not always announce the arrests, which numbered 14.

Our correspondent in Algiers, Jean de la Gueriviere, who is leaving his post to return to the editorial staff in Paris, reports below on the reasons why the Algerian regime finds it hard to prove, at home as well as in its relations with Paris, the existence of the "serenity" it now claims as its objective.

Twice, before his visits to France (in November 1983) and the United States (in April 1985), President Chadli has introduced himself as the head of a nation that is now "free of complexes". In fact, one word recurs continually in official discourse to characterize Algeria's attitude in the face of the great problems of the hour: serenity.

It is actually intended to give the image of a country with neither inhibitions nor dogmatism, free of any persecution syndrome, faithful to its past but sure enough of itself to be open to the outside world, a reputation it scarcely enjoyed under Boumediene.

However, the acrimonious mood returns periodically. Does a minister speak of the difficulty of selling gas at full price? It is done in order to denounce immediately "the pressures that come from the desire of the industrialized nations to pass on to the Third World countries the crisis that is shaking them", and to pass it on to Algeria in particular, whose success "stirs up some envy and engenders more than just friendly reactions at the international level".

Not long ago a pampered guest, when he was presiding over the Joint Cooperation Commission as minister of foreign trade, Michel Jobert has just brought down upon himself the wrath of the media for mentioning the Algerian "desire for power" in the region. People do him the honor of believing that he is not "motivated by striking and staggering considerations", but they see in his words the result of "the panic that has taken possession of certain circles across the Mediterranean since Algeria's foreign policy was laid out in the United States, Latin America and Africa".

In a note written for the benefit of the Elysee, a well-known Socialist Party member, having held offices of responsibility in Algiers and become exhausted by the difficulties connected with his mission, several times mentioned the Algerian "neurosis". It is true that for the plain citizen or the leader it is not easy to be Algerian, for many reasons.

Because of its natural hydrocarbon resources, it is the Maghrib country with the most significant GNP [gross national product]. But it is also the one in which the quality of life is the worst.

Even before Algiers' "degourbization" [getting rid of Arab shacks] activities--in the course of which tens of thousands of persons occupying what is discreetly referred as a "precarious settlement" had been driven back manu militari into the tent camps they had come from--Algeria did not offer the sad spectacle of the large shantytowns of Casablanca. But on the whole the cities are dirtier, the landscape muddier, the countryside more polluted than elsewhere in North Africa. To the extent that it is dependent on men, the beauty of this country that is so favored by nature is eclipsed. The most striking example is the Casbah in Algiers, which has been allowed to deteriorate to such a point that its residents revolted in April.

The figures confirm what might otherwise be only a subjective impression overlooking "the effort in favor of the masses". According to UNICEF statistics, in 1981 the per capita GNP was \$2,140 in Algeria, \$860 in Morocco and \$1,420 in Tunisia; life expectancy at birth was respectively 56, 57 and 61 years.

The "chain" (line) is the Algerian's daily lot because of the deteriorated public services, the bureaucracy and the shortages. Localities, entire neighborhoods, are deprived of water for weeks; the capital's highrise buildings lack elevators ever since those inherited from colonization gave up the ghost; for lack of importation, after a "stockpile break" in the national production, the population must do without dentrifice for months.

The slogan of the first congress of the single party under President Chadli was "Toward a Better Life"; the slogan of the second congress set forth the means to arrive at it: "Work and Austerity". To put the people to work, it was necessary to give them a direct interest in the results of the enterprise. The idea of individual profit reappeared, the private sector was no longer compared to "exploitive" capitalism. The National Charter, adopted in 1976, which made socialism an "irreversible option", was destined for an "enrichment which takes into account the new basic ideas of the 1980's".

As far as doctrine is concerned, the turnaround is spectacular. In actuality, there are as yet no drastic changes. The accession of farmers to private

property concerns only the regions in the South and applies to parcels that generally do not exceed 5 hectares. Enterprising minds have been successful in the commercial sector and in the social security sector; but there are far fewer such examples in the production sector.

There is antinomy between the appeal to individual initiative in economic matters and the proclaimed desire not to change the political system in any way.

The rights of Muslims before independence were most limited; at least, the Algerians attended--and, in too small a number of cases, participated in--the political debates in the capital. Those memories and those experiences no doubt made the Maghrib people best suited to democracy. In his book "Confiscated Independence" (Flammarion 1984), the toughest and the most brilliant of all the indictments written by nationalists, Ferhat Abbas shows how Ben Bella, and then Boumediene, prevented Algeria from seizing that unique chance.

Giving great weight to consumerism and to the balance between different clans, the regime is certainly not a dictatorship, but what was missing from the beginning--as with many others--was a legitimacy born of the ballot boxes. Two presidential elections merely ratified the army's arbitration in favor of the oldest person in the most senior guard to succeed Boumediene, who came to power by means of a coup d'etat.

The Human Rights League

At 2300 on 12 January 1983, at the beginning of a surrealistic election party in a room at the Interior Ministry that was packed with computer terminals announcing the estimated results town by town, a hostess--bringing what suspense to an end?--said on the air, "I am able to tell you here and now that Chadli Bendjedid has been re-elected." The official results several hours later: registered, 10,154,715; voters, 9,776,952; yes, 9,684,168; no, 56,462; invalid, 36,322.

In a country where agile, mocking minds are not lacking, people were surprised at this score, worthy of a banana republic. Moreover, no one ventured to speak officially of the 99 percent: the newspaper headlines called it 95.36 percent "yes" by using the figure for those registered rather than the number of those who voted. A recalcitrant people, inquisitive about what goes on abroad, would the Algerians never make comparisons, even if it were only with the two limited-democracy, watched-over countries that are their neighbors?

"Algeria, which is concerned about so many rights of the peoples, in southern Africa, in Palestine and elsewhere, should also be concerned about human rights in its own country," a protester told us harshly. Extremely skillfully, the government, which is even more allergic to criticism when it comes from abroad, in general avoids attracting the attention of international public opinion by mass arrests and big trials. Since, very fortunately, it is not very blood-thirsty, it is good at incarcerating recalcitrants without publicity and letting them simmer during a "hearing" that is never finished. Most often this ends in the case being dismissed, or in a release without explanation that takes the place of "a word to the wise is sufficient". Or else--a prospect that thoroughly tempers protesters' ardor, on a day when someone who is considered a disruptive influence presents himself to the border police for a trip out of the

country, his passport is confiscated with no other form of due process.

A small semi-clandestine journal put out by Kabyles--TAFSUT, PRINTEMPS, which is an allusion in Berber to the events of April 1980 in Kabylie--periodically recounts precise cases of infringement of fundamental freedoms. For the time being, the University of Tizi-Ouzou is the only "free space" in Algeria. There the authorities allow protest to be expressed, provided it does not go outside the narrow limits of the campus. To this may be added, on a very different level, certain mosques that have not been totally intimidated by the repression that has swept down on the fundamentalists.

Knowing that it is necessary to give up all hope of multipartism in the present situation, a few intellectuals and jurists early this year were toying with the idea of founding a human rights league similar to the one in Tunisia, for example. That one was created, but its president, Ali-Yahia, was immediately arrested and indicted by the State Security Court (LE MONDE, 11 and 13 July). Now the League's members are treated as "declared opponents".

Nothing irritates the authorities so much as comparisons with that which is comparable, that is, with the other two countries of the Maghrib. However, the fact that they are at the tail end as far as information is concerned does not always encourage them to take up the challenge.

Despite periodic good resolutions to "dynamize" the media, despite repeated promises to the foreign correspondents whose numbers are dwindling, Algeria is still the country where no official will speak unless he is assured of anonymity, where a press conference with the head of state is inconceivable, where the ministries--beginning with the "Information" Ministry--hide from view as soon as any event that is even slightly "hot" occurs.

The "Undeclared War" in Morocco

Even though he knows that the telephones are usually tapped, the foreign visitor will not easily uncover the system's mechanisms. He soon notices the great poverty of information in front the empty kiosks. Even the weekly JEUNE AFRIQUE could not be put into the hands of everyone in Algeria. The permanent ban on that publication is due to its bias toward Morocco in the Western Sahara affair.

That affair continues to have a decisive influence, as much on the conduct of domestic affairs--because of the cost of aid to the Polisario--as on diplomacy. It is supposed to give rise to a national consensus, although there has been no debate on the question for a long time at the party's "militant rank and file" level. The populace undoubtedly does not share the judgment of Ferhat Abbas, who sees in Boumediene's initiatives against Morocco "the most scandalous of adventures, a crime perpetrated against North African unity and peace", but the least that can be said is that the populace does not appear to feel very much concerned.

It is now 10 years that Algeria, whose accession to independence was delayed by its legitimate refusal, in the face of de Gaulle's secret emissaries, to be amputated from the Sahara, has been opposing Morocco's "hegemonic" claims to the former Spanish Sahara. In his own inimitable style, King Hassan II, in a message sent to Moumediene on 17 February 1976, pressed him to "see to it, either

by a war loyally and openly declared or by an internationally guaranteed peace, that henceforth it will no longer be said in my country, among my people, 'Algeria equals inconstancy'".

The war, lightly touched in passing at that time, when the royal army came up against Algerian soldiers in Amghala in the Western Sahara, has yet to be "loyally" declared. But since Libya's defection followed by Mauritania, it has never been so obvious that the Polisario, which has settled in Tindouf, exists only with Algeria's help.

The Silence With France

Since the defense walls were built, Algeria has known that Morocco has won the battle on the terrain, but it has not given up the idea of winning the diplomatic war. It has successfully brought about the tour de force of getting the "Saharan Democratic Arab Republic" admitted by the OAU, without the latter being concerned about the inconsistency on its part in recommending a referendum on self-determination while thus prejudging the result. It is getting ready to extend the debate in the non-aligned movement, whose presidency it is soliciting with the agreement of India.

It is possible that Spain will depart one day from its neutrality in this affair. After all, some Spaniards might look favorably on the creation of a rump state in which the language of Cervantes rather than that of Descartes would be spoken. Thus far, only the considering of Madrid's interests in Morocco has postponed that temptation. France of course has no reason to alienate Rabat, and despite the imprudent speeches of certain socialists, Mr Mitterrand has not changed by one iota the policy of his predecessor in this sphere.

The "lack of equilibrium" in French diplomacy in the Maghrib is one of the reasons invoked by the Algerians every time the temperature rises between Paris and Algiers. The "passionate blow" celebrated in 1981 belongs to the past, as was seen at the time of the rather expensive welcome reserved for Mr Fabius in June. Everything has been said repeatedly about the eternal contentious matters relative to commercial exchanges, France's African policy, individual rights and French property in Algeria. More fundamental reasons, which are part of a heavy silence following a war that is still fresh in people's memories, will undoubtedly continue to distort the discussion for a long time to come.

French officials tend to explain the angry outbursts against Paris by the necessity for Mr Chadli to give pledges to the party's "old guard". But are these campaigns popular? The anxiety of the populace and its malaise are appreciable each time the press orchestrates a crisis.

The Algerian shortages are partially alleviated by the airlift with Paris, Lyon or Marseilles. A quantity of merchandise that is at least equal is transported in overloaded vehicles which cross the Mediterranean by boat. If there is one question that mobilizes the Algerians, it is certainly the free movement of persons.

On the other hand, despite the official discourse, Algerian emigration is the least pressed to return to the fold. Unlike Moroccans and Tunisians, it sends

no part of the income it receives in France back home. With its help, a huge traffic in foreign currency, encouraged by the artificial price of the Algerian dinar, currency that is not convertible but is in alignment with the dollar, takes place with relatives or friends who have come to France to stock up on supplies, for health care or simply to "breathe different air", an attraction that is not incompatible with pride in regained independence.

No government in the world could easily put up with that. Algeria, although it has not said so, has given up hope of seeing its emigre young people come back; it is not even hoping for their return, as they have picked up "bad habits" across the Mediterranean. But it must be perpetually raising its voice to discourage new departures, legal or illegal, and to give the former tutelary power a deterrent image. Perhaps the situation will change with the emergence of the independence generation, Arabized, saved from the attraction-repulsion toward and away from the old capital. Then, serenity will be possible at last.

[Note]

[Text] Hocine Ait Ahmed, former historical head of the FLN and leader of the Front of Socialist Forces (FFS), in a communique made public on Friday 19 July, approved the forming of an Algerian Human Rights League, indicating among other things: "It marks the awakening of youth to the consciousness of all of its rights and responsibilities; it reflects the rejection by Algerian public opinion of the police principle of authoritarian practices".

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ALGERIA

MOTIVES OF ALGERIAN HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE QUESTIONED

Algiers ALGERIE ACTUALITE in French 18-24 Jul 85 p 9

[Commentary by R.E.: "A Humanistic Club"]

[Text] A human rights league in Algeria? This is the latest "brainstorm" of a small group which for years has wanted to be in the news in Algeria. Up until now and between two court appearances for misdemeanors--not just "opinion offenses"--, they spent their time "forming alliances, moving, getting together, improving their minds" when they were not "democratizing" with the certified humanists.

This time they are decked out in humanist clothing. Nothing less. They are not real humanists! Especially when they are ridiculous scarecrows prepared only to mount any horse at all as long as it is aimed against our country. Coming from notorious particularists, perpetrators of repeated petty crimes, declared opponents of national unity, this new eyewash is more than just a joke in bad taste. Just like the earlier packaging, the new "club" seems to have been concocted and taken over by scarcely special services which would certainly like to make of them a "weapon of war" against Algeria, its people and its institutions to undermine its revolution and its unity.

We ask ourselves questions just the same: are we naive then, at this point, in the "lower hinterlands" across the Mediterranean, to believe for a single instant that long discredited old convicts were going to fool anyone in the country in November? Or have we become so Machiavellian that we thought we could set a serious trap in Algeria by forcing it to "react" to the new make-up because of the component?

It is all happening as if mercy and patience had become for these individuals and those--who they are is well known--who are encouraging them, synonymous with weakness and lack of vigilance. But our country has known and will continue to know how to face new threats. It proved it in the face of the intrigues of certain foreign agents and other "planters of bombs" at the foot of the walls of El Moudjahid. It will know how to do it with the firmness that is so necessary.

That said, the defense of human rights is a good cause. Algerians know its price because they have paid for it. Dearly. The "humanist club's" attempt to place itself under the patronage of the International Human Rights League

came to a sudden end. It was very quickly understood that the flounderings of its components which wanted to confiscate it for their own profit had nothing to do with human rights. On the national scale, the whole of Algeria is a league for human dignity. If some people think they have nothing to learn from anyone, there is good reason to note, on the contrary, that they were unable to profit from the lesson they were taught in the recent past.

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ALGERIA

OFFICER-CANDIDATE TRAINING AT COMBINED ARMS ACADEMY EXAMINED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8 Jul 85 p 4

[Article by A. Chenouf]

[Text] One of the greatest achievements chalked up by Algeria many years ago was its establishment of a modern army equipped with sophisticated materiel and powerfully organized for the defense of the country and the revolution. From east to west and from north to south, every inch of national territory is jealously guarded and watched on a permanent basis. The army is there, and it ensures the nation's security. Faced with the requirements of modern military science, it has been able to keep up with every new development introduced by the developed countries. Among those developments, one of the most important strategies designed to establish powerful defense mechanisms is the training of officers. A large school exists, and it is effective enough and large enough to train men capable of commanding other men and material everywhere and always: it is the Cherchell Combined Arms Military Academy.

Algeria needs all its children in order to turn them into the men who will be called upon in the future to occupy various positions of responsibility. The most exciting and dynamic positions--those that bring out an individual's personality and promote his full development in everyday life--are positions of daily responsibility or, quite simply, the duties those men perform in order to command.

It is an exhilarating mission to take charge of men's destinies and guide them in their work and in each of their duties so that all activity will proceed normally and without letup--with no break in continuity. And among the missions assigned to the Cherchell Military Academy, that training aspect is very important to the officer's future. The doors of the academy are wide open for the training of men. To be trained as an officer, all one needs to do is obtain one's baccalaureat.

Assured Future

A second possibility is also offered to all young men without distinction who have completed their secondary education. For those young men, an entrance examination for admission to the academy is compulsory, the reason being that

the training in question requires a basic knowledge of scientific subjects that it is important to have.

What is certain is that one's future is practically assured on the material, social, and human levels and from the standpoint of promotions in rank. When a young man enters the academy, the training he receives makes him a complete, developed, and balanced individual, and all the subjects taught complement each other in perfect harmony.

The Cherchell Academy is certainly the institution providing the most complete training and knowledge available for an individual's military education, political education, and advanced scientific education in the fields of weapons, military art, the understanding of men, and the constraints of life. But to train officers, one must love what one is doing, adhere strictly to the exhilarating missions offered by a military career, and make a vow to oneself that choosing the Cherchell Academy is a free and personal act leaving no room for ambiguity. On one of the walls at the academy, there is a sign with words which, by themselves, sum up the significance of such statements: "Life: a belief, and a struggle." There is no philosophy more realistic, sound, and specific than that for illustrating such truths. To succeed in life or with any plan, belief in an ideal is important. It gives the individual his everyday strength no matter where he is. When a man believes in what he is doing or in what he wants to do, no obstacle and no difficulty can block his path to success.

And the individual, regardless of where he is, must realize that life is at the same time a struggle--a struggle carried on by each of us in our place of work, at school, in a factory, or in a military institution. Is it not thanks to belief and struggle that the Algerian people are free today? Free to choose their destiny and their future. But Algeria also knows that struggle does not end; it is a feature of time, without end and without limits. That is why the decision by a young man--by those young men--who will enter the Cherchell Academy in a few months must be a decision to choose belief and also struggle.

Let us listen to those officer candidates who spoke to us during our visit to the academy. Throughout the discussion, we sensed the certainty that these men were prepared and equipped with excellent training. In the excerpts that follow, they are also speaking to the hundreds of young men who may become good officers. A lieutenant said this: "I was in the graduating class of 1981, and I was kept on after completing a training course in a specialty. I was then assigned to a unit, and after 3 years, I was called back to be an instructor at the academy."

We asked: "But how were things when you first entered the academy?"

He replied: "The curriculum was a full one. But if a student is well organized, it becomes a habit that you can't do without. My specialty was the armor."

"I am the youngest son in an average family, and I have a brother as well as a brother-in-law in the military. When I submitted my application to enter the academy, no one knew that I had a taste for this career. Even when very young, I dreamed of wearing a military uniform. There was no answer to my first application, which I submitted while in the fifth form at school. I waited 2 years and then submitted another one."

We asked: "Is what you do difficult?"

He said: "I have learned a lot. But it was when I received my commission that I realized what responsibility means. Theoretically, what I had learned was more than enough. And in my unit, I had to put it all into practice. It is really exciting. But one must understand the young and the not so young and know how to lead them. It is like any other occupation: if you don't like it, you cannot do a good job."

Quality Training

Here is another officer, 26 years old. He is a lieutenant and an instructor in the armor. Like many of his colleagues, he replaced foreigners. "When you are Algerian and an instructor, you cannot allow yourself any weakness in training. Imagine what would happen if I trained poor officers and later had them in my command!"

We also questioned Boukrane Mohamed, 19, who is beginning his first year: "Why did you enter the academy?" He said: "More or less because of the information I received. I had a baccalaureat in the humanities, but I was not very interested in a literary career. So I came here and saw something besides the few cliches I had picked up about being in the military. I don't think I will have any difficulty in commanding men. The training is really solid, and I don't think about the future. It is guaranteed by my job." We asked him: "What advice do you have for young men?"

"If they thought about it, they ought not hesitate to enter the academy."

Another officer candidate, now in his second year, is studying a specialty in the DCA (antiaircraft defense):

"I sincerely have no regrets. One benefits from many things here."

We asked: "Was it advertising that led you to come here?"

He said: "Not at all. I wanted to pursue a career as an officer even when I was in middle school. And the opportunity presented itself, so I could not pass it up. I passed an examination, and you know the rest. It is an organized and dynamic life in which one feels useful. Every human and material resource exists at the academy to train a person from every point of view."

Brahim Ali will complete his 3 years of training in a few months, and if all goes well in his examinations, he will be a second lieutenant specializing in mechanized infantry.

We asked him: "Soon you will be leading a platoon---that is, men under your command. Do you have any fears?"

He replied: "No fears. I am sure it will all turn out well."

We asked: "What have you learned here?"

He said: "A tremendous number of things. My advantage is that I was in a cadet school. So at the start, the work was more or less the same for me."

We asked: "Will you miss the academy?"

He answered: "Certainly: all the good memories, the friends, the good things, the evenings reviewing what we had learned, the gymnasium, the cultural complex, and the tactical courses. But wherever I wind up, I will do my job as an officer as I was taught at the academy. Since they are all children of Algeria, I hope that young men will realize that officer training is the most exhilarating thing there is."

An officer and a number of officer candidates spoke to us in a language of sincerity to encourage young baccalaureat holders not to miss the opportunity offered by the academy to become like them: useful men on whom Algeria can rely.

We have observed that after the baccalaureat results are known, those who pass and those who fail have trouble choosing between a job, a diploma, and a training course. Even those with diploma in hand have certain fears as to their future in a factory or a government department. This is truly not the case at the Chercell Academy, where the students have nothing to worry about except their work, which remains the very source of their advancement. And to that end, every resource is placed at their disposal. It is a 3-year course intended primarily for baccalaureat holders, as we mentioned above, but also for those who have their upper secondary diploma and can pass the entrance examination. Complete information is available for young men. All they have to do is contact the academy.

During the first year, all officer candidates work on a common core of subjects, and military training, which is of course their purpose in being there, is continuous throughout the 3-year course.

Weapons Technology

One of the subjects preferred by the students is the tactical course. There is an authentic battlefield represented by mockups along with other electrical instruments and including maps and the topography of the terrain. The first year provides the students with a sort of initiation into all conventional weapons. That work is greatly facilitated by real weapons decorating the classroom walls and appropriate pedagogical material. At the same time, scientific subjects constitute the basic elements in this 3-year course, since the introduction of technology in the arms industry requires complete mastery of that technology and of its use.

Instruction is given entirely in the national language, which thereby ensures a strengthening of the national option at the level of personality.

Beginning with the second and third years, the students are streamed, on the basis of the academy's requirements and capabilities, into the following six specialties: mechanized infantry, armor, artillery, military engineering, the service corps (military transportation), and antiaircraft defense. Those are the six specialties available at the academy, and an officer candidate can be trained in only one.

At the end of a student's training course, he receives his commission as a second lieutenant with a military diploma and is then assigned to a unit as a platoon leader.

An officer graduating from the Combined Arms Military Academy also has an excellent opportunity to rise in the hierarchy, because after a few years in his unit, he will be called back for 1 year of further training at the academy. This stage will be devoted to his particular specialty, and the reason for it is the acquisition of new weapon prototypes that are supplied to the academy. An officer must be retrained on those weapons as necessary.

Another means of advancement is also open to him, since after his retraining, only a few more years are required before he is eligible to apply for a staff training course.

There are as many springboards for advancement as there are opportunities for success. The Cherkessk Academy is in fact the scientific military institution that trains real men for real missions.

Vast Human and Material Resources

This year the academy will celebrate the turning out of its 16th graduating class. In a little over a decade, it has trained as many men for command as were required on the basis of a meticulously prepared program that is worked out down to its smallest details and its slightest contours. Military studies make up the major portion of the study cycle. Life within the academy is highly disciplined. The schedule of working hours--7 full hours a day--corresponds perfectly to the disciplines taught. The work is organized in the extreme, with every part of it worked out in advance--and that discipline in itself is part of the organization of work.

It is practically impossible to find an officer candidate who is idle. The theoretical work done in the classroom is rounded out perfectly with practical fieldwork enabling the officer candidate to improve his grasp and understanding of a session on tactics, the mobility of armor, the work of an artillery battery, or the use of a weapon or antiaircraft gun. Not to mention the specialties of engineering, service (transportation), and mechanized infantry, which the student will learn with passionate interest on the maneuver ground located at the academy.

Target practice with precision weapons is carried out by day or at night, and it is much appreciated by the students, some of whom have even participated in nationwide shooting competitions.

In addition to those subjects, sports constitute a discipline for physical and mental development and also provide practical knowledge useful to every officer. That is what we were told by the judo instructor, who said: "An officer must be a complete athlete." The magnificent sports complex placed at the officer candidate's disposal is equipped with the most modern equipment, and all athletic disciplines can be practiced there. Judge for yourself: soccer, handball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, horse riding, swimming, judo, karate, weight lifting, cross-country running, gymnastics, and the "fighter's course" which an officer candidate goes through several times a week.

In fact, an officer candidate is trained in every aspect of his being and becomes physically and morally balanced so as to face up to any test. And that is not all. There are also other infrastructures that are all equally gigantic. The museum, to begin with, with its wonderful historical pieces covering everything from the Numidian era to the revolution of November 1954.

It has everything, or almost everything. Jealously guarded there and arranged in impeccable order are the guns that were used during our armed struggle. Even time has not worn them out. In one of the museum's rooms are framed photographs of men who graduated at the head of their class and of groups of officer candidates who have now been promoted to a senior rank. They provide a very good example for the students, but they are also an inexhaustible source of history and knowledge.

A trip to the library reveals a vast reading room on the second floor and impressive rows of books in the basement. Everything, or almost everything, is there: literature, science, mathematics, and military science. There are 154,000 volumes, half of which are in the national language. In the reading room, which is enveloped in deep silence despite the presence of several students and officers, more shelves of manuals are arranged at the entrance to the room. When evening comes, the room is always full. And there is never an empty table: the avid interest officer candidates have in learning in this place is extraordinary. Many manuals--especially those concerned with military science--were prepared by the instructors, whose work in this respect has been facilitated by the existence of a printing press at the academy itself. A short distance past the library is a music room with all the instruments necessary for forming several orchestras. Incidentally, every graduating class has had its own orchestra and singers. Cultural activities, which constitute a program under the direction of the Political Department, are beefed up by movies that are shown in a very luxurious auditorium. In addition, lectures on the country's politics and history and talks on economic, social, cultural, and military subjects are presented regularly by specialists and by cadres and officials from the party and government.

For its part, social support is well provided for through the existence of a cooperative and several supporting structures. As a result, it is practically

impossible to have even one spare moment at the academy. As we said, the work is so well organized and arranged that in a single day, an officer candidate learns and does things that he could not accomplish elsewhere in 5 or 6 months.

But the academy also owes that perfect work and organization to a training staff that makes great efforts. Real tribute must be paid to the staff members. For them, the officer candidates come before anything else. Being an officer candidate at the Cherchell Military Academy means really believing in a goal, an objective, and an ideal in life.

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ALGERIA

SUPPLEMENTARY 1985 DRAFT BUDGET EXAMINED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 27 Jun 85 p 3

[Text] Yesterday, the National Popular Assembly began its examination of the supplementary draft budget for 1985. At the opening of the session chaired by Rabah Bitat, minister of finance Boualem Benhamouda briefly presented the main provisions completing the 1985 budget, namely:

- 1) The transfer of 200 billion centimes from the operating budget to the equipment budget.
- 2) Provisions for the payment of debts owed by public offices to private businesses who did work for them or delivered supplies and were not paid for various reasons.
- 3) Reduction of bank interest rates to benefit the rural sector and land development.
- 4) Provisions allowing farm workers to secure housing without financial impediments.
- 5) The transformation of treasury advances made to the public agricultural sector into outright assistance, since this sector needs to be subsidized as this is done in all countries of the world.
- 6) Fiscal exemptions to benefit central customs houses whose function is to supply spare parts for our national industries; this would promote our economy through the saving of time and the elimination of "useless stock."
- 7) Fiscal exemptions to benefit the poultry and beekeeping industries for a 4 year period beginning from the time a business commenced operations; this exemption was to expire on 31 December 1984.

After Boualem Benhamouda's address, the chairman of the planning and finance committee presented the committee's report which noted that at the time of the examination of the 1985 draft

budget, it had proposed reducing the operating budget by 2.9 billion dinars.

While approving the committee's actions, the government asked that the measure be deferred in order to gain an appreciation of the real development of external resources in view of the uncertainties weighing on the oil market.

The committee pointed out that the proposed 2 billion dinars were subtracted from joint expenses and noted, moreover, that funds would be retained to provide for the application of the SGT [expansion unknown]. Furthermore, it reiterated its recommendations concerning the necessity of controlling the growth of the operating budget, and appealed for greater consideration to be given to the actual content of the budgets and to anything that could be removed from them in order to pursue the austerity policy undertaken by the public authorities.

The proceedings of the APN [National Popular Assembly] will resume next Sunday.

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ALGERIA

VIEWS ON HOUSING SITUATION REPORTED

Situation Considered Serious

Algiers ALGERIE ACTUALITE in French 20-26 Jun 85 pp 23, 24

[Article by Meziane Ourad: "Oh, Those Figures!"]

[Text] Four years to build it is a long time, a very long time. The cost: 22 million. That is expensive, very expensive. But to have it, it is not enough to pay the 22 million and wait 4 years. Figures can deceive more than one.

Housing is an absolute right of every citizen. That is our beginning hypothesis; it is not something we have made up since this inalienable truth is known to all, whether they are citizens or public authorities. But unfortunately, the problem is not a matter of rights. It is just that there is a large gap between what is necessary and what is possible. At times it can be explained but at times it is baffling. Can the basic causes of the crisis be understood? And especially, will we be able to explain them? Will we be able to communicate the light of hope?

We doubt it because actually it is without this far too pretentious, noble ambition that we plunge into the thick fog which surrounds the question of housing.

Let us begin at the beginning: what is the housing situation today? Apart from dwellings dating from the colonial period, it may be recalled that since independence, Algeria has built 650,000 new housing units. We should say that only this number has been built in 23 years because obviously this "somewhat more than half a million units" is a very small quantity. This is especially true since as Ould Amrouche, head of the Ministry of Housing, declared that "the country absolutely must produce a minimum of 3.5 million units between now and the year 2000 to resolve what appears to be a crisis." That would bring us down to an occupation ratio of 6.5 people per apartment. That would be tolerable.

The ideal situation is not yet the goal of those in charge of housing. To this large housing shortage, the problems of decrepitude and squalor must be added. Nearly 250,000 housing units (40 percent of these are more than 80 years old) are decrepit, and 3.5 million others are in a state of extreme squalor. "For some, we should speak of shelter, not of housing," Ould Amrouche emphasized.

The task, as one can well see, is a very arduous one. The hill will be hard to climb. Moreover, the progress of our endeavors to accomplish this task cannot be very hasty, in view of the current state of affairs. That is an objective assessment because they quite simply do not have the means for what should be their task: to provide a roof over everyone's head. For this dream to become reality, 225,000 units would have to be built per year, but we know that today, with the maximum work force thrown into the battle, we just manage to build 100,000 units per year (40,000 city dwellings, about the same number in rural areas, and some 20,000 apartments built by private businesses). These figures, purely arithmetical and inhuman as they are, can in no way reveal the full measure of the tragedy that we are experiencing.

If hope begins to dawn in our campaign with its lack of manpower, the fact nevertheless remains undeniable that we will not be out of the woods building only 40,000 urban units per year!

The consequence of the shortage and delays in construction is that the fateful decade between 30 and 40 years of age has become a monstrous spider's web entangling the feet of every young person on whom chance has not smiled and who has no backing. Without a house, at 30 years of age, panic sets in. What balance is there? What security? What horizons? There are none. Anxiety and doubt have already overcome a large proportion of our young people. What will the situation be in 10 years time?

Whereas the effects of the housing crisis are familiar, its causes remain obscure for many. The main thing causing it incontestably consists in the financing problems of our businesses and especially in their internal organization. Chibane, deputy head at the ministry, told us that our country has 123 businesses and research departments involved in the BTP [Public Works and Construction]. Of these, 78 specialize in actual construction but of course build only housing units. The majority of these businesses arose from the restructuring of such behemoths as DNC, SONATIBA, SOREC-SUD and ECOTEC. At the demand of the wilayas, nine offices called the EPBTP have been established since 1982 particularly in the Hauts-Plateaux. If one adds the approximately 7,500 private and local businesses (communal, in the wilayas etc) to the existing 100 or so, one can understand why the construction sector employs more than 200,000 people (approximately 700,000 according to ONAMO [National Algerian

Manpower Bureau] figures).

Even with all this, problems remain. Plenty of them.

On the external level, the first problem is that of impossible complementary investments. When an expense is not stipulated in the plan, the business must have recourse to a program authorization. It is a sort of safety valve. Over the course of time, this valve was shut off. There has been a drop from between 80 and 84 program authorizations for a total of 1 billion dinars to 149 million dinars. What is to be done in this situation to cope with the enormous shortage of aggregate largely due to the serious lack of quarry dumpers for example?

Other external factors include the fact that it is impossible for businesses to import the materiel they need such as cranes, mixers etc. There is also the consideration that the existing pool of materiel is getting old, particularly in long established industries. Sometimes new equipment is immobilized for lack of complementary supplies, e.g., floats and "coquottes" [translation unknown] which require tractors. Nevertheless, the ENPMA [expansion unknown] says it is in a position to meet national needs; that, you will say, is another question. And what is the Achilles heel? Don't bother searching; it is maintenance. We will not digress on that subject. Who among us is unaware of the abuse some of the country's industries inflict on their equipment?

On the internal level, organization especially is the dominant problem. Ould Amrouche declared: "Although we possess a large reserve of productivity, what we lack is organization. With it, we would quite certainly produce more." But how is it to be instituted? How is this organization to be achieved? "A program has to be thought through and allowed to mature before executing it. Once set in motion, it must be followed through. To achieve this, a procedures department is necessary for each site!"

What about computerization? Benalial, deputy director for organization at the ministry replied: "A computer amplifies disorder. A disorganized business only gets into a worse mess when it computerizes." It only goes to show that science is neither within the reach nor at the service of anyone! Finally, construction materials are unavailable from time to time, and this results in considerable delays. Here too, the solution is organization. When supplies are not ordered at least a year in advance, one will inevitably find oneself short of stock from time to time. In Algeria today, a house takes an average of 4 year to build! That is a long time, a very long time.

Delays...and more delays. Since the 3-year plan, a total of 467,165 urban units and 346,592 rural units have been written into the different plans. At the end of the past year, 199,775

(42 percent) were completed in the first category and 205,281 (60 percent) in the second. The number remaining therefore which are written into the second 5-year plan totals roughly 350,000 housing units. With all this, how can even more units be planned?

The Ministry of Housing informed us that, everything included, only 11,000 new housing units were registered for the 1985-89 period. That is negligible. It is true that it is negligible but it must be admitted that there would be no point in planning for a million housing units while our capacity to build them remains desperately weak. Three and a half million dwellings are needed before the year 2000. How are they to be built? Will we manage it? No, no one, including all those concerned, authorities and clients, believes that we will succeed. So what is to be done? Encourage people to build their own? This solution is certainly no solution because in fact, all our "house builders" do nothing to help solve the problem. Quite the contrary, they complicate it for two simple reasons: first, once their "bunkers" are up, they never relinquish their old apartments; secondly, while constituting an eyesore in the environment, their mammoth constructions devour an enormous amount of space where one could (is it not so?) house a hundred times the number of people. The fact remains, we were told at the Ministry of Housing, that "the citizen must of necessity contribute to the future. His own lot should be important to him. He should therefore feel obliged to do something for his own benefit. In particular, he should save so that he can buy a house. People can also be encouraged to buy real estate. Those who have money should buy real estate; they will only be better off!"

Here then, we have the future regulations in the area of housing laid before us. The state will finance less and less in this sector. Agriculture and hydroelectric energy are considered the priorities. National savings and the promotion of sales in real estate will have the task of untangling the intricacies in housing. Savings did you say? The CNEP [Algerian National Savings and Insurance Bank] today has disappointed a lot of savers as the large amount of mail our newspaper receives on the subject shows. Thousands of citizens have been saving for more than a decade for nothing. When they manage to get something, they are asked for up to 43 million centimes for F3's which only cost half that. Ould Amrouche told us that "the cost price for a house averages 220,000 Algerian dinars." He considers this cost too high, so what about double that amount? As for promoting real estate sales, we have difficulty in seeing today's speculators becoming tomorrow's honest real estate agents.

Decidedly, the picture of the housing situation is very grim. Things can only improve when everyone gets involved, citizens, businesses, and the state. Even so...

Situation Considered Beneficial

Algiers ALGERIE ACTUALITE in French 20-26 Jun 85 pp 17, 18

[Article by Hanafi Taguemout: "The Heaven-Sent Crisis"]

[Text] "Solve the housing crisis"; "find immediate solutions to the housing problem"; "one roof, one family"; "for one more room"; "the housing tragedy."

There are people like this who really exaggerate and are so pessimistic that everything looks black to them. Even the beautiful bright red roofs of the houses in the hill country of Algiers. It must be admitted that to regard beautiful smooth, gay tiles as slate reveals unjustifiable unfairness.

Blind, but also tiresome because they are incapable of adding anything new to their vocabulary. With them, conversation is reduced to a horrible, vulgar outspokenness that is insipid and terribly commonplace. Like a cracked record, they can speak only one word: "housing." Do not ask them to rise above it, for they are incapable of doing so. If they do do so, they speak of "floors," since they are circumscribed by this little "annoyance" which, nevertheless, is of no great importance. But just try to make them understand that.

People like that should be avoided. One can learn nothing from them because they see no further than the end of their nose. With a single word, one cannot even form a sentence. Yet that is their entire capital, their heritage.

For them, "the housing situation is tragic." How sketchy! Tragic for whom? "For those who don't have any." This is followed by a lot of tiresome arguments devoid of any interest because they are recited at every opportunity. There are no surprises. They have been the same for years, for every level so long as they fall into the same category. They believe, and are completely adamant about this, that what they say is the truth. They are convinced of it. But everyone is free to think what they like, where and when they like.

In any case, their reasoning does not stand up to examination. Actually, the "housing crisis," as they call it, is not a disaster but a miracle.

How fortunate that there is still much to be done, that there are delays, supply shortages, financing difficulties, and prohibitive prices for each square meter built. It is a good thing that there is an increasing housing shortage, that old buildings are falling into ruins and that the new ones have not yet arisen. If by mischance "they" managed to "solve the problem" by providing everyone of age with a new house, it would be a disaster,

a cataclysm, the end of everything. How? Let us consider some of the consequences:

If everyone had their own house, there would be lines of people everywhere. Not only in the market and fello, at the bus stop or taxi stand, but also at the cemetery and in the street. There would be so many people that pedestrians would move forward like cars in a traffic jam, bumper to bumper. And the traffic jam would be permanent. Then, with their head between their hands, people would ask how we had got to that point. But then it would be too late. With everyone owning his own dwelling, Algerians would marry like everybody else, i.e., young. Then, with the door bolted, they would set about procreating as they alone and very few others know how to do: in entire batches of kids who, once adult, would repeat the operation just like their prolific parents. As it is, with 12 in a 2 room house, they manage somehow to have one of the highest birthrates in the world. With 2 in a 4 room house it would be... No, it is too awful... Famine... 100 times more...1000 times more...

If everyone had their own house, Algerians would become small... small and thin to the point where there would be only a single stripe in their tiny pyjamas. Since 1962, according to some statistics, the size of Algerians has increased by 4 centimeters. Not a centimeter less! And what do you think has caused this, I ask you? Quite simply what mischief makers maliciously call "the housing crisis." Yes sir, thanks to it, family solidarity is being maintained at full strength. The father and his six children, when he does not have more, all work and live under the same roof. Just like before. You wouldn't know it, but with an average salary of 3,000 Algerian dinars apiece, they have an income of 2.1 million per month. And they're only paying one rent. That's enough to make anything affordable, whatever the price. All are doing well by it and are stuffing themselves. You only have to look at the kids' complexions.

I know it is painful, but just imagine each of them, from the father to the six children, with their own place. It would be a catastrophe with 3,000 lousy dinars per month; no more meat at 80 Algerian dinars per kilo, strawberries at 90 dinars per kilo, and early melon at 120 the kilo. People would have to count every penny, do without the little extras, furnish the house, pay the rent, gas, electricity, telephone, everything, on their own. The kids would be underfed, stunted, pale, sickly, with big glistening eyes and their skin stretched tight on their bones. After a few generations the result would be atrophy, degeneration. You would need a magnifying glass to count your children, who would have no need of all that housing because at 8 years of age, they could sleep in a drawer. All that space for nothing!

Those who grumble about the crisis haven't understood anything. It has saved us. Instead of showing joy, which would be

unhealthy anyway, on receiving their house, people ought rather to cry, because the award order would treacherously bring down disastrous consequences upon them.

But hope is permissible, and hundreds of thousands of homeless hang on to it. They're real patriots, that lot, who deserve to have something done for them. But what? "Housing!" they reply en masse.

Some people never learn.

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ALGERIA

GRAIN PRODUCTION DESCRIBED

History of Cereal Growing Outlined

Algiers ALGERIE ACTUALITE in French 20-26 Jun 85 pp 17, 18

[Article by Genia Boutaleb: "From the Ancient Granary to..."]

[Text] The production of grain (especially wheat) is attested in Algeria since remote antiquity.

In his "Introduction to the Early History of Algeria," SNED 1972, C. Brahimî observes that postneolithic archaeology is nearly entirely based on the records from the necropolises (metal instruments, ceramic vessels). These "funerary relics" are nearly all found in the area where there is enough rain for wheat growing to be possible without need of irrigation." This fact, when combined with an examination of the shapes of the vessels, "suggests that we are dealing with sedentary agricultural people."

Wheat supplied the trade links which were established between the Berbers and Carthaginians when trading posts were set up and placed at intervals (every 30 or 40 km along the Algerian coast) reaching the Atlantic gold and tin markets.

Thanks to the peace that was maintained throughout the reign of Massinissa (203-148), trade developed between the Numidian kingdom and Carthage, and also with Spain, Rome, and Greece. The Roman historian Livy (59 BC to 17 AD) in his "Geographica" ("Universal Geography of the Ancient World") reports that wheat exports to Rome increased from 14,000 hundredweight in 200 BC to 70,000 hundredweight in 170BC. The Greek geographer Strabo, a contemporary of Livy, even stated that "in some soils it was enough to simply scratch the ground after the harvest and the fallen grain would produce a new crop (quoted by Kaddache in his book "Ancient Algeria," SNED 1972).

The monopolizing of the land was what brought about the annexation of Numidia and Mauritania in the first century AD. Progress

in Roman colonization went together with the appropriation of Berber lands (defeated and made prisoners, the Berbers became slaves on their own land), and the spread of the exclusive cultivation of wheat was encouraged to contribute to Rome's supplies.

Rome then had to depend on the recently conquered provinces to avoid succumbing to famine. In Italy, the freed peasants were often enlisted in the army for years on end, and finally abandoned their fields. The big landowners who used a large number of slaves neglected wheat growing for more profitable speculation in olive plantations and vineyards.

This was when, at the prompting of the Roman senate, the 32 volumes of Magon's treatise on Carthaginian agriculture were translated, the oldest known study in agriculture. The translation provided the basis for a vast agricultural literature. It was especially useful to the Roman colonists who discovered in it the procedures perfected by the Carthaginian agronomists for developing intensive cereal farming in medium fertility soil.

Wheat became the primary export crop of the Roman provinces in North Africa. "The country's whole glory consists in the harvests," wrote the Latin scholar Pliny the Elder (23-79), author of a natural history.

Nearly 20 centuries later, following the second world war (1939-45), Campbelle, the owner of the US's largest wheat farm (26,000 hectares), dreamed of transforming the AFN [French North Africa] into a wheat granary for starving Europe!

He thought over the plan for some 30 years, since the first world war. He had already made out 3 extensive reports for the French and American governments. In his view, it would be possible, without compromising the fertility of the soil, to increase the AFN's yield 50 percent in one or two years, and perhaps by even 150 percent eventually. "Campbelle has taken Magon's place," said the article on him ("Champion of Wheat Producers") in the US magazine SELECTION READER'S DIGEST, in August 1949. At the time, the AFN was exporting to Europe about 6 million hundredweight of grain (wheat and barley), i.e., less than 5 percent of the continent's needs. However, in Algeria alone, there were about 6 million Muslims in unbelievably undernourished condition (see ALGERIE ACTUALITE 21-27 June 1984: Colonial Agriculture).

Campbelle noted that the tools used by the native farmer were still those used by Magon's contemporaries: a wooden plow built on an ancient model pulled by an ox or a horse (even by his wife!). He reaped with a sickle and beat out the grain with a flail. He would even use his cattle to crush the grain.

In these circumstances, a 5 hundredweight per hectare yield was only possible through "the labor of the Arab and especially his children. Like grasshoppers, the filthy kids scoured the dusty fields to pick up the grains that had fallen from the ears at the blow of the scythe."

To make cereal farming more productive, Campbelle recommended that the native farmers be provided with metal plows (by the US?) and that cooperative model farms be set up (also well equipped, using threshing machines and combine harvesters particularly!) subsidized by the French government.

These pilot farms, or rather model farms, were to proceed with several operations simultaneously. They were to teach the nationals what seed to sow and how to do it. They were to show them how to farm so as to preserve the precious rain, and how to destroy the weeds; and convince them of the value of leaving fields fallow in summer, and of garnering and transporting the largest crops. "The native carries his grain to market in sacks loaded on donkeys." The farms would also mechanically till the nearby native farms, and organize rotations with threshing machines and combine harvesters during the harvests.

To carry out some of the operations he recommended, Campbelle urged making use of "cheap and easily modified" abandoned military equipment with which he experimented himself on his farm, the most mechanized in the world (he gathered into his barns more than 10,000 hundredweight of wheat per day over a 15 day period).

In 1947-48, he presented to French and Tunisian delegates who had come to visit his farm his version of the all terrain half-track that he had turned into an ordinary truck with four drive wheels after modification of the rear bands. The truck could transport 7 tons of wheat and pull 20 if a former military trailer were hooked up to it. The Campbelle "rig" represented the capacity of a freight car of a kind used in the AFN (!) and could be substituted for a freight car where there were no railroads.

Campbelle also tranformed an M6 tank into a 450 horsepower diesel tractor capable of pulling a set of plows 20 meters wide, and tilling 325 hectares per hour. It is true that he farms 45 km of wheat.

This virtually "self-made man" who only inherited from his father 30 hectares, a pair of oxen, and a scythe, visited the USSR, France, and South Africa in 1949 as an agricultural adviser. But he continues to cherish his old dream: "helping to establish rich North African coastal plains, a horn of plenty for starving Europe (!).

It was the era of the Marshall plan, when the USA decided to come to the "assistance" of Europe (by passing on from time to time equipment they did not know what to do with any more), to help provide it with "food aid" and to develop "useful" economic activities in the colonies, already in turmoil. Once Europe had been rebuilt and had become even more prosperous, US philanthropy would find new areas to investigate.

"The Desert, Land of the Future," was the title of another article in 1957, also published in the READER'S DIGEST.

(The two articles mentioned were sent to us by an ALGERIE ACTUALITE reader who stressed that their relationship with our agriculture and the present situation might possibly confer on them a degree of technical and historical interest).

The article observed that all desert areas combined cover one quarter of the planet's continental surface. This unused quarter "might help solve one of the most urgent problems (since 1957, moreover, the urgency of the problem has made quite definite advances!) facing mankind: increasing food production." To the Sahara, whose border extends 3,200 km and which in some areas advances a few dozen km per year, the article devoted a section taken from P. Cornet's book "Sahara, Tomorrow's Land."

Increasing grain production and developing new areas are still crying needs for the AFN and particularly Algeria. But the perspective has changed. The action which must be and is being taken is to benefit our own people.

The average wheat yield per hectare has not changed much, however, since the second world war. It only averages 6 or 7 hundredweight.

Since the beginning of the century, average annual production has reached a ceiling of about 20 million hundredweight. So the per capita annual production has dropped from 370 kg in 1901-1910 to 140 kg in 1975. The population (approximately 5 million inhabitants in 1900) has tripled in 75 years. In a third of a century, from 1965 to 2000, it will triple again.

According to the first 5-year plan, cereal production in 1984 was to have reached 30 million hundredweight (with national cereal consumption of more than 50 million hundredweight). In fact, last year 65 percent of cereal consumed had to be imported.

[boxed section]

The Grain War

The accusation of "dumping" made against the United States by European cereal growers, especially the French, following the establishment of a \$2 billion support program for American grain exports, has created an atmosphere of tension between the United States and European cereal growers who accuse Washington of wanting to attack the community's traditional markets in order to solve the problems of American farmers penalized by the rise of the dollar and the effects of heavy debt.

When the proceedings of the 11th ministerial session of the World Food Council were being held in Paris, during which the problems of world malnutrition and hunger were stressed, this USA-EEC conflict shed further light on the rivalry of the western countries in the trade in food products which more than ever are becoming strategic products.

Increased Grain Production Planned

Algiers ALGERIE ACTUALITE in French 20-26 Jun 85 pp 17, 18

[Article by Rabah Afredj: "Production Levels"]

[Text] The 1985 harvesting and threshing season is a real "test situation" which should prove that Algerian soil can produce better yields by comparison with past years. Predictions for the current year take into account good crops.

And even a substantial increase in the yield ratio per hectare. There are several reasons for this. Among these are favorable rainfall, and especially the desire to do everything to secure the progressive development of our agriculture and therefore the guarantee of our self-sufficiency in food; this, moreover, is a priority of the 5-year plan. At the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries they say that these all-out efforts in the area of cereal growing are aimed at achieving growth of more than 50 percent of the normal national production by 1989.

It is stated further that this level has already been reached in many areas of the country. Nevertheless, the anticipated results are far from constituting a miracle. They will be only "the first effects of a deliberate determination to put agricultural production back in the realistic context to which it must belong, and which involves the general mobilization of the available human and material resources." Thus, for the present harvest a particular stress has been placed on the increased use and effective maintenance of agricultural equipment. This is essential for any successful harvesting and threshing season.

Especially when one realizes that sometimes losses averaging up to 20 percent have occurred with some harvests because of the poor use of the machinery for this type of operation. That is why the authorities concerned, have constantly insisted during the preparation for the season on subjects regarding the teaching of methods for maintaining the equipment and the punctual supply of spare parts. It was the same with the distribution of the equipment according to the yield of the area, and the necessary availability of fuel, batteries, and spare tires.

Where human resources are concerned, while remembering the losses which Algerian agriculture has experienced since independence for well-known reasons, it was decided that in addition to the mobilization of existing potential there should be an "awareness" program to restore total confidence in the soil, in its development and future prospects. And because the goal today is the carrying out of higher production programs, it therefore becomes obvious that they must be linked with the application of modern farming techniques which could not be envisaged without quantitative and qualitative human support. This is all the more essential when one realizes how much the usable agricultural area of our country has been reduced. As a matter of fact, statistics show that we have only 75,000 square km of arable land out of a total area of 2.37 million square km, in fact only 3.2 percent. Consequently, we have to fight on two fronts. First, we have to farm the largest possible area, and secondly we must obtain increased production the better to meet national needs which are constantly mounting because of the strong population growth our country is experiencing. In other words, we have to increase production, reduce the amount of fallow land, increase the area under irrigation, develop the steppe country, and develop new areas. We must also avoid the mistakes of the past, for example, growing cereals in very rich soil which would certainly be much better suited to other crops. In this respect we should mention the coastal areas, the areas of the Mitidja, the Annaba plain, the Soummam valley, and the Collo and Jijel areas. Moreover, cereal growing in steppe and mountainous areas "goes against the ecological balance which favors a reduction in farmland in the marginal areas."

In the next few years therefore, cereal farming, which this year covers an area of 900,000 hectares, has to come up with a land division better suited to produce higher yields by the introduction of appropriate techniques. Those exactly which will ensure regular progress in production. Thus the plans for development in cereal growing set production for 1989 alone at about 26 million hundredweight compared with 18 million hundredweight in 1984. Will needs then be met? At the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries they say that increasing production now constitutes a major concern. For it is obvious that our country cannot continue to compensate for its deficit in agricultural products with expensive imports. Where cereals are concerned, projected

needs for the year 2000 are in the area of 90 million hundred-weight for a population that will have nearly doubled by then. That is why the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has already appointed study groups to examine these vital questions which affect not only grain production but also basic products as a whole such as milk, meat etc. At the moment, we need to remodel the structure of our agriculture in accordance with the economic and social realities of the country. The second 5-year plan for 1985-89 gives top priority to agriculture and hydro-electric energy and will no doubt ensure that fresh impetus is given to agricultural activities in the short term but especially in the long term. The establishment of a modern agricultural system can only be a long term effort.

What can be said in conclusion except that the importance of agriculture, the nourishing soil, can never be emphasized enough? Algeria has awakened to the fact that there can never be balanced economic development without agriculture being well under control and even more productive. These first efforts which have been decided upon for increasing agricultural production in general and grain production in particular must be made with this goal in mind.

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ALGERIA

TECHNICAL R&D CENTER BENEFITS INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8 Jul 85 p II

[Article by M.B.]

[Text] With its six institutes that have trained hundreds of engineers and senior technicians for industry and its four laboratories of unquestionable importance to industry, Boumerdes is what could be called a university or science town. After long being concerned solely with the training of cadres for industry, most of the establishments in Boumerdes now provide postgraduate training that will soon make it possible to ensure the complete Algerianization of their teaching staffs.

This complex of institutes, which shows obvious coherence from the standpoint of its response to industry's need for cadres, began with the establishment of the African Center for Hydrocarbons and Textiles [CAHT]. A few years after independence, that center took charge of teaching petroleum-related technologies ranging from exploration to exploitation and technologies related to the textile industry and covering everything from spinning to hosiery. But the start of the industrialization process and the resulting need for cadres made it necessary to advance to a higher stage, with the result that three institutes grew out of the CAHT. They were the National Institute of Hydrocarbons and Chemistry (INHC), the Algerian Petroleum Institute (IAP), and the National Institute of Light Industry (INIL).

The INHC, which trains engineers for the public sector, applications engineers, and senior technicians in the fields of hydrocarbon exploration, production, transportation, and processing, teaches about 15 specialties and intends to open up even more courses of study. It also intends to organize periodic proficiency courses aimed at all professional categories in that industry. But before it can do so, a development and expansion project must be carried out.

Between 1970 and 1984, the INHC trained 2,350 engineers and 3,220 senior technicians. Most of them were trained for the energy sector, while the others went to work for the Ministries of Heavy Industry (mining geologists), Light Industry (chemists), or Water Resources (drillers and geologists). A special feature of this institute is the fact that at the completion of their

studies, its students must defend a thesis before a jury composed of cadres from the user enterprises. Another of its ambitions is to give specific content to one of its objectives, which is to carry out applied research projects and develop them.

For its part, the Algerian Petroleum Institute has a school of engineering in Boumerdes, while technicians and senior technicians are trained in six centers scattered among the country's industrial poles. The IAP has established two cycles for the training of engineers for the public sector. One of them, called the short cycle, consists of postuniversity training designed for students having an engineering degree or at least a DES [diploma in higher studies] in exact sciences or geology at the common-core level. The second is a "long cycle" designed for individuals having a baccalaureat in mathematics, technology-mathematics, or science.

Between 1966 and 1984, the IAP trained 1,700 engineers, and its objectives, in addition to the above-mentioned training, include the advancement of personnel already active in the industry through retraining and refresher courses, the training of instructors by the establishment of postgraduate courses in various disciplines, and scientific and technical research. Concerning the last-named activity, the work is done in the school's laboratories for the various branches of the petroleum industry. In the field of geology, the IAP conducts fieldwork rounded out by lab work aimed at preparing geological maps for sedimentology studies. For production, in geology, production, and refining [sentence as published].

The objective in establishing the National Institute of Light Industry was to provide education for professional purposes. For that purpose, detailed studies were required to determine as precisely as possible what the user industries would require in the way of quantity and qualifications. Those industries are concerned with the following: food, timber, leather and hides, textiles, tobacco, paper and cellulose, detergents, and paints and dyes. The INIL emphasizes that overall, the studies aimed at quantifying needs and becoming familiar with the user industries were conducted by employing the same process as that adopted for setting up vocational training centers. The principle is that "the student is not trained for an abstract function but for a specific job in a very specific enterprise."

Noting in 1978 that the shortage of cadres in its sector totaled 496 engineers and 909 senior technicians, the institute began training 346 engineers and 496 senior technicians for graduation in 1981. That example demonstrates the concern that still exists to overcome the shortage of cadres in light industry and to meet the needs of new projects. In that connection, the INIL intends to grow and to increase the number of its students from 1,900 to 2,500. It also intends to strengthen its program of continuing education for the management of personnel in the plants, particularly in the area of equipment maintenance and repair, to improve its curricula to ensure a better match between qualifications and the actual job, and, lastly, to set up an applied research unit in close coordination with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

A more recent institute--it began its first school year in October 1974--is the National Institute of Mechanical Engineering. It also trains senior technicians and engineers and sometimes provides technical and scientific assistance for enterprises in the sector of heavy industry. Beginning this September, its research work will be developed and a postgraduate section will be established.

The scientific and technical activities covered by this institute's training program occur upstream from the materials processing represented by iron and steel metallurgy. The institute occupies a not insignificant position in the engineering industry. Its engineering section currently includes four courses of study: mechanical fabrication, industrial maintenance, energetics, and mechanical engineering. To round them out, a fifth course of study (industrial management and development) will soon be added.

The most recent institute to be established is the National Institute of Electricity and Electronics (INELEC), which opened in March 1976 with 150 students and a technical assistance contract signed with a U.S. firm. Its beginnings were difficult, particularly since the language of instruction is English. But rather than being a handicap, the choice of English as the language of instruction provides an important advantage in professional life, since it enables the institute's graduates to keep up with the latest technical advances by consulting technological publications, the great majority of which are published in that language.

The institute also devotes 50 percent of its instruction time to lab work. It familiarizes its students with the use of computers, which are used in all phases of the teaching program, but it also teaches them to work without computers in case the latter are not available. In short, the goal of training at INELEC is to produce graduates capable of applying as well as adapting to the latest technological innovations while possessing a high degree of independence. Thanks to the hiring of training cadres as early as the second year that the institute was in operation, the teaching staff is now 80 percent Algerian. The foreigners still employed are experts who teach very specialized subjects.

Also with the objective of serving national industry, another structure was set up--almost as soon as the first institutes established in Boumerdes began operating--to be responsible in particular for coping with the shortage of management cadres. It was the National Productivity and Industrial Development Institute (INPED), and it is currently being restructured. It was originally supposed to train management cadres--or rather, to improve their training. With its staff of consulting engineers, the INPED assists enterprises in the area of training, determines their needs in that area, and, if necessary, adapts its services at their request.

In addition to those institutes, whose link with industry is always stressed, four laboratories--three of which are of unquestionable importance--have been established in Boumerdes. First, there is the Central Hydrocarbons Laboratory, whose mission falls within the general framework of hydrocarbon exploration, exploitation, and development. As an organization providing

scientific and technical support for SONATRACH, it provides its services for the geological monitoring of well drilling, carries out systematic or routine analyses, and engages in scientific research activity that is destined to expand in the medium term. This laboratory, which has made a great effort to recruit, train, and improve its personnel, has already reduced the technical assistance it receives to a very low level.

For its part, the Geological Research and Studies Unit of the ENDMC (formerly the SNMC [National Building Materials Company]) devotes itself chiefly to research and study in connection with deposits of raw materials suitable for the production of building materials. As part of its many activities, its laboratory participates in scientific research by conducting applied research aimed at promoting the use of local materials, improving traditional materials, perfecting computation methods and placement procedures, and developing new materials and new construction methods.

Lastly, the lab unit of ERAM (formerly SONAREM [National Prospecting and Mine Exploitation Company]) constitutes one of the scientific supports for mining research through the use of advanced methods, and its role is destined to grow with the upcoming completion of a pilot plant that will carry out tests to determine the technical feasibility of a project—for example, whether a plant for working a deposit should continue in operation or be abandoned. The advantage of this pilot plant lies at least in the fact that feasibility studies can be carried out in Algeria rather than abroad.

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CSO: 4519/163

LIBYA

BRIEFS

EL PAYS COMMENT REJECTED--Tripoli, Dulqidaa 25, August 11, Jamahiriyah News Agency--The Spanish EL PAYS newspaper claimed on Thursday that the absence of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah from the Arab summit in Dar El Beida represented a fatal blow to the Arab African Union. Also, the paper claimed that bilateral relations in the future would be cooler. The Jamahiriyah News Agency Arab affairs editor commented on these claims saying "Despite the propagation of these allegations by this right wing newspaper which is part of the campaign being led by the malicious Zionist and imperialist circles in the West in a bid to sabotage the Arab African union, it has recognised the determination of the leadership and peoples of the two countries to implement the Oujda union treaty." The editor added "The presence or absence of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah will not affect in any manner the Arab African union for there is no connection or comparison whatsoever between the Arab summit and this union. There is no better answer to the Spanish paper's allegations than the statement made on Thursday by the Moroccan foreign minister, Abdellatif Filali, in which he asserted that "there is no relationship at all between the absence of Libya from the Arab summit and the Arab African Union, for both countries are totally independent in their internal and external policies." [Text]
[Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 11 Aug 85 LD]

CSO: 4500/182

MAURITANIA

MAURITANIA: DROUGHT-AFFECTED EXILES BEGIN TO RETURN HOME

AB121142 Paris AFP in French 1122 GMT 11 Aug 85

[Excerpts] Nouakchott, 11 Aug (AFP)--As families are called up, they get into the semitrailers parked at the base of miserable shacks. For about 10 days, the drought-affected exiles have been leaving the squalid slums of Nouakchott, into which hunger had driven them.

"Voluntary return," the Mauritanian authorities say emphatically; they have launched a massive sensitization campaign among the population. For the first time in that desert country, which has been hit by catastrophic drought for 12 years now, the rainy season has started off well. In the southern region of Gorgol, 52 percent of the normal annual rainfall has occurred within a few weeks. The most favored regions have already received 90 percent of the average annual rainfall recorded before the drought.

To take advantage of the return of the rains, the Mauritanian government wanted to move fast. Since 25 July, convoy departures to the regions with arable land have been taking place twice a week. This week at El Mina, authorities registered some 1,600 persons applying to leave. Most of the more than 100,000 farmers and nomads in that immense shantytown of the capital who fled before the drought and have huddled together there are convinced that they have nothing to lose.

Right now, 5,000 applicants for the return have been officially recorded, which represents just a handful compared with the estimated 500,000 farmers who left their farms or their cattle to come and increase the population of the suburbs. But the Nouakchott government is convinced that this will have a stimulating effect and that the donor countries, which were skeptical from the outset, will give contributions.

CSO: 4500/181

IRAQ

RAMADAN ASSESSES RECENT BATTLES, SYRIAN-LIBYAN ROLE IN WAR

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Jun 85 pp 8-11

[Interview with Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, by 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Qaysi: "Taha Yasin Ramadan: We Have Terminated Syrian Oil Pipeline Finally; al-Asad's Role Is More Dangerous Than al-Qadhdhafi's"]

[Text] Baghdad--When the chairman of the Followup Committee appealed for a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran during the month of Ramadan, Iraq responded to the appeal immediately and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, general commander of the armed forces, issued a decision ceasing fire on the sea, in the air and on land during the month of Ramadan and until the end of al-Fitr holiday whereas Iran rejected the cease-fire. This motivated the authorized Iraqi spokesman to declare, "The cease-fire is in place and we are prepared to rub the faces of the aggressors in the mud of defeat."

In view of the current situation, there are big questions seeking answers that diverge into the horde of analyses and reports and into what the hostile media broadcast. However, the war is the axis of many of the current events and of the events that will take place in the future. Numerous developments stand before this jam, also awaiting answers. Iraq is about to penetrate the oil siege imposed by Damascus and described by the first deputy prime minister as the most serious act committed by the Syrian regime against Iraq while Iraq has been engaged in war. AL-DUSTUR put forth numerous questions to Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraq's first deputy prime minister, in a comprehensive interview.

[Question] Iraq responded to the appeal made by the Followup Committee for a cease-fire during the month of Ramadan whereas Iran rejected it. How do you analyze the current situation in light of the Iranian insistence on continuing the war?

[Answer] The Iranian strategy of mobilizing the Iranian citizen is based on throwing this citizen into the war and on misleading the citizens into believing that they will triumph in exporting their so-called revolution. But they have failed throughout the past 5 years to achieve their goals of occupying Iraq. These poor Iranian citizens are misled with the slogan of religion. When Iran's rules turn in the direction of peace, then this would mean changing their strategy, which is founded on aggression, and responding to the appeal issued by the International Popular Islamic Conference for a

cease-fire during the month of Ramadan. Even though this is a temporary cease-fire formula, it is capable of creating suitable conditions for displaying good will and better conditions after the cease-fire period. But Iran's rulers constantly exploit Iraq's positions toward peace to claim before their peoples that Iraq's response is a sign of weakness, instability and fear of the future. But the entire world knows that the truth is exactly the opposite. Iraq calls for peace because it believes in peace and in a strategy built on peace from a position of strength. We have sought to be forerunners by accepting the appeal in order to reemphasize our principled position vis-a-vis peace--a position emanating from the strength and capability of the armed forces and of the great people. We deal with any call for peace as a positive initiative and we find nothing embarrassing in making the right decision quickly, regardless of whether the initiative comes from the committee or from any other international circle known for its mediation to end the conflict. We have heard their [Iranians'] statements. They live with the same mentality which makes them think that Iraq's response emanates from weakness. This does not at all concern us because we are confident of our capabilities, ourselves and our army and of the unity of our people and of the ability of our sophisticated weapons to repel any aggression. All peoples of the world are now clearly aware of Iraq's stance of support for peace from a position of strength. I believe that broad sectors of the Iranian people have begun to be aware of this fact and this is important to us.

[Question] In the wake of the Iraqi victory at Hawr al-Huwayzah, Khomeyni addressed the Iranians, saying: "You have performed your duty toward the faith." This was tantamount to an acknowledgement of the defeat. How do you view the phenomena of the continued war?

[Answer] We do not rely on this address or on others. Their statements are numerous and they are fond of talking. They have suffered an ugly military defeat and a very big and real catastrophe has been inflicted on them. This is what the entire world has agreed on, whether directly or indirectly. However, if there are any Iranian minds thinking of the minimum limit of the enormous consequences of this battle, they should certainly realize the need to deal with peace on the basis of the fact that the dimensions of the losses have been very big and that they ultimately did not score any victory against Iraq even though they had big plans and objectives behind this battle. "Our Syrian and Libyan brothers" have gotten us accustomed to their urging and encouraging the Iranian aggression even though they are aware of the Iranian arena that has begun to expand and to resist the war in an open, concerted and continuous manner. Even within the ruling clique in Iran, there are those who want to deal with peace positively. As for Syria's and Libya's rulers, they encourage the aggressors and support them whenever they feel the Iranians' enormous losses. These rulers have also taken into their calculations the political, economic and moral aid required of them for a continuation of the war. According to the available information, it seems that the Libyans and Syrians have advised the Iranians to stage a quick offensive, believing that the Iraqis are exhausted. These stupid people have forgotten that they have not triumphed in a single battle in the last 5 years. Moreover, Hafiz Asad himself has not triumphed in a battle throughout his political and military life. Rather, he has always surrendered new Arab territories to the Zionist enemy. Asad also

forgot that time, though beneficial to Iraq in mobilizing, is also beneficial to "his brothers in Iran." If, according to their belief, we have not prepared to face another quick offensive, then the Iranian quick offensive will, in turn, be unprepared and unstudied and will certainly fail and have worse consequences than the battle preceding it, as in the case of Hawr al-Huwayzah battle for which they prepared well and in which numerous known and unknown sides participated. They have transferred military units and moved their concentrations to the sectors from which the offensive has been planned to be launched. We have anticipated the day and the hour of the offensive. We believe that the reason for the Iranian confusion is their fear of the failure of this offensive and their certainty, in light of the failure of Hawr al-Huwayzah battle which has been called by Leader President Saddam Husayn the crown of battles, would be born dead. According to the information, their military command, after familiarizing itself with the major Iraqi military preparations and with the weapons facing them, is certain that such an offensive is doomed to failure, if not impossible. This is the conviction of their military command. However, they have hinted at this offensive and postponed it. But their main concentration is still present. We do not assess the situation on the basis of their statements. We observe every move they make and we have full information. We have a complete picture of all the details of their moves and statements and we are prepared for any sudden development and have not been caught by surprise. They have tried tactics this time and they resorted to changing some of their methods, spreading some information for the purpose of deception. But we, as I have already said, are aware of everything.

[Question] What is the significance added by the presence of President Saddam Husayn among the fighters during the battles to achieving victory throughout the past 5 years?

[Answer] The war with Iran is not a war of borders but a war of survival. It is a large-scale conspiracy spearheaded by Iran and including numerous international and Arab forces that seek to undermine Iraq and its revolution. A conspiracy of this kind requires more than just preparing military units to fight because it is a military, political, economic and cultural battle. Is there a battle more important than this one and a formula more serious than this one? Can President Saddam Husayn be far from it?

He is the main motive behind organizing and mobilizing the capabilities and behind the state of confrontation throughout the years of the war--a war about which it was said that before a month passed since the eruption of its battles, Iraq would collapse.

The conspiracy has failed and we have surprised the world with our capabilities. The main reason behind the confrontation and behind the escalation of these capabilities is the constant development in the process of popular mobilization. The presence of President Saddam Husayn at the head of the leadership planning to confront this aggression and to meet the requirements of this confrontation has given him the major role of securing the requirements of the confrontation and the capabilities for victory. It is no ordinary battle. The president has had a vital role at the head of all the

battles, considering that his presence has given the fighters redoubled determination and courage and has embodied Iraq's right to defend its existence against the ambitions of the oppressive clique in Iran which has been denounced by Muslims in all parts of the world. Saddam Husayn has played the ultimate role in all the progress and development that we see in the Iraqi armed forces and in entrenching the national unity and internal stability. The entire world attests to this.

[Question] Does not Khamene'i's attack on the late President 'Abd-al-Nasir come within the framework of Kissinger's theory of finding an equation that serves Israel by pitting Islam against Arabism?

[Answer] The fact is that the issue of Arabism creates a complex for the Iranians. They try to undermine Arabism with all means and methods. This is nothing new. because we are their neighbors, we, the Iraqis, have experienced such attempts before and after the inception of Islam and throughout the ages. Their hostility to the Arabs is historical and deep-rooted. What exists in Iran is not an Islamic government and not the government of an Islamic sect. Their practices--be they executions, racist sectarian conduct, arrogance, haughtiness and their setting themselves up as custodians over the Muslims--have nothing to do with Islam. Khomeyni's insolence has taken him as far as accusing the Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, of not completing the message and saying that he, Khomeyni, has come to complete it. Their hatred for the Arabs is well known and their hatred for Islam is also well known. But their hatred for the Arabs is stronger because they believe that the Arabs are the cause of the collapse of their empire. Thus, this hatred is endemic and deep-rooted. The Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, said: "If the Arabs are humiliated, Islam is humiliated." This hatred has continued ceaselessly. There is no difference between the shah's era and Khomeyni's era. One follows the other's steps. The shah had ambitions in Iraq and the Arab Gulf and occupied the three Arab islands. What has Khomeyni done differently from the shah since he assumed power? He has declared that the islands are Iranian and said that Bahrain is Iranian. If the shah called for a referendum in the Arab Gulf with the aim of annexing it, then Khomeyni has sought to occupy the Gulf by force.

Thus, the shah and Khomeyni are two faces of the same coin.

Iranian policy under the shah and under Khomeyni has the same ambitions and the same policy of expansion. Moreover, there have been premeditated and long-range plans behind the maneuver to which Khomeyni resorted at the outset of his administration when he handed the Israeli embassy in Iran over to the Palestinians and called for the liberation of Palestine. They used to say that the sectarian organizations existing in Lebanon stand in the face of Israel and fight Israel. But we now find these organizations, which are nurtured by Khomeyni, acting on behalf of Israel in striking at and massacring the Palestinians. What is more, these organizations will repeat the Sabra and Shatila massacres, which were perpetrated against the Palestinians.

Zionism finds in Persia's rulers the desired object to implement its schemes and it facilitates these rulers' mission in this regard. One of Israel's

aspirations is for the war to continue and it considers the continuation of this war an important and essential matter. Israel declares openly through its officials its extreme happiness with the continuation of the war and it cannot imagine that Iraq will emerge from it triumphant because it has become accustomed to fighting [Arab] rulers for a few days, not to say hours, in a quick offensive that decides the outcome in its favor. When Israel finds an Arab country fighting for 5 years with sophisticated weapons, this causes it concern. Israel's geographic and demographic nature does not permit it to wage a prolonged battle. Kissinger is the advocate of pitting Arabism against Islam as long as this serves Zionism and transforms the Arab goals, after striking them, into side battles like the battles we witness nowadays. It is necessary that the Arab and Muslim officials realize these dangers because the hatred in the hearts of the Persians has been the cause of sabotage and racism since the onset of Islam, considering that throughout the ages this phenomena has not existed in Pakistan, Bangladesh or any of the other nations that have embraced Islam. All Muslims consider the Arabs the means for the dissemination of Islam. In all the phases of history, it is only the Persians who have harbored open and hidden hostility toward the Arabs. Persia's rulers considered their adoption of Islam the loss of their empire. This hostility has continued to be deep-rooted. The objective is the same, even though the means and the times have changed.

[Question] Recently, Iranian Jews have been translocated into Israel. Moreover, some Jewish merchants in Iran collect contributions to support Khomeyni. What is your opinion?

[Answer] Since the first days of the war, there has been firm cooperation between Khomeyni's Iran and Israel, even though many in the world doubted that such a relationship existed until Israel itself and other international circles exposed it. The incident of the Argentine aircraft [carrying Israeli weapons to Iran] which crashed is well known. We find a new form of conduct in dealing with Israel every time. Quantities of weapons shipped from Israel were discovered. The Israeli rulers acknowledged [the fact] and the Iranians admitted that the weapons belonged to them and claimed that they were in repayment of past debts dating from the shah's time. Does he who takes weapons from Israel under the cover of repayment of debts plan to fight Israel?

This is falsehood and deception. As for the translocation of the Iranian Jews to Israel, it has been going on continuously and it is a logical and natural thing that is compatible with Iran's policy of cooperation with the Zionists.

[Question] Tehran has repeatedly announced its acceptance of peace in vague terms or through silence. The Iranian officials's silence indicated acceptance but they would then issue statements on the following day rejecting peace.

[Answer] Iran has no clear intentions insofar as peace is concerned. It is undoubtedly a maneuver to gain time. Iran's rulers, headed by Khomeyni, consider continuation of the war the main guarantee for the survival of their regime. The day Khomeyni becomes certain that continuation of the war affects his rule, he will stop the war. We find that all the Iranian opposition factions, though in disagreement and disunited, raise the slogan of ending the

war because they believe that the continuation of this war allows the rulers to continue to oppress their people. Ending the war will prepare the way for the Iranian people to take their real place. Khomeyni imagines that continuation of the war is a proof of strength. He is thus acting intransigently to give his people the impression that he is strong. This is his concept. Some countries believe that we should make some concessions to Iran so that it may sit and negotiate with us. This contradicts the international resolutions. This unobjective view has helped these ignorant rulers to persist in their transgression. We blame some of these states for the manner in which they deal with Iran even though it insists on aggression. These states must take more serious and clearer positions and must focus these positions on peace fundamentally.

[Question] In light of the Iraqi announcement that Iraqi oil will flow through Saudi Arabia as of next September and that the capacity of the Turkish pipeline will be increased, will Iraq terminate the Iraqi pipeline through the Syrian territories and what are the economic consequences of the termination of this pipeline to the Syrian economy since there is a severe economic crisis in Syria?

[Answer] Next September, the first phase will be completed and Iraq will be able to pump one-half million barrels a day. We are now in the process of completing studies for the second phase of this pipeline. As for the second Turkish pipeline, we are currently analyzing the offers made by the foreign firms and we hope to be able to start pumping through the second Turkish pipeline by the end of 1986. Thus, the set program to divert the Iraqi oil exports to secure routes beyond the influences of the war is proceeding according to plan. Consequently, we will not, practically, need the Syrian pipeline.

[Question] Is the Syrian pipeline as good as terminated?

[Answer] In my view, I consider it terminated during the war period and after the war. The entire capacity we wish to export can be exported through the Saudi and Turkish pipelines. Our ports in the Gulf will remain as a reserve. By shutting off the pipeline, Syria has participated in the conspiracy against Iraq, regardless of the economic and financial revenues the pipeline yields to the Syrian economy. There were royalties and Syria, moreover, got Iraqi oil at special prices. Their losses as a consequence of the termination of the pipeline will be big.

It was a big plot and the Syrians did not imagine that we would succeed in confronting it in such a manner. They were confident that their conspiratorial scheme would succeed. The Syrian pipeline has been, as constantly demonstrated under difficult circumstances, a sword hung over Iraq's head. When Iraq nationalized its oil in 1972, the Damascus regime levied a tribute on Iraq and when the war erupted between Iraq and Iran, the regime used the pipeline to put pressure on Iraq. If the Syrian pipeline is of no use to us under the difficult circumstances and if it is to be a sword hung over our heads during such circumstances, then we don't need it under ordinary circumstances. We have secured a capacity that enables us to dispense finally with the Syrian pipeline.

[Question] There are reports to the effect that al-Qadhdhafi's debts have mounted to 11 billion dollars. What is your comment on what Kreisky, Austria's ex-chancellor, once said about al-Qadhdhafi being capable of stopping the Gulf war. Wasn't Kreisky thus referring to Libya's weapons purchases for Iran?

[Answer] We respect ex-Chancellor Kreisky's opinion and we appreciate his positions on the war since its outset. But Libya's role in instigating and encouraging Iran to continue the war is a big and fundamental one that emanates from many things. Al-Qadhdhafi is, according to our information, preoccupied with purchasing weapons and stacking them in his stores. He has no real army. When the Palestinians appealed to him for help during the Beirut blockade, he told them to commit suicide. He has a role in purchasing weapons from the black market, either directly or through middlemen, for Iran. But I cannot estimate his debts. He is squandering the Libyan people's monies in purchasing weapons, engaging in sabotage and conspiracies, buying the people's conscience and plotting against the Palestinian revolution.

[Question] The citizen wants to know the reasons for al-Qadhdhafi's hostility to Iraq and his support for a foreign country, namely Iran, against Arab Iraq. Are al-Qadhdhafi and Hafiz Asad Muslims in the Khomeyni style?

[Answer] It is my conviction that Libya's, Syria's and Iran's rulers are not Muslims. They are against Islam and each of them antagonizes true Islam in his own way. Even though I do not wish to provoke a sectarian issue, I would like to say that Syria's ruler is not, despite his claims, a Muslim. The objective of his actions is to tear apart true Islam.

As for Libya's ruler, he was the first to raise the slogan of rejecting the Prophet's Sunna, to omit a number of verses from the venerable Koran and to change the Hegira calendar. Muslims are supposed to confront this man decisively because he has deviated from Islam. They should confront him as the early Muslims confronted the false Musaylimah and other impostors. If an Iraqi official were to assault Islam by one-tenth as much as al-Qadhdhafi has assaulted it, we would see what a stir the people make. Can al-Qadhdhafi, Libya's ruler who openly calls for fighting the United States and pretends to be planning the assassination of this or that U.S. president conceal a firm fact, namely that 60 percent of Libya's economy is tied to the U.S. economy? As for Khomeyni, he also is not a Muslim. He has distorted the concepts of Islam, exploited Islam for his private interests, presented a poor model of Islam and harmed Islam, beginning with the murder of children, the execution of pregnant women and sidewalk trials and ending with other practices that do not exist in Islam. He is an evil politician exploiting whatever is abnormal to serve his interests. For example, the Shi'ite creed's view of al-Nusayriyah is clear and does not differ from the Sunna creed's view. But Khomeyni says that al-Nusayriyah is a Shi'ite faction, knowing that he is lying through his teeth. But as a tactic and to gain the friendship of others, he does whatever he wishes. Both Hafiz Asad and Khomeyni lie to each other. We know that Rif'at al-Asad played a role in the case of Musa al-Sadr to force al-Sadr to declare a religious legal opinion on the issue of al-Nusayriyah and their intermarriage with Shi'ites. But Musa al-Sadr refused at the time and said that this was impossible. Al-Nusayriyah has no connection with any of the sects; it deviates

from all the sects and is declared atheistic. There is no Islamic sect that says there is no fasting, prayer, almsgiving and pilgrimage in Islam. So who is a Muslim: Hafiz Asad or the charlatan Khomeyni?

[Question] How do you view Egypt's current position toward the Palestinian issue?

[Answer] President Mubarak's action, his view of the PLO, his position on the invasion of Lebanon, his protection of the Palestinian strugglers in the face of Israel's aggression, his position on the Iraq-Iran war and on the Syrian blockade of Tripoli--we find in all these actions positive stances that are in total contradiction with Camp David. The issue does not concern a written paper or any other kind of paper and I do not wish to be Egypt's defense lawyer. But what have Syria's and Libya's rulers, who claim to be Arabs and who are signatories of the joint defense treaty which in their opinion has become more ink on paper, done? I say frankly that Husni Mubarak is not al-Sadat. Al-Sadat concluded the Camp David accord whereas you find that President Mubarak is trying to perform his pan-Arab role and to improve his relations with the Arab countries. His position on the Palestinian issue and on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination has become clear. We hope that he and the fraternal Egyptian people will be fully successful in ridding themselves of the shackles inherited from the ill-fated era of al-Sadat.

We are aware of Egypt's weight and Egypt's importance. Those calling for the isolation of Egypt and putting conditions on Egypt's return to the Arabs are the ones working to tear apart both the Arab nation and Egypt at the same time. Husni Mubarak, unlike al-Sadat, does not wish to be a substitute for the Palestinian people. Mubarak's actions are clear. I say that Camp David is in conflict with recognition of the PLO, with receiving its chairman and with similar actions.

[Question] Iran is trying to cling to the Majnun oilfields. Do you think that Iran wants them as a pressuring card to achieve its declared objectives?

[Answer] The Syrian rulers instigate the Iranians to cling to at least a foothold in Majnun so that they may bargain over the Kharj blockade. They have turned statements into a business, thus trying to alleviate the crisis in which they live before their peoples after all the major defeats and lost battles. They promise their peoples the hope of "ploughing the seas." Hafiz Asad encourages them in this regard in an attempt to break the tight Iraqi blockade on Kharj Island. But our artillery is pounding their positions and will not give them a breather.

[Question] What is your assessment of the Iraqi economy's position after 5 years of war and will the planned projects continue as scheduled?

[Answer] The Iraqi economy is a model economy. I cannot find any country in the world waging a war and maintaining its balance despite the drop in the growth rate. The next plan will be more precise and will be clearer and broader than the plan of the past 5 years in view of increased revenues and of breaking the oil blockade imposed on Iraq.

[Question] What is Iraq's position on what has happened in Sudan and what is your assessment of Iraqi-Sudanese relations in the new situation?

[Answer] What has happened in Sudan is an internal affair concerning Sudan. We believe that what the Sudanese people choose is the right and sound thing. We call for good relations between the two fraternal Arab countries. This is compatible with our pan-Arab principle and our foreign policy. We hope that Sudan will overcome its real difficulties. Even though Sudan is an agricultural country with cultivable land and abundant water, it is, regrettably, experiencing severe economic difficulties. We hope that Sudan, as an Arab country, will overcome its tribulation and we wish it success and all the best now that it has broken the circle of isolation.

[Question] How do you view the events in Lebanon?

[Answer] The massacres and tragedies occurring in Lebanon could not occur if Syria withdrew from Lebanon militarily and politically and if it relinquished its domination of this Arab country, which has been bleeding for 10 years. Hafiz Asad's departure from Lebanon will enable the Lebanese people to overcome the problem of the partition of this fraternal country. Unity among the Lebanese people can be achieved if Syria departs and allows the Lebanese the option to overcome their tribulations in total freedom from the intervention of the Syrians and their support for the sectarian militias that are tied to Khomeyni's regime and that serve the Zionist objectives of tearing the Arab homeland apart with instruments wearing the mask of Arabism and Islam.

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IRAQ

RAMADAN EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR PLO-JORDANIAN PEACE EFFORTS

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 1 Jul 85 p 5

[Interview with Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, by Hasanayn Kurum: "Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister to AL-AHRAR: We Bless Any Jordanian-Palestinian Agreement for Settlement with Israel; No Thought Is Being Given to Conducting Joint Egyptian-Iraqi Military Exercises"]

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, the Iraqi first deputy prime minister, stated that Iraq blesses any agreement between Jordan and the PLO for a settlement of the Palestinian problem. He also said that Iraq is giving no thought at present to conducting joint military exercises with the Egyptian forces and that Iraq is not trying to establish a regional bloc with Egypt and Jordan. Ramadan further stated that the Egyptian firms will have a role in rebuilding Iraq when the war ends. The first deputy prime minister added that the establishment of good relations between Iraq and the United States does not come at the Soviet Union's expense.

This was stated in the interview conducted by AL-AHRAR with Taha Yasin Ramadan during his visit to Cairo last week.

[Question] The Egyptian and Jordanian armed forces have conducted joint exercises. There is military cooperation between Egypt and Iraq on the issue of weapons. Are you thinking of conducting joint exercises by the Egyptian and Iraqi forces?

[Answer] This issue is not under discussion. Cooperation in this sphere between Jordan and Iraq or between Iraq and Egypt must take place within the framework of developing Arab capabilities in a manner that does not provoke any negative aspect. The military cooperation between Egypt and Iraq has its broad spheres in armament, manufacturing and joint courses.

[Question] If the Jordanians and the PLO agree on peace with Israel and accept a settlement with it, would you bless the agreement?

[Answer] Every position is tied to its time and circumstances. When the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was reached, we did not express a position of principle but proceeded on the basis of the reality. The Jordanians and the Palestinians agreed on a position and we blessed their agreement and asked them

to enhance their trust and cooperation. We, as Arabs, often reach agreements without witnessing any implementation of what is agreed upon. When we supported the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, we did not express our opinion on the details. However, we bless any agreement between them and encourage the development of this agreement.

[Question] Is thought being given to establishing an economic bloc comprised of Egypt, Iraq and Jordan?

[Answer] No thought has been given to this so far. However, it is wrong to call a formula of this sort an economic bloc. There is an Arab economic bloc regulating the cooperation between any two countries. When we agree with Egypt or Jordan, we do not disregard coordination among the Arab countries.

[Question] When the war with Iran ends, the process of rebuilding will take place in Iraq. Don't you think that it is necessary to give Egypt, rather than foreign firms, a bigger share in implementing the rebuilding projects?

[Answer] We certainly hope so. The presence of Egyptian labor at present or after the war is an element that assists the rebuilding. This issue, namely the role of the Egyptian firms, will be given our attention. We hope that the Egyptian executive capabilities will grow and will play a role in the rebuilding.

[Question] Have your new relations with the United States led to the emergence of problems between you and the Soviet Union?

[Answer] The restoration of relations with the United States has been clear and unambiguous and we have put the Soviets in the picture insofar as these relations are concerned. The relationship with the United States is not at the expense of our relationship with the Soviet Union. We move closer to or farther from any state on the basis of our interest.

[Question] What is the Soviet Union's position now that it has been proven that Libya has supplied Iran with Soviet missiles?

[Answer] We notified the Soviets and they followed up on the issue with us to make sure that the source of the Libyan-supplied missiles is the Soviet Union. They have made sure of this because we got the serial numbers of the missiles after they exploded. The Soviets have expressed their displeasure and sent a strongly-worded memorandum to Libya. But I cannot say that the Soviets have done all they could do in this regard.

8494

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ISRAEL

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST EXAMINED

Tel Aviv KOTERET RASHIT in Hebrew 10 Jul 85 pp 16-17, 31

/Article by Ayyal Erlich: "If I Had \$350,000"/

/Text/ By the end of the current fiscal year, the International Center for Peace in the Middle East /ICPME/, which is now in its 3d year of activity, will come close to its first million. In expenses. In dollars. We asked the secretary general of the center whether peace is now also closer; he did not like the question very much.

Several PLO and Israeli left-wing activists were supposed to meet for a peace dialogue last week. A charitable Christian organization, Pax Christi, had invited them--how nice and convenient--to Amsterdam. Khalid al-Hasan and 'Imad Shakur of the PLO were supposed to be there, as well as eight Israelis from RAKAH, the Progressive List, from a body that calls itself the "Israeli Socialist Left" (SASI), and from the remnants of "There Is A Limit." Subsequently, the hosts discovered that the Israelis did not exactly represent the views of the left in Israel, and tried to expand the delegation. They wanted representatives of the Labor Party, MAPAM, and RATZ, but by then it was too late: These did not want to go with those, and those did not want to be considered as an annex to the former. They all argued and bickered, and in the end, everybody stayed home. The dialogue in Amsterdam was cancelled.

Knesset Member Mordekhai Bar-On (RATZ) was one of those who had been invited. He told the organizers that in the future they should go to the ICPME, an institution with headquarters in Tel Aviv. Only that center, Bar-On said, is capable of assembling an Israeli peace delegation with representatives from all sorts of parties and movements in the right proportion. Bar-On: "The ICPME is the umbrella organization of the peace camp in Israel."

That is, of course, not precise, but it is flattering to the self-image of the center. "People who want their dialogue to be successful come to us," says the general director of the center, David Shaham. Israeli-Palestinian meetings have become more numerous in recent years, and various beautiful cities in the world have become fashionable among and sought after by politicians and all sorts of persons of influence and supporters of peace and travel.

The ICPME has now been active for 3 years; since its establishment it has spent somewhat over \$70,000 on air tickets and living expenses for Israeli and foreign peace supporters. By the end of the current fiscal year this figure will come close to \$100,000. "That is not much," says General Director Shaham. It is merely about 10 percent of the funds that the center will have spent by the end of this year, which is about \$1 million. I asked the general director if peace is \$1 million closer than it was before the establishment of the center. Shaham did not care for the question. "That is hard to say," he answered, rather troubled. "Does anyone ask the Labor Party whether socialism is any closer after all the money it spent on it? Our function is not to advance peace, but to serve the peace camp in Israel. The activities of the center bring peace closer. That I do not doubt. We have certain achievements to our credit. That is equally doubtless."

No, there does not seem to be any way to measure that; hence, I focused on the question of whether the center spent its money as efficiently as possible in the pursuit of its objectives. That is arguable. I asked several people what they would do if they had so much money for promoting peace. Their ideas were no more brilliant than those of the center. It would seem that advancing peace is not that easy, even with \$350,000 a year.

The ICPME was the brain child of a publication called NEW OUTLOOK, founded in 1957 for the purpose of spreading MAPAM's ideas abroad. In 1969, MAPAM withdrew its support, and the editors went abroad to seek financiers. In the process, they established a fund raising apparatus that later served to establish the center. David Shaham was appointed editor of NEW OUTLOOK in 1975, after his predecessor, Simkha Palfen, went abroad.

The publication was then in the midst of a financial crisis, but Shaham managed to revive it through an extensive network of connections abroad. At a certain stage, he told me this week, the staff came to feel that newspapers are not enough. Their feeling became stronger after the 1981 Knesset elections, when it became clear that the standoff between the two major political blocs in Israel may paralyze the country's political system for a long period of time. They believed that what was needed was a body that would bring pressure to bear on the government to act for peace.

Shaham the militant knew how such an institution should look: It should have an honorary president (former judge Hayim Cohen), a chairman (Knesset Member Abba Eban), and an international board chairman (Arthur Herzberg), all doves, all well known, and all respectable. The center leadership included 15 Knesset members from leftist and center parties, and prominent U.S. Jews were also invited to lend their names. Shaham, a writer and former journalist and publicist (Shaham-Leminson-Elon), is the general director. Dr. Arye Ya'ari of Kibbutz 'En Dor is the academic director, and Willy Gafni, one of the old staffers of NEW OUTLOOK, is the administrative director.

The center's founding meeting was scheduled to be held at the National Assembly Hall in Paris. Senate Chairman Alain Poher promised to deliver the opening speech, and Willi Brandt and Phillip Klutznick—who was then chairman of the World Jewish Congress—promised to come.

And then the Lebanon War broke out. The gala opening was cancelled, and a more modest one was held a few months later. The center's first action in July 1982 was to publish extracts (in English) from the Israeli press.

Shaham: "The purpose of the publications we send abroad is to present the strength and might of the Israeli peace movement. It began in the Lebanon War. We translated from the Israeli press material that reflected the depth of the opposition to the war. The purpose was to form a support front in the Jewish world, particularly in the United States. I can prove that a good part of the Israeli peace movement relies on the Jewish world abroad. The publications we send give legitimacy to Jewish criticism of the policy of the Israeli Government. Sometimes, only this legitimacy to criticize the government prevents them from turning their backs on the state. From this viewpoint, we are fulfilling a very useful function."

The center's publications reach some 4,500 subscribers abroad and an equal number in Israel. The cost of the project: approximately \$85,000 a year.

Financially Independent

In October 1983 the center established the Jewish-Arab Council for Peace Education, which counts about 1,500 members--mostly teachers and educators, half of them Jewish and half Arabs. The center organizes for them and for young party activists--mostly from development towns--seminars on social and political topics, at which the lecturers are university people and Knesset members. Some 45 seminars for teachers dealing with democracy education are scheduled for this summer. Shaham says that the educational projects of the center require approximately \$85,000. Similarly, the center finances various research projects (\$10,000 went to a study of human rights in the territories, carried out by RATZ activist Dadi Zucker, and \$40,000 to a study of the Arab village by Professor Henry Rosenfeld). NEW OUTLOOK receives from the center \$15,000 a year.

The center has coopted several dozen Knesset members who from time to time publish statements on political topics. This forum is not permanent, but serves for consultation, for crystalizing political positions, and sometimes for political contacts with personalities in the territories and with PLO people abroad. Recently, the center initiated a meeting between several Israeli Knesset members and one of Yasir 'Arafat's aides, 'Imad Shakur, in Germany. Shaham: "That was an important meeting, as it helped lift the taboo on meetings with the PLO. From now on, a meeting with the PLO for the purpose of exchanging views will no longer be viewed as an act of treason." However, a proposal to issue a declaration in support of Husayn's initiative was pre-empted; Abba Eban suggested abstaining from such a declaration because it may embarrass the government.

A few months ago, the center was preparing to host Bruno Kreisky in Israel. "But his visit would have angered the public more than it would have advanced peace," I told Shaham. "Possibly," he replied. "Some of our people were of the same opinion. I thought that the Israeli public should be exposed to Kreisky's ideas, too." The visit was cancelled in the wake of the storm caused by the exchange of prisoners that Kreisky mediated.

The money comes from abroad. Shaham openly lists his sources and expenses; among the supporters are foundations such as the Alan Stroock Foundation, the Anne Frank Foundation, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation of Germany, and the Ford Foundation of the United States, and private supporters such as David Susskind, a Belgian millionaire, and Cora Weiss of New York, who is the financial patron of the international left-wing. Weiss is the daughter of cosmetics mogul Samuel (Faberge) Rubin, whose name is borne by the Rubin Dance Academy in Israel.

Shaham: "No single donation exceeds 15 percent of our yearly budget, a fact which presents two advantages: firstly, there is no single factor that can disrupt the center's activities by withdrawing its support, and secondly, we are not financially dependent on any factor." The center maintains an office in New York which deals, among other things, with raising donations.

I asked Shaham whether he knows where his money is coming from, whether he could say for a fact, for example, that no money was coming from Saudi Arabia?

Shaham: "I know the source of each donation. I would not mind receiving Saudi or Jordanian money to finance, for example, joint studies with Arab scholars on reducing the arms buildup in the Middle East."

Shaham (62), is the son of the late writer Eli'ezer Steinmann and the brother of writer Nathan Shaham. He was active in the Shomer Hatza'ir and was a member of Kibbutz Bet Alfa. He studied law, and, after a career in advertizing, brought out OT, the publication of the Labor Party.

Says Shaham about his motivation for being active in the center: "I am preparing myself for the report of the commission that will investigate what we did to prevent the holocaust that will follow the next war."

Being a "Peacenik"

The center's running and management expenses total about \$100,000 a year. Half of this amount is required to pay the salaries of 12 staff members, some of whom work parttime. The center has roomy offices and a computer of its own. Shaham says that the running costs of the center make up about 30 percent of its budget, which is lower than the average for institutions of this type.

I asked Teddy Kollek, chairman of the Jerusalem Foundation, about this, and he said that his foundation's running costs come to about four percent of its budget.

Three years after its establishment, the center has gained the reputation of an institution that spends too much money on projects that do not advance its stated objectives, on exaggerated management expenses, and on too many trips overseas.

Dr Miron Benvenisti, an expert on what is happening in the territories, says: "There are many things that can be done in this area. They could work out an aid program for the refugees in the Gaza Strip, for example, or an applied study on how to develop the economy of the territories. The trouble with the ICPME is that they perceive everything from a diplomatic viewpoint. They cannot do anything, and therefore they keep saying that something must be done.

"The ICPME is an air bubble. They live in symbiosis with themselves, pat each other on the shoulder, and preach to the believers. They also have a very selective attitude toward people who think differently. For example, they believe that I am a propagandist for the Likud, because I believe that the situation in the West Bank is irreversible. They do not promote the forces of peace, but themselves. They also have their own Arabs. Everything is in the air. That is not the way to bring peace.

"Arafat, for example, is no longer a significant factor, but they cling to him as an option because they have invested heavily in him. Being a 'peacenik' today has become a profession that brings a salary and many trips abroad. Peace institutions proliferate all over the world. They have formed a league and are busy inviting each other to international dialogues."

Shaham: "The center helped Benvenisti in his initial studies on the situation in the territories. When he came to the conclusion that the situation in the territories is irreversible, we told him that this may be his personal conclusion, not that of the study, and requested him not to publish it as such. He refused, and we stopped giving him money."

When Shaham speaks in the first person plural he refers (according to him) to the positions of the leadership of the center and of its board of trustees. "At management meetings," he says, "we argue at length about topical political subjects, until we agree on a position."

The center did not give much money to Peace Now, either, and Peace Now members are angry. According to them, they do more for peace than the center.

Shaham: "We gave them \$6,000 to publish announcements after Grinzwieg's murder. They have no influence on peace. They activate public feelings that exist anyway."

It would seem that all these peace supporters compete with each other for the same sources of support. Shaham: "That is not true. There is no competition." But all of you appeal to Cora Weiss, I told him. "Not all," Shaham replied. "She agreed to see the Peace Now people only at our recommendation. She gave them \$1,000; to us she gives \$40,000."

Janet Avi'ad, one of the Peace Now activists, says: "If I had \$350,000 a year for peace, I would concentrate on educating the young people in Israel and on influencing public opinion here, not abroad."

Hashim Mahmid, mayor of Umm al-Fahm, would use the money to build in his town a museum to document racial policies. Abie Nathan would use it to finance youth exchanges with Egypt. Teddy Kollek, too, is in favor of youth exchanges and of joint projects for Jewish and Arab youth. He would invest heavily in teaching Arabic to Jewish students and Hebrew to Arabs. Raya Retig, secretary general of the Association of Socialist Workers in Israel, would use the money as a starter for a rehabilitation foundation for Palestinian refugees--as the basis for an extensive international rehabilitation project.

I told Shaham that I would ask several people what they would do with the money. "Please yourself," he answered. "I shall read all their suggestions with great interest."

JORDAN

BRIEFS

ARMS CONTACTS WITH FRANCE--Well-informed Arab sources have revealed that Jordan is currently holding secret contacts with France and Britain to discuss the possibility of concluding deals on new and sophisticated weapons, particularly fighter planes, military helicopters, and anti-aircraft missiles to protect the Jordanian airspace. These sources asserted that King Husayn gave the green light to hold these contacts with Paris and London after he had been convinced that fulfillment of the U.S. promise to supply Jordan with sophisticated military hardware may be delayed for a long time. Reagan's administration had earlier canceled plans to supply Jordan with modern fighter planes, anti-aircraft missile networks, and other weapons because the Congress strongly objected to such arms sales and stipulated that Jordan and Israel should begin negotiations before this deal could be approved. Reagan informed King Husayn that submitting the deal to the Congress would be postponed until the end of this year, but it seems that the Jordanian monarch expects this postponement to be much longer. Meanwhile, Amman avoided contacting Moscow for modern weapons due to the Soviets' strong opposition of the Jordan-led peace process. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 27 Jul 85 p 8]

CSO: 4400/231

KUWAIT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REACTS TO BOMBING INCIDENTS

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 27 Jul-2 Aug 85 p 23

[Article: "Contrary To What Those Who Plant Bombs Expect, Terrorism Is Being Met With Execution"]

[Text] The representatives of the Kuwaiti people concluded their session by passing strict laws to deal with terrorism, and achieved their long-desired goal of eliminating compulsory support for the confrontation states and making such support voluntary.

The acts of aggression to which the innocent people of Kuwait were subjected at the hands of those who planted the coffeehouse bombs continue to arouse reactions on the Arab and international scene, and the amir of Kuwait has received numerous telephone calls and telegrams condemning, denouncing and reviling such terrorist acts.

On his part, Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, who was away from Kuwait for health reasons which necessitated surgery in London, affirmed that the two explosions which occurred in the Kuwait coffeehouses point to hostile intentions to shake up the country's security and stability, and said that the harmony and cohesiveness of Kuwait's domestic front occasions optimism in the possibility of protecting and preserving Kuwait's stability.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah explained to several Kuwaitis who visited him in London to inquire about his health and congratulate him on his safe recovery that the fact that everyone in Kuwait is aware of their responsibilities will deprive individuals and organizations of any opportunity of using this means to shatter the domestic front or carry out their designs.

The Kuwaiti crown prince stressed the commitment to implementing the policy drawn up by Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad with the well-being and interests of his people in mind, and said, "We appreciate the responsibilities which have been laid on our shoulders, and we cannot hesitate in implementing this policy." Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah affirmed the Kuwaiti people's desire to show

no neglect towards the mission which their grandfathers assumed and made sacrifices for, and emphasized Kuwait's determination not to accede to the demands of terrorist organizations. The Kuwaiti crown prince did not forget to warn of the imminent dangers to the Gulf region in general and Kuwait in particular, saying, "Through harmony and mutual support, we can stand up to these dangers."

In another context, the few days following the bombing incidents in Kuwait saw prompt developments on the security and political levels. With respect to security, it was decided to add to the general state budget a new allocation of 15 million Kuwaiti dinars, or \$US50 million, to strengthen Kuwait's security forces and prepare them to confront the campaign of terrorism to which Kuwait has been subjected, which makes no distinction between innocent lives and public targets. Within a very short time, the Kuwaiti government, working with the National Assembly, succeeded in passing a new law dealing with explosives, which provides a maximum penalty of execution or life imprisonment in case anyone is killed.

On the political level, the National Assembly won a new demand during its final session of Wednesday 17 July, the closing meeting of its first session. For some time, during previous National Assembly sessions, the deputies have demanded that the aid clause in the general state budget be abolished. This is the aid which Kuwait is committed to pay to Syria, Jordan and the PLO in accordance with the resolutions of the Baghdad Arab summit. The Kuwaiti government has always insisted that it is committed to the idea of support because of its commitment to the Arab summit decisions. However, in the last assembly session, the government, in a secret session, was unable to convince the assembly to moderate its determined stand on this support. The atmosphere of bombings, and the painful incidents suffered by Kuwait, which are not lacking in Arab fingerprints, are basic reasons for the National Assembly's persistence in its stand on support. In such circumstances, the government could only go along with the assembly's decision by concluding a deal between both sides to abolish the 100 million dinar, or \$333 million, support clause and increase the foreign aid clause from 50 million to 150 million dinars. While the government accepted this solution, inasmuch as it makes it possible for the government to continue to discharge its Arab commitments, particularly the provision of aid in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions, the assembly found that it had achieved its own goal of relieving the general budget of a clause which had weighed heavily on it for years, especially during the recent lean years arising from the local and international petroleum situation. The assembly feels that even though an amount equal to the support was shifted to the foreign aid clause, the abolition of the support clause was a victory, since it looked upon the support clause as being compulsory. The matter is completely different with respect to the foreign aid clause, since the assembly feels that Kuwait provides foreign aid as it wishes, i.e. by choice and not by force.

All of these developments took place less than a week after the two sea-side coffeehouse bombings, which aroused intense reactions throughout Kuwaiti society, which is unaccustomed to such strange crimes. After a wave of violent

anger and deep grief for the souls of the innocent Kuwaiti children who paid the ultimate price for the noble stands of their country's government, the Kuwaiti people realized, from government directives issued in the course of the officials' handling of the incidents, that the violent Kuwait was witnessing at the hands of violent criminals was aimed at stirring up doubt and attacking the basic structure of Kuwaiti society by pushing it beyond the limits of self-possession and control over events.

Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir described Kuwait's tribulations in the following profound words: "All of us--amir, people, government and assembly--all of Kuwait is capable of rising above these successive events so strange to our society, which prove the need, now more than any time past, to preserve the solidity of our national unity and to firmly and resolutely oppose everyone who is seduced into infringing on our nation, our capabilities, and our free will." Shaykh Sabah's remark came during a speech he delivered to the National Assembly at the end of its first session, in which he stressed that the game of the foolish and the vengeful serves no rational cause, their acts of aggression have no legitimate purpose, and their crimes have no moral basis. The chief Kuwaiti diplomat explained to the assembly that the government is well aware that this sequence of terrorism will not stop, and appealed to all the honorable citizens and residents to stand guard to protect Kuwait's values. He pointed out that the government knows that the urgent proposals it has made for criminal laws, the measures it has taken to protect constitutional organizations and economic installations, and the steps it has taken to expel suspects and bring offenders to trial are not enough to ensure success in its security responsibilities.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed that this sequence of terrorism is aimed at shaking up Kuwait's security and stability, striking a blow to its democratic experiment, hampering its progress and development, and doing damage to its values, the ideals which govern its foreign policy of fruitful cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, its respect for national charters and Arab, Islamic and international commitments, and its full faith in the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

8559

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KUWAIT

MILITARY TRAINING DISCUSSED

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 13 May 85 p 6

[Text]

KUWAIT (KUNA): Military life has a special nature, characterised by discipline and order and the continuous hard exercises to mould the military character which dispenses with luxurious life for one of trenches and rifles.

Every year, new blood is added to the military college when young men enroll in military life to defend their country's independence, future and dignity.

Today, His Highness the Emir, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Sheikh Jaber al Ahmed al Sabah will patronise the graduation of the 16th batch of graduate officers at the headquarters of the military college.

On this occasion, the information and research department of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) prepared the following report.

In the past, Kuwait depended in training military cadres on sending young men to military colleges abroad, but in September 1967 a ministerial decree was issued stipulating the setting up of a military school in which study started on October 10, 1967.

After the preparations and measures necessary for a military college were completed, late Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah al Salem al Sabah issued an Emiri decree in October 1968 setting up the military college in which students receive different kinds of military studies and training.

Studies at the military college are divided into three categories, first five-month primary stage, an intermediate for a period of four months, and the final stage is of a period of nine months.

The student has to successfully pass each stage before being transferred, to the next, since every stage qualifies him to the succeeding one.

The military college keeps up with the progress and development of the armies and weapons of the developed countries through the continuous visits to the military academies and institutes of those countries.

The Ministry of Defence has sent military delegations, including teaching staff of the military college, to the US, France and some Arab and friendly countries to get acquainted with the latest methods adopted in teaching and training the cadets.

The military college is seeking to apply a comprehensive military, educational and academic curriculum, in co-ordination between the Defence and Education Ministries and Kuwait University.

The Government is offering financial and moral incentives for the Kuwaiti young men to join the military college. In the past the monthly allowance for the new student was K.D. 100, and K.D. 120 for the student who reached an advanced stage, but in the light

of the rising needs of officers and the high cost of living, the allowances have been increased to K.D. 200 and 240 respectively, in addition to the books and military equipment provided to all students.

The undergraduates make field visits to the army camps which they are expected to join in the future so as to get acquainted with what their comrades in arms are doing in the different units of the army.

As for relations between the military college and the other similar colleges in the other member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), a number of students from those countries, particularly from Bahrain, are studying in Kuwait.

The students of the GCC military colleges exchange visits so as to get acquainted with the system and training in those academies.

Last week, the first conference of the Directors of the GCC Military Colleges was opened and discussed laying down required plans for unifying the curriculums of those colleges and the reports presented by the participating delegations.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait.

In a bid to utilise the youth in safeguarding the internal front, military education was introduced by the Ministry of Education, in co-operation with the Defence Ministry, for the third secondary school male students in the school year 1977-1978, and for the female students the following year.

The goal sought behind introduction of the military education syllabus is to prepare the students and help them to interest themselves in military literature and training when they are conscripted.

Defending the country is a holy duty and an evidence of the feeling of national responsibility. The Kuwaiti constitution has affirmed that responsibility to accept conscription is an honour for the citizens.

His Highness the Emir has stated after attending the fourth Islamic summit conference in January 1984 that "our young men will not allow the soil of their country to be touched by a criminal hand and that the youths are ready in all circumstances to defend their country."

It is a big honour that His Highness the Emir will patronise the graduation of the officers who will be sworn in today as new members of the armed forces.

CSO: 4400/227

KUWAIT

OUTCOME OF STUDENT FEDERATION ELECTIONS ANALYZED

Analysis of Coalitionist List

Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic 14 May 85 pp 12-14

[Text] The National Federation of Kuwaiti Students (Duwait University Branch) convened its General Assembly on Tuesday, 5 May 1985, which was attended by nearly 3,000 male and female students, as AL-MUJTAMA' had expected in an earlier article. The General Assembly opened at 0900 after being postponed for 1 hour due to the lack of a quorum. Student Fawzi al-Qassar, the federation chairman, opened the meeting with a recitation of verses from the venerable Koran and then read some instructions to insure the good progress of the General Assembly. After approval of the agenda, debate on the disciplinary report was started and continued until 1200, when a proposal was submitted to terminate the debate and to be content with the names of the 10 people registered on the debate list.

Some students tried to cast suspicion on the proposal's soundness and legality but Badr al-Nashi, chairman of the Executive Committee, settled the issue by explaining the provisions of the new bylaws approved by the 10th Congress last December. His explanation confirmed the proposal's soundness and the need to vote on it.

A vote was taken and those supporting the Coalitionist List stood on one side and the supporters of all the other lists on the other side. The outcome was in favor of supporters of the Coalitionist list by more than 100 votes. This vote made some lists back down on their trouble-provoking approach when they found that the General Assembly was strongly inclined to support the Executive Committee, embodied in the Coalitionist List. This led shortly afterward to the departure of some elements of the Democratic Center from the General Assembly and to their refraining from taking part in the debates.

After completion of the debate on the ethical and financial reports, a vote was taken and the Executive Committee won the confidence of the General Assembly almost unanimously. The General Assembly then continued to debate the new developments section and the proposals section of the agenda. A number of students submitted to the Executive Committee a proposal calling for denunciation of the conduct of the Democratic Center for taking part in the speech rally of the Federation of Kuwaiti Workers which was held last April in support of

South Lebanon. The students considered this act a violation of the unionist traditions and an endeavor to split the ranks of the Kuwaiti student movement. At exactly 1800, the General Assembly concluded its activities with a vote of confidence for the Executive Committee, which again won almost unanimous support from the General Assembly.

Outcome of Elections

On Wednesday, 8 May 1985, the Executive Committee opened the door for voting from 0800 to 1530. The voting process was characterized by order and calm and by active participation by the male and female students. The total number of voters amounted this year to 8,721 voters, with an increase of 1,623 voters (or 23 percent) over last year. This constant growth in the number of voters year after year is a definite indication of the positive interaction and the high unionist awareness prevailing in the student arena in this current phase.

After collection of all the voting boxes at the federation's club in al-Khalidiyah, the vote count began at exactly 1900. As ordinarily happens every year, the supporters of every list and the observers of the student movement gathered in front of the federation's club to wait for the results whose announcement begins upon completing the count for every box separately. When it became as good as certain that the Coalitionist List won this year's elections, the list supporters began to express their overwhelming joy amidst rousing songs, popular poetry and words of faith.

The result of the count of the committed votes was as follows:

Coalitionist List:	3,489 votes.
Free Islamic List:	1,530 votes.
Democratic Center List:	1,417 votes.
Islamic Union List:	1,134 votes.

'Adnan al-Sharhan, an independent student, got 45 votes.

It is worth noting that the number of ballots choosing from more than one list amounted this year to 1,106 cards, or 12.7 percent of the total number of voters, whereas it amounted last year to 560 ballots or nearly 7.9 percent of the votes.

Many observers attribute this phenomenon to the eagerness of all the lists, without exception, to break the overwhelming number of committed votes achieved by the Coalitionist List every year. The size of this commitment has become mythical in the student movement since the movement embarked on this phase of its history. The biggest percentage of divided votes was shared by the Coalitionist List and the Islamic Union List, thus contributing to breaking the commitment in favor of the Coalitionist List and narrowing the gap between the Coalitionist List and the list with the second highest number of votes. But despite all the efforts exerted and all the endeavors made by the other lists to cast doubt on and to weaken the honorable positions of the Coalitionist List, this list was able to increase the number of its committed supporters by 256 over last year.

The count showed that the members of the Coalitionist List got the following number of votes:

Fawzi al-Qassar, 3,955 votes; Badr al-Sumayt, 3,905 votes; Sa'ud al-'Aradah, 3,895 votes; Khawlah al-Badr, 3,860 votes; Humud al-Qash'an, 3,849 votes; Khulud al-Humaydan, 3,825 votes; 'Isam al-Fulay j, 3,821 votes; Sultan al-'Ajami, 3,803 votes; Huda al-Duhayshi, 3,755 votes; Muhammad Ghallan al-'Azimi, 3,749 votes; Wa'il 'Abd-al-Jadir, 3,745 votes; Ahmad al-Khurafi, 3,733 votes; Mutlaq al-Mirshad, 3,710 votes; Muhammad al-Dallal, 3,687 votes; and Fayizah al-Akhawand, 3,662 votes.

It is worth noting that the gap between the tail end of the Coalitionist List and the top name on the reserve list was nearly 180 votes more than last year, thus indicating that the Coalitionist List has extended its lead over last year. It is also noticed from the above figures that student Fawzi al-Qassar got 3,955 votes, i.e. 466 votes more than the number of the committed supporters of the Coalitionist List. This means that the Coalitionist List also gained top place among the uncommitted ballots.

Important Observations

Some important observations have surfaced regarding the outcome of the federation's elections and we will sum them up in the following:

1. Despite all the attempts to cast doubt on and to weaken the Coalitionist List's positions, despite the violent election campaign launched by the other lists against the Coalitionist to influence its supporters and despite all the acts to break the commitment to the Coalitionist List, this list has maintained its firmness and its strong support and the student bases have not been influenced by the suspicions and accusations raised in the elections arena. Rather, the General Assembly and the vote of confidence given the preceding Executive Committee--a vote almost reaching consensus--came as a painful blow in the face of whoever tried to undermine the Coalitionist List. The General Assembly reaffirmed its support for the resolutions taken by the preceding Executive Committee regarding the university students bylaws, student employment and the summer semester. The assembly expressed no reservation on any of these student gains or other gains.
2. The Free Islamic List has not achieved considerable progress in the number of its committed supporters, with the number of these supporters increasing by only 30 votes over last year. It had been expected that this list's supporters would amount to nearly 1,800 votes, i.e., that they would enable the list to gain nearly 270 more votes. On the other hand, we find that the Democratic Center gained a larger increase than had been expected, with this increase amounting to nearly 270 votes. This means that it is likely that partial support was exchanged between the Free Islamic List and the Democratic Center List, as happened in the National Assembly elections last February. This is what AL-MUJTAMA' had pointed out in its previous editions, citing a number of observers of the student arena.
3. The outcome of the federation's elections came as a surprise to the Islamic Union List, which had expected to gain second place, according to its prominent

elements in the student arena, whereas it has come in fourth, and last, place. Some attribute the failure of this list to gain third or second place to the method of open criticism and obvious confrontation which it employed in its propaganda against the Coalitionist List. This method was received with general resentment by male and female students and the consequences of this resentment have been reflected in the outcome of the elections. The increase gained by the Islamic Union List this year is considered a normal increase compatible with the increase in the number of voters.

In conclusion, we say that disagreement should not damage the cause of harmony and that the student movement has ahead of it enormous tasks which it cannot perform unless the ranks unite and stand shoulder to shoulder. We hope that our sons, the students, will forget the disagreement that surfaced during the election campaign and that they will support each other to raise the student movement to positions of strength and glory and that they will all work to pull the Arab nation out of the swamps of humiliation and disgrace to the plateaus of honor and dignity.

We implore God to give the new student leadership success and to lead its steps toward all that is good for Islam and the Muslims and for this noble country.

Analysis of Democratic Center

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 22 May 85 pp 18-20

[Text] By the end of Wednesday, 8 May 1985, the results of the elections of the National Federation of Kuwaiti Students (Kuwait University branch) were announced, demonstrating continued control by the reactionary elements, embodied in the Muslim Brotherhood, over the branch's Executive Committee seats for the 7th year in succession and since 1979. But a profound understanding of the election results, tying these results to the results of the past few years and analyzing them objectively and in freedom from unrealistic justifications will reveal to us numerous facts, whether facts pertaining to the weak and strong points or to the negative and positive features within the Kuwaiti student movement. The national democratic student forces must comprehend these facts in order that they may have the chance to achieve the desired progress in the national struggle--progress in the direction of bringing about democratic change. These modest views flow into this direction in an endeavor to explain the conditions in the student arena.

Positive Results

To start, we wish to emphasize a fundamental fact reaffirmed year after year by the results of the elections of this branch of the National Federation and by the tangible changes in the nature and activity of the democratic national forces in the university arena. The fact is, since the Democratic Center began to organize its ranks and to establish cohesion between its members and since it launched its efforts to create joint and collective action frameworks, positive results have begun to emerge as a fruit of this activity in the student arena and among the students themselves.

Four lists reflecting the fundamental tendencies within the Kuwaiti student movement waged the National Federation's elections this year. These lists are: the Coalitionist List representing the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamic Union List representing al-Salaf, the Free and Free Islamic List and the Democratic Center List representing the national democratic current. It is evident from this structure that the sectarian phenomenon is still playing a major role in the Kuwaiti student movement, thus enabling the reactionary forces to use Islam as a cover to achieve some of their suspect objectives.

At the same time, the Democratic Center List emerges as the sole framework capable of operating within this climate. This list includes in its fundamental struggle tasks the task of achieving change through confrontation.

Each of these lists had its methods of action, its theories and its principles which distinguish it relatively from the others. But this does not mean there is a lack of any meeting points in the theories of some of these lists and the Democratic Center List. On the contrary, there is a considerable student and national meeting ground, especially with the forces that are not totally controlled by reactionary forces moving them from outside the university. One of the distinguishing features of this year's election battle is the meeting of all the lists, excluding the Coalitionist List, on the ground of the somewhat serious and firm confrontation against the federation's current leadership and against its open anti-democratic actions in Kuwait University which plot against the Kuwaiti student movement's gains and against the fair and legitimate rights and demands of the student sector, and even against this sector's realistic demands, especially the demands concerning the attempt to impose the suspect bylaws, to give the seal of approval to the university administration's decisions restricting liberties and narrowing the sphere of study for new students and for students on the threshold of graduation. This is in addition to the current leadership's inability to confront the unjust decisions, such as the decisions banning the employment of students and turning the Student Bureau from a "blessing to a curse" for the students with its exorbitant prices and some other decisions. However, the feverish attacks by the other lists against the Democratic Center almost nullified this advantage of common ground.

Center's Initiative

In light of this, the Democratic Center's initiative of stirring the student arena against the unified university system bylaws which are anti-democratic has had the greatest impact on the election outcome, considering that this initiative was able to stir the other lists and to form a real pressure-exerting student rejection force which compelled the University Council to postpone considering these bylaws and compelled the federation's current leadership to evade in one way or another a debate on the bylaws and on their main contents. Moreover, the list's successful formulation of the proper slogan, namely the slogan "for democratic education and free student action" which befits the current circumstances and given facts, has drawn the attention of the students and of some of the other lists to the importance of defending democracy, demanding reform of university education, establishing student rights and abolishing the restrictions that curb the student's freedom of action. This formulation has also drawn their attention to the importance of exerting

efforts for a real change and for tackling the stifling crisis under which Kuwait University lives.

But the "political ignorance" of some of these lists or of some of the prominent forces in them and their failure to understand the importance of adopting phased tactics and of giving priority to the main common objectives over the marginal or distant differences in the arena in order to make some student and national gains--this "political ignorance" and this failure to understand have kept these lists or forces from creating a qualitative change in the election results.

The chart below demonstrates that the total number of those voting against the Coalitionist List is growing steadily and that the current leadership has begun gradually to enter the phase of isolation whereas it used to dominate the arena. Those who voted against it this year were voting for the Democratic List, considering that the other lists called for such vote, even though the call is temporary. We should also keep in mind that many of the votes obtained by the Coalitionist List were the result of propaganda influence, of the employment of terrorist methods and of exploitation of the hateful climate of backwardness in which some colleges, such as the Girls College, live.

The results of the federation's elections for this year show that the Democratic Center List has been able to achieve considerable progress because it is the only list that gained such a high number of committed votes, namely 453 votes representing an increase of 4.2 percent over last year, whereas the Coalitionist List which gained 254 votes suffered a drop of nearly 3 percent in votes in comparison with last year. The same goes for the Free and Free Islamic List whose votes dropped by 2.5 percent in comparison with last years. The Islamic Union List was able to increase its votes by 2.2 percent over last year. This has been brought about by this list's policy of exposing the Muslim Brotherhood elements and revealing some of their un-unionist and dishonorable practices.

Impact of General Conditions

It is our belief that there is another main reason why the Democratic Center List achieved this high percentage which enabled it to obtain first place in the number of reserve seats on the Executive Committee. The Democratic Center List's forces and capabilities were modest this year and the list was unable to throw strongly all the capabilities it possesses into the election campaign at a time when the opposing lists were launching a rabid campaign against it and trying to undermine it and distort its image with all the possible means and at a time when the list's financial capabilities were very modest and incapable of keeping up pace with the fearful propaganda and information momentum of the other lists, especially of the Coalitionist and Islamic Union lists.

The student sector is not isolated from the developments occurring in society. It is influenced by them and it influences them in one way or another. This influence may emanate from a spontaneous impact or may be the result of the organized exertion of influence and impact. Often, the two elements interlock and one dominates the other.

Relying on this objective fact, we believe that the Kuwaiti student sector has been largely influenced by the developments of the 1985 parliamentary elections and by the relative climate of democratic relaxation in the country. This does not under any circumstance mean abolition of the element of the influence of the organized activity of the democratic student elements and forces. However, this activity has not been of such a dimension as to enable the spontaneous element to influence this climate and to create among the students a climate more receptive to the democratic projection. This has been reflected in the outcome of this year's elections. If the Democratic Center, with its intrinsic forces, had been prepared to benefit from the climate that had developed, it would have achieved a much greater result and would have been able to lead a large part of the student sector instead of just having several hundred students vote for it spontaneously and under the influence of the general climate.

These results and the comparison made in the chart make us optimistic regarding the development of qualitative changes in the Kuwaiti student movement in the near future. This can be actually achieved on the real ground when the democratic forces in the university arena can understand the nature of the phased tasks they shoulder and when they adopt the best means to achieve these tasks by embracing the most democratic means of collective action, by engaging in constant and effective activity throughout the year among thousands of university students, by voicing their urgent demands and by devoting attention to enlightenment with the slogan and theories of the Democratic Center. All this is capable of bringing about the desired change.

Comparison Chart Demonstrating Outcome of Elections of National Federation of
Kuwaiti
Students-(Kuwait University Branch) from 1982-85

1982

List	Number of Committed Votes	Percentage to Total Committed Votes	Place
Coalitionist	2,344	65.97	First
Democratic Center	547	15.40	Second
Free	175	4.93	Fourth
Free Islamic	481	13.53	Third
Islamic Union	-	-	-
Student Coalition	-	-	-
Progressive Grouping	6	0.17	Fifth
Total Number of Committed Voters	3,553		

1983

Coalitionist	2,480	45.80	First
Democratic Center	780	14.40	Third
Free	-	-	-
Free Islamic	1,269	23.50	Second

List	Number of Committed Votes	Percentage to Total Committed Votes	Place
Islamic Union	715	13.20	Fourth
Student Coalition	171	3.10	Fifth
Progressive Grouping	-	-	-
Total Number of Committed Voters	5,415		
	1984		
Coalitionist	3,235	48.80	First
Democratic Center	964	14.60	Third
Free	-	-	-
Free Islamic	1,500	22.62	Second
Islamic Union	842	12.7	Fourth
Student Coalition	88	1.3	Fifth
Progressive Grouping	-	-	-
Total Number of Committed Votes	6,629		
	1985		
Coalitionist	3,489	45.81	First
Democratic Center	1,417	18.60	Third
Free	-	-	-
Free Islamic	1,530	20.1	Second
Islamic Union	1,134	14.89	Fourth
Student Coalition	-	-	-
Progressive Grouping	-	-	-
Total Number of Committed Votes	7,615		

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

'ARAFAT ON PEACE EFFORTS, AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Paris POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE in French Summer 85 pp 25-32

[Interview of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, by Randa Takieddine, Lebanese journalist, Paris correspondent of the Lebanese weekly AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT, and specialist in Middle East political and economic issues; date, place not specified]

[Text] Randa Takieddine: Mr 'Arafat, can you tell me what the expression "liberation of Palestine" means to you today? Do you mean by that the liberation of certain territory or the total destruction of Israel and the recovery of all of Palestine?

Yasir 'Arafat: In 1974, the Palestinian National Council decided on the creation of a Palestinian state on any portion of Palestinian land liberated from the Israeli occupation.

R. T.: In the early 1970's, the PLO conducted military operations against civilian targets: hijacking of planes, operations of the Munich type, etc. Today, have you changed strategy?

Y. A.: The PLO never had anything to do with such actions. As chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, elected by the Palestinian National Council, I affirm to you that we were in no way implicated in such operations. Our military forces only fight the Israeli military forces.

R. T.: How do you view solution of the Palestinian problem? Would establishment of a Palestinian state be the first stage toward recovery of all of Palestine?

Y. A.: As the Fes summit recommended, a Palestinian state must be established with Jerusalem as the capital. And, in application of the decisions of the 16th and 17th Palestinian National Council meetings held in Algiers and Amman, this Palestinian state would then create a confederal union with Jordan.

R. T.: There is a lot of talk about this PLO-Jordan agreement. Could you explain the main points?

Y. A.: I would like to begin by reminding that on two occasions, in 1973 and 1974 at two summit meetings of the Arab countries, the PLO was declared to be "the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people." I said then to King Hassan that we Palestinians were ready to establish a special relationship with Jordan, comparable to the Jordanian-Iraqi union or to the Syrian-Lebanese relations established at the end of the French mandate. It turned out that this project could not be implemented because of Syrian obstruction. The choice of the confederal option was reaffirmed by the Palestinian National Council in 1982, after our departure from Beirut. The opening of the discussion was delayed by the siege of Tripoli, however, finally, we really achieved a Jordanian-Palestinian rapprochement--symbolized by the meeting of our National Council in Amman and by the signing of an agreement between King Husayn and myself on 11 February. This agreement provides for action at all levels to find an equitable and overall solution to the Middle East problems. It is a matter, first of all, of ending the occupation of Arab territories by the Israelis (including Jerusalem); this on the basis of the Fes summit decisions and the decisions of the United Nations.

R. T.: Do you Palestinians accept UN Resolution 242?

Y. A.: The Palestinian National Council has given its opinion on this question: we only pay attention to the resolutions dealing with the cause of the Palestinian people. Thus, though one of the articles of Resolution 242 does briefly refer to the fate of the Palestinian refugees, a working document prepared by Cyrus Vance and Moshe Dayan explained that the term "refugee" really applies to the Arab and Jewish refugees, and not to the Palestinians as such.

R. T.: Why did you propose amendments to the agreement signed with King Hussein?

Y. A.: Certain points in the document were not clear, in particular the definition of application of the right of self-determination and the composition of a joint Arab delegation to participate in the international conferences. We have received satisfactory answers by King Husayn .

R. T.: Why did you sign this agreement with the king of Jordan, who was formerly your sworn enemy?

Y. A.: We were in conflict, it is true, but we were never enemies. My only enemy is Zionism, which occupies my land and enjoys the unlimited support of international imperialism.

R. T.: In your view, can King Husayn obtain something from the United States toward settlement of the Middle East problems?

Y. A.: I did not sign an agreement with Jordan to please the United States. Moreover, I would have liked to have a joint military action plan of all the Arab states; however, today, most of them have stopped fighting. From now on, the only two military forces confronting Israel are the Palestinians and their Lebanese allies.

R. T.: President Hosni Mubarak has called for Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations with Israel. You yourself told the NEW YORK TIMES that you were opposed to such negotiations. For what reasons?

Y. A.: I am not against the fact that President Mubarak suggested certain solutions to us, but I am committed by the decisions of the Palestinian National Council and by the agreement signed with King Husayn. That agreement provides for organization of an international conference including the five permanent members of the Security Council and all the parties concerned in the conflict, including the PLO.

R. T.: In retrospect, what is your analysis of the attitude of your Soviet allies at the time when the Syrians were besieging you in Tripoli? The USSR did not do anything to help you even though you were under fire by their Syrian friends.

Y. A.: I understand the political positions, and I deal with the realities. The Soviet Union and Syria are joined by a treaty of friendship; and, in view of the differences putting Syria in conflict with the PLO, the USSR no doubt leaned toward the Syrian viewpoint. I must tell you that there is a conflict only between the PLO and the Syrian regime, for as you know we have excellent relations with the Syrian people.

R. T.: What do you think about the Syrian official statements affirming that it does not want to create a "PLO number 2," but to preserve the PLO with someone other than you at its head?

Y. A.: I reached my present position through democratic elections, as all Arabs can testify. Even the Israeli enemy recognizes our democratic procedure. I find ridiculous the decision taken by President Asad at the Ba'th party congress to name the chairman of the front. What contempt of the Syrian, Palestinian citizen, but also of any worthy citizen in this part of the world!

R. T.: Do you believe it is possible to settle the problems of the Middle East without Syria, especially after the war in Lebanon?

Y. A.: Certainly, Sadat dared to do it and concluded a separate agreement.

R. T.: You were against this agreement.

Y. A.: You asked me if an agreement could be concluded without Syria: technical question, technical response. Having said that, I am against Camp David. I was not an ally of Sadat, while Asad was! The Camp David agreement predicted the end of wars, yet the region flared up again.

R. T.: Let us phrase the question differently: should the Middle East problems be settled without Syria's backing?

Y. A.: We want an overall and equitable solution of these problems in order to put an end to Israeli occupations of Arab lands: Jerusalem, southern Lebanon, the Golan, the Palestinian land, and certain Egyptian territory.

However, is the Syrian regime really concerned about all that? It would not appear so. It concluded the "Camp Murphy" agreement, which is beginning to be implemented. Thus, after the Israeli retreat from Saida, the Syrians withdrew 12,000 soldiers. Syria's information minister stated that his country needed these men, not to be stationed facing the Israelis in the Golan, but to strengthen its borders with Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. In the Murphy-Asad agreement, two articles concern the prohibition against PLO fighters returning to southern Lebanon and guaranteeing of the security of Israel's northern border against the Palestinian feddayin.

R. T.: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia paid an official visit to the United States in February. During this trip did he obtain positive results for the Palestinian cause?

Y. A.: I received an envoy from King Fahd on his return; he informed me in detail about the discussions held with the American leaders. All I can tell you is that for the first time the latter spoke positively about the decisions taken at the Fes summit.

R. T.: How do you explain the fact that your former Lebanese allies--Walid Jumblatt, Nabih Birri--today criticize you severely? What relations do you maintain with the Lebanese opposition?

Y. A.: I do not align myself with the Lebanese "opposition": I support the Lebanese national forces. May God help Lebanon and the Lebanese! Several years ago, when I talked about balkanization of that country, no one believed me. Many Lebanese thought that we wanted to establish a Palestinian state in the south of the country; they thus regarded the Israeli invasion as a means to get rid of the PLO. They only found out later that the plot was really aimed at partitioning Lebanon. Some were happy at the convening of a Lebanese reconciliation meeting in Geneva. Not everyone grasped the symbolic link in the choice of Switzerland, which is the country of cantons!

However, that was not the real crime. It was the confrontation of the sons of the same country, a confrontation that will end up with an intervention by the Syrian army to separate the belligerents and create several distinct entities within Lebanon: the Orthodox in Koura region; the Maronites in Kesrouan; the Druze in the Chouf and Hasbaya; the Shiites, God knows where; the Alawites in the Akkar; and the Sunni somewhere else still. Finally, this plot is not aimed at Lebanon alone, but also at the entire Arab nation: the religious war will continue its progress in Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Yemen and North Africa.

R. T.: You still have not explained to me the reasons for the change in attitude of your former Lebanese allies...

Y. A.: I am convinced that their present statements are made under Syrian pressure, because I know their true feelings.

R. T.: Will the Palestinian fedayeen return to southern Lebanon?

Y. A.: Do you really believe that they left? Do you think that the Palestinian resistance can be removed simply with a stroke of the eraser? The Palestinians are actively participating in the resistance by the Lebanese national forces.

R. T.: In January, rumors circulated in Beirut about a meeting between Abu Iyad and President Amin al-Jumayyil. Were these rumors true?

Y. A.: Put that question to the Lebanese president!

R. T.: Have relations between the PLO and the Lebanese leaders been broken since you left Lebanon?

Y. A.: No, I am in permanent contact with the Lebanese regime. My latest talk with Amin al-Jumayyil dates from our trip to New Delhi. Also, PLO envoys meet regularly with the Lebanese head of government and the president. Don't forget that half a million Palestinians live in Lebanon.

T. T.: At the beginning of the Iranian Islamic revolution, the Palestinians had excellent relations with the new regime of Ayatollah Khomeyni. Yet today Iran is an ally of Syria. Has this situation changed your relations with Tehran?

Y. A.: I am not responsible for the Syrian political game of using all kinds of "cards," whether it be Lebanon, Egypt, the PLO or Iran. Our relations with our brother Iranians were and remain close. Nevertheless, I oppose their decision to continue the war. This war is taking place between the Iranian and Iraqi peoples; it also affects the interests of the Gulf countries, of the Arab and Muslim countries, and of the Palestinians. If that conflict had not occurred, the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon, the siege of Beirut, and the plot against the Palestinian revolution would not have existed. Likewise, without the Iraqi-Iranian confrontation, the Syrian regime would not have dared to strike at the Palestinian revolution and to besiege Tripoli.

R. T.: I don't grasp very well the link between the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Y. A.: That war has paralyzed the military forces of the two belligerents. The entire gulf is involved with it, and, finally, the Israeli invasion could take place with the guarantee of "Syrian silence."

R. T.: How do you analyze the general rise of Muslim fundamentalism in the Arab world since the Iranian revolution?

Y. A.: Muslim fundamentalism did not accelerate after the Iranian revolution. Islamic movements have existed for a long time in Egypt, Sudan (the Mahdia), Libya (the Senoussia), North Africa (the Tidjania and Chazlia), Saudi Arabia (Wahhabism), Yemen, Syria or Lebanon. At certain times, as a result of a specific context, these movements acquire a new momentum. That is what happened recently. As I have already told you, this volcano will ignite the whole region. Europeans cannot understand what the occupation of Jerusalem means to Muslims.

R. T.: Can you ignore the religious basis of the state of Israel?

Y. A.: The state of Israel is not based on religion. A number of Jewish religious elements reject the Israeli thinking; the Zionist terrorism represents Zionism and not Judaism. The Zionists are perhaps even more virulent within the U.S. administration than in Israel itself. The Americans give the Israeli's unparalleled economic and financial support. A free trade system has been established between the two countries, and 10 years hence all Israeli exports will be able to enter the United States without limitations. Even the European countries complain of this privileged treatment, which sometimes operates to their disadvantage.

R. T.: In France recently, there is again a lot of talk about Abou Nidal, the Palestinian who terrorized the world and was believed to be dead. Is Abu Nidal in fact alive?

Y. A.: You should ask the Syrian intelligence services that question.

R. T.: What hopes do you place in Europe, and France in particular, in the search for solutions to the Middle East problems?

Y. A.: It is true that we placed great hope in France's Middle East policy. Unfortunately, for some time we have noted a certain retreat by France in relation to its past positions, specifically during the meetings of the European Community. We strongly regret this.

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

DIVISIONS WITHIN PLO DISCUSSED

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English Jun 85 pp 12-13

[Text]

● The Palestinian scene has, of late, witnessed three important changes: in its map of alliances; in political orientation; and in the position in Lebanon.

Politically, the signing of the Palestinian/Jordanian accord by Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, and King Hussein of Jordan was a turning point in Palestinian/Jordanian relations — a shift from a loose rapprochement to a firmly defined relationship, although some differences still persist. The accord has imposed on both sides a reciprocal commitment as far as the definition of policies and political moves is concerned. This means, ironically, that rapprochement may result in more areas for division; thus Palestinian/Jordanian relations under the new accord have become more fragile than ever before. This will become particularly apparent if more new options become open to either the PLO or Jordan such as, for example, a shift by the US to a settlement proposal and an attempt to put it into effect; or if possibilities arise of a Palestinian/Syrian rapprochement, or of a Palestinian/Soviet or Syrian/Jordanian softening of relations (the ultimate consequence being a blocking of any road to settlement); or if major changes occur in the Gulf war.

It was, therefore, possible to foresee the crisis faced by the Fatah leadership when the Jordanian/Palestinian accord was signed. At that time, there was very strong opposition within the Central Committee to the accord — and those opposing it insisted on submitting a Palestinian

interpretation of the accord, which on many points revealed major differences from the Jordanian interpretation.

A crisis faced the Baghdad meeting of the PLO's Executive Committee and the Central Committee of Fatah, which after lengthy debate produced a document which rejected the proposals put forward by US special envoy Richard Murphy relating to the joint Palestinian/Jordanian delegation. The Baghdad meeting was thus able to heal the differences within the Palestinian leadership without actually damaging the Palestinian/Jordanian accord, which was unanimously endorsed. In return, the idea of a joint delegation, as presented by Murphy, was rejected.

The Palestinian/Jordanian accord also pushed the relations between the Democratic Alliance and Fatah to a new stage of tension, represented by an exchange of strongly-worded letters between the two organisations, with the Democratic Alliance totally rejecting the accord and making its cancellation a precondition for any dialogue or agreement. This rejection was not enough, however, to keep the forces which formed the Democratic Alliance united. One side of the split was represented by the Popular Front (George Habash) and the Palestine Liberation Front (Tal'at Yakub), both fronts wanting to form a new alliance with the National Union Front (NUF), which includes the pro-Syrian organisations who have the declared aim of foiling the accord. The other side, represented by the Palestinian Communist Party (PCP) and the Democratic Front, thought that joining

the alliance with the Palestinian National Union Front would confirm the Palestinian split forever and do nothing to help break the Palestinian/Jordanian accord.

Thus 1985 brought major changes in Palestinian alliances: the National Salvation Front (NSF) was formed, which included the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Palestine Liberation Front, the General Command, the Popular Struggle Front, and the Fatah dissidents; on the other side of the fence stood al-Fatah and the main PLO leadership. Between the two sides stand the Democratic Front and the Palestinian Communist Party.

George Habash viewed the formation of the NSF as a "historical event" and "the strongest retaliation against policies of deviation, capitulation and surrender as represented in the Arafatist, rightist Palestinian trend." Such view met, of course, with the official approval of the Syrians, as expressed in the Syrian media. The Syrian leadership reiterated its support of the formation of this front after a long meeting between Syrian President Hafez Assad and the NSF leadership.

Careful study of Syrian press statements, however, reveals that the differences between these organisations, following the formation of the front, have become even greater than before; a fact confirmed by informed sources close to those factions. Only the collective dependence on Syria holds these disparate factions together. Through Syrian pressure, the NUF was forced to make two major concessions to the Popular Front to induce it to join the National Salvation Front — first was their acceptance of the Palestine Liberation Front, represented by Tal-at Yakub, and abandoning Abdul Fatah Ghanem, their strong ally in the NUF who formerly represented the Palestine Liberation Front which had broken away from the first one, and who joined the new front in his personal capacity. The second concession was the abandoning of the Palestinian Communist Organisation, led by Arabi Awaad, a splinter group of the PCP. This concession came because the Popular Front of George Habash insisted on continuing to recognise the pro-Moscow PCP and on giving it a place in the NSF.

This is what has made the birth of the NSF doubly painful for the organisations

already in alliance with Abdul Fatah al Ghanem and Arabi Awaad within the NUF, especially when these organisations were viscerally opposed to both the Democratic Front and the PCP, accusing them of opportunism and predicting their "fall into the lap of Yasser Arafat."

Added to that are the contradictions within the NSF, centred on persuading other organisations to accept the leadership of George Habash, a decision which has not yet been approved by the majority. Leaked information suggests that Samir Roshe, secretary of the Popular Struggle Front, has refused to give up to George Habash the seat usually occupied by him on the right of Khaled al Fahoum, ex-chairman of the Palestine National Council, because he was, he believed, as a secretary-general, equal to him as a contender for the Salvation Front leadership.

The episode caused great bitterness within the rank and file of the Popular Front, who now feel that they were involved in an alliance in which they have no position of power. Hence the inability of the Salvation Front to appoint a permanent leader or even a permanent official spokesman. The leadership question has been left open, fluctuating between one secretary-general and another according to the circumstances.

The other widening gap within the NSF is represented in the stance taken by the "Uprising" Group (Fatah dissidents) who found themselves relegated to the lowest position in the alliance. It was they who insisted on representing Fatah and inheriting its leading role in Palestinian action, because their transformation into a mere organisation on equal footing with, say, the Popular Struggle Front (the smallest of all the factions) is a severe blow to Abu Musa and his friends.

Reform will thus have been transformed into destruction. This explains why representatives of the "Uprising" have insisted on obtaining at least the position of a secretary (with the chairmanship or the general secretariat out of the question). But even this demand was not approved. Consequently, the NSF is suffering internal conflicts that far exceed in severity and significance those faced by the Palestine Liberation Organisation under Yasser Arafat.

As for the Democratic Front and the PCP, their role has been limited to attempts to influence both the Central

Committee of Fatah and the Popular Front in the NSF. Sources close to the Soviet-supported Democratic Front have revealed the existence of an internal crisis that has paralysed the grouping. Its source of strength, based on Soviet support, is not exclusive to it but is shared by the Front and the PCP, as well as the other parties within the NSF.

The third significant development faced by the PLO was the siege of the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut by Amal militiamen and the militia of the Socialist Progressive Party. This was part of the campaign to gain total control of the Sunni areas of Beirut, and to limit any influence Arafat has begun to enjoy in Lebanon recently.

Palestinian leaders saw this as a strike to prevent any change in the balance of internal powers in Lebanon as a result of the formation of the Iraqi/Jordanian/Egyptian axis following the Baghdad Summit, after which came meetings of the Central Committee of Fatah and of the Executive Committee of the PLO in the Iraqi capital. This interpretation sees a close link between the Syrian green light given to the forces of Amal and the Socialist Progressive Party in gaining total control over Beirut, and the siege of the Palestinian camps on one side; and, on the other, the Baghdad Summit, coinciding with the first-ever meetings of the Palestinian leadership in Baghdad.

Thus the surge in influence of Yasser Arafat's PLO in Lebanon has elicited a very strong counterattack aiming to

control it. That is why, also, the Beirut battles can be considered the first Syrian reactions to the Baghdad Summit. There are those within the Palestinian leadership in Fatah who believe that the NSF will be used as a cover to besiege Burj al-Barajeneh Palestinian refugee camp, instead of directly using the forces of Amal and the Progressive Socialist Party. If such predictions were to be true, the Popular Front of George Habash would find itself threatened with splits and withdrawals from its own ranks because it would prove very difficult for it to be the Trojan Horse for an attack on the camp and to be party to a Palestinian fight.

It is clear therefore that the common denominator among the PLO factions at the moment appears to be the ubiquitous internal crises which have never before been experienced at any previous state of the Palestinian struggle. This situation has not, however, greatly reduced PLO influence in the Arab political arena nor its struggle against the Israeli entity. This fact is further proved by the difficulties which face Richard Murphy as a result of the Palestinian rejection of his proposals related to the joint delegation, and the importance and significance, as reasserted by the European Community, of the part to be played by the PLO and the support of European states for the Palestinian/Jordanian accord. The strength of the Palestinian armed struggle has also received a boost by the role played by the Palestinians in Lebanon recently, especially following the Israeli withdrawal from Sidon. The current Palestinian situation is thus extremely complicated: there is a state of coherence but it is plagued with splits from within.

CSO: 4400/227

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

NATURE OF JORDAN, WEST BANK RELATIONS DISCUSSED

Jerusalem AL-'AWDAH in Arabic 11 Jul 85 pp 27-33

[Article by 'Abd-al-Karim Samarah: "Open Bridges: Economic Relations Between the West Bank and Jordan"]

[Text] In the last part we dealt with the history of the relations and the extent of the West Bank contribution to the Jordanian economy prior to the occupation. We pointed out that the West Bank economy was weak under the growth line by scientific standards and, consequently, the fragility of this economic situation facilitated the dependency imposed by the laws of the capitalist market, its Israeli branch in particular. We then reviewed in part the occupation's economic measures which included keeping the Jordan River bridges open for traffic within special laws and regulations whereby Israel would permit traffic in accordance with its economic and political interests.

We also pointed to the spontaneous nature of economic relations on the two banks of the river.

In this part we will finish exploring the nature of relations from the standpoint of the bridges' social and cultural role and, more importantly, the economic role as well. These three categories are the keys to explaining why the bridges have been kept open for 18 years, as though by a carefully studied plan.

Some Israeli and foreign economic researchers have alluded to the bridges issue as a part of a comprehensive plan taking form as the days go by. In other words, Israel was not planning for it and its features have been shaped by time! However, facts prove daily the falsity of this analysis which is exaggerated in its objectivity and tends to absolve Israel of any responsibility for the economic crisis being experienced by the occupied areas as a direct or indirect reflection of the general crisis Israel is experiencing. There is absolutely no doubt that Israel has carefully weighed its interest in keeping the bridges open to realize several objectives, including:

--Opening the door to emigration from the occupied territory to the Arab world. This assumes both a permanent and a temporary pattern. Some emigrate to build a life for themselves east of the river all the way to the Gulf and sever their

ties with the occupied areas, and others work in the Arab world and go back to spend vacations in their village, city or camp.

--Exporting the crisis from the occupied territory to the Arab world. Surplus Palestinian labor has always been successfully funneled through emigration to the Gulf states and Jordan because an unemployed labor force there adds to the crisis, thus creating negative political and social repercussions.

--Direct financial benefits reaped by Israel from fees, permits and customs duties.

--Indirect benefits through money brought in by citizens and remittances from people working in Gulf states or Jordan, as well as export revenues the West Bank and Gaza receive in the form of fixed currency, Jordanian dinars, which ultimately flow into the capitalist cycle in the Israeli economic areas of influence--Israel and the occupied areas.

--The political benefits reaped by Israel by presenting itself as a liberal occupier who allows relations with the Arab world, thus appearing to be in search of peace with Arabs rejectionists by offering open bridges as a sign of its constant peaceful search.

We will elaborate on these benefits later.

The question is whether Israel's benefits from opening the bridges decree that the Arab side, the Palestinian in particular, is hurt by them! The truth is that this question has been put to the Arab side ever since 1967 and the Arabs have accepted it as a fait accompli and have adjusted to it and to its general terms, worked out by Israel, in an attempt to benefit from it in their own way.

Role of the Bridges

The role the bridges play may be divided into three main integrated and interlocked levels that ultimately flow into the same mill.

The Social Level

One of the effects of the 1967 war is the exodus of over 170,000 Palestinians from the West Bank east of the river during the 3 months following the war. These included a large number of families of employees, soldiers and policemen working for Jordanian government agencies and the public sector. There is no doubt that some of these employees have stayed in the occupied areas, but the majority of them, in addition to the great majority of soldiers and policemen, have joined their units in Jordan and were later joined by their families.

Furthermore, other citizens emigrated to the East Bank for several reasons, the most important of which being the low level of political awareness and culture and the fear of a repeat of the 1948 war events. Add to that some psychological factors such as concern for honor and dignity, for example. Perhaps the Arab defeat in the war played an important role in the emigration tendencies for it was reflected in the form of a severe psychological shock,

particularly to those who witnessed the defeat directly when the occupation troops took over their villages, cities, camps, mountains and valleys. The first delayed reaction was emigration! This large number of citizens who left the West Bank and Gaza tried to settle in the Amman area in particular where job opportunities are more available than in any other area on the East Bank.

At any rate, the opening of the bridges has allowed continued social relations between citizens on the West Bank and their relatives in the Arab world in general and the East Bank in particular. There are hundreds of thousands of citizens crossing the bridges each year in both directions for numerous reasons, including visits to relatives, work, study, marriage, etc.

Perhaps this has allowed the relationship between the Palestinian community in the occupied territory and the rest of the Arab world through Jordan to continue, a situation that distinguishes citizens of the occupied territory from those to whom the borders closed in 1948 and whose first contact with their people was after the 1967 war.

Hence, the absence of contact with the Arab world and other sectors of the dispersed Palestinian people tends to cause the Palestinians living in the occupied areas to go into their shell socially, politically and intellectually.

On the other hand, some results of contact are reunions and summer visits by Palestinians living abroad.

In this regard, the Israeli authorities have complete control over the number of visitors coming in and the number of reunions approved, for they can turn down requests for visits or approve reunions at will.

We furnish here statistics on the number of persons who have crossed the bridges (Allenby and Damiyat) for the last 5 years from among the people living in the occupied territory and the number of visitors from Jordan or the Arab world coming in through Jordan.

Citizens					
Year	Departures via bridges	Percent of departures	Arrivals	Percent of Arrivals	Difference
1980	360,627	91.5	337,872	91.3	22,755
1981	404,704	84.9	385,227	84.8	19,477
1982	361,985	80.0	350,339	74.5	11,646
1983	319,010	81.0	315,674	81.2	3,336
1984	356,261	84.8	353,918	86.0	2,343
Average	360,517	84.4	348,606	84.6	59,557
					<u>11,911</u>

Visitors		
Year	Arrivals Via Bridge	Percent of Arrivals
1982	61,843	77.4
1983	65,056	74.0
1984	69,696	76.0
Average	65,532	75.8

This table shows that the average number of citizens crossing to the East Bank is about 380,000 while the average number of returnees is around 348,000, or a different of 12,000. Does this mean that 12,000 do not return and therefore will lose their citizenship in the occupied territory? At any rate, the years 1983 and 1984 witnessed a severe drop in the number of nonreturnees from the East Bank. In 1982, the number of nonreturnees was 11,646 and it dropped to 3,330 in 1983 and 2,343 in 1984. It should be noted here that some citizens are allowed to leave only if they stay out of the country once in 3 to 5 years. Likewise, the period for the exit permit extends from 1 day to 3 years and may be renewed for another year. In this case, they do not return in the same year and hence the number of nonreturnees seems greater than it actually is.

On the other hand, the drop in the number of emigrants is due to a drop in the demand for labor in the Gulf and Saudi labor markets. Indeed, these countries are firing large numbers of workers in contrast to the situation from 1973 to 1981 when the labor market was wide open to occupied territory workers and educated people.

On the other level, the bridges are the main crossing points for occupied territory inhabitants and visitors. The departure rate via the bridges is about 84.5 percent, which means 84 percent of the inhabitants leave via the bridges; the arrival rate is about the same, or 84.6 percent.

With regard to visitors, the arrival rate via the bridges is about 76 percent of visitors coming to the occupied territories. This proves the importance of the bridges in the movement of people.

In this regard, the average number of visitors arriving annually via the bridges is 65,532. These visitors are, practically speaking, citizens in name only due to measures adopted by the occupation authorities who prohibit any Palestinian from residing in the West Bank and Gaza if he was not present in his home when they conducted the general census in September 1967, even if he had left his home only 1 day before the census.

The visitor who enters the area via the bridges and spends from 1 to 3 months in his home is still considered a visitor under the occupation law. There are cases where the husband is a citizen while his wife and children are visitors or vice-versa. Both have to wait for approval from the authorities to reunite!

The Cultural Level

The opening of the bridges allowed the continuation of cultural relations with the Arab area, from the academic aspect in particular. Thousands of Palestinian students are receiving their higher education from Arab universities, the most important of which are in Lebanon--Beirut Arab University, American University [of Beirut] and the Jesuit University [i.e., St. Joseph's] and in Egypt, Cairo University, Asyut University and 'Ayn Shams University.

In Jordan are Jordan University and Yarmuk University and in Iraq, Baghdad University and Mosul University. Some students go to Syrian universities and very limited numbers go to the Maghreb and Gulf and Saudi universities for their education.

Indeed, the Arab University of Beirut, in view of its acceptance of the students on the principle of affiliated study, has the lion's share of students.

In the last 3 years hundreds of students enrolled in community colleges in Jordan. The fact is that West Bank community colleges and universities are unable to accommodate more than 40 to 50 percent of high school graduates, a situation which renders study in the Arab area an urgent matter since it offers a solution to the problem of school space, even though it ultimately leads students to the unemployed graduate level.

The departure of students and citizens in general to the East Bank and the Arab world has kept the cultural bridge open through citizen awareness of cultural, political, economic and, indeed, social developments in the Arab world. We say the Arab mass media, radio and TV, the Jordanian, Syrian and Egyptian--and sometimes Lebanese--in particular, are not enough to convey a picture of the Arab homeland to the occupied territory citizens. When the Palestinian citizen lives in the area as a student, worker or visitor, he acquires first-hand knowledge and may even participate in the shaping of the general Arab situation culturally, economically and politically. On the Arab press level, there are numerous Palestinian writers who are citizens of the occupied areas living temporarily in the Arab world as employees. We make special mention here of the UAE, Kuwaiti and Jordanian newspapers.

This same context includes the process of printing or reprinting books published in the occupied areas in the Arab world as well as the participation of Palestinian intellectuals in conferences and scientific and intellectual seminars held in the Arab world. Moreover, local universities and institutes employ many Palestinian professors living in Jordan through special work permits.

In short, the open bridges have contributed in an effective way for the continuity of the cultural extension between the Arabs and Palestinians over the past 18 years, thus allowing an exchange of cultural and intellectual trends and preventing intellectual withdrawal and academic petrification.

The Economic Level

We believe this level is the most important and decisive level in the open bridges issue. On the one hand, there is the great benefit Israel is reaping by opening the bridges and, on the other, the benefit the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territory are reaping.

We point here in some detail to the level of economic relations. The authorities have maintained the Jordanian dinar as a currency equal to Israeli currency in the West Bank. They have also allowed the dinar to come in from the East Bank and, although they have shut down all banks operating in the occupied areas, the available currency-exchange businesses serve as banks to a certain extent.

Bringing in Money

According to some estimates, the amount of dinars in circulation in the occupied areas is about 20 percent of the total amount in circulation in all the areas that trade in it.

As we have already mentioned, the authorities allow the dinar to be brought in from Jordan. At first, there was no limit on the amount allowed in, but when the Likud took over power in Israel, a limit was instituted. Recently, the authorities issued orders allowing money to be brought in without limit. According to Israeli authority estimates, \$1 million a day is brought into the occupied areas via the bridges.

The amounts brought in are divided, according to sources, into revenues from people working in the Gulf and Jordan and revenues from investments of Palestinian capitalists living in the West Bank who invest all or part of their money in Jordan.

Moreover, a part of this money is from revenues received from the export of industrial and agricultural goods to the East Bank and the Arab world while another part comes from pensions of former Palestinian employees of Jordanian Government agencies, such as teachers and others.

Some Palestinian capitalists deposit their money in Jordanian banks and withdraw only what they need. The universities deposit a part of their money in Arab and Jordanian banks, making withdrawals for daily, monthly and annual expenses.

An analysis of the matter of bringing in money into the occupied territory shows that these monies are necessary from the economic point of view to support the standard of living of the people living under occupation. Revenues and remittances have contributed 25 percent of the overall gross national product in the West Bank, a rate which includes the wages of Palestinian workers working in Israel.

This rate points to the importance of revenues from the Arab states. Meanwhile, amounts brought in Jordanian dinars ultimately make their way into

the Israeli capital cycle for Israel dominates the local market and, consequently, these amounts, \$1 million daily, are spent in the occupied areas and Israel on goods either made in or imported by Israel. However, the Jordanian dinar, inflation notwithstanding, is more stable than the shekel and is, therefore, like hard currency in both local and Israeli markets. Hence it can be said that the benefit goes to the deteriorating Israeli economy which explains the authorities' decision not to impose a limit on the amounts brought in while maintaining its requirement that the source be named.

Fees and Permits

Statistics we cited at the beginning of the article showed that the average number of citizens leaving the West Bank and Gaza via the bridges may reach 360,577. Every citizen who intends to leave needs a permit and has to pay fees totaling 26 Jordanian dinars at the official rate (civil administration), which is usually very close to the black market rate. This number of departures does not coincide with the number of permits because the former number includes companions. Accordingly, the number of permits is at least 280,000 at a cost of 7,280,000 dinars in fees the authorities collect from permits alone.

As for the returnees, whose number is estimated at 348,606, after subtracting the average number of companions, the number is 270,000. They pay between 10 and 15 dinars in customs fees per person, or an average of 12 dinars. Accordingly, the estimated customs levies are 3,240,000 dinars.

If the number of visitors, minus companions, is estimated at 45,000, the total amount paid is 1,098,000 dinars. Companions pay about 3 dinars, so the amount paid by them is about 70,000 dinars, thus bringing the overall amount paid by visitors to 1,160,000 dinars. Moreover, visitors pay a tax of 6 dinars per adult and 3 dinars for companions, which translates into a total of 270,000 dinars for adults and 70,000 for companions.

Hence, the total amount paid at the bridges for fees and permits is over 12 million dinars annually. If we add the amount spent by visitors in the occupied areas, estimated at 20 dinars per person, the total amount spent goes up to about 1.7 million dinars and the overall amount adds up to 15 million dinars annually.

We say that these amounts of money flow into the cycle of Israeli capital which dominates the local market.

It must be pointed out here that the laws governing the bridges are always drawn in accordance with the government's general policy. The authorities refuse to allow in any goods produced or found in Israel, such as foodstuffs, medicines, household items, cars, etc. Moreover, citizens face endless problems with soldiers at the two bridges, especially since the treatment of passengers embodies the suppression of occupation, including searches, disrobing, waiting and rudeness, not to mention denial of departure and entry and sometimes arrests and high customs duties. All this makes people think twice before crossing the bridges, but the force of life pulls in the direction of continual bridge traffic.

Export Via Bridges

According to an Arab summit report, the volume of exports allowed from the occupied areas via the bridges is 50 percent of the total production. Before export, a farmer must obtain a statement of origin proving the origin of the goods and their compliance with the law.

Statement-of-origin procedures are subject to the following steps:

A. Statistics are obtained from agricultural departments and agricultural district societies in accordance with a table of acreage for each area separately. These tables are sent to Amman where they are studied, reviewed and amended in accordance with the agricultural agent's recommendations concerning the projected volume of production, the date of maturity, the amount allowed for export to the East Bank and the date of export.

B. Every farmer obtains a statement of origin from the agricultural agent and the district society stating the acreage and volume of production. This statement is sent to the East Bank to obtain the necessary permit.

As we have already said, the maximum amount allowed for export is 50 percent of the total projected production. Some problems have cropped up against this background due to low projections in the East Bank that do not take into account agricultural developments that have raised land productivity and sometimes doubled the production rate. There is also a restriction on the varieties of vegetables that can be planted.

We cite here statistics concerning the kinds of agricultural products that are exported and the acreage they occupy on the West Bank, plus each dunum's share of export to the East Bank according to the 1985 agricultural season.

These products and other industrial products and stone are exported in 500 old trucks, 400 of which are in the West Bank and the other 100 in the Gaza Strip. The bank's trucks are divided into two parts: 170 cross the Damyah bridge and 230 cross the Allenby bridge. It is noteworthy that each truck pays 204,000 shekels in monthly fees, or the equivalent of 655 dinars per year. Thus, the total amount paid by trucks is 327,360 dinars.

These trucks have a story. Jordan refuses to let into the East Bank trucks licensed after 1967 so they are old and not qualified to carry and properly transport goods. They are, in effect, in violation of Jordanian and Israeli transportation law. Truck drivers say that they receive traffic violation citations on the west side as well as the east side of the river because their trucks do not meet traffic standards, especially since their owners double their loads during high-production periods.

1985

Product	Acreage [dunums]	Dunum's share of of annual export	Volume of export
olives	800,000 dunums incl. 750,000 productive trees	100 kg olives or 20 kg oil	80,000 tons of olives or 10,000 tons of oil
grapes	100,000	0.5 tons	50,000 tons
plums	20,000	0.5 tons	10,000 tons
citrus fruit	25,000	2 tons	50,000 tons
bananas	5,000	2 tons	10,000 tons
tomatoes	13,000	2 tons	26,000 tons
eggplant	5,000	2 tons	10,000 tons
watermelon and cantalopes	40,000	2 tons	80,000 tons
cucumber	600	8 tons	4,800 tons
onions	5,000	1.5 tons	7,500 tons
potatoes	3,000	2 tons	6,000 tons

A truck carries an average of 10 loads per month and during peak session this number goes up to 15 loads per month. The truck is not allowed to spend more than one night in Jordan and is designed in a way which makes inspection easy. Both truck and load are subject to careful inspection. A truck is sometimes held for up to 3 days and the owner has to pay the inspection fee out of his own pocket.

With regard to the amount of truck charges, it is 120 dinars in the normal season and 400 dinars in export seasons due to increased demand, particularly since the export season for every kind of product is limited to a certain period outside of which goods are not allowed in. Also, they cannot be stored for a long time due to perishability. We are specifically talking about fruits, watermelon and vegetables.

Burdens of Exporters

The process of obtaining a statement of origin and the accompanying complicated measures is only the initial rehearsal of the overall burdens exporters encounter. After obtaining the statement of origin, farmers pick their crops and prepare them for export. In this regard, a single ton costs 20 dinars without boxes and 50 to 60 dinars with boxes.

Hence, the ton of production gets to the central market in Amman at a fixed cost of 60 dinars to enter into competition with Jordanian production which costs only 3 dinars per ton, which is the cost of transportation from al-Shufah, for instance, to Amman.

On the other hand, bank production is banned from retail outside Amman's central market, thus rendering it unable to actually compete, especially since the Jordanian market is open to Spanish oil, Turkish grapes and Saudi watermelon, for example.

Thus, the most important demands of the farmers is to open to them the Arab markets in general, to permit export in modern trucks with higher load capacity, to raise the export ceiling and to include West Bank production in the calculations of the marketing societies in Jordan so as to permit the farmers to maintain a normal standard of living in the shadow of high prices and unfair economic measures adopted by the Israeli authorities.

The same measures and costs apply to the transportation of products and industrial goods from the West Bank via the bridges, but marketing is difficult in that export is directed to special companies and places in Jordan.

12502

CSO: 4404/425

QATAR

GDP DROPS marginally

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 21 Jul 85 p 11

[Text]

DOHA—Excluding oil, Qatar's Gross Domestic Product dropped marginally in 1984 as compared with the previous year, according to figures published by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO).

The GDP for 1984 was QR12.337 billion and for 1983, QR12.657 billion.

The 1984 statistics do not mention figures of GDP for mining and quarrying, which would presumably have included income from oil and gas.

Though there is a marginal fall in the GDP in sector other than oil, figures show a slight improvement in sectors like manufacturing, power and water, and government services. All others show a decline.

Manufacturing for instance improved from QR1.389 billion in 1983 to QR1555 billion in 1984. GDP contribution from electricity and water was QR108m in 1983, and QR145m in 1984.

A decline was noticed in construction, falling from QR1.666 billion in

1983 to QR1.056 billion in 1984.

A decline from QR2.111 to QR1.935 billion was also noticed in finance, insurance and real estate.

The number of births increased in 1984 to 8,613 from 8,261 in 1983 and 8,031 in 1982. According to 1982 census, the population stood at 257,000. However it has come down substantially since then.

The number of deaths declined in 1984 to 642, as compared to 803 in 1983. Figures show that cultivated land increased marginally in 1984, to 39,000 donums from 31,000 donums the year before. This still, left over 291,000 donums of cultivable land, idle in the country.

There was an increase in the production of cereals, vegetables, beetroots and meat, and a fall in the output of fruits and dates.

The price index rose in 1984 by about 1.2. The increase was in food and beverages, from 110.2 in 1983 to 114.4. The only fall was in housing expenses.

CSO: 4400/227

SAUDI ARABIA

NEW RIYADH-DAMMAM EXPRESS RAIL LINE

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 25 Jul 85 p 6

[Text]

The new express railway line between Riyadh and Dammam will start operating from the first week of August reducing the travel distance between the Central Province and Eastern Province from 571 to 450 kilometers, a difference of 120 kilometers.

Saudi Railways Organisation Chairman Faisal Muhammad Al-Shuhail told "Arab News" that the organisation had almost completed its projects such as procuring equipment and carriages at a cost of SR1.2 billion

Shuhail said the railway line which runs through zigzag hilly areas will reduce the travel time between the two cities from seven hours to nearly four hours.

The new railway line conforms to the modern specifications of railway equipment and facilities including video and television and car carriages. The SRO chairman expected a big rush of passengers as trains will run non-stop between Riyadh and Dammam.

Shuhail said 350,000 passengers travelled by train last year and added that with the commissioning of the new line the number would be doubled.

Maintenance workshops and railways stations in Riyadh and Dammam were also constructed. The chairman added

that SRO completed several projects worth SR1.95 billion during the last five-year plan.

He said the port customs in Dammam will facilitate the movement of goods to the neighbouring areas especially to Riyadh through railway. He said the Riyadh station located in a one-million square meter area will provide all facilities to businessmen for classifying, storing and customs clearance which also include transportation facility in an area of 25 kilometers.

He said SRO entered into agreements with French and German companies for the purchase of passenger coaches. He expressed satisfaction over their performance and conformity with Saudi specifications. The agreements also include maintenance of coaches for a period of two years, he added.

Shuhail said with addition of new carriages the SRO now owns 47 locomotives, 58 passenger trains and 2,165 goods trains. He said despite the increase in railway charges, they still remain cheaper than other modes of transport.

The organisation is working to achieve self-sufficiency in the field of operation and maintenance with the help of trained Saudi technicians.

CSQ : 4400/227

SAUDI ARABIA

DECREASE IN JEDDAH PORT ACTIVITY

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 27 Jun 85 p 12

[Text]

The number of ships calling at the Red Sea port of Jeddah decreased by 9.4 per cent from a year ago, according to the most recent figures published by the Saudi Arabian Seaports Authority (SSA), and trade analysts said it was an indicator of the slowdown in the Kingdom's economy.

The January statistics gathered by the authority showed only 391 vessels made port calls at the Jeddah Islamic Port in the first month of the year, down from 432 in January 1984, and from 478 in January 1982.

Port call by general freighters, cement ships and auto-carriers all declined in frequency.

The amount of cargo unloaded further showed the decrease. During this January, 1,516,663 tonnes of freight were discharged, down from 2,016,695 tonnes in January 1984. The total amount of discharged cargo fell by 500,032 tonnes or approximately 25 per cent.

Building materials showed the largest decline, reflecting the cutting back of large building projects in the Kingdom's public sector. One year ago, 572,629 tonnes of bulk cement were unloaded in January. This year, only 229,604 tonnes were discharged during January, or decline of 60 per cent.

Steel imports fell by 9.6 per cent, while timber showed an even large decrease of 35 per cent to just under 35,000 tonnes.

A more telling indicator of the constructing economy in the Kingdom has been the steady decreasing import of cars.

In January 1985, 13,700 cars were unloaded at the port. By comparison, 19,863 units were discharged in January 1984, and 22,494 units in January 1983. In other words, car imports for January have declined by nearly 40 per cent over the last two years.

Two areas which have shown growth have been the amounts of foodstuffs delivered and livestock imported.

Foodstuffs delivered at the port this January totalled 658,007 tonnes, up from 579,344 tonnes in January 1984, an increase of 14 per cent.

Leading suppliers in tonnage were Australia, Belgium, France, the United States, West Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Singapore and Malaysia.

The import of livestock — mostly sheep and goats — also showed a marked increase this January as 270,680 head were unloaded. By contrast, one year ago in January, only 112,028 head were shipped here.

CSO: 4400/227

SAUDI ARABIA

FRG EXEMPTED FROM 30 PERCENT RULE

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 21 Jun 85 p 6

[Article by Manik Mehta in Bonn]

[Text]

Saudi Arabia has exempted West Germany from the provisions of a 1983 decree requiring foreign companies to have at least 30 per cent of the value of contracts placed with them carried out by Saudi companies.

The concession was incorporated into a protocol signed in Bonn last month to promote collaboration between West Germany and Saudi Arabian companies.

German companies have had difficulties in finding suitable Saudi partners to fulfill their obligations under the 30-per-cent clause. The new protocol also declares that Saudi Arabia will interpret the concession generally to include other aspects of economic cooperation.

German exports to Saudi Arabia in 1984 totalled Dm6.3bn (\$2.03bn) — a decline of 16.3 per cent over the previous year. Only the chemical, agricultural and food sectors were able to increase their exports. German construction firms in Saudi Arabia had a lean year after almost a decade of construction boom. South Korean, Indian and Turkish companies have been competing fiercely against the Germans and making inroads into the Saudi market.

German companies have identified their chances in Saudi Arabia primarily in private industry and in the servicing and maintenance sectors. Many German companies are consequently forced, if they are

to maintain their hold on the Saudi market, to collaborate with Saudi companies and, perhaps, even enter into joint ventures with them.

But German companies enjoy one major advantage over Japanese and American competitors — in pricing. While prices of imports from the USA and Japan went up markedly in 1984, German imports became cheaper by nearly 25 per cent because of the revaluation of the Saudi rial in relation to the Deutschemark following the upward surge of the US dollar on the foreign-exchange markets.

German firms are aware on the other hand that Saudi companies and state organizations will now be extremely price-conscious, scrupulously comparing prices with competitors from other countries, because they will no longer be getting the official subsidies hitherto extended in many forms. "Saudi Arabia will now operate as a normal foreign market with demands for credits, solid service offers and delays in payment," says one German expert on Saudi Arabia.

But, despite its declining oil revenues, Saudi Arabia remains an extremely rich market for German exporters. According to estimates made by German banks, Saudi Arabia's earnings from overseas capital investments amount to \$10bn. Added to this is the growing importance of Saudi Arabia as a competitive exporter of petrochemical products, even to markets like the USA and Western Europe.

CSO: 4400/227

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD TO SOVIET JOURNAL ON FOREIGN POLICY

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[Article by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen: "Foreign Policy of the Democratic Yemen and the Struggle Against Imperialism"]

[Text] An account of the foreign policy of the democratic Yemen must begin with the moment when our country won national independence in 1967 after 192 years of British colonial rule, with the moment when we began making revolutionary changes, which have characterized and continue to characterize the progressive national regime in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY).

In this connection we can say with full justification that the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution, which signified the beginning of the era of the transition from capitalism to socialism, and also the victory over fascism, the 40th anniversary of which was recently marked by the whole of progressive mankind and in the achievement of which a decisive role was played by the Soviet Union, have had a great influence on colonial peoples and have helped to widen their national liberation struggle against colonialism and exploitation. In this struggle they have relied on the firm, principled support of the Soviet Union, the countries of the socialist community, and all forces of freedom, progress, and peace, which has made it possible for many peoples to gain national independence and free themselves from the colonial oppression of imperialism. Taking this into account alone, one can thoroughly understand the meaning of our country's participation, and also that of many other independent peoples, in the numerous measures dedicated to celebration of the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism.

The Yemeni people did not reconcile themselves to the domination of the British colonizers who occupied our country in 1839. In various regions of the country there were actions by the working people and

also tribal unrest, and all kinds of political groups and organizations were set up which set themselves the aim of struggling against the colonial authorities and their accomplices.

On 14 October 1963, under the leadership of the National Front, our people were able to begin an armed revolution against British domination, and on 30 November 1967, having expelled the colonizers, they gained national independence.

During the national liberation struggle for independence the National Front, as the main driving force of the armed struggle, adopted the National Charter at its first congress in June 1965, which revealed its stand on international issues. The nature of the document reflected the ideological-political level of the Front's leadership and of its main cadres of that period. The charter stated that the aims, for the fulfillment of which revolution was being waged at a national level, must definitely serve as a guideline for all our people's international relations. It was also pointed out that support for revolutionary national liberation movements throughout the world waging a struggle against colonialism and imperialism is a historical task and an inalienable feature of any progressive people's revolution.

After the achievement of national independence PDRY foreign policy passed through several stages.

As is well-known, from 30 November 1967 to 22 June 1969 a right-wing trend predominated in the leadership of the National Front. It strove to prevent revolutionary democratic changes and to preserve the old socioeconomic relations. In alliance with the leadership of the armed forces it was able to strike a severe blow to the left-wing both in the National Front and within the ranks of the Yemeni national movement. This happened as a result of the military coup on 20 March 1968 led by an American military attache. This development of events was also reflected in the sphere of foreign policy, when the right-wing in power pursued a course of rapprochement with reactionary regimes and with neocolonizer, imperialist states, not wishing to establish and develop relations with the countries of the socialist community.

The struggle to remove the right-wing from government of the country was stubborn and consistent. Left-wing forces in the National Front succeeded in achieving this on 22 June 1969. They acted while relying on the support of other detachments of the national patriotic movement, including the Popular Democratic Union, the Popular Vanguard Party, and all the working masses of the Yemeni people. As a result the PDRY entered a new stage, the stage of implementing a whole series of revolutionary democratic changes aimed both at liquidating semifeudal and comprador forces and at curtailing the activities of foreign banks and companies. Agrarian reform was carried out, state farms and cooperatives were set up in rural areas, and a state sector formed in the economy. The ideas of scientific socialism were rapidly disseminated

within the ranks of the Political Organization National Front (PONF), although even during this period actions took place of an extremely left-wing nature both in the agrarian-production sphere, when the principle of free will was ignored with regard to entering agricultural production cooperatives and in the question of attitude toward the private sector or the nationalization of a large part of small-scale trade, and in other spheres. All this led to a distortion of the correct interpretation of the essence of socialism among the country's citizens. Ideological work on the basis of scientific socialism was also not free of the petty bourgeois trend of rushing ahead which, in its turn, could not help but reflect on PDRY foreign policy in that period, a period characterized by tension and semi-isolation.

The PONF program adopted at the fifth congress in March 1972 noted that "the socialist camp, the workers class, and the national liberation movement... are the main driving forces of our era." The program characterized the contemporary era, from the viewpoint of its historical essence, as "the era of socialist revolution and its triumph not only in one country,... the era of upsurge in the national liberation movement, the collapse of the world colonial system, and the beginning of the stage of socialist revolution for the majority of peoples in the world,... the era of the collapse of imperialism as the highest stage of capitalism and the victory of socialism on a worldwide scale."

The program pointed out that "Democratic Yemen regards the socialist camp as its revolutionary ally and strives to develop the closest possible relations with it."

All this reflected the level reached in mastering the theory of scientific socialism and attested to reliance on this theory in the development of the PDRY's foreign policy course. At the same time it is very clear that knowledge in this sphere, despite its principled strategic significance, was still inadequate, scholastic, and not backed up by mature interpretation of the basics of scientific socialism and its rich theoretical legacy applicable to real practice. As a result the view of reality was somewhat distorted and embellished, and objective facts were incorrectly utilized in the course of the practical implementation of a series of measures, which inevitably affected the foreign policy of Democratic Yemen.

During this period representatives of the extreme left-wing course continued to regard development of relations with the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community with apprehension. This apprehension led them to the idea of "balancing" relations with the two world systems--socialism and capitalism--and even to arranging contacts with reactionary regimes. This policy in many ways reflected the personal convictions of individual figures, and also the correlation of forces within the leading PONF organs.

During this period an important process was taking place in the PDRY, a process of gradually evolving dialogue between the three detachments of the national patriotic movement (the National Front, the Popular Democratic Union, and the Popular Vanguard Party) on their unity within the framework of a unified political organization. The dialogue helped to clarify the program documents of these detachments and also to overcome and amend many extreme left-wing ideas and measures, which was reflected in the materials of the sixth PONF Congress (1975), particularly in the sphere of foreign policy, and also in the program of the United Political Organization National Front (UPONF), formed in the same year and uniting in its ranks all three detachments of the national patriotic movement. These documents were indicated in the Program of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), adopted at its first congress in October 1978, and their formulations were clarified, thereby becoming clearer and more mature.

The defeat of the extreme left-wing trend within the ranks of the UPONF on 26 June 1978, this trend later assuming the nature of right-wing pragmatism, was of particular, exceptional significance; it helped to turn the UPONF into a new type of revolutionary party--today the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]--which is guided by the principles and aims of scientific socialism and proletarian internationalism and which we consider to be the main guarantor of stable development in the revolutionary democratic process in the PDRY. As a consequence of this, foreign policy has also been brought into line with our principled and steady adherence to scientific socialism and proletarian internationalism.

The YSP program defines our tasks and aims in the sphere of foreign policy and international relations as follows: "The aim of the foreign policy of the party and state is to create favorable foreign policy conditions for successfully implementing the Party Program, in particular in the sphere of completing the fulfillment of the tasks of the stage of national democratic revolution by the working people of Democratic Yemen and strengthening combat solidarity with the revolutionary movement of Arab peoples in the struggle against imperialism, zionism, and reaction, for national liberation and social progress, for the expansion and intensification of relations of cooperation with the socialist community headed by the Soviet Union, the consolidation of international relations with the international workers movement under the leadership of its vanguard parties, and the strengthening of unity with people's revolutionary struggle for national liberation, social progress, and the defense of peace. Its aim is also energetic activity to implement and observe the principle of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems and to develop normal relations with all states in the region on the basis of noninterference in internal affairs and respect for national sovereignty."

On the basis of this clear definition of the aims and principles of our foreign policy, relations between the PDRY party and government and various detachments of the world revolutionary movement have steadily developed; by relying on the principle of peaceful coexisting relations with various social regimes have been considerably expanded and deepened.

Preparing for the third YSP Congress which, it has been decided, will be held in October this year, we can express great satisfaction with the degree of fulfillment of those tasks which our party has set in the sphere of foreign policy.

As far as relations between Democratic Yemen and the countries of the socialist community are concerned, in this matter the YSP and our country proceed from the precise definition of the nature of these relations given in the Party Program, where it is stated that "In the sphere of relations with the world socialist community the party is guided by the community of basic, principled aims in the struggle for economic development, social progress and the people's well-being, for the support of national liberation movements, against the aggressive plans of imperialism, and for peace throughout the world."

It is on this basis that mutual relations between the YSP and communist and workers parties in the countries of the socialist community, and all communist and workers parties of the world have developed and strengthened.

There is a regular exchange of party, state, and social delegations and an exchange of visits at a high level, in the course of which the sides' positions and viewpoints on issues of mutual interest are discussed and experience exchanged. Our party is given assistance in the preparation and training of party cadres.

The states of the socialist community headed by the Soviet Union give the PDRY valuable assistance both in strengthening and consolidating our defense capabilities and in creating the foundations of the national economy, training national cadres, and resolving the problems of social and cultural development.

Many important projects in industry and agriculture carried out in our country and thousands of national specialists working in various branches of social production--all this is the result of the friendship and steadily developing cooperation between the PDRY and the USSR and other socialist states. One would like to particularly point out the disinterested and valuable assistance given us by the friendly Soviet Union in the sphere of oil prospecting and the extraction of useful minerals, which in many ways will help to overcome difficulties in developing the PDRY's national economy, and also to strengthen the positions and role of the state and cooperative sectors, which will make it possible to fully resolve the tasks of further developing the revolutionary democratic process now in progress in Democratic Yemen.

There is no doubt that these principled, constantly deepening and expanding relations have made a real, concrete contribution to the development and consolidation of our revolutionary experience and our steadfastness in the face of dangers and conspiracies from outside, which are aimed at liquidating the progressive regime in Democratic Yemen, establishing imperialist domination in the region, and posing a threat to its security and stability. These relations have been given a high appraisal by our country's popular masses struggling to form a free and happy society.

In this respect it is essential to also point out the coincidence of positions of our party and country and those of the USSR and other states of the socialist community on the most important international issues of the contemporary era. Representatives of the PDRY and socialist countries coordinate their actions and cooperate in international organizations in the work of which our countries jointly participate. Democratic Yemen supports all efforts and initiatives aimed at preserving peace, preventing the unleashing of a nuclear world war, and halting the arms race, and those directed against spreading this arms race to outer space of returning to "Cold War" times. The PDRY is in favor of counteracting any forms of the aggressive policies of world imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism, which encroaches on people's national independence and strives on an ever greater scale to rob them of their wealth, interfere in their internal affairs, force its domination and its military presence on them, and revive the policy of open colonialism. Our country actively struggles against attempts by imperialist forces to spread hotbeds of tension in various regions of the world, resort to armed aggression against progressive national governments, the activities of which are not to their taste, conduct a policy of "the carrot and the stick," and watch over dictatorial repressive regimes hostile to the interests and aspirations of their peoples.

International relations, friendly ties, and cooperation between the YSP and the PDRY and the DPRK, Kampuchea, Laos, and Democratic Afghanistan are steadily developing and growing stronger. Our party highly values its stable, constantly expanding relations with the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia. At the same time relations of friendship and cooperation on a state level are growing stronger between the PDRY and socialist Ethiopia, whose peoples are waging a common struggle against imperialism and reaction and for the development of their countries along a socialist path.

Relations between the YSP and the PDRY and democratic, progressive forces and regimes in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are growing stronger. As far as the question of establishing and developing close relations with forces of liberation and progress on these three continents is concerned, our party, as is emphasized in the program, proceeds from the fact that "the unity of the democratic national liberation movement... and its cohesion with the countries of the

socialist community are a historical necessity and a condition of definitively liquidating the domination of colonialism and imperialism in all its forms and all their racist strongholds."

The YSP has been able to establish bilateral relations with a large number of communist and workers parties in West European countries, in particular with Greece, Portugal, France, Cyprus, Spain, and Great Britain. We strive to develop these relations on the correct class foundations in order to jointly struggle against capitalism, imperialism, zionism, and racism. Our party believes--and this is recorded in its program--that "the strength of the international workers movement and of its vanguard parties lies in unity," which is why the YSP "urges consolidation of this unity and does everything necessary for this, and why it determinedly opposes everything that could weaken this unity or affect its essence, which is based on the principles of proletarian internationalism and the ideology of the workers class."

Implementing the principle of peaceful coexistence, the PDRY has established bilateral relations with many West European capitalist states and with various African and Asian countries, while proceeding in this respect from mutual interests and mutual benefit, and working on the basis of the principle of respect for sovereignty and non-interference in one another's internal affairs.

In the Arab region our party and state devote particular attention to strengthening relations with progressive Arab liberation forces and patriotic regimes opposed to imperialism, zionism, and reaction. The YSP has developed relations with the Syrian Arab Socialist Renaissance Party, the Algerian National Liberation Front, communist and workers parties, and a number of Arab national and patriotic organizations. Our party persistently and consistently acts in the name of "the real combat unity between all Arab revolutionary forces opposed to the plans of imperialism, zionism, and reaction which are directed against our Arab nation." Democratic Yemen has bilateral relations at various levels with all Arab member-countries of the Arab League. The PDY has overcome many difficulties in establishing these relations, particularly with some states in the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. As a result, our country, particularly recently, has been able to establish diplomatic relations with Oman, Bahrain and Qatar, whereas before the PDRY only had bilateral relations with two countries in this region--Kuwait and United Arab Emirates. Relations have also been established with Saudi Arabia. Our relations with these countries are based on respect for sovereignty, noninterference in one another's internal affairs, bilateral mutually advantageous cooperation, and the resolving of all disputes between states by peaceful means.

We are very well aware of the fact that strengthening the PDRY's defense capabilities, determinedly defending our national independence and sovereignty, preserving national democratic achievements, consolidating the country's progressive course, and ensuring friendship

and cooperation between the democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community--all this will definitely lead to implementing a policy of peaceful coexistence in the PDRY's relations with states in the region. Despite the limited nature of our bilateral cooperation with these states, what has already been achieved in this sphere we consider to be an important step forward in comparison to the level of relations which existed with them earlier.

In the present situation which has taken shape in the Arab world, the YSP expends tireless effort to coordinate actions and cooperation between anti-imperialist, anti-zionist patriotic regimes so that they can take common stands on topical political problems of the region. This primarily applies to the struggle against the conspiracy of imperialist, zionist, and reactionary forces in the Arab East in any of its forms, a conspiracy aimed at dooming to failure the just cause of the Arab people of Palestine and, first and foremost, at wrecking the realization of their right to form an independent state on the territory of their motherland; a conspiracy directed against the Palestine liberation Organization (PLO), as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and also against patriotic regimes and all Arab forces of liberation and progress. A component part of this conspiracy is the propagation of the American Administration's plans in the region, such as the Camp David agreements, the "Reagan Plan," and other similar infamous "initiatives" expected to ensure Arab capitulation to imperialism and zionism.

Our party constantly points out the necessity to ensure all-Arab solidarity of an anti-imperialist, anti-zionist nature and emphasizes the necessity to adhere to the decisions of the top-level all-Arab conference held in Fes, and in particular the Arab plan for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict. In this connection the YSP also urges Arab countries to jointly and officially approve Soviet proposals for a Middle East settlement, which include holding an international conference with the participation of all interested parties, including the PLO, with the aim of reaching a comprehensive, just settlement in the Middle East, the basis of which would be fulfillment of the Arab people of Palestine's right to self-determination and the formation of their own independent state on the soil of their motherland.

The YSP has expended extremely great effort to restore the unity of PLO ranks and to overcome the threat of a split in the Palestinian resistance movement. We support any actions on the part of Palestinian progressive patriotic forces in this direction in the name of restoring their unity within the framework of the PLO on the basis of the Aden-Algiers agreements, which confirmed the anti-imperialist, anti-zionist patriotic course of the PLO.

The YSP also supports all steps aimed at forming broad national-patriotic fronts in Arab countries and in the Arab world as a whole, which would help to intensify the struggle of Arab peoples and of their progressive liberation forces against conspiracies and any forms of imperialism's military presence in the region, in the name of preserving the national independence of Arab countries, for democratic freedoms and total fulfillment of the tasks of liberation, for social progress, and for the sake of consolidating Arab-Soviet friendship, which our party regards as a necessary and important condition of strengthening the Arabs' stability and wrecking all the anti-Arab conspiracies of imperialism, zionism, and reaction.

We express complete confidence in the fact that the Third YSP Congress will set the tasks of its foreign policy course for the forthcoming period on the basis of creative application of the principles of international solidarity and peaceful coexistence. There is no doubt that the resolutions of the congress will help to strengthen relations between our party and state and all Arab progressive liberation forces, and also all detachments of the world revolutionary movement headed by the friendly Soviet Union--the strategic ally of our revolution and the people of the democratic Yemen, other Arab peoples, and all peoples struggling for peace, freedom, and social progress.

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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

CEMENT AGREEMENT WITH FRENCH--Paris, 9 Aug (QNA)--The French Company (Criseau) Loire has recently signed an \$82 million agreement with the PDRY to establish a cement company in the PDRY. A statement issued by the French company indicates that the agreement states that a factory will be built in the area of Abyan, south of Aden, and will be provided with all equipment needed to ensure an annual production rate of 350,000 tons of cement. The actual production of cement is expected to begin in the summer of 1986. The agreement also states that the French company will train the Yemenis on factory administration and supervision. [Text] [Doha Qna in Arabic 1220 GMT 9 Aug 85]

ENVOY TO IRAN--In Tehran today, Ambassador Qasim 'abd al-Rabb Salih presented his credentials as PDRY ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Islamic Republic of Iran to Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'ali Khamene'i. During their meeting the brother ambassador conveyed the greetings of brother 'ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the supreme people's council presidium. Bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries and the ways to develop them were also discussed. [Text] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Jul 85]

SAUDI DEVELOPMENT FUND LOAN--A loan agreement was signed between the PDRY and the Saudi Development Fund at the Yemeni ports committee building on 29 July. According to the agreement, the fund will grant the PDRY a loan of about 108 million Saudi riyals, equivalent to \$30 million, in order to finance the project for developing and expanding the Aden commercial port, the total cost of which is \$101 million. [Excerpt] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Jul 85]

CSO: 4400/232

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

JAPANESE CONSTRUCTION GRANT--An agreement worth 250 million yen was today signed between the YAR and Japan for importing steel for construction to rebuild quake-stricken areas. This agreement is the second Japanese grant to the YAR. [Text] [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Aug 85]

SOVIET OFFICIAL ARRIVES--Yuriy Porfiryevich Ostalskiy, deputy chairman of the Union of Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent of the USSR arrived in Sanaa today on a visit lasting several days. During his visit, he will hold discussions with the Yemeni Red Crescent officials on cooperation between the two humanitarian societies and the means to develop them. [Excerpt] [Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Aug 85]

CSSR OFFICIAL VISITS--An agreement for widening trade, economic, and technical cooperation was signed today between our country and the CSSR at the ministry of economy and industry. [Excerpt] [Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jul 85] (Josef Koshe), under secretary for the CSSR Foreign Trade Ministry and director of the Arabic Department at the ministry [name and title as heard], left Sanaa today following a 5-day visit to the YAR. During his visit he held talks with relevant officials at the Ministry of Economy and Industry on trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. [Summary] [Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jul 85]

AMBASSADOR TO DPRK--YAR Ambassador to PRC Dr Husayn 'abd al-Khaliq al-Jalal today delivered his credentials to DPRK President Kim il-Song as YAR nonresident ambassador and plenipotentiary to DPRK. [Excerpt] [Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jul 85]

WATER AGREEMENT WITH NETHERLANDS--An agreement to implement the second phase of the project for assessing water resources in the YAR was signed between the YAR and Netherlands at the general establishment for oil and mineral resources today. The project is designed to study the water resources in the Republic, to set up a hydrological and hydrogeological research department and information center, and to study and explore new water resources in Ma'rib. The agreement was signed by Ahmad Khadim al-Wajih, minister of finance and official in charge of the general establishment for oil and mineral resources; and the Netherlands charge d'affaires in Sanaa. [Summary] [Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Aug 85]

IDB LOANS--Jeddah, 3 Aug (SPA)--An agreement was signed at the headquarters of the Islamic Development Bank [IDB] today, whereby the bank will finance the purchase of refined petroleum products on behalf of the YAR to the sum of \$21.5 million. With this agreement the financing accredited by the IDB for the YAR since the beginning of the current hegira year 1405 [September 1984] totals \$48.8 million. [Excerpts] [Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1412 GMT 2 Aug 85]

CSO: 4400/231

BANGLADESH

ERSHAD VISITS SOUTH KOREA, JAPAN, THAILAND

17 Jun Talks With President

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Jun 85 pp 1, 12

[Text]

SEOUL, June 17.—President Lt Gen. H.M. Ershad now on a state visit here, today held official talks with the President of Republic of Korea Chun Doo-Hwan, at the 'Blue House' the official Presidential residence, reports BSS.

The talks lasting over one and a half hours was marked by extreme cordiality and further strengthening of cooperation between the two countries Bangladesh delegation spokesman told BSS. Special correspondent accompanying the President.

Prior to the formal talks the two Presidents met exclusively at a summit meeting which lasted over 45 minutes.

During the talks, the two leaders surveyed the international scenes with identical views particularly on Afghan and Kampuchean question.

The talks also marked similarity in approach regarding West Asian and Namibian issues. They also discussed the necessity for creating a new international economic order and stressed the importance of South-South cooperation.

The spokesman said on bilateral plane the two Presidents expressed their hope of intensification of economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Republic of Korea. Korea assured Bangladesh of increased trade and enhancement of Korean investments in joint venture and other projects in Bangladesh.

The Korean leader assured President Ershad that his country would increase import from Bangladesh to reduce the trade imbalance between the two countries.

The Koreans showed interest in increased import of items like hides and skin and jute goods. The question of requirement of more Bangladeshi workers the Korean projects around the world also came up in the talks.

More workers for Korean projects

The Korean side showed interest in recruiting more workers from Bangladesh in their projects.

President Chun observed that the meeting between two heads of state was important because it provided an opportunity to establish personal contact. The Korean President evinced keen interest in the development stride of Bangladesh particularly in the 'upazila' concept and praised President Ershad for the-reaching reformative measures he had adopted in various socio-economic sectors which had already started yielding results benefiting Bangladesh economy. He wished President Ershad all success in this regard.

President Chun also lauded Bangladesh for tackling the relief and rehabilitation operations in the calamity hit areas efficiently under his (Ershad) personal supervision.

The Bangladesh President informed the host President and his aides of the initiative taken by his country in forging cooperation in the South Asian region. The Korean leader showed keen interest and hoped that the South Asian regional Cooperation (SARC) summit would culminate in an era of friendship and beneficial cooperation.

ration among the countries of the South Asian region.

President Chun described President Ershad as an able forward looking and dynamic leader of Asia and hoped close links between the Asian countries would come to the benefits of the peoples.

When asked to comment on the talks, the Bangladesh delegation spokesman told BSS a new era of cooperation between Bangladesh and Republic of Korea seemed to be in the offing. He said So far this visit has been very well and successful.

President Ershad at the talks was aided among others by the Energy Minister Mr Anwar Hossain the Foreign Affairs Adviser, Mr Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury and the Bangladesh Ambassador to Korea Mr A K N Ahmed.

The Foreign Minister Mr Lee Won Kyong, the Secretary General to the President Mr Lee Kiu Ho and the Korean envoy

to Bangladesh Mr Chan Kie Ahn assisted President Chun.

Meanwhile the diplomatic and the Press circles in the Korean capital observed that the summit meeting between President Ershad and President Chun had further strengthened the atmosphere of cooperation between the two countries and opened up a new era of understanding and cooperation that was being nurtured by the Asian countries.

On arrival at the Blue House President Ershad and Begum Raushan Ershad were cordially welcomed at the entrance by President Chun and Madame Chun who warmly shook hands with them.

Earlier, as the Bangladesh President's motorcade entered the Blue House premises, the Army bugle heralded the arrival of the honoured guests from Bangladesh. Contingents drawn from the three services presented guard of honour as President Ershad's motorcade passed

by from the Blue House gate to the portico of the official residence.

The President and Begum Raushan Ershad then signed the visitors book at the Blue House.

The two Presidents were then taken to the respective presentation lines.

They also exchanged gifts between them.

Later President Ershad and Begum Raushan Ershad called on the host President and Madame Chun Doo-Hwan at the Blue House. They remained together for some time.

As the formal talks were progressing between the two Presidents Begum Raushan Ershad met separately with Madame Chun at the President's residence.

The official talks over President Chun and Madame Chun walked together with President Ershad and Begum Raushan Ershad to the entrance and bade hearty farewell to the guests.

Speech at President's Banquet

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Jun 85 pp 1, 12

[Text]

SEOUL, June 17:—President H. M. Ershad tonight expressed the concern of his country about the growing tendency of protectionism in some industrialised countries of the West saying this has adversely affected the plans and programmes of the developing countries, reports BSS.

Describing the existing international economic order as unfavourable to the Third World Nations President Ershad said while continuing the endeavours for creation of a new international economic order the members of the South should make sustained efforts to extend the areas of cooperation among themselves.

He was speaking at a banquet given in honour of him and Begum Raushan Ershad by President Chun Doo-Hwan and Madame Chun here at the 'Young Bin Kwan' banquet room of the Blue House here.

President Ershad referred to the personal interest of President Chun in forging closer South-South cooperation and expressed his belief that the Republic of Korea, with its expertise in many areas, can play an important role for the realisation of this objective.

Referring to the severe cyclone and tidal wave which hit the southern belt of Bangladesh recently, he said "We have been trying our best to mitigate the sufferings of the affected people within the resources available to us". Bangladesh is grateful to the international community and President Chun himself for the sympathy and support extended he said.

He referred to the progress made in achieving South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC) and said the scheduled summit of the SARC member countries in Dhaka in December this year will lay the foundation of a new era of friendship understanding and cooperation among the seven South Asian countries.

The President said durable peace in West Asia can be achieved only on the basis of total and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories, including the holy city of Jerusalem, and realisation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to have an independent state in their homeland.

On Iraq-Iran war he pledged to continue all possible efforts to bring this fratricidal war to an end. He hoped that various

moves to bring about cessation of the conflict and to restore peace will produce positive results.

He also expressed the support of his country for the peaceful reunification of Korea in line with the principles laid down in the joint communique issued by the Republic of Korea and the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea on July 4, 1972.

'We offer you our flowers'

President Ershad concluded his speech with the English translation of self-composed poem:—

"We accept with open arms
your gift of flowers,
your tilting songs, your seas
of splendid blues.

We open our hearts
if you ever come to our lands,
amidst our lush and verdant
green.

We too, will offer you
our flowers songs and blue
seas".

Another message adds.—President Chun Doo-Hwan said here tonight that in the backdrop of intensified competition among nations in world economy rather than pursuit for common prosperity, the necessity of regional as well as South-South cooperation based on self-help and collaboration was of prime importance.

Speaking at the state banquet given by him in honour of President Ershad at the 'Young B'n Kwan' banquet room of the 'Blue House,' President Chun said that the persistent character of the present international situation was instability resulting from the many threats to the world peace.

He expressed his confidence that under these circumstances "We can only overcome the difficulties of nation building through the concerted efforts of countries in similar circumstances." With a similar perception many developing countries were fortunately trying to lay a solid foundation for common prosperity by strengthening cooperation among themselves, he pointed out.

In this connection, the Korean President noted with satisfaction that the mutually beneficial cooperation between Bangladesh and Republic of Korea

had been remarkably promoted. He expressed the hope that in the coming days, the two countries would be a good example of South-South cooperation.

President Chun said, while proceeding hand in hand with Bangladesh towards peace and prosperity the republic of Korea will do its best to become a lamp bearer to illuminate the East as the renowned Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore envisioned.

President Chun said that Korea and Bangladesh, two Asian countries with the common goal of peace and prosperity, had cultivated a close tie of friendship and cooperation since the establishment of diplomatic relations back in 1973.

Golden lamp to be lit, Chun

The Korean President lauded that even in the face of various obstacles, Bangladesh had achieved striking progress in the building of a new Bangladesh by successfully undertaking a series of reforms under the leadership of President Ershad. He said, "We are confident that, in fulfilment of the desire expressed in your patriotic poem, it will not be long before the golden lamp is lit in Bangladesh."

Referring to the tragic Korean war of 1950, President Chun expressed his country's determination that war must not be allowed to recur on the peninsula and that such a tragedy must be prevented by all means.

He said with this end in mind 'our government' had incessantly striven for peace and stability in the region and the world alike.

In this context, he regretted the negative approach by North Korea to attain the objective.

President Chun conveyed the sympathy and grief of the people and government of Republic of Korea and on his own behalf to the people and government of Bangladesh and President Ershad who are "unflinchingly overcoming the enormous disaster caused by cyclones last month and the deluge last year."

Meets Korean Newsmen

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

SEOUL, June 18:—President H M Ershad today laid emphasis on increased bilateral cooperation and South-South understanding for creating a better life for the vast multitude of population living in the developing countries, reports BSS.

Such cooperation in economic and other fields among the countries of Asia was of prime need to improve the lot of the people in the continent, he added.

The President was replying to question put forward by the Korean Pressmen at the National Press Centre here.

President Ershad said the Asian countries could meaningfully cooperate among themselves to the benefit of their peoples and at the same time such gesture would contribute in bolstering the economy of the less developed countries of the continent.

President Ershad described his talks with President Chun Doo-Hwan to be "very fruitful" and hoped that it would open up a new vista of effective and beneficial cooperation between the two countries. He said there are tremendous prospect of further expansion of bilateral relations for mutual benefits.

Identifying the possible fields of cooperation between Bangladesh and Korea the President said the Republic of Korea has left its mark in the attainment of remarkable development in the industrial sector. It can help Bangladesh in her industrialisation by joint-venture projects, with technology support and also investing in the Export Processing Zone, he said

adding in return Korea can get a very big market and use the cheap labour available in Bangladesh to substantially reduce the production cost.

The President was hopeful that Bangladesh-Korea cooperation would be a model of effective cooperation between the South-South.

SARC prospect bright

In this context replying to another question, President Ershad commented that the prospect of the South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC) was very bright. There is a spirit and desire among the countries to cooperate with each other for the greater welfare of their peoples and ensure a better life for them.

President Ershad disagreed with a questioner that diversified opinions among the members had been affecting the very spirit of Non-aligned Movement and said 'There may be some differences but when we sit we rise above petty differences for upholding common and great cause'. The movement has made its mark he said.

On a question on unification of the two Koreas, the President said 'Our position on this question is very explicit. We want peaceful unification of the two Koreas'.

Earlier, making a brief statement at the Press conference, the President said that Bangladesh had always attached importance to her relations with the countries in the Asia-Pacific region which holds out far-reaching

promises in the coming decades.

He said Bangladesh and Republic of Korea hold similar views on a number of international problems and issues. We envisage bright prospects for cooperation between our two countries within the framework of South-South cooperation.

In this context, he referred to the imbalance in trade between the two countries and said following our discussions during the last few days, the prospect of achieving a growth coupled with balance in trade has brightened.

He detailed the conference about the measures and reforms effected by his Government in Bangladesh to rejuvenate the national economy and said all these had set a sense of direction before the nation to its benefit.

President Ershad also told the pressmen about the SARC and said that the seven South Asian countries had travelled a long way since the concept was mooted by Bangladesh and the first summit meeting scheduled at Dhaka in December next would set the formal launching of the organisation.

On arrival at the Press Centre an imposing 24-storey building, at the Pyung Ro area the President was received by the Director of the centre, Mr Lee Kwang Pyo.

The President was then presented before the newsmen by the Director.

Energy Minister Mr Anwar Hossain and Foreign Affairs Adviser, Mr Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Seoul, June 18--President H.M. Ershad today urged the investors of the Republic of Korea for 'more direct participation' in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh in the spirit of South-South cooperation and to consolidate friendly relations between the two countries, reports BSS.

He said, "We also request you to open up your market for Bangladeshi products which will not only provide encouragement to our industries but also help in narrowing down the adverse balance of trade that Bangladesh today has with your country."

President Ershad was addressing a joint meeting of Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Korean Industries, the Korean Federation of Small Business and Korean Trade Association on recent economic development and investment opportunity in Bangladesh.

The President said his Government, through unrelenting efforts has succeeded in attaining greater stability in the country which is an essential pre-requisite for investment and economic progress.

He said with a successful referendum and upazila level elections behind, Bangladesh is moving towards creating permanent and democratic political institutions and dynamic economy.

Referring to the new industrial policy announced by the present Government in 1982, President Ershad said it was aimed at improving the investment climate and allow the private sector to play its due role in the industrial development of the country.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries, Mr Chung Ju Yung, welcomed President Ershad and commended the basic reforms he had brought about in Bangladesh economic and industrial policies. He said these policy adjustments were sure to prove effective for strengthening economic activities in Bangladesh.

Mr Chung said that the economy of Korea and Bangladesh could be benefitted through effective and active cooperation by way of sharing technology and experiences. This would in other way compatible with the South-South cooperation spirit, he observed.

The Korean Chamber Chairman said that the visit of President Ershad to Korea would open up new vista of cooperation between the two countries for the welfare to the two peoples.

From the Bangladesh businessmen delegation side who are accompanying the President, Mr Morshed Khan spoke on the occasion explaining the favourable climate now obtaining in Bangladesh for joint venture investment.

Jt Commission Set Up

Meanwhile, Bangladesh and Republic of Korea have decided to set up a Joint Commission to be headed by the two Foreign Ministers for further consolidation of bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Commission will review the progress of over-all cooperation between the two countries in various fields and identify areas for increasing cooperation.

The Commission will annually meet alternately in Seoul and Dhaka.

Report on Communique

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Jun 85 p 4

[Text] Bangladesh and Republic of Korea have renewed their call for the establishment of a new international economic order and greater cooperation among the countries of the south, reports BSS.

In a joint communique issued simultaneously from Dhaka and Seoul at the end of a five-day visit of President H.M. Ershad to the Republic of Korea, the two sides expressed their agreement that the Least Developed Countries deserved special consideration from the more developed countries.

The communique said President Chun Doo-Hwan of the Republic of Korea proposed to send a ministerial level economic mission to Bangladesh to explore new areas of investment there. President Ershad accepted the offer with "deep appreciation."

It said the two leaders noted with satisfaction that the bilateral relations between the two countries have been steadily developed. They agreed to encourage and promote active participation by Korean business enterprises in the economic development projects and joint ventures of Bangladesh.

The two Presidents expressed satisfaction with the excellent bilateral relations and the close and friendly understanding that exist between the two countries. They expressed their conviction that the bond of friendship between the two countries would be further strengthened and widened in the years ahead.

The two leaders agreed that sufficient scope existed for expanding cooperation in the economic, trade, cultural and technical fields between the two countries. They stressed the need for further augmenting and diversifying trade and economic cooperation for the mutual benefit of their peoples.

The communique said President Chun praised the government and people of Bangladesh for the progress in its challenging task for nation building which is a tribute to the successful implementation of a number of reforms in various fields under the dynamic leadership of President Ershad. He highly appreciated contributions of the Bangladesh Government to the international peace and security.

The two Presidents reviewed the international situation and noted with satisfaction the similarity in their views on many bilateral, regional and international issues. They also reiterated that for the attainment of durable peace it was essential for all states to observe the principles of sovereign equality of nations, respect for territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and peaceful settlement of disputes.

BSS from Seoul adds: Bangladesh and Republic of Korea signed an executive arrangement for 1986-87 under the cultural agreement existing between them, working out schedule for exchange of visits of literatures, artists, journalists and educationists of the two countries.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan and Korea and the Director General of Information and Cultural Wing of the Korean Government signed the arrangement on behalf of their respective governments.

Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Adviser Mr Humayun Kasheed Chowdhury told BSS correspondent accompanying the President that a high power Korean delegation led by a Minister, would soon visit Bangladesh to explore the possibilities of further diversifying the areas of cooperation between the two countries. The delegation would include members of Korean industrial and business community.

Mr Chowdhury said that the visit of the high power Korean delegation was intended to examine the prospect of increased economic cooperation. Moreover, it would provide opportunity to the Korean entrepreneurs to directly communicate with the Bangladesh side and determine the primary feasibility of effective cooperation in various industrial sectors.

Report on NHK Interview

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Tokyo, June 22--President H.M. Ershad said here Friday that his country welcomes the Japanese capital and technical assistance as a supplement to local resources to accelerate the pace of "our industrial growth," reports BSS.

In an interview with the NHK television of Japan, President Ershad hoped that the Japanese investors would find it economically rewarding to invest in Bangladesh--a country with expanding market, efficient and cheap labour force and liberal industrial policy.

He said besides the industrial sector, Japan and Bangladesh could have meaningful cooperation in the educational, cultural, sports, scientific, technical and technological fields. The two countries had close cooperation in international field, he said.

The President expressed the confidence that the exchange of views with the leaders and other prominent personalities of Japan would contribute significantly towards the development and strengthening of close and cordial relations between the two countries.

Replying to a question, President Ershad gave a brief account of the loss of life and property in the devastating cyclone that hit the coastal belt of Bangladesh late last month and thanked the Government and the people of Japan for the assistance they had provided to relieve the sufferings of the affected people. He, however, said Japan could effectively help Bangladesh in the rehabilitation programme for the affected people and in the plans for permanent protective measures against such natural calamity.

On population problem he said there is a growing awareness in Bangladesh today of the need of controlling unplanned growth of population and the measures taken by the Government in this respect had already started showing positive results.

In a separate interview with the Bengali service of the NHK Radio of Japan, the President said the first summit meeting of the heads of state and Government of the South Asian countries to be held in Dhaka in December this year will provide an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of South Asian peoples to the spirit of regional cooperation.

President Ershad referred to the visits of some heads of state and Government of the region to Bangladesh to express solidarity with the distressed cyclone affected people and said this gesture which was a welcome development had strengthened the spirit of SARC.

Replying to a question, he said Bangladesh and India had some outstanding bilateral problems. "We are continuing to exert all efforts to arrive at a negotiated settlement of these issues," he said.

Replying to another question, the President said promotion of peace, understanding, cooperation and development in "our region" and elsewhere in the world were the primary objective of the foreign policy of his Government. Whatever foreign policy initiative Bangladesh had taken were to promote these primary objectives, he said.

Speaks at Emperor's Banquet

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 23 Jun 85 p 4

[Text] Tokyo, June 22--President H.M. Ershad said here Wednesday night that it had been a rewarding experience for Bangladesh to have Japan as a friend and also a partner in progress, report BSS.

He said, "I have no doubt that the coming years will witness further intensification of friendship, understanding and cooperation between our two Asian countries.

President Ershad was speaking at a banquet given in his honour by Emperor Hirohito of Japan at the Imperial Palace.

The President said Japan was a principal donor to Bangladesh and in fact, Japanese assistance even before our independence had helped us in building the infrastructure in such important fields as steel and fertilizer. The continued and increased quantum of assistance being received from Japan by Bangladesh now has given the country a greater confidence to gear up development efforts in a number of vital sectors of economy, he said.

President Ershad said investment climate in Bangladesh was more congenial now than ever before. The present government, he said, has adopted a number of far-reaching measures to encourage and facilitate private sector investment. "The measures have been paying us satisfactory dividends in terms of better annual growth rate and other economy benefits," he added.

President Ershad said the growing importance of Japan as an economic power gives it a particular responsibility to come to the help of the less fortunate nations. That was why Bangladesh count so much on Japan to speak up for a developing country like ours in the international fora, such as the summit of the most industrialised seven and the conference of the OECD, he said.

Earlier, Emperor Hirohito welcomed President Ershad.

The banquet was attended among others by Energy Minister Anwar Hossain, Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Raheed Chowdhury, Members of the Royal Family, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, Cabinet Members, Diplomats, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chief Justice and President of the House of Councillors.

Meanwhile, Emperor Hirohito said that the visit of President H.M. Ershad would further deepen mutual understanding and trust between "our two countries" and increase their friendship and cooperation.

Speaking at a banquet given in honour of Bangladesh President and Begum Ershad at the Imperial Palace, Emperor Hirohito said since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Japan, the bilateral ties developed in strength for mutual benefit of the two peoples.

He said the visit of President Ershad was an event of great significance in the relations between the two countries. He said in recent years, economic and cultural exchanges between the two countries and mutual visits of their two leaders are becoming increasingly active adding much strength to their ties.

Report on Prime Minister's Luncheon

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 23 Jun 85 p 4

[Text] Tokyo, June 22--President H.M. Ershad on Thursday expressed deep concern of his country at the deteriorating international economic situation saying that the developing countries had been bearing the main brunt of the economic problems affecting the world at present, reports BSS.

Speaking at the luncheon hosted in his honour by Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone at his official residence here, President Ershad said that the much awaited global negotiations remained to be launched while the common fund agreement was still a non-starter.

He pointed out that the failing commodity prices had coincided with a decrease in official development assistance in real terms and the measures envisaged under the international development strategy were yet to be translated fully into reality.

The President expressed his apprehension that the substantial new programme of action for the least developed countries would be adversely affected if these negative trends continue to persist.

"It goes without saying that the interdependence of the economies of the North and the South has made it imperative to adopt an integrated and coherent approach for the resolution of the global economic issues," he said.

President Ershad hoped that the developed countries would show greater understanding and appreciation of the problems of the developing countries, particularly those of the least developed countries. "As in the past, we will count upon Japan's understanding and support for the problems of the developing countries like ours in the international meetings and fora," he said.

He said the relations between Bangladesh and Japan had grown in depth and dimension in recent years. He said that his current visit to Japan and meaningful exchange of views with its leaders had enabled him to comprehend and identify more clearly the areas of mutual interest.

The President said at present Japan was a principal donor to Bangladesh and in fact, Japan's generous assistance had enabled Bangladesh to undertake a number of major development projects.

He dwelt in brief the reformative measures effected by his government in different fields including decentralisation of administration and said the government had been making persistent efforts to restore the democratic process in accordance with its commitment to the people.

Reiterating the commitment of Bangladesh to the principles and objectives of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, OIC and the Commonwealth, the President said in line with its commitment to the cause of peace, stability and progress, Bangladesh had been making all possible endeavours for the creation of a more peaceful, secure and equitable world order.

He said Bangladesh had been making unremitting endeavours to create an atmosphere of goodwill, trust, mutual understanding and cooperation in its own neighbourhood. In this context, he referred to the progress so far achieved regarding South Asian Regional Cooperation. He hoped that the first summit meeting of the seven member countries scheduled to be held in Dhaka in December this year would herald a new era of friendship, understanding and cooperation among the South Asian countries.

The luncheon was attended, among others, by cabinet ministers, members of Japanese Parliament, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and members of President Ershad's entourage.

Earlier on arrival at the Prime Minister's residence, the President and Begum Raushan Ershad were warmly received by Mr Nakasone at the porch. They were then taken before the presentation line.

Speech to Economic Organizations

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 23 Jun 85 p 7

[Text] Mr President, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During my visit to your great country, I have looked forward eagerly to this moment for sharing my thoughts with such a distinguished community of business leaders who have been playing a pioneering role in moulding Japan's economy.

I feel honoured for having this occasion of meeting you and thank you most sincerely, Mr President, for inviting me to address this distinguished gathering on recent economic development and investment opportunities in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has an area of about 56,000 square miles with a population of over 95 million. Although Bangladesh is roughly three-eighths of Japan's size, her population is only about 25 million less than that of Japan. Nature has endowed Bangladesh with fertile soil, plenty of water and marine resources which have not yet been fully explored and exploited. Another important resource is our hard working labour force which needs to be properly trained and mobilized. Centuries of neglect and deprivation have greatly retarded our economic development but we are engaged in a determined effort at social and economic development for improving the lot of our common man. My visit to your country will enable me and my delegation to derive benefit from your rich experiences in dealing with the problems of development.

Mr President,

In Bangladesh, agriculture accounts for nearly 55 percent of the Gross Domestic Products (GDP), 75 percent of employment and over 50 percent of exports. Development of this vital sector of economy naturally gets priority of my Government. As part of overall strategy, attention has been given to the reorganisation of agro-supported services and institutions. Burdensome subsidies have either been withdrawn or reduced to a bare minimum while offering price incentives. Rational land reform measures without adversely affecting the existing ownership rights have been under various stages of implementation. A number of institutes are engaged in research activities on higher production and cost reduction programme in agriculture.

While agriculture is the life line of Bangladesh, it is imperative that we expand our industrial sector which could provide employment to our ever-growing labour force, produce capital goods necessary for strengthening the base of our economy. With a view to attaining this objective, my Government has initiated a pragmatic and forward looking policy to develop the economy for the well-being of the common people.

Mr President,

The present Government of Bangladesh has, since the assumption of office in March 1982, adopted measures to attain self-sufficiency in food production, control population growth, increase industrial production through disinvestment of several public enterprises and providing greater incentives to the private sector, encourage foreign investment, explore and develop energy resources, expand foreign trade through increased exports, improve the communication system and introduce a pragmatic and modern system of education.

The performance of the economy of Bangladesh has been fairly satisfactory in recent years. The Gross Domestic Products increased by 4.2 percent in 1983-84, our last financial year, compared with 3.7 percent in 1982-83 and 0.9 in the year before. The foodgrain production increased from 15.1 million tons to 15.5 million tons in spite of the heavy damages caused by the floods last year. Most of the other sectors of economy, including energy, industry, transport, trade, housing and construction recorded increases--some significantly and others marginally. The current financial year, i.e., 1984-85 which will be over on June 30 is the terminal year of our Second Five-Year Plan. During this year, the performance of our country is likely to be better than that of 1983-84. Notwithstanding the damages and destruction caused by the recent cyclone which hit the coastal belt of Bangladesh, we are determined to continue our onward march for developing our national economy.

I would like to apprise you of some important policies that we have adopted and are being pursued since March 1982 to provide a new dimension and greater thrust to industrialisation of the country. In this context, I may highlight some of the major policy decisions.

- (a) The policy of disinvestment of public enterprises is being pursued in right earnest.
- (b) Investment ceiling to private investment has been withdrawn.
- (c) To encourage private sector and to ensure its full opportunity for development, the establishment of commercial banks in the private sector has been allowed. Six banks have already been set up under private ownership, while two private banks nationalised earlier have been returned to their owners and the semi-private financial institution--International Finance and Investment Company--has been permitted to undertake commercial banking.
- (d) Stock exchange at Dhaka has been recommissioned to promote private investment and the portfolio of the Investment Corporation has been strengthened.
- (e) To promote industrial growth in the private sector, an Industrial Promotion and Development Company has been set up in collaboration with a group of four international development agencies.
- (f) Fiscal and financial incentive structure has been strengthened to encourage local and foreign private investment. It includes import of machinery at concessional rates for less developed areas, tax concession on account of export, import entitlement, flexible exchange rate together with guarantee against exchange risk, liberal credit etc.
- (g) Investment sanction procedures have been simplified while the need for sanction in case of self-financed projects except for hard loan has been discontinued.

One of the major decisions taken by my Government in the economic field is to allow the private sector to play an increasingly important role in the industrial development of our country. With this objective in view, a New Industrial Policy was announced in June 1982. In line with this policy, the Government has set up services of various agencies to be made available to prospective investors for counselling and assistance.

Under the New Industrial Policy, except for six sectors of strategic and national importance such as arms and ammunitions, atomic energy, air transport, telecommunications, general distribution of electricity and mechanised extraction of timber from forests, all other fields are now open to the private sector. Private investment is now allowed in the jute industry and the cotton textiles. The Government has already returned a number of jute and cotton textile mills to their original local owners. So far the Government has disinvested several hundred enterprises and the process is still on.

The number of industries under the Free List has been considerably expanded where formal permission of the Government is not required provided capital machinery is imported under the Wage Earner's Scheme--a scheme

which allows import of specified items by utilising the remittances made by Bangladeshis earning abroad, suppliers credit and non-repatriable foreign investment. Several measures have also been adopted to simplify the approval procedures especially for projects involving foreign participation.

Administrative layers have been reduced to one by establishing a "one-stop-service" which will deal with the entire spectrum of investment formalities beginning with pre-investment counselling through post-sanction difficulties. A simpler project application form has been evolved and the time limit for processing application has been fixed at 2 to 5 months from the date of receipt of the fully documented application forms. The powers of various investment sanctioning authorities have been enhanced as well as decentralised at regional and district levels.

The incentives and opportunities offered under the New Industrial Policy have resulted in increased private investment and production in the private sector, particularly in the jute and textile industries.

Mr President,

I would like to inform you that Government has enacted a Foreign Private Investment (Promotion and Protection) Act to increase the flow of foreign investment, both direct and in the form of joint ventures. The Act ensures fair and equitable treatment of foreign private investment indemnification, compensation, restitution, repatriation of capital investments etc.

In addition, a Foreign Investment Cell has been set up under my direct supervision to expedite sanctioning foreign investment and to assist foreign investors. Similarly, a Foreign Investors' Courtesy Service has been introduced to extend facilities and courtesies to prospective foreign investors including arranging meetings with their local counterparts.

I wish to underscore that foreign investors also enjoy a number of additional incentives in respect of remittances, taxation etc. Export oriented industries enjoy yet more incentives like concessional import-duty for capital machinery, compensation against exchange rate fluctuations, income tax rebate etc.

An Export Processing Zone has been set up at the port city of Chittagong with essential physical and service facilities to encourage setting up of export-oriented industries. Foreign investment to the extent of 100 percent ownership is allowed in the Zone and the industries set up there are allowed a number of incentives including exemption of duties and taxes on import of machinery and spares, a five-year tax holiday, freedom for full repatriation of profits and capitals and employment of foreign technicians wherever required.

We have a vast pool of cheap and relatively trained and easily trainable labour force which permits industrial production at a comparatively low cost. Beside, a large number of professionally qualified engineers,

accountants, management and supervisory personnel, technicians and skilled labours are readily available in the country. To meet both domestic and external demand Government has instituted training programmes for skill development in various trades and vocations.

Mr President,

Bangladesh has a number of known resources which can be readily exploited. Besides our eminent position in jute and jute goods, tea, leather, newsprint and paper, sugar and textile industries, fisheries, both sea and sweet water, and forestry, particular mention may be made of our natural gas, limestone and hard rock. The proven reserve of our gas is estimated to be about 10 trillion cft and new fields are being added. Since only a small fraction of it is committed until now, the development of natural gas-based industries and other energy resources promise a profitable area for foreign investment.

Bangladesh provides a fairly large internal market of more than 95 million people. The horizon of the potential market for our products, however, extends beyond its borders as the country is located in the centre of the most populous region of the world.

Mr President,

It is a matter of much satisfaction that my Government has, through unrelenting efforts, succeeded in attaining greater stability in the country which is a sine qua non for economic progress. With a successful referendum and 'Upazila' (Sub-district) level elections behind, Bangladesh is moving towards creating permanent and democratic political institution.

Mr President,

It needs no reiteration that the relations between Bangladesh and Japan have always been close and cordial. We, in Bangladesh, are grateful to the friendly Japanese Government who have been generously contributing to our efforts at socio-economic development. We express satisfaction at the measures announced by the Prime Minister of Japan on April 9, 1985 on the further opening of Japanese market for imports on non-discriminatory basis to include the Least Developed Countries. These measures will no doubt, help reduce the adverse balance of trade between our two countries as well as accelerate the expansion of trade.

Let me conclude with the hope that the policies of my Government which I have outlined will find positive response from our Japanese friends on the basis of mutual benefit. This in turn, would contribute to the further strengthening and consolidation of the existing friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between Bangladesh and Japan.

Thanking you all.

Japanese-Bangladesh Communique

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Jun 85 p 3

[Text]

Following is the text of joint communique issued on Saturday simultaneously from Tokyo and Dhaka at the end of President H.M. Ershad's visit to Japan, reports BSS.

His Excellency Lieutenant General Hussain Muhammad Ershad, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Begum Ershad paid a state visit to Japan from June 19 to 22, 1985 at the invitation of the government of Japan.

During the visit, the President and Begum Ershad paid a state call on His Majesty the emperor at the imperial palace on June 19, 1985.

On June 20, President Hussain Muhammad Ershad met His Excellency Yasuhiro Nakasone, Prime Minister of Japan, and for an exchange of views on international and regional issues of common concern and on bilateral matters. Present at the talk were, among others, His Excellency Takao Fujinami, Chief Cabinet Secretary, on the Japanese side His Excellency Anwar Hossain, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, and His Excellency Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, adviser for Foreign Affairs on the Bangladesh side.

The talk was held in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality and mutual understanding which characterizes relations between Japan and Bangladesh.

The two leaders expressed confidence that the exchange of views during the President's visit would make a lasting contribution to the further promotion of understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

Prior to the summit meeting between the Prime Minister and the President, His Excellency Shintaro Abe, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, said a courtesy call on the President on June 19 and exchanged views on the major problems of mutual concern with the President, Bangladesh adviser for Foreign Affairs Humayun Kasheed Chowdhury was present at this meeting.

During the visit, the President and Begum Ershad had the opportunity to have an in-depth view of situation of Japan through contacts with leading Japanese people in various fields and the visit to the international exposition 1985 in Isukuba.

The Prime Minister once again expressed his deepest sympathies to the President for the loss of lives and properties caused by a disastrous cyclone which struck Bangladesh from May 24 to 25, 1985. The Prime Minister also expressed his desire to see an early recovery from the damage caused by the cyclone and commended the efforts of the government of Bangladesh under the personal supervision of the President in minimizing the sufferings of the survivors in the affected areas.

The President expressed his deepest gratitude for the prompt decision of the government of Japan to extend a disaster relief assistance of one million and two hundred thousand US dollars to Bangladesh.

The President explained the efforts of the government of Bangladesh to introduce civil administration and accelerate the pace of economic development at home as well as to promote peaceful, friendly and cooperative relations with neighbouring countries. The Prime Minister highly appreciated the vital and important role Bangladesh had played for the stability of the South Asian region and conveyed his deep respect to the President for his personal effort for this purpose.

The Prime Minister and the President expressed their satisfaction with the fact that close and friendly relations between Japan and Bangladesh had been steadily strengthened in recent years, moreover the two leaders reaffirmed the readiness of their governments to continue to co-operate closely in order to further enhance the relations between their countries in wide-ranging fields

including those of politics, economy and culture.

The President highly appreciated that Japan's economic cooperation with Bangladesh had been consistently and steadily expanding thus contributing to the economic and social development of Bangladesh. The President hoped that the Japan's cooperation would be further promoted in the future.

The President explained the Third Five-year Plan which would start in July 1985, particularly referring to such priority areas as energy development, infrastructure improvement, industry promotion and rural development. The President emphasized that Japan's cooperation would be important for the successful implementation of the plan.

The Prime Minister highly praised the efforts being made by the government of Bangladesh towards economic and social development and explained that, in order to support Bangladesh's self efforts for economic and social development the government of Japan had been extending its economic cooperation with Bangladesh. The Prime Minister stated that in the light of the friendly relations between Japan and Bangladesh the government of Japan would promote as much economic cooperation as possible to Bangladesh bearing in mind the priority areas in the development plan of Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister expressed the intention of the government of Japan to extend to Bangladesh a Yen loan for the fiscal year of 1985 up to the amount of twenty-seven billion five hundred million yen (yen 27,500,000,000), composed of a commodity loan and two project loans for—the Greater Dhaka Telecommunications Network Improvement Project and the Chittagong Steel Mill Rehabilitation Project with a view to contributing to the improvement of infrastructure and industrial facilities as well as to that of the balance of payments of Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister and President shared the opinion that the two governments would continue their consultations concerning a future Japanese assistance for the implementation of "The Meghna Bridge construction project" with a view to contributing to the improvement of traffic conditions between Dhaka and Chittagong, the two major cities in Bangladesh. The President also explained the importance of the construction of the Meghna-Gumti bridge.

The Prime Minister and the President noted with satisfaction that notes concerning the grant aid by Japan for five projects including the final phase on the construction of the General Hospital in Narayanganj had been exchanged between Japan and Bangladesh during the President's visit.

The Prime Minister also expressed the intention of the government of Japan to implement 'the supply of sport equipment to University of Dhaka' to which high priority had been attached among the requests of Bangladesh for Japan's grant aid to Bangladesh in the cultural field.

The Prime Minister expressed the intention of the government of Japan to continue to extend to Bangladesh technical cooperation in various fields such as human resources development, family planning and other areas where technical cooperation is feasible. The Prime Minister also expressed the intention of the government of Japan to promote the cooperation of development survey with the objective of formulating the future development projects.

The President welcomed these statements made by the Prime Minister and expressed his deep appreciation for Japan's economic cooperation, which had been making an important contribution to economic and social development of Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister and the President expressed their joint determination to progressively strengthen economic relationship between the two countries including trade promotion, joint investment ventures and transfer of technology.

The two leaders welcomed the improvement in relations among the countries of South Asia. The President explained the steady progress achieved by the seven countries of the South Asian region in developing a framework of 'South Asian Regional Cooperation' the Prime Minister welcomed this development as a positive contribution to the stability of the region and the welfare of its people.

The two leaders shared the view that the problem of the Korean Peninsula should be peacefully resolved basically through direct dialogue between North and South.

The two leaders expressed their concern over the Kampuchean problem which constituted a serious obstacle to peace and stability of South East Asia. They reaffirmed their support for efforts for the realization of a comprehensive political solution of the problem based on the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

The two leaders, while expressing grave concern over the situation relating to Afghanistan, emphasized the imperative need for a complete withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan as well as achievement of a peaceful political solution on the basis of the principles endorsed by the international community. The two leaders expressed their appreciation and support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General in speech for a settlement of the problem.

The two leaders also expressed strong concern over the grave danger of the continuation of the conflict between Iran and Iraq and stressed the pressing need for an early and just settlement of the conflict by peaceful means. In this content, the Prime Minister elucidated the diplomatic efforts Japan had made to help create a climate conducive to a peaceful settlement of the dispute and the President appreciated the Prime Minister's elucidation.

The two leaders reaffirmed that for the attainment of a just lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the Arab territories including east Jerusalem, occupied since the 1967 war, and the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self determination, in accordance with the United Nations charter, including their right to establish a sovereign state of their own were essential. They also expressed support for sovereignty and territory and of Lebanon.

The President explained that Bangladesh had been playing an active role among developing countries with the experience of a chair-country of the Group 77. The Prime Minister expressed his respect to such vital part taken by Bangladesh in the international community.

The two leaders, considering the present situation of international trade, shared the view that it was important to expedite the preparation for a new round of multilateral trade negotiation under GATT with the objective of starting the negotiation in the spring of 1979 as well as confirmed that due considera-

tion ought to be given to the interests of developing countries in a new GATT round.

The two leaders expressed their satisfaction that the visit to Japan of President Ershad had made a great contribution to the further advancement of mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries that their exchange of views on international affairs was quite fruitful.

The President expressed his sincere gratitude to His Majesty the emperor and to the people

and the government of Japan for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to him, his wife and the member of his delegation during their stay in Japan.

The President of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh extended a cordial invitation to the Prime Minister of Japan and Mrs. Nakasone to visit Bangladesh, which was gratefully accepted. The date of the visit will be determined through diplomatic channels.

Talks in Bangkok

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 24 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] Bangkok, June 23--Bangladesh and Thailand today emphasised the need for closest possible cooperation between the countries of South, South-East and East Asia for mutual benefit and welfare of their peoples, reports BSS.

This was the cornerstone of talks between President H.M. Ershad and Thai Premier Prem Tinsulananda which were held today spanning over two-and-half hours including a business lunch.

It was also decided in the talks that Bangladesh and Thailand would continue their efforts to further broaden the area of bilateral cooperation for improving the quality of life of the two peoples.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury briefing the BSS correspondent accompanying the President, said that the Thai Prime Minister showed an extraordinary gesture by virtually converting the transit stay of President Ershad in Bangkok into a 'state occasion.' This, he said, reflects the closest possible ties between the two countries and governments.

Mr Chowdhury said the Thai Premier showed keen interest in the reformative measures that President Ershad had taken in Bangladesh. There was a generous appreciation among the leaders in Thailand that Bangladesh was finally moving forward 'purposefully toward the improvement of quality of life of the people.'

Premier Prem assured of all possible cooperation of Thailand for the realisation of the objectives of President Ershad and his government to bring about welfare of the Bangladesh people.

During the meeting the two leaders discussed the entire gamut of bilateral subjects and issues of international concern. They shared common views on situation in Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Middle East, Iran-Iraq war, Namibia and West Asian affairs. The talks were marked by utmost cordiality and understanding.

During the talks, it was decided that Thai-Bangladesh Joint Commission will meet in Dhaka in August this year to work out details of economic co-operation between the two countries. The commission will also identify areas in which joint venture projects can be set up.

President Ershad at the talks was assisted by Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Rahseed Chowdhury while Premier Prem was aided by Deputy Prime Minister Pichai Rattakul, Foreign Minister Sidhi Savesila.

The President was given a warm send-off at the Bangkok Don Muang international airport by Thai King's representative and Privi Counsellor Charun Bhen Isrankun.

Press Conference on Return

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen H.M. Ershad who returned home on Sunday after 10-day state visits to South Korea and Japan made it clear that his Government was determined to maintain political stability in the country "at all costs." Political stability, he said, was needed not only for unhindered economic progress but also for rapid industrialisation of the country.

Talking to newsmen at Zia International Airport, President Ershad said that he had achieved more than what he had expected out of his state visits to South Korea and Japan. "I have got positive assurance of more Japanese and Korean capital investment in Bangladesh," he added, exuding confidence.

When a questioner asked what made him so confident, the President said "as a soldier I am always confident and I am determined to maintain political stability in the country." He said new measures would soon be announced aimed at maintaining political stability in the country. He said political stability was essential for improving the investment climate in the country. "Without the political stability the country will be destroyed and we cannot afford missing any more time in achieving it," he asserted.

The President disclosed that to draw and encourage foreign investment and to ensure rapid industrialisation of the country an "industrial promotion cell" had been formed with him as the Chairman. The cell would include the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Commerce, Industry and Energy and representatives from the private sector. He said that henceforth permission for any new industry had to be obtained from the cell.

On the outcome of his talks with South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, the President said that the discussions with them were very successful and fruitful. He said that he did not go there with a begging bowl but to stress the importance of transfer of technology from South Korea and Japan for industrialisation of Bangladesh. There had been a positive response in this regard, he added.

The President reiterated his call to the Opposition to forge a greater political understanding to instal a democratically elected government which he felt was necessary to ensure development and progress of the country. He hoped that the Opposition would respond to his sincere call for immediate democratisation of the country.

When his attention was drawn to an allegation of BNP Chairman Begum Khaleda Zia and other political leaders that they do not feel that a renewed dialogue with him will yield any fruit as they found him insincere, the President said he had no comment to make. But he advised newsmen to ask Begum Zia and others what they meant by his insincerity. He quickly added that there had emerged many self-styled leaders who make indiscriminate comments and we are aware what standing they have with the people.

Asked how far he was hopeful of forging a greater political understanding with the Opposition, the President said he was optimistic that the Opposition would come forward to help the country overcome the political impasse.

Partners in Progress

In reply to a question the President said that support to his policies could be the basis of the greater political understanding. "Those who will support my policies are my partners in progress," he said.

Asked when he would start political dialogue with the Opposition the President said that the Government had dialogue with the political leaders the past to bring them to elections. He added that for smooth functioning of democracy, existence of Opposition is a must. Asked whether he would offer any fresh political concession, President Ershad replied, "We discussed a lot with the Opposition and I think I have given much more than what they deserved and than any Government so far had given to them." He said that he was ready to sit with the political leaders and discuss with them what could be done to bring back democratic government in the country. "It is up to them now to come forward for election," he added.

Asked about the date for national election, the President said that he had not yet fixed any date. "It all depends on those who boycotted the elections," he told. But, he added, that in Bangladesh usually elections were held in winter and "it can be hoped that the national elections will be held by the end of this year or early next year."

Asked how he will bring the Opposition to a political understanding when he held referendum and upazila elections by sidetracking the Opposition Demand, President Ershad said "they launched their movement based on a

wrong premise and he felt that the Opposition had now realised their mistakes and they would not repeat it any more.

Asked what was the wrong premise of the Opposition, the President replied, "they talked of boycotting elections, threatened to resist it, and hoped that there would be bomb blasts in Dhaka city day and night--it all turned out to mere wishful thinking."

Asked to comment on the progress of the front he wanted to launch, President Ershad said "you will come to know about it within a day or two."

About the expansion of his Cabinet, the President said "I have just returned and so cannot say anything on it now and I need some time to think over it."

At the airport, the President was received by the Cabinet members, high civil and military officials.

On his way home President Ershad had talks with Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulananda in Bangkok. The President said that Thai-Bangladesh joint economic commission would meet in Dhaka in August.

President Ershad had also an overnight stopover in Singapore on his way to South Korea. There he had talks with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

CSO: 4600/1769

BANGLADESH

IRANIAN PRESIDENT SENDS 'SPECIAL MESSAGE' TO ERSHAD

Envoy Arrives in Dhaka

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] Iranian President Ali Khameni's special envoy Ali Mohammad Besharati arrived in Dhaka on Tuesday afternoon carrying "a special message" on developments in the Gulf region for President and CMLA Lt Gen H.M. Ershad.

Talking to BSS on his arrival, Mr Besharati said he would deliver a letter from President Khameni to President.

According to official programme he would deliver the message today (Wednesday).

Mr Besharati who is his country's Foreign Secretary said the letter describes the latest developments in the region, bombing of civilian areas in Iran and use of chemical weapons by the other side of the Gulf conflict.

The letter, he said, also contains some other matters which he refused to divulge to the Press at this moment.

Mr Besharati arrived from Delhi after conveying a message from the Iranian President to the Indian Prime Minister and he leaves Dhaka for Islamabad to deliver to Pakistan President a similar letter.

An Iranian official source said that two more special envoys of President Khameni were now touring the African and Latin American countries on similar missions.

Asked whether Iran wants to end the war now, Mr Besharati said the people of his country were determined to continue the war for twenty years for the sake of justice. But, he added, if justice was achieved, Iran would not continue the war for a day.

Foreign Secretary Faruque A. Chowdhury and Iranian ambassador Mohammad Mehdi Akhonzadeh Bati received him at the airport.

Mr Besharati said Iran would by no means surrender to Iraqi pressure.

The special envoy who is on a three-day visit in Dhaka, said that he was also carrying some negotiating points for talks with his Bangladesh counterpart, Mr Faruque Ahmed Chowdhury to "strengthen existing bilateral relations and expand cooperation."

"We are interested to discuss all the areas" Mr Besharati said, replying to a question what aspects would be covered during his talks with Mr Chowdhury.

"But this will also depend on what aspects your country wants to be covered," he added.

"Our relations are expanding and we feel very happy and pleased about it," Mr Besharati said when asked to describe the Bangladesh-Iran relations.

Meeting With Ershad

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Iranian special envoy Ali Mohammad Besharati on Wednesday called on President and CMLA Lt Gen H.M. Ershad and handed over to him a letter from President Ali Khameni, reports BSS.

Foreign Secretary Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury who accompanied the Iranian President's special envoy to Bangabhaban said President Ershad thanked Mr Besharati.

The special envoy on his arrival in Dhaka on Tuesday said the letter contains a "special message from President of Iran on the latest developments in the Gulf War" and some other matters which he did not divulge.

Mr Besharati later called on Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury at the Foreign Office and they discussed the Iran-Iraq war and other matters of mutual interest.

Mr Besharati and Mr Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury at their formal talks discussed the Iran-Iraq war.

They also discussed in details "further strengthening" of bilateral cooperation and relations which covered the areas of trade and culture.

They expressed satisfaction that the volume of trade between the two countries had been increasing each year, Foreign Office sources said.

The Iranian special envoy leaves Dhaka for Islamabad today (Thursday).

Meanwhile the special envoy called on President H.M. Ershad at Bangabhaban on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr Besharati handed over to President Ershad a message from the Iranian President.

Foreign Secretary Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury and Iranian Ambassador Mohammed Mehdi Akhonzadeh Basti were present on the occasion.

He also called on the Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator and Minister for Industries, Commerce, Jute and Textiles, Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud at his office.

They discussed matters of mutual interest.

CSO: 4600/1771

BANGLADESH

NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL APPROVES ANNUAL PLAN

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] The National Economic Council on Tuesday approved the Annual Development Programme (ADP) of Taka 3,825.72 crore for the 1985-86 financial year, reports BSS.

The approval was given at a meeting of the Council held at the CMLA's Secretariat with President H.M. Ershad in the chair.

The ADP included 760 projects.

Out of the total outlay of Taka 3,825.72 crore, 1,825.72 crore will come from domestic source while the remaining 2,000 crore will be available as project aid.

In the ADP for 1985-86, special emphasis has been given for the development of the newly formed districts, upazilas, paurashavas and Chittagong Hill Tracts with a view to hastening the development of the less developed areas of the country through decentralisation of administration and by maintaining the trend of development activities. For this Taka 484 crore has been earmarked as lump sum allocation.

A total of 637 projects have been included in the main programme excluding 93 technical assistance projects and 30 projects which will be funded by different organisations. Besides, 17 projects of winding up cost have also been provided in the ADP.

There are 280 foreign aided projects for which Taka 2530.92 crore has been allocated. The amount includes Taka 749.59 crore in local currency and Taka 1781.33 crore in project aid. Two hundred seventeen projects have been classified as priority projects. Taka 2050.80 crore including local currency component of Taka 654.21 crore has been allocated for the priority projects. Taka 357.33 crore has been allocated for implementation of 30 projects out of the funds of different organisations.

The meeting also approved Taka 130 crore for undertaking development programmes outside the ADP. Decision was taken to distribute 4.71 lakh tons of food grains worth Taka 277 crore under the Food for Work Programme.

The overall economic growth of 1985-86 has been projected as 5.5 percent. The expected growth in agriculture sector is set at 5.5 percent, industrial sector 7.5 percent, power and gas sector 16 percent and transport sector 5.5 percent.

The meeting was attended by two DCMLAs, Cabinet Ministers and high civil and military officials.

CSO: 4600/1771

BANGLADESH

HUGE LOSS FROM ILLEGAL FISHING IN ECONOMIC ZONE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Chittagong, June 28--Bangladesh is losing over Taka 100 crore in foreign exchange a year following illegal catching and smuggling away of marine fishes from the Bay of Bengal by unscrupulous fishing companies from both home and abroad, reports BSS.

According to Marine Fisheries Department sources, out of a total registered fishing fleet of 126, only 55 trawlers obtained fishing licenses this year.

Official documents have further revealed that 26 trawlers are out of Bangladesh water 'since long time' and neither applied for fishing licence nor obtained export licence.

Reliable sources confirmed that most of these 'disappeared' vessels have been bluntly catching fish in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEC) of the Bangladesh territory and smuggle out their catches escaping the eyes of Marine Fisheries Department and other official agencies.

Another 25 vessels which have not applied for fishing licence this year were also reported to be engaged in fishing in the Bay.

Among the rest trawlers of the officially listed fishing fleet, eight applied for fresh licence which are now under consideration of the authority, four reportedly sank in the Bay, five were said to have been used as floating freezing plants and three are being used as government research-cum-survey trawlers.

Besides a large number of foreign vessels, particularly Thai trawlers, frequently storm into Bangladesh territory and made their safe return with huge quantities of valuable catches. Despite having nominal mechanism to halt illegal catching in the Bay of Bengal, the authority caught eight Thai trawlers this year and took penal action against them.

No Mechanism To Stop Illegal Catches

The Marine Fisheries Department primarily responsible for conducting and supervising every aspect of sea fish hauling and export, told BSS that they have no mechanism at their disposal to prevent illegal catches in the deep sea. They have neither a speed boat nor a patrol boat for the purpose.

The only capable checking authority is Bangladesh Navy which have two special fisheries protection vessels. All the trawlers so far rounded up for illegal catching were made by the naval authority.

The illegal smuggling and plundering of this invaluable national wealth have become possible as the 'Marine Fisheries Ordinance 83' is not strictly maintained by the concerned agencies.

Need of Bangladesh Crew

Under the Ordinance it is strictly compulsory to appoint at least three Bangladesh crew including the Captain, from among the Cadets passed from Marine Cadet Academy here. But in most of the operating vessels there is even hardly one Bangladeshi Cadet.

When contacted, some operating companies said that despite repeated notifications in newspaper they were not getting enough responses from the Bangladeshi nationals to confirm the quotas which compelled them to recruit foreign nationals. But the Association of the Marine Cadets here alleged that most of their members are still unemployed and for some 'special reasons' the private and joint venture fishing companies were keen to appoint foreign crew and Captains.

The operating companies under the Ordinance are obliged to notify the Marine Fisheries Department at least 24 hours before arrival of their vessels to Bangladesh ports from catching zone. They are also required to notify the authority the date and time of transshipment or loading of their products along with the proposed schedule of export so that the Department may depute inspectors at the time of transshipment to collect necessary revenues and other information.

According to a Government notification issued on June 8 last, it was revealed that most of the trawlers particularly those imported under "pay as you earn" and the joint venture schemes export their catches like shrimps, fishes in block (frozen) through some reefer cargo vessels or foreign flags. It was alleged in the notification that "the export data there or the species wise prices are rarely available and the export price as shown in their invoice proforma are also questionable." The notification indicated that the international price standard are not properly maintained by most of the exporters.

The concealment of actual quantities of total catch and the under invoice of exports deprives the country from crores of Taka in foreign exchange as the national exchequer is supposed to get 20 percent of the total sales.

Besides, the operating trawlers are obliged under the rules to inform the authority much earlier the date of their sailing for catches so that the department could check whether they had valid fishing licence and required number of Bangladeshi crews on board. Moreover, the department is to verify the mesh size of their fishing nets to halt catching of undersize fishes and to check navigation and fishing equipments like echo sounder, depth recorder, fish finder, freezing plant and fresh water capacity.

But it was alleged that in most cases trawlers seldom inform the authority for checking. And if there was any check, hardly any required equipments could be found.

They Use Explosive in Sea

It was further reported that in gross violation of the Ordinance some unscrupulous companies are used to catch fishes using high explosive in deep sea water. The fishes either die or are paralysed following heavy explosion and then it becomes easier to haul those up. But in this cruel process, huge number of fishes are wasted, causing water pollution. Moreover, the use of explosive destroy fishing grounds and compel fishes to migrate from Bangladesh territorial water.

The operating trawlers destroy trash fishes of crores of Taka every year as these were thrown into the Bay considering those as economically non-viable. According to official estimate 25,000 metric tons of trash fish worth at least Taka 25 crore were thrown into the sea by the operating trawlers last year alone. Besides, financial losses it polluted water and created scarcity of fish in the local markets.

Some young officers of the Marine Fisheries Department put forward vital suggestions to the higher authorities to ensure better use of this resource in pragmatic ways. Among others, they suggested that the department should procure some vessels to collect the trash fishes from different trawlers operating in the deep sea. Besides the Government may also build some cold storage and freezing plants at the coastal areas like Sandwip, Hatiya, St Martin, Kutubdia, Maiskali, Patuakhali, Barisal and other places so that the trawlers plying in the nearby fishing grounds can easily release their catches of trash fish there.

The Government is going to set up a "task force" comprising representatives from Marine Fisheries Department, Department of Shipping, Industries and Boat Building Project and Trawler Division of Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC) to halt malpractices by the agencies involved in catching and export of marine fish.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday last, Government announced formation of a nine-member Standing Committee for advising the Government in matters of administration of marine fisheries. The committee headed by the Minister-in-charge of Fisheries would, among others, look into the sanctioning of permission for acquisition and monitoring of operation of all fishing vessels and deep sea trawlers for fishing in the Bay of Bengal.

CSO: 4600/1777

BANGLADESH

INTERVIEW WITH INTERNATIONAL WATER RESOURCES EXPERT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] An international expert in water resources has suggested that the issue of sharing waters of common rivers between Bangladesh and India should be resolved under the auspices of a neutral international body.

Dr Asit K. Biswas, President, International Society for Ecological Modelling based in England and an expert on water resources who had recently been in Dhaka told this to The Bangladesh Observer in an exclusive interview on Thursday.

He observed that India, an upper riparian country, cannot unilaterally withdraw the Ganges water as such action is contrary to the international practice of sharing water with the lower riparian country. Both India and Bangladesh should come to a permanent agreement on sharing of the Ganges water for their mutual benefit.

Since 80 percent water of Bangladesh comes from upstream, Bangladesh on her own cannot make any nationwide water resource development plan, Dr Biswas said.

Water is a problem for both India and Bangladesh as both the countries run short of it during the dry season, he said. But at least 70-75 percent water withdrawn for irrigation in most of the developing countries including Bangladesh and India, is lost in the process, Dr Biswas pointed out. Most of the developing countries are, however, planning for construction of million dollar irrigation schemes ignoring the existing schemes, he regretted. The existing irrigation schemes, now lying uncared-for can help increase water for irrigation if such schemes are repaired and revitalised with the existing expertise available in the countries at a reasonable cost, Dr Biswas opined.

The sharing of water between India and Bangladesh is a political issue and has to be settled at the highest political level, he said. The holding of series of meetings between the countries will not help break the impasse, he felt.

"I understand that a very good friendly relationship exists between India and Bangladesh now and it is time that the issue is resolved once and for all at the highest level aiming at development of water resources of both the countries," he said. Both the countries should take a positive step and any agreement is possible when they can at least agree on the amount of water that is available for development, he maintained.

Joint monitoring

Citing the example of the sharing of waters of the river Colorado between the United States of America and Mexico, he said that the monitoring of the rivers is done jointly by both the countries.

Expressing his surprise he said, "I really cannot understand why India and Bangladesh cannot adopt the simple process." It is a simple task being practised all over the world on issues of sharing water of the international rivers, he said.

Once a general framework of agreement is reached, the technocrats can finalise the details of technical aspects for preparing a treaty between India and Bangladesh, he said. As regards the Indian proposal of the Brahmaputra link canal, Dr Biswas said, "As I understand neither India nor Bangladesh has prepared a technical, social and economic feasibility study on it."

The arguments can be put either in favour or against the proposal once such a study is prepared by a neutral body which both the countries can trust, he further pointed out.

India and Bangladesh have not yet defined the problems in specific technical terms relating to the water sharing issue, he said. The existing situation is such that both the countries differ even on water flow data that are being collected, the water expert said.

Giving his opinion on the Bangladesh proposal of tripartite agreement among India, Bangladesh and Nepal on development and sharing of water resource, Dr Biswas stressed the need of a real serious study on technical, social and economic aspects of the implications.

The discussions being held between the two countries are based mostly on abstract terms as no detail study has been carried out so far, he felt. If any such solid study has been prepared by either country, that is top secret as nobody knows about it, he further said.

CSO: 4600/1777

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

BOMB AT UNIVERSITY--The peaceful atmosphere in the Dhaka University campus was disturbed following a bomb blast on Monday, reports BSS. Panic spread all over the campus after the bomb exploded under the wheels of a private car in front of the Arts building. Two front wheels of the car were damaged due to the bomb explosion. Two more live bombs which were found lying in the lawns of the Arts building were removed by a bomb disposal squad of the Bangladesh Army at the request of the Vice-Chancellor. The university which was opened on 23 July after a closure of about 5 months had experienced bomb explosion for the second time. Several bombs were exploded in front of Mohsin Hall on 22 July after the residential halls were opened to the students. The panic-stricken students left the campus on hearing the explosion and finding two more live bombs lying in the lawns. The normal functioning of the university was also disrupted. Police said they entered the campus at the request of the Vice-Chancellor and kept the whole place under cordon. Meanwhile, worries and anxiety have gripped the guardians about the future of their wards following the bomb explosion incident in the campus. They observed that the students had already suffered serious academic loss due to long closure of the university. They apprehend that recurrence of such activities may interrupt the prevailing normal academic atmosphere causing immense hardship to the students as well as their guardians. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jul 85 pp 1, 8]

CSO: 5650/213

IRAN

KHOMAYNI AGENTS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES DISGUISED AS REFUGEES

London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Aug 85 p 3

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] Hundreds and possibly thousands of secret agents, known as "submarines" in espionage lingo, are working for the Islamic Republic and Ayatollah Khomeyni. They have settled in many European, Asian, and African capitals and cities and are acting slowly but continuously for the establishment of a world Islamic empire and the persistence of international Islamic revolution by creating crisis and turmoil. Many of these agents or "submarines" are dispatched to the major countries of the world as students, workers, diplomats, employees of air, shipping, and transport agencies, etc. Nearly all these agents are citizens of Muslim nations from Indonesia to Saudi Arabia, Muslims of the black nations of Africa and Muslims from Argentina. Sending these "submarines" to west European countries disguised as refugees and political asylum seekers is the latest trick of the officials of this gigantic international Islamic espionage network.

The flood of refugees and escapees from many Arab and Muslim countries including the Islamic Republic, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, and Egypt on their way to western European countries, America, Canada, and Australia is eye catching and all have special missions. These groups, after taking a special course in the Islamic Republic entitled "Chosen People for God's Path," must prepare the world for the appearance of the absent imam and infiltrate the real refugees, escapees and asylum seekers.

I interviewed one of these agents called 'Abbas, a Lebanese Shiite, member of the Islamic Amal and a devotee of Imam Khomeyni. Our interview took place in a Danish hotel. 'Abbas was dressed in an Arab outfit and appeared to be 20 to 25 years old. He said he had served a few years in the Islamic Amal and prior to starting this mission, he had completed a special course in the Islamic Republic to serve Allah, Islam, the absent imam and the present Imam Khomeyni.

'Abbas, who was not aware he was talking to a reporter, revealed that at present, maybe over 1000 people like him have made their way to refugee camps in various countries. He added: "Among these people there are few Iranians; most of them are Lebanese, Palestinian, Syrian, Iraqi, Turkish, and Pakistani and recently some people from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia and the Phillipines."

According to 'Abbas, the mission of some of these refugees is to observe, make reports about the conditions of the Iranian refugees and homeless, gather precise information about the workplaces and residences of those opposed to Ayatollah Khomeyni's regime and to attract the cooperation of other Iranians residing abroad.

I asked 'Abbas why, since he is Shiite and according to him, devoted to Khomeyni, instead of living in Iran, which must be the promised land for him and his sympathisers, he has chosen Denmark which is a center for debauchery and lust, has free relations of men and women, and nightclubs, bars and drunks, which are all contrary to Islam. He paused, smiled and looked as if he was asking for permission, and then said: "We have a mission to guide the people to the right path of God, the Koran, Mohammad and 'Ali. This is a divine mission which has been bestowed upon us by Imam Khomeyni and in the first place we must deter Muslims from being trapped by satanic temptations."

I asked why he did not work officially. 'Abbas, who carried a picture of Khomeyni, first indicated that he had carried the picture with great problems in order not to attract the attention of Danish officials and continued: "They are all enemies of Islam; the great satan (America) has aroused everyone against us, against Islam, and has made them afraid of us. Even the Iranian diplomats are under surveillance. But when we become accepted as refugees and obtain our permanent residency cards, then we will be free to be active, travel easily from one country to another, make propaganda everywhere and prepare all the people for Islam. We will be able to prepare the ground for the return of imam Mehdi (the twelfth imam) God willing, and one day all countries will become Islamic."

The previous evening there was an interview on the government television of Denmark with a person who called himself a defender of the Islamic Jihad. The individual mentioned in this interview revealed that the Islamic Jihad has secret agents in many major cities of the world. These agents have precise information about the detailed political policies, sensitive strategic points and military secrets in the country of their residency. Also there are "submarines" who guide the special sabotage agents, bomb installers, and commandos dispatched on special missions. Although the interviewed person's voice and face were disguised, he appeared to be black and had a heavy Arabic accent. In his interview, among referring to the bomb placement and explosion last week in a Jewish synagogue and American airline company in Copenhagen, he said: "What do you think about these people who act so fast and accurately? They know the detailed specific actions of the place and they disappear immediately after the bomb explosion."

The Danish television immediately showed another interview with 'Abbas Musavi, another leader of the Islamic Jihad and Islamic Amal, taped in Balbak, Lebanon. In this interview, Musavi claimed that until the appearance of the absent imam, the Muslims, especially the world's Shiites, accept the leadership of Khomeyni for world conquering Islam; therefore it is incumbent for all the Muslims of the world to execute the orders and teaching of Khomeyni and they must be observed and enforced.

NEPAL

BRIEFS

INDIA'S GRANT ASSISTANCE--India has agreed to provide Nepal a grant assistance of about 95.7 million rupees for the implementation of rural electrification project in Nuwakot and for the setting up of a museum and library-cum-documentation complex at the Forestry Institute, Hetauda. Two agreements to this effect were signed Thursday [8 August] by the finance secretary, Mr Karna Dhoj Adhikary, and the Indian ambassador, Mr. H. C. Sarin, on behalf of his majesty's government and the government of India, respectively. [Excerpt] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 9 Aug 85 p 1]

CSO: 4600/600

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

POLITICAL ARRESTS REPORTED--Rawalpindi, 12 Aug--Over half a dozen political workers were today reportedly arrested by the police. No specific reason for arrests was given. Those arrested were Kabir Ali Wasti, Aftab Mughal, Chowdhary Farooq, Shaykh Mushtaq, Haji Fakhruddin and Mahmoud Shah [spelling of names as published]. Brothers of two PPP men and father of a local PPP secretary were taken into custody as those wanted were not present during raid at their houses. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 13 Aug 85 p 10]

OIL DISCOVERED IN BADIN--Oil has been discovered at south Mazari structure in Badin District of Sind. This was stated by the minister of state for petroleum and natural resources, Dr Mohammad Asad Khan, while addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon. The combined flow rate from the two producing zones selected for production testing in the area was 2,128 barrels of oil per day. He said at present the country was producing between 36 and 37 thousand barrels of oil per day. [Excerpts] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Aug 85]

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